



**Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs**

European Cluster Policy – using clusters to support European SMEs

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emerging industries**

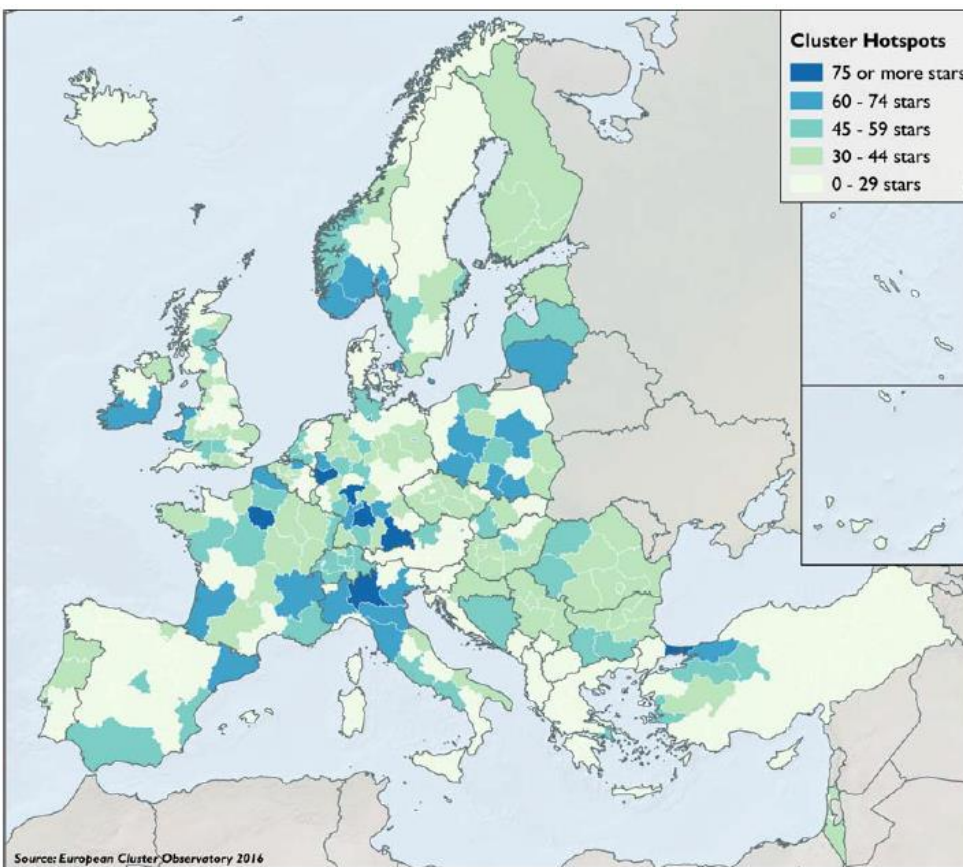
**VASAB Conference on
Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Size Cities,
4 June 2019, Riga**

Why clusters?

- ... Offer a favourable eco-system
- ... Host innovative companies
- ... Reach out to groups of related SMEs
- ... Well positioned as facilitators & bridge-builders
- ... Create strategic partnerships at the level of policy-makers & intermediaries
- ... Channel customised business support services to specific groups of SMEs



Clusters are accelerators of growth & industrial change



Source: European Commission, European Cluster Panorama 2016, star rating for size, specialisation, productivity and growth

3043 strong regional clusters in related industries

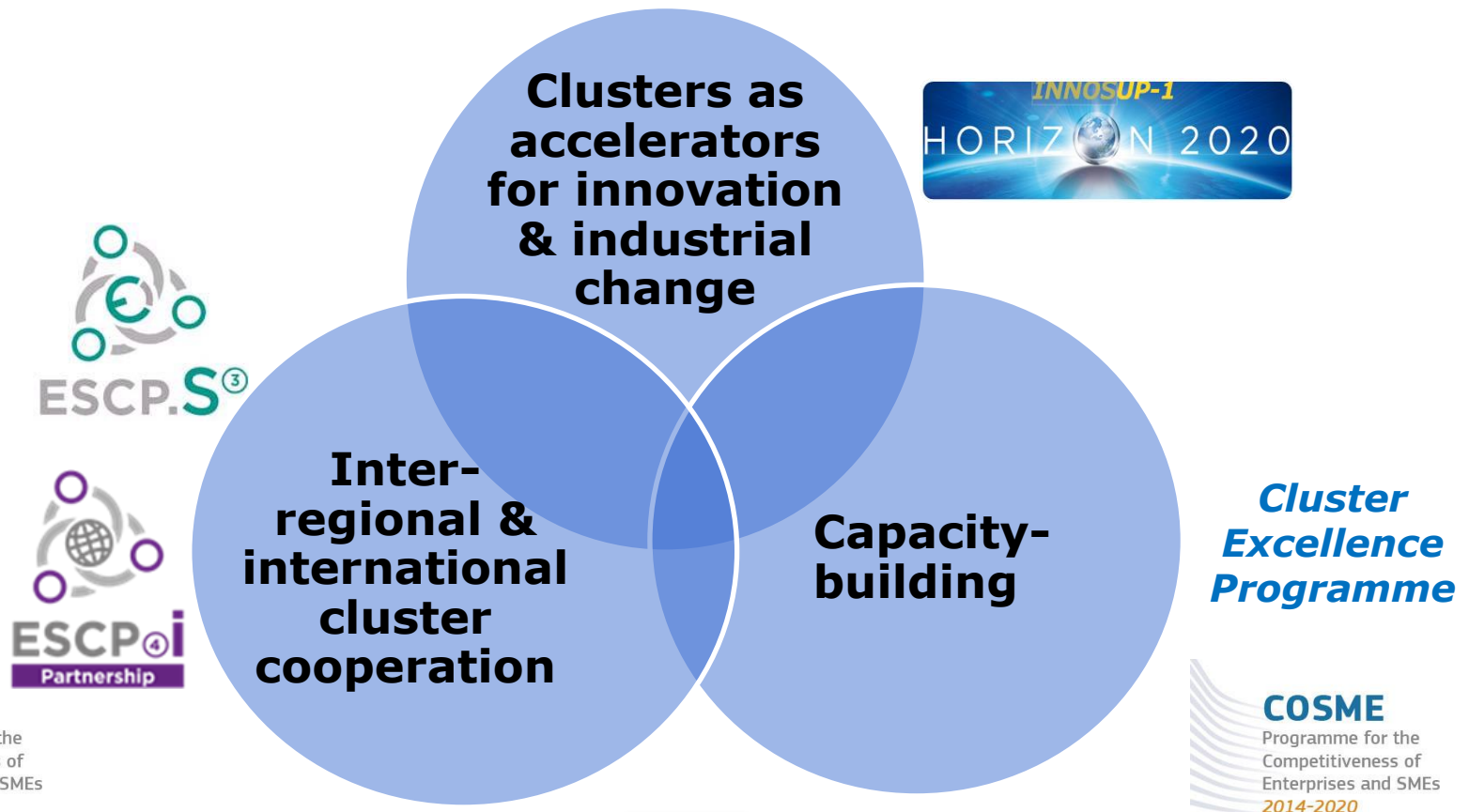
Clusters matter because they...

- account for **54 million jobs**
- are **represented in all parts of Europe**
- have shown **resilience** during economic crises
- **nurture growth and jobs**
- Well positioned as **facilitators & bridge-builders**



EU Cluster Policy

Building bridges across Europe's ecosystems
through 50 European Cluster Partnerships



Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains INNOSUP-1

Supporting cross-sectoral & cross-regional innovation in SMEs



€ 26.2 million
allocated to SMEs in funding and
services

1,747
SMEs
supported

plus **149**
SME-led
consortia

across **36**
countries

covering **27**
out of **28**
EU member
states

and **9** out of
16 H2020
associated
countries

1,457
SMEs received
innovation
support
services

591 SMEs
received
innovation
vouchers

174 SMEs
received funding
for innovation

ACTTiVate

<IMPACT>
CONNECTED CAR

Superbio



PERMIDES



KATANA
CUTTING EDGE TECH IN AGRIBUSINESS



INCluSilver
www.inclusilver.eu



INNOLABS



Cross4Health



Neptune
Blue Growth Accelerator

IOT4INDUSTRY



VIDA
value-added innovation
in food chains



Boosting innovative Digtch Value chains
for Agrofood, forestry and environment
Advancing value chains for agrofood,
forestry and environment with smart tech

C-Voucher

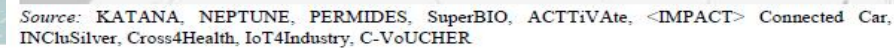
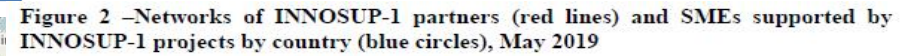




Figure 3 –SMEs supported by INNOSUP-1 and partners delivering INNOSUP-1, by country, May 2019

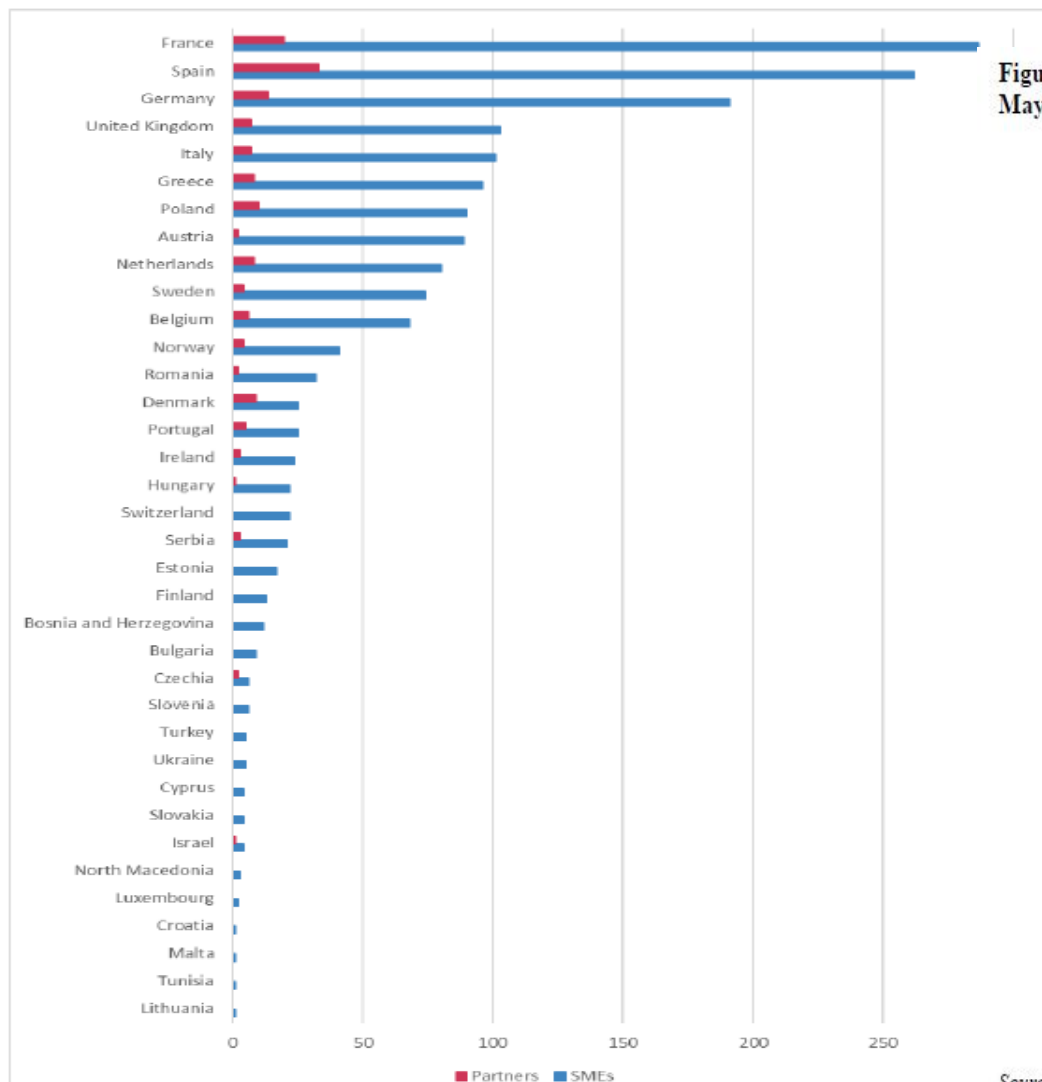


Figure 1 –Countries where SMEs have received INNOSUP-1 innovation support, May 2019

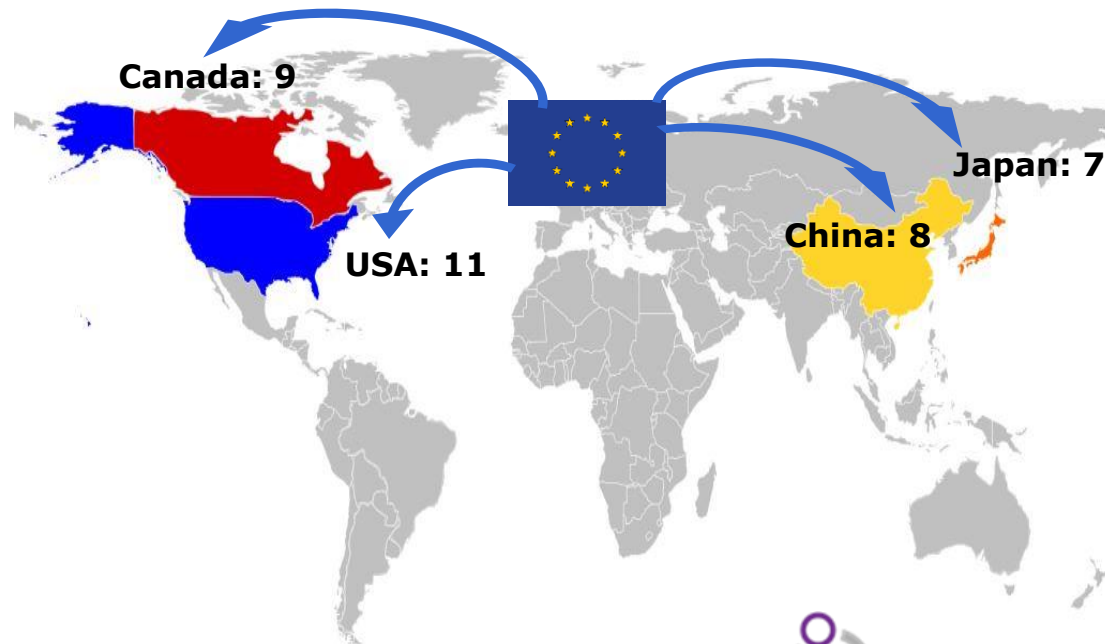


Source: KATANA, NEPTUNE, PERMIDES, SuperBIO, ACTTiVate, <IMPACT> Connected Car, INCluSilver, Cross4Health, IoT4Industry, C-VoUCHER

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Clusters support SMEs Access to Global Value Chains

- **25 EU Cluster Partnerships Going International** (COSME, 7,24 M€)
- **134 cluster organisations** representing over **19,000 SME**
- Implement **joint international strategies** and **support SMEs collaboration** with partners in third Countries
- **International cluster matchmaking events**
4 events in 2019:
 - Lyon, March (**Taiwan**)
 - Casablanca, April (**South MED**)
 - Bucharest, May (**Europe**)
 - Toronto, June (**Canada**)



The future of EU Cluster Policy



Council conclusions on the EU industrial policy strategy

*call for the further development of
the European cluster policy,
with the aim of linking-up and scaling-up
regional clusters into cross-European world-class clusters,
based on smart specialisation principles,
in order to support the emergence
of new value chains across Europe*



12.03.2018



14 March 2019

<https://youtu.be/hoAtGU1casQ>



Commission Expert Groups on Clusters



JOINT ROMANIAN – HUNGARIAN INTERNATIONAL CLUSTER CONFERENCE 2018
- BRIDGING COUNTRIES REACHING EUROPE



romania2019.eu



EU-Canada Cluster Cooperation



Awareness-raising campaign across Europe on the role of clusters & their impact

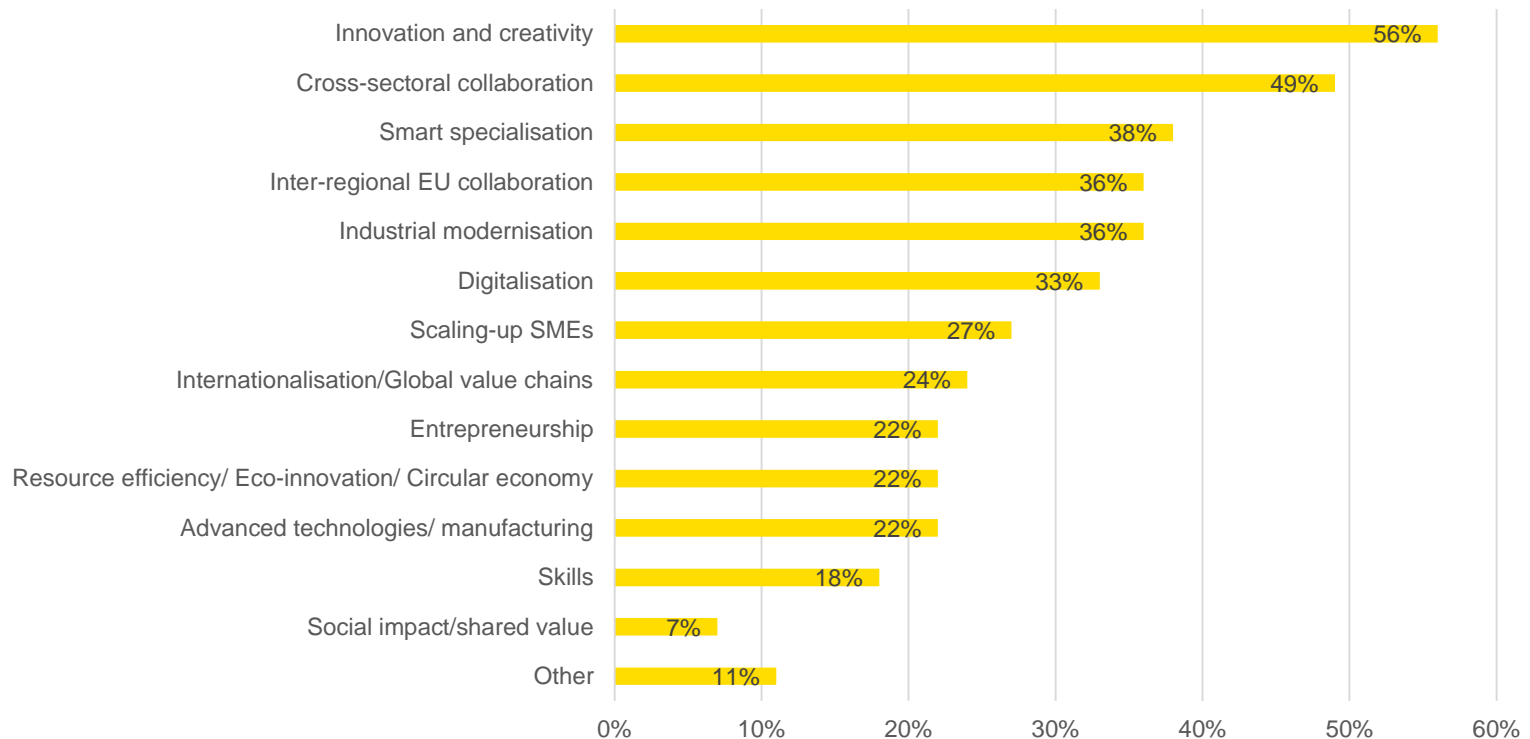
46 events under #EUClusterWeeks November 2018 – April 2019

22 countries, **5,600+** participants

Feedback on common challenges + what needs to be done in the next generation of regional, national + EU cluster initiatives.

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-cluster-weeks>

Event themes



CONFERENCE & MATCHMAKING
EVENT

BALTIC CLUSTER FORUM 2019

March 19th, Kaunas



19 March 2019
Kaunas, Lithuania
200 participants across
12 countries

<https://baltic-cluster-forum-2019.b2match.io/>

The Lithuanian Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology gathered all parties interested in creating international partnerships with clusters and companies in the Baltic region.

Themes:

Innovation + creativity,
Cross-sectoral collaboration and Inter-
regional EU collaboration

CLUSTER COLLABORATION DAY



22 February 2019
Warsaw, Poland
100 participants

<https://bit.ly/2VMJrZL>

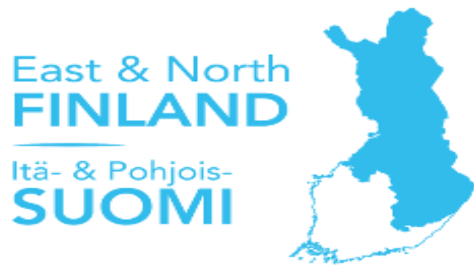


The event - organised by the National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Industrial Development Agency and the Mazovia Development Agency - gathered cluster members and representatives, Horizon 2020 project implementers and representatives of business environment institutions.

Themes:

available funding programs, development of cooperation opportunities (also international), principles of national cluster policy, thematic platforms S3 and increasing the clusters' involvement, presentation of good practices, pitching and networking sessions.

EAST AND NORTH FINLAND IN INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION



**29-30 January
2019**

Kuopio, Finland
150 participants

<https://arcticsmartness.eu/east-and-north-finland-in-industrial-transition>

This event, organised by the Regional Council of Lapland/East and North Finland, launched the new strategy with clusters and ecosystems supporting instrument.

Themes:

Industrial modernisation,
Innovation and creativity,
Digitalisation, Resource Efficiency
/ Eco-innovation / Circular
economy, Smart specialisation,
Scaling-up SMEs, Cross-sectoral
collaboration.

Biggest event

26-30 Nov 2018

**35 activities across
Denmark**

2,500 participants



<http://www.futureweek.dk>

Danish clusters and innovation networks dedicated one week to future solutions with cross-disciplinary events showing the way to the future innovative Denmark.

Themes:

Circular economy, digitalisation, biomarkers, drones, 3D print, robots, cyber security, blockchain, millennials, music and IoT

Testimonials

"Future Week Denmark / EU Cluster Weeks can serve as an important function for companies to find new knowledge, contexts, networks and opportunities. It is also a chance for cluster organisations to show their abilities and to become an important knowledge resource for companies' needs in their future development. The week was an excellent opportunity for Danish cluster organisations to showcase their activities, both for existing and potential member companies, as well as for local and regional politicians and civil servants." Mats Williams, rapporteur of the event

*"Our company (Wevecare APS, Denmark (Welfare Tech Cluster)) is usually engaged in both short and long-term research projects. We understand how to benefit out of cooperative activities both with research organisations and with other companies, especially with crosslinks between companies and organisations. We arrange meetings between companies in our own cluster with an open give and take climate. We try to benefit from the force that cooperative development processes are creating opportunities both for ourselves as for other companies in the cluster organization". **Björn Wennerwald, Founder Wevecare APS, Denmark (Welfare Tech Cluster)***

TCI CLUSTER EVALUATION WORKING GROUP MEETING



14-15 April 2019
Skane, Sweden
35 participants

[http://www.tci-
network.org/evaluation](http://www.tci-network.org/evaluation)

Selected questions explored at the TCI Cluster Evaluation Working Group Meeting, hosted by region Skåne:

How can regional policy-makers find evidence of the roles clusters play in smart specialisation strategies and broad-based regional socioeconomic development?

What are the new approaches for monitoring regional cluster portfolios in different regions?

How are cluster organisations and policy-makers using big data to evaluate their activities?

Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives

Industry-focused actions guided by joint strategies of clusters+other associated **specialised SME support actors**

Thematically targeted for 10-20 industrial specialisations, with **cross-regional+cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs**

Creating business opportunities + accelerating growth by channelling **direct scaling-up support** to groups of SMEs for:



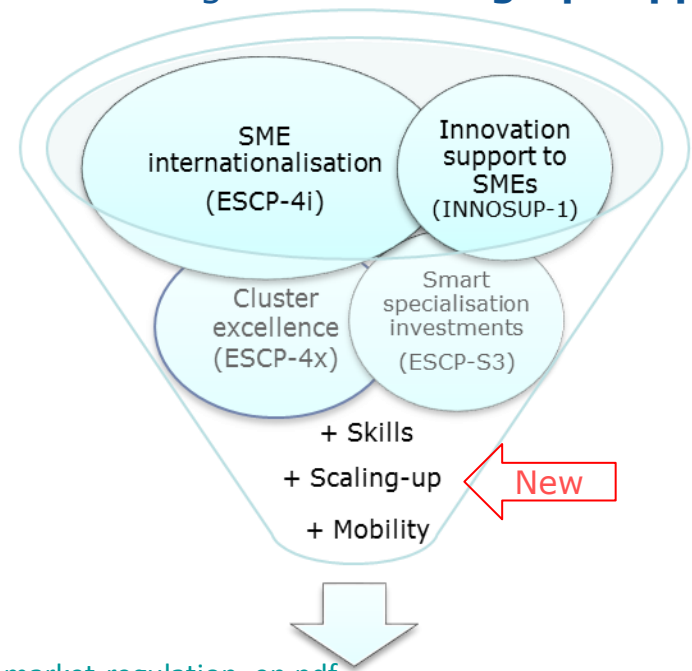
Shaping European strategic value chains
through connecting specialised ecosystems



Boosting internationalisation and access to global value chains



Facilitating industrial transformation towards uptake of advanced technologies and services, digitalisation, new business models, resource-efficient solutions towards decarbonisation and the Circular Economy, creativity and design, upskilling, talent attraction and entrepreneurship acceleration



Recital 28 of the draft Regulation for the Single Market Programme COM(2028)441

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-single-market-regulation_en.pdf

Joint Cluster Initiatives

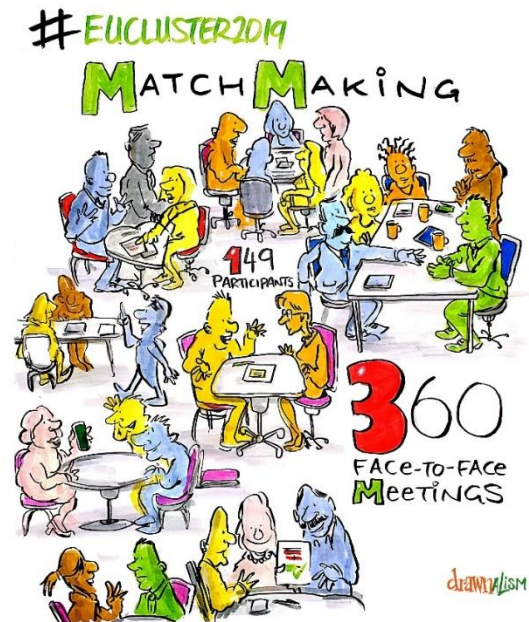
European cluster conference with 450 participants 'connecting ecosystems'

Published on: 20/05/2019

The 6th edition of the European cluster conference took place during 14-16 May 2019 in the palace of Parliament in Bucharest, hosted by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event theme was 'Connecting ecosystems: bridge. inspire. change.'



The conference was organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Economy. It gathered 450 national and regional cluster policy-makers and practitioners from industry, research and academia.



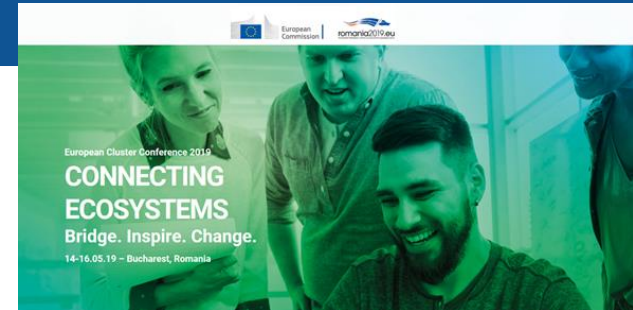
In one word, what “change” are you tackling as a priority in your cluster?



internationalisation
flexibility
knowledge management
new skills
internationalization
managed
nanotechnology
fossil
skills
climate
upskilling
digitalization
integrity
partnerships
sustainability
results
involving
ambitions
creativity
digitalisation
society
mindset
international cooperation
diversity
trust
change
cooperation
free
resilience
markets
collaboration
local future
entrepreneurship

Bucharest Declaration

10 national cluster associations team up in
European Alliance of National Cluster Associations



https://youtu.be/3G0_EJ5SFlg



Thank you

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster>
<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

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Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy unit (GROW.F2)

Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Directorate

European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

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