WELCOME

Romualda Stragienė
Director at Innovation Agency Lithuania
WELCOME

Giedrius Bagušinskas
Smart Food Cluster, ECCP team
WELCOME

Marta Batalla
DG GROW, European Commission
Challenges and project opportunities in Agri-Food

Athanasios G. Konstandopoulos PhD, KLH
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Co-Founder & Senior Partner SYNEST PC
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Thessaloniki, Greece

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Priority areas of Lithuania for the S3 Strategy 2021-2027

- **Health technologies & biotechnology**: molecular technologies for medicine & biopharmaceuticals; advanced applied technologies for personal and public health; advanced medical engineering for early diagnosis and treatment; safe food and sustainable agribiological resources.

- **New production processes, materials & technologies**: photonic and laser technologies; advanced materials and designs; flexible product development, production, and process management technologies; strengthening energy efficiency and intelligence; use of renewable energy sources.

- **Information & communication technologies**: artificial intelligence, big and distributed data, multidisciplinary analysis, processing, and deployment; Internet of Things; cyber security; financial technologies and block chains; audiovisual media, design technologies and social innovation; intelligent transport systemsway.

ECCP (2023). Own elaboration based on https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/region-page-test/-/regions/LT#s3priorities
Overview of Lithuanian Clusters registered on ECCP

ECCP (2023), own elaboration based on https://reporting.clustercollaboration.eu/all

Number of clusters organisations per region
- 1 - 3
- 4 - 9
- >10

Industrial Ecosystems addressed by cluster organisations:
- Aerospace & Defence
- Agri-food
- Creative & Cultural Industries
- Construction
- Digital
- Electronics
- Energy Intensive Industries
- Health
- Mobility-Transport-Automotive
- Renewable Energy
- Textiles
- Tourism

Agri-food Clusters:
- AgriFood Lithuania DIH
- Food Technologies Digitalization LT
- National Food Cluster Lithuania
- SMART food cluster
EU Farm to Fork Strategy

The strategy focuses on four main areas:

- **Sustainable production**: reduce the environmental impact of food production by promoting sustainable farming practices, such as organic farming and agroecology.

- **Healthy diets**: encourage people to eat healthier diets, with more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

- **Fair food chains**: ensure that farmers and other actors in the food chain are fairly rewarded for their work.

- **Smart food consumption**: reduce food waste and promote the circular economy in the food sector.

https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en (last access 17.10.2023)
Implications of EU Farm to Fork Strategy

- new opportunities for agrifood businesses that can provide the inputs and services that farmers need to adopt sustainable farming practices.
- new opportunities for agrifood businesses that can produce, market and distribute healthier foods (with more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains).
- new opportunities for agrifood businesses that can help to ensure that farmers are paid a fair price for their products.
- New opportunities for circular economy business that help reduce food waste and valorize it (e.g. waste-to-X)
Challenges to the agri-food ecosystem

• **Climate change**: Climate change is already having a significant impact on the agri-food sector, and this impact is expected to worsen in the future. Climate change is causing more extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods, and heat waves, which are making it difficult for farmers to produce food. Climate change is also causing pests and diseases to spread more easily, which is further threatening food production.

• **Water scarcity**: Water scarcity is another major challenge facing the agri-food sector. Water is essential for food production, and as the world's population grows, the demand for water is also increasing. This is putting a strain on water resources, and in some areas, water scarcity is already a major problem.

• **Soil degradation**: Soil degradation is the loss of soil quality due to erosion, compaction, nutrient depletion, and other factors. Soil degradation is a major challenge for the agri-food sector, as it can reduce crop yields and make it more difficult to produce food.

• **Increasing food prices**: Food prices have been rising in recent years, and this trend is expected to continue. This is due to a number of factors, including climate change, water scarcity, and soil degradation. Rising food prices are making it difficult for people to afford food, and this is a major concern for food security.
Challenges to the agri-food ecosystem

• **Increasing demand for food**: The world's population is expected to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050, and this will put a strain on the agri-food sector. The agri-food sector will need to find ways to increase food production in order to meet the needs of a growing population.

• **The rise of antibiotic resistance**: Antibiotic resistance is a major problem in the agri-food sector. Antibiotics are used to treat sick animals, but they are also used to promote growth in livestock. The overuse of antibiotics is leading to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can pose a serious threat to human health.

• **The spread of zoonotic diseases**: Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. The spread of zoonotic diseases is a major concern for the agri-food sector, as it can lead to outbreaks of serious diseases, such as bird flu and swine flu.

• **The loss of biodiversity**: The agri-food sector is responsible for the loss of biodiversity. The intensive farming practices that are used to produce food are destroying natural habitats and driving species to extinction. The loss of biodiversity is a major threat to the sustainability of the agri-food sector.
Areas for Research, Development and Innovation

• **Climate-smart agriculture**: Climate-smart agriculture is a set of practices that help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These practices include using drought-resistant crops, improving irrigation efficiency, and using cover crops.

• **Water-efficient agriculture**: Water-efficient agriculture is a set of practices that help to conserve water. These practices include using drip irrigation, planting drought-resistant crops, and using rainwater harvesting.

• **Soil health**: Soil health is essential for food production. Research and development should focus on improving soil health through practices such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and no-till farming.

• **Resilient food systems**: Resilient food systems are able to withstand shocks and stresses, such as climate change and extreme weather events. Research and development should focus on developing resilient food systems through practices such as diversifying crop yields, storing food locally, and using climate-resilient infrastructure.
Areas for Research, Development and Innovation

- **Sustainable aquaculture**: Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms. Research and development should focus on developing sustainable aquaculture practices that reduce the environmental impact of fish farming.

- **Precision agriculture**: Precision agriculture is the use of technology to improve agricultural practices. Research and development should focus on developing precision agriculture technologies that can help farmers to reduce their inputs and improve their yields.

- **Alternative proteins**: Alternative proteins are proteins that do not come from animals. Research and development should focus on developing alternative proteins that are affordable, nutritious, and sustainable.

- **Climate change and pest resistant** new crops and livestock breeds.
- **New technologies for managing pests and diseases**.
- **New ways to store and transport food**.
- **New ways to educate consumers** about the importance of sustainable food production.
- **Mitigation of Agricultural Greenhouse Gases**
Evolution of Research Papers on FtoF

Source: ECCP (2023), based on research from the CHORUS Cluster
Global Considerations

- Nexus nature of the challenges / Interdependencies
- Need for a holistic/synergetic framework:

✓ **Unified view** of raw materials, increase **local sourcing**
✓ **Distributed** processing, “edge manufacturing”, scale-up by **modularity**
✓ **Resilience** exploiting network & complexity science for latent potentials /criticalities
✓ Exploit **synergies** to foster sustainable use within **symbiotic** (“smart”) communities
✓ Assess **multidimensional impacts** on environment, society and economy
The Resource NEXUS: sustainability, resilience and project building

- Unified view of raw materials, increase local sourcing
- Distributed processing, “edge manufacturing”, scale-up by modularity
- Networks & complexity science, latent potentials/criticalities, resilience
- Exploit synergies to foster sustainable use within symbiotic (“smart”) communities
- Assess multidimensional impacts on environment, society and economy

Project Creation Methodology
From Idea to Project

“valley of death”

Idea

Project

Time

Amount Invested

€

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Determinants of Success...

Talent

Culture

Capital

Regulations

Density

© A. G. Konstandopoulos
Transitions/Evolution of Organizations

Stage 1: Islands of Excellence (driven by individuality)
- Companies
- Individual Agencies/Offices

Stage 2: Centers of Competence (driven by specialization)
- Clusters
- Industrial Associations
- Municipal Authorities

Stage 3: Co-Evolving Ecosystems (driven by synergy)
- Meta-organizations (e.g. Cluster Networks)
- Regional Authorities
- Government

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Globalization Reversing...

Global Sourcing of Value Chain Used to Offer Opportunities to All Countries but Trend is Reversing...
Synergies over Multiple Domains

Entrepreneurship

Innovation

Research

Education

© A. G. Konstandopoulos
Actors, Roles, Resources, Relations

Actors and Roles

Resources (aka “Data”)

Relations (aka “Knowledge”)

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Project Creation Methodology

Global Challenges

Business Development
[Proposal ideas]

Customers

Literature

Technology Building Blocks (TBB)
[Skill Owners]

Processes (Tasks)
[Process Owners]

Platforms (Workpackages)
[Platform Managers]
• Platform 1
• Platform 2
• …..

Operations
• Engagement of Actors
• Procurement of Resources
• Define Metrics/KPIs
• Funding sources

Project Roadmap

Project
[Project Owner]
Project Creation Methodology

- Initial interactive discussion on questions posed by the moderator
- Writing and visualisation of the ideas and proposals in a large screen
- Search of points of convergence, synergies, syntheses and new proposals (mapping on the resource nexus)
European programmes and opportunities

Marta Batalla
Team Leader – Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission
A range of options for EU clusters to engage in projects development

EU funding can be used:

- **THROUGH** clusters channelled to final recipients, in particular SMEs (like Innosup-1 projects with cascade funding) (or Euroclusters)

- **WITH** clusters to provide specialised services to any economic actor in need e.g. technological advise, upskilling, access to finance)

- **BY** clusters to mix private and public, align local, regional, national and EU funding, reach out to financial providers across EU territory

- **FOR** clusters to build their capacity to facilitate collaboration, capitalise technological and market intelligence, offer services
EU funded projects should implement EU priorities

**Lead Green Transition**
- Emission reductions
- Resource efficiency
- Clean energy and mobility
- Circularity
- Waste prevention
- Bioeconomy/Biomaterials
- Renewables
- Biodiversity
- Green procurement

**Accelerate Digital Transition**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Industry 4.0/5.0
- Internet of Things
- Blockchain
- Data/Cybersecurity
- Chips Act
- Digital Service/Market Acts
- E-government
- E-skills
- Broadband/5G

**Build Resilience**
- Industrial ecosystems
- Single Market
- Global Value chains
- Strategic dependencies
- Critical raw materials
- Critical Technologies
- Supply chains disruptions
- Diversified Markets
- Reskilling/Upskilling
- Access to Finance

2LAB
Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

Total: €2.018 trillion

Direct management

Indirect management

Shared management

(without RRF)

Long-term budget
1 210.9

Single Market, Innovation and Digital
149.5 (+ 11.5 from NGEU)

Cohesion, Resilience and Values
426.7 (+ 776.5 from NGEU)

Natural Resources and Environment
401 (+ 18.9 from NGEU)

Migration and Border Management
25.7

Security and Defence
14.9

Neighbourhood and the World
110.6

European Public Administration
82.5

NextGenerationEU
806.9
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<td>Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)</td>
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<td>European Social Fund + (ESP)</td>
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<td>Just Transition Mechanism (JTM)</td>
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<td>Pilot Projects and Preparation Actions (PPRA)</td>
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<td>Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (EFCl)</td>
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<td>Programme for the Protection of the Euro against Counterfeiting (HERCULES II)</td>
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<td>Promotion of Agricultural Products (AGAPI)</td>
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<td>Research Fund for Coal &amp; Steel (RFCS)</td>
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<td>Single Market Programme (SMIP)</td>
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<td>Union Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism (RENEWF)</td>
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**EU direct management programmes**

- **Horizon Europe (pillar II and pillar III):** Scientific, technological, economic, environmental and societal impact; support to all forms of research and innovation.

- **European Agricultural Fund:** Enhance agricultural competitiveness and promote sustainable natural resource management and climate mitigation

- **Single Market Programme:** Empowering and protecting consumers; ensuring food safety, enabling EU small and medium-sized enterprises to thrive

- **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE):** To achieve the shift towards a sustainable, circular and resilient economy, protect and restore the environment, halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

- **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT):** Strengthen sustainable innovation across ecosystems

All amounts are in billion EUR

- **86,1**
- **95,5**
- **4,2**
- **5,4**
- **3**
Programmes specific for interregional collaboration

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

€ 570 million

2x€42 million
Explore data by Programme

Using the filters above, you can find EU funded programmes and explore the financing and achievements.
Usual steps in a programme’s implementation

- Launching the calls for proposals
- Evaluating submitted proposals
- Signing grant agreements
- Monitoring project implementation
- Assessing the results
- Making payments
- Reporting on the overall implementation
How to apply?

- **Before you apply:** What you should know before you start applying for EU funding?
- **Eligibility: who can get funding?** Beneficiary profiles and the funding opportunities available
- **The application process:** How to apply for EU funding under direct management?
- **Award procedure and contract signature:** Each project proposal is scrutinized before funding is granted.
- **Managing your project:** What to expect once you are awarded a contract: reporting, deliverables, audits and communication.
Find EU business finance in 3 easy steps

01
www.access2finance.eu

02
Contact a financial institution
that provides financing for your investment needs.

03
Apply for EU financing
directly at the local financial institution.

www.access2finance.eu
Register on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform!

https://clustercollaboration.eu/

The European online hub for industry clusters

Find partners per country, region, sector or industrial ecosystem
Thank you

ECCP’s European Cluster Panorama and Policy Toolkit - YouTube

Visit the new ECCP, create/update your profile

Long-term EU budget and NextGenerationEU
The EU’s 2021-2027 long-term budget & NextGenerationEU facts & figures
The EU budget in motion
EU as a borrower
Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard

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Horizon Europe
Opportunities for Everyone

14.11.2023

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www.lmt.lt www.europoshorizontas.lt
Frequently Asked Questions by NCP clients (HE applicants)

- Is my know-how good enough for the Programme?
- Is there a topic, related to my professional area?
- I want to participate, but I don’t have a specific idea
- Where can I get help?
- Where can I find partners?
The European Commission’s priorities

- The European Green Deal
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- An economy that works for people
- A stronger Europe in the world
- Promoting our European way of life
- A new push for European democracy

Horizon Europe's first strategic plan 2021-2024: Commission sets research and innovation priorities for a sustainable future

- Promoting an open strategic autonomy by leading the development of key digital, enabling and emerging technologies, sectors and value chains;
- Restoring Europe’s ecosystems and biodiversity, and managing sustainably natural resources;
- Making Europe the first digitally enabled circular, climate-neutral and sustainable economy;
- Creating a more resilient, inclusive and democratic European society.
Our Vision

The EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation:

- Tackles climate change
- Helps to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals
- Boosts the EU’s competitiveness and growth
- Facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges
- Supports the creation and better diffusion of excellent knowledge and technologies
- Creates jobs, fully engages the EU’s talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)
(including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)
HORIZON EUROPE

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND
Exclusive focus on defence research & development

Research actions

Development actions

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*
Exclusive focus on civil applications

Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

- Joint Research Centre

Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence
Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

EURATOM

Fusion
Fission
Joint Research Center

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme
Simplification of HE – lump sum example

Keeping records

You **need** (e.g.)
- Technical documents
- Publications, prototypes, deliverables
- Documentation required by good research practices such as lab books
- …any document proving that the work was done as detailed in Annex 1

You **don't need**
- Time-sheets
- Pay-slips or contracts
- Depreciation policy
- Invoices
- …actual costs

*Art 20 lump sum MGA*

*Same as for all Horizon Europe grants*
What is the NCP network?

NCPs are national structures established and financed by governments of the 27 EU member states and the states associated to the framework programme

NCPs give personalized support on the spot and in applicants' own languages

**NCP (free) services:**
- Guidance on choosing relevant Horizon Europe topics and types of action
- Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
- Training and assistance on proposal writing
- Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
- Assistance in partner search
Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDA)

National Contact Points for Horizon Europe

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country Group:</th>
<th>Country(ies):</th>
<th>Function(s):</th>
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<td>Select a group...</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>All Functions</td>
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Order By: Country, Contact, Recent, Organisation

Count: 9

**Malta's NCP**

**Person of contact:** Lilli Kankaya

**Function(s):** European Research Council (ERC), Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Contact Lilli Kankaya

**Organisation:** Malta Council for Science and Technology

Villa Bighi - KKR1320 Kalkara, Malta

Tel: 00356 2360 2133 - Fax: N/A

Website: N/A

Update date: 13-JUN-23 - Record Control Number: 130003
Horizon Europe thematic partner search platforms:

- Health (CL1)
  [https://cluster-health-horizon-europe-brokerage2024.b2match.io/](https://cluster-health-horizon-europe-brokerage2024.b2match.io/)

- Civil Security for Society (CL3)
  [https://security-research-map.b2match.io/](https://security-research-map.b2match.io/)

- Digital, Industry & Space (CL4)
  [https://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search-home](https://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search-home)

- Climate, Energy & Mobility (CL5)
  [https://greenet-partner-search-tool.b2match.io/](https://greenet-partner-search-tool.b2match.io/)

- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment (CL6)
  [https://he-2024-cluster6.b2match.io/](https://he-2024-cluster6.b2match.io/)

- WIDER
  [https://horizon-widera2024.b2match.io/](https://horizon-widera2024.b2match.io/)

- Living Labs
  [https://nati00ns.eu/matchmaking-opportunities](https://nati00ns.eu/matchmaking-opportunities)
Probably, the best partner search tool ..?
Investment Programme’s 2021-2027 Transfers to “Horizon Europe”
ERDF TRANSFER TO HORIZON EUROPE FROM THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEDN UNION FUNDS’ INVESTMENTS IN 2021–2027

- utilizing the advantage of opportunities available for participation in the R&D&I activities
- encouraging Lithuanian applicants to make greater use of the benefits of HE
- promotes international cooperation, open science and facilitates Lithuanian businesses to be competitive in the international market and create high added value products or services
- a holistic approach to fostering innovation and ensuring a critical mass of investment and sustainable and uninterrupted flow of funding
Transfers to Horizon Europe

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<th>“Excellent Science”</th>
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<tr>
<th>Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>In total:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Widening participation and spreading excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reforming and Enhancing the European R&amp;I system</td>
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In total: 18.5 million euros!
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MEET THE FACILITATORS & SHARE YOUR PROJECT IDEAS
Facilitators for the working groups

- Anna Rosenqvist, Interior Cluster Sweden
  Wood/Forest/Furniture

- Antonio Novo, European Clusters Alliance
  Digital applications in agri-food

- Athanasios Konstandopoulos, CHORUS
  Sustainable energy

- Giedrius Bagušinskas, Smart Food Cluster
  Food waste

- Kristina Ananičienė, Lithuanian Laser Association
  Networks/collaboration

- Jolanta Revaitienė, Research Council Lithuania
  Healthy soils for food

- Jolita Česiulytė, Research Council Lithuania
  Sustainability in agri-food

- Dr. Monika Manolova, Digital National Alliance Bulgaria
  Start-up valleys

- Pauline Capus, AFPC
  Blue economy

- Ugnė Dirdaitė, Agriculture Ministry Lithuania
  Bioeconomy
Leading questions for your discussions

Synergies and opportunities among the participants

• What is the **business and technological mission** of each organisation?
• What are the **challenges** that you would like to address?
• What is a common **objective** for all the organisations (operational goals)? What do you want to achieve?

Analysis of options

• What are the different **options** to achieve the common goal? Analyse them.

Evaluation and selection

• Assess the **feasibility** of the best options according to the organisations’ needs, skills, and resources, considering the operational structure of the organisations, their regional topology, and infrastructure.
• Select the **preferred option**, taking into account the strategic, financial and societal value created and the risks.
• Financial projection: **What** do you need and **how** do you want to fund the project?

Implementation strategy

• Determine the **activities** to achieve the business objectives.
• Determine the **resources** and **involvement** of the partners, processes, technologies needed, and platforms to be used.
• Determine the desired financing **source**.
• Determine the desired **milestones** of the project.

Next steps

• Define the **next steps** for the further development of the project after the C2lab.
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European Cluster Collaboration Platform

#ECCP #C2Lab
WELCOME
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Stay in contact via the C2Lab group

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THANK YOU