



EUROPEAN
CLUSTER COLLABORATION
PLATFORM **.eu**

European Cluster Matchmaking Event
in conjunction with the
European Industry Day 2018
Brussels, Belgium

**organised by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform on
behalf of the European Commission and financed under the COSME
Programme¹**

Thursday February 22nd, 2018

Venue

Crowne Plaza Brussels - Le Palace

Rue Gineste 3, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

**Call for
Expression of Interest**

www.clustercollaboration.eu



Objectives

In conjunction with the Second European Industry Day, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) is organising a **large-scale European cluster matchmaking event** on behalf of the European Commission that will be held on **February 22nd, 2018** in Brussels. This will be a unique opportunity for European Clusters to explore common areas of interest for cooperation and build complementarities in terms of sectoral, value chain and market focus. It is an opportunity to find partners, e.g. for joint collaboration for the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships on smart specialisation investments, supported by the ECCP.

This call is published on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform ECCP <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/> . Please, see below for more information on the event, the eligibility criteria and how to register to the event.

¹ EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs 2014-2020

Context

This event is designed to support clusters as internationalisation support organisations for research institutions and companies, notably SMEs, in their mission to open up new markets, to collaborate on cross-sectorial level and provide first relevant contacts to their members.

As part of an approach aimed at promoting international cluster cooperation for the benefit of SMEs, the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission (DG GROWTH) is continuing its support to international and cross-sectorial cluster cooperation through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform including by organising specific cluster matchmaking events. This is carried out in support to cluster organisations in their efforts to develop partnerships and business cooperation in European and global markets, for the benefit of their members, and it is currently funded under the EU COSME Programme.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform provides a visible framework for cluster collaboration and for subsequent events. The ECCP is the cornerstone of the European strategy in support of SME internationalisation through clusters. It provides a wide range of information and services to facilitate the interaction between clusters not only within Europe but also with international partners.

The following sets out a **draft agenda** for the event:

08:00 – 10.00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00	<i>Possibility to watch the opening of the Second European Industry Day on screen in the matchmaking room</i>
10.00	Welcome EASME/ECCP
10.15	Matchmaking session: bilateral sessions in slots of 30 minutes each (25 min. bilateral exchange, 5 min. change of tables).
13.15	Networking Lunch
14.15	Matchmaking sessions bilateral sessions in slots of 30 minutes each <i>(Possibility to attend to the Second European Industry Day workshops to be confirmed)</i>
17.45	End of the matchmaking event

Who can participate?

The Brussels matchmaking event is open to up to 140 clusters and seeks to bring together clusters that:

- Are looking for cross-sectorial collaboration opportunities;
- Wish to establish collaborations for the open call on European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments (ESCP-S3).

The matchmaking event is open to cluster and business network organisations from countries eligible for participating in the COSME programme. All participants must have a valid cluster profile on the ECCP. There is no sector restriction.



Selection criteria

To be selected:

- The cluster or business network organisation shall be registered on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/> with a complete profile;
- The cluster or business network organisation should comply with the definition given in the section 1.3 (s) on 'innovation clusters' in Annex I of the new "EU Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation"¹
- Each cluster or business network organisation has to be involved in offering or channelling cluster or network support services to businesses and should be identified on the basis of a legal entity established in the COSME participating countries.

Participants are encouraged to attend the whole morning session at least and to participate in follow up surveys.

Applications will be reviewed based on the criteria above by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the EASME and the European Commission services.

Cost and expenses

The participation to the event is free of charge and catering is provided during the day. Costs and expenses for travel and accommodation are at the participants' own charge.

Application

To apply for this event, clusters and network organisations are asked to follow the following process:

- Please note that you will need to reply to the call for the matchmaking as a first step and at a later stage register on the Industry Day website separately. The procedure and the relevant link for the Industry day registration will be communicated to you as soon as registration opens and your application to this call is accepted.

³ 2014/C 198/01. According to this definition:

('innovation clusters' means structures or organised groups of independent parties (such as innovative start-ups, small, medium and large enterprises, as well as research and knowledge dissemination organisations, non-for-profit organisations and other related economic actors) designed to stimulate innovative activity by promoting sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to knowledge transfer, networking, information dissemination and collaboration among the undertakings and other organisations in the cluster;)

See at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN) with further information available at http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/modernisation/rdi_framework_en.pdf and

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/horizontal.html, amending the Community Framework (2006/C 323/01 see at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:en:PDF>

a reference of section 5.8 of which was included in the COSME Work Programme regarding the "innovation clusters" definition

- In order to reply to this call, you are asked to express your interest in the matchmaking event by filling out a very short online identification form; [the link to this online form will be provided on the ECCP matchmaking page in early January.](#)

Within this online form you will be asked to provide the link to your ECCP profile.

- Applications are treated on a “first come first serve” basis
- Upon approval of your application, the ECCP will provide you with the access information to a dedicated B2Match website where you are asked to register and set up a participant profile. As indicated in the selection criteria for the morning session priority is given to the matchmaking event.
- Upon validation of your B2Match registration you will be able to schedule individual bilateral meetings with other participants
- In parallel, accepted participants will be asked to provide a one slide presentation of the cluster organization they represent, on the basis of a template that will be provided.

Please make sure to provide complete, accurate data and contact details.

For further information, please contact:

- Clemence Rottee, c.rottee@inno-group.com
And/or Eva Fadil, e.fadil@inno-group.com
Or visit ECCP <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>