



D2.7 Analytics on the submitted proposals for OC1

31/03/2026



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15	ASOCIATIA GREEN TECHNOLOGY/TEHNOLOGIA VERDE	Green eDIH	RO
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D2.7 Analytics on the submitted proposals for OC1

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
D	Deliverable
DMP	Data Management Plan
D&C	Dissemination And Communication
GA	Grant Agreement
M	Month
ML	Machine Learning
OC	Open Call
SME	Small And Medium Enterprise
T	Task
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UC	Use Case
WP	Work Package

Executive Summary

The **Report D2.7: Analytics on the submitted proposals for OC1** provides a comprehensive statistical breakdown and strategic analysis of the AID4SME Open Call #1. Intended for public dissemination, the data synthesised in this report will be adapted into a feature article on the AID4SME website. As the official digital touchpoint for OC1 analytics, this content will highlight the successful engagement of European SMEs and the strategic distribution of AI-driven solutions across our four industrial domains.

The Open Call #1 ran from June 30 to September 11, 2025. A total of 269 proposals were submitted, with 11 projects selected for funding, involving 13 European entities.

The Open Call #1 results show a strong concentration of innovation in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. Italy led the way as the country with the highest number of applications, closely followed by Spain, Türkiye, and Greece.

Challenge 3.1 (Digital Twin-Enabled Smart Production Planning) was the most popular one, attracting 60 proposals and representing 35.5% of all eligible applications. This indicates that AI-driven process planning is an important "Decision Support" tool for modern factories and companies, attracting significant research interest.

The 11 projects are now entering a 14-month deployment phase (March 2026 - April 2027).

Driving industrial innovation: Results from the AID4SME Open Call 1



FIGURE 1: BANNER FOR THE OPEN CALL 1 RESULTS NEWSPIECE

The **AID4SME project** has officially concluded the selection process for its first [Open Call](#), a strategic initiative designed to empower European SMEs and startups through the adoption of AI and data-driven solutions. This inaugural call followed a rigorous timeline, **opening on June 30, 2025, and closing for submissions on September 11, 2025**. Following an intensive evaluation period throughout September and February 2026, the results were announced in late March 2026.

By offering up to **€150,000 in funding** per project, Open Call 1 sought to bridge the gap between advanced technology and real-world industrial needs. The call focused on four key pillars of manufacturing evolution—Data Collection, Creation of Insights, Decision Support, and Automation—aiming to foster high-impact innovations that improve efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness across the European industrial landscape.

A surge of interest: General participation

The market response to Open Call 1 was exceptionally strong, reflecting a high demand for AI-driven automation and insight generation in the manufacturing sector. The call attracted a total of **269 applications**, showcasing a healthy mix of individual innovation and collaborative synergy.

Breakdown of total applications:

- **Total applications:** 269
- **Single entity applications:** 215 (approx. 80%) — Demonstrating the agility of individual tech providers.
- **Consortium applications:** 54 (approx. 20%) — Highlighting the growing trend of SMEs partnering with industrial end-users or research centres to validate high-TRL (Technology Readiness Level) solutions.

Geographical distribution trends:

The call generated significant interest across the continent. The results in the graph below show a strong concentration of innovation in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. Italy led the way as the country with the highest number of applications, closely followed by Spain, Turkey, and Greece. This distribution underscores a vibrant commitment to Industry 4.0 within these key manufacturing hubs.

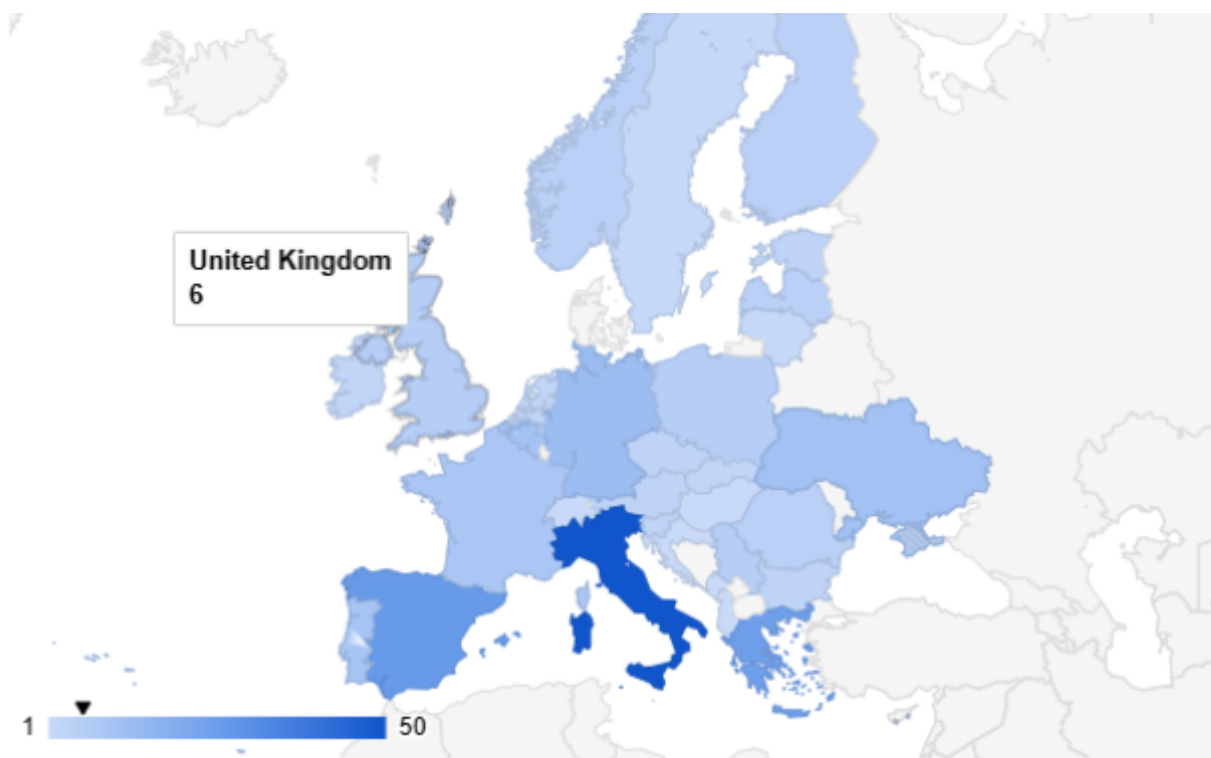


FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION TREND OF OPEN CALL 1 APPLICATIONS

Technical breakdown: Proposals by challenge

Following a rigorous Eligibility Check, which ensured that all applicants met the administrative and technical criteria set out in the Guide for Applicants, **169 proposals moved forward to the evaluation phase.**

The distribution of these 169 proposals across the 10 specific challenges revealed significant trends in where European SMEs believe AI can provide the most immediate value:

Challenge	Number of Proposals
1.1 Augmented sensing solutions	20
1.2 2D/3D image analysis for large Energy Infrastructure predictive maintenance	34
2.1 Product-production Digital Twins	35
2.2 Digital Twin based lifespan analysis tool	14
2.3 Energy system Digital Twin decision support tool	35
3.1 Digital Twin enabled smart production process planning tool	60
4.1 Automated energy management for parts production	22
4.2 Automated energy management for battery production	8
4.3 Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling	5
4.4 Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions	7

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PROPOSALS BY CHALLENGE

Challenge 3.1 (Digital Twin-Enabled Smart Production Planning) was the single most popular category, attracting 60 proposals. This represents 35.5% of all eligible applications, signalling that the industry views AI-driven process planning as the most critical "Decision Support" tool for modern factories.

The evaluation framework: Quality and transparency

To manage this high volume of submissions, the AID4SME consortium implemented a multi-stage evaluation procedure:

- **External expert selection:** A dedicated call for experts was published to ensure a neutral, remote evaluation process. Experts were selected based on professional experience in the four domains, prior evaluation history, and the need to achieve a balanced gender distribution.
- **Scoring criteria:** Proposals were assessed on Novelty/Innovation, Impact (Green Deal, Social, and Resource Optimization), Project Planning, and Expertise.
- **Final selection:** Out of the 169 eligible proposals, 11 proposals were selected for funding, representing a highly competitive selection rate of roughly 6.5%.

Final selection and next steps

The 11 selected projects, comprising 13 distinct entities (see **Appendix A** for the full list), are now embarking on a **14-month deployment phase** running from **March 2026 to April 2027**. These initiatives are designed to deliver measurable results across three strategic pillars:

- **Green Deal objectives:** Implementing AI-driven solutions that significantly reduce industrial energy consumption, decrease carbon footprints, and support the transition toward a circular economy through advanced material recovery and waste reduction.
- **Social benefits:** Improving the quality of the industrial workplace by enhancing human-machine collaboration, fostering the development of advanced digital skills within the workforce, and promoting inclusive economic growth.
- **Resource optimisation:** Leveraging real-time data and predictive analytics to maximize operational uptime, streamline supply chain efficiency, and ensure the most sustainable use of raw materials across diverse manufacturing environments.

As these 11 projects progress through their development and validation cycles, the AID4SME Community of Practice will continue to provide mentoring and coaching to ensure these innovations achieve a successful market entry.

More details about these winners and their Pilots will soon be shared on the AID4SME website. Stay tuned!

APPENDIX A - LIST OF ENTITIES SELECTED FOR FUNDING

Project	Entity name	Country	Type of organisation
ETWIN-CYCLE	iThermAI B.V.	Belgium	SME
	ELVEZ, proizvodnja kabliske konfekcije in predelava plastičnih mas, d.o.o.	Slovenia	Industry
TwinLearnXR	ARVRtech doo Novi Sad	Serbia	SME
ARGUS	iLINK NEES TECHNOLOGIES OE	Greece	SME
	LOCAL AI P.C.	Greece	SME
CoBolt	PAL Robotics S.L.U.	Spain	SME
LUMINA	FORCERA, LDA	Portugal	SME
AEOS-DemSim	Superlinear BV	Belgium	SME
AlleyOPP	BeChained Artificial Intelligence Technologies SL	Spain	SME
AIMS	PLEGMA LABS TECHNOLOGIKES LYSEIS ANONYMOS ETAIRIA	Greece	SME
HFS4HRC	Stogl Robotics Consulting GmbH	Germany	SME
DART	Raidyn BV	Belgium	Startup
INTEL50001-RECHARGE	A Arti Muhendislik (A Plus Engineering)	Turkey	SME

TABLE A-1: LIST OF ENTITIES SELECTED FOR FUNDING