

European Alliance Against Coronavirus

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New Super-Cluster organization models: France Water Team

Working format is based on “Gilles Rules”:

1. conceptual framework
2. needs and disruptions
3. solutions

Speaker:

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1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The France Water Team (FWT) is a federation **composed by three clusters: Aqua Valley, Dream and Hydreos**. The federation is structured with founding members, affiliated members and associated members with 10 FTE: 9 from funding members and an external one in order to have always another point of view and heterogeneous inputs.

The figure shows the roadmap that led to the birth of the FWT in September 2019 to be labelled as a Competitiveness Cluster by the National Government in the period 2019-2022.



The France Water Team animates the community, mainly SMEs, led by global players and including start-up and several other stakeholders. **The mission** of FWT can be divided in two main pillars: **ordinary mission and additional mission**.

The ordinary mission has three declination: **innovation, animatio,n and internationalization**. Since 2010, 228 projects have been funded for a total amount of 297 M€.

The **additional mission** focuses on: (i) **growing up and create connections within Europe to support members** on the EU calls or projects proposal; (ii) **dialogue with Brussels and intercept the funds**; (iii) **develop European initiatives and be directly involved in projects**.

Water Smart Territories is an example of European collaboration. It is a thematic platform for industrial modernization focused in **boosting resilient** infrastructure, **digitalization, circular economy**, and **multi-stakeholder governance**. The aims are to **facilitate new investments and support cross-sectoral collaborations** in water ICT sector.

Starting from the joint cluster initiative presented by FWT during the debate, there was a discussion about the **possibility of exporting this super-cluster model – or named “Euroclusters” by Commissioner Thierry Breton – at European level**, involving several Member States. This is certainly an interesting project, but it shows a whole series of **questions** starting from **the legal nature of the cluster**, also considering the **differences in regulations** between the European states.

The discussion addressed the issue of **how to structure this super-cluster at the operational level** and whether it is necessary to **define a strategy** in order to **ensure continuity**. What would be the main outlook of Euroclusters – strategic or operational?

On the one hand, Euroclusters can become an **operational and pragmatic tool** that can **incubate** the various actions by creating a concrete **roadmap** to achieve the objectives. This would **facilitate** the possibility of **access to the funds**. On the other hand, Euroclusters could work on a European strategy for clusters, elevating the view. It is important to think strategies both at **European level and local, regional and national levels**. One issue to consider is the existence of different strategies implemented by different European countries, which need to be aligned.

Euroclusters may be able to develop new value chains with a new ecosystem that is able to integrate and relate with other industrial ecosystems.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

At the end of the discussion about creating super-clusters at European level, some questions remain open and have the necessity to be further discussed:

- How can a super-cluster be created, which focuses on one topic involving other European countries?
- What legal framework is possible to give to this super-cluster?
- What should be the role of the super-cluster – more strategic or more operational?
- How could a super-cluster strategy be linked at local, national and European level?
- How will super-clusters have access to funds and call?