Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

2. First feedback and lessons learned for the Eurocluster initiative
   Valentino Izzo, *Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA, European Commission*

3. Panel debate
   Giovanni Scaramuzzo, *Project Manager, EXO Ricerca, CREATHRIV-EU Eurocluster*
   Laure de Tassigny, *European Project Officer, Minalogic, Silicon Eurocluster*
   María Luisa Fernández, *Cluster Manager, ZINNAE, CircInWater Eurocluster*
   Ruben Eiras, *Secretary-General, Fórum Oceano - Portugal Blue Economy Cluster, MedBAN Eurocluster*
   Silvana Sanfeliu, *Senior EU Project Specialist, Fondazione Piemonte Innova, AIBC Eurocluster*

4. Funding opportunities
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

EUCLUSTERS CTALKS ★ **#EUClustersTalks**   C ★ EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, presenter

- 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** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE
EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Feedback to the EU Clusters Talks

- We are constantly looking for ways to improve our ECCP activities to best suit the needs of our community. As such, we kindly ask for your feedback of your experience as an EU Clusters Talk participant, so that we may tailor and improve the future Talks to best reflect your interests.

- **Share your feedback** until 1 August 2023: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EUClustersTalks_June2023

Attendance

* How many EU Clusters Talks have you attended?
- ○ 1-5
- ○ 5-10
- ○ 10-20
- ○ More than 20

* Which topics were of most relevance to you?

What would motivate you to attend more regularly/new EU Clusters Talks?

Topics

From the following topics, which would you like to discuss in upcoming EU Clusters Talks?
- ☐ Building resilience
- ☐ Digital transition
- ☐ Euroclusters
- ☐ Green transition
- ☐ National cluster programmes
- ☐ Networks and synergies (e.g., European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, Enterprise Europe Network)
- ☐ Re- and upskilling
- ☐ Transition Pathways of industrial ecosystems
- ☐ Updates on the latest EU policies
- ☐ War in Ukraine and collaboration opportunities

EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★   #EUClustersTalks

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Register for Matchmaking Event in South Africa

- It will take place on-site in **Johannesburg**, South Africa on **24 October – 26 October 2023**

- In the context of Manufacturing Indaba Conference and Exhibition

- Focus areas: agri-food, green industries, chemicals and metals, transport, digital, and textile

- Deadline: 12 July 2023

Register for Matchmaking Event in Singapore

- It will take place on-site in **Singapore** on **30 October – 1 November 2023**

- As part of Singapore Week of Innovation & Technology (SWITCH) and Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia 2023

- Focus areas: agri-food, health care, biomedical tech, digital, smart cities, advanced manufacturing, green tech

- Deadline: 12 July 2023

Data Protection Guide for small business

- The guide provides **practical information** to SMEs about **GDPR compliance**

- It covers various aspects of GDPR, from data protection basics to respecting individuals' rights and measures to secure personal data

- Access the guide: https://edpb.europa.eu/sme-data-protection-guide/home_en
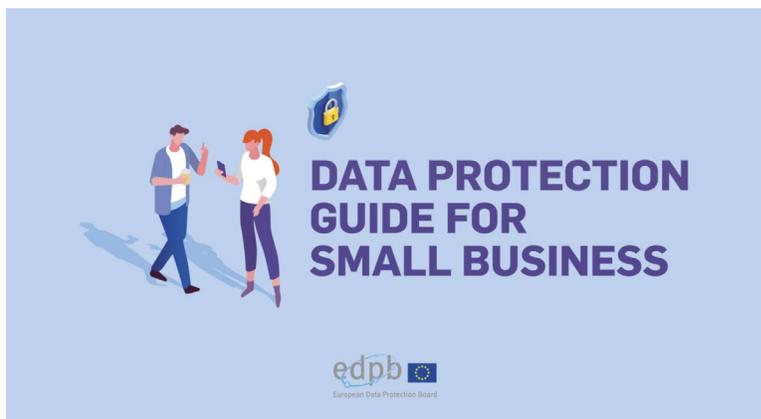
Feedback to evaluate COSME programme

- **Public consultation for stakeholders and SMEs** on COSME, the EU programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises that ran from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of 2.3 billion EUR

- [Consultation](#) open until **18 September 2023**

- COSME supported the Enterprise Europe Network, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, projects for tourism and social economy, the IPR Help desks, and projects for cluster internationalisation and cluster excellence

- The results will help the EC to improve future support programmes for SMEs

- Important to receive **feedback from clusters**

Evaluation of the COSME programme

1 - Did you or your company/organisation receive financial or any other kind of support from the COSME programme?
○ Yes
○ No
○ Don't know

2 - In your view, to what extent did the COSME programme help you to achieve the following results?

	Not at all	To a limited extent	To some extent	To a great extent	Don't know
*Provide easier access to finance for SMEs through loan portfolio guarantees/counter-guarantees	○	○	○	○	○
*Provide easier access to risk capital through equity funds for SMEs	○	○	○	○	○
*Support the creation of start-ups	○	○	○	○	○
*Support the growth of SMEs, including start-ups and scale-ups	○	○	○	○	○
*Encourage business transfers	○	○	○	○	○
*Support cross-border and multi country financing	○	○	○	○	○
*Provide integrated business support services to SMEs	○	○	○	○	○
*Create opportunities for SMEs to access new markets in the EU	○	○	○	○	○
*Create opportunities for SMEs to access markets outside the EU	○	○	○	○	○

slido

In one word: What do you associate with the Euroclusters?
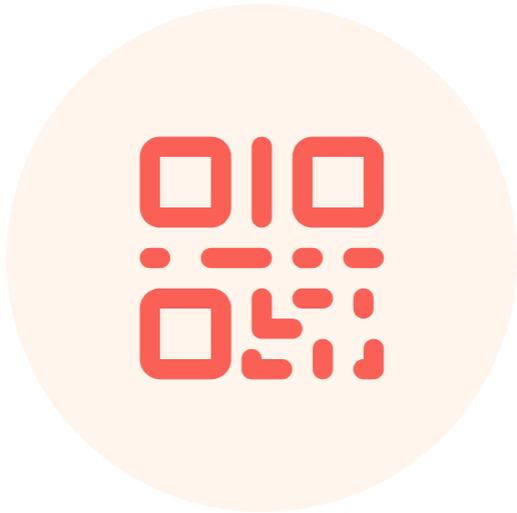
ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Joint Cluster Initiatives (Euroclusters)

First feedback and lessons learned

Valentino IZZO

Programme Coordination Manager

EISMEA, Unit I.02.03

Agenda

- What are the «Euroclusters»?

- Focus on the cascading calls:

  - what opportunities are there for SMEs?

  - what challenges are there for Euroclusters?

European Commission

What are the Euroclusters?

Pan-European Partnerships of cluster organisations and other actors of the industrial ecosystem

Funded under the SMP Programme and managed by EISMEA

20 Euroclusters work on concrete initiatives in specific industrial ecosystems

10 Euroclusters work across several industrial ecosystems

https://clustercollaboration.eu/euroclusters

Euroclusters help cope with challenges

EU's Industrial Policy

- Strengthen **Single Market resilience**
- Accelerate the **twin green and digital transitions**

Energy prices

Record inflation

Commodity dependences

Disruptions in supply/value chains

Financial meltdown

Refugee crisis

Pandemics and lockdowns
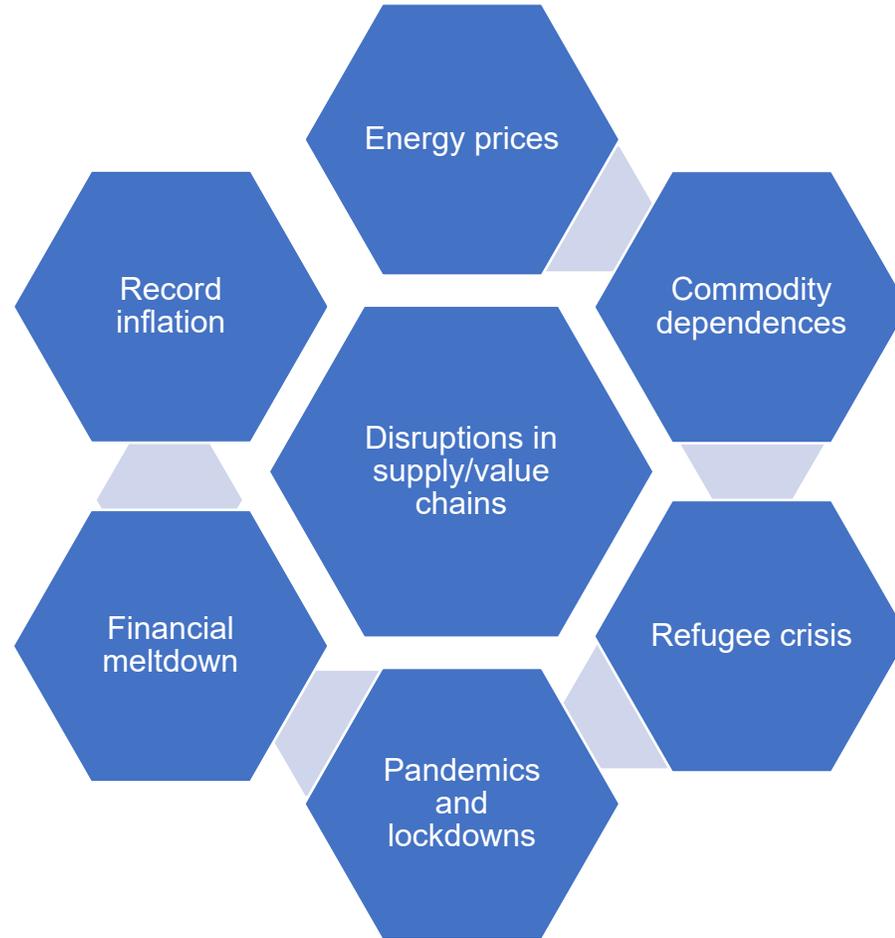
Specific Objectives

1. Network
2. Innovate
3. Adopt
4. Train
5. Internationalise

European Commission

What are the Euroclusters? In numbers ...

- On 1 of September 2022, **30 Euroclusters** have been launched: they are composed of **171 partners** overall and cover **23 different countries** (of which 22 are EU Member States) and **all 14 industrial ecosystems**.

- **Duration**: Projects' implementation range from 24 to 36 months.

- **Total budget** for the first Euroclusters call: **42 million EUR** (from the Single Market Programme)

- **Cascading calls for SMEs**: At least 75 % (**around 32 million EUR**) of the grant **must go directly to SMEs**

European Commission

Cascading calls: What is there for SMEs?

- Between February and June 2023, **21** out of the 30 SMP Euroclusters awarded projects **published 32 cascading calls** to financially support SMEs.

- In total these first calls will award around **17 million euro** (more than 50% of the 31.5 million expected in total) to **around 1500 estimated SMEs**.

- **18 calls have been closed** by now (with deadlines between 21 April and 27 June)

- **14 are still ongoing** (3 closing within a week between 30 June and 2 July).

- More FSTP Calls are expected to be published soon.

European Commission

Cascading calls: What is there for SMEs?

Type of grant	Lump-sum per Application	Number of calls (out of 32 published)
Advisory services / Consultancy	1 400 - 10 000	9
Innovation grants (this includes prototyping, testing, demonstration, etc.) - TRLs 2-8	15 000 - 180 000	19
Internationalisation grants (this includes travel grants, as well as grants for activities linked to trade missions such as matchmaking, marketing, booth costs, etc.)	250 - 15 000	13
Training grants	250 - 5 000	11
Other (Includes prizes, participation to events, etc.)	10 000 - 20 000	3

European Commission

Cascading calls: looking back (first results)

N° of applications	1 143	21 – 217
N° of SMEs	1 071	21 - 211
N° of countries involved	27	6 - 24

Distribution of SMEs per country (when known)
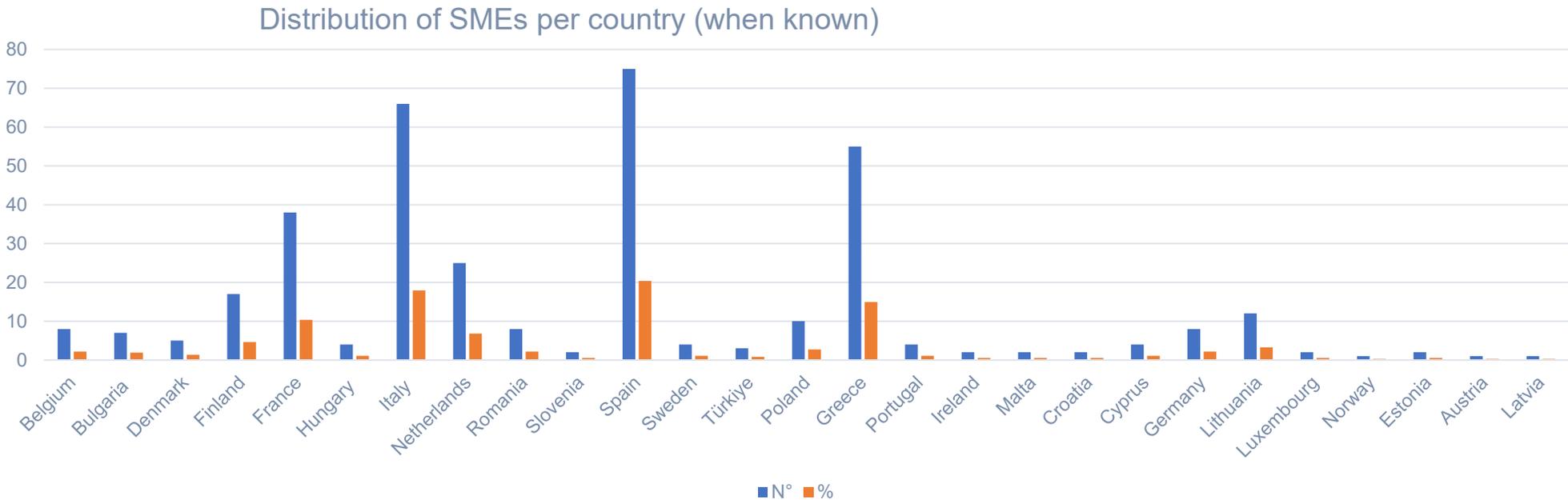
Cascading calls: looking ahead (the ones still open)

Targeted	Ecosystems	Targeted 3rd Countries	Total grant	Number of SMEs expected to receive a grant	Lump-sum per Application	Number of calls (out of 14 open calls)
Advisory services / Consultancy	Agrifood; energy-intensive industries; Aeronautics, Space, Defence; ICT		522 000	170	2 000 - 4 000	3
Innovation grants (this includes prototyping, testing, demonstration, etc.) - TRLs 2-8	Construction; Health; Energy Intensive Industries; Digital Industries; Mobility, transport and automotive		4 397 000	96	15 000 - 180 000	6
Internationalisation (this includes travel grants, matchmaking, activities linked to trade missions such as marketing or booth costs, etc.)	Automotive, transport and mobility; Construction; Agrifood; Health; Energy Intensive Industries; Digital Industries	Japan, Canada, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Kenya and all	347 500	133	250 - 15 000	7
Training	Construction; Energy Intensive Industries; Mobility, transport and automotive; Digital Industries		225 000	140	250 - 5 000	5
Business Continuity Plan	Agrifood		272 000	16	17 000	1

Where to find published calls

- European Cluster Collaboration Platform: https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls/euroclusters

- Enterprise Europe Network: https://een.ec.europa.eu/

- Funding and Tenders Portal: link to Euroclusters open calls

- Euroclusters' consortia own websites & social media channels

European Commission

Cascading calls: success factors?

	vs	
Calls per "Eurocluster"	One call	Multiple calls
Objectives / Challenges addressed	One per call	multiples per call
Deadline	multiple cut-offs	single stage
Applicants	individual SMEs only	SMEs or consortia
Lump sum amount	Small lump sum to reach many SMEs	Bigger amounts to fewer SMEs
Grant form	Fixed amount	Maximum lump sum
Award	Award criteria	1st come - 1st served
Evaluation	Internal	External or 2 steps approach (Internal and then external
Payment schedule	1 final payment	pre-financing and/or interim payments

European Commission

# Cascading calls: what the main challenges are?

2. What are the main challenges you had or are having with the cascading calls?

More Details

●	drafting the call and call docum...	9
●	reaching out to SMEs, SMEs in c...	4
●	receiving sufficient number of p...	3
●	receiving quality proposals	3
●	managing the submission envir...	5
●	managing the evaluation of the ...	5
●	assessing whether applicants ar...	5
●	ensuring a low financial risk for ...	6
●	All of the above	1
●	Other	4

European Commission
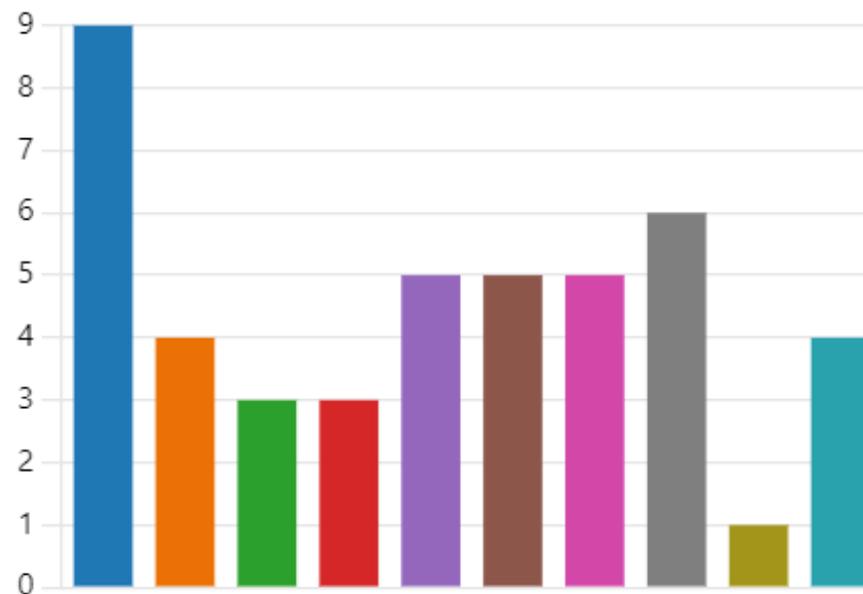
Cascading calls: what the main challenges are?

6. What would be your best advice to another consortium now working on a new cascading call?
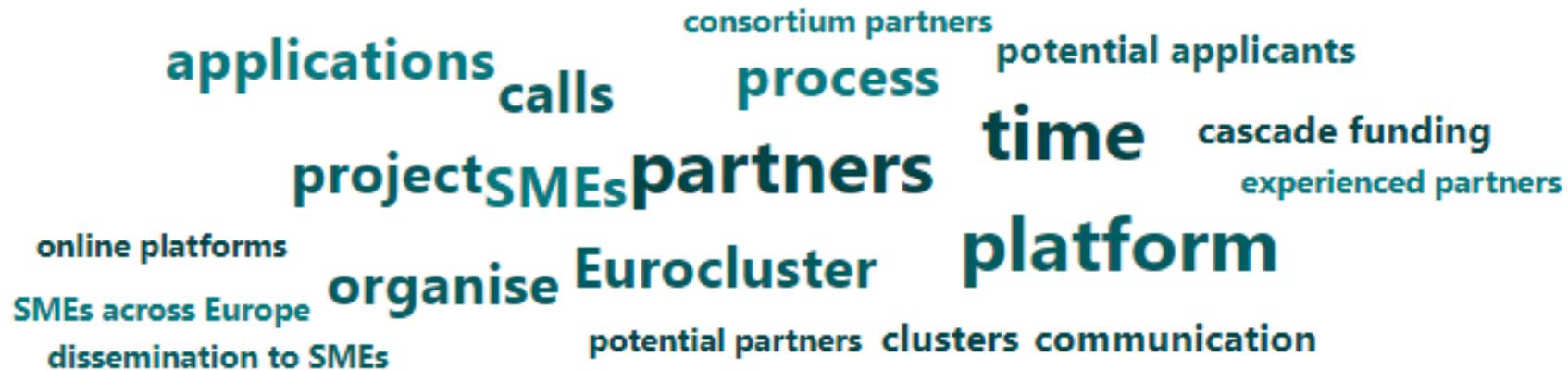
Cascading calls: what the main challenges are?

7. What support would you expect from the European Commission to help launching calls?

Euroclusters at the same time

applicants are SMEs

Budget is quite low

guide for applicants

cluster level

support services   templates   **calls** supporting

global calendar

content of the calls   tool

low   project   evaluation templates

potential calls   good   financial risks

grants- templates

Cascading calls: exploiting synergies

We want to hear your voice now!

Aligning

- ECCP International matchmaking events 2024-2025

- Euroclusters trade missions / international activities

- Cascading calls to support International activities of SMEs

ECCP matchmaking calendar 2024-2025

STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

European Commission

Thank you for your attention

Stay tuned!

ECCP: www.clustercollaboration.eu

https://twitter.com/Clusters_EU

ECCP profile

European Commission

Panel debate

Giovanni Scaramuzzo, Project Manager, EXO Ricerca, CREATHRIV-EU Eurocluster

Laure de Tassigny, European Project Officer, Minalogic, Silicon Eurocluster

María Luisa Fernández, Cluster Manager, ZINNAE, CircInWater Eurocluster

Ruben Eiras, Secretary-General, Fórum Oceano - Portugal Blue Economy Cluster, MedBAN Eurocluster

Silvana Sanfeliu, Senior EU Project Specialist, Fondazione Piemonte Innova, AIBC Eurocluster

EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

'Innovate to transform' support for SME's sustainability transition

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:
  - Support **objectives** of the European Green Deal and of the EU SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe;
  - **Increased resilience of SMEs**, by fostering technological and social innovation in SMEs to support their transition to more sustainable business models and more resource-efficient and circular processes and infrastructures;
  - **Increased competitive sustainability of SMEs** through the uptake of advanced technologies;
  - Stronger **innovation support ecosystems** supporting the green, social and economic transition of SMEs, by leveraging synergies between existing EU networks and SME support initiatives
- This action will consist in **advisory services and financial support in the form of 'third party financing'**
- Opening date: 19 September 2023
- HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions;
  TOPIC-ID: HORIZON-CL4-2024-RESILIENCE-01-41
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

Accelerating uptake through open proposals for advanced SME innovation

- Projects' results are expected to contribute to some or all of the following outcomes:

  - Development of a **mature technological solution a**ddressing EU security policy priorities in the areas addressed by the Cluster 3 work programme.

  - Facilitated **access to civil security market** for small and medium innovators and enhanced links between suppliers and public buyers;

  - Improved **cooperation between public buyers and small supply market actors** for a swifter uptake of innovation in response to short to mid-term needs;

  - **Stronger partnerships** between small and medium EU security industry and technology actors to ensure the sustainability of the EU innovation capacity in the civil security domain and increase technological sovereignty of the EU in critical security areas.

- Opening date: 29 June 2023

- HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions;
  TOPIC-ID: HORIZON-CL3-2023-SSRI-01-02

- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys

- This action is intended to **create connected regional innovation valleys** across the European Union (EU), involving regions with lower innovation performances, by building on strategic areas of regional strength and specialisation (defined in their smart specialisation strategies), in support of key EU priorities.

- The aim is to foster the creation of efficient, open, inclusive and interconnected European innovation ecosystems in line with the New European Innovation Agenda, notably in **thematic/technological areas (including deep tech) that will be critical for EU value chains**.

- The topic is primarily focused on the regional aspects of innovation and targeted at national and/or regional innovation authorities. Other relevant entities should participate in the consortia as **associated partners** (such as research institutions, public authorities, universities, companies, clusters, innovation intermediaries, etc.).

- Deadline: 17 October 2023

- HORIZON-COFUND HORIZON Programme Cofund Actions;
  TOPIC-ID: HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-03-01

- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- AEC EUROCLUSTER: Project innovation, Technology Adoption, and Training for **SMEs from architecture, engineering and construction**; deadline 30 June 2023

- AEC EUROCLUSTER: **Internationalisation** support to establish business relations with non-EU partners for **SMEs from architecture, engineering and construction**; multiple cut-offs; first deadline 30 August 2023

- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: Call for participating in **international events** related to **Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain** technologies; deadline 5 September 2023

- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: **Training** in Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain for SMEs from the **manufacturing, mobility, logistics and energy sectors;** deadline 5 September

- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: Call for projects for piloting and/or demonstrating **new or improved digital and environmentally friendly products** and services that use **Artificial Intelligence and/or Blockchain**; deadline 5 September

- B-Resilient: Support for Business and continuity plan, innovation, or internationalisation for SMEs SMEs intending to optimise their use of **biomass** via digital and sustainable tool solutions; deadline 1 July 2023

- BioMan4B2: Business transformation, support for travel to explore markets in other countries, and resilience plans for SMEs in **life sciences** and **medical technologies** sector; deadline 2 July 2023

- CircInWater: Lump sums to access training or consultancy services for **water-smart solutions**, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries; deadline 2 October 2023

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- <u>FRIEND CCI:</u> Call for **providers** offering solutions in **digitalisation, greening, and internationalisation** to collaborate with **Creative and Cultural** SMEs for the realization of funded projects; deadline 1 August 2025

- <u>GEMSTONE:</u> Financial support for training related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 2024

- <u>INGENIOUS</u>: **Innovation** grants for SMEs operated in **energy intensive industry** towards green and digital transition and resilience; deadline 31 July

- <u>INGENIOUS</u>: **Internationalisation** grants SMEs operated in **energy intensive industry** for business opportunities in Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2023

- <u>INGENIOUS:</u> **Training** grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 14 February 2025

- <u>METASTARS;</u> Call for **innovation services** for green technology development, digitalisation, upskilling and reskilling, internationalisation, and information security systems for SMEs from the **aeronautics, space, defence and ICT sectors**; deadline 31 December 2023

- <u>RE-CENTRE:</u> Financial support for SMEs from **furniture and living sector, IT sector, and green/circular economy** sector in the development of **innovation** projects and new business models; deadline 27 June 2023

- <u>RESIST:</u> **Networking and Marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024

- **All calls here: https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls**

Register for the next Talks

12 July 2023 30 years and counting: Clustering in the EU Single Market

Summer break

Back on **6 September 2023**

Register on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform!

https://clustercollaboration.eu/

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration

The European online hub for industry clusters

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration
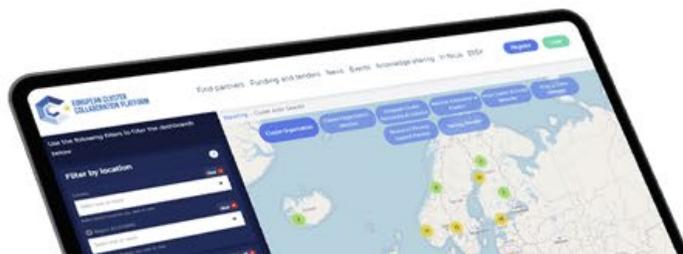
Find partners per country, region, sector or industrial ecosystem