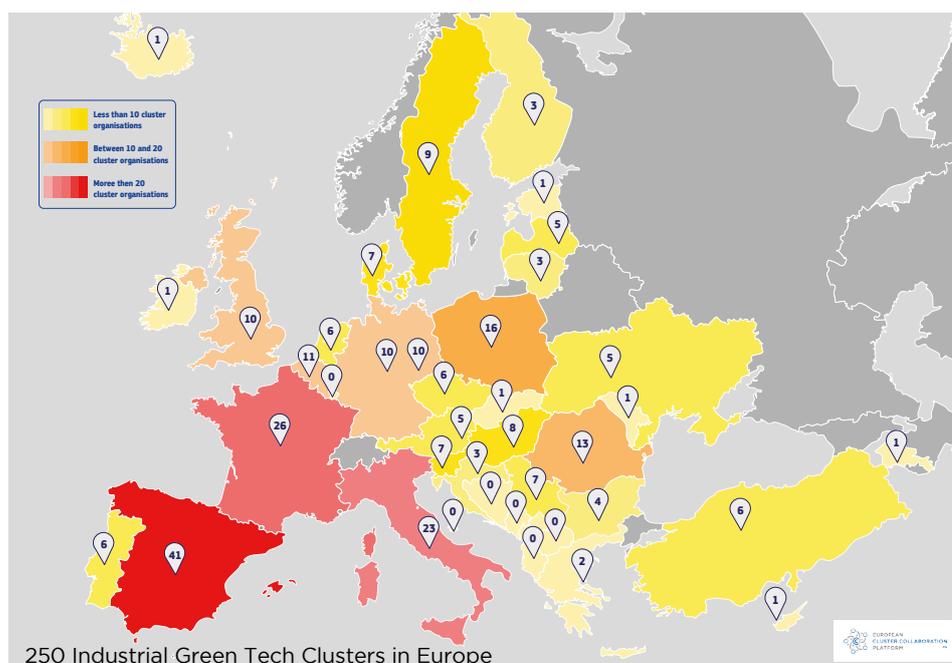




Latest News



*The map above shows the 250 green tech clusters in Europe ready to support the European Green Deal as of December 2019

Industrial clusters crucial to plans for climate-neutral Europe

European industry clusters are being urged to help make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The ambitious plan is part of the [European Green Deal](#), which was unveiled at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid in December and covers all sectors of the economy and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said: "By showing the rest of the world how to be sustainable and competitive, we can convince other countries to move with us."

European industry clusters will be vital to the success of the plans because of their ability to bring together and mobilise companies, research and technology centres, investment and governments.

With 250 industry clusters operating in environmental technologies – several hosting world-leading firms – and 400 clusters operating in digital technologies, with opportunities for monitoring pollution and optimising how energy and natural resources are consumed, the shared expertise will be invaluable.

The Commission wants to hear your ideas for action under the European Climate Pact and your views on how to make the Pact as effective, inclusive and ambitious as possible.

All submissions to the consultation will be used to shape the final design of the Pact, which will be launched ahead of the UN climate conference in Glasgow (COP26) in November 2020.

The online [public consultation](#) is open until 27 May 2020.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



[High-level Conference: Skills and Transformation of the EU's Automotive Sector](#)

27 May 2020



[European Social Economy Summit](#)

26-27 November 2020



[EU-Japan Centre Webinar](#)

Various dates in March 2020



[Financing the cooperation in the Mediterranean through European programs](#)

2-3 April 2020

OPEN CALLS

[Call for expression of interest for the organisation of an event on Policy Learning for Policy Makers and Capacity Building for Cluster Organisations](#)

Deadline: 9 March 2020

[The European Health Catapult | The Innovation Challenge by EIT Health](#)

Deadline: 16 March 2020

[Call for applications: European light industries innovation and technology \(ELIIT\) project](#)

Deadline: 17 March 2020

[Call for event partner for the European week of Regions and Cities](#)

Deadline: 27 March 2020

[SMEs Go International Technical Assistance Facility Call for Concept Notes](#)

Launch: 20 March 2020

Deadline: 17 April 2020

[First ESIF call for clusters in Slovakia](#)

Deadline: 29 May 2020



Commission to reveal new SME and industrial strategies

A series of political documents will be published in March, closely aligned to the European Green Deal, which will be of particular interest to industry clusters for the opportunities they present as well as the impact on current practices.

These will incorporate the industrial strategy, SME strategy and the new circular economy action plan, all of which are scheduled to be discussed at the European Commission meeting on 10 March, so look out for further information after that.

The entrepreneurial, collaborative ecosystems of industry clusters will be challenged to drive modernisation of industry and exploit opportunities within Europe and globally.

A key aim will be to stimulate new markets for climate neutral and circular products alongside the implementation of a 'sustainable products' policy. Efforts will focus on resource-intense sectors such as textiles, construction, electronics and plastics.



New European Clusters Alliance president named

The chairman of the Spanish Federation of AEs and Clusters, Antonio Novo Guerrero, has been chosen by members to become president of the [European Clusters Alliance](#).

Hervé Floch, of Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité, and Krzysztof Krystowski, of the Polish Clusters Association, will be vice-presidents of the Alliance - which gathers together 13 national cluster associations, representing more than 740 clusters, aiming to give them a common voice and promote inter-cluster collaboration at international level.



Don't miss out on EU Gateway opportunities in Asia

Some of Europe's top healthcare and medical technology companies will be showcasing themselves to the Far East market this month in the latest EU Gateway matchmaking events.

Up to 90 selected businesses will take part in EU-funded market scoping missions to Japan, 15-18 March, and Korea, 16-20 March, as part of the Business Avenues programme.

The EU Gateway Business Avenues programme aims to help European SMEs raise their profiles and forge business links throughout Asia. Don't miss out - check out our events page for the latest opportunities.



Industry clusters driving regional growth

The benefits of industry clusters have been highlighted by the European Panorama of Clusters and Industrial Change report for 2019.

The document, from the European observatory for clusters and industrial change (EOCIC), analyses cluster strengths and development trends in 51 traded sectoral industries and 10 emerging industries last year.

It shows that economic activities in about 2,900 specialised clusters account for around 19% of European jobs and 22% of wages.

Published at the same time, the European Cluster and Industrial Transformation Trends Report highlights particular growth industries and growth areas for clusters in 2019. Both reports can be found [here](#).



From strength to strength in 2019

European industry clusters continued to grow in influence and reach throughout 2019 - taking part in worldwide initiatives to facilitate innovation and development in a wide range of sectors.

The first [EU-Canada clusters matchmaking event](#) in June saw the signing of an arrangement to facilitate trans-Atlantic cluster collaboration. The deal will create more opportunities for organisations and firms in Europe to form partnerships among Canada's five innovation superclusters.

Industry clusters continued to support the Horizon 2020-funded [INNOSUP-1 programme](#), with 53 clusters so far working on projects to support SMEs in developing new cross-business and cross-sector value chains.

The [IMPACT Connected Car](#) project, for example, is focused on driverless transportation, connected cars, and innovative experiments in the automobile industry. Project partners include the PSA Group, Ferrovial Servicios, and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile.

A [summary report](#) on how modern cluster policy can benefit regions in industrial transition was published following successful EOCIC pilot schemes in 10 such areas, which showed clusters to be a key driver for smart specialisation.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform has become an international hub with more than 1,000 industry clusters from Europe and beyond.



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