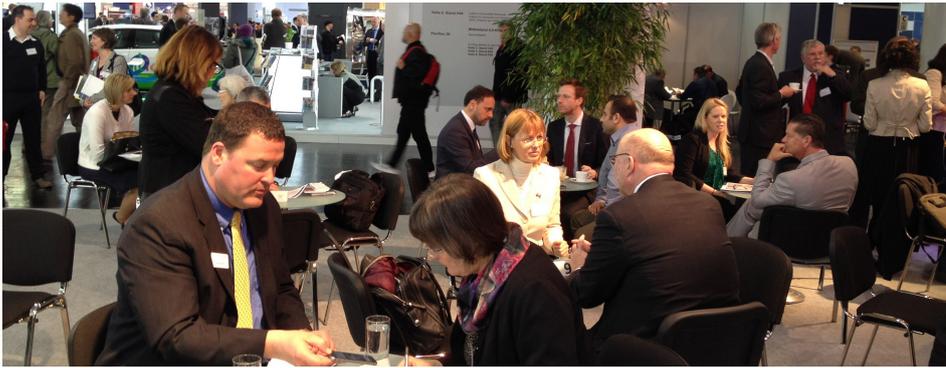




## Latest News



### EU-US CLUSTER COOPERATION

**Over 70 EU and US clusters and Economic Development Organisations (EDOs) and high-level speakers made the EU-US Cluster Matchmaking Event at Hannover Messe, Germany, on 25-26 April 2016 a great success!**

With over 140 bilateral meetings arranged between EU clusters and US clusters, EDOs, businesses and R&D institutions during the Matchmaking Event, the EU-US Cooperation Arrangement on Clusters signed in April 2015 has clearly succeeded in laying the foundations for concrete cooperation actions to take place. The EU-US Cluster Matchmaking Event was organised by the European Commission, DG GROWTH and the US Department of Commerce.

The bilateral C2Cmeeting sessions were complemented by a high level policy seminar on **“Clusters in the EU and the USA: Opportunities for Collaboration and Growth”** with the participation of **Elżbieta Bieńkowska**, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Bruce Andrews, US Deputy Secretary of Commerce **Bruce Andrews** and **Matthias Machnig**, State Secretary of Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy who all emphasized the power of clusters to drive forward the innovation process and the importance to bolster transatlantic cluster cooperation.



Caroline Pin, Plastipolis Cluster: “It was a great opportunity to meet with US counterparts from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Kansas. The US have always been a priority for the cluster being a target country for most of its members. The cluster has signed MOUs with 3 US based partners regarding polymers, composites and bio-based materials. Plastipolis would like to move one step forward by setting up a permanent representation office in the US. It could have a staff member hosted directly in its partner’s premises and working

on networking opportunities and joint projects between France and the US, at academic, technological and business level”

For more information visit : [www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-us-matchmaking-event-hannover-messe-germany](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-us-matchmaking-event-hannover-messe-germany)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Taiwan: European-Asian Cluster Matchmaking Event Opportunity for ICT Clusters**

30/05/2016



**SMART REGIONS CONFERENCE by DG REGIO**

1/06/2016



**Cluster internationalisation Why and how to do it?**

2/06/2016

## OPEN CALLS

**Towards European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for smart specialisation investments**

Deadline: 31/12/2016

**The third Interreg North-West Europe call for project proposals**

Deadline: 27/05/2016

**ICT Cluster & SME Matchmaking Mission to Japan**

Deadline: 30/06/2016

## PEOPLE

**Mission to support ECCP and ESCP-4i**

Click on the video to watch it online



## Matchmaking mission to Brazil in August 2016 – Call for Application open until June 9, 2016

The first out of four matchmaking missions planned for 2016 by Low Carbon Business Action in Brazil is forecasted for August, 8 to 12. **The mission will deal with Energy Efficiency in Buildings.** A four-week application period will commence on May 9 till June 8. The Action will reimburse up to 80% of the costs for the selected participants of the business missions.

For more information visit : [www.lowcarbonbrazil.com](http://www.lowcarbonbrazil.com)

## Call for the expression of interest – Towards EU Strategic Cluster Partnerships for smart specialisation investments

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs invites cluster organisations, other business network organisations, technology centres and science parks interested to team up around specific industrial thematic areas, in the context of industrial modernisation.

Through a dedicated call for the expression of interest, the aim is to mobilise European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for smart specialisation investments (ESCP-S3). This call is linked to the establishment of the Smart Specialisation Platform on Industrial Modernisation and Investment and is envisaged to strengthen industry participation and inter-regional collaboration in the implementation of smart specialisation strategies.

The call remains **open until the end of December 2016.**

For more information visit: [www.clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls/call-expression-interest-towards-european-strategic-cluster](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls/call-expression-interest-towards-european-strategic-cluster)

## Cluster partnerships - ESCP-4i

### Launching the forum for European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Going International (ESCP-4i)

In order to enable the cluster organisations involved in the ESCP-4i projects to easily exchange and cooperate between the projects, we created the ESCP-4i forum, an interactive place to share ideas, ask questions to peers, to assess opportunities to create synergies and economies of scale. The forum is available for ESCP4i members (login required) : [www.clustercollaboration.eu/forum](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/forum)

## ECCP Tools



### Cluster achievements – share your successes with the world!

Each cluster organisation has a success story to tell, whether it is related to its own performance or to the impact of its support services on its members, particularly SMEs, it is rewarding to make it visible and inspire others.

Let us know and we shall acknowledge your effort and achievement by publishing it under : [www.clustercollaboration.eu/achievements](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/achievements) !

**ECCP PARTNER SEARCH TOOL COMING SOON !**

## Cluster Organisations

Within 2 months since the launch, more than 220 cluster organisations are present on the ECCP with detailed profiles on their organisations, members and activities. They have the possibility to upload on their profile news, events and documents and make these visible to an international audience in the section

[www.clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-organisations-news](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-organisations-news)

Follow their example: put your cluster organisation on the map and promote your activities internationally.

## International Cooperation

The INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION section of the platform supports you in finding information on priority third countries the European Commission is engaging with through a proactive policy dialogue as well as find gateways to EU international support services and key information sources.

There are so far dedicated pages to Japan, USA, Brazil and Mexico and further country information pages will be available soon. Also, make sure you make the best out of the services offered by organizations supported by the European Commission aiming to help SMEs internationalize.

[www.clustercollaboration.eu/international-cooperation](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/international-cooperation)

### Share & Benefit

We would like to invite you to share this newsletter and the invitation to join ECCP to other cluster organisations and relevant stakeholders in your network (like cluster policy representatives, other intermediaries). The more users are on the platform, the more content it generates and the more you can profit from the interaction!



Visit our portal  
[www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu)



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