

European Alliance Against Coronavirus

Monday 27th July 2020 at 8:30

Overview of the EAAC activities and next steps

Working format is based on “Gilles Rules”:

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

Speakers:

- Ilaria Massari, REI – Reindustria Innovazione
- Antonio Novo, ECA
- Ulla Engelmann, DG GROW

[Link to session's recording](#)

1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Ilaria Massari, general manager of REI-Reindustria Innovazione, opened this session with an overview of the EAAC activities. She gave with a brief synthesis about the clusters' reaction to Covid-19. Mid-February 2020, first cases of infection were registered in Europe and during the sanitary emergency, the economy has been suffering disruptions. At the very beginning, the main disruptions were related to healthcare, e.g. lack of PPEs. However, the pandemic caused further problems related to other ecosystem like agri-food, retail and social economy. In mid-March, ECA started the mapping of disruptions and was included the Rapid Alert Function by April, evidencing regulation, coordination and funding needs and trying to measuring impacts and bottlenecks.

In March, ECA started a loop process that grew day by day based on the shared leadership concept which covers 4 activities: understanding reality, thinking needs, identifying potential solutions, transferring and acting among networks. To track the work, all information has been collected in daily and weekly reports. In this way, the European Commission has direct access to information on **disruptions** and **bottlenecks for policymaking**. The key words of this initiative are continuity, tracking, listening, interacting.

As Antonio Novo, president of ECA, pointed out, there were over 130 sessions realized, 130 daily minutes and 11 weekly reports. Moreover, the European Alliance Against Coronavirus has grown as an open innovation network which involved more than 1000 experts.

Ulla Engelmann, from DG GROW, talked about how to **foster cooperation among industry clusters**. **During the crisis we understood that we are #stongertogether**. Now it is necessary to reinforce European leadership through clusters, which connect actors and implement innovative proposals. To do that we have to continue working on:

1. **Disruptions in the European value chains and industrial ecosystems**
2. **Best possible solutions**
3. **Critical companies with high-tech/critical know-how, production or technologies**

2. NEXT STEPS, PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATION

The idea is to restart the analysis of the 14 ecosystems and recovery plans in September, involving European Commissioners and experts and collecting proposals to integrate into the national recovery plans. An entire week will also be dedicated to Smart Specialization Strategies.

Ulla Engelmann announced that the Cluster Expert Group is working on a recommendation paper to be presented at the Cluster Conference in Berlin in November, an both physical and virtual event organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in cooperation with the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy under the German Presidency of the European Council.

The following proposals and suggestions emerged from the daily session:

1) Replicate meetings at a national level by involving the same topics, speakers, national authorities and policy makers.

Source: José Ramon Sierra (ES), Alberto Pezzi (ITA)

2) Integrate clusters in the national plans for the recovery.

Source: Ulla Engelmann (DG GROW)