



Latest news



The European Cluster Conference 2019  
“[CONNECTING ECOSYSTEMS. Bridge. Inspire. Change](#)” will take place in Bucharest, Romania on 14-16 May 2019

The 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**, bringing together more than **400** expected participants representing regional, national and EU policy-makers, cluster organisations, other SME intermediaries and business network organisations and other stakeholders is now open for [registration](#).

Cluster managers and cluster partnerships (ESCP-4i, ESCP-S3, INNOSUP) interested to have their excellent work recognized at European level can apply for different **Awards of the Year** [here](#). For the first time, participants can contribute to the creation of the agenda of the event by applying to the **call for ideas to be discussed** via the following [link](#).

A large pre-conference **EU cluster matchmaking event** will take place in the morning of 14 May 2019 in collaboration with the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) and the [Enterprise Europe Network](#). You can register for the event [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



[Bulgarian National Cluster Conference 2019](#)

26-27 March 2019



[Annual Conference of the German “go-cluster” Programme](#)

11 April 2019



[EU-funded mission in ICT to Singapore & Thailand](#)

17-22 June 2019

OPEN CALLS

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

Deadline: 23 May 2019

[Interreg Central Europe 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals: Capitalisation through Coordination](#)

Deadline: 5 July 2019

[H2020 - The new call for energy efficiency is open](#)

Deadline: 3 September 2019

ECCP AT A GLANCE



Watch the [showcasing](#) of a new example of collaboration between Polish and Ukrainian clusters.

## The call for proposals for the COSME European Cluster Excellence Programme is open until 4 April 2019 – LAST CHANCE TO APPLY!

The aim is to foster cluster excellence capacity-building and to promote cross-cluster learning in order to help cluster organisations and their members to acquire the necessary skills and take actions to explore and take up new solutions. This shall address training and business needs along the value chain that require SMEs and cluster managers to adapt to trends, challenges and opportunities that come along with industrial change. This shall also include the development of strategic approaches and plans for a better cooperation at regional, national and EU level to address innovation, growth and globalisation challenges that SMEs face.

Read more [here](#).

## Cluster managers share their experiences in making cross-sectorial collaboration work on occasion of EU Industry Days 2019

In order to share some of the experiences from managing cross-sectorial cluster initiatives a panel was organised as part of the [EU Industry Days](#) outreach activities. It took place at the seminar “European SME clusters in the global value chains: the experience from the cluster cooperation partnerships in high-tech and health tech” which was held on 5 February 2019 at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Lithuania to the EU.

Read more [here](#).



## Third European Cluster Policy Forum: improving linkages and synergies in cluster policy

On 15 November 2018, 18 representatives of 15 EU countries met to discuss how clusters and regional and local ecosystems can accelerate entrepreneurship, industrial modernisation and growth and what policies can do to support this process and connections between them. Read more about the themes addressed, outcomes and future agenda [here](#).

## The second newsletter of the European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change (EOCIC)

Following the last edition published in September 2018, the newsletter provides a summary of the outcomes of a number of recent conferences discussing European, national and regional cluster policy, such as the European Cluster Partnerships and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the European Cluster Policy Forum. The newsletter also provides an update on upcoming cluster-related events during the EU Cluster Weeks, most notably the European Cluster Conference. Read more [here](#).



For more information, please contact the EOCIC team at [euclusterobservatory@eocic.eu](mailto:euclusterobservatory@eocic.eu)

## EU CLUSTER WEEKS

### The European Commission launched the very first edition of the EU Cluster Weeks 2018-2019 initiative

The [EU Cluster Weeks initiative](#) aims to increase European participation at cluster events and to raise awareness on the role of clusters and the results they achieve for supporting SME growth, industrial transformation and regional economic development. The campaign is also a learning exercise on cluster challenges and needs for action that will feed into the debates on the next generation of regional, national and EU cluster initiatives. The input gathered throughout the events will be reported upon at the [European Cluster Conference 2019](#) in Bucharest on 14-16 May 2019. So far 35 events registered as part of the initiative, out of which 8 are “anchor” events with strong impact at national and multi-national level.

Read more [here](#).



### PAST EVENTS

#### EU-Korea Cluster Matchmaking Event in Vienna: supporting networking and collaboration among European and Korean clusters

The [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) organised a Cluster Matchmaking Event within the context of the European Utility Week on 7-8 November 2018 with a delegation from Korea to the EU, as well as opportunities for Intra-European matchmaking.



The delegation was composed of 19 clusters covering 14 European and COSME countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine) and 14 organisations from Korea.

Read more [here](#).

#### 2018 EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking event in Zagreb

Organised on 22-23 November 2018 by the European Commission (DG GROW) in the context set by the Communication from the Commission on 'a credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans', the event was facilitated by PwC in collaboration with the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) and was hosted by the Zagreb Innovation Centre.



The cluster policy learning session gathered 10 policy makers from Serbia, Kosovo, North Macedonia and their counterparts from Austria, Croatia and Sweden. 65 cluster organisations from the Western Balkan countries, European Union countries, Ukraine and Turkey participated in the matchmaking part of the event. These clusters represent a large number of enterprises, and more than 4000 SMEs.

Read more [here](#).

#### EU-Taiwan Cluster Matchmaking Event 2019 in Lyon

Organised by the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) in the context of the Global Industries trade show in Lyon on 6-8 March 2019, the event gathered the participation of 23 European clusters, as well as 12 Taiwanese clusters representing different focus areas.



Read more [here](#).

## ECCP Matchmaking events

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### EU-South MED Cluster Matchmaking Event & Tech Days

The [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) (ECCP), in cooperation with [THE NEXT SOCIETY](#) (TNS) and [Logismed 2019 Fair](#) will organise the EU - South MED Cluster Matchmaking Event & TechDays on 9-11 April 2019 in Casablanca, Morocco. The overall objective of the event is to provide EU clusters access to South-Mediterranean markets (including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine\*) through close cooperation with local-based organisations.

Read more [here](#).



#### EU CLUSTER WEEK's main anchor event in the context of the Hanover Fair

The main anchor event of the initiative will take place on 1-2 April 2019 in the context of the Hanover Fair and is organised by the European Commission (DG GROW) in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). It will be a High-Level event focusing on internationalisation opportunities, and more specifically with Canada and the Canadian [Innovation Superclusters Initiative](#), in close cooperation with the Canadian Innovation, Science and Economic Development Ministry (ISED). A call for expression of interest was launched via the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) to enable the participation of European clusters.

Read more [here](#).



**SAVE THE DATE** for the EU-Canada Cluster Matchmaking Event that will be organised by the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#): **5-7 June 2019 in Toronto.**



## ECCP Interviews

We continue our series of ECCP interviews with cluster managers and experts on special achievements and themes. All our interviews are now available on the website [here](#).



#### Interview with Magnus Thure Nilsson, cluster manager Media Evolution, Malmö, region Skåne

Discover the factors behind an amazing growth of the [Media Evolution](#) cluster, the type of services offered and the largest achievements in the last 5 years.

Read more [here](#).



#### Zabeen Hirji explains why inclusion is becoming a competitive imperative in the future of work

Zabeen Hirji, Global Advisor, Future of Work for Deloitte explains the difference between diversity and inclusion, provides five accelerators clusters can use to mobilise diverse talent, and shares some inspiring examples of the benefits that accrue if we do this right.

Read more [here](#).

### Partnering event of 50 European cluster partnerships paves the way for future joint cluster initiatives

Over 100 representatives from cluster organisations across Europe met on 25 October 2018 to exchange experiences and explore linkages with other projects and initiatives. The partnership stories presented by the different projects highlighted their experiences beyond meeting targets.

The participants discussed how to best support SMEs and how to make partnering strategic, sustainable and mutually compatible. This information will feed into the Smart Guide on European Strategic Cluster Partnerships, being prepared by the [European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change](#).



Read more [here](#).

### Boosting the internationalisation of 3.100 European SMEs by four European Strategic Cluster Partnerships (ESCP-4i)

We are always happy to see how collaboration grows beyond its initially set boundaries and warmly congratulate the initiative undertaken by four European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International (ESCP-4i) to join forces for their 20 clusters and 3.100 SMEs:

- [European Cleantech Internationalization Initiative - EC2i](#)
- [Mobility Goes International-in Action - MobiGoIn - Action](#)
- [European Strategic Cluster Partnership for Advanced Smart Packaging - AdPack<sup>2</sup>](#)
- [New Frontiers in Food-Fast Forward - NF4](#)



They recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming to share resources, good practices and lessons learned for boosting the internationalisation and support of innovation uptakes primarily to Chinese and US American markets.

An inspirational example about which you can read more [here](#).

### Partners sign agreement establishing the GEO-ENERGY EUROPE metacluster, with the aim of exporting European geo-energy know-how & technologies to world markets

On 21 January 2019 [POLE AVENIA](#) and six out of its seven partners in the [GEO-ENERGY EUROPE](#) project signed a Partnership Agreement to formalize the creation of the GEO-ENERGY EUROPE metacluster and sustain its life beyond the end of the ongoing project timeframe (2018-2019).



Read more [here](#).

## MobiGoln-Action signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tianjin Beichen Economic and technological Development Zone

The two parties have decided to carry out a strategic cooperation within the activities and goals of MobiGoln-Action, fostering mutual benefit and synergies through friendly consultations and consensus. [MobiGoln-Action](#) will support European Smart Mobility SMEs interested in approaching the Chinese market and the Tianjin Beichen Economic and technological Development Zone will provide advice to the MobiGoln-Action Consortium about relevant policies in Beichen District of Tianjin and will contribute as a communication platform for supporting the investment and development of the enterprises that are interested in approaching the Chinese market.



Read more [here](#).

## IDEEO Success Story: the IDEEO B2B matchmaking event in Matera led to a collaborative project for smart viticulture in Basilicata

ALSIA, Cantina di Venosa and Planetek Italia srl initiated a collaboration project that aims at improving the quality of wine production by classifying the productive areas via the prediction of harvest time based on satellite imaging data.



Read more [here](#).

## NF4 Mission to Canada follow-up - promising partnerships ahead

In October 2018, on behalf of [New Frontiers in Food - Fast Forward](#), [Vitagora](#) coordinated a partnership mission in Canada with the local partner Natural Products Canada, in parallel to the BENEFIQ, the healthy food event organised by INAF (Institut sur la Nutrition et l'Alimentation Fonctionnelle) in Québec.



Looking at results a few weeks later on, the NF4 cohort companies shared great progress with their Canadian counterparts: Business deals under discussion for 2 companies, 2 partnerships under discussion with Saskatchewan organisations, further collaboration with INAF as part of a MoU signed during the mission, 1 new partnership under discussion with INAF, 2 businesses looking at opening a local subsidiary.

Read more [here](#).

## Cluster Organisations

Within 3 years from its launch in April 2016, ECCP had an amazing growth, bringing now together nearly 1000 cluster organisations, out of which around 90% from Europe.

It truly became the main hub of European clusters. Given the increased visibility, it is important to keep your profiles updated.

## ECCP Tools

On 13 September 2018 we organised our 2<sup>nd</sup> ECCP Expert Talk Webinar on the theme “Cluster Marketing and Branding” and we were overwhelmed by the interest of the cluster community: more than 100 people from 30 countries registered to learn. 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 2018 and provided us useful input for the further development of the ECCP. You can read [here](#) the executive summary of the survey analysis.

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).



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