



EUCLUSTERS TALKS

Delivering Impact for Europe's Clusters

ECCP Activities and Results

25 February 2026

08:30-9:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member, ECCCP team
2. ECCCP activities and results
Manuel Seuffert, Coordination Lead, ECCCP team
3. Panel debate
Anders Thomson, CEO, NordicFlexHouse
Ardita Hoxha-Jahja, Internationalisation Manager, Agri-Food Cluster North Savo
Irena Łobocka, Manager, Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster
Paolo Vercesi, Executive Director, AFIL
4. Outlook on upcoming ECCCP activities
Valentino Izzo, Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA
5. Funding opportunities
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member, ECCCP team

Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch a poll. 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

Clusters meet Regions: Call for Expressions of Interest 2026

The ECCP, on behalf of the European Commission, invites EU regions and relevant ecosystem stakeholders to **express an initial, non-binding interest** in potentially **hosting future Clusters Meet Regions workshops** in 2026 and 2027.

Clusters Meet Regions is a well-established ECCP initiative that brings together cluster organisations, regional and national authorities, and other innovation and economic development stakeholders to exchange experiences on the role of clusters in regional development, smart specialisation strategies, and industrial transition pathways.

[Expressions of interest may be submitted](#) by:

- regional or national public authorities,
- cluster organisations,
- regional development agencies,
- business, innovation or enterprise support organisations,

acting individually or jointly, and with the involvement or awareness of relevant regional authorities.



European Commission adopted the 2026 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report

The European Commission adopted the [2026 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report](#), the sixth in an annual series, evaluating the functioning of the Single Market and **assessing the conditions for businesses to innovate, grow, and compete** while delivering sustainable prosperity for European citizens.

The report draws on **29 key performance indicators**, covering areas such as market integration and barriers, electricity prices and investment trends, and identifies priority areas for action.

The indicators that have shown **improvement** are the recognition of skills and qualifications needed for EU citizens to exercise their profession in other Member States; EU market surveillance, measured by product investigations carried out by market surveillance authorities; the share of companies in the EU using artificial intelligence, cloud computing and data analytics; the volume of InvestEU investments supporting the industrial transition has increased; the share of renewable energy generation with respect to total energy consumption; the annually-added capacity to generate renewable electricity.

[More info in the EC press release.](#)

EU-Ukraine Business Summit

On **22-23 April 2026**, European Business Summits and the European Commission will host the third edition of the **EU-Ukraine Business Summit** together with the governments of Ukraine and Poland. The Summit brings together policymakers, businesses and financial institutions in Brussels for two days of high-level discussions, round tables, B2B matchmaking, sectoral pitching sessions and interactive workshops.

Key topics will include supporting Ukraine's defence and European strategic industries, critical raw materials, leveraging public-private partnerships and public tenders for EU investors, business environment reforms and investment support instruments, support for SMEs, investments into the energy sector, private equity, cross-border logistics and more.

Register here: [EU-Ukraine Business Summit](#)

Participants are also invited to register for the [B2B matchmaking](#), where EU and Ukrainian businesses and other relevant stakeholders can schedule physical meetings during the Summit, but also online.



**EU-UKRAINE
BUSINESS
SUMMIT**

ON THE ROAD TO URC2026

Survey on Intellectual Property Rights in public procurement

As part of the ongoing review of the Public Procurement Directives, a study has been launched to **examine the use of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in public procurement**.

The survey aims to map **how companies respond** when a public contracting authority requires ownership of intellectual property rights in documents produced for tendering out public contracts. It seeks to better understand how business responds to such requirements and what are consequences of such requirements for businesses, including their impact on public procurement innovation, competitiveness, and market participation.

[Take the survey](#) until 28 February 2026.



Meet the Euroclusters

Selected under the call Joint Cluster Initiatives (Euroclusters) for Europe's Recovery, these **16 initiatives** mark an important milestone in advancing the EU's ambition for a greener, more digital and more resilient industrial future.

With a total budget of 42 million EUR, the initiatives bring together clusters, SMEs and research organisations from across Europe to strengthen value chains, accelerate the decarbonisation of industry and the digital transition, and improve businesses competitiveness.

More than 30 million EUR of this amount will be channeled directly to SMEs through open calls organised by the consortia. This support will fund projects that:

- foster innovation and the uptake of advanced technologies,
- build capacity in strategic sectors, and
- drive Europe's transformation towards a sustainable, digital and resilient economy.

[Summary: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 1](#)

[Summary: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 2](#)



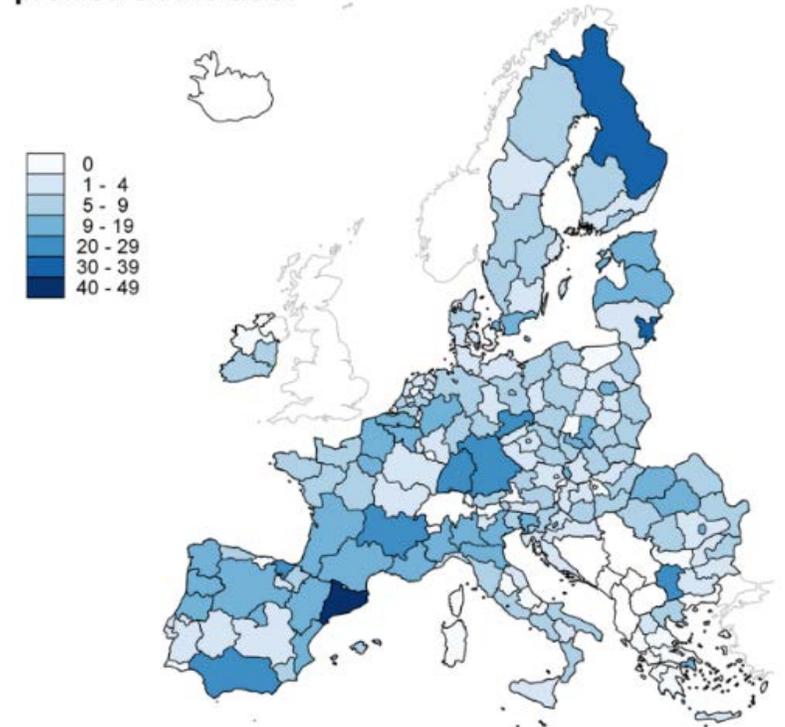
ECCP activities and results

Manuel Seuffert, Coordination Lead, ECCP team

Overview of Europe's Cluster Ecosystem on the ECCP – it's not “just” a platform, but a strategic innovation infrastructure

- **1,258 EU27 cluster organisations** registered on the ECCP
- **155,000 organisations represented**
 - 120,000 SMEs
 - 19,000 large enterprises
 - 15,000 research organisations
- **More than 60% of cluster organisations established in the last 15 years** – a proof for the dynamic ecosystem
- “Digital” as the most represented industrial ecosystem
- ECCP platform is increasingly acting (and accepted) as coordination backbone of Europe's cluster landscape

Number of EU27 cluster organisations profiled on the ECCP



Own elaboration based on ECCP data as of Summer 2025

From networking to measurable cooperation: the ECCP evolved from event organization into structured cooperation conversion

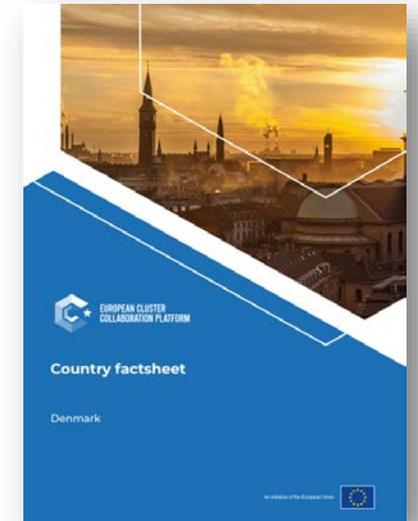
- **1,300+ participants in Matchmaking Events**
- **6,700+ meetings** held
- **1,380+ cooperation cases** identified
- **6,700+ participants** (cum.) out of 11,600+ registrations in **95 EU Cluster Talks**
- **100+ beneficiaries of the Cluster Booster Academy**
- **4,200+ participants at Cluster meet Regions**, with **290+ pitching presentations**
- **25 case studies** created for the library
- **8 C2Labs with 350+ participants**



Numbers for 2024 and 2025 as totals – displaying the final results

The ECCP as Europe's structured cluster observatory and foresight instrument, leveraging data for policy intelligence

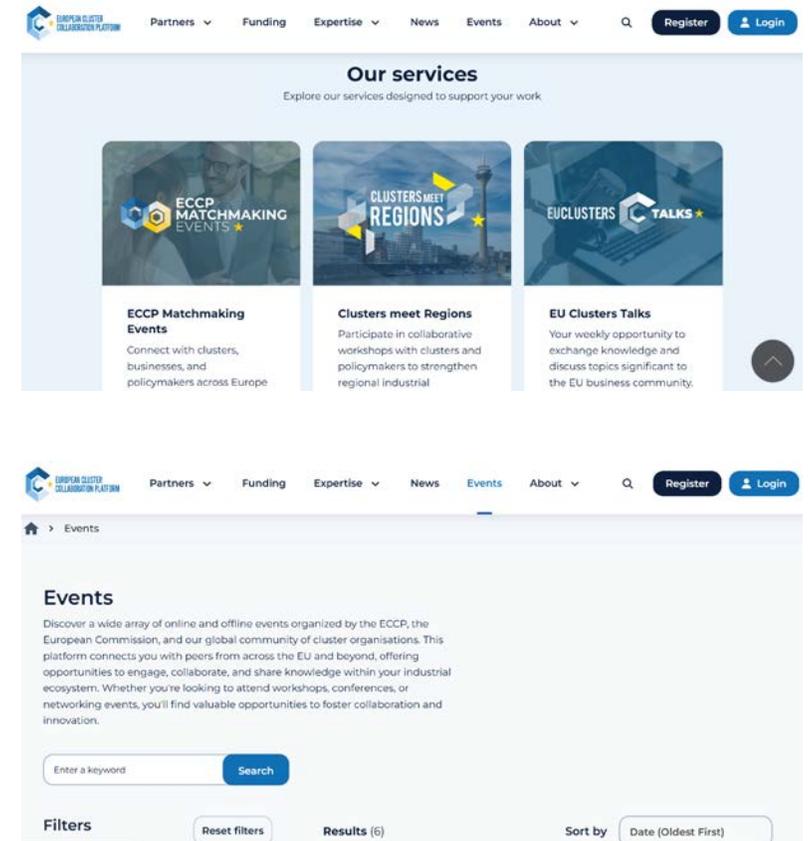
- **250+ new profiles published**
- **Updated profiles doubled** (from 22% to 41%)
- **3 green transition guides** and **11 good practices** published
 - Overview of EU policies and funding instruments
 - Practical guides to navigate the EU landscape effectively
 - Resources and good practices to help clusters advance
- **ECCP Trend Universe** as temporarily strategic foresight and innovation-scouting tool for clusters
- **56 country factsheets** updated
- Cluster Panorama Reports and Summary Report 2025 published
 - Key delivery mechanism for Europe's competitiveness agenda
 - Enablement of clean and resilient industrial transformation
 - Bridge of R&D and market application through cross-boarder collaboration
 - Enhancement of coordinated EU-level cluster policy and funding framework still required



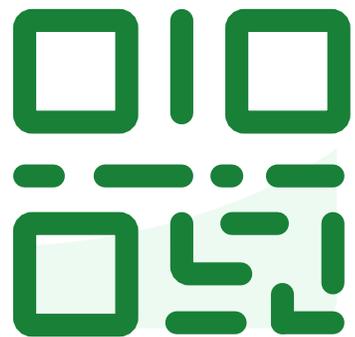
Numbers for 2024 and 2025 as totals – displaying the final results

The ECCP strengthened both its technological robustness and its community cohesion, reaching digital maturity

- **Significant improvement of the IT backbone** and infrastructure, including **UX and tool updates**
- **Increasing community reach and exceeding KPI**
 - bounce rate reduction from 13% to 3%
 - LinkedIn followers grown by 40+%
 - Reached 5,670+ newsletter subscribers with 33% opening rate
 - 2,600+ social media posts



Numbers for 2024 and 2025 as totals – displaying the final results



**Join at slido.com
#ECCP**



**Which of the following ECCP services
have you mainly used?**



What is one concrete result for you thanks to the ECCP?



What is one thing ECCP should add or change to its operations?

Panel debate

Anders Thomson, CEO, NordicFlexHouse

Ardita Hoxha-Jahja, Internationalisation Manager, Agri-Food Cluster North Savo

Irena Łobocka, Manager, Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster

Paolo Vercesi, Executive Director, AFIL

Outlook on upcoming ECCCP activities

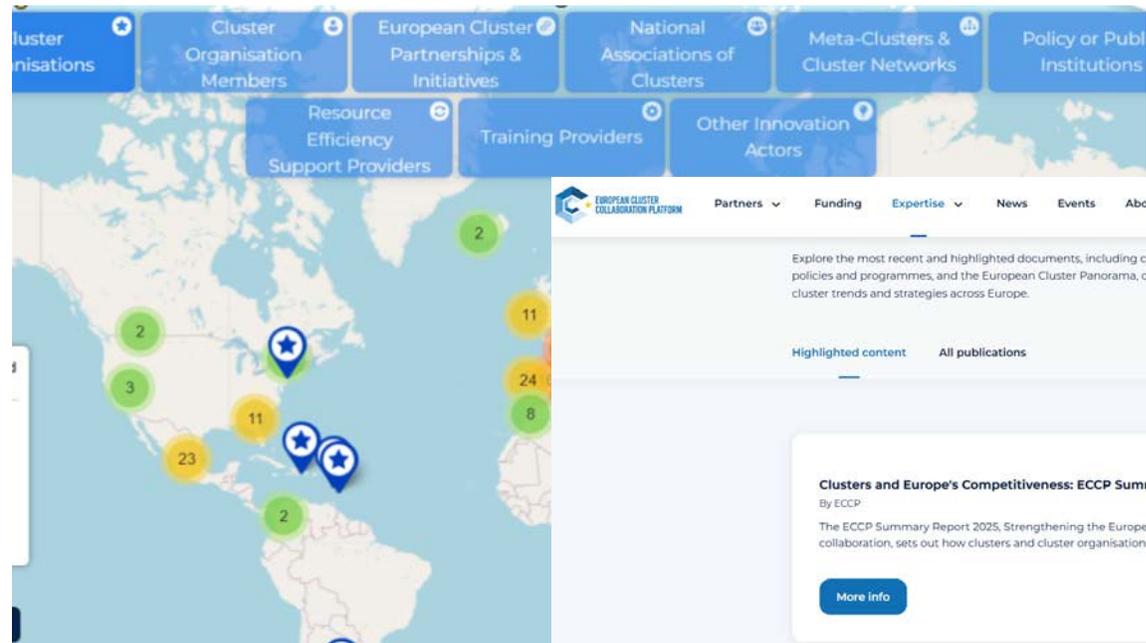
Valentino Izzo

Programme Coordination Manager EISMEA

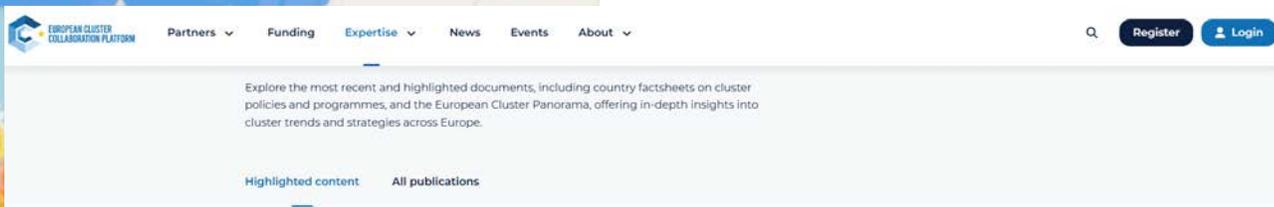
Mission of the ECCP



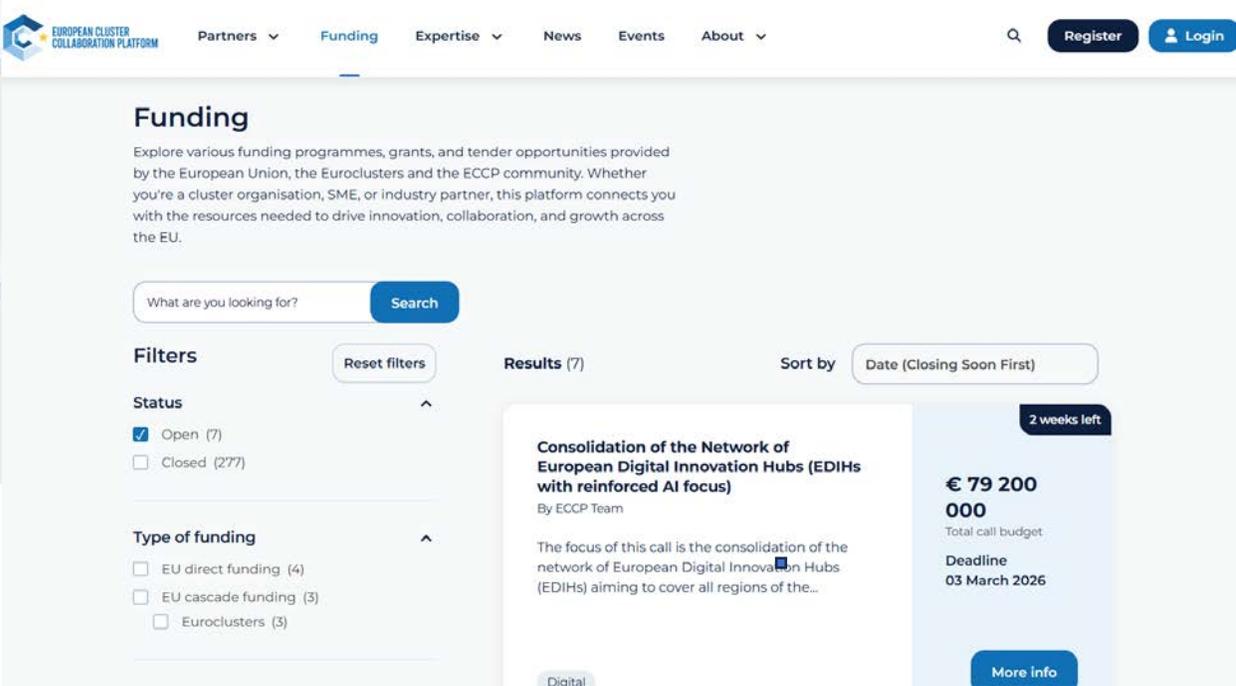
Our mission is to be the European online hub for cluster stakeholders (cluster organisations, policymakers and other related stakeholders from the cluster ecosystem) and the reference one-stop-shop for stakeholders in third countries aiming to set up partnerships with European counterparts.



More responsive mapping with simplified filters



Easier navigation with highlighted content



More modern look = better user experience

Looking forward ...

Services of ECCP

- Dynamic [mapping](#) of almost 1,700 profiled cluster organisations worldwide, more than 300 clusters projects and almost 100 national cluster associations and metaclusters.
- The largest information hub for clusters offering the latest [news](#) and [open calls](#) to a broad community via the ECCP newsletter
- An extensive **knowledge database** featuring a mapping of regional, national, international and sectoral [cluster networks](#), toolkits, good practices and [publications](#) developed by the ECCP, European Commission, academia and the larger community.
- The most up-to-date **information on key policy areas** of the European Commission
- Dedicated pages supporting [international cooperation](#) including profiles of selected countries of strategic interest
- A variety of [events](#) ([webinars](#), capacity building seminars, conferences, [Matchmaking events](#)) organised by the ECCP, European Cluster Partnerships and the cluster community to foster capacity building and peer discussions

Main Changes to ECCCP offer



Discontinuation



ECCP Trend Universe

Towards a strengthened offer



**EU CLUSTERS TALKS +
EU INDUSTRY TALKS**



**HELP SHAPE INDUSTRIAL POLICY
AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
LEVEL + IDENTIFY AND PURSUE
COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES
+ MACRO-REGIONS OR CROSS
BORDER**



**STAND-ALONE ONLINE TRAINING
MODULES + ONSITE TRAINING
CURRICULA FOR BEGGINERS AND
MORE ADVANCED**

Towards more enriched offer - new services

Cluster policy learning exchange:

Online events to boost policymakers' understanding and cooperation on cluster policies, focusing on less developed regions.

Cluster Panorama



European Cluster Panorama

Find out how clusters contribute to the competitiveness of the European economy.

[View more](#)

Towards a more agile offer

Increased flexibility to respond to any emerging priority and need

- Fewer “fixed” events & increased programme agility
 - Increased budget agility
- 
- Ad-hoc events
 - Fast-tracked services
 - Variety of formats
 - Contingency margin

THANK YOU

EUCLUSTERS



TALKS ★



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EU launches new call for Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs local partners

Erasmus for Young
Entrepreneurs

The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) has opened a call for proposals (SMP-COSME-2026-EYE) under the Single Market Programme to select **Intermediary Organisations (IOs)** that will **run the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme locally**.

The programme supports cross-border exchanges between new or aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced host entrepreneurs in different participating countries, aiming to boost entrepreneurial skills, internationalisation and SME competitiveness. Applicants need proven **experience in supporting businesses** and must meet all eligibility and compliance requirements set out in the call.

Proposals must be submitted by **21 April 2026**.

The call has a total budget of €20 million, and organisations can attend an **online information session on 26 February 2026** for further guidance.

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Boosting sustainable competitiveness in rural areas through innovation

Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- a better understanding of sustainable competitiveness in rural areas is achieved;
- rural communities have better access to services and sustainable business opportunities;
- entrepreneurship, innovation, and skills are promoted in rural communities, particularly among young people, to foster sustainability, competitiveness and digital literacy across various sectors of the rural economy.

Proposals may provide **financial support to third parties** in particular to support start up or businesses.

Proposals must be submitted by **14 April 2026**.

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-COMMUNITIES-01

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Innovation Fund: Net Zero Technologies - General decarbonisation

The Fund provides grants for projects aimed at the **commercial deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies**, with the objective of bringing to the market industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe's economy and support the transition to climate neutrality. Options are:

- Large-Scale Projects
- Medium-Scale Projects
- Small-Scale Projects

These topics aim to support and advance **innovative low-carbon technologies and processes** to significantly mitigate climate change, promoting sustainable development and technological leadership within Europe.

Proposals must be submitted by **23 April 2026**.

TOPIC ID: INNOVFUND-2025-NZT

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Register for the next Talks

11 March

The Industrial Accelerator Act: Speeding Up Strategic Projects

Continue the discussion



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

Visit our website
and follow us social media



www.clustercollaboration.eu



@Clusters_EU



European Cluster Collaboration Platform



European Cluster Collaboration Platform - ECCP

#EUClustersTalks

#ECCP

EUCLUSTERS

THANK YOU

