

European Alliance Against Coronavirus

Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 8:30

General review of the disruptions and received proposals during the last months

Working format is based on “Gilles Rules”:

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

Speakers:

- Luca Patti, REI – Reindustria Innovazione
- Nina Hoppmann, Cluster IDiA
- Marek Przeor, DG GROW

[Link to session's recording](#)

1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

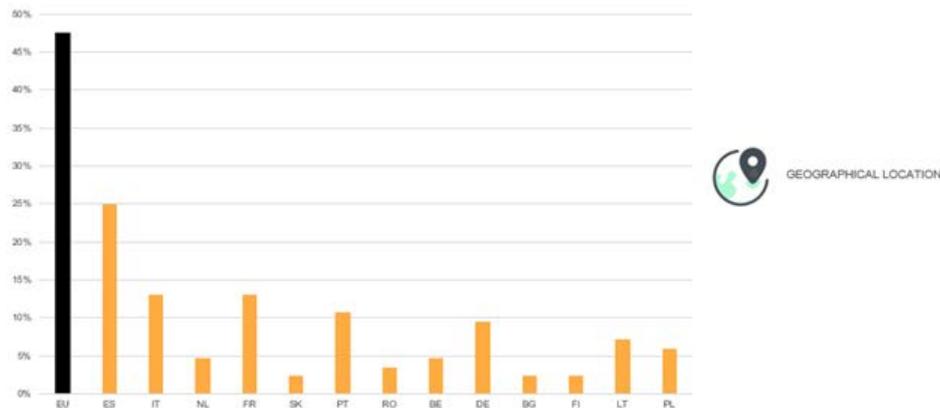
Luca Patti from REI - Reindustria Innovazione summarised the work on the identification of disruption in the industrial ecosystems and the analysis carried on in the last four months guided by European Clusters Alliance. Since the end of March, the European Alliance Against Coronavirus has shared information on the main disruptions suffered by European industries during the crisis. The aim has been to promptly identify concrete cases of changes in each ecosystem and to examine concrete actions to be undertaken, as part of the Rapid Alert Function introduced by the European Commission.

The European Alliance Against Coronavirus has shown their ability to detect week signals due to market and ecosystem closeness, given by the nature of cluster associations. This has granted a prompt and reliable identification of disruptive trends through a widespread net of «sensors» at local level, which are cluster themselves. Moreover, clusters have direct contact to policymakers, being able to straightly raise awareness on disruptions and interventions needed. Finally, the added value given by ECA is represented by the feedback from industries to the European Commission. Since the beginning of this project 84 disruption were identifies, referring to 14 ecosystems. The majority of the disruptions refer to:

INCOME REDUCTION AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES
RAW MATERIAL AVAILABILITY AND DEPENDENCE FROM EXTRA EU MARKETS FOR CRITICAL MATERIALS
WORKPLACE SECURITY DISRUPTION AND PPE SHORTAGE
SHORTAGE OF CRITICAL SUPPLY OF PLASTIC MATERIAL
COMPONENT SUPPLY DISRUPTION
SKILL GAP (ESPECIALLY FOR DIGITAL SKILLS)
UNCERTAINTY OF BUSINESS MODELS
IMPORT-EXPORT DISRUPTION

The main source has been the daily sessions, in which the speakers and participants share direct experiences, but also other channels have been exploited like the ECCP COVID-19 Response Forum and website, and a disruption survey submitted to all European cluster associations.

Analysing the repartition of disruptions by geographical repartition, about 50% of them have been identified at European level. Spain, France, Italy and Germany represent the major sources in terms of numbers of disruption. For each ecosystem, a set of disruptions have been mapped. The Automotive, Digital and Industrial ecosystem are the main sectors affected by the identified disruptions.



In the second part of this session, Nina Hoppmann from Cluster IDiA summarised the recommendations given for the identified disruptions. These recommendations come from clusters as well as companies, research organisations, development agencies, and other entities. They are in form of:

1. Needs in the ecosystems and how to address them
2. Best practices and actions at local/regional/national level
3. Examples of collaborations and projects
4. Presentations of European policies and funding schemes
5. Information on national/regional policies and programmes
6. Blueprints for cross-sectorial solutions

Nina concluded her speech by summarising the concepts that guided the activities: resilience, co-evolving ecosystems, innovative policy advice, and shared leadership.

2. EVIDENCES AND NEXT STEPS

Marek Przeor from DG GROW closed this session with an analysis of the evolution of the morning sessions from crisis reaction to role of clusters in ecosystems. He presented 4 main results achieved during these months:

1. **Mutual knowledge:** exchange of current information on masks, respirators, demands of materials, and digital matchmaking solutions
2. **Mutual help:** e.g. French standards development for masks certifications
3. **Finding solutions for disruptions:** developing prototypes for masks and respirators (shortage of PPE disruption)

4. Increase the role of clusters in ecosystems (industrial/regional): e.g. cluster proposals for tourism ecosystem

He concluded his speech by focusing on the next steps for the (clusters) community. To play a greater role in the future, clusters need to:

- **prepare pipelines of projects/flagships at local/regional level** (smart specialisation, just transition, rural development)
- **act on national level** (national resilience plans and Next Generation EU funding)
- **continue on EU level** (Euroclusters, Interregional Innovation Investments and many others)