

## TRACE-KEI 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Study visit in Barcelona

TRACE-KEI 1<sup>st</sup> study visit was held in Barcelona on 14th December 2016. All TRACE-KEI partners participated. The choice relied on the leading role that Catalonia region has played in European cluster initiative and development. The government, in fact, has been carrying out a strategic experience on cluster initiatives over the last 22 years driving the regional growth and competitiveness minimizing the economic downturn consequences. Finally, the Catalan clusters can be included among the leading actors in the cluster development at European level.



Catalonia region accounts many gold label. Among them TRACE-KEI partners selected FEMAC, <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-organisations/femac>, as it would have combined an excellent management, a vibrant experience, and a very well defined vision other than share its ongoing experience in the framework of the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Going International (ESCPs-4i).

FEMAC support allowed us to experience a focussed and well-structured presentation on clusters support, development, management and training, through one day meeting with the following relevant entities: ACC1Ó, the TCI network, WEcontract BCN and the European Foundation for Cluster Excellence.

The study visit aimed at giving the partners an introduction on cluster excellence, on the benchmarking process and presenting some success cases at EU level. Learning by visiting and listening - this was the main objective of the day. All partners were impressed by the knowledge and experience that the hosts shared with TRACE-KEI partnership.