



### Latest news



### The European Cluster Conference 2019 “CONNECTING ECOSYSTEMS.Bridge.Inspire.Change”

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Cluster Conference, organised by the [European Commission](#) (DG GROW) in cooperation with the [Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) at the **Palace of Parliament in Bucharest** during 14-16 May 2019 gathered 450 national and regional cluster policy-makers and practitioners from industry, research and academia. A pre-conference EU cluster matchmaking event attracted 149 clusters and generated 369 face-to-face meetings, and gave participants the opportunity to connect with each other.

The agenda included a high-level policy roundtable, panel discussions on linkages between cluster-related EU initiatives with different services of the European Commission, breakout sessions on digitalisation and skills gap, Circular Europe, shared value and social impact, as well as many opportunities to network and discuss issues of key interest for cluster actors (managers, policy makers and other stakeholders).

The conference hosted the Awards 2019 for the best cluster actors: Following a pitching session, participants elected the new European Cluster manager of the year 2019, Bianca Muntean from the [Transilvania IT cluster](#). The INNOSUP-1 cluster project of the year 2019 award went to [<IMPACT> Connected Car](#), the ESCP-4i of the year 2019 award was given to [Adpack<sup>2</sup>](#) and the ESCP-S3 of the year 2019 award went to [European Automotive Cluster Network](#).

Watch the conference video [here](#), read the speakers' presentations, see the participants and have a look at the polls' results [here](#).

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### [EREK International Conference](#)

25-26 September 2019



#### [High-level event of the Circular Plastics Alliance](#)

20 September 2019



#### [Time is ripe for European green energy companies to expand to Korea](#)

3-7 February 2020

### OPEN CALLS

#### [Social Economy Missions Call For Proposals](#)

Deadline: 26 September 2019

#### [Towards a vibrant European network of AI excellence centres](#)

Deadline: 13 November 2019

#### [Fast Track to Innovation \(FTI\) Call For Proposals](#)

Cut-off date: 22 Oct 2019 / 19 Feb 2020  
9 Jun 2020 / 27 Oct 2020

### ECCP AT A GLANCE



Watch the [impressions](#) about ECCP activities shared by various cluster actors

## The call for proposals for the COSME “Clusters Go International” Programme is open until 30 October 2019!



The main objective of this action is to intensify cluster and business network collaboration across borders and also across sectorial boundaries and to support the establishment of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships to lead international cluster cooperation in fields of strategic interest towards third countries beyond Europe.

It promotes cluster internationalisation where interested consortia develop and implement a joint internationalisation strategy, common goals towards specific third markets and support SME internationalisation towards third countries beyond Europe.

The action will contribute to increasing the number and strength of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships Going International (ESCP-4i) and help European SMEs access new global value chains and take a leading position globally

Read more [here](#).

## The third newsletter of the European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change (EOCIC) is now available!

Learn about the outcomes of important activities such as the [4<sup>th</sup> European Cluster Policy Forum in Brussels](#), the Joint Peer Review meeting of Model Demonstrator regions in Turin and the High-level conference on Digital Cities Challenges.

The newsletter also covers new documents produced by the EOCIC such as the [extensive update of the Cluster Mapping Tool](#), the [Summary Report on Policy Lessons learnt](#) and the [Smart Guide for European Strategic Cluster Partnerships](#).

Read the whole newsletter [here](#).



## The Smart Guide to entrepreneurship support through clusters is published

- How can clusters boost entrepreneurship?
- How can entrepreneurship policy makers make better use of clusters?
- What can be learned from good practices about supporting start-ups and scale-ups sustainably through clusters?
- What are the Do's and Don'ts for cluster and entrepreneurship policy-makers?

The purpose of this Smart Guide is to provide guidance to cluster policy makers and cluster managers in designing and implementing programmes that accelerate the creation of start-ups, spin-offs and scale-ups in emerging industries and in specific value chains.

Read the guide [here](#).

## EU CLUSTER WEEKS

This is the first EU CLUSTER WEEKS edition in a nutshell!

The [EU Cluster Weeks](#) successfully closed the 2018-2019 edition: with 46 events taking place between November 2018 and April 2019 in 22 countries and gathering more than 5600 participants, the initiative reached out to the core of the European cluster community and raised awareness on the role of clusters and the results they achieve for supporting SME growth, industrial transformation and regional economic development.



To see the themes addressed during the events and other information, read more [here](#).

The highlight of the EU Cluster Weeks was the main anchor event in the context of the Hanover Fair on 1-2 April 2019.



On this occasion, the [Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs of European Commission \(DG GROW\)](#) organised a high-level cluster event to highlight the important role clusters play in SME internationalisation, with a special focus on EU-Canada cluster and supercluster cooperation.

The event was organised back-to-back with the kick-off event of the [German Cluster Week 2019](#), in cooperation with the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy \(BMWi\)](#) and the [Canadian Ministry for Innovation, Science and Economic Development \(ISED\)](#).

The event gathered 10 Canadian participants, including the Senior Executives of the 5 [Canadian Superclusters](#), and 30 European cluster managers from 15 countries as well as other various cluster stakeholders and policy makers from Canada and the European Union. Read more [here](#).

### EU-South MED Cluster Matchmaking Event & TechDays in the context of the LOGISMED FAIR 2019, Morocco

The [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) (ECCP) and [THE NEXT SOCIETY](#) (TNS) organised the EU - South MED Cluster Matchmaking Event & TechDays on 9-11 April 2019 in Casablanca, Morocco. The overall objective of the event was to facilitate contacts and collaboration between clusters in the EU and from South-Mediterranean countries.

The event gathered 17 European clusters and two SMEs from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Serbia and Spain), who met with representatives of 22 clusters from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Clusters from different sectors such as transport and logistics, agriculture and food industry, energy and environment, ICT, mechatronics and textile were represented. Read more [here](#).



### A very successful EU-Canada cluster matchmaking event

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform organised a major Cluster Matchmaking Event in Toronto, Canada, between 5-7 June 2019. The event was supported by the European Commission, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), the Department of Industry of Canada and notably the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Department (ISED) responsible for the Superclusters Initiative.

The highlight of the event took place on 6 June with the signing of an administrative arrangement between Canada and the EU to facilitate trans-Atlantic cluster collaboration. The signature was witnessed by Elżbieta Bieńkowska, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises and the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Under the arrangement, cluster organisations and firms in the European Union will have more opportunities to form strategic business partnerships and linkages notably with Canada's five [innovation superclusters](#).



The main EU delegation was composed of some 27 clusters along with some companies covering 16 European countries from the EU and countries participating in the COSME programme (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine) along with several representatives of the five Canadian Superclusters ([Protein Industries](#), [Ocean Industries](#), [Digital Technology](#), [Advanced Manufacturing](#) and [SCALE.AI](#)) and a dozen other Canadian clusters, chambers and business networks and local economic development agencies. A total of almost 100 persons attended the morning session of the event. Read more [here](#).

## ECCP Interviews

Our series of ECCP interviews with cluster managers and experts on special themes continues with:



### Ciprian Morcan, cluster manager of the Transylvanian Furniture Cluster, Romania

What are the features of the first Gold Labelled cluster in Romania? How can clusters trigger change in the public-private policies in the region/country? Why is intra-regional cooperation key for cluster development in Transylvania?

Ciprian answers these and more questions in his interview that you can read [here](#).



### Christian Rangen, international advisor on strategy, transformation and cluster development explains what Superclusters are and what is their potential for the European cluster landscape

“Superclusters” is a term we hear quite often recently. We wanted to know what is behind the approach and asked Christian about their development and supporting tools.

Read more [here](#).

All our ECCP interviews can be read [here](#).

## European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Go International

### The Results of the First Consultation Among ‘Clusters Go International’ Partnerships

The ECCP invited the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International (ESCP-4i) funded under the COSME ‘Clusters Go International’ action to respond to a survey related to their general activities, their activities within the ECCP framework and those with a focus on internationalisation.

This report aims at exploring the achievements of the ESCP-4i partnerships and gathering information on their upcoming actions. It should also be a relevant source of information for the upcoming third generation of partnerships.

Read more [here](#).



### AdPack<sup>2</sup> partnership created an European meta-cluster

Three years ago, five European clusters started to jointly work within the AdPack project to boost the European sector of advanced and smart packaging by combining their different expertise. The partners were [BalticNet-PlasmaTec](#) (DE), [Nanoprogress](#) from (CZ), [InovCluster](#) (PT), [Packbridge](#) (SE) and [Plastiwin](#) (BE). Now three years later, the AdPack<sup>2</sup> project is in strand 2 and a legal structure was established.

Four founding clusters ([BalticNet-PlasmaTec](#), [Nanoprogress](#), [InovCluster](#), [Plastiwin](#)) registered the Ad-Pack European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) in Prague, Czech Republic in December 2018. Already three months after the registration of the EEIG, two new members, [Packaging Cluster](#) (ES) and [Secured Communicating Solutions](#) cluster (FR) joined this entity, including more than 1000 companies and innovation actors in the newly born European ecosystem.

Read more [here](#).



## The NF4<sup>1</sup> consortium and Natural Products Canada sign a Memorandum of Understanding

On 9 May 2019, the **NF4** consortium held a High-Level Advisory Board meeting in parallel to leading international event on nutraceuticals, Vitafoods Europe. On this occasion, the NF4 members had the pleasure to host the executive team of Natural Products Canada (NPC) which is Canada's centre of excellence for commercialisation and research of natural products, funded by the National Centres of Excellence along with numerous private and public partners.



Since 2016, NF4 and NPC have been collaborating, resulting in key achievements for European SMEs. This collaboration between NF4 and NPC was formalised as a Memorandum of Understanding on 9 May 2019, to develop a long-term partnership strategy and create deeper relationships between European and Canadian SMEs.

Read more [here](#)

## SENTINEL<sup>2</sup> ends and re-launches the partnership with an internationalisation strategy and a new brand (WELLIANCE)

The final event of the SENTINEL project took place on 8 May 2019 in Turin, Italy. A day dedicated to European networking, it started with the presentation of the SENTINEL outcomes and continued with a pitching session by European companies with innovative technology solutions for the hospitality sector.



The day ended with B2B meetings between companies and between clusters and companies. The final event was organized by **Torino Wireless Foundation** in collaboration with Environment Park and **Enterprise Europe Network** and also launched the new brand for the partnership (WELLIANCE).

Read more [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> NF4 is New Frontiers in Food Fast Forward

<sup>2</sup> SENTINEL is Cluster Network for Hospitality Sustainable Development and Internationalization

## Contact us

We are always at your service, so do not hesitate to let us know your ideas, needs, suggestions for improvements - anytime at:

[contact@clustercollaboration.eu](mailto:contact@clustercollaboration.eu)

## Cluster Organisations

Within 3½ years from its launch in March 2016, ECCP had an amazing growth, now bringing together more than 1000 cluster organisations, out of which around 90% from Europe. With more than 60% of the content being published by the users, we can genuinely state that the ECCP is the main cluster hub in Europe, created by clusters for clusters. Given this high visibility, we invite users to make sure to keep their profiles updated at any time.

## ECCP Tools

On 20 June 2019 we organised our 3<sup>rd</sup> ECCP Expert Talk Webinar on the theme "Digitalisation challenges and opportunities for SMEs and the role of clusters, looking as well into the connection between clusters and Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH). Its summary and recording are available [here](#).

### Dialogue with users

We thank all the cluster organisations who participated in our user survey carried out in 2019 and provided us useful input for the further development of the ECCP. You can read here the executive summary of the survey analysis.

You can read [here](#) the executive summary of the survey analysis.



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