



Latest news



The 2018 EU-Ukraine Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event in Kyiv

In the context of the High Level Industrial Dialogue between the EU and Ukraine, Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) organised the [EU-Ukraine Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event on 27-28 March 2018 in Kyiv](#).

The Matchmaking Event gathered representatives of over 50 cluster organisations from Ukraine and other 12 COSME countries (Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, Spain, Ireland, Poland and Hungary) for cross-sectorial meetings in the field of Information Technology, Agro/Food, Eco-energy and Building and Construction, Transport and Logistics, and Textile. The cluster organisations managed to strike up for more than 90 successful matchmaking meetings and received practical advice on how to successfully implement cross-border and cross-sector collaborations.

New agreement paves the way for European and Korean clusters to collaborate

On 23 May 2018 in Brussels, a new [administrative arrangement](#) was signed between The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and The Korea Industrial Complex Corporation (KICOX) of the Republic of Korea and The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission. Clusters working together can be stronger together and accelerate the potential of cooperation between SMEs from both sides.



Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



[Horizon 2020 Energy Brokerage Event on Energy Systems and SCC](#)

5 October 2018



[New EU-funded opportunity for green energy companies in Korea](#)

21-25 January 2019



[New EU-funded mission in Healthcare & Medical Technologies to Japan](#)

17-21 March 2019

OPEN CALLS

[EUREKA-Globalstars Brazil: Call for Projects](#)

Deadline 31 October 2018

[COSME call: co-financing of consortia for public procurement of innovation](#)

Deadline 11 December 2018

[LIFE 2018 : Action Grants to finance "Integrated Projects"](#)

Deadline 14 March 2019

ECCP AT A GLANCE



Watch the video showing how collaboration was initiated between a Ukrainian and a Hungarian cluster organisation, thanks to the EAP+ grant scheme and ECCP services.

EU – Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event 2018 in the context of the European Innovation Week and COMPUTEX TAIPEI Taipei (Taiwan), 4-6 June 2018

This EU-Taiwan event organised by the ECCP in cooperation with the Chinese National Federation of Industries and TAITRA, among other European and Taiwanese authorities built upon the successful results of the previous two editions (Taipei, June 2016 and Brussels, June 2017). In this context, 16 representatives of European cluster organisations in different fields (circular economy, smart manufacturing, smart cities & smart mobility, ICT and renewable energy) participated in the different activities, which included technical seminars, matchmaking meetings, site visits and more. The European cluster delegates had some 60 formal meetings in addition to less formal interactions that took place through various networking activities included in the agenda. The Signing Ceremony of the Administrative Arrangement on Cluster Cooperation between the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and DG GROW of the European Commission, took place on 6 June 2018. This is a great achievement to boost the cooperation activities between clusters in Europe and Taiwan, which will ensure the continuation of cooperation actions.



Read more [here](#).

The “BOND Spain Cluster” brand was successfully launched

The Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness successfully launched the “Bond Spain Cluster” brand to promote innovative clusters on 22 May 2018 in Madrid. The new label of the Agrupaciones Empresariales Innovadoras (innovative clusters) has been created with the clear objective of promoting a national and international recognition of these associations and their excellence.



Read more [here](#).

On June 21, 2018 the French Prime Minister presented in Metz the main orientations of the Government's Innovation policy and announced the launch of the phase IV of the competitiveness clusters. Read the full text [here](#)

Upcoming ECCP matchmaking events

EU-Korea Cluster Matchmaking Event in Vienna/Austria on 6-8 November 2018

The European Cluster Cooperation Platform organises a Cluster Matchmaking Event within the context of the European Utility Week on 6-8 November 2018 with a delegation from Korea to the EU, as well as opportunities for Intra-European matchmaking. The aim is to allow cluster organisations for information exchange and networking opportunities with counterparts from Korea and in parallel to present a platform for exchange among European cluster organisations. Deadline for application: 14 September 2018.



Read more [here](#).

EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event in Zagreb/Croatia on 22-23 November 2018

Following the establishment of long-term partnerships of the European Commission with the [Western Balkans](#), PwC organises in close collaboration with the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, on behalf of the European Commission, an EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking Event on 22-23 November 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia.



The EU-Western Balkans cluster policy and matchmaking event is set up to support clusters as networking support organisations especially for SMEs, in their mission to open up new markets, to collaborate on cross-sectorial level and provide first relevant contacts to their members. The event represents a unique opportunity for European and Western Balkan clusters to explore common areas of interest for cooperation and build complementarities in terms of sectoral, value chain and market focus. Deadline for application 14 September 2018.

Read more [here](#).

Cluster achievements

We are launching a new feature of the ECCP: *special interviews with cluster managers* showing outstanding results in their sector/region/country.

AVAESSEN: European clusters are called to move away from being “clusters-as-usual” to becoming “clusters of change”

In her interview, Bianca Dragomir, cluster manager of [AVAESSEN](#) and European Cluster Manager of the Year 2016-2018 challenges, inspires and leads by example the European clusters to “move beyond traditional models towards fresh, bold, dynamic and truly innovative ecosystems”.

Read the full article [here](#)



GENOPOLE: A cluster organisation with a heart beating for start-ups and scale-ups

Anne Jouvenceau, Deputy Director of the French [Genopole](#) cluster shares with us the ingredients of the „secret formula“ behind the success of her cluster.

Read the whole interview [here](#).



European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Go International

LASER-GO mission to Canada results in two MoUs signed

In June 2018, the [LASER-GO Global partnership](#) continued its incredible journey and went to the province of Quebec in Canada. An institutional delegation from the consortium led by [LITEK](#) visited the cities of Montreal and Quebec where a large number of meetings, on-site visits and tradeshows were organised with actors from both photonics and biomedical fields : company representatives, public officials, universities, researchers and clusters of the Canadian ecosystems.

Read more [here](#).



bioXclusters' SMEs will benefit from a Strategic entry point to South Korean Health Market through the Incheon Bio Gateway - IFEZ: Incheon Free Economic Zone

The 4 Clusters' Representatives from [bioXclusters](#) (first wave of [European Strategic Cluster Partnerships Going International](#)) and the Incheon Bio Gateway (IFEZ) organization signed a Gateway Agreement to offer free services and guidance for SMEs in their operations in South Korea. IFEZ organization is fully dedicated to build global top Bio Hub whereby multinational companies and professionals are moving and growing. Its strategy to achieve global bio hub is extending its business area from Biopharma to such as big data healthcare, medical and AI together with setting up infrastructures to support them.

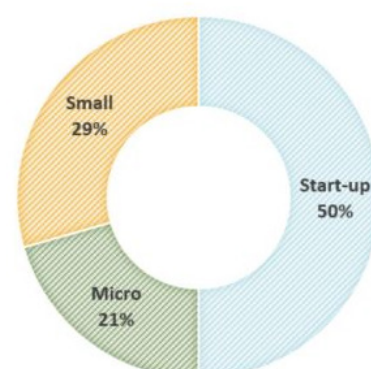
Read more [here](#).



34 European Companies selected for MobiGoIn-Action Acceleration Program for USA-Canada

[MobiGoIn-Action](#) selected 34 Companies to participate in MobiGoIn-Action Acceleration Program for USA and Canada, which consists in training and coaching activities aimed at preparing the companies to approach the Automotive and Smart City markets in USA and Canada. These European SMEs and start-ups were selected from the first open call of the project: Call for Interest 1: Acceleration Program for USA and Canada, and are the first members of MobiGoIn Network.

Read more [here](#).



EC2i Matchmaking mission in New York City

On 7 May 2018, the [EC2i](#) clusters from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, and Sweden organised the first matchmaking mission in New York City. This happened in collaboration with Brooklyn-based Urban Future Lab during the Smart Cities week. More than 17 companies as well as a number of Finnish companies held B2B talks with companies, consultants and utilities from the American cleantech sector with a clear objective of identifying business opportunities. The next step for EC2i will be a [matchmaking mission](#) in Nanjing/Shanghai in China in mid-November 2018.

Read more [here](#)



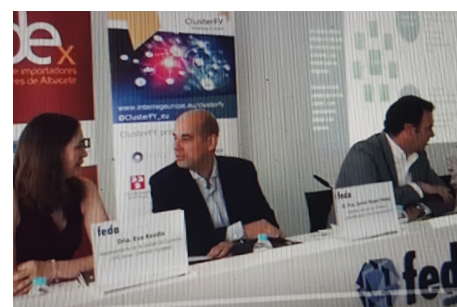
News from and for the cluster community

Supporting cluster development in the region of Castilla-La Mancha

On 9 July 2018 the regional government Junta de Castilla-La Mancha and the Institute of External Promotion IPEX organised in Albacete an event dedicated to the encouragement of cluster development in the region, including the support for SME internationalisation through clusters.

The event was hosted by FEDA, the Federation of Entrepreneurs from Albacete. Among the speakers there were cluster managers of both new and consolidated cluster organisations, directors of technology parks and technical centres, representatives of the University of Castilla-La Mancha, representatives of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the director of the regional Institute of External Promotion, representatives of the regional government and of the European Commission.

Read more [here](#).



WIRE 2018 – Session hosted by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and the INTERREG Europe project CLUSTERIX 2.0

On 5 July 2018, a session on “Cluster Transforming Technologies and New Business Models” hosted by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and the INTERREG Europe project [CLUSTERIX 2.0](#) at the [WIRE-Conference 2018](#) took place.

The discussions between cluster managers and cluster policy-makers addressed the fact that pioneering technologies and disruptive innovation have a strong influence on traditional industry sectors and the development of new business models. And that cross-sectoral activities between European clusters may stimulate the transformation of industries and bring forth new products and services.

Read more [here](#).



Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform event dedicated to clusters

The “Clusters as drivers of regional innovation, SME competitiveness and interregional cooperation” workshop was organized by the Policy Learning Platform of the Interreg Europe programme at the Flemish Administrative Centre in Leuven, Belgium on 20 June 2018. The Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms were established in order to boost EU-wide policy learning and capitalisation on practices from regional development policies to further support policies development related to clusters in European regions.

Read more (including the presentations) [here](#) and do not miss the [video](#) of the conference!





Towards cluster collaboration between EU – Eastern Partnership countries

On 11-12 July 2018 Tbilisi hosted the workshop “Towards cluster collaboration between EU - Eastern Partnership countries” organised within the [EaP PLUS](#) project. The event was an excellent opportunity for European cluster managers and experts to meet and exchange with colleagues from Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia and Moldova.

The host, Dr. Givi Kochoradze, EC ICT NCP and member of the consortium addressed the welcome to the more than 60 participants and opened the meeting with an introduction to the Georgian cluster landscape and the initiation of activities of the Georgian National Cluster Platform.

Read more [here](#).

Thank you for your feedback!

Our ECCP user survey is still running and each of the more than 850 profiled cluster organisations received the invitation to give us feedback. We would like to say a big thank you in advance and invite those who have not responded yet to do so.



Your answers are extremely valuable for us to understand your needs and further develop the platform.

Additionally, do not hesitate to let us have your ideas, needs, suggestions for improvement at anytime at contact@clustercollaboration.eu.

Cluster Organisations

From March 2016 – September 2018, ECCP grew to host more than 850 cluster organisations profiles, out of which more than 60 are from non EU/ COSME countries. Many of them make good use of their profile to upload news, events and achievements, increasing their international visibility. Follow their example! And don't forget to update your profile regularly – it is your “visit card” in the cluster community!

ECCP Tools

We updated and extended the section [International Cooperation](#), now showing relevant information on cluster development in strategic third countries beyond Europe. We also recently published various discussion papers and policy briefs such as the [Taiwan Discussion Paper](#), the [Colombia Discussion Paper](#) and the [China Preparatory Briefing](#) – we wish you an interesting read.

Dialogue with users

Kinga Kristó, Cluster Manager of Transylvanian Mechanical Engineering Cluster, Romania

“As a newly established cluster, the first step is to be visible. Through ECCP we had the opportunity to participate at several matchmaking events. We already met almost 1000 people who represent or have a relation with clusters. In the past 3 years we invested a lot of our resources in order to have success in the future. It pays off!”



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