Joint Cluster Initiatives
Euroclusters

DG GROW

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DG GROW D2

European Commission

12 December 2023

Programmes specific for interregional collaboration

Interreg — EUROPEAN UNION — www.interreg.eu

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

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

€ 570 million

INTERREGIONAL — MINIMUM 3–5 PARTNERS from different Member States and regional ecosystems

INNOVATION — CLOSE TO MARKET activities (TRL 6-9) — INNOVATION & IMPACT-ORIENTED investments

INVESTMENTS — OVER €570 million available in the 2021-2027 programming period — UP TO €10 million per project — 70% of EU contribution for all beneficiaries and cost categories

EURO CLUSTERS

2x€42 million

Toolbox on interregional investment

Toolbox on Interregional Investment

Technical Assistance Facility for Industrial Modernisation and Investment

TOOL #1 "Inter-regional and collaborative governance'

TOOL #2 "Undertaking market research"

TOOL #3 "Defining your offer"

TOOL #4 "Basics of financial planning"

TOOL #5 "Determining your target funding mix" i

Policy background

➤ March 2020: EU Industrial Policy

GREEN TRANSITION

The European Green Deal is Europe's new growth strategy.

At the heart of it is the goal of becoming the world's **first climate-neutral continent** by 2050.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The right conditions are needed for entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into products and services and for companies of all sizes to thrive and grow.

The EU must leverage the impact, the size and the integration of its single market to make its voice count in the world and **set global standards**.

DIGITAL TRANSITION

Digital technologies are changing the face of industry and the way we do business.

They allow **economic players** to be more proactive, provide workers with new skills and support the decarbonisation of our economy.

A deeper and more digital single market

Upholding a global level playing field

Investing and financing the transition

Supporting industries towards climate neutrality

Skilling and reskilling

Building a more circular economy

Embedding a spirit of industrial innovation

➤ July 2020: European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience (November 2020: launch of Pact for Skills)

➤ 2021: Updated EU Industrial Policy

➤ 2023: Green Deal Industrial Plan

Euroclusters are established to help implement industrial policy in SMEs through Clusters

WHAT FOR?

to help in the implementation of the EU Industrial Strategy: green & digital transitions + resilience

HOW?

by creating collaboration networks at EU-level that will develop and implement supporting measures for SMEs

WHO?

consortia of cluster organizations teaming up with other types of organizations

AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

TOURISM

AGRI-FOOD

TEXTILE

CONSTRUCTION

RETAIL

1 OPEN STRAND

+

CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

PROXIMITY, SOCIAL ECONOMY AND CIVIL SECURITY

14 Industrial Ecosystem Strands

DIGITAL

MOBILITY - TRANSPORT - AUTOMOTIVE

ELECTRONICS

HEALTH

ENERGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES

ENERGY- RENEWABLES

42 Million EUR

30 Euroclusters

30 Euroclusters started work in September 2022

171 partners

23 different countries

Activities:
1. Networking
2. Innovating
3. International
4. Adopting
5. Training
6. Outreach

Cascade funding / FSTP Calls to SMEs
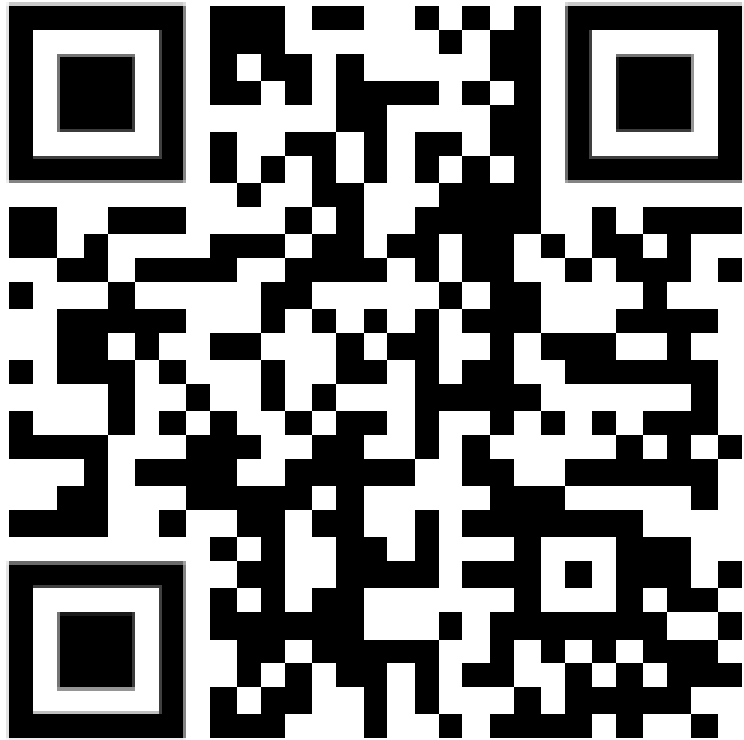
Between February and October 2023, all 30 SMP Euroclusters awarded at least 1 call. In total they **published 55 cascading calls** to financially support SMEs. More FSTP Calls are expected to be published soon.

In total these first calls will award around **26.7 million euro** (out of the 31.5 million expected in total) to **almost 2000 estimated SMEs**.

Half of them are closed but half is still open

FSTP supports e.g. participation in networking and marketing activities; advisory services; collaboration pilot projects; travel grants; prototyping/ demonstrations actions; development of new products/ processes to be launched on the market; etc.

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- <u>AIBC:</u> Open Call for **digitalisation services and product development** targeted at European SMEs from the **manufacturing, mobility, logistics and energy sectors**, working on the AI & BC technologies and/or interested in adopting AI & BC solutions; deadline 16 January 2024

- <u>B-Resilient:</u> Acceleration lump sums targets **food processing and producing** SMEs intending to <u>optimise</u> their use of biomass via digital and sustainable tool solutions; deadline 1 February 2024

- <u>CircInWater:</u> Knowledge lump sum is willing to boost SMEs' development or growth by facilitating **access to external training or consultancy services**; meant for an individual SME that is offering **water-smart solutions**, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries; deadline 2 October 2024

- <u>E-Boost:</u> Five calls to identify product innovations to reduce dependency on critical inputs and technologies in the E- BOOST value chains, to introduce new-to-firm products or services, and to engage actors from regions with different levels of economic development; targets are SMEs from the **mobility** ecosystem

- <u>ELBE:</u> Financial support for **training** on "Sustainability & Digitalization", "Sustainable Business, with focus on general ESG issues, UN Sustainability goals and a materiality analysis", "<u>Factlines</u> Platform for ESG reporting"; deadline 31 December 2023

- <u>EU Rural Tourism</u>: 2nd open call for **rural tourism SMEs** to improve their digital, green and social maturity, skills, and capacities; deadline 16 January 2024

- <u>FRIEND CCI:</u> 2nd Open Call for project proposals dedicated to SMEs to reinforce **innovation and internationalisation i**n Cultural and Creative Industries; deadline 14 January 2024

- <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

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- INGENIOUS: **Internationalisation** grant for SMEs operating in **energy-intensive industries** to develop activities related to Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2024

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

- METASTARS; 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

- PIMAP4Sustainability: Support for u**pskilling and reskilling** projects for photonics, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, metalworking and industrial production SMEs; deadline 31 December 2023, 29 February 2024, 30 April 2024

- RESIST; 2nd **Innovation** Open Call for improved technologies and processes in production in the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 12 December 2024

- RESIST: **Networking and marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024

- RESIST: **Internationalisation** FSTP for activities in target markets; deadline 20 December 2024

- RESIST: **Coaching and mentoring** for assessment and feasibility services; deadline 1 November 2024

- SILEO: Open Call for **Talent Placement Projects** aimed to support lighting and furniture SMEs to attract professionals and young graduates; 30 January 2024

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

#EUClustersTalks

Examples of other activities by Euroclusters (outside FSTP)

- **Webinar events** explaining e.g. mobility trends, to enhance cooperation between industrial ecosystems and SMEs.

- **Mapping** of entities (SMEs and start-ups, research organizations, training agencies, innovation partners, clusters, business associations, etc.) to act as the ground on which all contents and activities managed in the Eurocluster will be shared.

- **Training workshops** designed (for SMEs and clusters managers/ staff) and to be delivered on the topics: circular economy, digitalization, upskilling and shortage of labour force, cluster management skills, interaction and collaboration among clusters.

- **Matchmaking events**, promoting upcoming FSTP Calls, and enabling SMEs to find partners to apply with and foster collaboration between them.

- **Analysis** of existing critical inputs / supplies / technologies to better understand challenges that SMEs are facing in their specific market.

Specific objectives of Euroclusters & Timeline

NETWORK
- Resilience preparedness/business continuity plans

ADOPT
- SMEs supported which undertook business process innovation

GO INTERNATIONAL
- Collaboration agreements signed with third countries
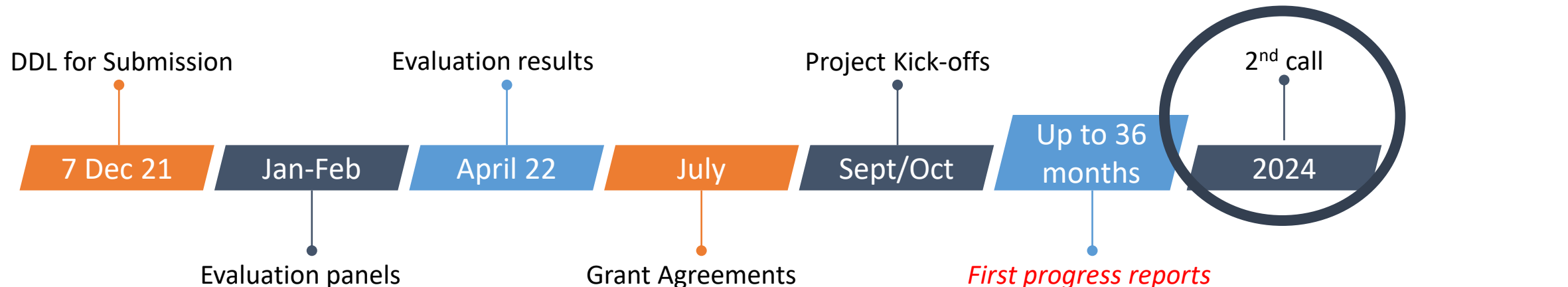- SMEs benefited from internationalisation

INNOVATE
- New-to-firm products/services identified

TRAIN
- Cluster organisations which received training
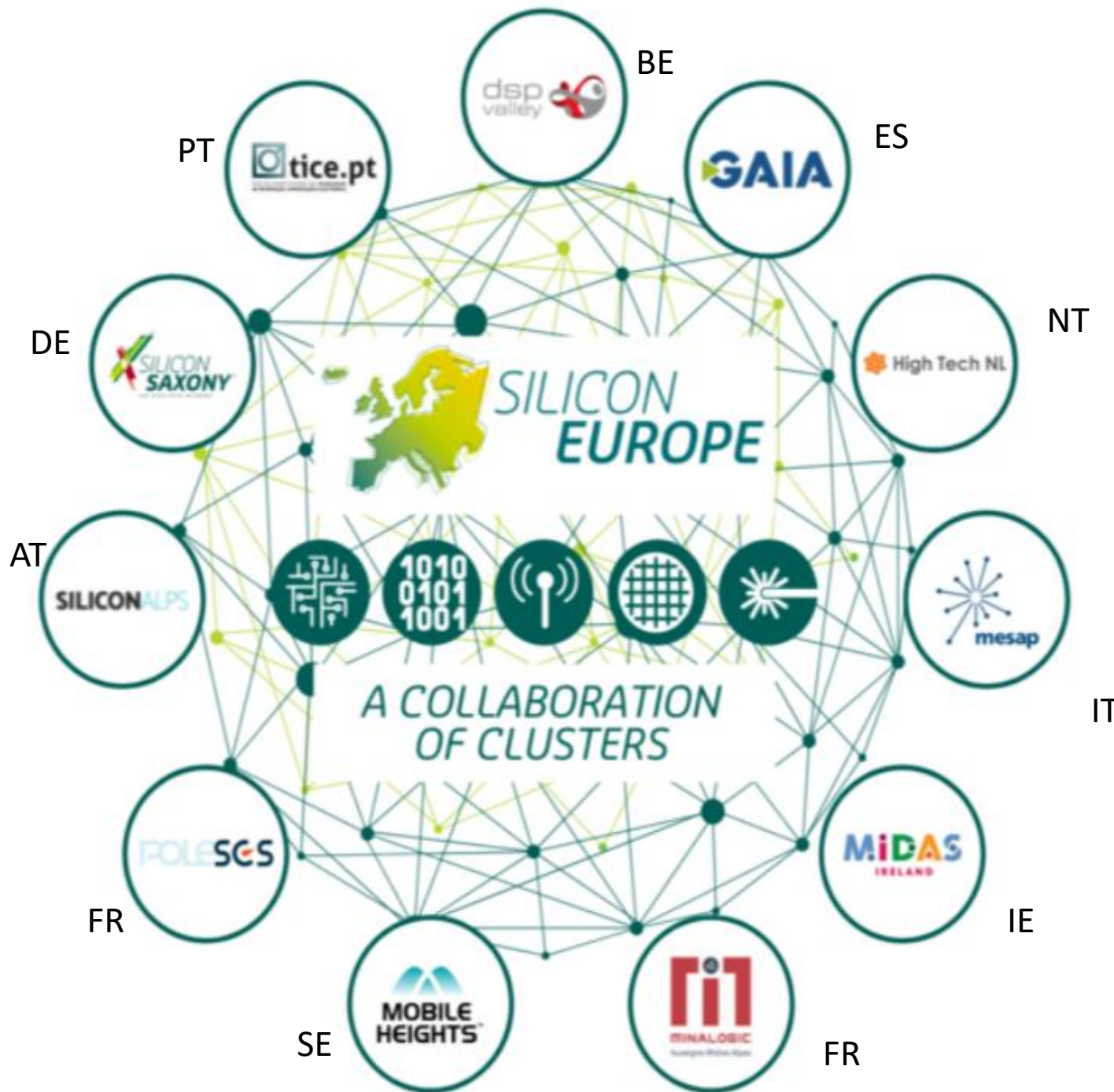- SMEs investing in skills development

COMMUNICATE
- Social media followers
- SMEs supported coming from countries/regions different from those of Euroclusters partners

DDL for Submission | Evaluation results | Project Kick-offs | 2nd call

| 7 Dec 21 | Jan-Feb | April 22 | July | Sept/Oct | Up to 36 months | 2024 |

Evaluation panels | Grant Agreements | *First progress reports*

SILICON EUROPE
Electronic Based System meta cluster

Leaders in digital technologies including Micro- & Nanoelectronics, Cyber Security, Photonics and Robotics.

More than 2000 companies and research institutions

More than 400,000 jobs

Home of world-wide leading companies: Arm, ASML, ASM International, Atos, AT&S, Bosch, Cisco, Epcos, Thales DIS, Globalfoundries, HPE, Infineon, Intel, Nexperia, NXP Semiconductors, Orange, Philips, SAP, Schneider Electric, STMicroelectronics, T-Systems and Thales.

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FSTP / 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

Thank you

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster_en
http://www.clustercollaboration.eu

https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-cluster-collaboration-platform-eccp/
https://www.linkedin.com/company/resource-efficient/

ECCP's European Cluster Panorama and Policy Toolkit - YouTube

Visit the new ECCP, create/update your profile