Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

*Update on EU cluster initiatives*

Meeting Gold-label clusters

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Brussels

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Commission Expert Group on Clusters

- Announced in the **renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy** “to provide recommendation on how to better use clusters as a strategic tool of industrial policy” as part of facilitating dialogue on cluster policy excellence.

- Responds to Council Conclusions of March 2018 & May 2019 that called for “further development of European cluster policy” & highlighted that “clusters are key for the implementation of the EU industrial policy strategy”.

- **Follow-up** to discussions of **European Cluster Policy Forum**, and liaise and build upon other relevant Commission expert groups.

- Composed of representatives of **28 Member States** (nominated) and **10 individual experts**.
Tasks of the Group

- better use of clusters as strategic tool for industrial policy
- preparation and implementation of next generation of EU cluster initiatives
- recommendations on how to shape European cluster policies that are fit for the future
- how to remove existing barriers to transnational and international cluster cooperation
- analyse complementarities, identify opportunities for improving synergies
- better linking European policies and instruments with national and regional ones

Working Group on Skills: meeting on 24/01/2020
Feed-back from 450 participants
European Cluster Conference (14-16 May 2019)

European cluster conference with 450 participants 'connecting ecosystems'
Published on: 20/05/2019

The 6th edition of the European cluster conference took place during 14-16 May 2019 in the palace of Parliament in Bucharest, hosted by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event theme was ‘Connecting ecosystems: bridge, inspire, change.’

The conference was organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SME’s in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Economy. It gathered 450 national and regional cluster policy-makers and practitioners from industry, research and academia.

See the documents & picture section for video, graphic harvest, slides, poll results, student blog, pictures...
Next European Cluster Conference

Berlin, 10-11 November 2020
The European Cluster Collaboration Platform-ECCP
Connecting over 1000 Cluster Organisations
2020: A renovated European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Mapping
- Statistical clusters
- Actors
- Visibility

Connecting
- Matchmaking
- ClusterXchange
- Forums of associations and partnerships

Supporting cluster policy
- Mapping policies and programmes
- Capacity building

Supporting cluster actors
- Capacity building
- Technical assistance Cluster Go International
Cluster collaboration & intelligence tools

Comparing regional strength (sectoral & cross-sectoral cluster mapping)

Finding partners/cluster organisations (partner search, matchmaking etc)

- Mapping over 1000 cluster organisations
- 3689 bilateral meetings, 529 European participants
- 12000 monthly visitors to the website
- 3700+ subscription to newsletters and 4000+ weekly digests
- 2800+ news items published
- 1300+ events promoted

Regional Ecosystem Scoreboard
- 12 pilot regions in industrial transition
- Trends, emerging industries, priority sector reports
- Cluster policies in Member States
- Smart guides including on cluster partnerships and entrepreneurship support

http://www.clustercollaboration.eu
https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster/observatory
Ongoing European Cluster Initiatives

Clusters as accelerators for innovation & industrial change

Capacity-building

Inter-regional & international cluster cooperation

Cluster Excellence Programme
Cluster Internationalisation Programme for SMEs (COSME, €19M)

Supporting SME access to global value chains through clusters

- Policy cooperation with third countries: Canada, Korea, Taiwan, USA

- International cluster matchmaking events in third countries and Europe

- European Strategic Cluster Partnerships - Going International (ESCP-4i)
  - "Clusters Go International" action
Cluster matchmaking events 2020
Interested?
Watch out for our calls of expression of interest @Clusters_EU

Japan – 27-29 April, Strasbourg, France
Korea – 27-29 May, Seoul
Taiwan – 1-3 June, Taipei
Canada – 2nd semester, poss. Blue growth (in EU)
South MED – poss. October (in EU)
With other European clusters – 11 Nov, Berlin, Germany, European Cluster Conference
EU 'Clusters Go International' action

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International (ESCP-4i)
Promoting cluster cooperation for industrial leadership in global markets

- 134 cluster organisations representing over 19,000 SMEs
- Supporting joint international strategies and SME collaboration with partners in third countries
- Recent Call published Q2 2019 (8.3 Mio€ - 24 partnerships)
- Next Call in 2020 (TBC)
Low Carbon Business Action in the Americas

2015-2019 pilot in Mexico and Brazil generating cooperation and business agreements between European and Mexican/Brazilian companies in low carbon sectors.

Results: 700 business agreements; 132 projects with the highest business potential received technical assistance to become commercially viable projects.

Enlarged Low Carbon Business Action (2020-2023) to expand to Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Chile, Argentina and Colombia.
Fostering new value chains: Cluster projects for new industrial value chains
key focus

SMEs (75% of the budget)

Using clusters to support innovation in SMEs

Linking with smart specialisation strategies

Cross regional + cross-sectoral cooperation

new industrial value chains

variety of support innovation tools

€5 mln per project
Ongoing final call for Innosup-1 proposals

Call open since 07/11/2019
EUR 25.15 Mio (EUR 4 to 5 Mio per project)
Deadline (1\textsuperscript{nd} stage): 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2020
Deadline (2\textsuperscript{nd} stage): 8 September 2020
Number of projects to be funded: 5-6


ECCP https://www.clustercolaboration.eu/eu-initiative/innosup-calls

Horizon 2020 Innosup data hub https://innosup.easme-web.eu/
Implementing smart specialisation and industrial modernisation: Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments
21 thematic areas under S3 for Industrial Modernisation

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thematic-areas

- Advanced manufacturing
- 3D Printing
- Non-food biomass
- Sport
- Nano-Enabled Products
- Hydrogen Valleys
- Digitalisation & Safety for Tourism
- Personalised medicine
- Social Economy
- Mining Industry
- European Cyber Valleys
- Artificial intelligence & Human machine
- Chemicals
- Advanced materials on batteries
- SMEs to Industry 4.0
- Textile Innovation
- Water Smart Technologies
- Medical Technology
- Efficient & Sustainable Manufacturing
- Photonics
- Safe & sustainable mobility
Strengthen cluster management capacities:
Partnerships for excellence
European Cluster Excellence Programme

Strengthen cluster management excellence & strategic interregional partnering to foster cluster capacity building & SME competitiveness

- **11 completed projects** (2.47 million, COSME 2014 and 2015 calls for proposals) gathered 57 cluster organisations representing 11,000 SMEs

- **10-12 new cluster partnerships to start around February 2020** (3.6 mio EUR, COSME 2018 call for proposals)

1. Enhance cluster managers’ **skills** (benchmarking, training, coaching and mentoring)
2. Support **cluster strategy** development (at cluster & partnership levels)
3. Organise twinning, collaboration, networking/learning activities & joint **cooperation** projects
4. Implement a **new „ClusterXchange“** pilot scheme (supporting short-term growth exploration visits with lump sums of up to 1100 EUR to third party cluster members)

ClusterXchange to **start mid-2020**
The ClusterXchange pilot scheme

Short-term exchanges to foster strategic interregional collaboration to explore new growth opportunities and industrial transformation:

- Identifying new partners & enhancing market access
- Supporting networking
- On-the-job training
- Sharing experiences
- Capacity-building activities

How is it implemented?
- Matching IT tool/support at[European Cluster Collaboration Platform](https://ec.europa.eu/)
- Implemented by cluster organisations of Cluster Partnerships (ESCP-4x)
- Small financial support to visiting organisations (lump sums of max. 1100 EUR)

Objective:
- Overall 500 exchanges of which
  - 50% involving SMEs
  - and at least
  - 25% other participants beyond direct beneficiaries

Who can benefit (starting later in 2020)?
- Cluster organisations (SME intermediaries)
- SMEs
- Scaling-up support organisations
  (e.g. tech centres, research institutes, fab labs (digital) innovation hubs, creative hubs, resource-efficiency service providers, incubators, accelerators)
European Cluster Excellence Programme

Potential new call for proposals

(COSME 2020, TBC)
European Green Deal
Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Industry-focused actions guided by joint strategies of clusters and other associated specialised SME support actors
- Thematically targeted for 10-20 industrial specialisations, with cross-regional and cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs
- Creating business opportunities and accelerating growth by channelling direct scaling-up support to groups of SMEs for:

  - Shaping European strategic value chains through connecting specialised ecosystems
  - Boosting internationalisation and access to global value chains
  - Facilitating industrial transformation towards uptake of advanced technologies and services, digitalisation, new business models, resource-efficient solutions towards decarbonisation and the Circular Economy, creativity and design, upskilling, talent attraction and entrepreneurship acceleration

Joint Cluster Initiatives
Thank You

More information
EU Cluster Portal:  
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cluster/
European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)  
http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/
European Cluster Initiatives  
https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiatives
COSME calls  

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