EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

An initiative of the European Union

Green Transition Support

Energy and resource efficiency in EU businesses

GREEN TRANSITION SUPPORT

29 November 2023

08:30-09:45 CET

Online

#SingleMarket30

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform*
2. Circular Economy Action Plan & tools for SMEs to adopt sustainable business models
   Sarianne Tikkanen, *Policy Officer, DG ENV, European Commission*
   Mirabela Lupaescu, *Policy Officer, DG ENV, European Commission*
3. Green Transition Support
   Jannis Lambert, *Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform*
4. Panel debate
   Adam Priechodský, *Project Manager, Autoklastr*
   Ander Elgorriaga Kunze, *Strategy and Innovation Head, Ihobe - Basque Environmental Agency*
   Fabrizio Guarrasi, *European Project Manager, Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster*
   Rita Moura, *President, Cluster AEC*
5. Funding opportunities
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

Housekeeping rules

Jennifer Baker, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions,** and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Take part in the Cluster Booster Academy

The Cluster Booster Academy is an annual event designed for **35 to 50** participants. This third iteration will maintain a hybrid format, this time spanning five days:

- **3 days of online training sessions: 23-25 January 2024**. In the mornings from 10 AM to 2 PM CET. This virtual component comprises 1 full day and 2 half days with smaller, more interactive sessions.
- **2 days of in-person training sessions: 11-12 March 2024**, hosted at the Automotive Cluster in Sofia, Bulgaria, allowing participants to personally get to know each other, strengthen networking, and enhance collaboration.

If you are a cluster professional looking to enhance your skills, apply now.

Host a “Clusters meet Regions” event!

The objective of the ‘Clusters meet Regions’ events is to facilitate the implementation of good practices where clusters play an active role in regional economies and are **drivers for economic transition**, and to create and promote **collaborations between clusters and regional stakeholders** for the industrial development of the regions.

The next **call** to host a ‘Cluster meet Regions’ event is published! It is open to institutions such as clusters, regional agencies for economic development, and business network groups.

Need inspiration? Come to **Kraków, Poland – 11-12 December 2023;** registration open

Feedback survey and topic submission for EU Clusters Talks

Please share your suggestions!

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our ECCP activities to best suit the needs of our community.

As such, we kindly ask for your **feedback** on the EU Clusters Talks and submit your **topic ideas for 2024**!

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EUClustersTalks_November2023

Circular Economy Action Plan & tools for SMEs to adopt sustainable business models

Sarianne Tikkanen
Policy Officer, DG ENV, European Commission

Mirabela Lupaescu
Policy Officer, DG ENV, European Commission

EU Clusters Talk “Green Transition Support: Energy and resource efficiency in EU businesses”

Circular Economy Action Plan and tools for SMEs - EMAS

DG ENV.B.1 Circular economy
29 November 2023

The Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)

- For a cleaner and more competitive Europe -

The main aim of the CEAP is:

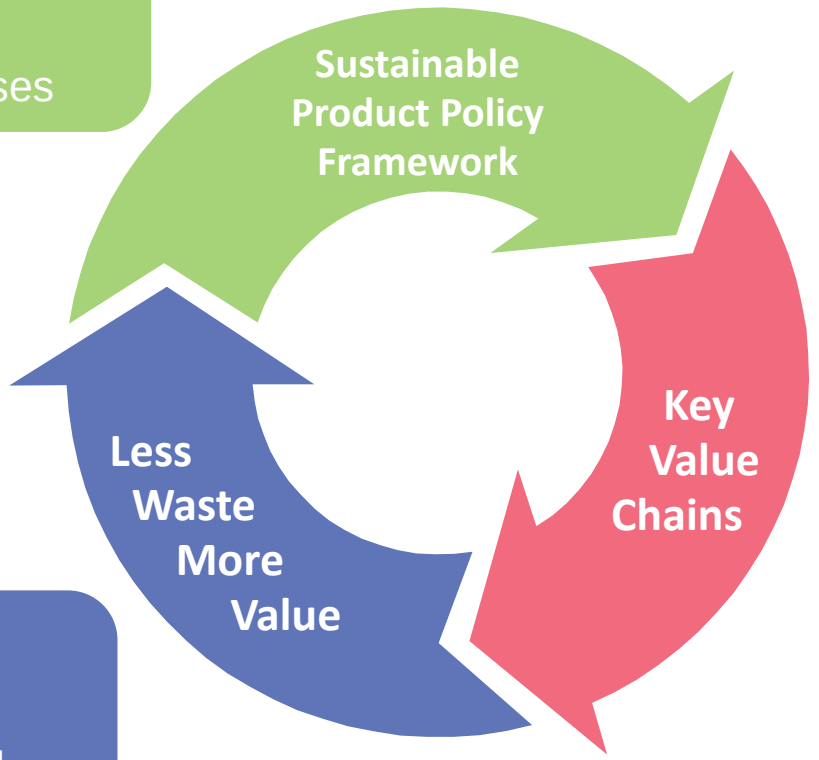
- to decrease the **environmental footprint of our consumption**
- to **double the circular material use rate (CMUR)** in the coming decades.
- to change the way we produce and consume.

Make sustainable products the norm in the EU
Empower consumers and public buyers
Sustainable production processes

3 focus areas
35 actions

Addressing the key value chains that are material-intensive and have the potential for more circularity.

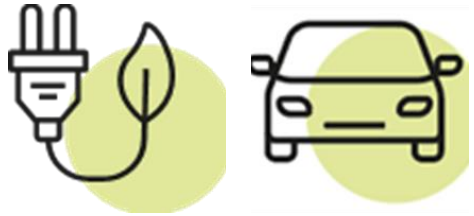
Reduce Waste
Reduce Waste Exports
Boost market for high quality and safe secondary raw materials



European Commission

Focus on the key value chains

Actions are addressed to the key value chains that are critical in their use of natural resources, and that have a potential for more circularity.



- Electronics and ICT
- Batteries and vehicles
- Packaging
- Plastics
- Textiles and furnitures
- Construction and buildings
- Food, water and nutrients
- High impact intermediary products: Steel, cement and chemicals

Making circular economy work for people, business, regions and cities

Circular economy as a necessity for climate neutrality

Getting the Economics Right

Financial Markets

Investments and R&I

Global Level Playing Field

Monitoring Framework

Most of the 35 actions have already been adopted

2020

- New regulatory framework on batteries
- Green City Accord
- Pact for Skills and Revision of the Skills Agenda

2021

- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency
- Proposal to review EU rules on concentration limits of POPs in waste
- Proposal for a revision of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation

2022

- Proposal for Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
- EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles
- Updated EU consumer rules to empower consumers for the green transition
- Revision of Construction Products Regulation
- Policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics
- Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive
- Regulation on certification for carbon removals

2023

- Proposal on Directive on Green Claims
- Proposal on "right-to-repair"
- Revision of CE Monitoring Framework
- EU taxonomy criteria for circular economy transition
- Targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive
- Revision of rules on end-of-life vehicles (ELVs)
- Regulation on preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution
- Upcoming:
- Integrated nutrient management action plan

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)

Main aim is to make sustainable and circular products the new norm in the EU market by 2030.

By extending the Ecodesign approach:

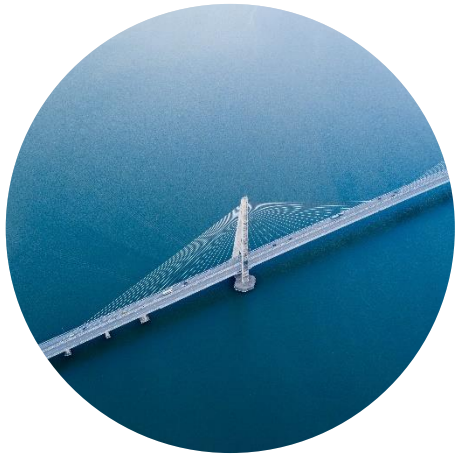
Up to **80%** of products' environmental impacts are determined at the design phase

Scope extension

Moving beyond energy-related products to a wide product scope

New requirements

As well as clarification of existing requirements



Horizontal approach

Requirements in addition to product-specific requirements

Increased focus on product information

Digital Product Passport, labels

EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

The Strategy aims to make the fast fashion “out of fashion” and to reduce the environmental footprint of our consumption.

It proposes actions for the entire lifecycle of textile products and addresses the way textiles are designed, manufactured and consumed.

- New design requirements for textiles under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**
- Relevant information easily available by a **Digital Product Passport**
- Tackling **greenwashing** (Green Claims Directive)
- Mandatory **Extended Producer Responsibility** for textiles (Waste Framework Directive)
- **Transition Pathway for the Textiles Ecosystem** to enable and boost the green transition

European Commission

Circular economy and SMEs are mutually beneficial

SMEs are the backbone of the European economy – and they are needed in the green transition.

What are the benefits for SMEs from more circular practices?

- Innovative circular business models: product-as-service, peer-to-peer sharing, on-demand manufacturing, repair and reuse
- New local business and employment opportunities
- SMEs are flexible and able to adapt quickly to the new requirements
- Circularity reduces dependence on raw materials from third countries, increases profitability and competitiveness.
- Access to financing opportunities related the green transition

New business models and opportunities, new markets

Consumers' demand for more sustainable and circular products and services

European Commission

The importance for EU citizens to have robust environmental claims

(Source: Special Eurobarometer 535)

73%

"The impact of the product on the **environment is important** when making a purchasing decision."

78%

"Companies often make **misleading environmental claims**, leading customers to believe that their product or service is environmentally friendly."

87%

"To be credible, an environmental label needs to be **verified by an independent organization**."

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

What is EMAS ?

✓**Voluntary environmental management scheme backed by Regulation (EC) 1221/2009 since 1993**

Aim

✓*EMAS helps organisations to optimise their production processes, reducing environmental impacts and make more effective use of resources.*

Means

✓*Management system allowing organisations to measure, evaluate, report and continuously improve environmental performance*

Outcomes

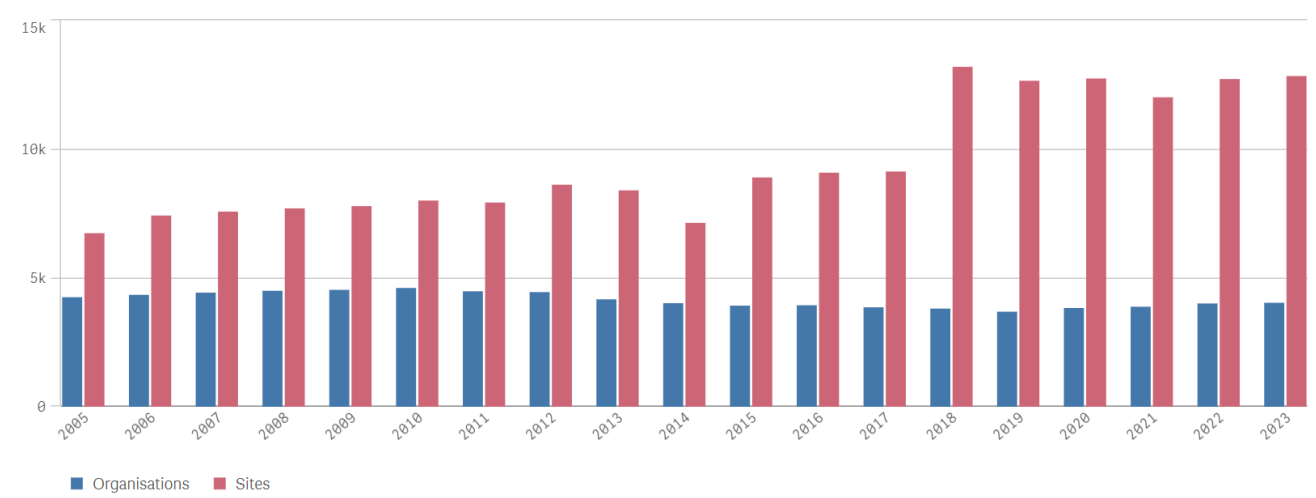
✓*Robust environmental corporate policies and measures, reliable data and indicators validated and published in the environmental statement*

✓Managed by the **EC** and the **Member States**

European Commission

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

How many organisations are EMAS registered?



Source: EMAS national Competent Bodies.

4039 organisations and 12847 sites are EMAS registered all over Europe

During the period 2021-2023 the number of organisations increased by **4%** and reached 4039, while the number of sites increased by **7%** to reach 12 847, thus showing higher interest in balancing business success with environmental responsibility.

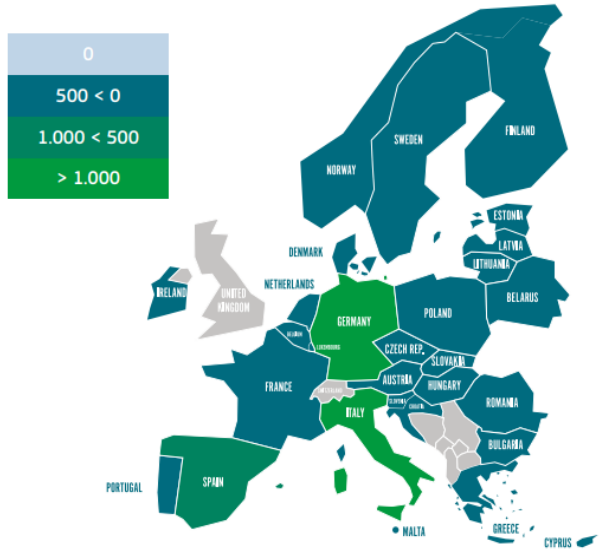
Most popular sectors: waste, energy, construction, education

Leading EU countries: Gemany, Italy, Spain

Leading sectors

- Waste collection, treatment and disposal **610**
- Public administration and defence, compulsory social security **317**
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply **290**
- Education **246**
- Specialised construction **237**
- Services to buildings and landscape activities **219**

Organisations per country



Organisations and **sites** per country

Austria	280	1.334	France	15	17	Netherlands	1	1
Belarus	1*	1*	Germany	1.101	2.346	Norway	2	16
Belgium	55	724	Greece	39	1.415	Poland	68	573
Bulgaria	14	39	Hungary	26	52	Portugal	44	77
Croatia	3	4	Ireland	2	2	Romania	8*	8*
Cyprus	81*	81*	Italy	1.119	4.596	Slovakia	93	177
Czech Rep.	21*	48*	Latvia	2	2	Slovenia	8	14
Denmark	9	18	Lithuania	3	4	Spain	999	1.188
Estonia	20	83	Lux.	7	11	Sweden	11	22
Finland	6	20	Malta	1	1			

Source: Official responses from national Competent Bodies
*Numbers from EU EMAS Register

European Commission

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

How is EMAS different from other tools ?

EMAS additional features compared to other EMS:

- **Transparency**

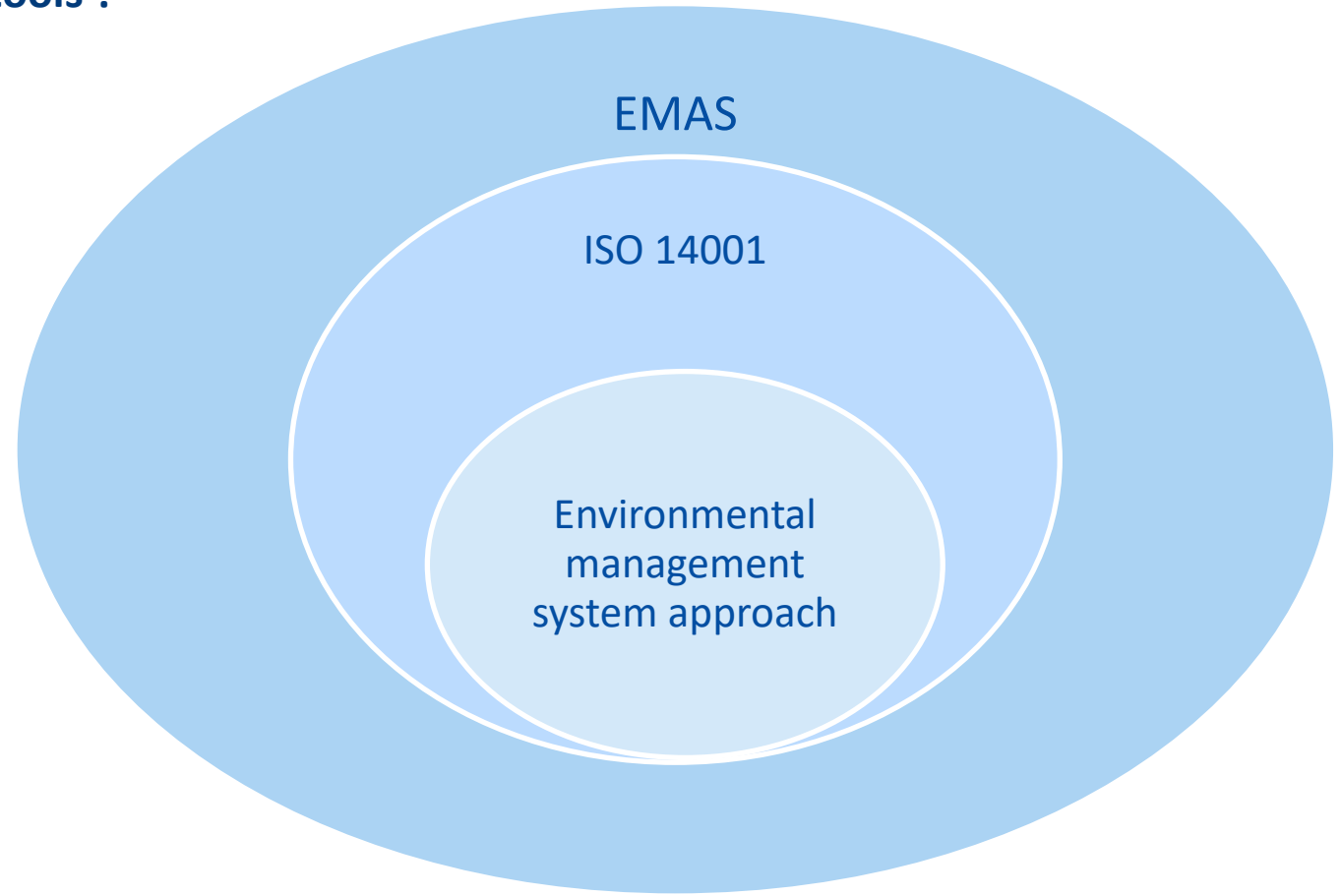
✓ The company's environmental policy is made public through the annual environmental statement published in the EMAS Register

- **Credibility**

✓ All data and measures are validated by independent environmental verifiers and public authorities before registration

- **Performance**

✓ Actions implemented by the company are quantifies in 6 core indicators measuring CO2 emissions, waste, water, material efficiency and biodiveristy

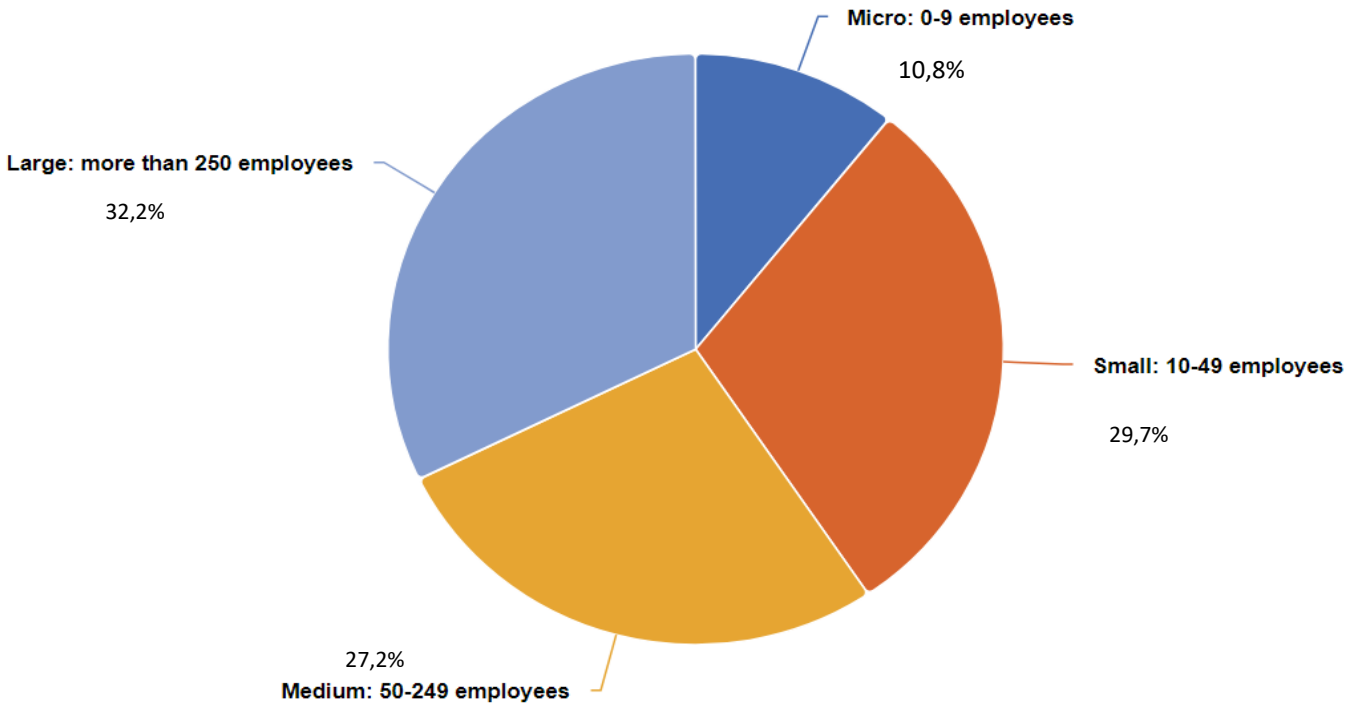


EMAS - Combining forward looking business and environmental protection

European Commission

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

Organizations size as per May 2023, [EMAS Facts and Figures]



Around 70% of the EMAS registered organisations are SMEs !

Who can participate to EMAS ?

✓ Organisations operating in all economic spheres

- public organisations (including local authorities, NGOs, etc.)
- Private companies of any size, including multiple sites

✓ Organisations with sites worldwide (sites registered already in South Corea, Uruguay, China etc.)

European Commission

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

Why join ? EMAS benefits !

Energy and resource savings
Increase revenues by reducing resource use, and operating costs, leading to improved competitiveness.

Employee involvement
Engage and motivate employees with innovative solutions, improved performance, and enhanced loyalty and create a positive work environment.

Expanded market opportunities
Retain existing customers and win new markets by showcasing your environmental corporate policy. Streamline business-to-business communication and use EMAS to access new green markets.

Stronger stakeholder relations
Build trust with stakeholders, particularly in public administration and service sectors notably as EMAS registration guarantees full legal environmental

Publicly available environmental statement
Use your validated environmental statement to showcase and promote your environmental accomplishments. It can also be the basis for other reporting exercises such as corporate reporting or annual reports. Already fulfills requirements of the claims Directive

Regulatory relief
Gain advantages like simplified reporting obligations, fewer inspections, reduced waste fees, and longer permit renewal periods.
Discover the 219 relief measures in the EU Member States listed in the Compendium of EMAS incentives

European Commission

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

As an SME, your organisation can benefit from several advantages:

More generous timelines for verification, audit and publication

- EMAS full verification can be carried out every four years, instead of every three.
- The time period for internal audit can be extended from one year to two.
- Your environmental statement can be published every two years, provided that you forward the non-validated, updated environmental statement to the Competent Body every year.

Reduced costs and fees

- Environmental verifiers take into account the characteristics specific to small organisations in order to avoid unnecessarily burdening them.
- Registration fees are proportionate to the size of the organisation.

European Commission

Do you want to be the next EMAS-registered organisation?

Feel free to contact your national Competent Body with any questions you may have:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emas_contacts/competent_bodies_en.htm

Or contact the EMAS Helpdesk:

Email: emashelpdesk@adelphi.de
Tel: +49 (30) 89 000 68 - 285
Fax: +49 (30) 89 000 68 – 10

The Helpdesk is operated by adelphi in cooperation with EMAS Club Catalonia, the Environment Agency Austria and 21 Solutions on behalf of the European Commission, Environment DG

EMAS Website: ec.europa.eu/environment/emas

European Commission

Thank you !

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Green Transition Support

Jannis Lambert
Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

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GREEN TRANSITION SUPPORT

Green Transition Support

An initiative of the European Union

Agenda

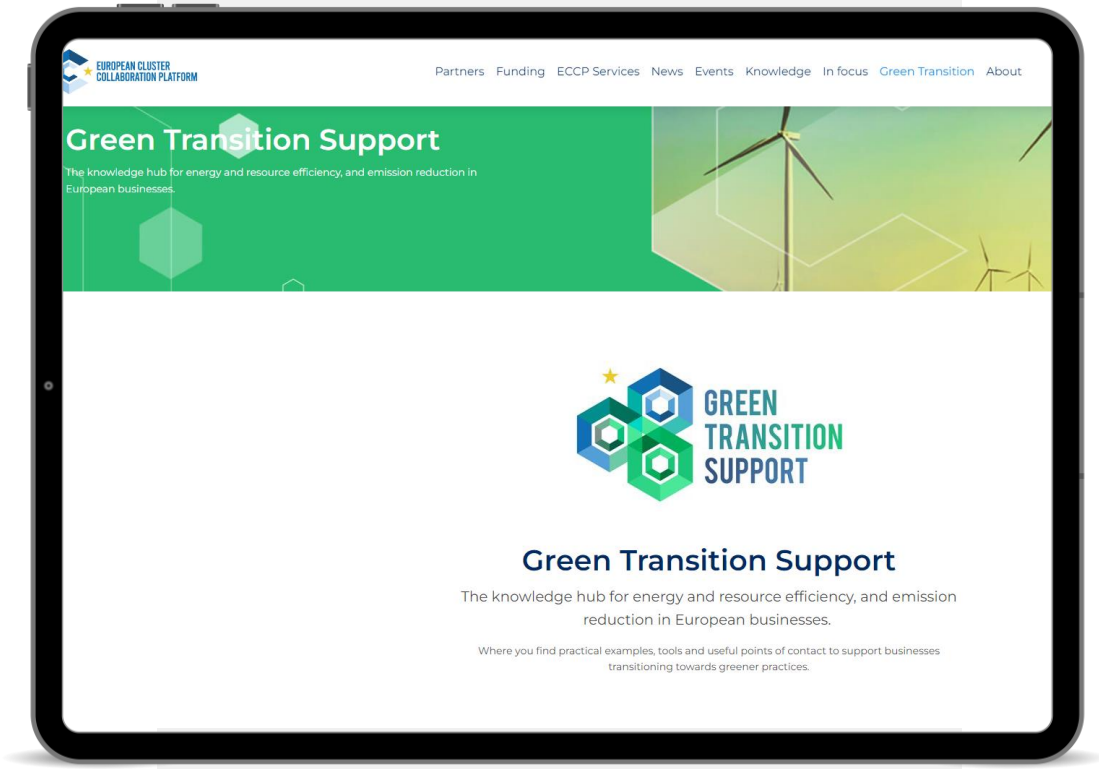
1. What is it and for whom?
2. What does Green Transition Support offer?
3. Join the network

1. Green Transition Support: What is it and for whom?

Green Transition Support is your knowledge hub to support

- energy efficiency
- resource efficiency
- and emission reduction

in European businesses.



https://clustercollaboration.eu/green

Targeted users:

Clusters

Resource efficiency support providers

Multiplicators

2. What does Green Transition Support offer?

Good practices

Tools

News

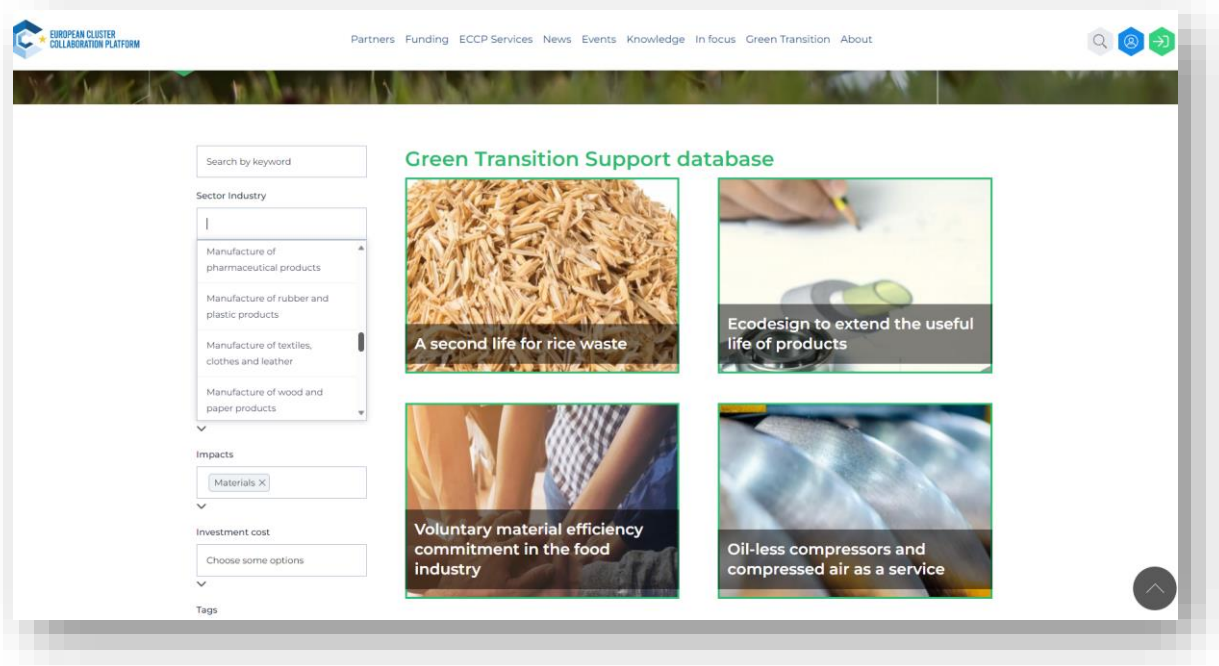
Network

2. What does Green Transition Support offer?

Good practices database

More than 600 practical examples for green practices from business around Europe

- Search by keyword
- Filter by sector or type of environmental impact
- Get information on investment costs and payback time
- Find information on key areas of action
- Submit your examples to share knowledge and showcase your region

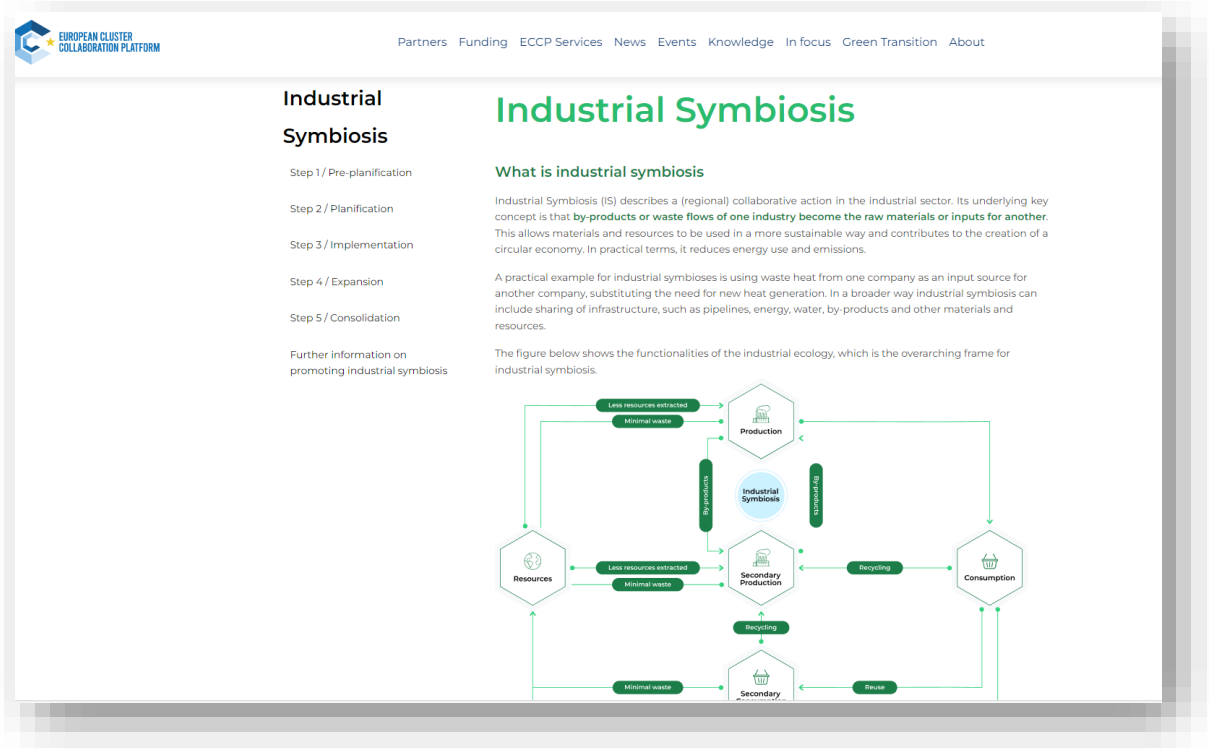


2. What does Green Transition Support offer?

Industrial symbiosis toolkit

Step-by-step approach on industrial symbiosis

- Find out how clusters and public authorities can promote the concept
- Learn about tools and methods

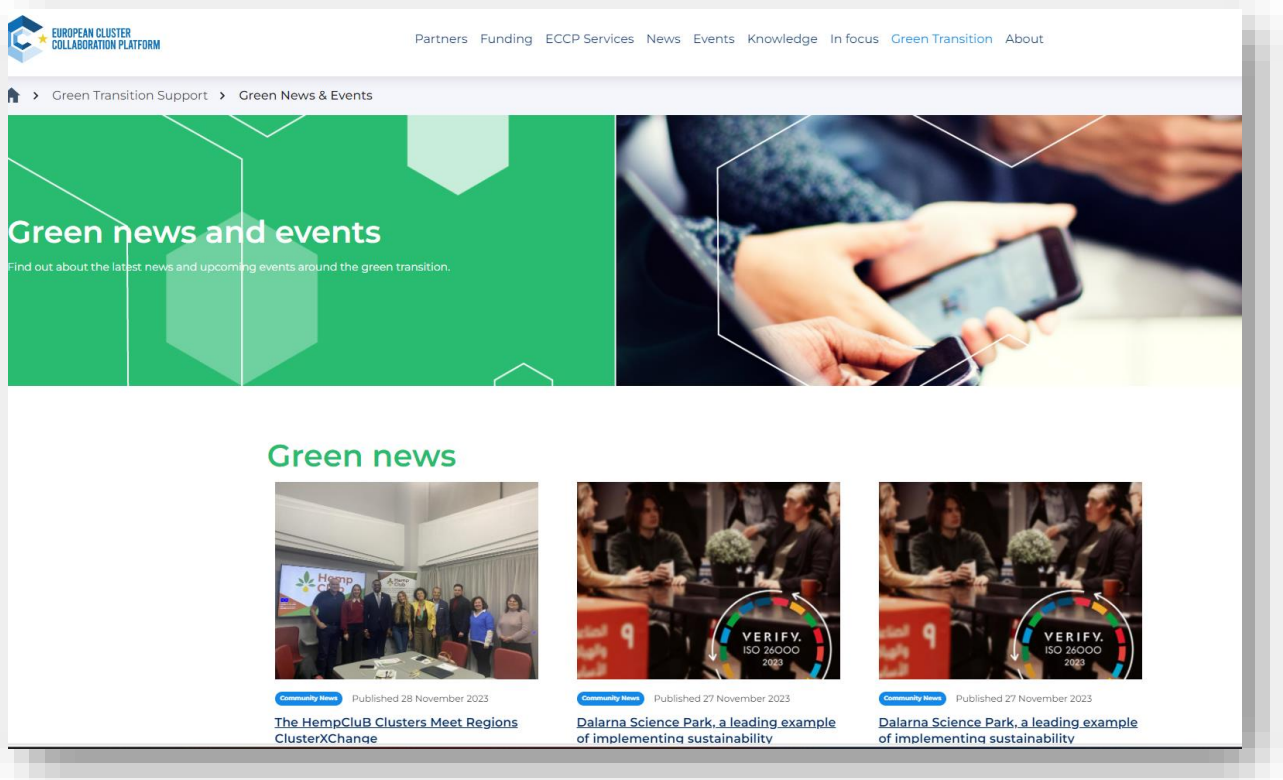


2. What does Green Transition Support offer?

Green News, events & open calls

Get informed on relevant green news from the ECCP universe

- Green news
- Upcoming green events
- Open calls on green topics

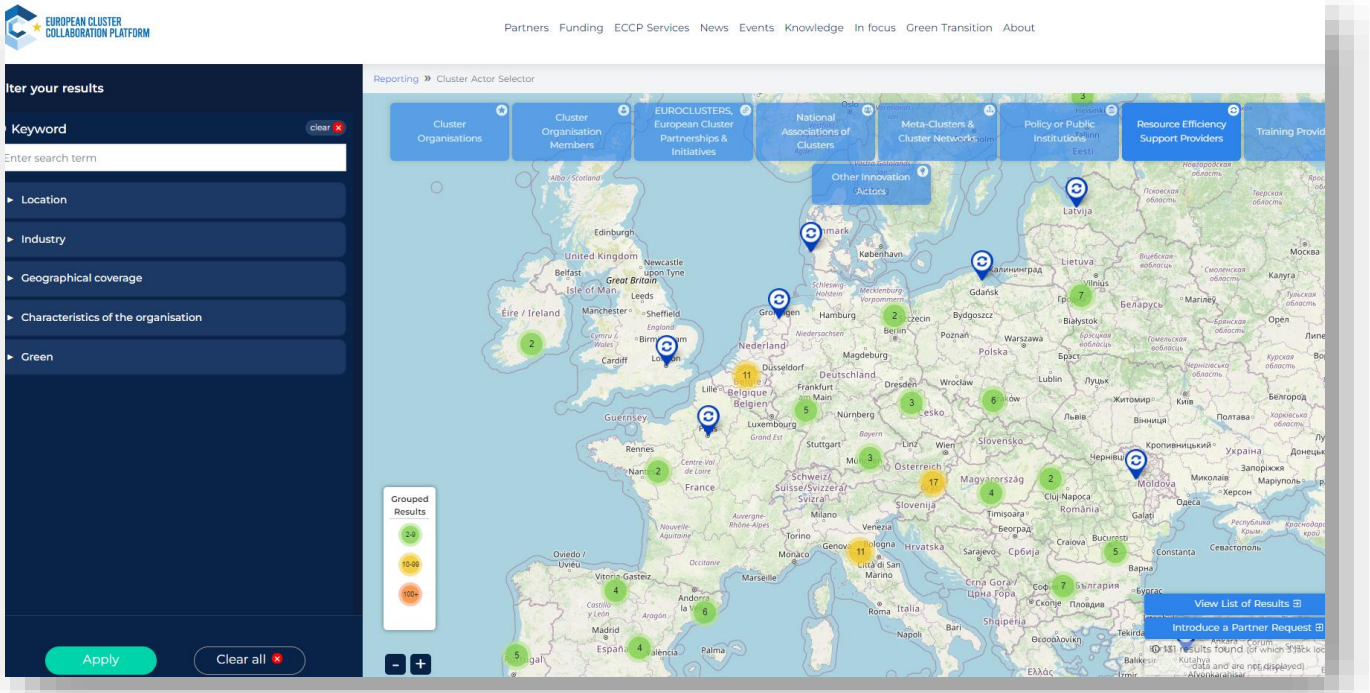


3. Join the network

Join forces to promote the green transition of European businesses.

Find partners to exchange knowledge, methods and tools

- Share your examples and learn from other experiences.
- Get registered at the ECCP to join the network



Panel debate

Adam Priechodský, Project Manager, Autoklastr

Ander Elgorriaga Kunze, Strategy and Innovation Head, Ihobe - Basque Environmental Agency

Fabrizio Guarrasi, European Project Manager, Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster

Rita Moura, President, Cluster AEC

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Breakthroughs to improve process industry resource efficiency (Processes4Planet partnership)

- Projects should, among others:
  - Achieve a step change in the process industry's green transformation by **improving by at least 30 % the industrial processes resource efficiency** compared to the state of the art;
  - Enable **the techno-economic feasibility** of novel technologies and processes, demonstrated and validated at suitable scale against current industrial processes to produce the same products;
  - Overall positive environmental and if relevant health and safety impact demonstrated;
  - **Reduce the CO2 intensity** of the process industry and contribute to the climate neutrality goal;
  - Enable the increase of the competitiveness and resilience of the European process industry.
- Deadline: 7 February 2024
- HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Action
  Topic ID: HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-41
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal]

'Innovate to transform' support for SME's sustainability transition

- Projects should, among others, contribute to:
  - Increased **resilience** of SMEs, by fostering technological and social innovation in SMEs to support their transition to more sustainable business models and more resource-efficient and circular processes and infrastructures;
  - Increased **competitive sustainability** of SMEs through the uptake of advanced technologies;
  - Stronger **innovation support ecosystems** supporting the green, social and economic transition of SMEs, by leveraging synergies between existing EU networks and SME support initiatives.
- Deadline: 7 February 2024
- HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Action
  Topic ID: HORIZON-CL4-2024-RESILIENCE-01-41
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

Technologies/solutions to support circularity for manufacturing (Made in Europe Partnership)

- Manufacturing industry should benefit from the following outcomes:
  - Assessing the **environmental impact** of their products, including the flow of products after their use to reduce product and raw material waste with the support of digital technologies;
  - Achieving a considerable **net reduction** of the environmental impact through the use of innovative modelling and simulation software that allows transport and manufacture monitoring, ultimately driving the decarbonisation of the manufacturing industry;
  - Facilitating the **development and uptake of digital tools/platforms** such as the EU Digital Product Passport, to increase traceability and characterisation of materials and products (e.g. at analytical research infrastructures), including environmental footprint and quality;
  - Removing barriers in the **uptake of the digital tools** from the market will be addressed and the workforce will be empowered through new skills.
- Deadline: 7 February 2024
- HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Action
  Topic ID: HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-05
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- AIBC: 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
- B-Resilient: Acceleration lump sums targets **food processing and producing** SMEs intending to optimise their use of biomass via digital and sustainable tool solutions; deadline 1 February 2024
- CircInWater: 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
- E-Boost: 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
- ELBE: Financial support for **training** on "Sustainability & Digitalization", "Sustainable Business, with focus on general ESG issues, UN Sustainability goals and a materiality analysis", "Factlines Platform for ESG reporting"; deadline 31 December 2023
- EPICENTRE: Support via mentoring, coaching and training for SMEs from **Digital and Fintech to Health and Agri-food** sectors; deadline 5 December 2023
- FRIEND CCI: 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
- GEMSTONE: 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
- **All calls here: https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls**

Register for the next Talks

6 December
STEP: Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

13 December
EU Clusters Talks: Wrap-Up and Outlook

Next year, we will be back on **10 Januar 2024!**

Visit the ECCP website and follow us on social media

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