



Edition 5 | September 2019

TCI-Network Oceania CHAIR'S NEWSLETTER

From Tracy Scott-Rimington

Welcome

Welcome to the September 2019 news update of the TCI-Network's Oceania Chapter. Oceania Chapter news updates are forwarded to TCI's Oceania region members and anyone registering an interest in clusters for economic development in the Oceania region.

The TCI-Network: www.tci-network.org

The TCI-Network is the global practitioners' network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation. TCI members have access to:

- Key information about clusters, competitiveness and innovation systems on a global level
- Latest trends in competitiveness strategies and cluster-based policies
- Best practices in cluster development and management
- News about cluster initiatives and competitive regions worldwide
- Expertise on methodologies for economic growth and regional development
- Assistance in global networking and internationalisation activities

Membership ranges from 200 euro for individuals, 500 euro for cluster organisations with up to five employees and developing country organisations, and 2000 euro for organisations. Go to www.tci-network.org/membership to join this unique global network.



In geopolitical terms Oceania includes all of Micronesia, Fiji, all of Polynesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, part of the Philippine Islands, Australia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia.



The TCI-Network in 2019

Established in 1998 and headquartered in Barcelona with support from the Catalonian government, TCI-Network (then The Competitiveness Institute) aimed to promote clusters as a strategic approach for economic development and the competitiveness of regions and localities globally.

The organisation has grown consistently over the years so that today there are more than 75 national and regional organisational members representing over 9000 practitioners from 110 countries. TCI truly is the global cluster practitioner's network.

Over the past decade TCI has developed chapters across Latin America (CLAC), Oceania and more recently Asia to extend its global reach and provide tailored and accessible cluster training programs for regions. Membership continues to grow and in the Oceania region we welcome these new members:

- Anne Probert, Venture Taranaki Trust, NZ
- Daniel Grant, MTP Connect, Australia
- Food & Agribusiness Network (FAN) Sunshine Coast Australia
- Fermentas Tasmania, Australia
- Central Coast Industry Connect, Hunter region, NSW, Australia
- Gippsland Food & Fibre, Victoria, Australia
- Sergio Zaccaria, Cluster Manager, SEQ METS cluster, Qld, Australia
- Australian Department of Industry Innovation & Science

TCI Oceania News & Events Update

This year in Oceania we invited international cluster experts to present at key conferences and events.

Enric Pedros at the South Australian Regional Development Conference

Enric Pedros, Cluster Manager of FEMAC, the Future Emerging and Modern Agriculture Cluster in Catalonia, Spain, was guest speaker at the South Australian Regional Development Conference in Tailem Bend hosted by RDA SA in May. During this visit he met with members of the SA Cluster Leader Group and presented on FEMAC's 20+ year journey at Uni SA's Business School, organised by TCI members Dr Allan O'Connor, and Rowena Vnuk.

He also participated in a workshop with EDA (Economic Development Australia) SA. This engagement has opened the door to explore potential Cluster Cooperation between CATALONIA, South Australia and AUSTRALIA and we hope to be able to update you on progress in 2020.

If your cluster is interested in exploring an opportunity to cooperate with clusters in Catalonia please email

tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au



Bianca Dragomir at the National Cleantech Conference and RDA-EDA Luncheon

Europe's Cluster Manager of the from Year 2016-2018, **Bianca Dragomir**, Cluster Manager, AVAESSEN, the Cleantech cluster in Valencia, Spain, visited Queensland in May as keynote speaker at the National Cleantech Conference on the Sunshine Coast. TCI Oceania along with RDA Brisbane and EDA (Economic Development Australia) Qld SPN hosted a luncheon in Brisbane where she presented on Clusters for Industrial Transformation. Bianca recently introduced the concept, 'Clusters of Change', now a flagship of the European Commission:

"Clusters are huge impact multipliers. A cluster does not only create the place and space where we experiment and test our ways into the future, but also is the ideal setting to scale up innovation and export our impact to the world. We need to be ambitious and bold to do this even more effectively. It's high time to become fully aware that we are powerful beyond measure and take the lead of innovation missions larger than ourselves – that can only be done together – orchestrating the change." – Bianca Dragomir 2019



Bianca Dragomir



Margaret Blade CEO RDA Brisbane; Sergio Zaccaria, SEQ METS Cluster Manager; Tracy Scott-Rimington, TCI Director and Chair, Oceania Chapter; Guest Speaker Bianca Dragomir; and Jacqueline Brinkman, CEO, EDA at the RDA-EDA luncheon in Brisbane.

News & Events Update cont.

Ifor Ffowcs-Williams at the Asia Pacific Cities Summit

Ifor Ffowcs-Williams, aka the Cluster Guy, visited Brisbane during the Asia Pacific Cities Summit in July to speak on 'The Role of Clusters as Drivers of Strong City Economies'.

During his visit he met with Brisbane and South East Queensland clusters including SEQ METS (Mining Equipment Technology & Services), Queensland Field Robotics, Spatial Innovation and Bionics Queensland, to share insights on cluster best practice and provide expert guidance for future development.

His visit was sponsored by the METS Ignited IGC and RDA Brisbane.



Dr Emily Wise will speak at the National Economic Development Conference

In mid-October TCI Director **Dr Emily Wise** will travel from Sweden to speak at the Australian National Economic Development Conference (NEDC) in Adelaide on the topic of clusters, collaborative ecosystems and digitisation.

Emily works closely with regional and national business development and innovation agencies across Sweden, Norway and Denmark and is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Competitiveness, Lund University. Her cluster research helps to inform regional and national agencies across Europe.

For more information on the NEDC and Emily's presentation visit edaconference.com.au



TCI2019 Global Conference

Strategic Clusters for Sustainable Growth: New Trends and Practices is the theme of this year's TCI Global Conference in Antwerp, Belgium 8-10 October. This is the leading global clusters event where cluster managers, policy makers, government, business, and academic leaders come together to make unexpected connections for economic growth and shared prosperity.

This year's program includes 12 exceptional cluster tour options on Day 1. View the program including the list of tours and register at:

www.tci2019antwerp.org

A full account of the Antwerp conference and presentations will be up on the [TCI website](#) in November.





A new cross-industry cluster is emerging in Melbourne's North

Melbourne's North has the key ingredients to execute on a major 21st century industry convergence opportunity. The region's strengths in the healthcare, manufacturing and education sectors are now being aligned to create a unique 'Smart Specialisation' around a new operational model of healthcare called 'Consumer Directed Care' (CDC).

CDC, which has now been legislated for both Disability Services (NDIS) and in-home Aged Care in Australia is a model of care where the consumer has much greater choice and control in the services that they receive. Together these sectors are worth around A\$27 billion p.a. But to be effective, care providers will need to offer a highly personalised 'continuum of care' as a managed service. This will require a much more highly skilled workforce and new frontline technology to improve both the quality and productivity of service delivery.

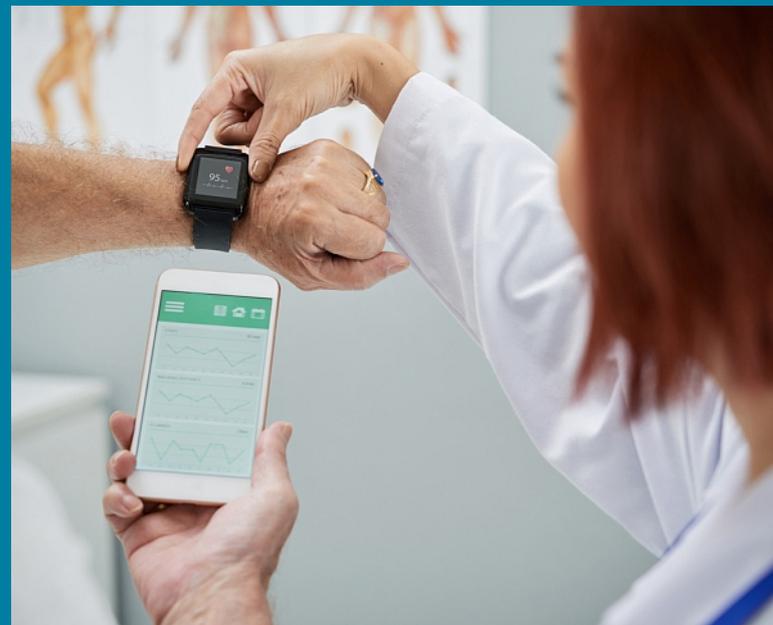
The next generation of Assistive Technology is a key enabler, providing a major productivity platform. By involving the consumer in a co-design process, highly personalised products can be designed precisely to their needs. This will require researchers, engineers, clinicians and consumers to work across industry boundaries.

Over the past 18 months, Steve Zanon (Proactive Ageing) has completed a detailed evaluation of this opportunity, both in terms of gathering a substantial evidence base and successfully testing

local industry's interest in developing new products and services around this initiative. Feedback from cross-industry workshops has demonstrated a broad appeal in advancing what has become a groundswell of interest.

As such a formal cluster mapping project has commenced under the stewardship of Rodin Genoff (Rodin Genoff & Associates) and Steve Zanon, and with the support of NORTH Link, the regional economic development organisation.

Their cluster framework illustrates how multi-sector collaboration will mutually reinforce and drive innovation across the manufacturing, health, social insurance, research and education sectors. Stay tuned for further exciting developments. Contact: Steve Zanon at Proactive Ageing.



Cluster Resources



Papers and Articles

Two recent papers shed new light on the future direction of clusters and their importance as a centrepiece of economic development planning for cities and regions:

[Cluster policy resilience: new challenges for a mature policy](#)

[Smart Guide to entrepreneurship support through clusters](#)

Webinars and Podcasts (click on icon)

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's introduction to clusters podcast with Ifor Ffowcs-Williams



Slides from TCI webinar *Sustainability of Cluster Organisations*, with TCI Directors Werner Pamminer and Cecilia Carillo



The last TCI Global Webinar for 2019 *Monitoring Impact of Cluster Work*



Interview with author of the report *Building Innovation Superclusters*, by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform team on how innovation superclusters are rapidly evolving to race countries and industries into the future



For EDA (Economic Development Australia) members a webinar *Clusters for Economic Development Success* with Ifor Ffowcs-Williams, Cluster Navigators, Dr Nicola Davis, cluster expert and Jacqueline Brinkman, CEO, EDA



Clustercollaboration.eu

Don't forget to check out the ECCP (European Cluster Collaboration Platform) offered by the European Commission. It provides networking support for clusters (organisations and members) aiming to improve their performance and increase their competitiveness through the stimulation of trans-national and international cooperation. The platform now lists and profiles nearly 1000 clusters and provides information on international collaboration projects and cluster matchmaking events around the world. Please take a look at clustercollaboration.eu and UPLOAD YOUR CLUSTER if internationalisation is part of your agenda.

New Caledonian Clusters

Did you know New Caledonia has seven clusters in the main economic sectors of the island? They are: maintenance, digital, energy, agro-food, waste, eco-construction, maritime. For more information on these and other French clusters [click here](#).

TCI Oceania Committee

Planning for TCI Oceania events in 2020 will commence shortly. Members are invited to join our Oceania committee and participate in the planning and coordination of the annual activities and to help promote clusters for competitiveness, innovation and economic growth more widely. Contact Tracy: tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au

Grants for SME Export Hubs

The Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science has recently announced a second round of funding for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Export Hubs. The grant opportunity supports SME Export Hubs in the development of local, regional and Indigenous brands through business collaborations in areas of competitive strength under six industry growth sectors.

More information can be found [here](#).

To view first round grant recipients [click here](#).

Call for cluster initiative stories

In each edition we will publish cluster stories from around the Oceania region. If you would like yours included, send your story in 300 words or less to tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au



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