



Latest News

CLUSTERS GO INTERNATIONAL IN THE DEFENCE & SECURITY SECTOR – Call for proposals open!

With a total budget for projects' co-financing estimated at EUR 800,000, this action aims at establishing the first European Strategic Cluster Partnerships-Going International in the defence and security sector, supporting European defence and security-related clusters and business network organisations to intensify collaboration across borders with other non-defence industrial clusters and to develop and implement joint strategies in the areas of dual use technologies, products and services towards non-EU countries. Deadline for proposal submission: 13 December 2017. More information and details about the call are available [here](#).



INSIGHT INTO THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER MATCHMAKING EVENT IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE, 13-14 September 2017

The 10th European Cluster Collaboration Matchmaking mission in Thessaloniki was efficiently and successfully organised in close collaboration with the Centre for Research and Technology - Hellas (CERTH) and the Chorus and Corallia clusters, with the support of EEN Hellas and the Balkan Cluster House network. The delegation was composed of 45 clusters from 17 countries from the EU and the Balkan Med region, active in the creative and cultural industries, smart cities, the circular economy, mobility and automotive sectors. Clusters came from all over Europe (EL, ES, FR, IT, HR, UK, HU, PL, RO, BG, SI, LT, SE) and the Balkan Med region (Serbia, Montenegro, FYROM, Albania).



Dr Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit for Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship, DG GROWTH, European Commission

On the first day, the CERTH hosted the ECCP delegation in its premises. The day started with introductory remarks from Dr Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit for Clusters from DG GROWTH, who highlighted several new policy initiatives notably the forthcoming ESCPs for smart specialisation investments and announced the upcoming [GROW your REGION](#) event in Valencia (8-9 November).

Michailides Constantinos, Head of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Directorate of the Region of Central Macedonia (host Region of the event), presented an overview of the role of clusters in the regional strategy. A policy roundtable ensued, aiming to illustrate how cluster-based interregional collaboration can foster and improve territorial cooperation in the BalkanMed region, thanks to policy input provided by representatives of regions from other Member States and of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. The policy exchange was

UPCOMING EVENTS



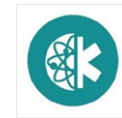
[GROW your REGION conference](#)

08/11/2017



[Business Beyond Borders at HostMilano 2017](#)

20/10/2017



[Healthcare & Medical Technologies Business Mission \(Japan\)](#)

29/01/2018

OPEN CALLS

[Call for Digital Innovation Hubs in 13 EU Member States](#)

Deadline: 22/10/2017

[Healthcare & Medical Technologies Business Mission in South Korea!](#)

Deadline: 17/11/2017

[Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE: Third call for new transnational cooperation ideas](#)

Deadline: 25/01/2018

ECCP AT A GLANCE

Watch the [interview](#) given by **José Ignacio Hormaeche**, Basque Energy Cluster



followed by two thematic seminars, one chaired by the Chorus Cluster focusing on circular economy and smart cities and the other one, chaired by the Corallia Cluster, on cultural and creative industries.

On the second day, the 45-strong cluster delegation gathered at the 82nd Thessaloniki International Fair to engage in C2C (cluster-to-cluster) meetings thanks to the support of the EEN Hellas and their partners PRAXI and SBBE.

Over 133 meetings were scheduled. The morning session closed with an interactive debriefing exchange with the participants and was animated by Christophe Guichard, Policy Officer at DG GROWTH, and by Marc Pattinson, coordinator of the ECCP. Feedback from the participants highlighted the usefulness of combining policy and learning opportunities with C2C activities as well as C2B with businesses from the Fair.

More information about the event is available [here](#).



Participants at the numerous C2C meetings in Thessaloniki, Greece

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A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE EU-THAILAND CLUSTER COOPERATION AND MATCHMAKING EVENT, BANGKOK, 6-8 September 2017

A European cluster delegation composed of 9 cluster organisations related to the medical and healthcare sectors attended the EU-Thailand Cluster Cooperation and Matchmaking Event in Bangkok. The event was organised by the ECCP in collaboration with the Innovation and Technology Assistance Program (ITAP) under the [Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency \(NSTDA\)](#). The agenda included several activities that allowed the EU cluster delegation to gain an understanding of the Thai medical and healthcare market, as well as to establish contacts with public and private key players. In total about 55 meetings between European and Thai organisations were conducted (an average of 6 meetings per European participant).



For more details on the event please read [here](#).

EU4SPORTSCLUSTERS ALLIANCE SEEKS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Within the **EU4SportsClusters Alliance** project, the European Strategic Sport Clusters Partnership is organising a **trade mission to the United States** in September, where around **26 representatives from 22 companies and European organisations**. The promising economic data have made the EU4SportsClusters Alliance project to organize a mission to the United States between **16th and 23rd September 2017**. Specifically, the delegation will stop at **Ogden-Salt Lake City and Las Vegas**, coinciding with **Interbike**, the most important cycling fair in the world held in the capital of Nevada. Apart from the visit to the fair, the mission will include a **study tour, bilateral interviews with local companies** - up to 12 each participant - and a follow-up service after the trip.



This internationalization action seeks to promote business opportunities for outdoor sports companies and entities, **cycling, sports tourism, events, technology and skiing**.

Read more [here](#).

ECCP's interaction and support with the members

The ECCP cares about providing the community of cluster organisations the best service based on their needs. For this, several user satisfaction surveys are regularly undertaken and the valuable feedback is considered to further develop accordingly. The survey of June 2017 had a response quote of more than 50% (299 out of 592 profiled clusters).

As regards international cooperation interests, 87% of the surveyed clusters target cooperation with countries beyond European Union, while only 34% of them already collaborate effectively with international partners. This shows the need and importance to reinforce international cluster cooperation activities.

Read more about the [user satisfaction analysis](#).

More content, more visibility for the presentation of cluster organisations and their projects

With almost 5000 persons subscribed to the ECCP's weekly digest/newsletter, with the largest pool of news and events related to clusters, with a unique gathering of profiles of EU-funded cluster projects from various programmes (that will be further enlarged in the future), ECCP is the one-stop-shop for the cluster community.

Join us (sign up for the weekly digest, profile your cluster), use our [Partner Search](#) facility, let us help you make your [achievements](#) visible and use the knowledge/contacts/opportunities provided by the platform for the benefit of the cluster members!

With more than 660 profiles of cluster organisations published, ECCP earns its positioning as the worlds biggest community of cluster organisations. Both in Europe and beyond. We welcome now the first clusters from Colombia and Morocco that recently joined us.

The ECCP poll initiated to see if cluster organisations support entrepreneurship shows very encouraging results: out of almost 210 answers, 93% cluster organisations confirm their support of entrepreneurship!

Dialogue with users

Natasha Sivevska, from the TTA Textile Cluster of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) :

"I thought I would only meet clusters from the textile sector but my meetings during the ECCP Thessaloniki Match-making mission allowed me to explore several cross sectoral themes that I had not previously considered such as clusters in the circular economy field, ecology and waste management. I hope these contacts will open new opportunities for companies in our cluster."



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