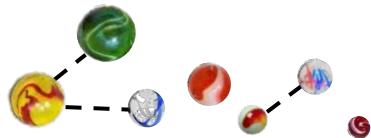




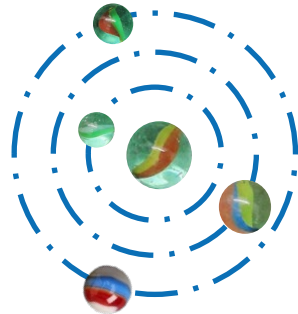
EUROPEAN
CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

We need to study a complex reality
and quickly identify disruptions
and possible solutions

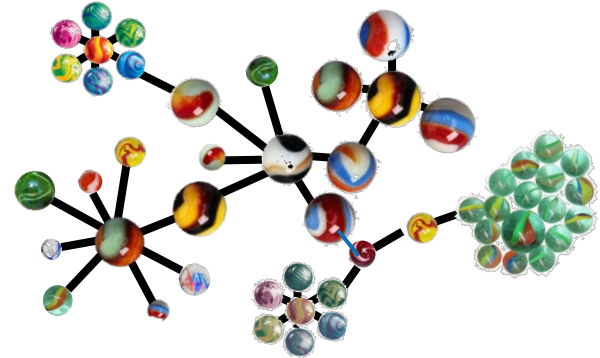
Stage 1
Islands of Excellence
driven by individuality



Stage 2
Industrial Value Chains
driven by specialization



Stage 3
Co-Evolving Ecosystems
driven by synergy



Keystone Agents

Relatedness between different sectors directly
or indirectly related
What is often crucial are the companies that
are in between fields

Source: Athanasios G. Konstandopoulos, CERTH



CLUSTERS

Clusters are geographic concentrations of industries

Clusters are **economic actors and associated institutions located near each other** that are related by **knowledge, skills, inputs, demand, and/or other linkages**.

- Clusters are not only a concept but a real economic phenomenon with **measurable economic effects**
- Clusters have a **positive impact on regional and industry performance**, including job creation, patenting, and new business formation
- **Drivers of the agglomeration of economic activity**, and thus the creation of clusters, can be input-output linkages, labour market pooling, knowledge spillovers, local demand conditions, specialised institutions, the organisational structure of regional business, and social networks

[Delgado, Mercedes/Porter, Michael E./Stern, Scott, 2013: Defining Clusters of Related Industries, Working Paper 20375 of the National Bureau of Economic Research](#)

The **Aviation Valley in southeastern Poland** is famous for its aerospace industry and pilot training centers. This region has a **heavy concentration of aerospace industry**, scientific research centers, educational and training facilities. The Aviation Valley Association represents over 170 companies. The **objectives** are

1. the organization and development of a low-cost supply chain,
2. the further development of aerospace research, aptitude and skill,
3. the creation of favorable conditions in order to enhance the development of aerospace industry enterprises in this region.

Clusters have reached a sufficient scale to develop specialised

- ✓ Expertise
- ✓ Services
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Suppliers
- ✓ Skills





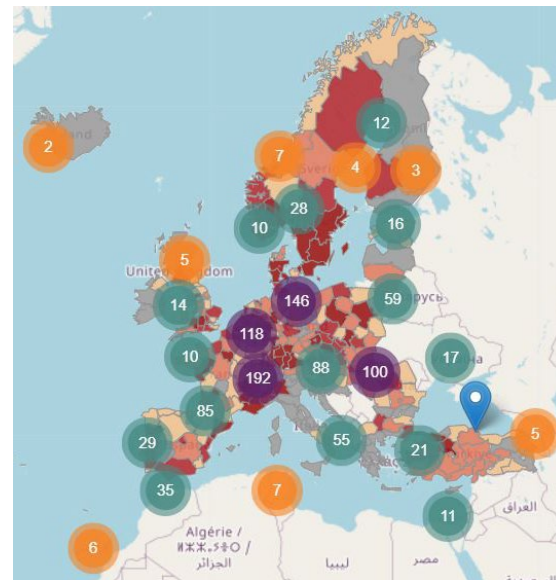
Cluster organisations are legal entities

Cluster organisations provide and channel **specialised and customised business support services to stimulate innovation activities**, especially in SMEs.

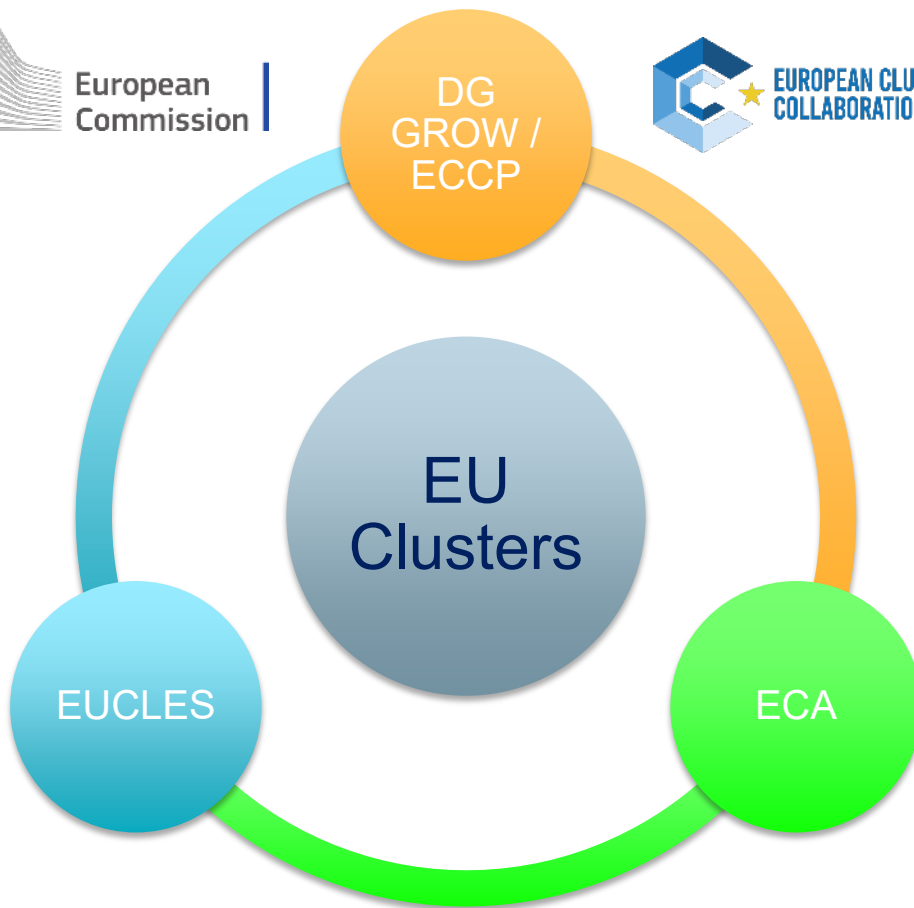
- Cluster organisations support the strengthening of **collaboration, networking and learning** in innovation clusters
- They usually **facilitate strategic partnering** across clusters, have experience in working cross-sectorial and between domains, and can set up multi-stakeholder projects
- Cluster organisations provide **trustful relations within triple helix constellations** among (regional) stakeholders and are knowledgeable about existing competencies, potentials and needs in the economic domain
- Cluster organisations come in **many shapes, sizes, structures**, and are developed top-down or bottom-up

European Commission, 2016: Smart Guide to Cluster Policies. Guidebook Series: How to support SME Policy from Structural Funds
European Commission, 2020: S3 Cluster Organisations, Smart Specialisation Platform

- Services of cluster organisations include: ✓
- ✓ Improving business environment
 - ✓ Innovation projects
 - ✓ Networking and matchmaking
 - ✓ Business / Market Intelligence
 - ✓ Human resource upgrading
 - ✓ Internationalisation
 - ✓ Influencing legal framework



Europe has a **rich landscape** of cluster organisations. There are around **1,000 European cluster organisations** registered on the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#)





EUROPEAN
CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

The **European Clusters Alliance** joins

- **23 national associations** of clusters and **vertical networks**
- representing more than **900 clusters** organisations
- **150,000** of our **most innovative businesses**

We have representatives in the

- **EU Industrial Forum**
- **EU expert group on Smart Specialisation Strategies**
- **EU expert group for the Interregional Innovation Investments**
- **High level working group eDIH**
- **HERA - European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority**
- **European Economic and Social Committee**





EUROPEAN
CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

Our members

Austria	National Cluster Platform
Bulgaria	Veritas Cluster
Czech Republic	National Cluster Association
Denmark	Food & Bio Cluster
Finland	East and North Finland
France	Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité
France	France Clusters
Germany	go-cluster
Greece	CHORUS Cluster
Hungary	IKOSZ Hungarian National Alliance of Innovative Clusters
Italy	REI - Reindustria Innovazione
Latvia	Latvian Clusters Network
Lithuania	KlasterLT
Poland	Polish Clusters Association
Portugal	Portugal Clusters
Romania	Clustero
Slovakia	Union of Slovak Clusters
Spain	Spanish Federation of AElS & Clusters
Sweden	Clusters of Sweden
Ukraine	Ukrainian Cluster Alliance





Eligibility Criteria






The award of a Quality Label is conditional on the operational set-up of the applying organisation. Applying organisations must prove their status as a “cluster organisation” as defined by the EC.

- Existence of a **real-existing technologically/sectorally/regionally focused cluster initiative** with a **dedicated cluster management** of **at least 0.5 full-time equivalent** in place and **at least 15 clearly committed cluster participants** with a majority originating from the private sector.
- The cluster management organisation must support the “enhancement of collaboration, networking and learning” and “provides or channels specialised and customised business support” to stimulate **innovative activities**, especially to SME. The cluster management facilitates or implements a **minimum number of services** (≥ 5 different activities during the past year) **addressing ≥ 2 different defined strategic priority areas**.
- The cluster management organisation is listed on the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform \(ECCP\)](https://www.cluster-analysis.org/eccp).

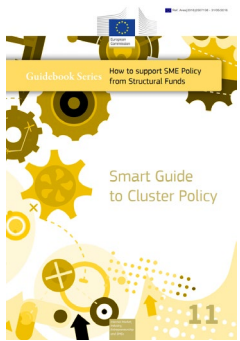
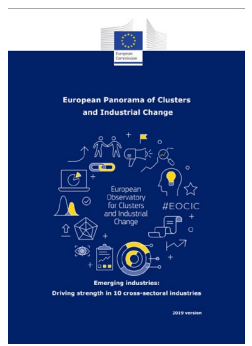
<https://www.cluster-analysis.org/cluster-management-excellence>



Clusters matter

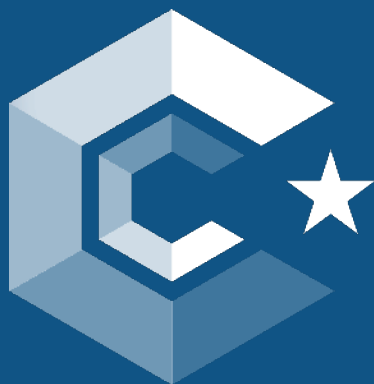
-  **13.5%**
Higher average wage
-  **+0.7%**
Higher annual wage growth rate
-  **+0.5%**
Higher annual employment growth rate
-  **143%**
More Global Frontier Firms
-  **77%**
More High-Growth Firms
-  **141%**
More rapidly growing start-ups
in specialised clusters than in other locations

https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/sites/default/files/eu_initiatives/eoic_european_panorama_of_clusters_and_industrial_change_2019.pdf



Box 4: Do's and Don'ts of modern cluster policy

Don'ts	Do's
Support individual specialised firms	Support new activities, in particular those being undertaken by groups or networks of related industries
Create clusters from scratch (i.e. implementing 'wishful thinking' of policy-makers)	Facilitate the growth of clusters by building upon existing strengths (i.e. implementing evidence-based policy by building upon a comparative analysis of regional strengths and 'entrepreneurial discovery')
Fund large numbers of widely varied clusters	Fund strategic cluster initiatives that focus on promoting the strengths, linkages and emerging competences and which are in line with the aims of national/regional smart specialisation strategies
Follow growth trends without reflection	Capitalise upon regional competences to diversify into new activity areas and to develop emerging industries
Follow a narrow sectoral cluster approach	Follow a systemic cluster approach focusing on related industries by capturing cross-sectoral linkages
Develop and implement cluster policy in isolation from other policy areas	Adopt an inclusive and participatory cluster approach (i.e. involving businesses, investors, academics and policy-makers, and making links with related policy themes such as R&D, innovation, entrepreneurship, access to finance, SME internationalisation etc.)
Support cluster initiatives that are only inward looking	Support cluster initiatives that have an international perspective on the positioning of the cluster in international value chains
Focus exclusively on strengthening regional partnerships	Build regional partnerships as a basis for joining European Strategic Cluster Partnerships



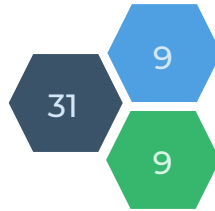
**EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM**

European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Our mission in a nutshell

Our mission is to be the European online hub for cluster stakeholders (cluster organisations, policymakers and other related stakeholders from the cluster ecosystem) and the reference one-stop-shop for stakeholders in third countries aiming to set up partnerships with European counterparts

1600+

Profiled cluster organisations worldwide



Successful events

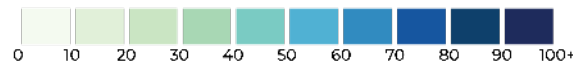
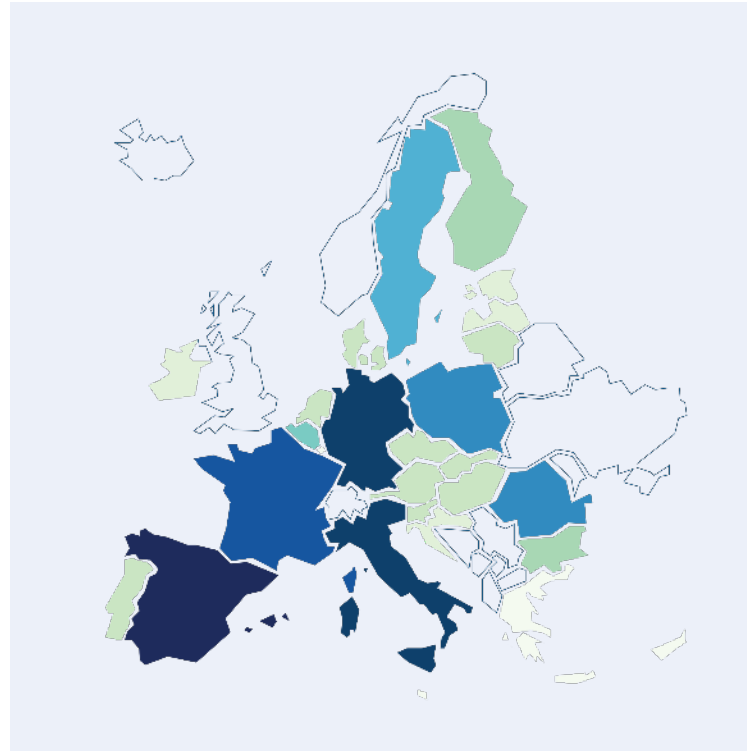
EU Clusters Talks
Clusters meet Regions
Matchmaking Events

519

Bilateral meetings



European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Clusters in Europe

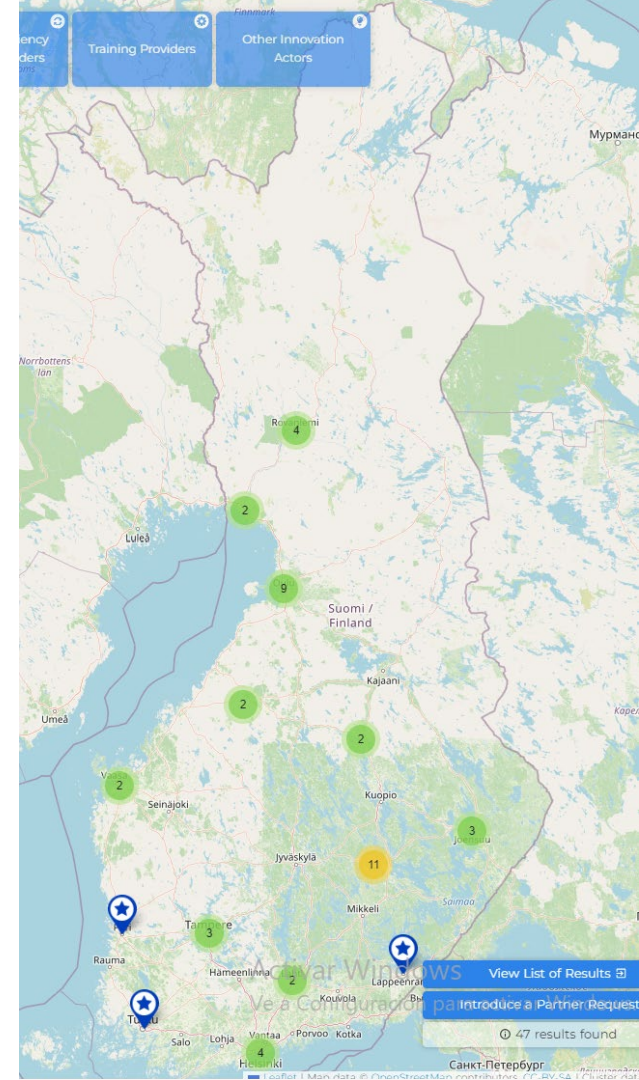


Clusters in Finland

- AFDA - Association of Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries
- Agri-Food Cluster North Savo
- Arctic Construction Cluster Finland
- Arctic Design & Development Environments Cluster, Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Arctic Safety, Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Arctic Smart Rural Community, ProAgria Lapland
- Bio and Circular Cluster
- Blue Economy Mikkeli
- Business Joensuu
- CLIC Innovation Oy
- DIMECC Ltd.
- Energy Cluster North Savo
- Finnish Water Forum
- Green Net Finland
- Greenreality Network
- ITS Finland
- Kuopio Health Co-op.
- Kuopio Water Cluster
- Lahti Mechatronics Network
- Memory Campus
- Merinova
- Nordic Innovation Accelerator
- OIA/ Agile Commercialization
- OIA/ ICT & Digitalization
- OIA/ OuluHealth
- Oulu Automotive Cluster
- Photonics Finland
- Robocoast Cluster
- Smart and Sustainable Arctic Tourism
- Smart City Innovation Cluster
- South Savo Food Cluster
- Tampere Imaging Ecosystem
- Tampere Region Safety and Security Cluster
- Water Cluster Finland



An initiative of the European Union



European Cluster Collaboration Platform: **Cluster industries and sectors**

Academy
Agri-food
Agri-tech
Aquatic products
Audiovisual
Aviation & Space
Beauty industry
Bioeconomy
Business agency
Clothing
Construction
Education

Energy
Engineering
Fashion
Financial services
Government
Green economy
Human resources
Investor
Information
technology
Law
Manufacturing
Maritime

Mining
Packaging
Science
Security
Smart cities
Social economy
Sports
Tech
Tourism
Transport
Veterinary industries
Water management



European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Our services



C2Lab

Interactive workshops to meet up, establish new collaborations and develop project roadmaps.



Clusters meet Regions

Work on strengthening European regional industrial ecosystems



Matchmaking Events

Team up with other cluster organisations and find new collaboration opportunities



An initiative of the European Union

European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Our services



EU Cluster Conference

Your forum to foster mutual learning and the exchange of information



Cluster Booster Academy

Work on strengthening European regional industrial ecosystems



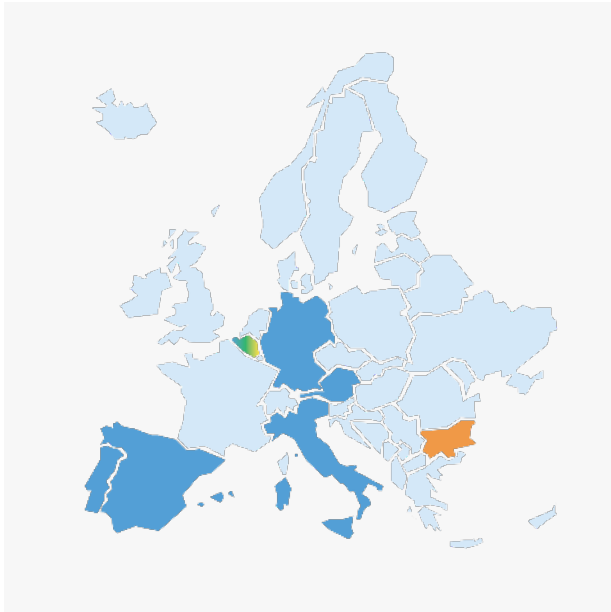
EU Clusters Talks

Your weekly opportunity to exchange knowledge and discuss

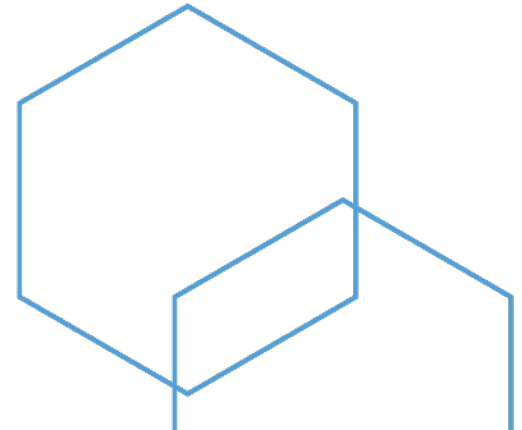


An initiative of the European Union

European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Clusters events in 2024



- ◆ **EU Clusters Talks:** 23 online webinars
- ◆ **Cluster Booster Academy:** 2 online events and 1 in-person
- ◆ **Clusters meet Regions:** 6 in-person events
- ◆ **Matchmaking Events:** 8 in-person event
- ◆ **EU Cluster Conference:** 1 in-person event
- ◆ **C2Lab:** 2 in-person events



European Cluster Collaboration Platform:

Our services

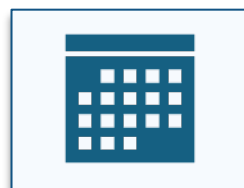
The ECCP newsletter

The largest information hub offering the latest news and open calls to a broad community



Detailed information

on the European Cluster Partnerships and a partner search facility, where cluster organisations can find potential partners



Event calendar

An extensive calendar of ECCP and European cluster partners' events, webinars and trainings

International cooperation pages

including profiles of selected countries of strategic interest and a technical assistance facility



Up-to-date information on key policy areas of the European Commission

green and digital policy, social economy, economy resilience and industrial ecosystems

An extensive knowledge database

featuring a mapping of regional, national, international and sectoral cluster networks, toolkits and publications



European Cluster Collaboration Platform: **ECCP General discussion group on LinkedIn**

- **Knowledge Sharing:** dive into discussions where you can share your best practices and gain valuable insight
- **Collaboration opportunities:** connect with ECCP members
- **Stay up-to-date:** weekly ECCP updates in one place





- The knowledge hub for energy and resource efficiency, and emission reduction in European businesses
- Where you find practical examples, tools and useful points of contact to support businesses transitioning towards greener practices

European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Green Transition Support



An initiative of the European
Union

European Cluster Collaboration Platform: Trend Universe



- Get insights into the future to help build strategic competitive advantages
- Better understand future trends and their impact on your cluster organisation
- Explore relevant trends from 14 different industrial ecosystems
- View relevant trend assessments from other clusters and global data

NOW OPEN TO EVERYONE!



An initiative of the European
Union



C2Lab: Join the workshop to set up your next project!



[Watch online the recorded Info Session](#)

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, in collaboration with the French Association of Pôles de Compétitivité (AFPC), organises the next edition of the **Cluster Collaboration Labs in Strasbourg, France, on 25-26 September 2023**.

The [C2Lab](#) is a **workshop-style event** where you will have the opportunity to **meet new partners, discuss your project ideas, and initiate collaboration** – for example to apply together for a European call. You can either join with a concrete project proposal or offer your expertise and knowledge by joining others.

Apply for the next Cluster Booster Academy

The [Academy](#) will involve up to **50 participants** and will run for **5 days** in a hybrid format including an individual coaching session in between:

3 days of online training sessions:

6 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

11 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

15 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

1 coaching session to be scheduled individually

2 days of in-person training sessions: 3-4 March 2025, hosted at the Warsaw University of Technology

DEADLINE: 17 October 2024



1. Provide **learning opportunities for cluster managers** to further develop their skills
2. Meet the needs of European cluster management teams in their **daily work**
3. Offer cluster management teams the chance to **learn from each other's experiences**
4. Provide the opportunity to co-shape **new European value chains**
5. Support cluster management teams and stakeholders in understanding and **contributing to the European policies and programmes**
6. Help in **developing better policy related to clusters**
7. Improve the **skills of clusters' staff** thanks to a “train the trainers” approach by disseminating their knowledge further

Save the date for the upcoming Clusters meet Regions!

We invite you to join our “Clusters meet Regions” – transnational events that bring together **clusters and policymakers** at the local, regional, and national levels, with the aim of strengthening the industrial ecosystem in a selected host region.

The events facilitate the **implementation of good practices** where clusters play an active role in regional economies and are drivers for economic transition, and to create and promote **collaboration** between clusters and regional stakeholders for the industrial development of the regions.

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS ★

COMING UP THIS YEAR 2024

-  **Chişinău, Moldova**
10-11 October 2024
-  **Palma de Mallorca, Spain**
24-25 October 2024
-  **Heilbronn, Germany**
13-14 November 2024
-  **Charleroi, Belgium**
27-28 November 2024

 includes a Matchmaking Event

Apply for EU-India Matchmaking



An EU delegation of clusters and SMEs will travel to Bengaluru, India, for a [matchmaking event](#) in the context of the [Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024](#) which will be held on **19-21 November 2024**.

The event will bring together cluster organisations and SMEs from the European Union (EU), non-EU countries participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand, and India. It will provide participants an excellent chance to promote Cluster to Cluster (C2C), Cluster to Business (C2B), and Business to Business (B2B) collaborations.

Focus areas: Biotech, Digital, Green Tech, Advanced Manufacturing



Visit our website
And follow us social media



www.clustercollaboration.eu



@Clusters_EU



European Cluster Collaboration Platform

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