



### Latest news



### “Clusters Go International” Partnering Event 2018 – sharing experiences to boost SME internationalisation

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, DG GROW of the European Commission has officially launched the 23 newly established “[European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International](#)” (ESCP-4i) for the period 2018-2019 and organised, in the context of the [Second European Industry Day](#), a major “Clusters Go International” partnering event gathering the new and previously established cluster partnerships to share experiences on boosting SME internationalisation.

The Partnering Event gathered over 100 cluster representatives and was a major opportunity for the 23 new EU Cluster Partnerships to learn from the [1<sup>st</sup> generation of EU Cluster Partnerships \(2016-2017\)](#) that worked on developing and implementing joint internationalisation strategies for the benefit of their SME members over the last two years.

[Read more](#)

### European Cluster Matchmaking Event 2018: new opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation



With **over 525 bilateral meetings** between European Clusters, the ECCP Matchmaking Event has clearly met the expectations of the **130 participating cluster organisations from 22 countries**. These clusters represent more than 10.000 SMEs in Europe that will benefit from the contacts and the concrete cooperation initiatives developed during the matchmaking session. For the first time, several EU initiatives supporting business internationalisation and SMEs also took part to the event to present their services to clusters organisations.

[Read more](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS



[Opportunity for leading European Healthcare & Medical Technologies](#)

28 August 2018



[EU - Asia Gateway 2018](#)

16 May 2018



[ESTC Conference in Dresden](#)

18 September 2018

### OPEN CALLS

[EIT's 2018 Call for Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\) Proposals](#)

Deadline 12 July 2018

[Targeted call on renewable energy in 2018](#)

Deadline 31 July 2018

[The Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity is looking for panelists for TCI 2018](#)

Deadline 13 April 2018

### ECCP AT A GLANCE

Watch the video showing why and how 2 Cluster Excellence projects started to collaborate



## First European Cluster Policy Forum sets an agenda for discussions with EU countries

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, representatives of ministries from 25 EU countries met in Brussels during the EU Industry Day. The meeting focused on modern cluster policies, notably, better use of clusters for driving industrial change and growth.

[Read more](#)



## GROW your REGION conference in Valencia: 300 participants co-create inspiring future cluster initiatives

315 stakeholders from 25 countries shared their experiences and ideas about future actions for 'Boosting smart interregional collaboration through clusters'. This led to ideas for 19 topics for future initiatives to boost strategic interregional collaboration.

[Read more](#)



## Upcoming ECCP matchmaking events

### EU-Ukraine Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event

In the context of the **High Level Industrial Dialogue between the EU and Ukraine**, PwC organises in close collaboration with the ECCP, on behalf of the European Commission, an **EU-Ukraine Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event** on 27-28 March 2018 in Kiev, Ukraine.

[Read more](#)



### EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event 4-6 June 2018

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), in collaboration with [Taiwan External Trade Development Council](#) (TAITRA), the [Chinese National Federation of Industries](#) (CNFI) and the [Bureau of Foreign Trade](#) (BoFT) - Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), will organise an EU-Taiwan Cluster Cooperation and Matchmaking Event from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 in Taipei (Taiwan). The overall objective of the event is to provide EU clusters access to the Taiwanese market through close cooperation with local-based organisations. The mission will take place in the context of the European Innovation Week (4-7 June 2018) and [COMPUTEX TAIPEI](#) tradeshow (5-8 June 2018).

[Read more](#)



Visit regularly our [save-the-date section](#) to stay updated on our next matchmaking events!

## Cluster achievements

We congratulate [KLASTER POL-JOMEHANIZACIJE d.o.o.](#) (Agricultural Equipment Cluster Ltd.) managed by Željko Erkapi for the award and recognition for the development of entrepreneurship in Central and South-Eastern Europe “CREATORS FOR THE CENTURIES”.

[Read more](#)



## European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Go International

### EACP ABROAD signs cooperation agreement with Dubai South cluster

As part of the activities of the partnership, EACP-ABROAD continues creating a global network of aerospace clusters. On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, during the Dubai airshow, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Dubai South cluster that runs most of the aerospace activities around the new Al Maktoum International Airport.

[Read more](#)



### The European Cleantech Internationalisation Initiative (EC2i) organises and invites to US Matchmaking Events in conjunction with the Smart Cities Conference in New York on 7-10 May 2018

The event represents a great opportunity for European companies to meet American project owners, corporate buyers and other partners within the field of Smart City & Digitalisation, Green Energy, Energy Efficiency and Smart Grids, Waste Management & Recycling, Resource Management (Water, Air, Soil).

[Read more](#)

### The LASER-GO mission to New Zealand and Australia creates the prospects for global alliances

In 2018 the LASER-GO Global partnership kick-started its activities with a mission to New Zealand and Australia. In February a delegation from the consortium visited Auckland, Dunedin and Melbourne where a number of meetings with public officials, company representatives and university leaders took place resulting in the mission which has been the most successful to-date in terms of leads and contacts.

[Read more](#)



## ECCP achievements

### The European Cluster Collaboration Platform showcased at the World Trade Organisation

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) was presented at [the workshop on “How to support MSMEs: sharing of national, regional and multilateral experiences”](#) taking place at the World Trade Organisation on 31 October 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to share national, regional and multilateral experiences in supporting the integration of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into international trade.

[Read more](#)

## News for the cluster community



### The role of clusters and partnerships for stronger EU/global value chains

**Bianca Dragomir, Cluster Manager of AVAESSEN and European Cluster Manager of the Year 2016** held the keynote speech during the workshop on clusters and partnerships for stronger EU value chains during the **EU Industry Day** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018:

“Clusters offer solutions to test our ways into the future, the possibility of experimentation and of scaling up new innovations. Clusters are brokers of innovation, impact multipliers and the ideal tools for regions to accelerate their transition. Clusters are the spark plugs of Europe’s industrial modernisation!”

[Read more](#)

### The first ECCP Webinar on the funding mix for cluster organisations

Last December we launched our ECCP Expert Talks Webinar series and the first guest speaker was Gerd Meier zu Köcker, Founder of the [European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis](#). He spoke about sustainable funding for cluster initiatives and his presentation was followed by vivid discussions with more than 50 registered participants. Read a short summary or listen to the webinar [here](#). We are always open to hear about your interest in themes you wish to learn more about or discuss with peers – simply write us at [contact@clustercollaboration.eu](mailto:contact@clustercollaboration.eu).

### Thank you for your feedback!

We would like to say a big thank you to the hundreds of profiled cluster organisations participating at the latest ECCP user survey and we share [the executive summary of the survey analysis](#). We appreciate at every moment your feedback, so do not hesitate to let us have your ideas, needs, suggestions for improvement at [contact@clustercollaboration.eu](mailto:contact@clustercollaboration.eu).

### Last minute news

Many clusters are involved in projects under the [S3 Thematic Platform for Industrialisation](#) and [Interreg Europe](#) programmes supporting innovation-led interregional cooperation. These different groups will meet to exchange experiences in Rovaniemi, Finland on the 11th April and discuss possible synergies and complementarities. We invite them to profile on the ECCP and share more about their cluster-related activities.

## Cluster Organisations

From March 2016 – March 2018, ECCP grew to host around 800 cluster organisations profiles, out of which more than 50 are from non EU/ COSME countries. We invite all to use their profile to upload news, events and achievements to increase their international visibility. Our ECCP Weekly Digest brings this content to more than 5000 readers every week. Tip: try to tell your story via video instead of text ([see here](#) an inspiring example).

## ECCP Tools

We re-designed the section “[European Cluster Initiatives](#)”, now hosting a unique database of cluster-related projects: all [INNOSUP projects](#) funded under the H2020-INNOSUP programme or the [Cluster Excellence projects](#) under the COSME programme or various other [cluster-related projects](#) funded in other European programmes. We not only bring to your fingertips the profiles, but also the content these projects want to share with the wider cluster community – be it [news](#) (including documents, media, etc) or [events](#). If you have a user account just click on „Create project profile“ and join the new cluster projects community for more visibility!

### Dialogue with users

**Jon Mitxelena**, GAIA Cluster (Basque Country, Spain)

*“This was the first time that I took part to a ECCP Cluster Matchmaking event. I had great meetings with several cluster organisations that allowed me to strengthen the links with some organisations I already knew and to meet new ones. It is a real chance to explore opportunities to elaborate joint proposals for upcoming EU calls, such as INNOSUP.”*



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