

# EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

## AI Projects Powered by Clusters: Supporting Innovation and Strategic Transformation

**9 April 2025**

08:30-09:45 CET

**Online**

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

**Antonio Novo**, team member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

2. Panel debate

**Andrei Martiniuc**, Manager of the European Projects Department, Transilvania IT Cluster

**Clara Plata Ríos**, Project Director, Smart City Cluster

**Joan Puaté**, Manager, Digital Cluster of Catalonia

**Elvis Bajric**, Cluster Manager Robotics, High Tech NL

**Silvia Rossi**, Manager, Clust-ER BUILD

3. Funding opportunities

**Antonio Novo**, team member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

# Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, 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



# Clean Industrial Deal Consultation



The Clean Industrial Deal will mobilise **over €100 billion** to support EU-made clean manufacturing.



By 2030, the European remanufacturing market is projected to grow to **€100 billion**.



This will create **500,000 new jobs**.

Following the adoption of the Clean Industrial Deal Communication on 26 February 2025, the European Commission is now **consulting the public on a [draft new State aid framework](#)** aimed at supporting the Deal's objectives.

Complete the survey [here](#).

 **Submit your responses by 25 April 2025**

# Commission Expert Group on Cluster Policy

The Commission has launched the call for applications for the **selection of members of the expert group on clusters** to gather internationally recognised experts, practitioners, and organisations to advise the Commission on how clusters can better support EU industrial policy goals.

## Who can apply?

- Public authorities from Member States
- Other public entities (EU/international bodies)
- Stakeholder organisations active in cluster policy
- Experts and practitioners representing a common interest
- Renowned researchers in clusters, competitiveness, and innovation

## [More information](#)

**Deadline:** 30 April 2025, 12:00 (CEST)

**Applications to:** [grow-cluster-expert-group@ec.europa.eu](mailto:grow-cluster-expert-group@ec.europa.eu)



# Register for C2Lab in Esbjerg, Denmark

In partnership with **Energy Cluster Denmark**, we are hosting the 'Cluster Collaboration Labs' event in Esbjerg, Denmark. The focus will be on the **energy transition**.

C2Lab is a **workshop-style event** where you will have the opportunity to meet new partners, discuss your project ideas, and initiate collaboration – for example, to apply together for a European call. Participants could either join with a concrete project proposal or offer their expertise and knowledge by joining others.



**REGISTRATION OPEN**



# Register for EU – South MED Matchmaking Event

We will host the EU–South MED Matchmaking Event in **Cairo, Egypt, from 16 to 18 June 2025**.

This Matchmaking Event will bring together **cluster organisations and SMEs** from the European Union (EU), non-EU countries participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand, and South MED countries: **Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia**.

Registration is open until 29 April.

[More info](#)





# Save the date and register for the next ECCP events!

An initiative of the European Union 

## ECCP Events 2025



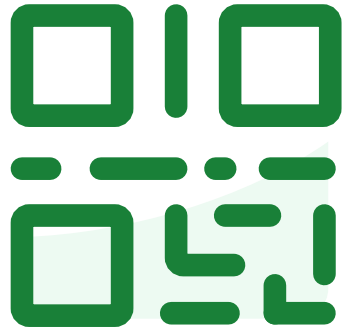
-  **Online EU Clusters Talks**  
Biweekly: Wednesdays at 8:30 CET
-  **Esbjerg, Denmark**  
Cluster Collaboration Labs | **6-7 May**
-  **Rzeszów, Poland**  
Clusters meet Regions | **3-4 June**
-  **Foligno, Italy**  
Clusters meet Regions | **24-25 June**
-  **Ajdovščina, Slovenia**  
Clusters meet Regions | **10-11 September**
-  **Regensburg, Germany**  
Clusters meet Regions | **26-27 November**
-  **Palma, Spain**  
Clusters meet Regions | **14-15 May**  
& ECCP Matchmaking
-  **Cairo, Egypt**  
ECCP Matchmaking | **16-18 June**
-  **Cluj, Romania**  
Clusters meet Regions | **1-2 July**  
& ECCP Matchmaking
-  **Vaasa, Finland**  
Clusters meet Regions | **24-25 September**

 **EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM**

 Clusters Meet Regions  ECCP Matchmaking International  C2Lab

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**#AI\_Projects**

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**How much do you use AI in your daily operations?**



**In what ways do you use AI to boost your productivity?**





# What barriers do you see to using AI in your organisation?

# Panel debate

**Andrei Martiniuc**, Manager of the European Projects Department, Transilvania IT Cluster

**Clara Plata Ríos**, Project Director, Smart City Cluster

**Elvis Bajric**, Cluster Manager Robotics, High Tech NL

**Joan Puaté**, Manager, Digital Cluster of Catalonia

**Silvia Rossi**, Manager, Clust-ER BUILD

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# Sectoral digital skills academies: Digital Skills Academy in GenAI

- This call aims to equip students, professionals, and the public with the necessary skills to develop, deploy and apply **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI) technologies** across various sectors.
- The academy will operate as a **one-stop-shop for AI training**, with two key focus areas:
  - Skills aligned with **AI Factories and EuroHPC supercomputing infrastructure**.
  - Skills for adopting and **applying AI/GenAI** in sectors such as SMEs, public administration, and industry.
- The expected outcomes of the projects are:
  - **“Teach-the-teacher” training** for university, VET, and secondary education staff
  - **Public engagement activities** (career orientation, social media outreach, tech deep dives)
  - Strong **collaboration frameworks** between academia, industry (incl. SMEs), and research institutions
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2025-SKILLS-08-VIRTUAL-WORLDS-ACADEMY-STEP
- Planned opening date: 15 April 2025
- Deadline: 02 September 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



# Sectoral digital skills academies: Virtual Worlds Skills Academy

- The objective of this call is to establish a **Virtual Worlds Skills Academy** that equips individuals with the necessary skills to contribute to and benefit from the development and deployment of virtual worlds technologies.
- The academy will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to **education and training**, covering technological domains.
- The expected outcomes of the projects are:
  - **Active partnerships** between academia, industry (including SMEs), and research institutions
  - Joint **educational initiatives** (internships, mentorships, bootcamps, summer schools, etc.)
  - **Communication and outreach activities**, especially for career orientation and awareness
  - A dedicated landing page on the **Digital Skills and Jobs Platform** to showcase activities
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2025-SKILLS-08-VIRTUAL-WORLDS-ACADEMY-STEP
- Planned opening date: 15 April 2025
- Deadline: 02 September 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Data Spaces Support Centre

- This call will **ensure the continued operation and development of the Data Spaces Support Centre**, which coordinates and supports the creation of Common European Data Spaces. The goal is to **foster secure, interoperable, and trustworthy data** sharing within and across sectors, benefiting public authorities, businesses (especially SMEs), and society at large.
- The academy will adopt an interdisciplinary approach to **education and training**, covering technological domains.
- The expected outcomes of the projects are:
  - **Continued coordination** of sectoral data space initiatives.
  - Provision of blueprints, standards, tools, and best practices.
  - **Involvement of key stakeholders** from both public and private sectors.
  - Support to the European Data Innovation Board (EDIB) in standard-setting and **cross-sectoral analysis**.
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2025-AI-08-DS-SUPPORT
- Planned opening date: 15 April 2025
- Deadline: 02 September 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- CirclnWater Internationalisation 2nd round: Lump sum grants offer to individual SME providing water-smart solutions, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries via internalization activities in **North America (Canada & USA)**; deadline 30 April 2025.
- FRIEND CCI – Call for Providers: Seeking **experts** in digitalisation, green transition, and internationalisation services to support SMEs.; deadline 1 August 2025.
- INGENIOUS: Training grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 30 June 2025.

**All calls here:**

[https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/funding?f%5B0%5D=status%3A1\\_open&f%5B1%5D=type%3A101189](https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/funding?f%5B0%5D=status%3A1_open&f%5B1%5D=type%3A101189)

# Register for the next Talk

**23 April**

From Research to Revenue:  
Facilitating Technology Transfer through Clusters

**7 May**

Clusters and SMEs in the EU's Simplification Agenda:  
Understanding the Omnibus Package



# Continue the discussion



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/>

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[www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu)



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European Cluster Collaboration Platform



European Cluster Collaboration Platform - ECCP

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## THANK YOU

