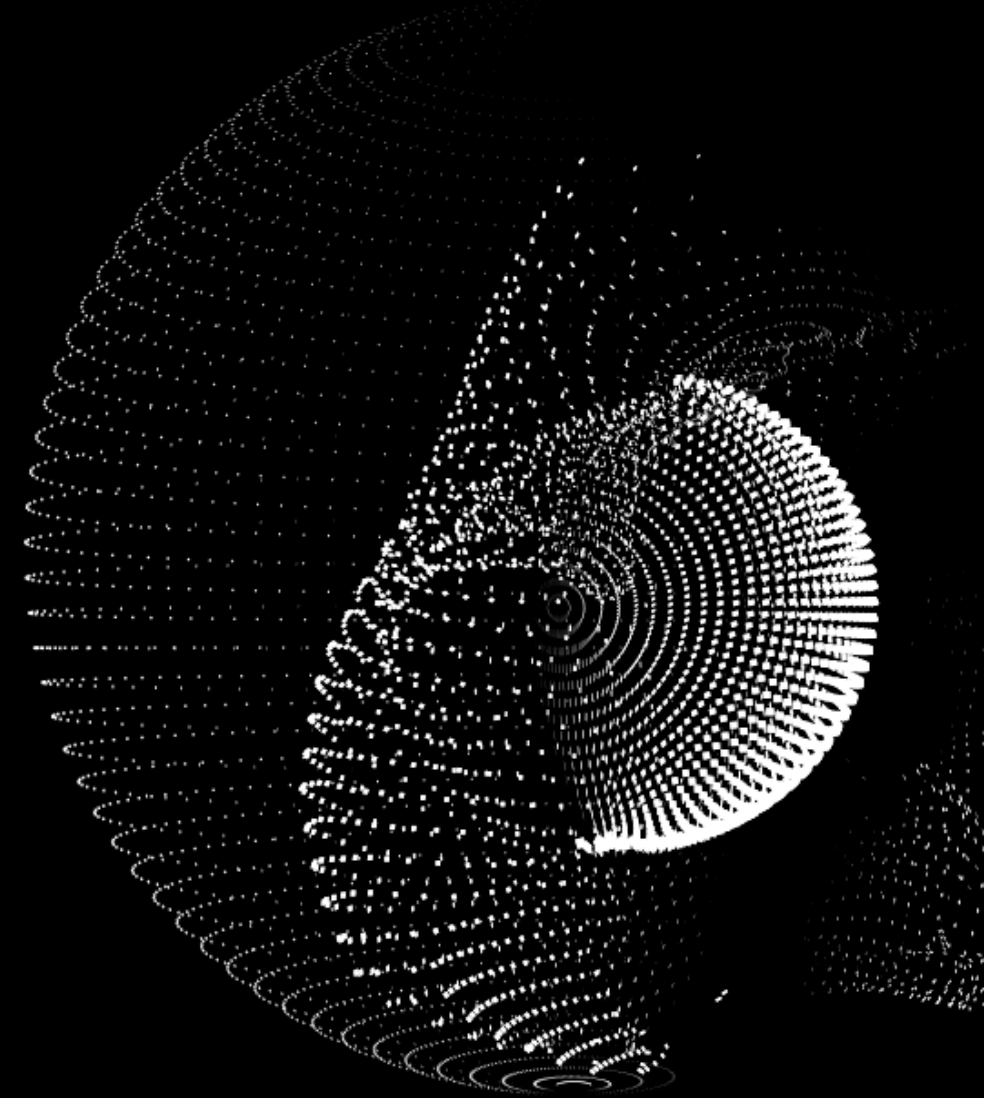




Boosting CBRNE Innovation in Southern CEE through Academy-Industry Collaboration



**Funded by
the European Union**

About the project



CALL ID

HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02-01



GRANT AGREEMENT

101214954



DURATION

06.2025 – 06.2027 (24 m)



BUDGET

499.593 €



PARTNERS

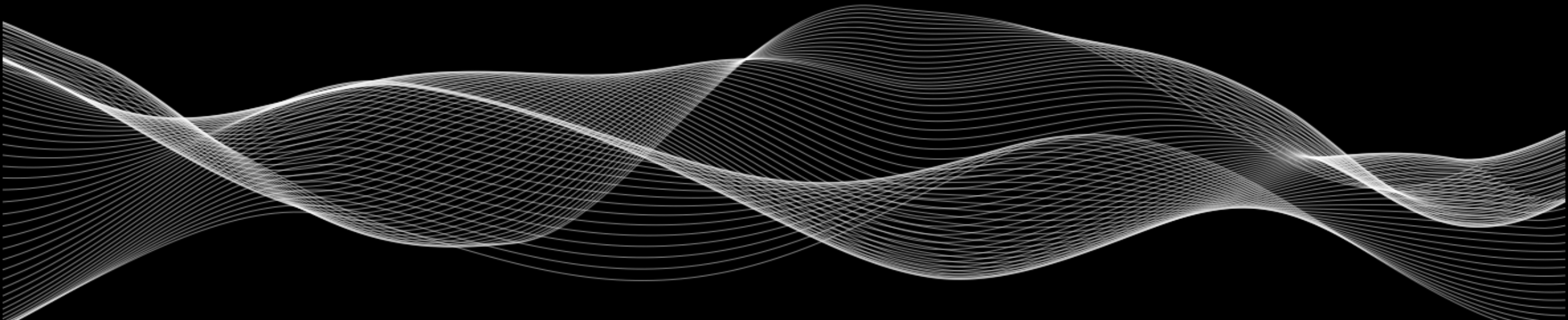
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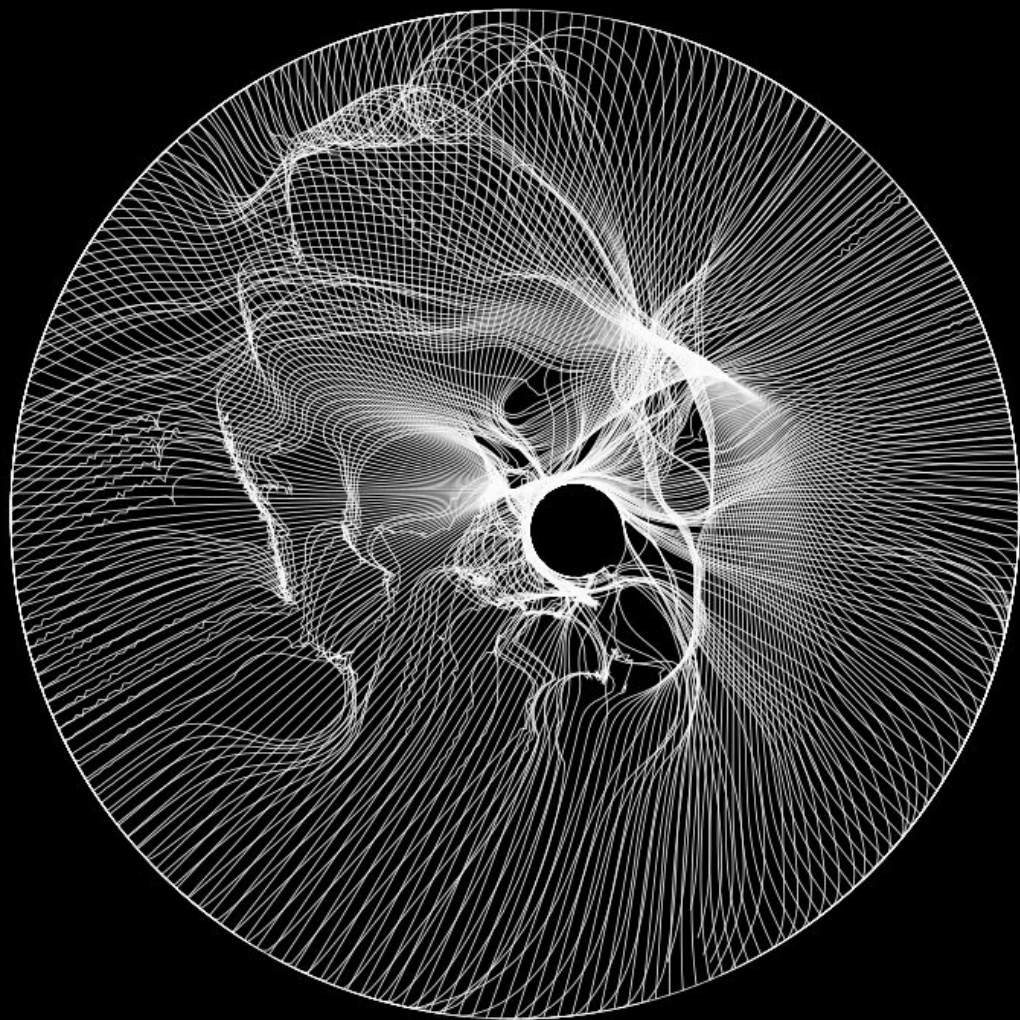


COUNTRIES

5

Vision & Motivation





Vision

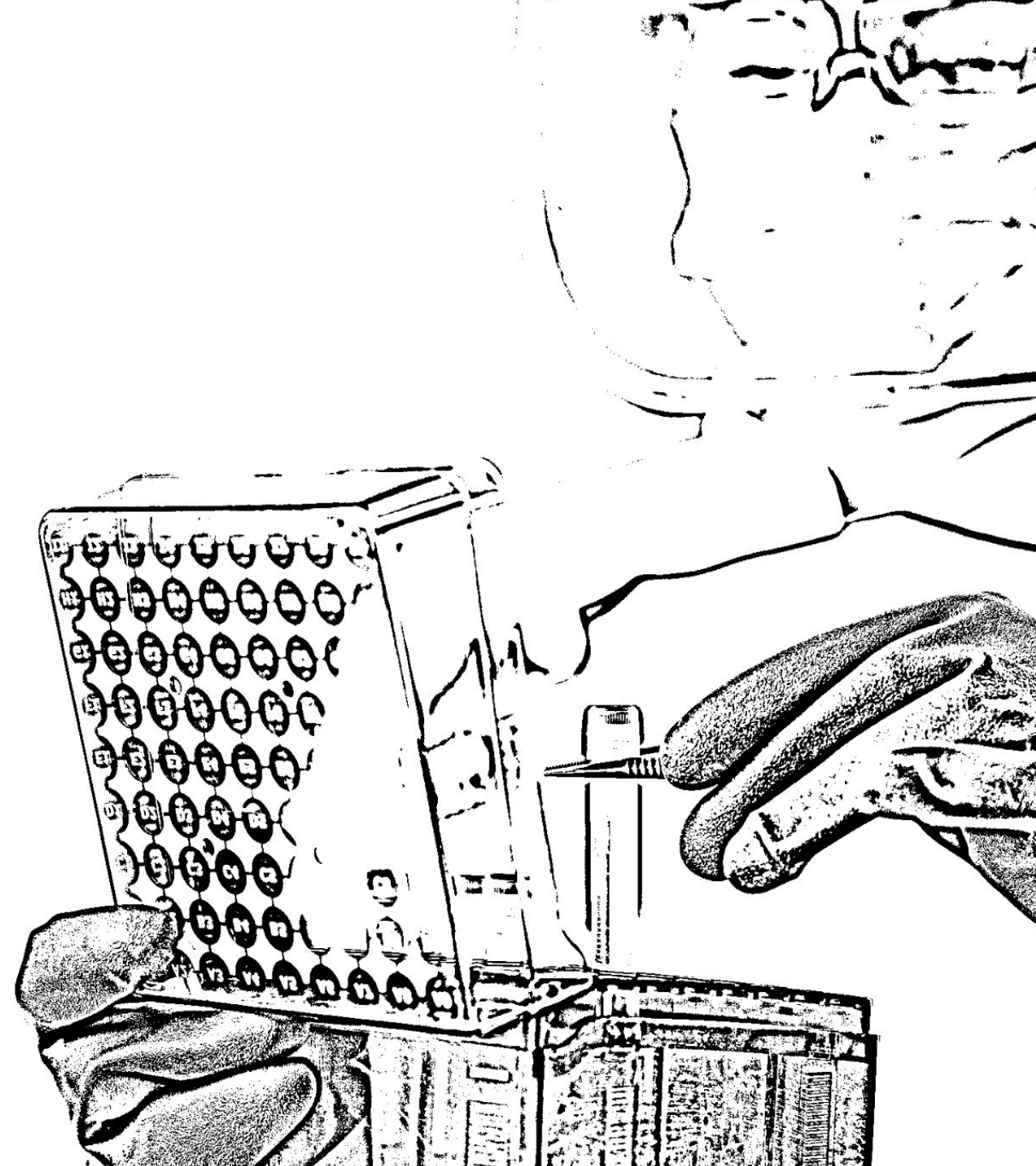
GroundUp builds a strong CBRNE innovation ecosystem in the Southern CEE region by connecting students, researchers, businesses, end-users, and institutions.

Through targeted engagement, capacity-building, and mentoring activities, it fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange to unlock the region's innovation potential.

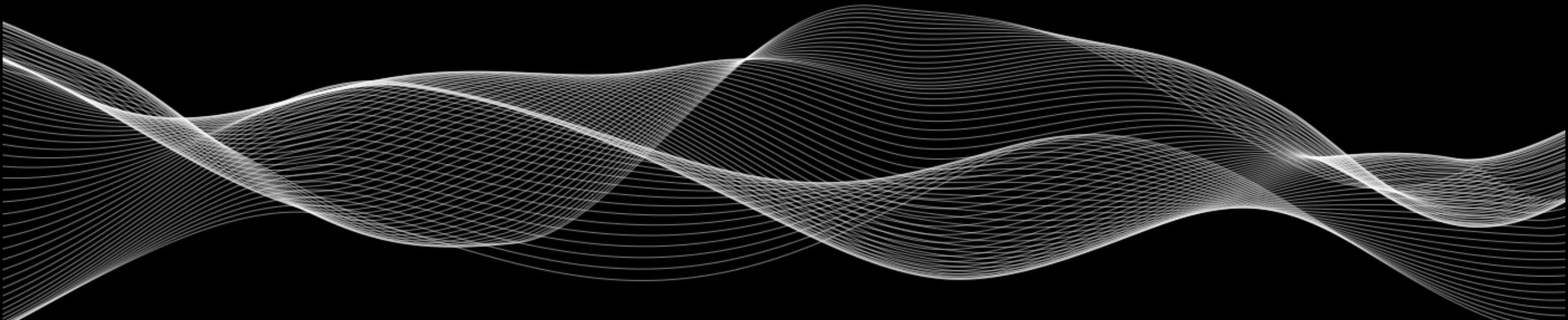
Led by Vinca Institute for Nuclear Sciences, the project links the region to a more advanced innovation ecosystems across Europe, bridging regional gaps and creating a lasting impact.

Motivation

CBRNE plays a vital role in public safety, environmental protection, and infrastructure security across the EU, especially in the geopolitically sensitive Southern CEE region. Despite having strong research capabilities, this region struggles with fragmented efforts, limited collaboration, and slow market adoption. In contrast, Western and Northern Europe benefit from better funding, structured networks, and strong academy-industry ties. To boost resilience and address regional threats, the Southern CEE must foster innovation ecosystems that support the effective deployment of research-based CBRNE technologies.



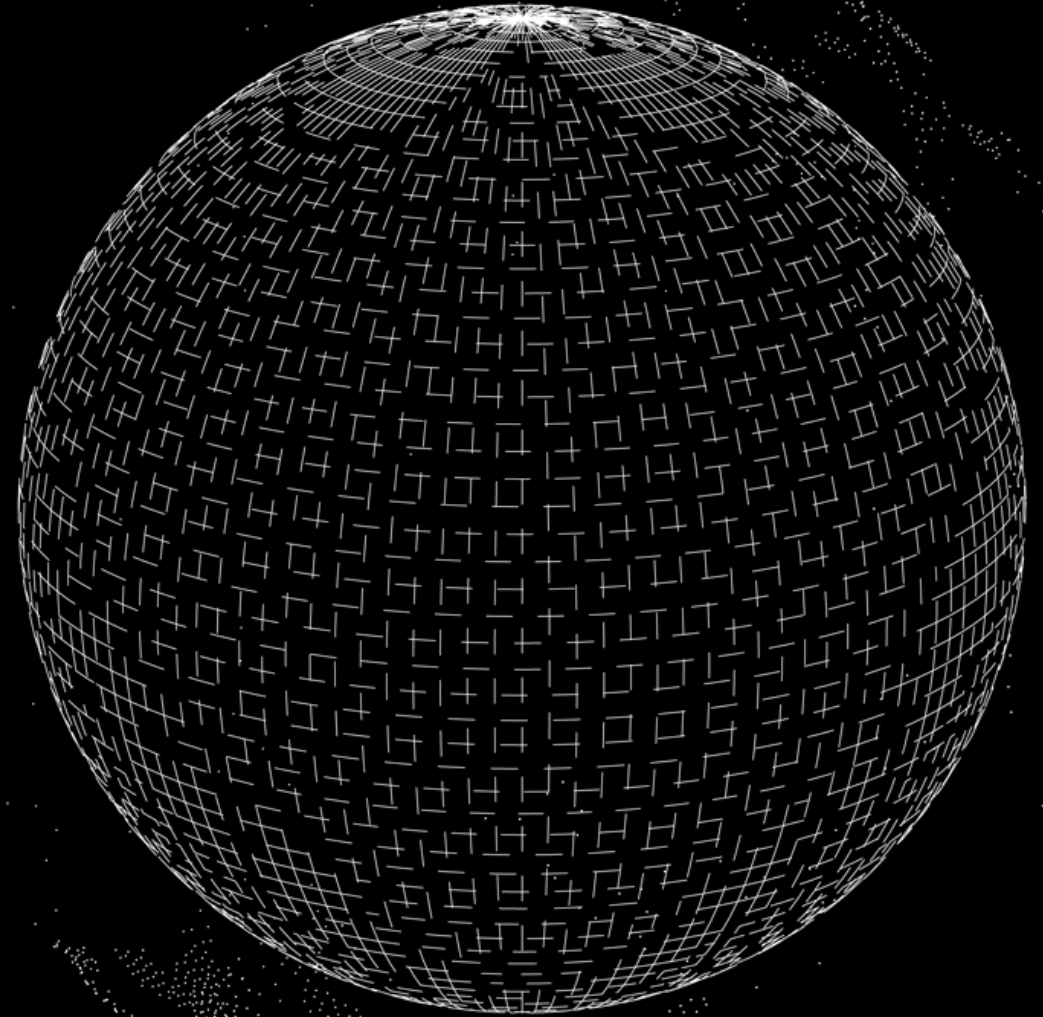
What Do We Do?



What Do We Do?

The GroundUp project is building a strong CBRNE innovation ecosystem in Southern Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) by uniting a wide array of stakeholders, ranging from students and researchers to businesses, end-users, and public institutions.

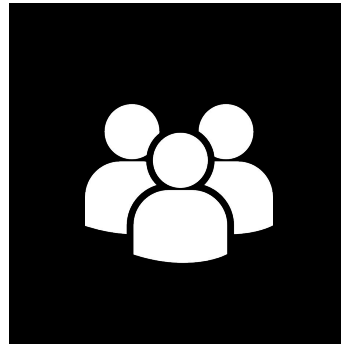
Through targeted engagement, capacity-building, and interlinking activities, GroundUp promotes knowledge exchange and technological advancement to ensure sustainable regional and EU-wide impact.



Project Objectives

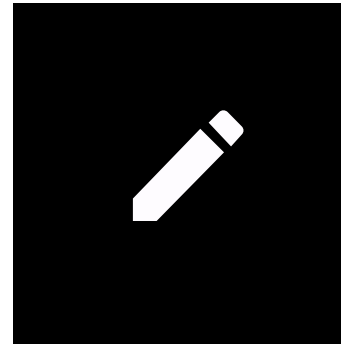
Establish a business community

Engage tech providers, end-users, and support services like digital tech, finance, and consultancy. Focus on private entities, government and NGOs.



Boost entrepreneurship, employability, and a business-oriented mindset

Launch a hands-on business mentoring program to connect students and researchers from HEIs/RTOs with CBRNE ecosystem actors offering career opportunities.



Create an Education and Research Hub

The Education and Research Hub will drive knowledge transfer, innovation, and entrepreneurship in CBRNE-related academia, bridging the gap with industry in Southern CEE.

Large-scale clustering, extensive communication, and dissemination efforts

Implement a strong DEC plan, build a cluster of relevant EU-funded projects with active expert groups, and run Global Outreach.



Key Results

1

Improve the interconnection of research organisations and market actors of CBRNE technologies.

2

Connect the Southern CEE R&I landscape into Europe's CBRNE business ecosystem.

3

Transfer knowledge and skills between academia and enterprises of the sector.

4

Strengthen market uptake of new technologies coming from Southern CEE.

5

Increase entrepreneurial skills of participating students, graduates and researchers.

6

Boost entrepreneurial activity in the Southern CEE region.

7

Build innovative solutions to current and future challenges.

8

More accessible local talents in the Southern CEE region are equipped with business skills.

Impact

1

INTEGRATION

- Integrating Southern CEE education and research organisations through the creation of the ERH and BC and linking them together.
- Connecting market actors from moderate and strong innovator regions.
- Bringing together key innovation ecosystem players following the quadruple helix model: academia, industry, government, and the community (via NGOs).

3

NETWORKING

- Establishing the Business Community (BC) and Education & Research Hub (ERH) as structured platforms for collaboration.
- Organising hackathons and networking events that connect students, researchers, and industry experts.
- Providing a mentoring programme that links mentees with experienced professionals.
- Offering the Knowledge and Insight Hub as a central space for information-sharing and collaboration.
- Conducting targeted outreach to expand stakeholder connections across the CBRNE sector.

2

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFERS

By the results achieved in the GROUNDUP project, knowledge transfer and skill transfer will be boosted between:

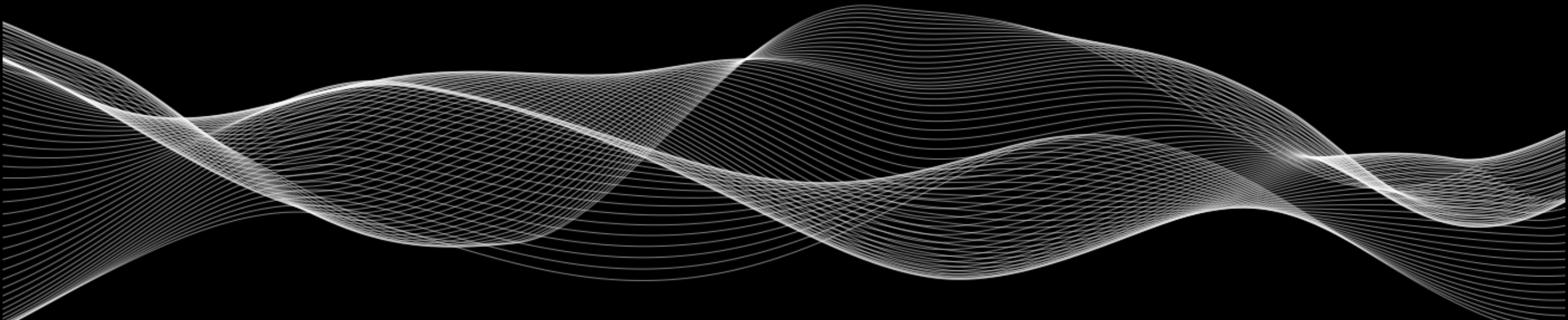
- moderate innovator regions in particular Southern CEE and strong innovator regions represented by PN from France and SBN from Ireland
- academia and the CBRNE business ecosystem by the interconnection of the ERH and the BC.

4

UPSKILLING

- Building skills: The Mentoring Programme boosts entrepreneurial, leadership, and project management abilities with hands-on guidance.
- Supporting start-ups: Hackathons and mentoring help participants develop and refine business ideas in the CBRNE sector.
- Boosting regional entrepreneurship: Networking and global outreach connect Southern CEE with European innovation ecosystems, encouraging new ventures and innovative CBRNE solutions.

Partners





Vinča Institute for Nuclear Sciences is Serbia's leading scientific institute in fundamental and applied research. VINS is home to a multidisciplinary team of experts and offers state-of-the-art research facilities, advanced laboratories, and specialised equipment. VINS has significant experience in European and national R&D projects and long-term cooperation with IAEA, EURADOS, EMN Radiation Protection, medical physics community, health sector, industry, etc.



National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest (UPB) is Romania's largest and most prestigious technical university, with over 200 years of tradition. UPB offers a wide range of engineering programs across 15 faculties and houses more than 60 research centres. The university excels in areas such as renewable energies, sustainability, space technology, and innovative engineering. UPB actively participates in EU research and innovation programs, and collaborates with international partners to address real-world challenges especially in the area of CBRNE studies.



Design Terminal is Hungary's leading innovation agency, fostering entrepreneurship and driving corporate innovation. The organisation runs startup incubation programs, corporate innovation initiatives, and talent development projects. Design Terminal has a strong track record in EU-funded projects, particularly those focused on fostering innovation ecosystems, supporting SMEs, and enhancing digital skills. Their expertise spans various sectors, including technology, creative industries, and social innovation.

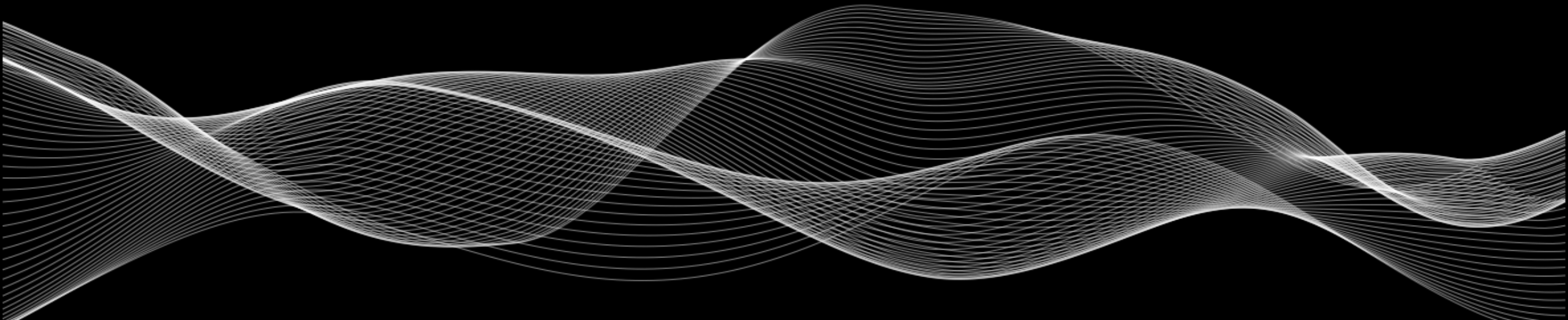


Privanova is a leading knowledge provider and innovative consultancy based in Paris, specialising in R&I management, and compliance services. The company operates at the intersection of privacy, technology, and policy, with a focus on legal, ethical, and technological issues, often from a law enforcement perspective. Privanova has successfully participated in many H2020, Horizon Europe, ISF, Erasmus+, and Digital Europe consortia, offering expertise in areas such as data protection, cybersecurity, ethics, and project management.



Scorpion Networks LTD is an Irish CBRNE company specialising in handheld CBRNE detectors, CBRNE forensics solutions and consultancy services. Scorpion Networks actively participates in EU research projects related to critical infrastructure protection, emerging challenges in areas such as IoT security, AI-driven threat intelligence, and security for land and sea borders.

Clustering



CBRNE Resilience Cluster Europe

The CBRNE Resilience Cluster Europe, led by Privanova, is a collaborative platform that brings together EU-funded projects dedicated to tackling Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) threats. Centred around the GroundUp and SparkUp projects, the cluster promotes cross-project cooperation by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices. By uniting diverse stakeholders, from research institutions and policy makers to end-users: law enforcement, first responders, and the corresponding industry ecosystem, it aims to build a stronger, more coordinated European response to CBRNE challenges, enhance preparedness, and support the development of innovative, regionally tailored solutions.

[Get the factsheet](#)



LEA Projects Cluster

The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) Projects Cluster is a collaborative platform led by Privanova, that unites **45 interdisciplinary EU-funded projects** relevant to the law enforcement community. This initiative aims to foster synergy among various projects by sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices, thereby enhancing the collective capability to address the complexities of cybercrime and cybersecurity challenges.

[Get the factsheet](#)





Project Coordination

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