



Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Directorate-General

Joint Cluster Initiatives

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Advanced technologies, Clusters and
Social Economy unit (GROW.F2)

Meeting of European Gold-Label Clusters,
4 December 2019, Brussels

Joint Cluster Initiatives

- **Flagship initiative** of Single Market Programme (COSME) with budget of € 150-300 million to support sustainable transformation partnerships
- **Strategically connecting ecosystems and clusters** for 10-20 industrial specialisations, with cross-regional and cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs
- Using clusters as multipliers to **create business opportunities and channel direct scaling-up support** to groups of SMEs for the digital and carbon-neutral transformation:



Shaping European strategic value chains



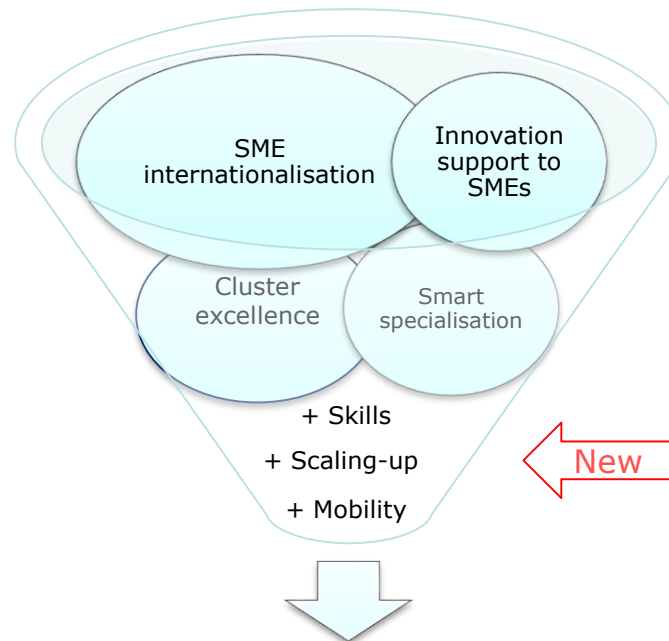
Boosting SME internationalisation and access to global value chains



Facilitating industrial transformation

(supporting SME uptake of innovation, value chain collaboration & scaling-up)

From Partnerships to Initiatives



Joint Cluster Initiatives

Specificities of the Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Achieving **critical mass** and more visibility
- Building transnational **transformation partnerships** upon success of existing EU cluster initiatives under COSME and Horizon2020
- **Sustainable partnering with continuation funding** (if performance and participation milestones are reached)
- Supported by the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform**
- **Contributing and building linkages to other EU actions:** (digital) innovation hubs and (smart specialisation) investments under Cohesion Policy and Horizon Europe & exploring synergies with Erasmus+

Single Market Programme

Proposed budget: 4.089 billion €, incl. 1 billion to support the competitiveness of SMEs under COSME (excl. financial instruments)

Programme-specific objectives:

1. Making the internal market work better
- 2. Improving the competitiveness of businesses, especially SMEs (COSME) Art. 3 (2b)**
3. Increasing standardisation
4. Promoting the interest of consumers
5. Contributing to a high level of health throughout the food chain
6. Producing and communicating high-quality statistics on Europe

COSME part of Single Market Programme

COSME main pillars:

1. **Access to Markets** (including Enterprise Europe Network and mentoring scheme)

2. **Business Environment, Industrial Modernisation, Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship** (including **Joint Cluster Initiatives**)

+ **Access to finance** (SME guarantee facility) implemented under the SME window of InvestEU

Eligible actions for COSME Art. 8(3)

- (a) to provide **various forms of support to SMEs**;*
- (b) facilitating **SMEs' access to markets**, supporting them in addressing global and societal challenges and business internationalisation, and strengthening Union **industrial leadership in global value chains**, including the Enterprise Europe Network;*
- (c) **addressing market barriers, administrative burden and creating a favourable business environment** to empower SMEs to benefit from the internal market;*
- (d) **facilitating the growth of businesses**, including skills development, and industrial transformation across manufacturing and service sectors;*
- (e) **supporting the competitiveness of enterprises** and whole sectors of economy, **and supporting SMEs' uptake of innovation and value chain collaboration through strategically connecting ecosystems and clusters**, including the **joint cluster initiative**;*
- (f) **fostering an entrepreneurial business environment and culture**, including the mentoring scheme for new entrepreneurs and supporting start-ups, business sustainability and scale-ups.*

Examples of stakeholder views so far

- **Council Conclusions on Industrial Policy of 12 March 2018** called for the **further development of the European cluster policy** to support the emergence of new value chains across Europe;
- **Vienna Declaration (Friends of Industry) of 14 Industry Ministers of 4 October 2019** called for an **ambitious cluster policy as one of its key action items** to foster strategic European value chains proposed for the future EU Industrial Policy to spread benefits of digitalisation with emphasis on enhanced collaboration and inclusion of SMEs.
- **Participants at Partnering event of 50 European Cluster Partnerships on 29 October 2018** called for both large-scale and networking projects and emphasised the need to co-designing cluster services for SMEs, identifying the right counterparts, training and interregional mobility.
- **Participants at the European Cluster Conference of May 2019 with 450 participants discussed how to better connect Europe's ecosystems**, with input on digitalisation and skills gap, Circular Europe and Shared value and social impact.





European
Commission

Now concretely

Your feed-back on implementation options

- What are *must do* and *can do* **activities** (i.e. mandatory or optional)?
- **How** to achieve objectives and support SMEs (e.g. vouchers/lump sums)?
- Who *must be* a **partner** and who *can be* involved (eligibility criteria)?
- What **value chain focus** (strategic value chains, other, mix)?
- What is the partnership **reach-out** (world-class and/or developing clusters - how)?
- How to build **synergies in practice** (linking to hubs, smart specialisation, national/regional actions etc.)

5 principles for the brainstorming

Listen without judgement

Listen together for patterns and insights

Connect ideas

Focus on what matters

Contribute with your mind and passion

Process

- **Two rounds** of discussions (3 x 20-25 mins)
- Each group decides together on a **rapporteur**
- Participants will **rotate & mix**
- **Rapporteurs will stay and debrief** for 2 minutes about the main insights of the previous round
- At the end, rapporteurs will state three main insights in a **1-minute summary**



Please complete the discussion sheet!

Who? First & Last Names in conversation:		Rapporteur:	Meeting of Gold-label Clusters 4 December 2019
			Session 3 - Next generation Joint Cluster Initiatives
What to do?	Must <input type="checkbox"/> Can <input type="checkbox"/>	Main purpose:	
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Value chain focus	Must <input type="checkbox"/> Can <input type="checkbox"/>	Actors: Must be partner <i>versus</i> Should be involved	
Connected, clean & autonomous vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Health <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Low-carbon industry <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen tech & systems <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Ind. Internet of Things <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cybersecurity <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Microelectronics <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> High-perform. computing <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Agro-food <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dual-use tech (defence) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Space (earth observation) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Partnership reach-out? Thresholds? 	
		How to build synergies? 	

Let's give you some more context

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Over to you



Thank you

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster>
<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>



[@Clusters_EU](https://twitter.com/Clusters_EU)



Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy unit (GROW.F2)

Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Directorate

European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

GROW-CLUSTERS@EC.EUROPA.EU