



Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

Boosting investment for innovation

May 2024

STEP Taskforce

Challenges for EU industry and economy



What is at stake

- **Competitiveness** and **resilience**
- **Global race** for critical technologies
- **Investment needs** for transition
- **Private capital** not at scale
- Outward forces in the **Single Market**
- Constraints on **EU budget**
- Need for a **European response**

Industry feedback

- Fragmented/complex **offer of EU funding**, need for clear **timelines** and **success rates**
- Lack of **advisory** and **Support Services, mentorship programmes**
- Need for **User-friendly** portal
- Added-value **Seal**: helping securing financing

STEP

In a nutshell



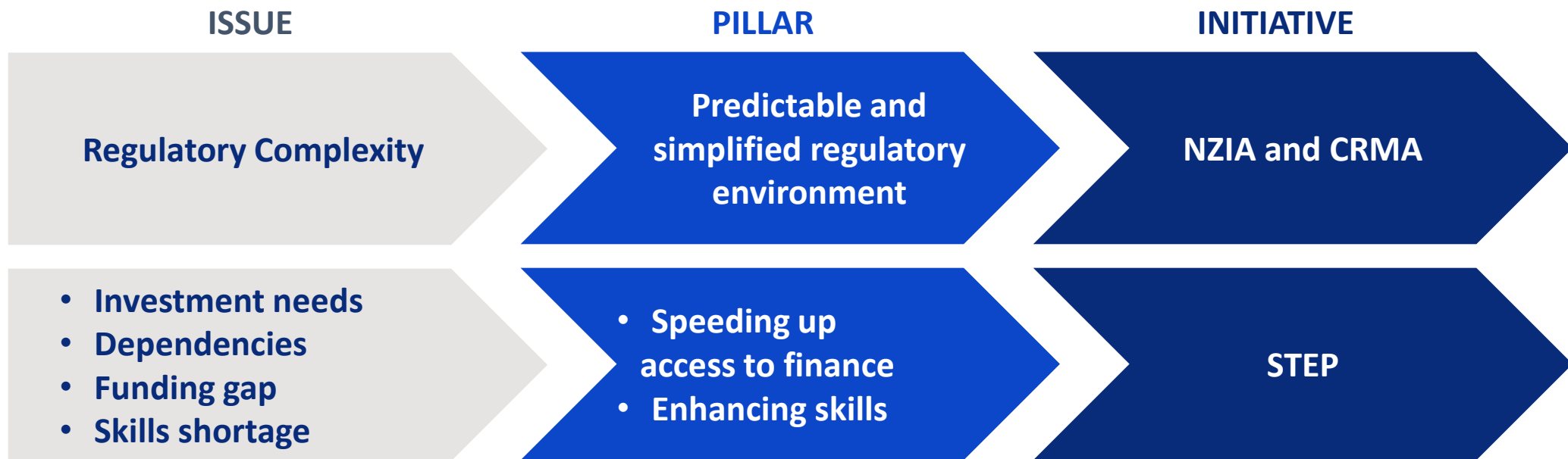
- **Not a new fund:** pooling funding from 11 EU existing programmes, with a top-up of €1.5bn
- **Efficient:** use of existing networks/ processes
- **Articulation** direct/indirect/shared managed funds
- **Connecting with implementing partners** (EIB, EIF, NPBIs)
- **A service-oriented team** to support STEP sectors
- **User-centric portal**
- **In line with a new Competitiveness Deal**
- **Regulation entered into force on 1 March 2024**

STEP

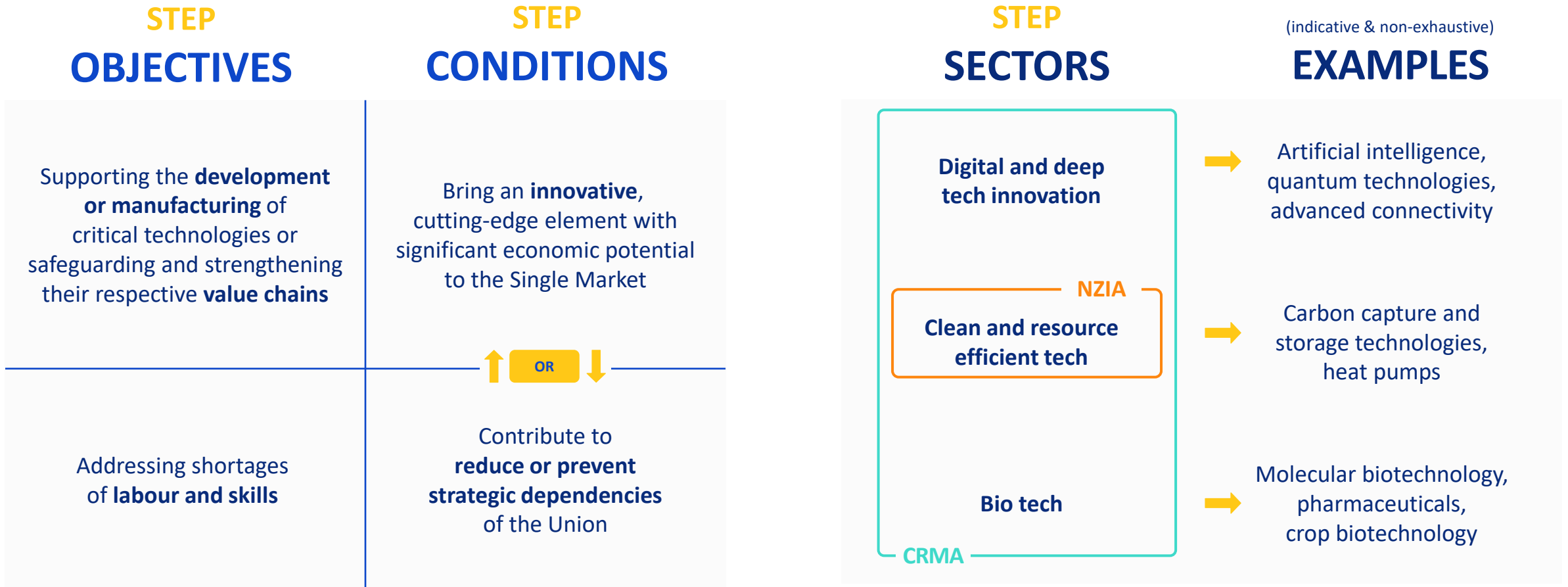
Synergies with EU Industrial policy



Example: Funding the Green Deal Industrial Plan



STEP Scope*



STEP Tools



Reprogramming
of EU funding with dedicated calls
for STEP sectors.



STEP Seal
Label for high-quality STEP projects
supporting them to access funding.



STEP Portal
that consolidates all funding
opportunities for STEP sectors
financed by the EU.



One-Stop Shop
The single-entry point for any
contact/question on STEP for industry
and managing authorities.

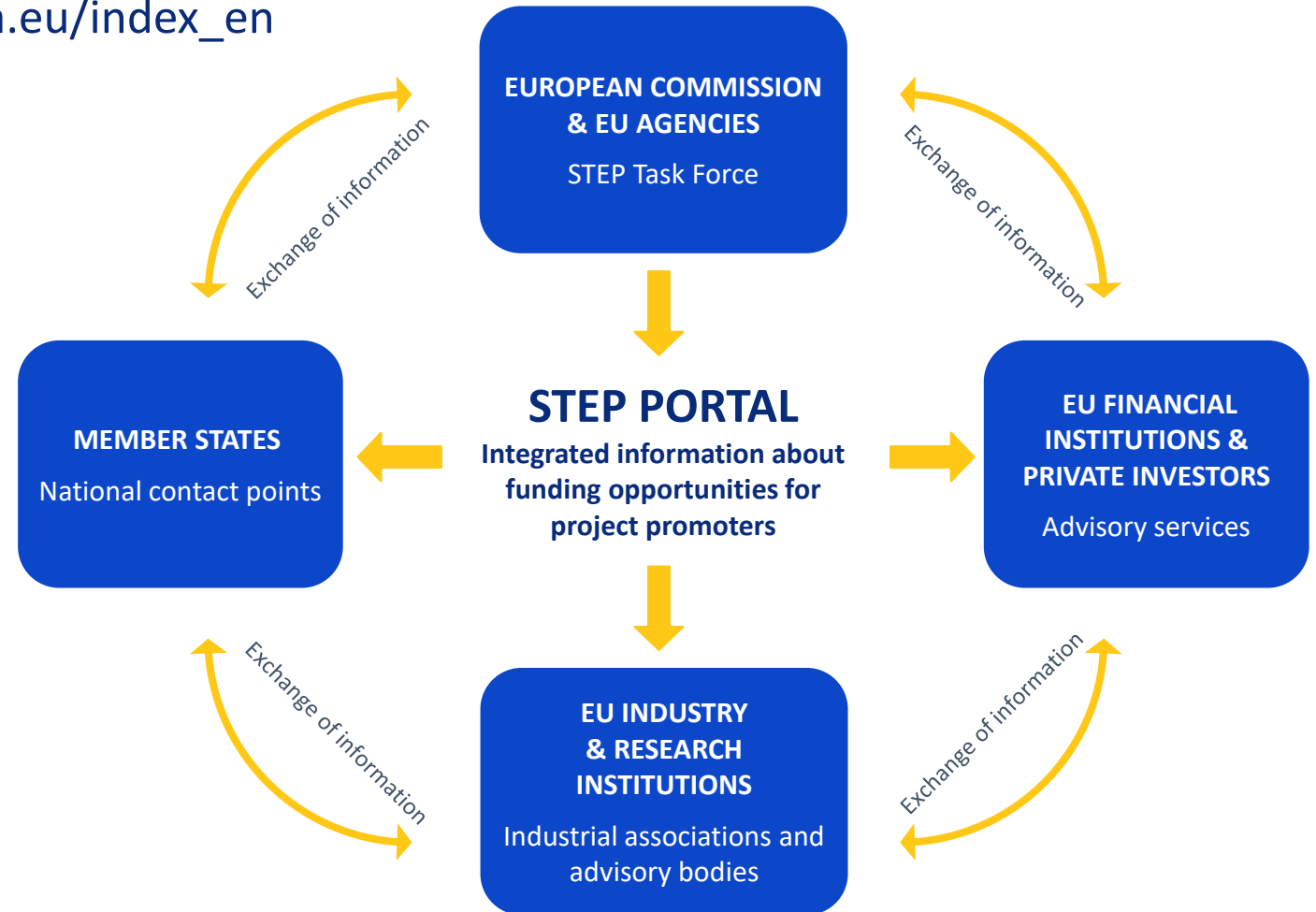
STEP

Portal for stakeholders

https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu/index_en



**MAKING
ACCESS TO EU
FUNDING
EASIER**



STEP

EU programmes supporting STEP



6 PROGRAMMES MANAGED IN DIRECT AND INDIRECT MANAGEMENT ⁽¹⁾	
Horizon ⁽²⁾	EU4 Health
Innovation Fund	European Defence Fund
Digital Europe Prog.	InvestEU ⁽³⁾



5 PROGRAMMES MANAGED IN SHARED MANAGEMENT ⁽⁴⁾	
European Regional Development Fund	Cohesion Fund
European Social Fund +	Just Transition Fund
Recovery & Resilience Facility ⁽⁵⁾	

⁽¹⁾ Direct management: EU funding is managed directly by the Commission; shared management: the European Commission and national authorities jointly manage the funding; indirect management: funding is managed by partner organisations or other authorities inside or outside the EU

⁽²⁾ European Innovation Council

⁽³⁾ Managed through the EIB group & other implementing partners – not awarding the Seal

⁽⁴⁾ Network of national contact points to oversee the implementation of STEP in each Member State – list to be displayed

⁽⁵⁾ Performance based programme managed by the European Commission and implemented by the Member States

STEP

The STEP Seal 1/2



PROGRAMMES CONCERNED

Digital Europe Programme

European Defence Fund

EU4Health

Horizon Europe

Innovation Fund

CONDITIONS FOR ATTRIBUTION

Project complying with the minimum quality requirements

+

Contributing to STEP objectives

=

PUBLICATION ON STEP PORTAL



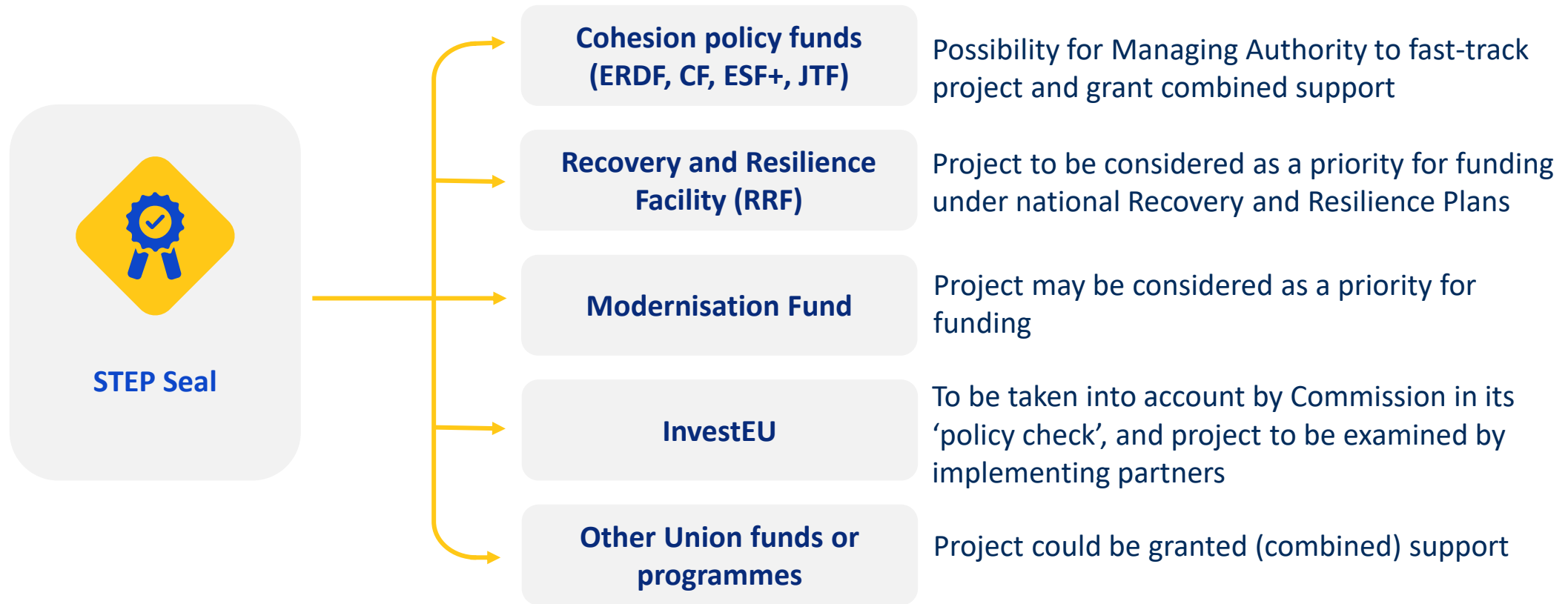
Award of STEP Seal

STEP

The STEP Seal 2/2



BENEFITS PER PROGRAMME



STEP



Forthcoming calls for proposals – indicative

Programmes in direct management by the European Commission

	2024		2025 (indicative)	
	Financial decision/ Work programme	Calls	Financial decision/ Work programme	Calls
European Defence Fund	Adopted	April '24 (published)	Q1 '25	Q3 '25
Digital Europe Programme	Adopted	July '24 (planned)	Q4 '24	<i>TBC</i>
Innovation Fund	Adopted	Nov '23 (closed)	Q4 '24	Q4 '24
Horizon Europe (EIC)	Adopted	N/A (no STEP calls)	Q3 '24	Q3 '24
EU4Health	Adopted	May '24 (planned)	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>

Source: European Commission

Thank you



Contact us at EC-STEP-INFO@ec.europa.eu



More info on STEP: strategic-technologies.europa.eu