



To the coordinators of the European
Hydrogen Valleys S3 Partnership

Commitment to join the European Hydrogen Valleys S3 partnership

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of **Moravian-Silesian Region** we would like to confirm the interest and the commitment of the **Moravian-Silesian Region** in joining the Hydrogen Valleys of the S3 partnership. We would like to contribute and to cooperate within your Network.

The Moravian-Silesian Region is one of the three so-called "coal" regions of the Czech Republic undergoing a process of transformation and economic restructuring. Within this framework, the region has adopted several strategic documents in which the transition to a hydrogen economy and the development of new and emission-free technologies play a key role. In 2022, together with the University of Mining and Metallurgy - Technical University of Ostrava representing the academic sector and Cylinders Holding representing the commercial sector, it founded the Moravian-Silesian Hydrogen Cluster, which currently comprises a total of 31 members. The important stakeholders include the aforementioned Cylinders Holding, which produces pressure cylinders and hydrogen storage applications, Vítkovice, a.s., which operates the Czech Republic's first hydrogen filling station in Ostrava, VŠB-TUO, which operates the Centre for Energy and Environmental Technologies as a research and development workplace for interdisciplinary cooperation with a focus on hydrogen, as well as TATRA Trucks, a.s., which is developing a hydrogen-powered truck, and a branch of DEVINN developing hydrogen generators and other industrial applications. Other stakeholders include a chemical primary hydrogen producer (BorsodChem MCHZ), major transporters (ČEPRO, GreenGas, GasNet, ORLEN unipetrol) and large industrial and energy players (Hyundai, ČEZ, Veolia, and Siemens). The Moravian-Silesian Region is currently tendering for the provision of transport services using hydrogen buses as part of its public service commitment. Additionally, the region is collaborating with the state on a hydrogen railway project for two selected routes in the area."

The Regional Innovation Strategy of the Moravian-Silesian Region for the years 2021-2027 addresses the topic of hydrogen and hydrogen technologies in a cross-cutting manner, both in the form of thematic priorities, where it is formulating overall decarbonisation and new energy specialisation domains, as well as a separate regional specialisation domain in the "emerging" category as "Hydrogen Technologies" with a focus on the production and use of hydrogen. In terms of international cooperation, the RIS3 strategy explicitly mentions the "Hydrogen Valley" activity in connection with the SMARAGD Strategic Change Area, where the platform responds to the potential of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies in the energy transition process and sets the following objectives: readiness and availability of hydrogen technology applications, increased awareness and expertise in hydrogen solutions, regional cooperation and shared funding of activities, strengthening of value chains for hydrogen technologies through inter-regional cooperation, contributing to the decarbonisation of the European economy and "green" hydrogen production, and playing an active role in the European policy-making process related to hydrogen use.

That is why it is our wish to participate in this new Thematic Area of "Hydrogen Valleys" with the regions Aragon, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Northern Netherlands Alliance and Normandy, within the S3 platform on Industrial Modernisation. Furthermore, **Moravian-Silesian Region** will commit a delegated contact person representing our region in the partnership and contributing to develop joint investment projects on innovation.

