

SustainX supports SMEs to improve digital and sustainable innovation readiness through training, advisory support and interregional collaboration. Our aim is to connect regional ecosystems and help SMEs move towards investment-ready projects.



## SustainX Best Practice One-Pager | January 2026

### Best practice overview

The Canary Islands are one of the EU Outermost Regions, combining structural challenges with strategic advantages, including a preferential tax regime, access to EU funding and strong potential to act as a living lab for the green and digital transition. This guide highlights collaboration opportunities for European organisations and SMEs based on regional priorities and SustainX activities.

#### What this one-pager is

A short, practical guide showing collaboration opportunities in the Canary Islands (EU Outermost Region) and how other regions can connect SMEs to partners, test sites and funding routes.

# SustainX

#### The opportunity (Canary Islands)

The Canary Islands offer:

1. test & demo environments (living lab),
2. tax incentives (REF/ZEC),
3. strong research infrastructures (e.g., ITER, PLOCAN), and
4. access to EU funding programmes.

#### Why this may be useful for EDIHs & EEN nodes

This is what you can use:

- A ready list of 4 collaboration areas to propose to your SMEs (tourism/HoReCa, energy, blue economy/health/biotech, drones/space/agri).
- A simple collaboration pathway for SMEs: identifying opportunities, connecting with partners, testing solutions, and exploring next steps for growth.
- Talking points for matchmaking and corridor-building with other regions.



If this topic is relevant to your network, feel free to share this one-pager. We would also be happy to connect with EDIH/EEN colleagues interested in interregional cooperation.



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