



Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Update on EU cluster initiatives

**EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and
Matchmaking event**

Zagreb, 22-23 November 2018

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February 2018: Communication from the Commission on
'a credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans'

September 2017: **First EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking** event in Thessaloniki

- around **50 clusters** from
- 13 EU Member States
- 4 Western Balkans countries (Serbia, Montenegro, FYROM, Albania).

=> over **133** meetings

Sectors: cultural and creative industries, the Circular Economy, mobility, smart city, agrotech and automotive





Today, 22 November 2018 **Second EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking** event in Zagreb

- More than **65 clusters** from
- 15 EU Member States/COSME
- 6 Western Balkans countries

(Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia).

=> Already more than **150** (and counting) meetings foreseen

Sectors: Agro-food, IT, Manufacturing/automotive, Tourism/Maritime, Textile/apparel/footwear, Pharmaceuticals/chemicals, Energy

- Focus:**
- **cluster policy** developments in the EU and in the WBC
 - Transnational **cluster cooperation**
 - Clusters in **Smart Specialisation Strategies**, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre
 - Networking, **Matchmaking** and **capacity-building**



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*Investing in a smart,
innovative &
sustainable Industry:*

*A renewed EU
Industrial Policy
Strategy*



*Strengthening
Innovation in
Europe's Regions:*

*Strategies for
resilient, inclusive &
sustainable growth*



*Europe's next
leaders:*

*The Start-up & Scale-
up Initiative*

EU Policy Framework for Clusters



Calls for proposals

◆ ***INNOSUP-1 cluster projects for new industrial value chains***

- 2019 Call published, deadline 03.04.2019, budget €22.85 Million
- Initiative aims to support 2,000 SMEs directly by 2020 (total €130 mio)



◆ ***European Cluster Excellence Programme 2018***

- Strengthen cluster management excellence and strategic interregional partnering to foster cluster capacity building and SME competitiveness
- Call to be published at the beginning of 2019, budget €3.6 million
- Will introduce a ClusterXchange pilot scheme



Calls for proposals/tenders (2)

◆ EU Clusters Go International

- To encourage clusters from Europe to intensify collaboration across regions/sectors
- To foster the development & implementation of cluster international strategies to support SMEs' access to global value-chains
- Call to be published Q1 2019, budget 8,3 € Million

◆ Renewal of ECCP – European Cluster Collaboration Platform

- ◆ *It profiles over 850 clusters for intra-EU and international cooperation*

Merger of:

- the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)
 - the European Cluster Observatory for Industrial Change, and
 - the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre
- Call to be published Q1 2019, budget 5,6 Million

European Cluster Partnerships

◆ *European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments*

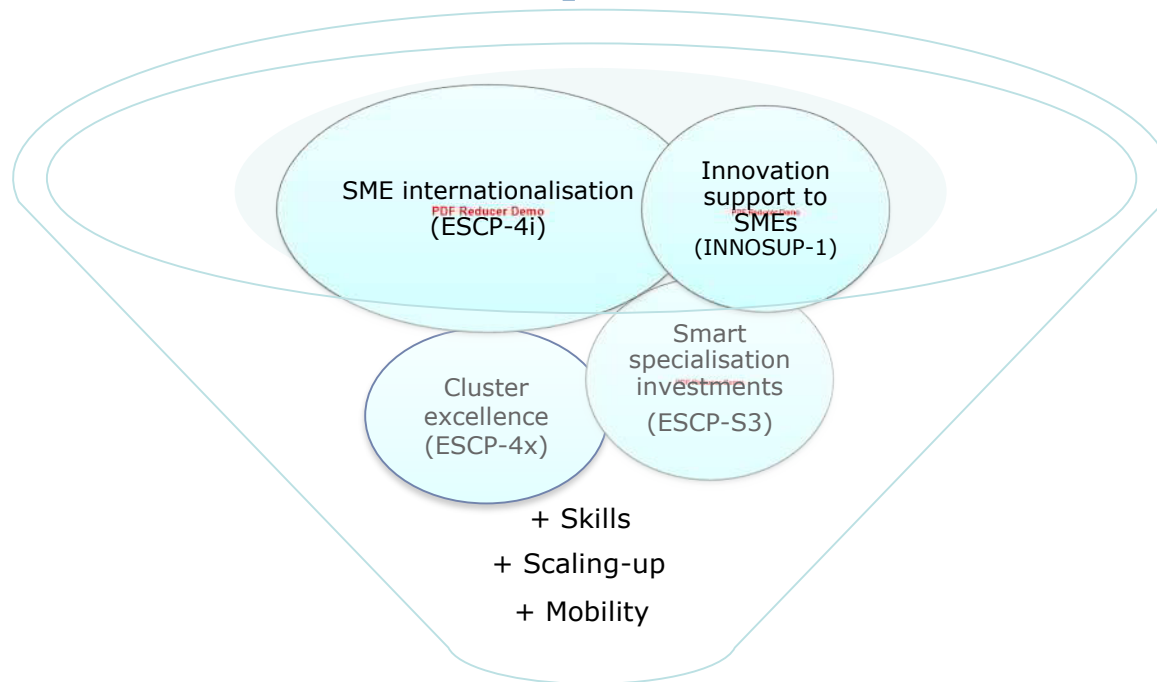
- 9 cluster partnerships started October 2018
- Aim to boost collaboration & investments linked to smart specialisation & industrial modernisation
- €3.1 million (COSME) with 346.000 €/project
- 57 project partners, 19 European countries with more than 4.500 SMEs directly/indirectly benefitting



◆ *Partnering event of European Cluster Partnerships (25/10/2018)*

- For the first time, 52 European Cluster Partnerships under COSME and Horizon 2020 met (for Going International, Smart Specialisation, Excellence & INNOSUP-1)
- Participatory discussions on supporting SMEs, setting strategic/ sustainable partnering and gathering feed-back on future cluster initiatives

From Partnerships to Initiatives



**Joint Cluster
Initiatives**



Other cluster-related initiatives

◆ *Commission Expert Group on Clusters*

- Foreseen by Commission Communication on renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy
- Provide recommendations/advice/expertise on how to better use clusters as strategic tool of industrial policy, interregional collaboration & SME support
- Following up the work of the European Cluster Policy Forum
- Member States & experts acting in individual capacity

◆ *Model demonstrator regions in industrial transition*

- Customised advice on modern cluster policy DG GROW & REGIO with EOCIC/OECD
- 12 regions selected
(Cantabria, Centre Val de Loire, East-North Finland, Grand-Est, Greater Manchester, Hauts-de-France, Lithuania, North-Middle Sweden, Piedmont, Saxony, Slovenia, Wallonia)
- Test and showcase new approaches to industrial transition
- Most study visits completed, policy review meetings ongoing; peer review meeting foreseen in 2019 (Brussels)



National, regional, local cluster events under one European umbrella to:

- **raise awareness** on clusters and on cluster events for cross-border participation
- perform a **listening exercise**: input for future cluster initiatives (including joint cluster initiatives) to be discussed at the European Cluster Conference

Between **20 November 2018 and 30 April 2019**

Kick-off events:

20-22 November 2018: Joint Romania-Hungary cluster conference

26-30 November 2018: Future Week - Denmark

Main anchor event: Hanover Fair, Germany (1-5 April 2019)



More information

EU Cluster Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cluster/>

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships

<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-cluster-partnerships>

European Cluster Collaboration Platform

<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

EU Cluster Weeks

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-cluster-weeks>

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Questions?

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Thank you for your attention!