Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Update on EU cluster initiatives

EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking event
Zagreb, 22-23 November 2018

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February 2018: Communication from the Commission on ‘a credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans’

September 2017: **First EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking** event in Thessaloniki

- around **50 clusters** from
- 13 EU Member States
- 4 Western Balkans countries (Serbia, Montenegro, FYROM, Albania).

=> over **133** meetings

**Sectors:** cultural and creative industries, the Circular Economy, mobility, smart city, agrotech and automotive
Today, 22 November 2018 Second EU-Western Balkans Cluster Policy Learning and Matchmaking event in Zagreb

- More than 65 clusters from
- 15 EU Member States/COSME
- 6 Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia).
=> Already more than 150 (and counting) meetings foreseen

**Sectors:** Agro-food, IT, Manufacturing/automotive, Tourism/Maritime, Textile/apparel/footwear, Pharmaceuticals/chemicals, Energy

**Focus:** - cluster policy developments in the EU and in the WBC
- Transnational cluster cooperation
- Clusters in Smart Specialisation Strategies, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre
- Networking, Matchmaking and capacity-building

*The designation of Kosovo is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*
Investing in a smart, innovative & sustainable Industry: A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy

Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions: Strategies for resilient, inclusive & sustainable growth

Europe's next leaders: The Start-up & Scale-up Initiative

EU Policy Framework for Clusters
Calls for proposals

◆ **INNOSUP-1 cluster projects for new industrial value chains**
  - 2019 Call published, deadline 03.04.2019, budget €22.85 Million
  - Initiative aims to support 2,000 SMEs directly by 2020 (total €130 mio)

◆ **European Cluster Excellence Programme 2018**
  - Strengthen cluster management excellence and strategic interregional partnering to foster cluster capacity building and SME competitiveness
  - Call to be published at the beginning of 2019, budget €3.6 million
  - Will introduce a ClusterXchange pilot scheme
Calls for proposals/tenders (2)

◆ EU Clusters Go International
  - To encourage clusters from Europe to intensify collaboration across regions/sectors
  - To foster the development & implementation of cluster international strategies to support SMEs' access to global value-chains
  - Call to be published Q1 2019, budget 8,3 € Million

◆ Renewal of ECCP – European Cluster Collaboration Platform
  ◆ It profiles over 850 clusters for intra-EU and international cooperation
  Merger of:
  - the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)
  - the European Cluster Observatory for Industrial Change, and
  - the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre
  - Call to be published Q1 2019, budget 5,6 Million
European Cluster Partnerships

- European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments
- 9 cluster partnerships started October 2018
- Aim to boost collaboration & investments linked to smart specialisation & industrial modernisation
- €3.1 million (COSME) with 346,000 €/project
- 57 project partners, 19 European countries with more than 4,500 SMEs directly/indirectly benefitting

Partnership event of European Cluster Partnerships (25/10/2018)
- For the first time, 52 European Cluster Partnerships under COSME and Horizon 2020 met (for Going International, Smart Specialisation, Excellence & INNOSUP-1)
- Participatory discussions on supporting SMEs, setting strategic/ sustainable partnering and gathering feed-back on future cluster initiatives
From Partnerships to Initiatives

- SME internationalisation (ESCP-4i)
- Innovation support to SMEs (INNOSUP-1)
- Cluster excellence (ESCP-4x)
- Smart specialisation investments (ESCP-S3)

+ Skills
+ Scaling-up
+ Mobility

Joint Cluster Initiatives
Other cluster-related initiatives

◆ *Commission Expert Group on Clusters*
- Foreseen by Commission Communication on renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy
- Provide recommendations/advice/expertise on how to better use clusters as strategic tool of industrial policy, interregional collaboration & SME support
- Following up the work of the European Cluster Policy Forum
- Member States & experts acting in individual capacity

◆ *Model demonstrator regions in industrial transition*
- Customised advice on modern cluster policy DG GROW & REGIO with EOCIC/OECD
- 12 regions selected
  (Cantabria, Centre Val de Loire, East-North Finland, Grand-Est, Greater Manchester, Hauts-de-France, Lithuania, North-Middle Sweden, Piedmont, Saxony, Slovenia, Wallonia)
- Test and showcase new approaches to industrial transition
- Most study visits completed, policy review meetings ongoing; peer review meeting foreseen in 2019 (Brussels)
National, regional, local cluster events under one European umbrella to:

- **raise awareness** on clusters and on cluster events for cross-border participation
- perform a **listening exercise**: input for future cluster initiatives (including joint cluster initiatives) to be discussed at the European Cluster Conference

**Between 20 November 2018 and 30 April 2019**

**Kick-off events:**
20-22 November 2018: Joint Romania-Hungary cluster conference
26-30 November 2018: Future Week - Denmark
Main anchor event: Hanover Fair, Germany (1-5 April 2019)
More information

EU Cluster Portal:
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cluster/

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships
http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-cluster-partnerships

European Cluster Collaboration Platform
http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/

EU Cluster Weeks
https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-cluster-weeks

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Questions?
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Thank you for your attention!