



An initiative of the European Union

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

MALMÖ

SWEDEN | 15-16
JUNE 2023

CLUSTERS AS BOOSTERS OF INNOVATION
IN INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS



#SingleMarket30



WELCOME





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CAFEIN

CLUSTER ACTION FOR ECOSYSTEM INNOVATION NETWORK

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CAFEIN is funded by the European Commission

Agenda

- Introduction Pôles de Compétitivité and AFPC Landscape
- A European Cluster Landscape : CAFEIN EIE
- International cooperations facilitated by clusters
- Exploring Co-funding opportunities
- Conclusion – Next Step

France - Pôles de compétitivité

A Pôle de compétitivité = large and small companies + research laboratories + educational establishments.

All work together in a specific region to develop synergies and cooperative efforts, and to foster innovative R&D projects.

Other partners may be brought in, such as public authorities, either local or national, as well as firms providing business services (investors).

Created by Governmental decision

- ▶ Cluster policy launched in 2004
- ▶ Operational implementation in 2005
- ▶ Interdepartmental organization in 2005-2006
- ▶ Call for projects based on
 - ▶ Criteria for excellence
 - ▶ Strategic areas for the French economy.
- ▶ Selection of the clusters by an inter-ministerial committee. In first call, 67 projects were awarded the “Pôle de compétitivité” certification label.



▶ 4 stages

- ▶ 2005 - 2008 : Ecosystem creation
- ▶ 2009 - 2012 : Strengthening the innovation and growth ecosystem → Project factory
- ▶ 2013 - 2018 : Focus on the economic benefits and create more value from the collaborative R&D → Product factory
- ▶ 2019 – 2023 : European focus

• All industrial sectors represented

Aeronautics, agri-food, bio-resources, consumer goods, environmental technologies, health, digital, nuclear, transport...

• Local development and attractiveness

All regions are more or less implied (11 clusters in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, only 1 for Reunion Island).

• Governmental support

- FUI calls for proposals dedicated to Pôles de compétitivité R&D projects
- Credits allocated to Pôles de compétitivité operating costs

Key figures and Phase 5 labelling

- **55 pôles de compétitivité**
- **19 000+** companies members (**80% SMEs**)
- **2 000+** training and research centers
- 900+ manpower
- **1 000+ projects** supported every year with « Pôle de Compétitivité » project label
- **3 €** in private funding invested for every **€1 in public funding**

CAFEIN : a European landscape

- Funded by Horizon Europe pillar 3 : European Innovation Ecosystems
- 2 years projects to boost connections between policies, funding and investments
- Through cluster actions

CAFEIN's objective is to prepare a joint long-term action plan to address green and associated industrial transition challenges of SMEs and clusters

The heart of the project lies into an **inclusive and collaborative approach** ensured by the involvement of national clusters' associations and national innovation funding agencies

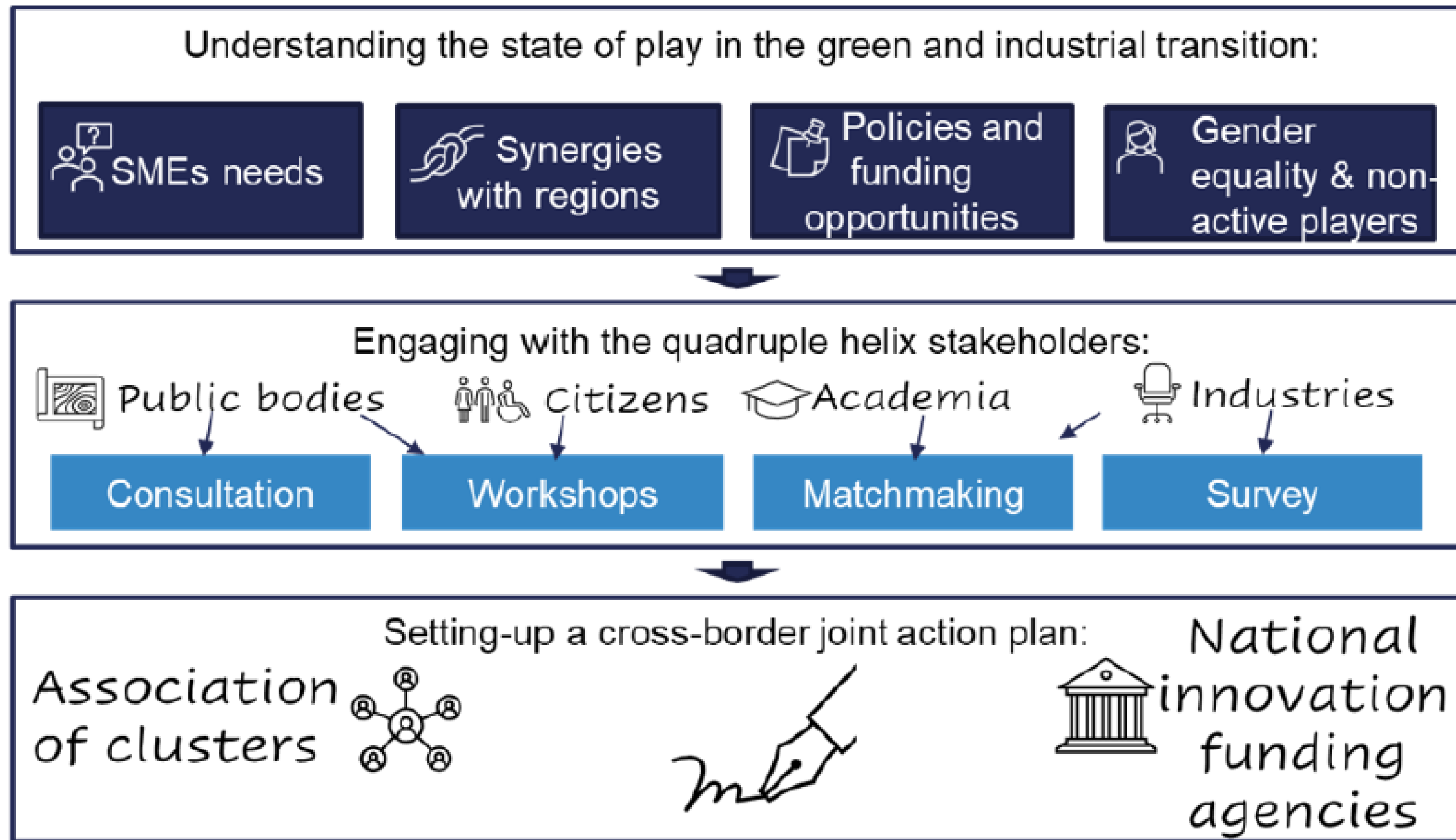
Initial countries involved

CAFEIN's Partners

Associations of clusters and national funding agencies representing the four different innovation levels of the innovation scoreboard (emerging innovators, moderate innovates, strong innovators and innovator leaders) have joint forces in a CAFEIN's Innovation Funding Advisory Board (IAFB)



CAFEIN's concept



A wonderful Team !



First Results

Sharing knowledge about national and regional innovation ecosystems related to green and digital transition policies that go through clusters for the benefit of SMEs.

Our objective was to
 **identify points of convergence and opportunities for future concrete cooperation**

First Results

- Strong alignments on strategic transition policy priorities
 - Of course national diversity
 - Common objectives regarding Green and digital transitions
 - Varying degrees of international cooperations
- ➔ Clusters seen as efficient to reach SMEs at the regional level**

Challenges

- Simplification
- Skills and talents : bottleneck for implementing green and digital transitions
- Funding opportunities : efficiency of cascade funding via clusters (sector focus, critical mass and international cooperations, etc.)
- Improve coordination not only aligning policies but also players and finding best complementarities

Beautifying European Clusters' landscape !

- Engage in dynamic value chain cooperation via I3
- Lobby your regions to support Regional Innovation Valley
- Better utilise existing cooperation instruments
- Encourage Cascade funding across European programmes and at regional and national level !
- Contribute to clusters networks : ECCP, ECA and EUCLES

Just for you !

- Join us in Malaga at EU industry days
- Encourage your innovation funding agency to join our IFAB CAFEIN club
- Suggest cooperation opportunities with your regional ecosystems



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Thank you



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