

## EU Cluster Matchmaking Event - Mission for Growth to Spain 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, Seville and Merida

*From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, a delegation of 30 cluster representatives from 10 European countries in the fields of aerospace/aeronautics, agri-food, biotech and health, ICT, metal mechanical and renewable energy met in Seville and Merida (Spain) to participate in an EU Cluster Matchmaking Event during the Mission for Growth Spain 2014 (Andalusia and Extremadura). The cluster participants conducted more than 100 meetings that resulted in a number of potential cooperation agreements between clusters.*

The mission was supported by the DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission in the framework of an initiative promoting international cluster cooperation for SMEs, and was organized by a consortium coordinated by Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI).

The event was attended by over 30 cluster participants interested in developing collaborations with other cluster and network organisations from CIP participating countries in order to better support SMEs in a global economy.

The participants represented clusters and SMEs active in the fields of aerospace/aeronautics, agri-food, biotech and health, ICT, metal mechanical and renewable energy from the following countries: Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Turkey.



The first day of the mission took place in Seville in the framework of the Mission for Growth to Andalusia, and was dedicated to thematic visits to clusters and organisations in the fields of Energy and Aerospace. Within the Energy field, participants had the opportunity to interact with representatives from the Soland Center as well as from the

Advanced Technology Centre for Renewable Energies (CTAER). In addition, participants had a guided tour to the Solúcar Platform. Regarding the Aerospace field, participants visited with several leaders of relevant institutions in the sector, such as Aeropolis Technology Park, Center for Advanced Aerospace Technologies (CATEC) and HELICE Cluster, and were able to tour an Airbus Military plant.



In the afternoon, the EU Delegation attended the high-level political conference under the auspices of Ms Susana Díaz Pacheco, President of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, and Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible



for Industry and Entrepreneurship.

The following day took place in Merida in the framework of the Mission for Growth to Extremadura, under the auspices of Mr José Antonio Monago, President of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, and Mr Antonio Tajani.



Both conferences focused primarily on making European companies aware of local business opportunities, covering topics related with the new European Funding instruments for SMEs growth.



The EU Delegation participated in Cluster-to-Cluster (C2C) and Cluster-to-Business (C2B) meetings, where they had the opportunity to discuss potential collaborations and partnerships. The cluster participants conducted more than 100 meetings that resulted in a number of potential cooperation agreements between clusters.

In addition, several collaborative project ideas emerged from the C2C meetings, which may further result in joint proposals for the European Funding instruments, such as Horizon 2020 and COSME.

Overall, the mission was considered a success by the participants as it helped them to establish a first contact with other organisations and to identify cooperation opportunities, both with clusters and companies all over Europe.

For more information about the Mission, please consult: [www.clustercollaboration.eu/spain-2014](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/spain-2014)

