

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to be able to welcome you at the 8th edition of the European Cluster Conference in Prague.

The conference is held at an urgent time when we are facing grave challenges: impacts of the pandemic of COVID-19 followed by the crisis in the energy market roiled because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Czech Republic as a country holding the presidency of the Council of the EU feels special responsibility to find common solutions at the European level how to manage the crisis and reduce the negative impacts on European enterprises and citizens.

The EU has a strong and smart business and research sector and I am sure that working together we can increase the energy security of the Union and also gain more autonomy in other strategic areas such as digital economy.

The European cluster conference brings together a diverse community with representatives from many different sectors and businesses as well as policy makers, cluster managers and other key stakeholders who know very well the innovation potential and needs of their regions.

The conference thus provides a special opportunity at this difficult time for us to address these crucial issues together and to share ideas and good practices in the acceleration of the green and digital transitions.

I am convinced that we will be able to find the best policies and adopt the necessary measures to help us move forward in the right pathway.

Jozef Sikela,

Czech Minister of Industry & Trade

Monday 26 September 2022		
09.00 – 13.00	<b>European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) Matchmaking event</b>	<b>ECCP side event – Forum of National Cluster associations</b>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
13.45 – 14.00	Opening of exhibition* by Jozef Sikela, CZ Minister of Industry & Trade and Maive Rute, Deputy Director-General & Chief Standardisation Officer at DG GROW, European Commission	
14.00 – 18.00	START OF THE CONFERENCE - HIGH LEVEL SESSIONS	
14.00 – 14.20	Welcome addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jozef Sikela, CZ Minister of Industry &amp; Trade</li> <li>• Maive Rute, Deputy Director-General &amp; Chief Standardisation Officer at DG GROW, European Commission</li> </ul>	
14.20 – 14.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening debate on needs of emerging clusters and mature cluster policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, Cluster Manager AgriFood Lithuania</li> <li>○ Simone Hagenauer, Ecoplus – The Business Agency of Lower Austria</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Moderator: Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit Industrial forum, alliances, clusters, DG GROW, European Commission	
14.50 – 16.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Panel session: <b>Role of clusters in coping with geopolitical challenges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bianca Dragomir, CEO of the Valencian Cleantech Cluster AVAENSEN</li> <li>○ Jakub Boratynski, Director Networks &amp; Governance, DG GROW, European Commission</li> <li>○ Marian Piecha, CZ Deputy Minister of the EU Funds and Digital Economy</li> <li>○ Marc Rechter, CEO Resilient Group and Board Member at MCPV - Collaborative approach to scale up an integrated EU solar supply chain</li> <li>○ Solène Meissonnier, Project Director – European policies, Ministry of Economy, Finance, Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, France</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
16.15 – 16.45	Coffee break	
16.45 – 18.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel session: <b>Future-proofing the Single Market: co-creation of actions resilience, green and digital transitions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Antonio Novo, President of the European Cluster Alliance &amp; Curator of Industrial Forum Task Force 2 on Transition Pathways: Why, how, what next for business?</li> <li>○ Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit Industrial forum, alliances, clusters, DG GROW, European Commission: overview of Transition Pathways development</li> <li>○ Sandra Sundbäck, CEO Paper Province, Sweden</li> <li>○ Thomas Röhr, Secretary General European Automotive Cluster Network (EACN)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
18.30 – 19.00	AWARDS CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Cluster Manager of the Year 2022</li> <li>• European Cluster Partnership of the Year 2022</li> </ul>	
19.00 – 21.00	Networking dinner	

Tuesday 27 September 2022		
09.00 – 13.00	<i>Continuation of the conference</i> - WORKSHOPS AND BREAKOUT SESSION	
09.00 – 10.45	<p><b><u>Breakout session 1 – Up-skilling, re-skilling and retaining talent in EU Industry</u></b></p> <p><u>Moderator/Facilitator:</u> Lucia Seel, International Cluster Expert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vendula Doubravská, Manager at Creative Cluster Zlínský</li> <li>• Dimitri Ionescu, Founder LightMirror and Winner EYE pitching session at EUID22</li> <li>• Anders Olsson, Manager Smart Specialisation at Region Värmland</li> <li>• Christopher Frieling, Director Advocacy and Public Policy at SEMI Europe Brussels Office</li> <li>• Ingrid Rigler, Deputy Head of Unit Innovation and EIT, European Commission</li> <li>• Marek Przeor, Team Leader Cluster Policy at DG GROW, European Commission</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Breakout session 2 – Internationalisation of European SMEs</u></b></p> <p><u>Moderator/Facilitator:</u> Merete Daniel Nielsen, Director at Cluster excellence Denmark and President of TCI Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cluster Go International successful stories                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jose Ignacio Hormaeche, General Manager of the Basque Energy Cluster (Asociación Cluster de Energía, ACE)</li> <li>○ Ségolène Leloutre, Director International Partnerships at Global Cosmetics Cluster Cosmetic Valley</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Barbara Gibbon, Director-General for Canada’s Global Innovation Clusters Programme</li> <li>• Virginie Fermaud, Coordinator of the EU-Japan Regional &amp; Cluster Cooperation Helpdesk</li> <li>• Mattia Marino, Project Officer for the Latin America and India IP SME Helpdesks</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Breakout session 3 – Rolling out Transition Pathways in EU Industrial Ecosystems</u></b></p> <p><u>Moderator/Facilitator:</u> Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit Industrial forum, alliances, clusters, DG GROW, European Commission, DG GROW + Benoit Esmanne, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>World café format</u></b></p> <p>Ice breaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lars Visbech Sørensen, CEO Food &amp; bio cluster Denmark</li> </ul> <p>Focusing on ecosystems with upcoming Transition Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textiles</li> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Mobility</li> <li>• Renewables</li> <li>• Agrifood</li> <li>• Aerospace &amp; Defence</li> </ul>
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>	

11.15 – 13.00	<p><b><u>Breakout session 4 – Strengthening EU Supply Chains and supporting Ukraine through EU business and industrial networks</u></b></p> <p>Moderator/Facilitator: Jakub Boratynski, Director Networks &amp; Governance, DG GROW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anaïs Le Corvec, Network Manager at Council of European BioRegions</li> <li>Mateja Dermastia, CEO of Anteja</li> <li>Tero Piispanen, Senior Executive at Health Turku and representative of BioMan4R2 Eurocluster</li> <li>Olga Trofymova, Cluster Manager Ukrainian Automotive Cluster and representative of Ukrainian Cluster Alliance</li> <li>Mantas Vilys, Coordinator of Enterprise Europe Network and European Digital Innovation Hub in Lithuania, representative of Supply Chain Resilience Platform</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Breakout session 5 – Clusters and Regional economic/industrial Development</u></b></p> <p>Moderator/Facilitator: Marek Przeor, Team Leader Cluster Policy at DG GROW, European Commission</p> <p><b><u>World café format</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donato Iacobucci, Professor of Applied Economics at the Faculty of Engineering of the Polytechnic University of Marche and Rector's Delegate for Entrepreneurship. Member of the EUA Expert group on Innovation Ecosystem</li> <li>Tor-Arne Bellika, CEO Innovation Performance AS, Norway</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Breakout session 6 – Clusters as agents fostering cooperation among EU Industrial ecosystems</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderator/Facilitator: Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit Industrial forum, alliances, clusters, DG GROW, European Commission</li> <li>Mervi Karikorpi, Head of EU Innovation and Industrial Policies at Technology Industries of Finland, member of Industrial Forum Task Force 4 on cross-border investments and cross-ecosystems cooperation</li> <li>Marc Pattinson, Senior innovation and research expert for Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform</li> <li>Bram Pauwels, Strategic Partnership Manager at European Business &amp; Innovation Centre Network</li> <li>Birgit Weidel, Head of Department “Innovation Ecosystems, SMP/Entrepreneurship &amp; Consumers”, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), European Commission</li> <li>Karel Haegeman, Team Leader S3 at European Commission's Joint Research Centre - Knowledge for Finance, Innovation and Growth</li> <li>Irene Burroni, Manager of dID – Technological Cluster for Interiors and Design</li> </ul>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch – END OF CONFERENCE		
14.00 – 17.00	<p><b><u>ECCP side event - Forum of the European Cluster Partnerships and Euroclusters</u></b></p> <p>Pooling experiences and lessons from running cluster initiatives on skills (European Cluster Partnerships   Excellence) and internationalisation (European Cluster Partnerships   International) in view of a successful launch of the 30 Euroclusters.</p>	<p>SITE VISITS</p> <p>A. <a href="#"><u>Mechatronics Cluster</u></a></p> <p>B. <a href="#"><u>Nanoprogress</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Clutex</u></a></p> <p>C. <a href="#"><u>Czech Implant Cluster</u></a></p>	
17.30 – 20.00	<p>SITE VISITS</p> <p>D. <a href="#"><u>Czech Optical Cluster</u></a></p> <p>E. <a href="#"><u>CIIRC CTU - Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics</u></a></p>		

## List of exhibitors during the EU Cluster Conference

European Commission and its initiatives on clusters	
01	European Cluster Collaboration Platform
02	ClusterXchange
03	Meet the Euroclusters
04	European Commission – DG GROW stand
05	European Commission – General stand
European Cluster Associations/Partnerships	
06	euWater4i-SD Partnership
07	European Lighting Cluster Alliance
08	Council of European BioRegions
Clusters	
09	AutoKlastr (CZ) + Evolute European Cluster Partnership
10	Cluster IDEAM (IE)
11	Cluster Creating Integrated MEchanical Systems – CIMES (FR)
12	Oy Merinova Ab/EnergyVaasa Cluster (FI)
13	Cluster REPRIK (SK)
14	Cluster Valorial (FR)
15	Cluster REI - Reindustria Innovazione (IT)
16	Cluster SuperEcosystem (FI)
17	Cluster Ecodomus (IT)
18	Cluster iFood (HU)
19	Cluster Mobility & Logistics (DE)
20	Cluster Ea éco-entreprises (FR)
21	Cluster NRW.Innovativ (DE)
22	Robonom (DE)
Other European Initiatives	
23	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE)
24	Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform
25	European IP Helpdesk
26	European Clusters Labelling Excellence Structure
National Cluster Associations	
27	CZ National Cluster Association (CZ)
28	Estonian Clusters (EE)
29	Hungarian Cluster Alliance (HU)
30	Ukrainian Cluster Alliance (UA)