ClusterXchange
For cluster members who want to...

- Acquire new skills
- Improve their services
- Create innovative ideas
- Find new partners
- Internationalise
- And more

#ClusterXchange | #EUCluster | #ECCP
ClusterXchange

What is ClusterXchange?

ClusterXchange is a programme for short-term exchanges between actors member of a cluster within a similar or from different industrial ecosystems. ClusterXchange is funded by the European Union and aims to facilitate transnational cooperation, learning, networking and innovation-oriented activities between the participants.

Who runs ClusterXchange?

ClusterXchange is implemented by the European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence (Partnerships), with the support of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

15 Partnerships will implement the Excellence programme from January 2022 until December 2023, bringing together 78 cluster organisations from 23 different COSME participating countries across 9 different industrial ecosystems.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform will assist in the execution of the programme by providing:

- a dedicated ClusterXchange Support Office for general information and guidance on participation in ClusterXchange. The Support Office will also support the Partnerships in their tasks and on communication activities.

- a CXC IT Tool that aids Partnerships in the implementation of the programme.
**What is an exchange?**

An exchange in ClusterXchange constitutes a stay abroad by a Visiting Organisation (Visitor) at a Host Organisation (Host) to explore collaboration and growth opportunities.

The Partnerships financially contribute to exchanges by providing a lump sum to Visiting Organisations to cover part of their travel and accommodation expenses for the stay. An exchange can be minimum three working days and maximum one month executed consecutively, excluding travel time. All exchanges must be encoded in the CXC IT Tool by the Partnership.

**Who can participate in ClusterXchange?**

**You can participate as a VISITOR if you are**

- ![Tick] A cluster or similar business network organisations
- ![Tick] A scaling-up support organisation (technology centre, research institute, fab-lab, resource-efficiency service provider, [digital] innovation hub, creative hub, incubator or accelerator) that is a cluster member or
- ![Tick] A small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) that is a cluster member

**You can participate as a HOST if you are one of the above or:**

- ![Tick] Training providers that are cluster members;
- ![Tick] Large companies that are cluster members;
- ![Tick] Public authorities at both regional and city/administration levels that are active in a cluster.

Eligible participants must be from countries participating in the COSME programme of the European Union. These countries include all European Union Member States and other third countries, as has been listed at: [https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/39579](https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/39579)
What can an exchange entail?

The activities to be implemented during the exchange will be defined during the matching process via the IT Tool in the form of an action plan agreed upon by the Visitor and the Host. These may include:

- Individual or grouped capacity building provided to visitors
- Sharing of knowledge, experience and information in specific areas
- Project development, innovation and research and development
- Market research
- Networking, identification of new partners and creation of business opportunities
As a host, you are the non-travelling party of the exchange. Hosting exchanges will allow you to receive short visits of foreign cluster members that are active in business areas relevant to your organisation.

The Partnership of your choice will be by your side to guide you during the preparation, implementation and finalisation of the exchanges. With their support, you have the freedom to design the exchange, focusing on your needs and the competences that you can offer to Visitors during the exchange.

How will hosts benefit from ClusterXchange?
Hosting an exchange will allow you to:

- Increase the visibility of your organisation, services and products in relevant communities (this exposure can be increased if you host multiple exchanges)
- Share your knowledge, experience and information in specific areas
- Expand your network of contacts and develop new cross-border partnerships
- Gain knowledge on visitors’ foreign markets and develop business and collaborations with them
How will visitors benefit from ClusterXchange?
A stay abroad with a selected host in another participating country will allow you to:

- Broaden your sector- and non-sector specific skills and knowledge through capacity-building
- Gain insights into the operation and techniques used by your host organisation
- Expand your network of contacts and develop new cross-border partnerships
- Find innovative solutions to upgrade your business, products and services
- Create new business opportunities and get involved in new innovative projects
- Gain knowledge on foreign markets and cultures
- Benefit from financial assistance for your exchange

ClusterXchange | Visitors
As a visitor, you are the travelling party of the exchange, allowing you to visit a foreign cluster members active in business areas relevant to your organisation.

The Partnership of your choice will be by your side to guide you during the preparation, implementation and finalisation of the exchange. With their support, you have the freedom to choose the best suited Exchange that best fulfills your needs (e.g. capacity-building, organisational, technological and commercial).
The ClusterXchange portal

The ClusterXchange online portal is housed in the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) website. It provides you with access to detailed information on ClusterXchange such as the eligibility criteria, information on how you can participate, on financial assistance stipulations for the visiting organisations, as well as background information on the Partnerships and the ClusterXchange Support Office. The CXC IT Tool is also available to the Partnerships in this portal.

You can also sign up for news and updates on the activities and accomplishments of the Partnerships and the ClusterXchange scheme.

To find out more, please visit the ECCP website or get in contact with the ClusterXchange Support Office via email (clusterxchange@clustercollaboration.eu)
How to be a *host* or a *visitor*? It is easy...

**Eligibility**

- Check the profiles of the Partnerships on the ECCP website to see which one will be most suited to assess your application and supervise your exchange.

- Contact the Partnership of your choice via email or via their exchange opportunities formulaires available on the CXC portal.

**Preparation**

- After the Partnership has approved your expression of interest, plan your exchange with your chosen Visitor or Host with the support of your respective Partnerships.

- Prepare your action plan and sign the Commitment to Quality report and Financial Agreement for the exchange.

**Execution**

- Participate in the exchange and submit a brief closing report about the exchange to your Partnership.

**Finalisation**

- Receive your financial assistance as a Visitor of the exchange after the closing report has been accepted by your Partnership.
Getting in touch with the EU

In person
All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

On the phone or by email
Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:
- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Finding information about the EU

Online
Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

EU publications
You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications.
Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU law and related documents
For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Open data from the EU
The EU Open Data Portal (http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.
Strengthening the European economy through collaboration
For further information:

Visit our website [www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu) and [clustercollaboration.eu/clusterxchange](http://clustercollaboration.eu/clusterxchange) for detailed information on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the ClusterXchange scheme and the Partnerships.

Contact the ClusterXchange Support Office for queries and guidance at [ClusterXchange@clustercollaboration.eu](mailto:ClusterXchange@clustercollaboration.eu)

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Open 10:00-14:00 (CET) Monday to Friday on working days

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