EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM
EUCLUSTERS TALKS
An initiative of the European Union
Support programmes and funding schemes:
Cluster policies in the EU
21 February 2024
08:30-09:45 CET
Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*
2. Introduction from the European Commission
   Mariella Masselink, *Head of Unit, DG GROW, European Commission*
3. ECCP Cluster Policy Factsheets 2023
   Jan-Philipp Kramer, Head of EU-Services, Prognos, Team Member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
4. Panel debate
   John Hobbs, *Senior Lecturer, Munster Technological University*
   Monika Antonowicz, *Expert in Strategy and Analysis Department, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development*
   Pauline Capus, *General Manager, French Association of Competitiveness Clusters (AFPC)*
   Tej Friis Egefjord, *Team Leader Innovation & Clusters, Danish Business Authority*
5. Funding opportunities
   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, 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

Register for the European Cluster Conference: 7-8 May 2024

The European Cluster Conference 2024 will take place at the Square, in **Brussels**.

The conference aims to highlight the vital role of clusters in advancing EU industrial priorities. It will address pivotal topics— the **Green Transition**, the **Digital Transition** and **Resilience Building**—providing a deep-dive into key drivers like **skills**, **funding**, and **technology**.

Registration now:
https://europeanclusterconference2024.eu/

Matchmaking event within Cluster Conference

As part of the European Cluster Conference 2024, the next ECCP matchmaking event will take place on **8 May 2024**.

This matchmaking event offers participants a dedicated framework to find potential business partners at all stages of the supply chain. They were invited to look for future project partners or specific products or services for their organisation.

The event will take place **physically** during a 4 hours matchmaking session (time TBC) where participants will meet in a **dedicated room of the conference venue**.

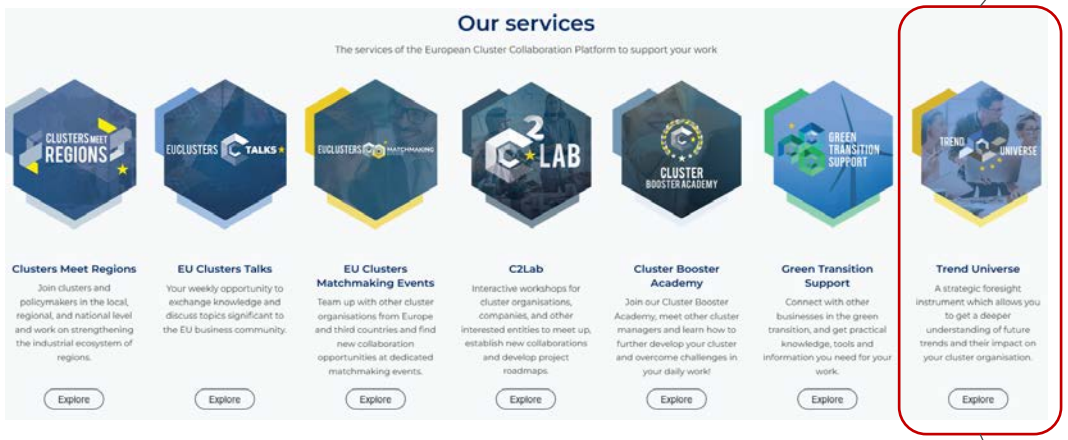
Save the date for Clusters meet Regions in Milan, Italy

In partnership with **AFIL – Lombardy Intelligent Factory Association** and the **Lombardy Regional Authority**, we are hosting the 'Clusters Meet Regions' event in Milan, Italy.

The event will focus on the Twin Transition and will address three main objectives:

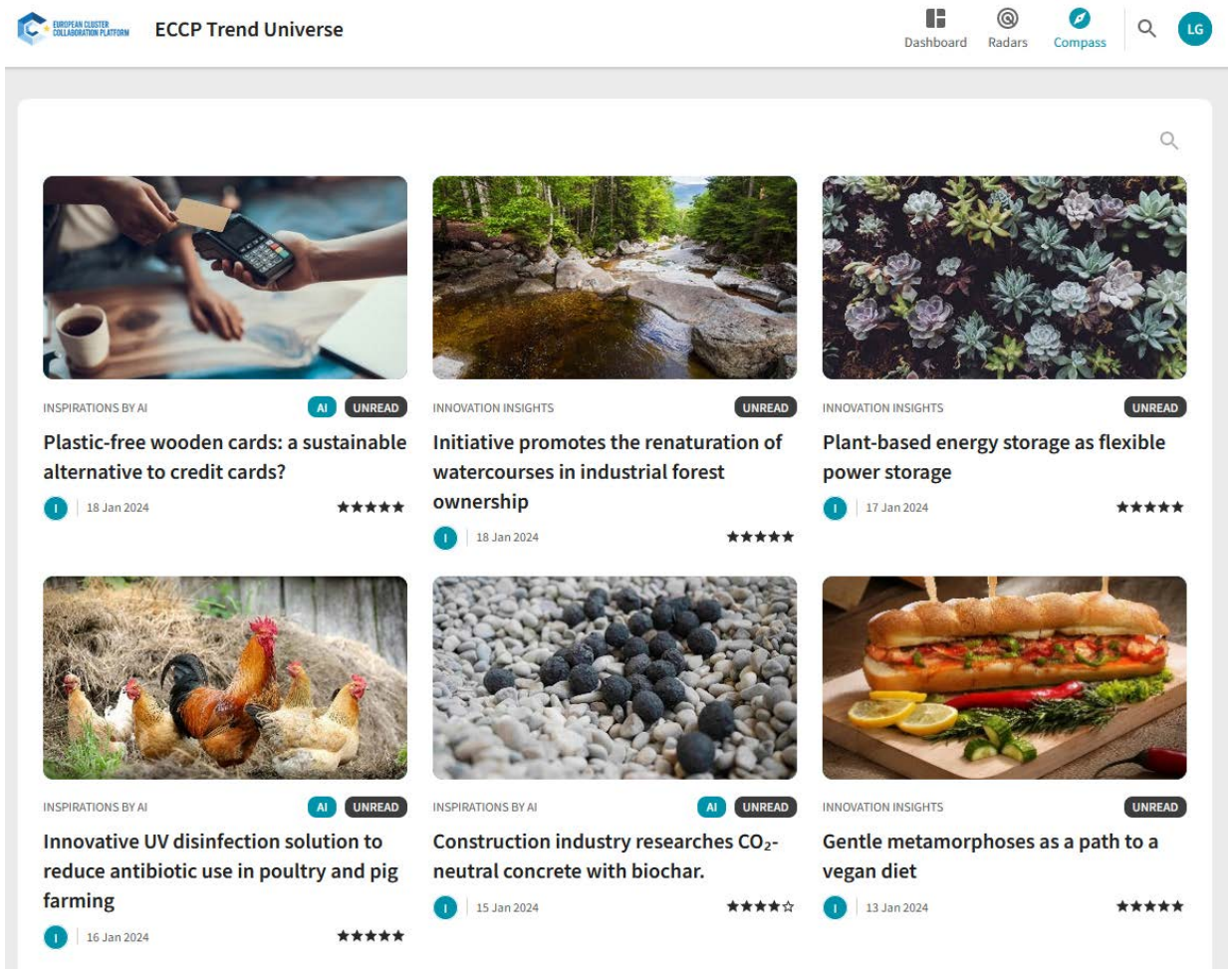
- To analyse the policy effectiveness of central-level strategies and their implementation at the local level.
- To focus on the best practices and models by Italian and European regions, including supportive initiatives for the business, industry and research ecosystem, and provide some examples of their impact.
- To provide an opportunity to build networks and projects among participants.

Make sure to check out the ECCP Trend Universe



NEW: Free trial for all ECCP users with a profile & innovation trends

- **Exclusive trial period:** Access to the TU will be open to all ECCP users with a profile in February
- **New features**: Trend Universe offers filterable innovation trends for each EU Industrial Ecosystem



Advanced Manufacturing Industry Conference 2024

The Advanced Manufacturing Industry Conference brings together policymakers, corporate leaders, academics, and institutional representatives to discuss **specific challenges facing advanced manufacturing**.

The conference will provide insights for the incoming Commission on current bottlenecks and areas of opportunity, to ensure the industry remains competitive and supports the green transition. The agenda will cover dedicated panels on how we can optimize advanced processes to accelerate towards **net-zero**, utilize the untapped potential of **data** within manufacturing, and effectively onboard new **AI and robotics** technologies.

Registration is open until **29 March**.

The 2024 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report

The report details the **competitive strengths and challenges** of Europe's Single Market, tracking yearly developments according to the nine competitiveness drivers. Those are the functioning of the Single Market, access to private capital, public investment and infrastructure, research and innovation, energy, circularity, digitalisation, education and skills, and trade and open strategic autonomy.

Read the report:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_821

Introduction from the European Commission

Mariella Masselink
Head of Unit, DG GROW, European Commission

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ECCP Cluster Policy Factsheets 2023

EU Cluster Talks, 21st February 2024

Dr. Jan-Philipp Kramer, Prognos AG/ECCP

Background

- Update of 56 Cluster Policy Factsheets for EU, COSME and 3rd countries

- New information on cluster policy in ERDF OPs & country-specific recommendations from the ESR

- Desk research at national level from August-December 2023 (mostly in national languages)

- Validation with national authorities in EU and COSME countries
- Additional checks by experts from European Cluster Alliance (ECA)

Insights on the countries:

1. Economic policy context
2. Relevant industrial ecosystems & the cluster landscape
3. National cluster policy, programmes & initiatives
4. State of cluster policy & its role in broader economic policy challenges

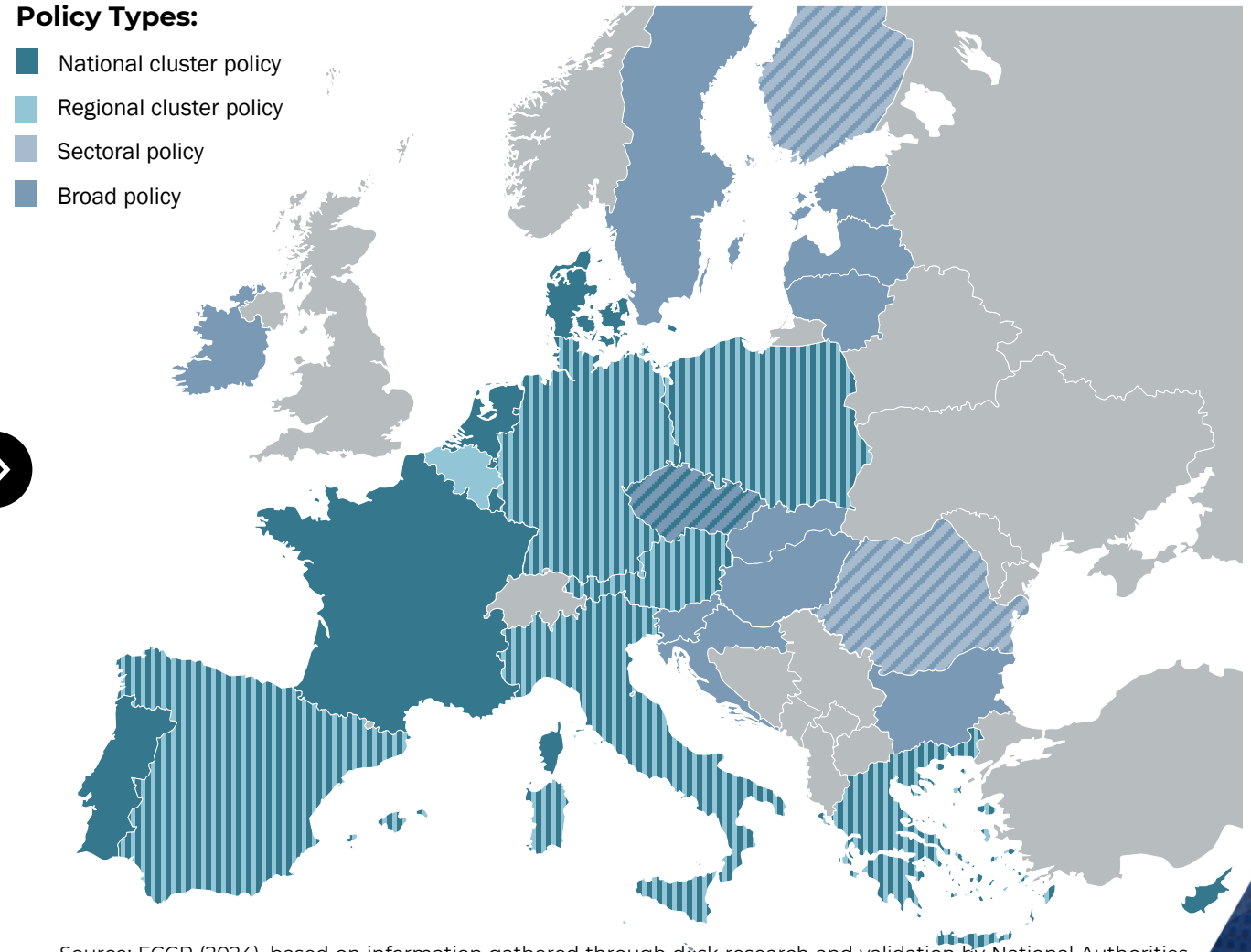
Cluster policies & programmes across Europe – State of Play 2023

Almost 50 relevant policies in the EU27 identified in 2023:

17 national cluster policies	8 regional cluster policies	19 broad & 3 sectoral policies

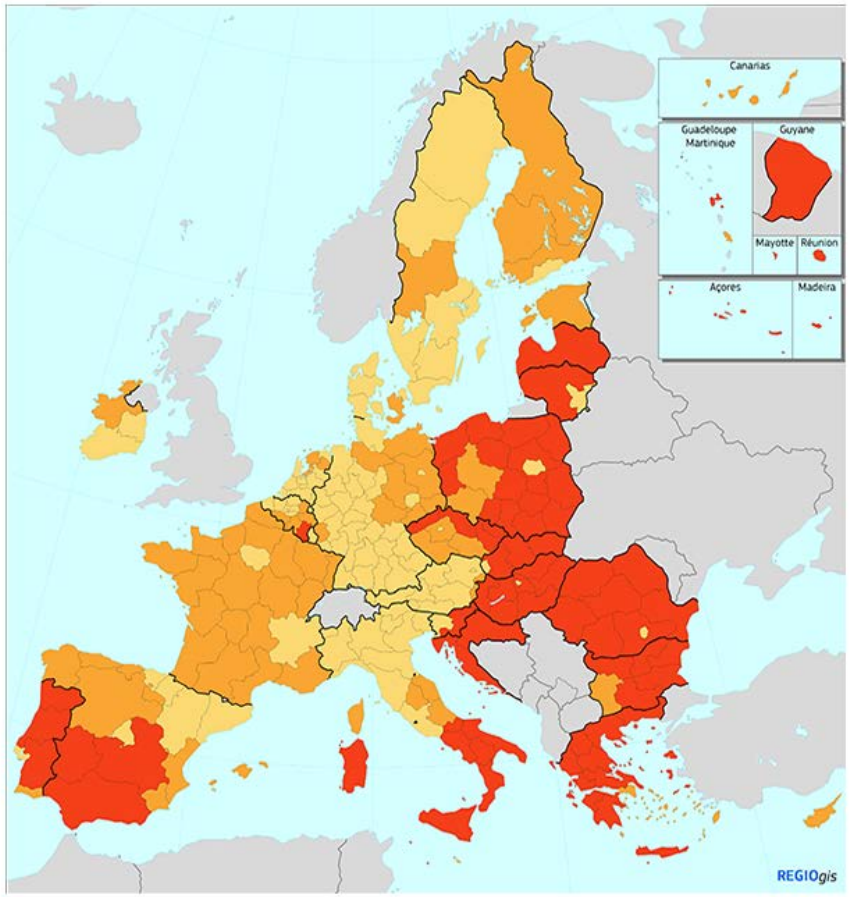
Thirteen Member States employ a dedicated **national and/or regional cluster policy**

National and/or regional cluster policies often found in **central & southern EU MS**, whereas sectoral/broad policies are more frequent in eastern/Baltic MS.



Source: ECCP (2024), based on information gathered through desk research and validation by National Authorities.
N1 = 47 policies, N2 = 27 countries

Role of clusters in Cohesion Policy programmes 2021-2027



ERDF and ESF+ eligibility 2021-2027.
Source: European Commission: 2021-2027 Initial cohesion policy EU budget allocations.

In **24** of the EU27 Member States,

...clusters receive support through **Cohesion Policy** Programmes in 2021-2027!

Role of clusters in Cohesion Policy programmes 2021-2027 – three examples

Netherlands

North Netherlands: Includes an intervention on support for innovation clusters mainly for the benefit of SMEs. Budget: ~20 Mio. EUR

South Netherlands: Includes an intervention on support for innovation clusters, mainly for the benefit of SMEs. Budget: ~9.2 Mio. EUR

East Netherlands: Support for specific cluster activities as part of innovation / valorisation projects. Economic sustainability (viability of the business case) as a selection criterion for projects.

Croatia

The **Integrated Territorial Programme** OP supports cluster development with 10 Mio. EUR as part of its **regional development strategy** through Regional Industrial Transition Plans.

Support is organised in **two streams**:

1) Investment grants to **build** or **upgrade** cluster organisations

2) Operational grants for **training** and **internationalisation** support for cluster members

Portugal

Six out of seven Portuguese regional OPs support clusters.

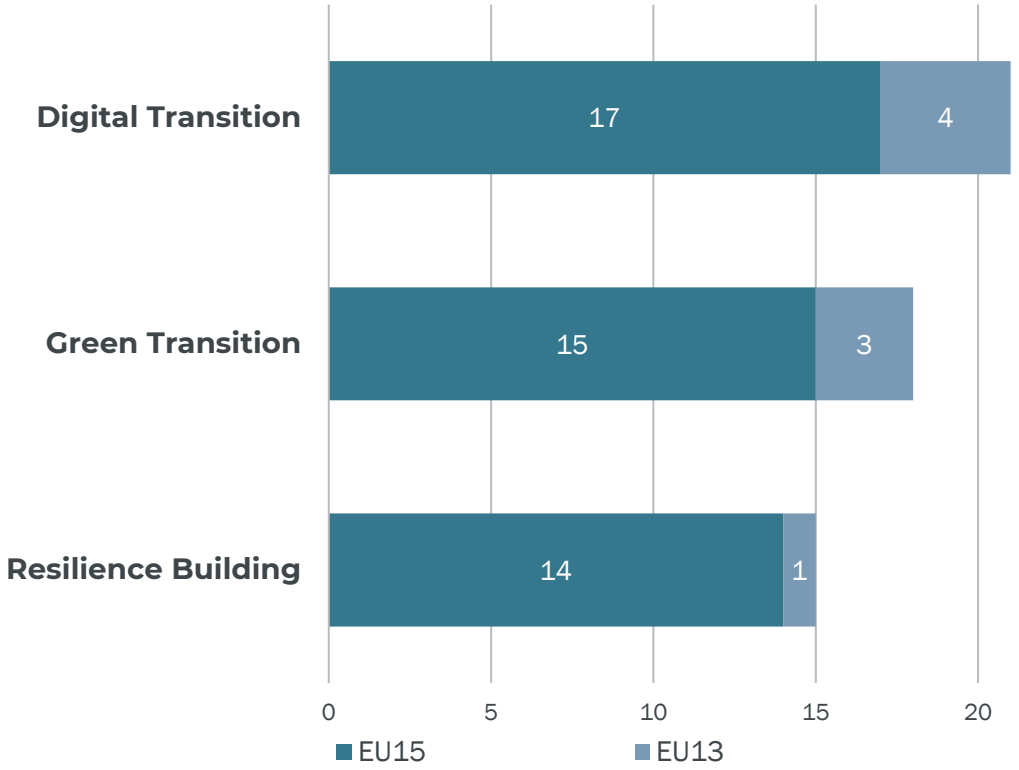
Support is linked closely with the **smart specialization** areas, innovation and internationalization of SMEs.

The **national OP** COMPETE 2030 is directly linked to the **Competitiveness Clusters programme** and builds on the **RIS3 paradigm**.

Clusters are supported under PO1 for **R&I and SME competitiveness** and PO2 for **decarbonisation** and the **energy** transition.

Twin Transition & Resilience Building in cluster policies in the EU

Number of EU27 cluster policies addressing key Commission priorities, by EU15/EU13



Source: ECCP (2024), based on information gathered through desk research and validation by National Authorities.

How cluster policies can support the implementation of European Semester recommendations:

Green Transition: Building circular industrial ecosystems; energy and resource efficiency along supply chains; green innovation

Digital transition: Facilitate digital adoption in SMEs; creating digital innovation ecosystems; cross-sectoral Industry 4.0 development

Resilience building: Supply chain resilience and diversification; local reindustrialisation; resilient energy planning

Skill development: Intermediaries between firms and training institutions; co-organising training programmes; attracting talent

Innovation system: Promote joint R&D projects; enhance R&D investment; knowledge and technology transfer, venture clienting

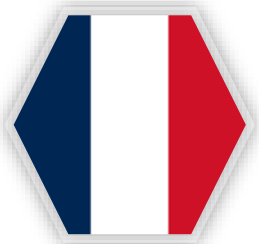
Recent trends in cluster policies and programmes

Clusters as **institutional infrastructure** for policies tackling **grand challenges** and organising **transition pathways**

More explicit focus on **reindustrialisation** as a **policy goal**

International and European cluster cooperation as explicit policy goal

Integrating cluster support with **Smart Specialisation** within **Cohesion Policy** OPs



France

Pôles de compétitivité

- Established and dedicated cluster policy (since 2005)
- Phase IV (2019-2022) focused on European **cluster cooperation** and alignment with regional development strategies
- Phase V (since 2023) adds a focus on **grand challenges** of the twin transition and economic sovereignty

Czechia

Cooperation Clusters & Technological Platforms

- Coordination Clusters as established and long-running OP funding stream for SMEs and research institutions
- Technological Platforms as sectoral **cooperation platforms** supporting the twin transition, advanced technologies, European collaboration

Outlook: Some initial observations

1) Cluster support today is delivered through different types of policies & programmes

- While **dedicated cluster policies** are present in a majority of countries, others run their cluster support through **broader** programmes.
- A key question is: how do you finance cluster policy and how do different funding mechanisms (e.g. ERDF) **relate to each other.**

2) Cluster policy and Smart Specialisation

- Sometimes cluster support is directly enacted through RIS3-guided programmes, sometimes clusters are only involved in RIS3 processes.
- Smart Specialisation Strategies can serve to **build strategic links** between cluster policy and regional development strategy.

3) Cluster policy as institution-building for critical transitions

- Supporting cluster development is no longer just an issue of innovation and competitiveness but relates to a range of **grand challenges**.
- Cluster organisations provide an increasingly important **institutional infrastructure** to implement the green and digital transitions for whole sectors and industrial ecosystems

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Thank you!

For more information and the updated Factsheets, please watch this space:

https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/policy-acceleration/country-factsheets-on-cluster-policies-and-programmes

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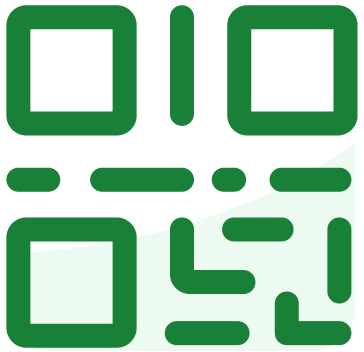

Join at slido.com
#ClusterPolicy

ⓘ Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.

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How familiar are you with clusters in your region?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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Have you ever been involved in processes to define the cluster policy of your country or region?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido

In your opinion, which areas should be covered by a dedicated cluster policy?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Panel debate

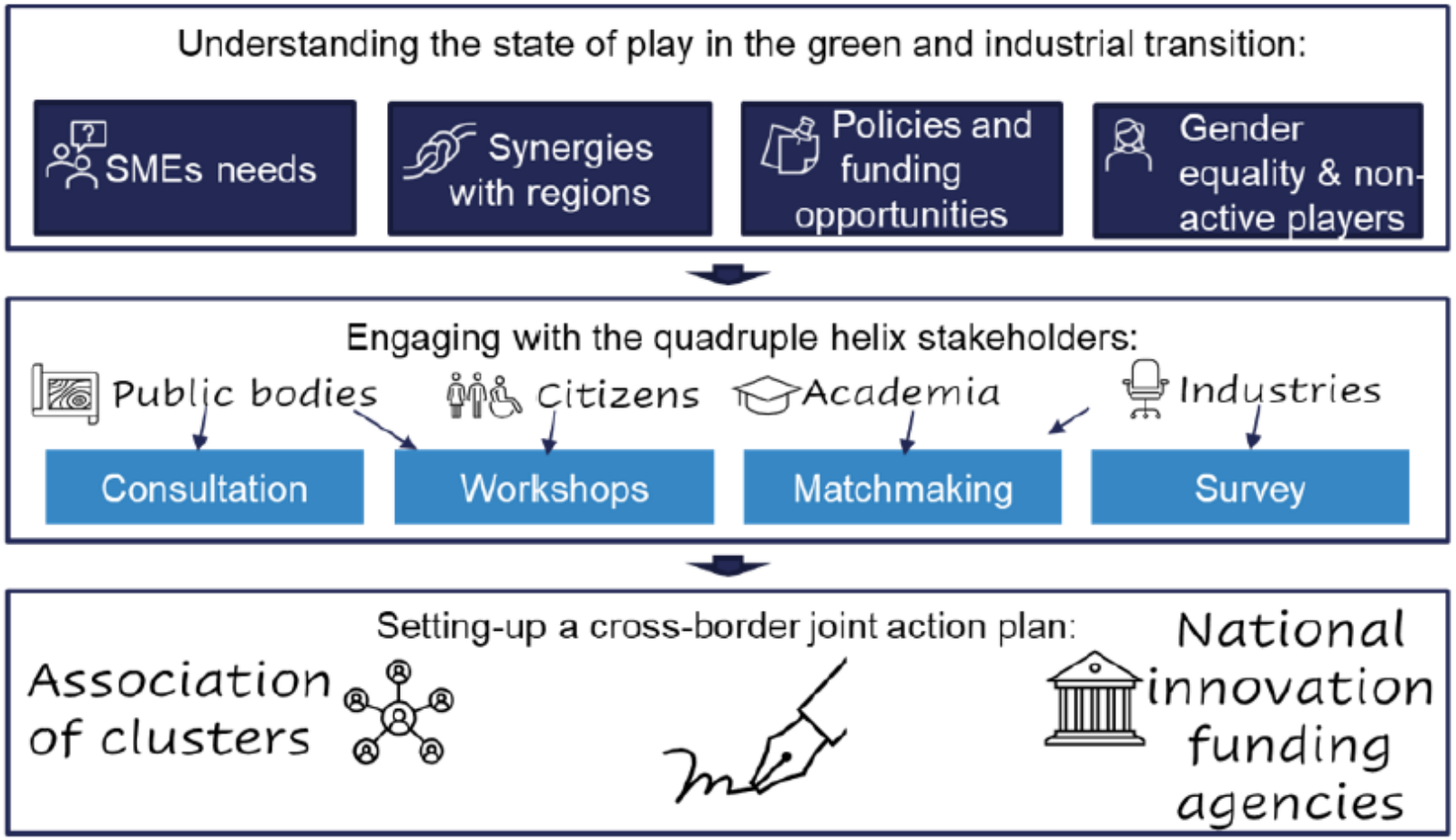
John Hobbs, Senior Lecturer, Munster Technological University

Monika Antonowicz, Expert in Strategy and Analysis Department,
Polish Agency for Enterprise Development

Pauline Capus, General Manager, French Association of Competitiveness Clusters (AFPC)

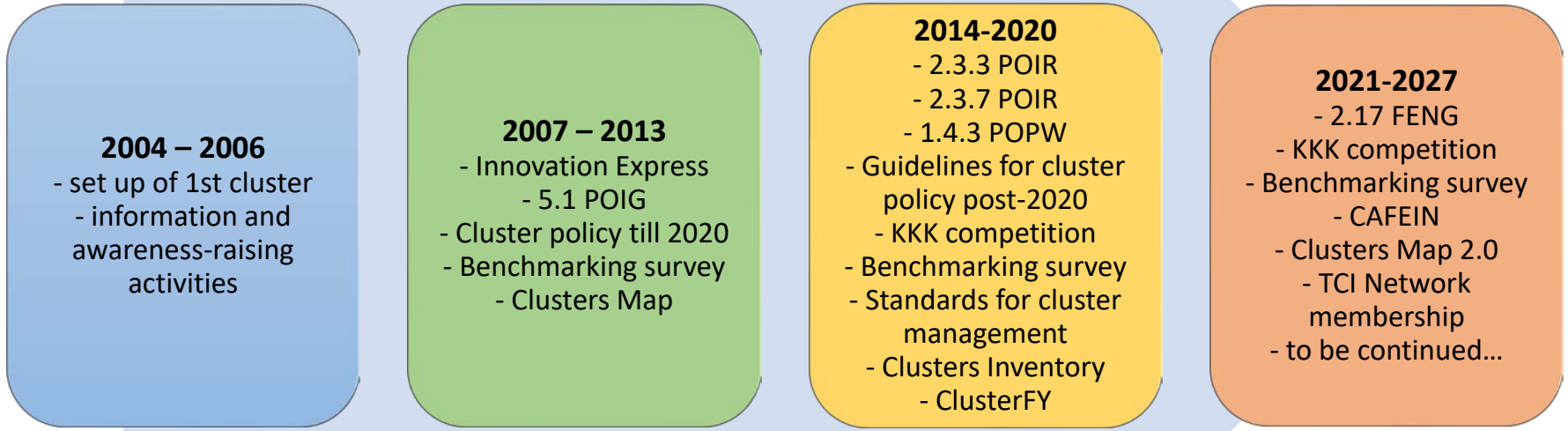
Tej Friis Egefjord, Team Leader Innovation & Clusters, Danish Business Authority

CAFEIN's concept



Funded by the European Union

Development of the cluster policy in Poland



Clusters division in Poland

Emerging Clusters

- in the early stage of development, but min. 18 months of operation,
- operating mainly locally,
- number of members min. 20

Growing Clusters

- clusters that have not yet obtained the status of KKK but with growth potential,
- min. 2 years of activity,
- number of members min. 35

National Key Clusters

- meet the criteria set out in the regulations of the competition for granting KKK status,
- at least 3 years of operation,
- number of members min. 51

Polish cluster policy model 2020+

SUPPORT FOR CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT			
Dimensions of cluster support	Emerging clusters	Developing clusters	Key National Clusters
Capacity building – staff, testing of new services	R	R / N	N
Capacity building – infrastructure, platforms		R / N	N
Internationalization		R / N	N
CLUSTER-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY			
Areas of using clusters as a development tool	Emerging clusters	Developing clusters	Key National Clusters
Digitization		N / R	
Adaptation to the needs of Industry 4.0		N / R	
Circular economy		N / R	
Low carbon economy		N / R	
Education		N / R	
Economic promotion		N / R	
Networking		N / R	
Platforms	*R – regional level*	N	
Support for services provided to SMEs by clusters as innovation centers	*N – national level*	R	

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

- Europe needs to **translate available scientific knowledge and research results to innovative solutions**, including technological as well as non-technological and social innovations, in the market, in society and for better policy making. We need more experimentation, peer learning and testing of new models as well as trying out good practices in different environments.
- Projects results are expected to contribute to the following objectives:
    - **Value creation and transfer to the economy and society** by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors (academia/research; industry/SMEs; public administration/policy-makers and society/citizens)
    - **New solutions** to societal and economic challenges by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society
    - **Improvements** of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation through sustainable reforms and new initiatives
- Deadline: 12 March 2024
- HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions
  Topic ID: HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

Alliances for Education and Enterprises

- Alliances for Education and Enterprises are transnational, structured and result-driven projects, in which partners share common goals and work together to **foster innovation, new skills, a sense of initiative and entrepreneurial mind-sets.**
- They aim to foster innovation in higher education, vocational education and training, enterprises and the broader socio-economic environment. They bring together **enterprises and both higher education and vocational training providers** to work together in partnership.
- These partnerships shall implement a coherent and comprehensive set of sectoral or cross-sectoral activities, which should be adaptable to **future knowledge developments** across the EU.
- To boost innovation, the focus will be on **talent and skills development**.
- Deadline: 7 March 2024
- ERASMUS-LS ERASMUS Lump Sum Grants
  Topic ID: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-PI-ALL-INNO-EDU-ENTERP
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

I3 Capacity Building, Strand 2b

- The Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) creates **linkages for interregional collaboration** bringing together actors from different EU regions investing in joint innovation projects along S3 priorities and close to the market.
- The call aims to test new approaches for increasing the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems in **less developed regions** to collaborate in EU value chains.
- Projects are expected to deliver a pipeline of **potential interregional investments as well as business and investment plans.**
- Deadline: 14 November 2024
- I3-PJG I3 Project Grants
  Topic ID: I3-2023-CAP2b
- Published on Funding & Tenders Portal

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- 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
- Elbe Eurocluster: Financial support to **individual services**, including access to test facilities, international development, market & business intelligence, Development and technology transfer, Green and IT technology expertise; deadline 8 March 2024
- 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
- 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
- PIMAP4Sustainability: Support for **upskilling and reskilling** projects for photonics, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, metalworking and industrial production SMEs; cut-offs 29 February 2024, 30 April 2024

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- PIMAP4Sustainability: Training/Services open call with three strands: the two first ones will allow European SMEs to pursue **trainings/services** related **to Green Transition and Internationalisation** and the third one - the International mission support scheme - will help SMEs in **attending the PIMAP4Sustainability Japan mission** that will take place in June 2024; cut-offs 10 March 2024; 10 May 2024
- RE-CENTRE: Financial support for participation of SMEs in B2B meetings with entities from Mexico or Chile; deadline 31 May 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: 2nd Call for Business Digital Transformation Projects for lighting and furniture SMEs; deadline 25 March 2024
- SUAVE: Lump sum call to support SMEs in **new Urban Agriculture Value Chain** for sustainable growth in Europe; deadline 7 August 2024
- **All calls here: https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls**

Register for the next Talks

6 March

Net-Zero Industry Act: For clean tech manufactured in Europe

20 March

Entrepreneurship in Europe: Cluster support for start-ups and scale-ups

Continue the discussion

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/

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