

Overview of EU Regulatory Sandbox Initiatives

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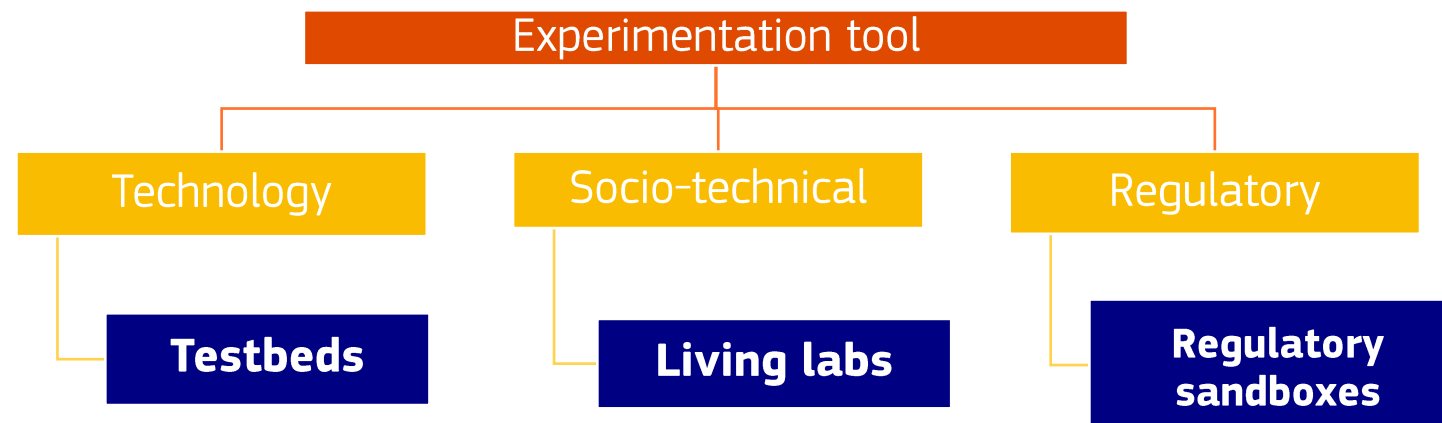
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What are regulatory sandboxes?

A regulatory sandbox is a controlled, time-limited environment that enables participants to test novel products, services, or business models with real consumers (where appropriate) under appropriate legal base and the supervision of one or more competent authorities.

Usually organised on a case-by-case basis. May involve a temporary loosening of applicable rules without compromising core regulatory objectives, such as safety, fair competition and consumer protection.

– 2023 SWD “Regulatory learning in the EU - Guidance on regulatory sandboxes, testbeds, and living labs in the EU”



Regulatory sandboxes – EU state of play

Adopted regulations at the EU level

- Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) pilot regime
- The Interoperable Europe Act
- The AI Act
 - Public consultation on [*draft rules for AI regulatory sandboxes*](#) open until 30 Dec 2025
- The Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)
- The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)
- The reform of the EU pharmaceutical legislation
 - [Political agreement reached 11 Dec 2025](#)



Regulatory sandboxes – EU state of play

Implementation of strategies regarding experimentation, for example

- Startups and Scaleups;
- Life sciences;
- Automotive Action Plan;
- Virtual worlds and Web 4.0.

Upcoming initiatives at the EU level

**Renewed exchange on regulatory sandboxes with the Member States
in Spring 2025**



2025 Survey overview



Respondents, December 2025



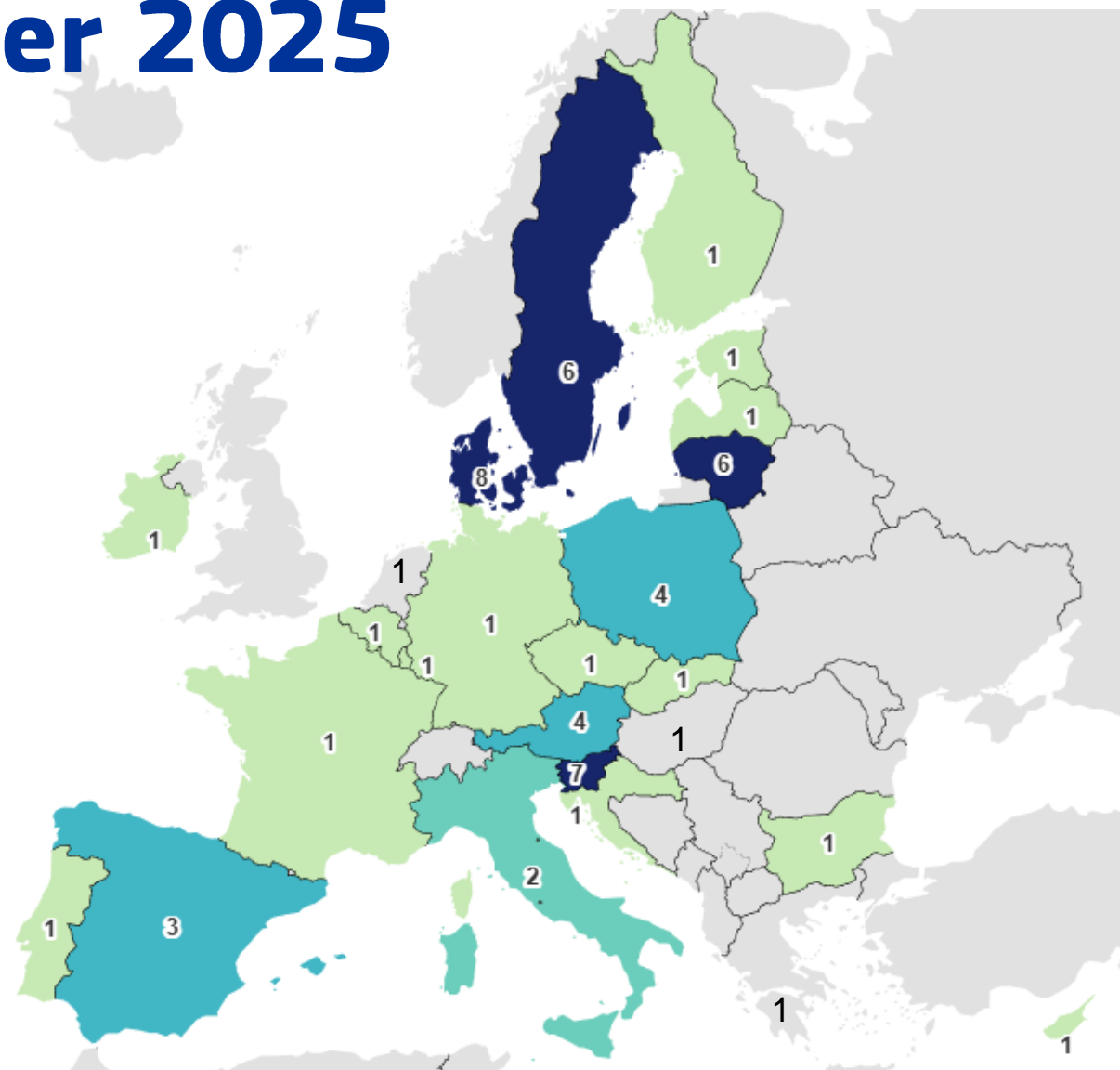
57 responses:

52 national public entities,
3 banks &
2 companies

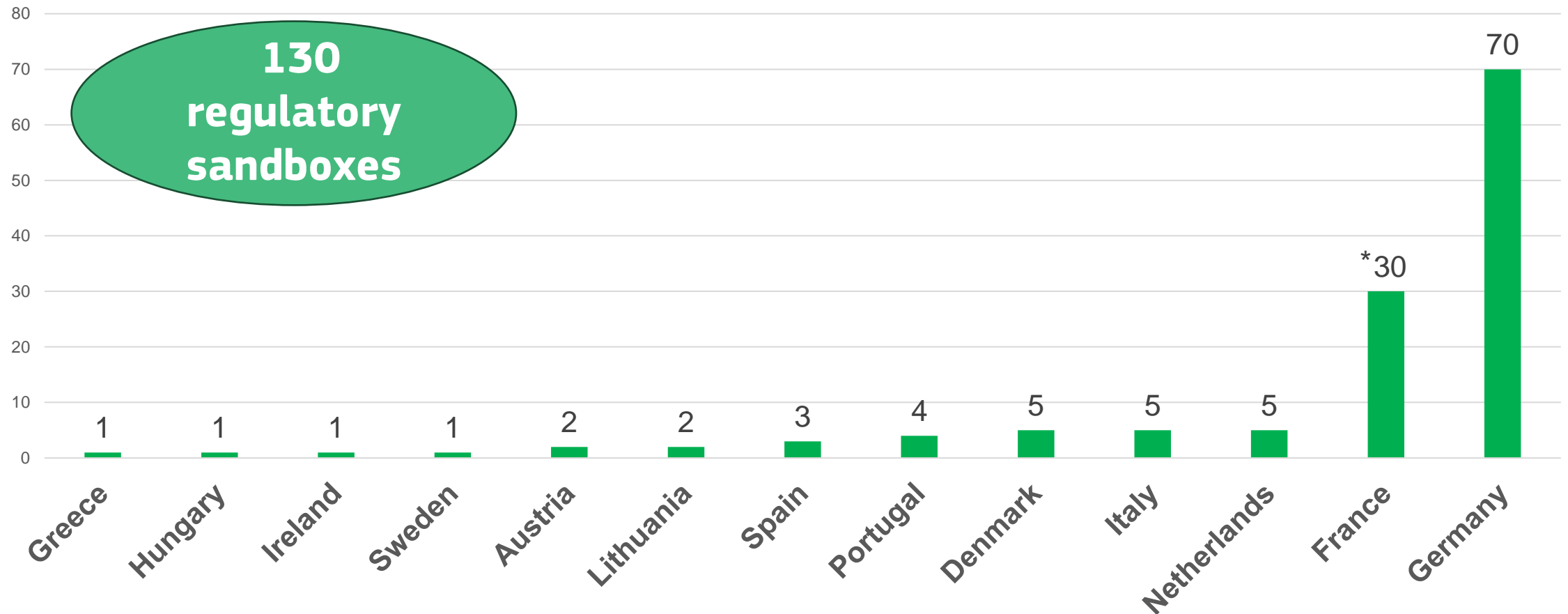


25 Member States

AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES,
DK, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT,
LU, NL, PL, PT, SI, SK, SE



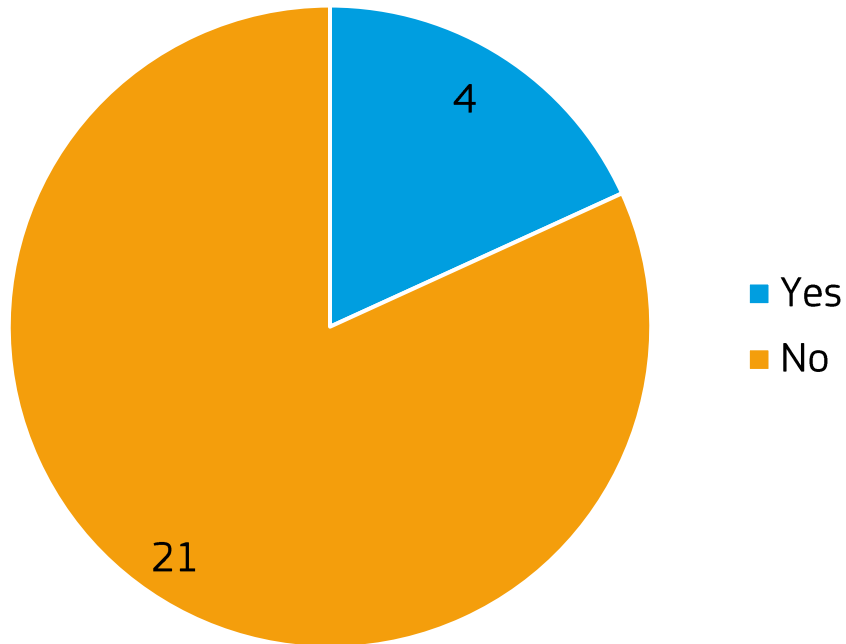
Regulatory sandboxes reported in 2025



* 30 regulatory sandboxes are counting only those from Experimentation France

Central coordinating / advising authorities

Central Authority to coordinate / advise on regulatory sandboxes?



Yes:

- Denmark: [Danish Business Authority](#)
- Portugal: [Agência Nacional de Inovação](#)
- Estonia: [Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs](#)
- France: [France Expérimentation](#)

No:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| • Austria | • Germany | • Luxembourg |
| • Belgium | • Greece | • The Netherlands |
| • Bulgaria | • Hungary | • Poland |
| • Croatia | • Ireland | • Slovenia |
| • Cyprus | • Italy | • Slovakia |
| • Czechia | • Latvia | • Spain |
| • Finland | • Lithuania | • Sweden |



Objectives

- Facilitate testing and development of innovative products, services, and processes.
- Foster research, innovation, and regulatory improvement in various sectors (e.g. finance, energy, transportation).
- Accelerate research and development and ease the transition to market.
- Provide a controlled environment for testing and experimentation.
- Reduce regulatory barriers and uncertainty.
- Promote better outcomes for consumers and the financial system.
- Enable industry to test new technologies, systems, and services.
- Inform the development of new regulations and policies.
- Provide regulatory advice and support to companies.
- Enhance privacy and security in innovation.
- Identify and mitigate potential risks associated with new technologies and innovations.



Reasons for not having regulatory sandboxes

No clear responsibility,
roles are not defined
(AT, DK, LT)

Capacity/resource limits
(CY, FI, LU)

Case-by-case approach,
no strong demand
(FI, SE, SI)

Legal/terminology issues – framework under development
(LV, BE/Flanders)

Waiting for EU guidance, especially AI/finance sectors
(AT, BE, SI)

Other priorities,
focus on alternative experimentation
(SE, SI)



About survey limitations

- The analysis of survey results primarily focuses on regulatory sandboxes that do not stem from European legislation such as the AI Act.
- This presentation is based on the received survey responses – there can be other regulatory sandboxes which were not mentioned in the survey responses received as of June 2025 and late responses received as of December 2025.
- There were often several respondents from different Member States, this presentation groups the responses as relevant.
- The analysis takes a conservative approach – we did our best to distinguish between regulatory sandboxes and other forms of experimentation.
- No responses were received from MT and RO.
- 52 out of the 57 respondents are from national entities, hence not capturing other stakeholders' feedback, however this is due to its nature of being a Member State survey.
- Inequality in level of detail between different respondents. In addition, some MS provided several responses, whereas others only provided one.
- Where possible, the survey analysis follows up on aspects already reported on in 2021, but it was not possible for every question. The respondents might also not always be the same as in 2021.



Thank you



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