

An initiative of the European Union



EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

Summary report

America

Clusters and SMEs in the EU's Simplification Agenda:

Understanding the Omnibus Package

7 May 2025

08:30-09:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Omnibus package
Adrian Schertz, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission
3. Panel debate
Raffaella Bruzzone, Chair “Access2Finance” Thematic Group, Enterprise Europe Network, Chamber of Commerce of Genoa
Sophia Zakari, Director Enterprise and Legal Affairs, SMEunited
Werner Pamming, CEO, Business Upper Austria
4. Funding opportunities
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Housekeeping rules

Andrew Lansley, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Register for the EU INDUSTRY DAYS 2025

The 2025 edition of the EU Industry Days, Europe's flagship event on industrial policy, will take place on **5–6 June 2025 in Rzeszów, Poland**, with the support of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The agenda will focus on **Competitiveness and Decarbonisation, Innovation and Investment and Security and Resilience of EU Industry**.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Clusters meet Regions in Poland on 3-4 June 2025

As side event to the EU Industry Days, the ECCP and the Local Government of the Podkarpackie Region will organise a “Clusters meet Regions” event, which aims to strengthen the **role of clusters in regional economic development** by fostering collaboration between clusters, policymakers, businesses, and research institutions.

The two-day programme will **feature high-level discussions and hands-on engagement opportunities**. Participants can look forward to panel sessions such as: Dual-Use Technologies and Defence Readiness, Circular Economy and Decarbonisation, and Unmanned and Autonomous Systems.

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Clusters meet Regions in Spain on 14-15 May 2025

Themed “**Clusters as Drivers of Regional Transition from Linear to Circular Economy**”, the event will explore how clusters can accelerate the shift towards sustainable economic models, positioning Palma and the Balearic Islands as key actors in circular economy innovation. The event will address circular economy models and the strategies that companies and organisations can adopt to improve their **resource efficiency and sustainability practices**.

The event will bring together a wide range of stakeholders involved in circular economy initiatives and regional economic development, including cluster organisations, local SMEs and businesses, regional, national, and EU policymakers, investors and funding bodies, and academia, research institutions, and circular economy experts from various sectors.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Clusters Meet Regions Expression of Interest Open Call

The European Commission has launched a new call for expressions of interest to co-host future editions of the “Clusters Meet Regions” workshops in the **second half of 2025, preferably in October or November.**

Applications require a **letter of support from the regional authority** and will be assessed based on relevance, geographic balance, and alignment with EU policy priorities, including supply chain resilience and geopolitical challenges.

Deadline for submission: 30 May 2025 - 18:00 CET (Brussels time)

Proposals not selected for 2025 may still be considered for future editions.



Read the [Call for Expression of Interest](#)

Annex I: [Application Form](#)

Annex II: [White Book](#)

Save the date and register for the next ECCP events!

 **EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM**

An initiative of the European Union 

ECCP Events 2025

 **Online EU Clusters Talks**
Biweekly: 12 March - 26 March at 8:30 CET

 **Heilbronn, Germany**
Clusters meet Regions | **9-10 April**
& ECCP Matchmaking

 **Esbjerg, Denmark**
Cluster Collaboration Labs | **6-7 May**

 **Cairo, Egypt**
ECCP Matchmaking | **16-18 June**

 **Cluj, Romania**
Clusters meet Regions | **1-2 July**
& ECCP Matchmaking

 **Rzeszów, Poland**
Clusters meet Regions | **3-4 June**

 **Palma de Mallorca, Spain**
Clusters meet Regions | **14-15 May**
& ECCP Matchmaking

 **Umbria, Italy**
ECCP Matchmaking | **16-18 June**

 **Ajdovščina, Slovenia**
Clusters meet Regions | **10-11 September**



 Clusters Meet Regions

 ECCP Matchmaking International

 C2Lab

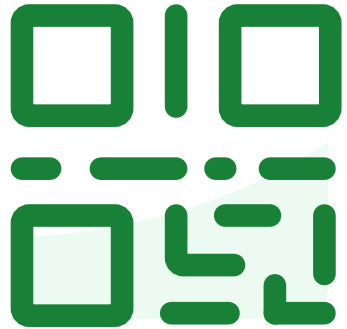
Omnibus package

Adrian Schertz

Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission

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Join at slido.com
#Omnibus_

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Which aspect of the Omnibus Package do you believe will have the biggest impact on your organisation / your cluster members?

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In one or two words, what is the greatest opportunity that the Omnibus package present for your organisation / your cluster members?

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Which support tools would you find helpful for navigating the proposed changes in the Omnibus package?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Panel debate

Raffaella Bruzzone, Chair “Access2Finance” Thematic Group,
Enterprise Europe Network, Chamber of Commerce of Genoa

Sophia Zakari, Director Enterprise and Legal Affairs, SMEUnited

Werner Pamminger, CEO, Business Upper Austria

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

STAGE Sustainability Transition Programme

- The STAGE Sustainability Transition Programme **supports European industrial SMEs** in transitioning towards sustainable and competitive business models. The programme offers **sustainability assessments, training, advisory services, and financial grants** to help SMEs develop sustainability transition plans and attract private investment.
- The admission to the STAGE Sustainability Transition Programme will be done on a **first-come first-served basis**.
- The programme consists of three phases:

PHASE 1 – Sustainability Assessment

- 500 SMEs to develop Sustainability Transition Plans

PHASE 2 – Training & Capacity Building

- SMEs receive tailored training in four key sustainability areas

PHASE 3 – Advisory & Investment Support

- 100 SMEs: Grants of up to €50,000 for investment projects (via separate calls)
- 20 SMEs: Dedicated financial advisory support
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL4-2021-RESILIENCE-01-29
- Deadline: 31 May 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Teaming for Excellence

- This call aims to reduce disparities in research and innovation (R&I) performance across Europe by supporting the creation of new or modernisation of existing **Centres of Excellence in low R&I performing countries**.
- Projects funded under this call should lead to measurable improvements in:
 - The **scientific and technological capabilities** of the host institutions and country;
 - Their ability to participate competitively in EU and global R&I funding;
 - The innovation culture and R&I system performance at national or regional level;
 - **Collaboration** with leading research institutions across Europe;
 - The development of **new research fields** and uptake of advanced technologies;
 - Synergies between EU funding instruments, especially structural and cohesion funds;
 - The **innovation potential** of planned services, processes, and products;
 - Institutional reforms and human capital development, including gender equality.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage
- Deadline: 20 January 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Transforming Food Systems - reshaping food system interactions, fostering food innovations and empowering sustainable food choices

- The call aims to fund innovative research projects that address the complex and systemic challenges of **transforming food systems** across Europe.
- Proposals must address one of three core themes:
 - **Sustainable and resilient food systems**, focusing on systemic approaches and transformative pathways.
 - **New foods**, aiming to foster innovation in food design, processing, and supply, based on demand–supply reorientation.
 - Empowering **sustainable food choices**, targeting behavioural, cultural, and environmental enablers of dietary shifts.
- Applicants are expected to **clearly define the food system they are focusing on**, including its actors, internal dependencies, and connections to other systems. While primary production and nutrition-related diseases are not the focus of this call, their implications may be considered as part of a broader systems approach.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK-01-9
- Deadline: 9 July 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Register for the next Talk

14 May

Creative Crossroads: Building Synergies Across
Ecosystems with Cultural and Creative Industries

Continue the discussion



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European Cluster Collaboration Platform



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THANK YOU

