Crossing Borders: Instruments of Interregional Collaboration

22 March 2023
08:30-09:45 CET

online
Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Perspectives from the European Commission:
   Industrial Forum: Enhancing cross-border and cross-ecosystem investments
   **Benoit Esmann**, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission
   INTERREG
   **Estelle Roger**, Programme Manager, DG REGIO, European Commission
   Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument
   **Milena Stoyanova**, Project Adviser, EISMEA, European Commission
3. Panel debate
   **Aitor Mintegui**, EU Affairs Officer, Basque Country Delegation to the EU
   **Mervi Karikorpi**, Head of EU Innovation & Industrial Policy, Technology Industries of Finland
   **Marielle Campanella**, Head of European Projects, Pôle SCS
4. Open round with the audience
5. Funding opportunities
Housekeeping rules

- Please use the **Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- We invite you to **join the debate**: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please **unmute yourself** and **activate your camera** when you take the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded**.
NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM
Successful first Cluster Booster Academy

• First ever Cluster Booster Academy was successfully concluded with the two in-person training days in Strasbourg, France, on 2-3 March 2023
• 27 cluster managers from more than 20 European countries
• Application to the second CBA will open in April
Register now: Clusters meet Regions & Matchmaking in Finland

- Dedicated to a sustainable approach to raw materials, focusing on circular economy and digitalisation
- Aim is to bring together clusters and policymakers from a range of levels to learn from each other how to strengthen industrial ecosystems and support economic development
- Visit to the Kittilä Gold Mine for 50 mining sector professionals
Upcoming: Matchmaking in Morocco

- Physical matchmaking event will be held in the context of GITEX Africa, the continent’s largest tech event, in Marrakech, Morocco.
- Save the date: 31 May – 2 June.
Upcoming: Matchmaking in Taiwan

• Physical matchmaking event will be held in the context of **COMPUTEX 2023** in Taipei, Taiwan
• The event will be dedicated to **AI, Robotics, Semiconductors, 6G and Circular Economy**.
• Save the date: 30 May – 2 June
Training session: Environmental, social, and corporate governance; company reporting and financial providers’ approach to sustainable investments

- Training provided by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)
- 27 March 2023 in hybrid format
- **Register** by 23 March
- Agenda:
  - The EU and international policy framework for sustainable investments
  - The financial providers approach and sustainability criteria applied in the evaluation of SMEs' candidatures
  - Assessment tools: some examples
  - The impact on SMEs – key aspects to be considered when advising a company
Benoit Esmanne

Policy Officer, DG GROW

European Commission
Estelle Roger

Programme Manager, DG REGIO

European Commission
Interreg 2021-2027

“Crossing Borders: Instruments of Interregional Collaboration”

Estelle Roger DG REGIO

EU Clusters Talk - 22 March 2023
86 programmes EUR 10 billion 4 strands

64 cross-border, including 15 external (10 IPA & 5 NEXT) and PEACE+
€6,7 bn

13 transnational, incl. 2 external
€2,3 bn

4 interregional
€0,56 bn

5 Outermost regions
€0,33 bn
• One of the **two goals of EU cohesion policy**

• Stronger strategic focus on green and digital **transition**

• **Cooperation framework** between national, regional and local actors from different Member States

• Less budget available EU wide

• Thematic approach: the 5 CPR objectives + 2 Interreg-specific objectives

• Cooperation helps regions to improve their innovation and R&D policies & programmes (Cluster policies especially under Policy objective 1)
Key questions for potential beneficiaries:

- Who do I want to cooperate with?
- Where are we all located?
- What theme do we want to cooperate on?
  = defines the most suitable programme for you
  then: www.interreg.eu
  Check calls and contacts to see if there is a match

Keep project database
Browse the largest database of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes in the EU.
Search the Keep.eu database
Key questions for potential beneficiaries:

Potential calls and projects supporting cluster policies and collaboration across borders (examples):

Policy objective 1

Specific objective on Research and innovation capacities: Actions strengthening regional and transnational structures (e.g. clusters, innovation networks), cooperation of companies in interregional partnerships encouraged, support to action plans linking economic clusters and innovation players

Cluster organizations as target groups: crossborder, transnational and interregional programmes
Interregional cooperation: 6 cooperation projects addressing cluster policies

- **57** partners from **19** Member States
- **EUR 12.7 Million** ERDF Interreg Europe programme funding

**Results:**
- **544** people with increased professional capacity
- **61** policy instruments improved
- **52 Million EUR** mobilised
Policy Learning Platform & clusters

Policy briefs, articles

Events

Good practice database

All resources on our website: www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions?keywords=clusters
First call for project proposals

Call open: 5 April to 31 May 2022

Results:
• 134 project proposals submitted
• 72 projects approved starting March 1, 2023

Two projects addressing the topic of clusters:

**DEBUTING** - Developing Business Through Inclusiveness and Gender Awareness - New Cluster Competences

**AccelerateGDT** - Realign Cluster Policies to Accelerate the Twin Green and Digital Transitions
Second call for project proposals

1. When?  
   **15 MAR – 9 JUN 2023, 12 noon** (CEST Paris time)

2. How much?  
   Up to **EUR 130 Million**

3. About what?  
   All **topics** open
Thank you
Milena Stoyanovova

Project Adviser, EISMEA

European Commission
Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Milena Stoyanova
EISMEA, I. 01
EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems
# Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument

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<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>For whom</th>
<th>How</th>
<th>How much</th>
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| Commercialisation and scaling up of innovation projects for the development of European value chains | Interregional Q-Helix ecosystems:  
• Researchers  
• Businesses  
• Civic society & public administrations | Implemented under direct management.  
DG REGIO supported by EISMEA | Cohesion Policy  
ERDF (Art. 13)  
€ 570 million (current prices) |
I3 General policy objective

Increase the competitiveness and resilience of EU value chains to achieve cohesion goals

Specific objectives

• Interconnecting regional innovation ecosystems along S3 priorities

• Combining bottom-up S3 priorities with EU strategic priorities

• Supporting demonstration, commercialization and scale-up of interregional investments

• Create synergies and complementarities with other EU Programmes
I3 thematic areas and strands

**THEMATIC AREAS**

- **DIGITAL TRANSITION**
- **GREEN TRANSITION**
- **SMART MANUFACTURING**

**STRANDS**

**Strand 1** | Support for investments in interregional innovation projects in shared smart specialisation areas

**Strand 2a** | Support for investments in interregional innovation projects for the development of value chains in less developed regions

**Strand 2b** | Capacity building for the development of value chains in less developed regions

Technical assistance & experimentation (Call for tender)

**Next call:**
- May/June '23
- Autumn '23 (Oct)
- Coming soon
## Strand 1 vs Strand 2a

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<tr>
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<th>Strand 1</th>
<th>Strand 2a</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td>Development of EU globally competitive value chains</td>
<td>Develop value chains in LDR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New to Europe” or “new to the application sector</td>
<td>Innovation diffusion and multiple market applications, Capacity building, demand and supply side activities</td>
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<td>Demand side activities</td>
<td>Minimum 3 partners, 3 regions, 2 countries, coordinator non-profit from LDR, TR or Outermost</td>
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<td>Minimum 5 partners, 5 regions, 3 countries, coordinator non-profit from MDR</td>
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<td><strong>Consortium</strong></td>
<td>€ 4 – 10 M</td>
<td>€ 2 – 3 M</td>
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<td><strong>Indicative project size</strong></td>
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Strand 2b - Consortium composition & budget

**Innovation Actors & Q-helix partnerships** on behalf of a regional / national ecosystems

The coordinator must be:
- established in an EU Member State from a “less developed region”
- a public body, private non-profit organisation or international organisation.

Minimum 2 independent legal entities representing 2 different regional ecosystems from 2 different EU Member States.

At least 1 “more developed region” of an EU Member State.

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) are expected to be around EUR 500 000 – EUR 1 500 00 per project.
Panel debate

Aitor Mintegui, EU Affairs Officer, Basque Country Delegation to the EU

Mervi Karikorpi, Head of EU Innovation & Industrial Policy, Technology Industries of Finland

Marielle Campanella, Head of European Projects, Pôle SCS
What are your thoughts?
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Interreg Europe: Call for proposals for interregional cooperation projects

• These projects gather policy-relevant organisations from different countries in Europe working together on a common regional development issue.
• Any topics of shared relevance in line with their regional needs, as long as this falls within the scope of cohesion policy
• The first three years of the projects ('core phase') are dedicated to exchange and transfer of experience among the participating partners in order to improve the policy instruments addressed by the project.
• In the fourth and last year ('follow-up phase'), the regions mainly focus on monitoring the results and impact of the cooperation.
• Deadline: 9 June 2023
• Published on Interreg Europe website
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<th>Call Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call for Projects</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Germany</td>
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<td>Call for small project fund management</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Germany</td>
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<td>Continuous call system for small-scale projects</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Finland, Norway, Sweden</td>
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<td>Open invitation to submit proposals for Targeted Analyses</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>TOURISM</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Poland</td>
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<td>Cooperation of institutions and residents</td>
<td>Continuously open</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Poland</td>
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<td>Second call for regular projects Interreg Aurora</td>
<td>Deadline 28th March 2023</td>
<td>Finland, Norway, Sweden</td>
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<td>URBACT call for Action Planning Networks</td>
<td>Deadline 31st March 2023</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call 1</td>
<td>Deadline 14th April 2023</td>
<td>Belgium, Germany, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTEGRATED RESCUE SYSTEM AND ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>Deadline 31st May 2023</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Poland</td>
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[https://interreg.eu/call-for-project/]
Support to Ukrainian companies to integrate into the Single Market

- Select a consortium of various business support organisations that will select up to 1,500 growth- and sustainability-oriented Ukrainian SMEs that will benefit from direct financial support of up to EUR 2,500 and to facilitate their access to the EU Single Market.
- The type of business support services which can be covered by financial support to the selected Ukrainian SMEs, can be: Market research; Legal, organisational, or financial advice; Participation in trade fairs; Adaptations of products to EU market; Patenting and licensing costs.
- Applicants must be current or former EEN member, ECCP member (“national cluster associations” or “metaclusters and cluster networks”), Ukrainian Cluster Alliance member, or Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) Intermediary Organisations.
- Deadline: 27 April 2023
- Info Day on 3 April
- Single Market Programme; TOPIC ID: SMP-COSME-2023-SMEUA-01
- Published on Funding and Tenders Portal
Support to Ukrainian entrepreneurs - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

• The projects cover activities such as:
  • giving training on doing business in the Single Market
  • developing other relevant skills and boost their entrepreneurship capacities, and
    supporting them with contacts and building networks
  • matching them with experienced European entrepreneurs and support them for
    participation in Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs business exchanges.

• The selected projects will help both Ukrainian entrepreneurs who are based in their home
  country and displaced Ukrainian entrepreneurs who are based in the participating countries.

• Deadline: 11 May 2023

• **Info Day on 27 March**
  • Single Market Programme; TOPIC ID: SMP-COSME-2023-EYEUA-01
  • Published on [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)
European Clusters Integrating Ukrainian clusters and companies into the EU value chains

• Unique opportunity to **build EU-Ukrainian business relations**, and to find partners to trade and invest

• **High-level officials** from the European Commission, Slovakia, and Ukraine

• Panel discussions, pitching sessions from clusters and enterprises, hybrid business-to-business matchmaking and site visits relevant to the EU-UA cooperation in building autonomy and resilience, such as utilities, health, agri-food, textiles, industry 4.0, defence and ICT
Funding instruments for innovation: Explained in C2Lab input paper!

- Read about key European support programmes, e.g., I3 Instrument, Innovation Fund, LIFE, European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE), Single Market Programme, ...
- Examples of “intergovernmental” funding schemes
- Dip into private funds for innovative business
- Published on European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Continue the dialogue…

ECCP General Discussion Group
 Listed group

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9274710/
Register for the next Talks

5 April 2023  Raw Materials and Circular Economy

19 April 2023  Private financing

3 May 2023  Transition Pathway on Construction
Register on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform!
https://clustercollaboration.eu/

The European online hub for industry clusters
Strengthening the European economy through collaboration

Find partners per country, region, sector or industrial ecosystem
THANK YOU