



An initiative of the European Union

EUCLUSTERS



TALKS ★

# European Year of Skills:

Talent for the twin transition

**14 June 2023**

08:30-09:45 CET

online

#SingleMarket30



EUROPEAN CLUSTER  
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform  
**Nina Hoppmann**, Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Skills for the green and digital transition  
**Daniela Santopolo**, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission
3. ERASMUS+ traineeship  
**Vito Borelli**, Team Leader, DG EAC, European Commission
4. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs  
**Kateřina Nejdlová**, Team Leader, DG GROW, European Commission
5. Panel debate  
**Carolina Garcés**, Project Manager, Mobile Heights  
**Delphine Descorne-Jeanny**, President, Cluster NOGENTECH  
**Elin McCallum**, Director, Bantani Education  
**Jakub Grodecki**, Policy & Project Manager, EURASHE  
**Torsten Urban**, Head of Education & Training, Lüdenscheid Plastics Institute
6. Funding opportunities  
**Nina Hoppmann**, Team Member, European Cluster Collaboration Platform

# Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, presenter

- Please use the **Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links
- We invite you to **join the debate**: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please **unmute yourself** and **activate your camera** when you take the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded**.

# NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

# Upcoming Clusters meet Regions events

- These events bring together clusters and policymakers of the EU at the national, regional, and local levels to learn from each other how to better use **clusters to strengthen industrial ecosystems**, serve national/regional economic development and liaise with other regions facing similar transition challenges.
- Skåne, **Sweden** – 15-16 June 2023
- Burgas, **Bulgaria** – 13-15 September 2023
- Prague, **Czech Republic** – 23-24 October 2023
- Düsseldorf, **Germany** – 8 November 2023



# Save the date for Singapore!

- **30 October – 1 November 2023**
- Participation in Singapore Week of Innovation & Technology (SWITCH) & Agri-Food Tech Expo 2023
- Matchmaking sessions between cluster organisations and SMEs from EU (and COSME) countries and Singapore
- Registration will open shortly



# Call for expression of interest to join Industry 5.0 Community of Practice

- Industry 5.0 Community of Practice (CoP 5.0) will bring together a broad range of European innovation ecosystem stakeholders to share good practices and co-create actions to implement Industry 5.0 and its key pillars of **human-centricity, sustainability and resilience** in practice.
- It will facilitate an opportunity for stakeholders to share ideas, foster synergies, and receive **support in transforming traditional business models** into more impactful ones.
- Submission of applications until **31 July 2023**



# Energy efficient solutions: SME pitches at European Sustainable Energy Week

- Enterprise Europe Network is organising a pitching session with SMEs offering energy saving and energy efficient solutions: **“Market-ready solutions from European small and medium-sized enterprises for a smooth energy transition”**
- The offered technical and service solutions are already available in the market and can be taken over directly by energy intensive industries, cities and municipalities in order to save energy, make use of renewable energy sources and lower their carbon footprint.
- **22 June, 9:30 – 11:30 CET**
- [Register](#) via the European Sustainable Energy Week 2023



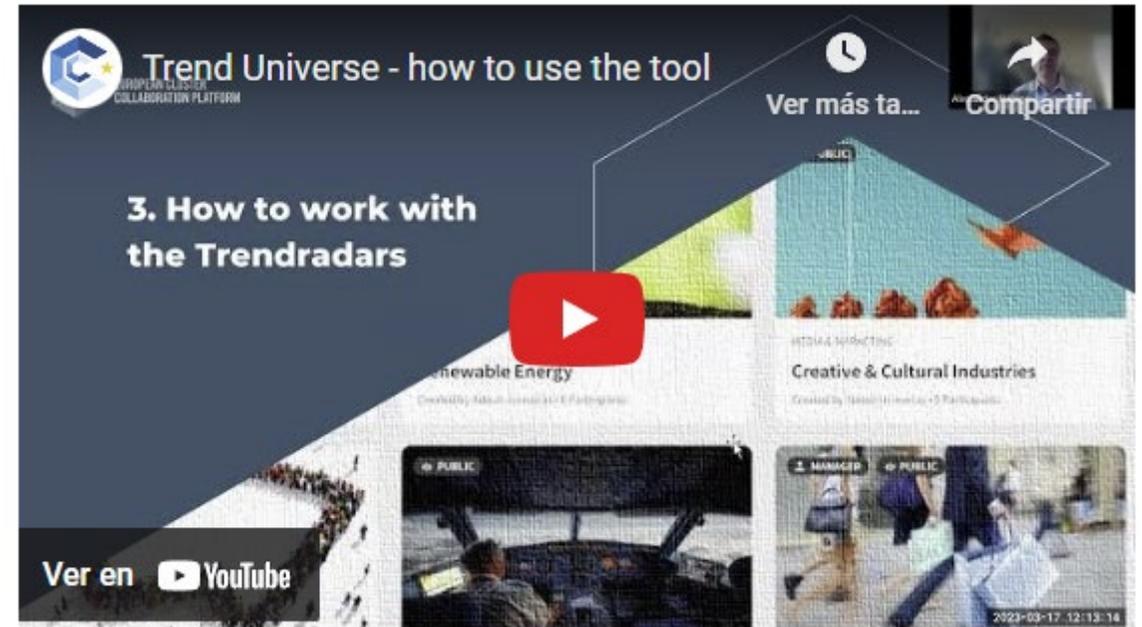
# Consultation on Commission initiative - Enhancing the European Administrative Space

- To enhance the European Administrative Space, the Commission is currently exploring actions to:
  - Equip public administrations with tools and approaches to upskill and reskill their workforce;
  - Facilitate the exchange of civil servants and foster administrative cooperation, with a focus on the regional and local levels;
  - Support public administrations with the implementation of the existing and upcoming legislation linked to the Digital Decade and the implementation of artificial intelligence.
- **Consultation meeting on 20 June, 11:00 – 13:00.** The meeting will be hybrid at DG REFORM premises (MERO building), meeting room 955, Avenue Tervueren 41, 1040 B.
- [Register](#) to participate in the meeting until 16 June

# Trend Universe: A Strategic Foresight Instrument for EU Cluster Organisations



- Get insights into the future to help build strategic competitive advantages
- Better understand future trends and their impact on your cluster organisation
- Explore relevant trends from 14 different industrial ecosystems
- View relevant trend assessments from other clusters and global data
- Only ECCP **Pro Users** can access the ECCP Trend Universe



<https://clustercollaboration.eu/trend-universe>

# Skills for the green and digital transition

**Daniela Santopolo**

Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission



# The EU Skills Policy

**The EU Pact for Skills**

**Net-Zero Industry Act**

Daniela Santopolo

EC DG GROW D.1

Daniela.santopolo@  
ec.europa.eu

# Skills Gaps in the Single Market

- In general, **over 70 % of enterprises in Europe** report that a lack of skills hampers their investment
- **One in four SMEs** across EU report major difficulties in finding skilled staff.
- The green transition is expected to affect **between 35% and 40% of all jobs**
  - This will amplify **demands for new skills** at all levels, requiring a large-scale up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce:
    - **180 000 skilled workers** needed in **fuel cell hydrogen** manufacturing
    - **66 000 skilled workers** needed in **photovoltaic solar** manufacturing
    - **800 000 skilled workers** needed in **battery production**

- To answer these challenges, the European Commission launched on 10 November 2020 the **EU Pact for Skills**
  - First Flagship Initiative under the EU Skills Agenda
- **Mobilising private and public stakeholders** to take concrete action for the **upskilling and reskilling** of the European workforce

# Joining forces under the Pact

## Large scale partnerships

- Major players in industrial ecosystems
  - Partnerships based on Blueprints
  - Public authorities
- Concrete investments in upskilling opportunities for employees in the company and in a whole value or supply chain

## National, regional or local partnerships

- Employers
  - Public authorities
  - Stakeholders e.g. VET providers, PES, social partners
- Building on the work of Eurocities and Intelligence Cities Challenge, Centres of Vocational Excellence, Clusters

## Individual commitments

- Stakeholders Commit to provide quality upskilling opportunities. Basis for stronger partnerships.

## Building blocks

### Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliances Blueprint Projects

### Social Partners agreements on upskilling and reskilling

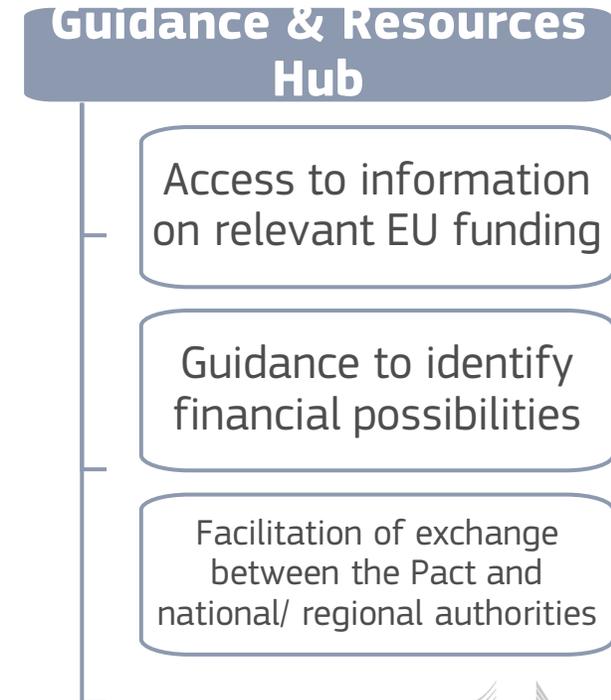
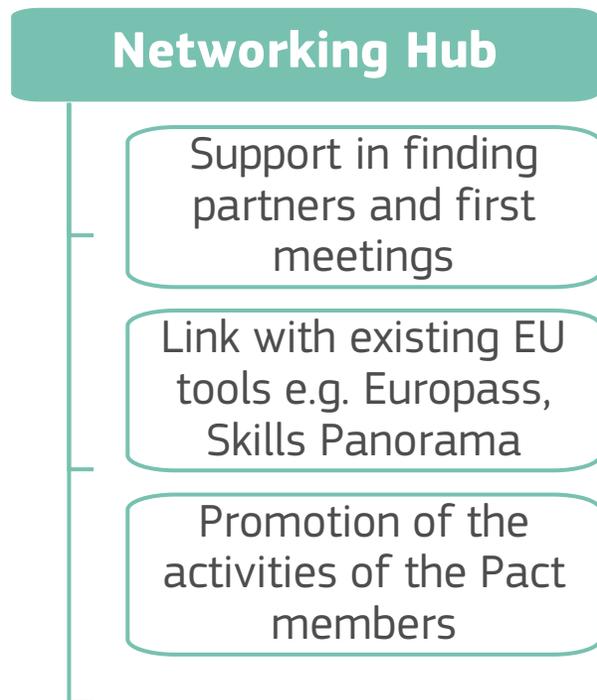
### Community of members of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships

# Already with the Pact

- **18 Large Scale Skills Partnerships** now launched in key industrial ecosystems. Together, committed to provide **up- and reskilling opportunities** in the coming years.
- **Over 1500 signatories** of the Charter from all Member States and sectors, including close to a third with concrete commitments.
- **Very different types of stakeholders**: large multinational companies, SMEs, local training providers, chambers of commerce, social partners, regional authorities, sectoral clusters, national authorities and diverse kinds of networks and associations.
- Skills partnerships allow to pool expertise and resources and make concerted efforts for up- and reskilling actions. They can guide the whole value chain or the regional players for effective skilling actions focused on key priorities, **achieve economies of scale, reduce costs and deliver impactful results.**

# Call to join the Pact

- The Pact aims to support **public and private organisations with upskilling and reskilling**, so they can thrive through the green and digital transitions!
- **Support from the EU:**



**PACT FOR  
SKILLS**

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/PactforSkills>

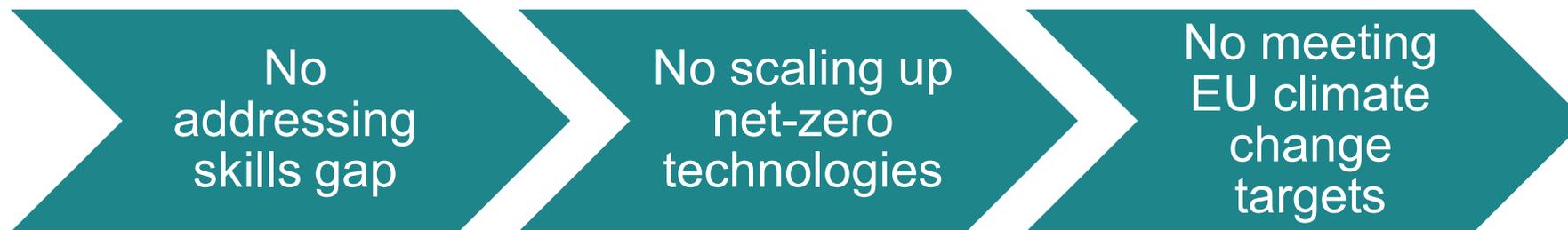
EC-PACT-FOR-SKILLS@ec.europa.eu



# The Net Zero Industry Act

# Rationale & Context

- Transition to climate neutrality: necessity and opportunity to develop net-zero technology sectors
- NZIA: establish framework conditions for innovating and scaling up manufacturing capacities of net-zero technologies in the EU
- Scaling up net-zero technologies requires large number of skilled workers: need for reskilling and upskilling: analyses show significant skilled labour demand and gaps
- The Commission will also consider how to combine a 'Skills-first' approach, recognising actual skills, with existing approaches based on qualifications, and how to facilitate access of third country nationals to EU labour markets



# Strong skills needs for green transition

- Large skills shortages in net-zero industries:
  - 180 000 skilled workers needed in fuel cell hydrogen manufacturing
  - 66 000 skilled workers needed in photovoltaic solar manufacturing
  - 800 000 skilled workers needed in battery production
- Need to bring together stakeholders & build upon and complement existing structures (e.g. 2023 European Year of Skills, EU Pact for Skills, ESF+, Cedefop, Sectoral BluePrints)

# The Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) Proposal

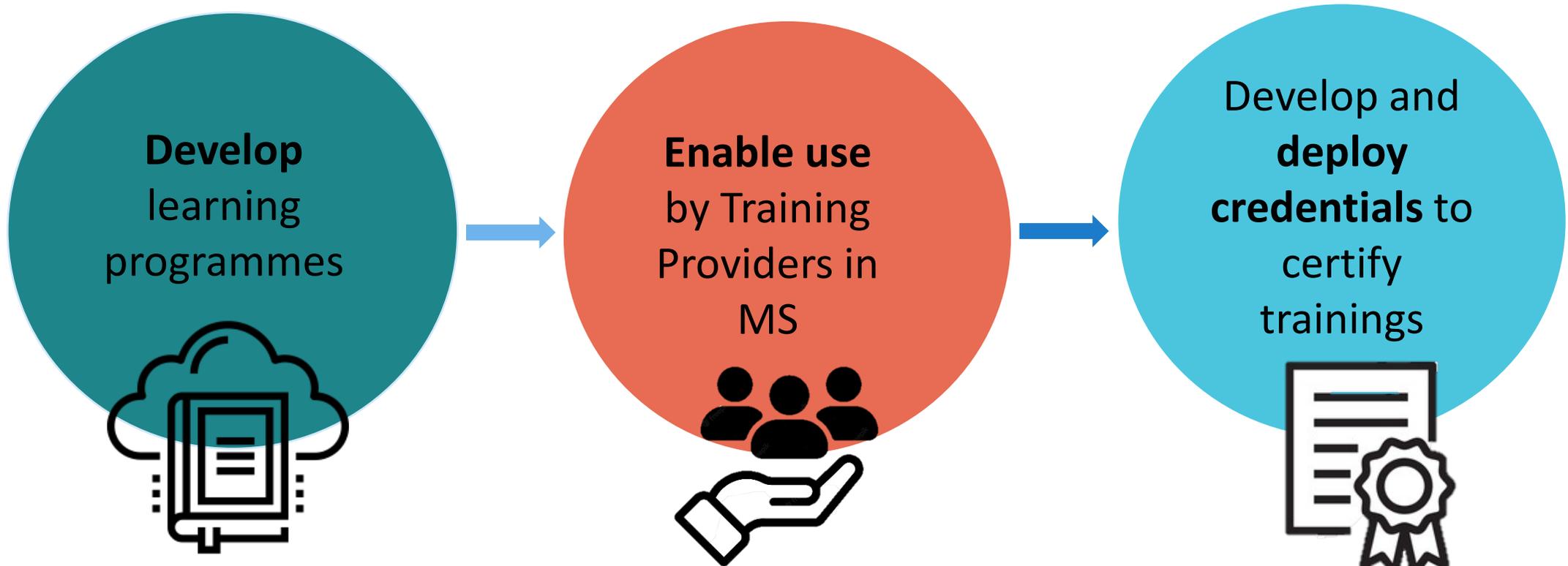
- The proposal establishes a framework of measures for **strengthening Europe's net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem** according to the following structure:
  - Chapter I – Subject matter, scope and definitions
  - Chapter II – Enabling conditions for net-zero technology manufacturing
  - Chapter III – CO2 injection capacity
  - Chapter IV – Access to markets
  - **Chapter V – Enhancing skills for quality job creation**
  - Chapter VI – Innovation
  - Chapter VII – Governance
  - Chapter IX – Final Provisions
  - Chapter VIII – Monitoring

# Article 23 - Net-Zero Industry Academies: Concept & Functionalities

- Academies = projects/concepts, no one brick and mortar education & training institution
- Three main functionalities:
  - Academies design learning content centrally with input from industry, education & training providers and Member States
  - Academies offer learning content to interested education & training providers and customers in Member States to support their provision of education & training where desired (offer, no obligation to use the content)
  - Academies develop and deploy learning credentials to facilitate transparency of skills, transferability between jobs and mobility of learners
- Example: European Batteries Academy (operating)

# Net-Zero Industry Academies: Concept & Functionalities

**Solar** + **Hydrogen** + **Raw Materials** (+ Battery)



→ Aim: **100,000 learners per Academy** within 3 years from establishment

# Article 24 - Regulated Professions & Recognition of Professional Qualifications

- Objective: foster the recognition of professional qualifications and mobility of skilled workers
- Learning programmes developed by academies and offered by education & training providers in Member States will concern skills needed for both, regulated and non-regulated professions/activities
- Proposal does not impact Member States' competence to regulate professions in line with EU law
- Where a Member State concludes that an Academy learning programme is equivalent to a qualification required to access a regulated professional activity, the related learning credential is sufficient evidence of formal qualification for granting access to the professional activity in question

# Article 25 - The Net-Zero Industry Platform and Skills: Set up

- Composed of Member States and the Commission
- Chaired by a representative of the Commission
- Each Member State appoints a high-level representative
- Platform can invite representatives of the European Parliament to attend, as observers, its meetings, as well as experts and other third parties to provide contributions to meetings
- Platform may establish standing or temporary sub-groups dealing with specific questions and tasks: Skills sub-group?

# The Net-Zero Industry Platform and Skills: Tasks

- Assist Commission in assessing, monitoring and forecasting skills needs:
  - Platform = forum to exchange and cooperate
  - Member States expected to share existing data and knowledge
- Monitor Academies, foster synergies with education & training providers in Member States and provide oversight:
  - Cooperate to ensure that Academies actions reflect education and vocational training policies of Member States and skills needs
  - Ensure links between Academies and education & training providers in the Member States

# The Net-Zero Industry Platform and Skills: Tasks

- Assist the mobilization of stakeholders for the roll-out of learning programmes developed by the Academies:
  - Impact of Academies depends on education & training providers in Member States making use of learning content offered by Academies
  - Member States can provide political support and raise awareness
- Assist the uptake and recognition of learning credentials to promote recognition, matching of skills and mobility:
  - Promote the validity and acceptance of learning credentials that confirm a skill
  - No new structures but via existing tools (European Qualification Framework, etc.)
- Facilitate development of European occupation profiles
- Promote adequate working conditions and labour market activation
- Facilitate cooperation and exchange of best practices

# Thank you!



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# ERASMUS+ traineeship

**Vito Borelli**

Team Leader, DG EAC, European Commission



# Erasmus+ opportunities in higher education for companies, SMEs and start-ups

*Unit EAC/B1 Higher Education*

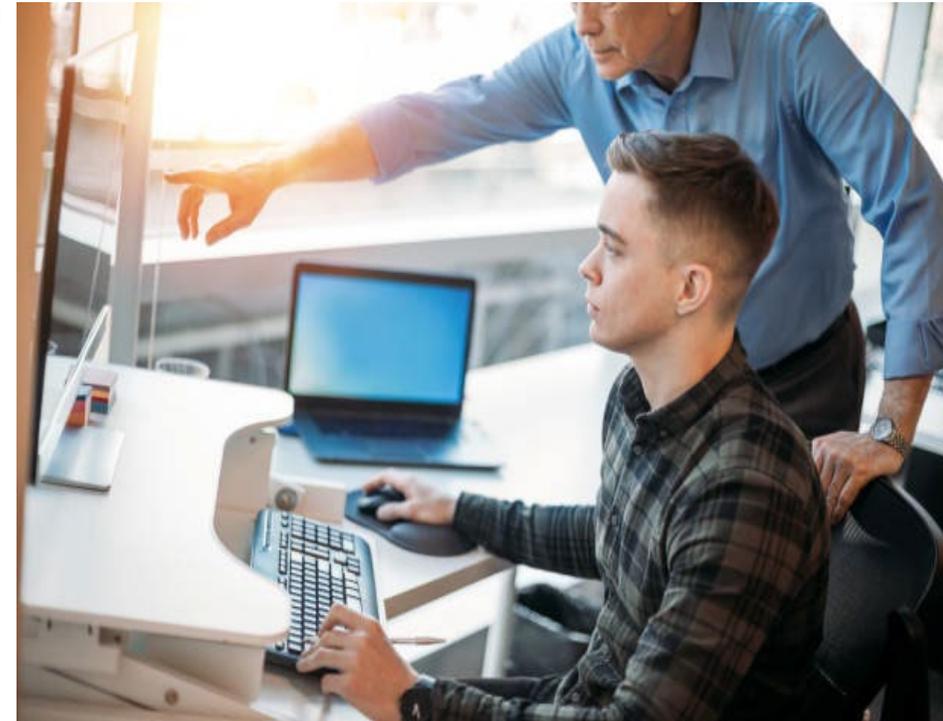
# Erasmus+ traineeships for students (I)

## Opportunities offered:

- Traineeships / internships for students at short-cycle study, bachelor, master and doctoral level, as well as young graduates to be trained in a company between 2 to 12 months. Shorter stays are also possible when blended with virtual cooperation.
- Traineeships can be hosted by any workplace such as companies, SMEs and start-ups
- More than 100 000 grants are funded every year by the Erasmus+ programme to undertake traineeships abroad and to contribute to travel and subsistence costs.

**What are you waiting for?** The EU-cofunded site <https://erasmusintern.org> can help you match your traineeship offer with prospective Erasmus+ trainees.

You can find more information here: [Traineeships abroad for students | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)



# Erasmus+ traineeships for students (II)

## Benefits for companies, SMEs and start-ups of having a trainee from abroad:

- A trainee can provide a new international perspective, innovative ideas and active support.
- A trainee brings fresh enthusiasm and increased competitiveness and innovation capacity.
- Getting a trainee's insight into their home culture can open doors to new market opportunities and expand business.
- Enhanced competences at the company, SME or start-up in terms of other languages and up-to-date IT skills.



# Thank you



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Slide 2,3,5,6,7,8: pictures, source: [iStock.com](https://www.istock.com/)



# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

**Kateřina Nejdlová**

Team Leader, DG GROW, European Commission



# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

*Kateřina Nejdlová, Unit D2 Industrial forum, alliances and clusters,  
DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs - European Commission*



- **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs** is a programme of the European Union that helps provide aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe
- New entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months abroad.
- The stay is partly financed by the European Commission



Erasmus for Young  
Entrepreneurs

# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



## Who can participate?

## New entrepreneurs (NE)

- Would-be entrepreneurs, who are firmly planning to start their own business based on a concrete project reflected in a substantiated business plan
- Newly established entrepreneurs in the early stages of their business start-up (less than 3 years of experience in running a business)
- Whether planned or already existing, the business can be in any sector.



## Host entrepreneurs (HE)

- ▶ Successful, experienced entrepreneurs (owner-managers) with at least 3 years of experience in running a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)
- ▶ Owners of an SME or people directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME management board level.



## EYE actors

- **Intermediary Organisations (IOs)**

Organisations implementing the programme on a local level. Currently 165 in 35 countries

IOs promote the programme, recruit and match entrepreneurs, pay EU contribution and support entrepreneurs during the exchange

- **Support Office**

Day to day management of the programme, help desk for applicants, promotion of the programme on European level



Erasmus for Young  
Entrepreneurs

# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



## What are the benefits?

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a **win-win deal** for both new and host entrepreneurs

## New entrepreneurs (NE)

- On-the-job training in a host company abroad
- Development of entrepreneurial skills
- Gaining business knowledge and networking
- Gaining experience in managing a small business from their direct collaboration with the host entrepreneur

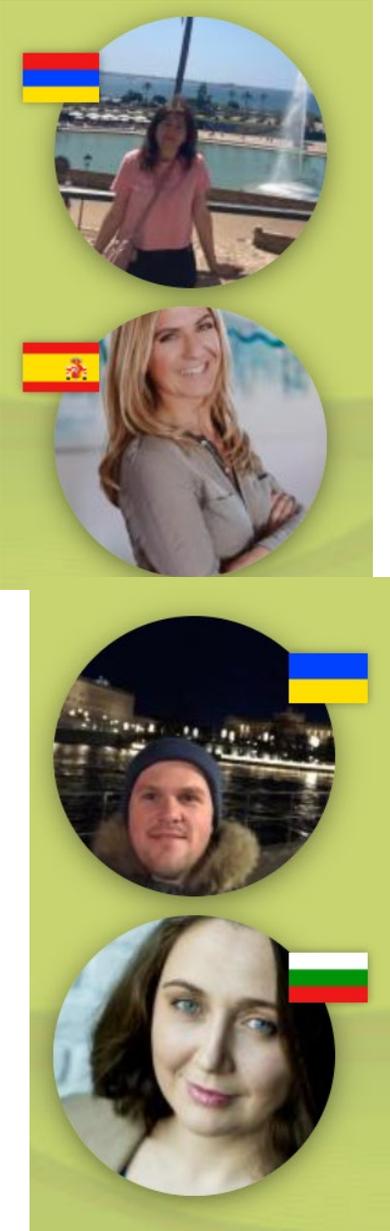
## Host entrepreneurs (HE)

- ▶ Getting fresh perspective, ideas and fresh skills
- ▶ Learning about foreign market opportunities
- ▶ Networking opportunities and potentially long-term business partners

**Not internship but peer to peer exchange**

# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Our alumni share their  
success stories





Erasmus for Young  
Entrepreneurs

# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



## How does it work in practice?

## Five steps exchange program



- Digital application via our website
- CV, motivation and detailed business plan (NE)
- Choice of local contact point

- No deadlines
- No sector limitation
- No age limit (18+)





Erasmus for Young  
Entrepreneurs

# Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



## Key facts and achievements

## Successful proof of concept



15 in 2024



46 000 applications



11 300 + exchanges



45 countries involved



160+ active intermediary organisations



### Top sectors

- Advertising and promotion
- Education and training
- Architectural
- IT



**Average age of applicants** NEs 28yo, HEs 41yo



### Gender balance (applications)

NEs 51% male/49% female  
HEs 71% male/29% female

### NOVELTIES

- EYE Global 2018
- EYE for UA entrepreneurs 2022

**Websites:**

▶ [www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)

▶ E-mail: [support@erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](mailto:support@erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)

**Social media:**



# Panel debate

**Carolina Garcés**, Project Manager, Mobile Heights

**Delphine Descorne-Jeanny**, President, Cluster NOGENTECH

**Elin McCallum**, Director, Bantani Education

**Jakub Grodecki**, Policy & Project Manager, EURASHE

**Torsten Urban**, Head of Education & Training, Lüdenscheid Plastics Institute

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# Assessing and strengthening the complementarity between new technologies and human skills

- Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:
  - Deepened our understanding on the potential and impact of **new technologies** such as artificial intelligence technologies and robotics to **substitute or complement human skills** and in performing job tasks.
  - Development and deployment of technologies that **complement and enhance human skills**, and development of the corresponding skills in the workforce.
- Foreseen opening date of the call: 4 October 2023
- HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions;  
TOPIC-ID: HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-11
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Strengthen economic fairness and resilience of active labour market policies and address high unemployment

- Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:
  - Improved understanding of **macro effects of labour market policies** on general equilibrium including displacement and substitution effects;
  - Improved **skills strategies and skill development**, also at sectoral level, during periods of economic downturn benefitting from lower opportunity costs;
  - Improving policy design to **increase labour market participation** and employment in a context of high unemployment and high number of job vacancies, notably in low and high skilled jobs.
- Foreseen opening date of the call: 4 October 2023
- HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions;  
TOPIC-ID: HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Skills and Education Guarantee Pilot

- The Skills and Education Guarantee Pilot will:
  - Support **individuals, students and learners**, in order to enhance their education attainment and skills level by unlocking access to finance to cover education and skills gap in Europe resulting from societal and technological transformations;
  - Support the **provision of employee training**, apprenticeships and the skills transformation efforts by **European enterprises** by providing risk finance for improving the skills and skills utilisation of their workforce's skill set;
  - Enhance **access to finance** to both existing as well as new European organisations active in the field of skills, training and education or developing projects in education field with the objective of stimulating their development, growth and internationalisation;
  - Support the **development and/or deployment of services** ancillary to skills, training and education.
- Recipients can be **SMEs, Small Mid-Caps, Small Public Enterprises or natural persons** which/who meet the Product Eligibility Criteria specified in the call
- Deadline: 30 June 2027
- InvestEU programme
- Published on [https://www.eif.org/InvestEU/guarantee\\_products\\_calls/index.htm](https://www.eif.org/InvestEU/guarantee_products_calls/index.htm)

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- AEC EUROCLUSTER: Project innovation, Technology Adoption, and Training for **SMEs from architecture, engineering and construction**; deadline 30 June 2023
- AEC EUROCLUSTER: **Internationalisation** support to establish business relations with non-EU partners for **SMEs from architecture, engineering and construction**; multiple cut-offs; first deadline 30 August 2023
- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: Call for participating in **international events** related to **Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain** technologies; deadline 5 September 2023
- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: **Training** in Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain for SMEs from the **manufacturing, mobility, logistics and energy sectors**; deadline 5 September
- AIBC EUROCLUSTER: Call for projects for piloting and/or demonstrating **new or improved digital and environmentally friendly products** and services that use **Artificial Intelligence and/or Blockchain**; deadline 5 September
- B-Resilient: Support for Business and continuity plan, innovation, or internationalisation for SMEs SMEs intending to optimise their use of **biomass** via digital and sustainable tool solutions; deadline 1 July 2023
- BioMan4B2: Business transformation, support for travel to explore markets in other countries, and resilience plans for SMEs in **life sciences** and **medical technologies** sector; deadline 2 July 2023
- FRIEND CCI: Call for **providers** offering solutions in **digitalisation, greening, and internationalisation** to collaborate with **Creative and Cultural** SMEs for the realization of funded projects; deadline 1 August 2025

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- INGENIOUS: **Innovation** grants for SMEs operated in **energy intensive industry** towards green and digital transition and resilience; deadline 31 July
- INGENIOUS: **Internationalisation** grants SMEs operated in **energy intensive industry** for business opportunities in Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2023
- INGENIOUS: **Training** grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 14 February 2025
- METASTARS: Call for **innovation services** for green technology development, digitalisation, upskilling and reskilling, internationalisation, and information security systems for SMEs from the **aeronautics, space, defence and ICT sectors**; deadline 31 December 2023
- RE-CENTRE: Financial support for SMEs from **furniture and living sector, IT sector, and green/circular economy** sector in the development of **innovation** projects and new business models; deadline 27 June 2023
- RESIST: **Innovation** projects for incorporation of advanced technologies, greener production systems, or renewable energy use for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 21 June
- RESIST: **Networking and Marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024
- SILEO Eurocluster: Consultancy on business transformation, advanced technologies, and digitalisation for SMEs from the **lighting and furniture** sectors; deadline 20 June 2023
- **All calls here:** <https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls>

# Call to join the Pact for Skills!



An initiative of the European Commission

- The Pact aims to support **public and private organisations with upskilling and reskilling**, so they can thrive through the green and digital transitions.
- All members of the Pact can benefit from three dedicated services:
  - Through the **Networking Hub**, members can find partners and relevant EU tools (like Europass, Skills Panorama, EURES and the European Network of Public Employment Services). They can also promote their activities.
  - The **Knowledge Hub** organises webinars, seminars and peer learning activities for members. It also provides updates on EU policies and instruments, as well as information on projects, tools, and best practices.
  - In the **Guidance Hub**, members can find information about EU and national funding opportunities, and guidance to partnering with national and regional authorities.
- More info on [pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu](https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu)

# Continue the dialogue...



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9274710/>

# Register for the next Talks

**21 June 2023** Special Session: Welcome to the Trend Universe

**28 June 2023** Keeping up with the Euroclusters: Achievements and lessons learned

**12 July 2023** 30 years and counting: Clustering in the EU Single Market

# Register on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform!

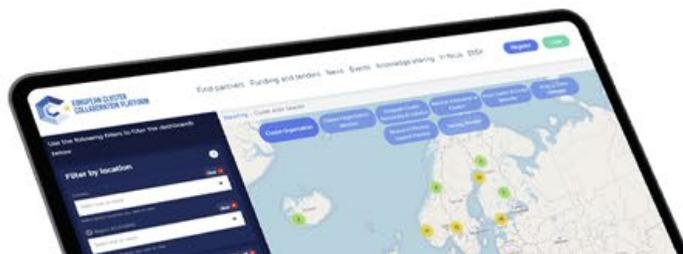
<https://clustercollaboration.eu/>

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration



The European online hub for industry clusters

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration



Find partners per country, region, sector or industrial ecosystem

EUCLUSTERS

THANK YOU

