Meeting of the European Cluster Associations and Networks

26 September 2022, Prague (European Cluster Conference 2022)

This meeting will gather, for the first time, 70+ representatives from European cluster associations and networks, and organisations across Europe to exchange experiences and collect ideas on how EU cluster initiatives can best support the EU actions toward a more green, more digital and more resilient economy.

Representatives from the national cluster associations, including those which are teamed up in the European Cluster Alliance, representatives of the cluster sectoral networks, and officials from the cluster team in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) will join the discussions too.

The additional aim of the event is to build direct contact between different players of the European cluster landscape to be continued through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

A particular focus is placed on three themes:

1. How cluster networks, through the various initiatives supporting clusters at the European level, could better cooperate to effectively support rolling out the updated EU Industrial strategy in particular with the participation of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs)

2. How to coordinate the organisational effort of clusters associated with national organisations and those gathered in the sectoral consortia. Is it possible to build one strong representation linking horizontal and vertical approaches?

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3. How to make the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) a better tool for communication between cluster managers and also how to attract it to the companies, and cluster members?

Agenda

26 September 2022, 9:00 – 12:30 (CET)

Time (CET)	Agenda point
8:30 – 9:00	**Registration at the main venue: O2 Universum, Prague**
9:00 – 9:20	**Openings** ● **Welcome,** Jakub Boratyński, Director Networks & Governance, DG GROW, European Commission ● **Reflections from the European Cluster Alliance**, Antonio Novo, President of the European Cluster Alliance (ECA)
9:20 – 10:20	**Session 1 – part 1: Pitching session (short presentations of National Cluster Associations).** Up to 16 association representatives will make a brief presentation following the same pitching model: 3 minutes - 4 slides (plus an opening slide and closing slide with contacts). Presenters will be divided into 2 panels (2 x 8). Austria: Austrian National Cluster Platform - Herwig Meyer Bulgaria: Bulgarian Clusters Association - Genoveva Christova Czech Republic: National Cluster Association - Jiri Herinek Finland: East and North Finland - Riikka Tanskanen France: AFPC - Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité - Hervé Floch France: France Clusters - Lisa Besnard Germany: go-cluster Germany - Lukas Nögel Hungary: IKOSZ- Denes Bulkai Italy: REI - Reindustria Innovazione - Ilaria Massari Latvia: Latvian Cluster Network - Armands Lejas-Krūmiņš Lithuania: Klaster.lt - Giedrius Bagušinskas Poland: The Polish Clusters Association - Sebastian Rynkiewicz Romania: Clustero - Daniel Cosnita Slovakia: Union of Slovak Clusters - Daniel Ács Spain: Spanish Federation of Clusters - José Ramón Natal Sweden: Clusters of Sweden - Ola Svedin | Carolina Garcés Ukraine: Ukrainian Cluster Alliance - Olga Trofymova Proposed topics for the pitch of the National Cluster Association: 1. How many clusters are located in your country (how many of them are your member), how many companies belong to clusters (rounded to the nearest hundred/thousand) 2. What are the objectives of the national cluster policy and programmes (special programs for clusters, etc.)? What are the challenges to reaching these objectives? In case there is no specific policy to support clusters in your country, how do you lobby the policy-makers to support clusters? And what kind of support it should be? 3. What are the main services/activities of the association?

3	4. Are there any good examples of European cooperation? Please do not make a "description of the project" but the description of the specific activity and its benefits for the individual actors which could be supported by the project.

10:20 – 10:50	**Session 1 – part 2: Presentation of the European cluster and other types of networks and consortia**
	
	Up to 8 representatives will make a 3 minutes presentation using the same structure, with 4 slides (plus an opening slide and closing slide with contacts) – one panel.
	
	CEBR, The Council of European BioRegions asbl - Anais Le Coverc
	EEN Cluster group (Denmark Food Cluster) - Susanne Baden Jørgensen
	ELCA European Lighting Cluster Alliance - Marta Krakowiak
	ELCA European Lightweight Cluster Alliance - Annabelle SION-HENRY
	European Aerospace Cluster Partnership - Niklas Schilling
	European Automotive Cluster Network EACN (Pôle Véhicule du Futur) - Thomas Röhr
	European Mining Platform - Santiago Cuesta & Kristiina Jokelainen
	Silicon Europe - Frank Boesenberg
	TCI Network - Merete Daniel Nielsen
	
	Proposed topics for the pitch:
	
	    1. How many clusters are part of your network, where are they located, and how many companies do they represent?
	
	    2. What are the main activities of your network? In which EU projects (or other kinds of funding – private, national, non-EU, etc.) are you involved? (NOTE: important to map these projects for cooperation and critical mass and sharing of experience entering a certain market)
	       How are EU projects (Horizon Europe, European Cluster Partnerships, Interreg and others)/other kinds of financing and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform helping you to reach your objectives?
	
	    3. What would you need to become the EU "Silicon Valley" in your area of activities?
	
	    4. What else could the EU and in particular the ECCP do to help you consolidate and prepare your sector for future challenges?

10:50 – 11:15	**Networking Coffee**
11:15 – 12:20	<u>Session 2: Needs for cluster cooperation at the national, sectoral and EU level</u> **1. Inspirational speeches: Reflections from the perspective of one of the sectoral platforms and from the National Cluster Associations** Lisa Besnard, France Clusters Jiri Herinek, National Cluster Association CZ *After the coffee break, participants will split into 3 groups, where each group will be led by a rapporteur.* *Inspirational speeches introduce the following 3 topics and outline suggested topics (highlight possible tools, e.g. Booster Academy), which will then be discussed in "discussion islands".* **2. World-café style parallel discussions** followed by a debriefing on three topics: 1. **How to align activities of cluster associations with EU priorities.**

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	How cluster networks could better cooperate to effectively implement the objectives of the EU Industrial strategy (industrial resilience, EU green deal (more efficient use of resources, energy savings, low carbon technologies), digitalisation) in particular with the participation of SMEs? **2. How to make cooperation more effective between cluster associations and networks.** How to coordinate the organisational effort of clusters associated with national organisations and those gathered in the sectoral consortia. (Is it possible to build one strong representation linking horizontal and vertical approaches?) **3. How to make the European Cluster Collaboration Platform work better.** How to make the European Cluster Collaboration Platform a better tool for communication between cluster managers but also how to attract it to the companies, and cluster members? **3. Outcomes of discussions by rapporteurs and open discussion on needs for action and to address topics that were not covered.**
12:20 – 12:30	**Conclusions and next steps** – Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit for Industrial Forum, Alliances and Clusters, DG GROW

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