EU Cluster Policies: overview and next steps

11 February 2020

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Ongoing European Cluster Initiatives

Clusters as accelerators for innovation & industrial change

Inter-regional & international cluster cooperation

Capacity-building

Cluster Excellence Programme
The European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Around 3000 industry clusters in Europe, about 54 Mio jobs across all sectors of the industry

More than 1000 European clusters registered under the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

www.clustercollaboration.eu
250 Green Tech Clusters in Europe
Ready to support the European Green Deal

EREK
European Resource Efficiency
Knowledge Centre

LOW2W
CARBON BUSINESS ACTION
IN MEXICO

This project is funded by the European Union
2020: A renovated European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Mapping
- Statistical clusters
- Actors
- Visibility

Connecting
- Matchmaking
- ClusterXchange
- Forums of associations and partnerships

Supporting cluster policy
- Mapping policies and programmes
- Capacity building

Social Economy

EU Cluster Hub

ER EK
European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre
European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International (ESCP-4i)

Partnership are formed by European clusters. They develop and implement joint internationalisation strategies, for the benefit of SMEs

Three generations so far:
- 15 Cluster Partnerships in 2016-2017
  - 141 cluster orgs representing over 17,000 SMEs
- 25 partnerships in 2020-2021

Fourth generation: NEW CALL to be open in 2020!
- 13 ongoing projects reached out to > 3,000 SMEs & supporting 500 SMEs directly, through innovation vouchers (€60,000)

- Max € 5 million per project with 75% of budget to support innovation in SMEs

- during 2015-2020, INNOSUP-1 aims to support 2,000 SMEs directly (€ 130 million)

**Next call for Horizon 2020 Innosup-1 proposals:**

**Deadline 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2020**
Clustering and Skills

Digital transformation will lead to 100 millions of European workers need to re- and upskilling in the next 5 years

⇒ Clusters can be key actors in the implementation of such an agenda

Expert group on clusters has one subgroup on skills

⇒ recommendations on the role of clusters in the upskilling and reskilling of European workforce are expected for the European Cluster Conference 2020 in Berlin under the German presidency of the EU from the 9-11th of November 2020
The ClusterXchange program: pilot scheme

Short-term exchanges to:

- Identifying new partners & market access
- Networking
- On-the-job training
- Sharing experiences
- Capacity-building

How is it implemented?
Lump sums of max. 1100 EUR) for visiting organisation

Objective:
- Overall 500 exchanges of which
  50% involving SMEs and at least
  25% other participants beyond direct beneficiaries

Who can benefit?
- Cluster organisations (SME intermediaries)
- SMEs
- Scaling-up support organisations
  (e.g. tech centres, research institutes, fab labs (digital) innovation hubs, creative hubs, resource-efficiency service providers, incubators, accelerators)

Pilot scheme starting in February 2020

New call to apply: coming soon in 2020
The 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge
A strategy for EU cities in the 21st Century

- Expand a network of Digital cities to reach a cohort of 100 Intelligent cities
- International dimension: 10 non-EU cities
- Budget & duration: €7.5 million over a 30-month period.
- Call of Expression of Interest for cities to apply be launched in the end of February 2020!

- Reinforce and expand the existing network to reach 100 cities
- Create a dialogue and cooperation between cities
- Press ahead implementation and joint investments
- Support industrial transition, circular economy, clean tech and resource efficiency
Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Industry-focused actions guided by joint strategies of **specialised SME intermediaries**

- Thematically targeted, with **cross-regional and cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs**

- Channelling scale-up support to groups of SMEs to boost **industrial transformation**

Building EU value chains, industrial modernisation & sustainability

Skills upgrading, talent attraction & entrepreneurship acceleration

Boosting internationalisation & access to global value chains
More information online

European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)
http://www.clustercolaboration.eu/

European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Going International
https://www.clustercolaboration.eu/eu-cluster-partnerships/escp-4i

ECCP Cluster Matchmaking Events
https://www.clustercolaboration.eu/event-calendar/eccp-matchmaking

Thank You