

EU-TAIWAN CLUSTER MATCHMAKING EVENT

organised by the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform**
in the context of the **3rd EU-Taiwan Industrial Dialogue**

Dates: 26th and 27th June 2017

Venue: Brussels (Belgium)

Call for Expression of Interest

Deadline extended until May 4th

Focus areas:

- 5G (5th Generation Wireless Systems)
- Circular Economy
- Smart Industry

Objectives

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), in collaboration with the European Commission, the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and Silicon Europe Worldwide, will organise an EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event, taking place on the 26th and 27th of June 2017 in the context of the 3rd EU-Taiwan Industry Dialogue. The aim of the Event is to foster **cooperation between European and Taiwanese clusters and business associations**.

The Cluster Matchmaking Event will represent a unique opportunity for representatives of European cluster organisations interested in cluster collaboration with Taiwan to explore possible common areas of interest for cooperation and complementarities, in terms of sectoral, value chain, and market focus of their SMEs and other companies. Letters of Intent, Memoranda of Understanding and other types of partnership agreements are expected to be explored with roadmaps on how to initiate and sustain the collaborations.

This call for expression of interest is launched to identify a **European delegation** composed of **representatives of cluster organisations** from technology fields in support of the following areas:

5G (5 th Generation Wireless Systems)	Circular Economy	Smart Industry
Including: - RF - Photonics - Base stations - Wide bandgap components - Network protocols - Security - New air interfaces/network technologies - IoT application	Including: - Waste management - Resource efficiency - Secondary raw materials - Sustainable construction - Green innovative technologies - Industrial symbiosis - Urban mining and WEEE management - Biogas and bioenergy	Including: - IoT in the production environment - Smart robotics - Sensor networks for e.g. machine health monitoring/preventive maintenance - Precision in-door localisation - Data security - Big data for factory/ process optimisation

Clusters applying to this call should be willing and committed to participate in the activities of the EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event.

This call is published on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP). Expressions of interest to participate in this event must be **submitted electronically by the 4th of May 2017 (end of the day)** at the latest to EUmatchmaking@spi.pt.

Please find below more information on this event and how to submit your expression of interest.

Context

As part of an approach aimed at promoting international cluster cooperation for the benefit of SMEs, the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission (DG GROWTH) is continuing its support of international cluster cooperation through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform. The organisation of specific matchmaking events is carried out in support of cluster organisations in their efforts to develop partnerships and business cooperation in European and global markets, for the benefit of their members. The matchmaking events are currently funded under the EU COSME Programme¹.

Moreover, the EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event is in line with previous European cluster matchmaking events organised in Belgium, China, Germany, France, Italy, Iran, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan from 2014 to 2016. These matchmaking events seek to prepare the ground for practical cluster cooperation across borders and to make a more strategic use of transnational cluster cooperation.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) provides a visible framework for this event and for subsequent events. The ECCP is the cornerstone of the European strategy in support of SME internationalisation through clusters. The ECCP provides a wide range of information and services to facilitate the interaction between clusters not only within Europe, but also with international partners.

¹ EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs 2014-2020

Agenda for the EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event

The EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event will be held in Brussels (Belgium) on **Monday 26th** and **Tuesday 27th** of June 2017. The following sets out a **tentative agenda** for the Event:

Monday, 26 th of June	
11:00 – 13:30	EU-Taiwan Cluster Cooperation seminar <i>Including presentation of good practices and cluster introduction pitches</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Break for lunch
15:00 – 18:00	Bilateral Cluster-to-Cluster (C2C) meetings <i>One-to-one meetings between European and Taiwanese clusters and business associations</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Cluster Debriefing Session <i>Session to provide feedback on outcomes of the cluster event</i>
18:30 – 20:00	EU-Taiwan Cluster Networking Cocktail
Tuesday, 27 th of June	
10:00 – 10:30	Official Opening for Industrial Seminars
10:30 – 13:00	Industrial seminars (in parallel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5G • Circular economy • Future of Manufacturing <i>(Organised by the European Commission)</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch buffet
14:00 – 15:30	Pitches by EU and Taiwan companies
15:30 – 18:30	Bilateral Cluster-to-Business (C2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings <i>One-to-one meetings between European/ Taiwanese clusters, business associations and companies</i> <i>(Organised by EEN and Silicon Europe Worldwide)</i>
18:30 – 22:30	EU-Taiwan Networking Dinner

Additionally, a business matchmaking event including Cluster-to-Business (C2B) and Business-to-Business (B2B) one-on-one meetings will be organised on Wednesday 28th of June by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and Silicon Europe Worldwide (COSME Programme supported cluster partnership). Participation of clusters in the matchmaking event on the 28th of June is highly encouraged, although optional.

June 28 th (optional)	
10:00 – 12:00	Matchmaking event with bilateral meetings (morning session)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 16:00	Matchmaking event with bilateral meetings (afternoon session)

Cluster participants are required to attend the full agenda above on 26th and 27th of June to be eligible for travel reimbursement.

Prior to the Event the delegation will have an opportunity to participate in a jointly organised **webinar, introductory session**, with preparation support from the ECCP to ensure effective matchmaking meetings are scheduled.

Who can participate?

This call is addressed to **cluster and network organisations** that are interested in engaging in **collaboration with Taiwanese counterparts** in technology fields related to the following areas:

5G (5 th Generation Wireless Systems)	Circular Economy	Smart Industry
Including: - RF - Photonics - Base stations - Wide bandgap components - Network protocols - Security - New air interfaces/network technologies - IoT application	Including: - Waste management - Resource efficiency - Secondary raw materials - Sustainable construction - Green innovative technologies - Industrial symbiosis - Urban mining and WEEE management - Biogas and bioenergy	Including: - IoT in the production environment - Smart robotics - Sensor networks for e.g. machine health monitoring/ preventive maintenance - Precision in-door localisation - Data security - Big data for factory/ process optimisation

The Event is open to cluster and business network organisations **from countries eligible for participating in the COSME programme²**.

Cluster and business network organisations whose member SMEs are interested in developing business collaborations with Taiwanese companies are highly encouraged to respond to this call.

Participation of **cluster organisations involved in ESCP-4i** (European Strategic Cluster Partnership - Go International) **is strongly encouraged**.

Up to 50% of the places may be available for cluster organisations that are members of a "European Strategic Cluster Partnerships - Go International (ESCP-4i)". Strand 2 ESCP-4i partnerships are required to indicate that Taiwan is among their target countries of their internationalisation strategy.

² ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/17143/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native

Selection criteria

To be selected:

- The cluster or business network organisation shall **be registered in the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)** www.clustercollaboration.eu **with a complete profile** (the complete cluster profile of each applicant registered on the ECCP shall be provided together with their application);
- The cluster or business network organisation should comply with the definition given in the section 1.3 (s) on '**innovation clusters**' in Annex I of the new "*EU Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation*"³;
- The cluster or business network organisation has to be involved in offering or channelling **cluster or network support services to SMEs**; and
- The cluster or business network should be identified on the basis of a **legal entity** established in the COSME participating countries.

Applications will be selected according to the following qualitative criteria:

- The cluster has to be active in the target sectors.
- On the cluster's potential to maximise matchmaking opportunities, through the participation to this event, based on a clear description of the type of partnership the applicant cluster organisation is looking for, and on the potential for establishing tangible cooperation as an outcome of the event. In this regard, a cluster organisation indicating cluster affiliated SMEs aiming to enter the Taiwanese market and which will be attending the event will have a strong advantage to be selected and funded for the event. This expression of interest for collaboration shall be clearly articulated in the **cluster questionnaire** provided in annex and to be submitted with the application.

³ 2014/C 198/01. According to this definition:

('innovation clusters' means structures or organised groups of independent parties (such as innovative start-ups, small, medium and large enterprises, as well as research and knowledge dissemination organisations, non-for-profit organisations and other related economic actors) designed to stimulate innovative activity by promoting sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to knowledge transfer, networking, information dissemination and collaboration among the undertakings and other organisations in the cluster;)

See at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN) with further information available at http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/modernisation/rdi_framework_en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/horizontal.html amending the Community Framework (2006/C 323/01 see at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:en:PDF> a reference of section 5.8 of which was included in the COSME Work Programme regarding the "innovation clusters" definition

- On the willingness to engage in closer cooperation with other cluster and business network organisations from Taiwan to better support SMEs and companies in global competition through joint efforts.
- In this context, the participation in COSME funded or non-funded European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Go International (ESCP-4i) is considered as an asset.

The decision on the selection of applicants will be based both on the requirements above and qualitative merit of each application; the balanced geographical coverage of the COSME participating countries will, in case of equal merit, be taken into consideration. The selection of the applicants based on the criteria above will be made by the EASME and the European Commission services.

Cost and expenses

The selected clusters that are eligible for travel reimbursement in accordance with this call will have the possibility to be reimbursed as follows:

This action covers the travel*, two nights' accommodation costs for one representative of the cluster or network organisation (for a maximum of 25 clusters and network organisations), with a maximum amount of Euro 800. The reimbursement will be based on actual expenses related to travel.

Belgium clusters are encouraged to participate but are not eligible for reimbursement.

Please note that **local travel costs and meals are not reimbursable.**

Attendance to the full agenda on the 26th and 27th of June 2017 is required to be eligible for the reimbursement of the costs.

** Air travel: economy class fares on the basis of the shortest and most economical fare available at the time of the Notification on the selection.*

Expression of interest

Expressions of interest should be submitted electronically by the **4th of May 2017** (end of the day) to Mark Spinoglio and Noelia Dosil at EUmatchmaking@spi.pt.

The expression of interest should encompass:

- a completely **filled out cluster questionnaire (template annexed)** on the cluster or network organisation profile;
- a **proof/ evidence of the legal entity** of the cluster or network organisation;
- a **proof/ evidence of the completed cluster profile** registered in the ECCP;
- a **short presentation of the cluster organisation in English language, using PowerPoint (3-4 slides only).**

Please make sure to provide complete, accurate data and contact details.