



EUCLUSTERS



An initiative of the European Union



Net-Zero Industry Act:

For clean tech manufactured in Europe

6 March 2024

08:30-09:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Net-Zero Industry Act
Daniel Gerber, *Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission*
3. Panel debate
Janusz Kahl, *Managing Director, South Poland Cleantech Cluster*
Katarzyna Balucka-Debska, *Senior Policy Advisor, EIT Climate-KIC*
Laima Balčiūnė, *Head of Cleantech Cluster Lithuania, CEO of Sunrise Tech Park*
Massimo da Vià, *Senior Policies and Funding Expert, Environment Park, POLO DI INNOVAZIONE – CLEVER*
4. Funding opportunities

Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Register for the European Cluster Conference: 7-8 May 2024

The European Cluster Conference 2024 will take place at the Square, in **Brussels**.

The conference aims to highlight the vital role of clusters in advancing EU industrial priorities. It will address pivotal topics— the **Green Transition**, the **Digital Transition** and **Resilience Building**—providing a deep-dive into key drivers like **skills**, **funding**, and **technology**.

Registration now:

<https://europeanclusterconference2024.eu/>



Matchmaking event within Cluster Conference

As part of the European Cluster Conference 2024, the next ECCP matchmaking event will take place on **8 May 2024**.

This matchmaking event offers participants a dedicated framework to find potential business partners at all stages of the supply chain. They were invited to look for future project partners or specific products or services for their organisation.

The event will take place **physically** during a 4 hours matchmaking session (time TBC) where participants will meet in a **dedicated room of the conference venue**.



Register for Clusters meet Regions in Milan, Italy

In partnership with **AFIL – Lombardy Intelligent Factory Association** and the **Lombardy Regional Authority**, we are hosting the 'Clusters Meet Regions' event in Milan, Italy.

The event will focus on the Twin Transition and will address three main objectives:

- To analyse the policy effectiveness of central-level strategies and their implementation at the local level.
- To focus on the best practices and models by Italian and European regions, including supportive initiatives for the business, industry and research ecosystem, and provide some examples of their impact.
- To provide an opportunity to build networks and projects among participants.



Save the date for Clusters meet Regions in Graz, Austria



Make sure to check out the ECCCP Trend Universe

Our services
The services of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform to support your work

- Clusters Meet Regions**
Join clusters and policymakers in the local, regional, and national level and work on strengthening the industrial ecosystem of regions.
[Explore](#)
- EU Clusters Talks**
Your weekly opportunity to exchange knowledge and discuss topics significant to the EU business community.
[Explore](#)
- EU Clusters Matchmaking Events**
Team up with other cluster organisations from Europe and third countries and find new collaboration opportunities at dedicated matchmaking events.
[Explore](#)
- C2Lab**
Interactive workshops for cluster organisations, companies, and other interested entities to meet up, establish new collaborations and develop project roadmaps.
[Explore](#)
- Cluster Booster Academy**
Join our Cluster Booster Academy, meet other cluster managers and learn how to further develop your cluster and overcome challenges in your daily work!
[Explore](#)
- Green Transition Support**
Connect with other businesses in the green transition, and get practical knowledge, tools and information you need for your work.
[Explore](#)
- Trend Universe**
A strategic foresight instrument which allows you to get a deeper understanding of future trends and their impact on your cluster organisation.
[Explore](#)



Trend Universe

A strategic foresight instrument which allows you to get a deeper understanding of future trends and their impact on your cluster organisation.

[Explore](#)



NEW: Free trial for all ECCCP users with a profile & innovation trends

- **Exclusive trial period:** Access to the TU will be open to all ECCCP users with a profile in March
- **New features:** Trend Universe offers filterable innovation trends for each EU Industrial Ecosystem



The screenshot displays the ECCP Trend Universe interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ECCP logo, the text 'ECCP Trend Universe', and icons for 'Dashboard', 'Radars', 'Compass', a search icon, and a user profile icon labeled 'LG'. The main content area features a grid of six article cards. Each card includes a representative image, a title, a date, a star rating, and a status indicator (AI, UNREAD, or INNOVATION INSIGHTS).

Article Title	Date	Rating	Category
Plastic-free wooden cards: a sustainable alternative to credit cards?	18 Jan 2024	★★★★★	AI UNREAD
Initiative promotes the renaturation of watercourses in industrial forest ownership	18 Jan 2024	★★★★★	INNOVATION INSIGHTS UNREAD
Plant-based energy storage as flexible power storage	17 Jan 2024	★★★★★	INNOVATION INSIGHTS UNREAD
Innovative UV disinfection solution to reduce antibiotic use in poultry and pig farming	16 Jan 2024	★★★★★	AI UNREAD
Construction industry researches CO ₂ -neutral concrete with biochar.	15 Jan 2024	★★★★★	AI UNREAD
Gentle metamorphoses as a path to a vegan diet	13 Jan 2024	★★★★★	INNOVATION INSIGHTS UNREAD



Net-Zero Industry Act

Daniel Gerber

Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission



Net-Zero Industry Act

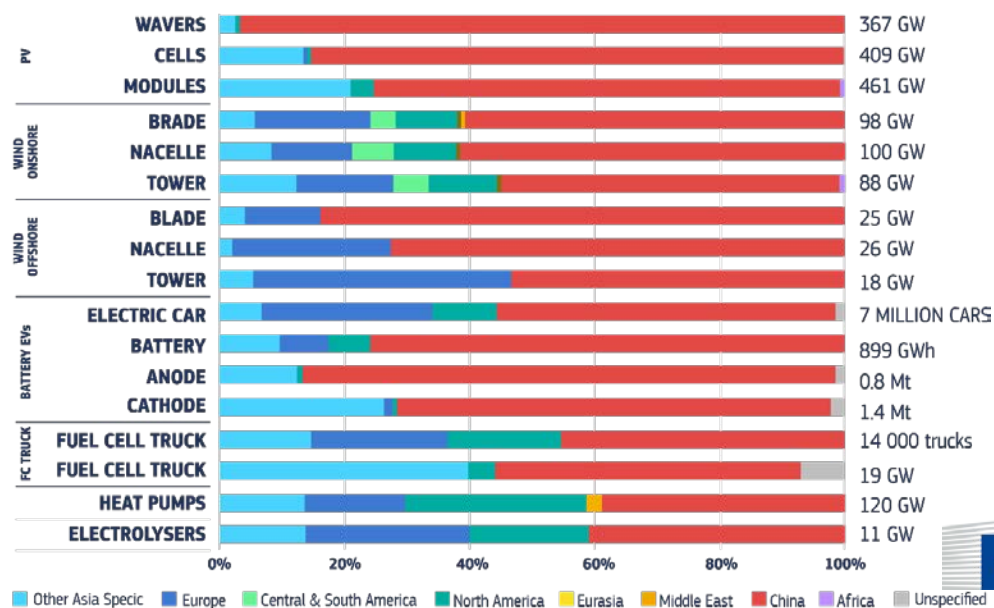
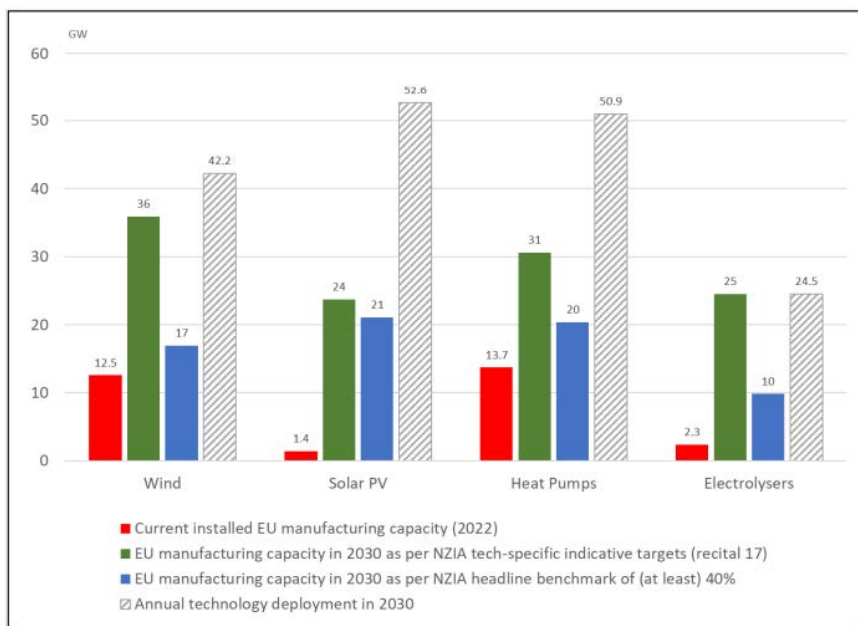
March 2024

Daniel Gerber
DG GROW I.3, European Commission

General objective of NZIA



“ Establishing a regulatory framework to ensure the Union’s access to a secure and sustainable supply of net-zero technologies including by scaling up the manufacturing capacity of net-zero technologies and their supply chains.





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Two political benchmarks

Commission & Member States shall support net-zero manufacturing projects to ensure the reduction of strategic dependencies by reaching a manufacturing capacity of:

- at least **40%** of EU annual deployment needs for the corresponding technologies necessary to achieve the Union’s 2030 climate and energy targets;
- an increased Union’s share for the corresponding technologies in view to reach **15%** of world production by 2040, based on the monitoring in the Act.

To stimulate investment into net-zero technologies, the Act focuses on:

Permitting	Investment	Markets	Skills	Innovation	Governance
Streamlined procedures and transparent information on process	Crowding-in private investments in net-zero strategic projects by Commission and Member States	Sustainability & resilience criteria in auctions, public procurement and public support measures	Skills for quality jobs through Net-Zero Industry Academies	Regulatory Sandboxes to promote innovation and to test innovative net-zero technologies in a controlled environment for a limited amount of time	Net-Zero Europe Platform as a reference body for the Commission to coordinate actions jointly with Member States including international partnerships
One stop shop	Net-Zero Industry Europe Platform to advise on financing of projects	CO2 injection capacity for carbon dioxide capture and storage markets	Credentials for skills transparency, transferability & cross-border mobility		
Predictable deadlines, incl. for gigafactories					

What is in it for Clean Tech Clusters?

Permitting	Investment	Markets	Skills	Innovation	Governance
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Scope (what type of projects are covered)



- 1 list of net-zero technologies.*
- Focus is on manufacturing facilities across full supply chain.
- Either via being listed in Annex or when project promoter can provide proof that product, component or machinery are “primarily used” for net-zero technology.
- Also in scope are energy intensive industry decarbonisation projects, CCS storage sites.

-
- *
 - solar technologies, including: solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric and solar thermal technologies;
 - onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies;
 - battery and energy storage technologies;
 - renewable energy technologies, not covered under the previous categories;
 - heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies;
 - hydrogen technologies, including electrolysers and fuel cells;
 - sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies;
 - carbon capture and storage technologies;
 - electricity grid technologies, including electric charging technologies for transportation and technologies to digitalise the grid;
 - nuclear fission energy technologies, including nuclear fuel cycle technologies;
 - sustainable alternative fuels technologies;
 - hydropower technologies;
 - energy system-related energy efficiency technologies, including heat grid technologies;
 - renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies;
 - biotech climate and energy solutions;
 - transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation not covered under the previous categories;
 - CO2 transport and utilization technologies;
 - wind propulsion and electric propulsion technologies for transportation;
 - nuclear technologies not covered under previous categories.



Permitting



- Covers the **entire permit-granting process**.
- Member States to set up **Single points of contact** within 6 months of entry into force.
- Single point of contact to provide **investment-relevant information** to clean tech projects.
- Authorities obliged to accept documents from project promoters in **electronic** format, including pre-existing and relevant studies, permits or authorisations.
- **Legally binding time-limits** for entire permitting: 9-12 months for strategic projects, 12-18 months for others. Member States shall ensure sufficient staff & expertise for this.
- **Streamlined environmental impact assessments**: scoping study, bundling, consultation.

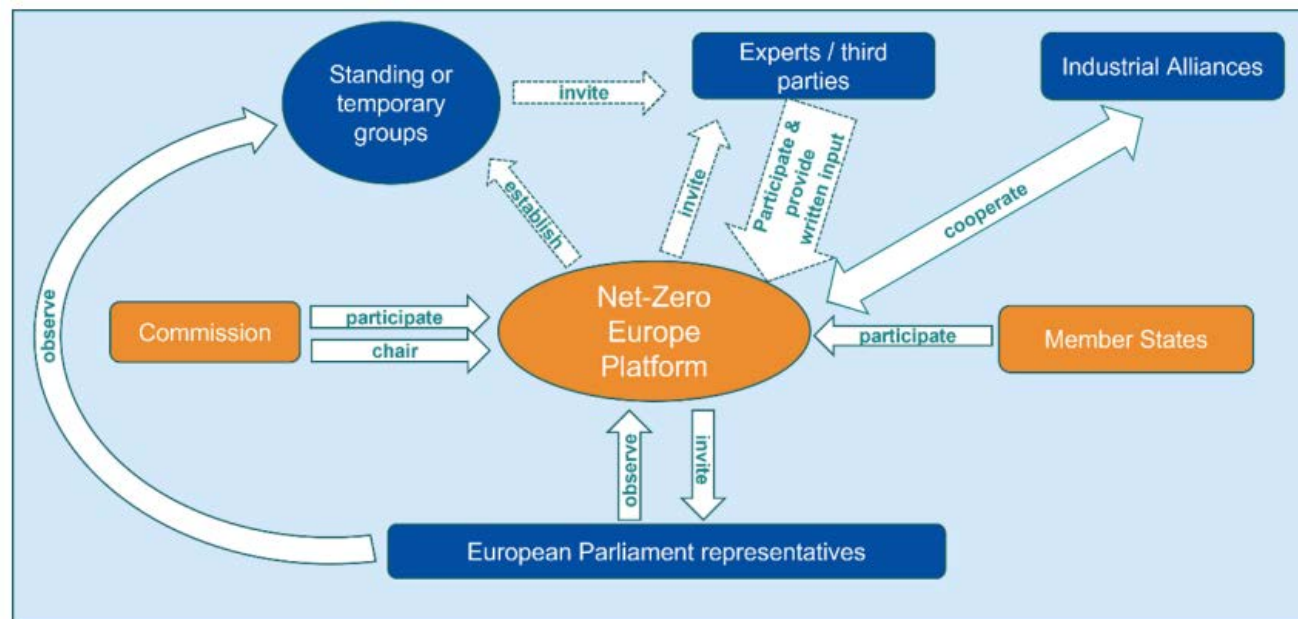
Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys

- Areas to foster net-zero industry clusters and further streamline administrative procedures.
- In the public interest, mandatory SEA, own Spoc & permitting templates, plan setting out concrete measures to increase attractiveness (infrastructure, investments, skills). Public investments may benefit from max co-financing rates under ERDF, CF, JTF and ESF+.

Strategic Projects & NZ Platform



- Selection criteria in NZIA for projects to apply to Member State for **Strategic project** status.
- **Benefits:** Priority status, shorter permitting, discussed in the **Net-Zero Europe Platform** also in relation to providing advice on their financing.



Access to Markets



- New mandatory rules on **Public procurement** to change how authorities procure goods, works and services related to net-zero technologies.
 - Authorities must take into account the **environmental sustainability** contribution, while the **resilience** contribution will be applied if there is a third-country dependence of more than 50% for a specific net-zero technology (or for its components).
 - Where application of the resilience and sustainability contribution result in a disproportionate cost difference or if no suitable tenders submitted, authorities may not apply these criteria.
-
- When Member States design **auctions** for the deployment of renewable energy technologies, they should to apply pre-qualification and award criteria which are not price-related, such as environmental sustainability, contribution to innovation or integration of energy systems.
 - These criteria will have to apply to at least 30% of the volume auctioned every year.

Regulatory Sandboxes & Skills Academies



- If a project/solution is facing regulatory barriers to be implemented, it can require authorities to create a **NZ regulatory sandbox** to get time-limited exemption from the rule in question.
 - Aim is to foster start-ups and innovative technologies, to allow for trials and to see if the regulatory framework can be adjusted.
 - Important tool to support communication and collaboration between innovators and energy regulators or other responsible entities.
-

- Launch of **European Net Zero Industry Academies**, to be based on an assessment of skills shortages in net-zero technology industries and in full respect of Member State competence in the field of education and training. Objectives:
- **Objectives:** to develop and promote the use of learning programmes, content and learning and training materials for training and education for the voluntary use by Member States' education and training providers.

Implementation Timeline



Entry into
Force

June 2024

1st Net-Zero
Europe Platform

Q2/3 2024

NZIA Permitting &
SPOC take effect

January 2025

NZIA Auctions & support
schemes take effect

January 2026

NZIA PP rules take
effect for all contracts

April 2026

Landmarks

References to dates are tentative

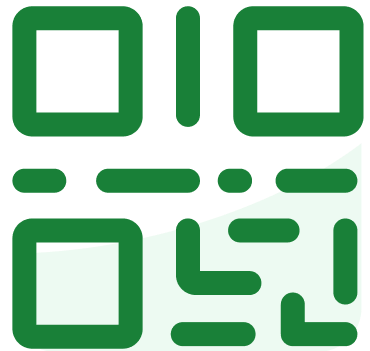
Thank you

Contact

Daniel.Gerber-Corredera@ec.europa.eu
Team Leader – Net Zero Industry act
DG GROW, European Commission

[Net Zero Industry Act - Website](#)

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#CleanTech**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.

slido



How much is clean tech part of your industrial landscape?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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What kinds of clean tech are present in your region?

i Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido



What barriers to clean tech do you see?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Panel debate

Janusz Kahl, Managing Director, South Poland Cleantech Cluster

Katarzyna Balucka-Debska, Senior Policy Advisor, EIT Climate-KIC

Laima Balčiūnė, Head of Cleantech Cluster Lithuania, CEO of Sunrise Tech Park

Massimo da Vià, Senior Policies and Funding Expert, Environment Park,
POLO DI INNOVAZIONE – CLEVER



OSS krk HubRenowacji



One Stop Shop (OSS) krk HubRenowacji for residential building renovation is a project operated by SPCleantech, implemented in cooperation with the Association of Municipalities and Poviats of Małopolska (SGiPM) as part of the EU project **Renowave**, Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

OSS krk HubRenowacji for renovation of residential buildings is a comprehensive service model that integrates various services needed to carry out the process of thermal modernization or renovation of residential buildings via an online platform and Cooperation Forum. This model aims to facilitate and streamline the overall building modernization and repair process for property owners or managers.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EEN Energy Efficiency Action Call

- The call targets SMEs that need support for the **design and implementation of energy efficiency related activities**. By applying to the open call, SMEs will potentially benefit from a 10,000 Euro EENergy grant, in addition to Enterprise Europe Network sustainability advisory services.
- The program will support **at least 1800 SMEs** in developing Action Plans for improving their energy efficiency.
- The EENergy grant is a one-time support mechanism that will be granted to the individual SMEs after the preparation and implementation of a concrete action plan, targeting at least a 5% improvement in energy efficiency.
- To participate in the open call and become eligible to receiving a grant, SMEs must **work with specialised sustainability advisors from the Enterprise Europe Network**.
- Deadline: 15 April 2024
- More info on <https://een.ec.europa.eu/news/call-eenergy-energy-efficiency-grants-10000-euros-open>

Innovation Fund 2023 Net Zero Technologies – General decarbonisation (Small-Scale Projects, Medium-Scale Projects, Large-Scale Projects, Pilots, Manufacturing)

- The objectives of this call are to:
 - support projects demonstrating **highly innovative technologies and processes**
 - offer **financial support** tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible
- Large-/Medium-/Small-scale projects:
 - activities supporting innovation in low-carbon technologies and processes, including environmentally safe carbon capture and utilisation (CCU)
 - including environmentally safe carbon capture and utilisation
 - activities helping the construction and operation of innovative renewable energy and energy storage technologies
- Deadline: 9 April 2024
- INNOVFUND Lump Sum Grant [InnovFund-AG-LS]
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Emerging energy technologies for a climate neutral Europe

- Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:
 - Demonstration of **knowledge and scientific proofs of the technological feasibility** of concepts on high risk/high return (i.e. high technological and economic risks) technologies for transition to climate neutral economy by 2050 and beyond.
 - Assessment of **environmental, social, and economic benefits** to contribute to R&I strategy, as well as the EU climate and energy targets.
 - Contribution to establishing a **solid long-term dependable innovation** in Europe.
- Deadline: 18 April 2024
- HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Action
Topic ID: HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-01-04
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Energy Data Space

- Project results are expected to contribute to:
 - (Technical) **infrastructures** for the common European Energy Data Space covering all the building blocks mentioned above and addressing the identified use cases.
 - Suitable **business models** that ensure the maintenance and upscaling of the common European energy data space beyond the lifetime of the project and the accessibility of the federated data.
 - **Governance** system for the common European energy data space.
 - **Biannual reports** on connections between relevant local and national data ecosystems and initiatives at EU level, as well as with other sectoral data spaces.
 - **Guidance/training documents** to involve stakeholders in sharing data.
 - Once the data space is operational, **regular reports** on usage data and maintenance.
- Deadline: 29 May 2024
- DIGITAL-SIMPLE DIGITAL Simple Grants
Topic ID: DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- CirInWater: Knowledge lump sum is willing to boost SMEs' development or growth by facilitating **access to external training or consultancy services**; meant for an individual SME that is offering **water-smart solutions**, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries; deadline 2 October 2024
- ELBE: Financial Support to individual services for innovative SMEs from the **Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)** sectors, deadline 8 March 2024
- FRIEND CCI: Call for **providers** offering solutions in **digitalisation, greening, and internationalisation** to collaborate with **Creative and Cultural** SMEs for the realization of funded projects; deadline 1 August 2025
- GEMSTONE: Financial support for **training** related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 2024
- INGENIOUS: **Internationalisation** grant for SMEs operating in **energy-intensive industries** to develop activities related to Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2024
- INGENIOUS: **Training** grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 14 February 2025
- PIMAP4Sustainability: Support for **upskilling and reskilling** projects for photonics, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, metalworking and industrial production SMEs; cut-off 30 April 2024

Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- PIMAP4Sustainability: Training/Services open call with three strands: the two first ones will allow European SMEs to pursue **trainings/services** related **to Green Transition and Internationalisation** and the third one - the International mission support scheme - will help SMEs in **attending the PIMAP4Sustainability Japan mission** that will take place in June 2024; cut-offs 10 March 2024; 10 May 2024
- RE-CENTRE: Financial support for participation of SMEs (traditional furniture and living sector, IT sector, and green/circular economy sector) in **B2B meetings** with entities from Mexico or Chile; deadline 31 May 2024
- RESIST: 2nd **Innovation** Open Call for improved technologies and processes in production in the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 12 December 2024
- RESIST: **Networking and marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024
- RESIST: **Internationalisation** FSTP for activities in target markets; deadline 20 December 2024
- RESIST: **Coaching and mentoring** for assessment and feasibility services; deadline 1 November 2024
- SILEO: 1st Open Call for **Advanced Technology Uptake** Projects for **lighting and furniture SMEs**; deadline 12 April 2024
- **All calls here:** <https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls>

Register for the next Talks

20 March

Entrepreneurship in Europe: Cluster support for start-ups and scale-ups

10 April

EU Biotech and Manufacturing Initiative

Continue the discussion



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/>

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THANK YOU

