

# EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

## Cluster development in EU Member States: Initiatives and funding options

**4 September 2024**

08:30-09:45 CET

**Online**

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform  
**Ángela Negrete Benedí**, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Overview of the European Cluster Panorama  
**Jan-Philipp Kramer**, Head of EU-Services, Prognos, Team Member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
3. Panel debate  
**Anna Monjo Gallego**, Team Leader of the Catalunya Clusters Program, ACCIÓ  
**Annie Renders**, Head of Unit Cluster Policy & Strategic Relations, Government of Flanders, VLAIO  
**Michael Liebming**, Cluster Manager, Styrian Business Development Agency (SFG)  
**Jiri Herinek**, President, CZ National Cluster Association
4. Funding opportunities  
**Ángela Negrete Benedí**, Team Member 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



# C2Lab: Join the workshop to set up your next project!



*Check out all our  
upcoming events!*

[Watch online the recorded Info Session](#)

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, in collaboration with the French Association of Pôles de Compétitivité (AFPC), organises the next edition of the **Cluster Collaboration Labs in Strasbourg, France, on 25-26 September 2024.**

The [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. You can either join with a concrete project proposal or offer your expertise and knowledge by joining others.

# Apply for the next Cluster Booster Academy

The [Academy](#) will involve up to **50 participants** and will run for **5 days** in a hybrid format including an individual coaching session in between:

## 3 days of online training sessions:

6 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

11 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

15 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

**1 coaching session** to be scheduled individually

**2 days of in-person training sessions:** 3-4 March 2025, at the Warsaw University of Technology

**DEADLINE: 17 October 2024**



1. Provide **learning opportunities for cluster managers** to further develop their skills
2. Meet the needs of European cluster management teams in their **daily work**
3. Offer cluster management teams the chance to **learn from each other's experiences**
4. Provide the opportunity to co-shape **new European value chains**
5. Support cluster management teams and stakeholders in understanding and **contributing to the European policies and programmes**
6. Help in **developing better policy related to clusters**
7. Improve the **skills of clusters' staff** thanks to a "train the trainers" approach by disseminating their knowledge further

***Check out all our upcoming events!***

# Save the date for the upcoming Clusters meet Regions!

We invite you to join our “Clusters meet Regions” – transnational events that bring together **clusters and policymakers** at the local, regional, and national levels, with the aim of strengthening the industrial ecosystem in a selected host region.

The events facilitate the **implementation of good practices** where clusters play an active role in regional economies and are drivers for economic transition, and to create and promote **collaboration** between clusters and regional stakeholders for the industrial development of the regions.



The graphic features a dark blue background with a stylized map of Europe on the right, where several regions are highlighted in yellow. On the left, the text 'CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS' is displayed in white, with a yellow star to its right. Below this, a blue banner reads 'COMING UP THIS YEAR 2024'. A list of four events follows, each preceded by a circular flag icon: Chişinău, Moldova (10-11 October 2024), Palma de Mallorca, Spain (24-25 October 2024), Heilbronn, Germany (13-14 November 2024), and Charleroi, Belgium (27-28 November 2024). At the bottom right, a small circular icon with a green and blue design is followed by the text 'includes a Matchmaking Event'.

**CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS** ★

**COMING UP THIS YEAR 2024**

-  **Chişinău, Moldova**  
10-11 October 2024
-  **Palma de Mallorca, Spain**  
24-25 October 2024
-  **Heilbronn, Germany**  
13-14 November 2024
-  **Charleroi, Belgium**  
27-28 November 2024

 includes a Matchmaking Event



*Check out all our upcoming events!*

# Apply for EU-India Matchmaking



*Check out all our  
upcoming events!*

An EU delegation of clusters and SMEs will travel to Bengaluru, India, for a [matchmaking event](#) in the context of the [Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024](#) which will be held on **19-21 November 2024**.

The 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 India. It will provide participants an excellent chance to promote Cluster to Cluster (C2C), Cluster to Business (C2B), and Business to Business (B2B) collaborations.

**Focus areas:** Biotech, Digital, Green Tech, Advanced Manufacturing





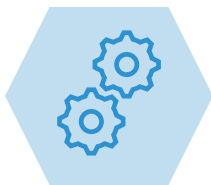
# **Funding cluster policies in Member States – Insights from the ECCP Cluster Panorama 2024**

EU Cluster Talks, 04<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dr. Jan-Philipp Kramer, Prognos AG/ECCP



Overview of the **European cluster landscape**



Clusters as drivers of **competitiveness & transition processes**



Relevance of **cluster policies** for tackling key transition challenges



**Conclusions** & business-policy implications

# Cluster organisations span across the Single Market enabling knowledge sharing, collaboration & business opportunities

**1,500** cluster organisations on the ECCP  
(1,200 in the EU27)

**40%** of the EU27 cluster organisations  
established since 2014

**~170,000** cluster members represented by  
cluster organisations

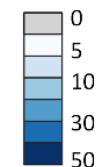
**140,000** SMEs

**16,000** Large enterprises

**13,000** Research organisations

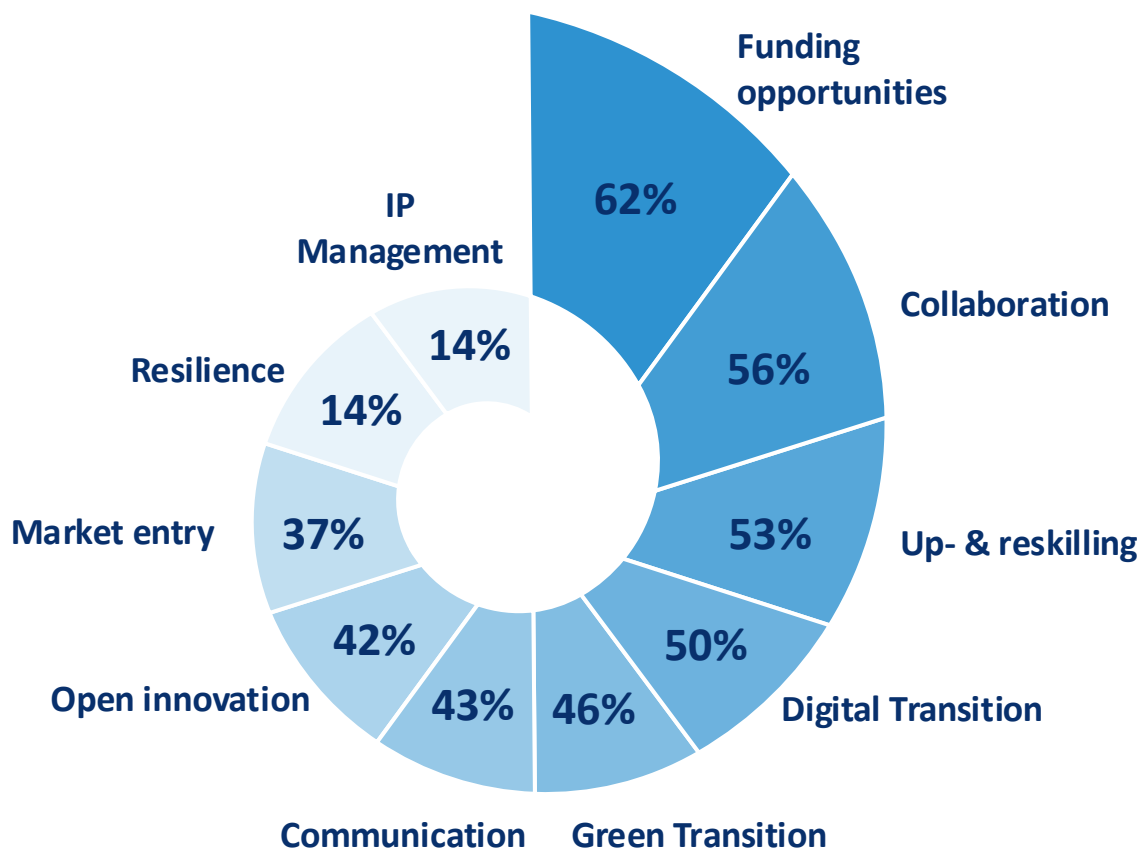
**70** National cluster associations & Meta  
clusters in the EU

Number of EU27  
cluster organisations  
profiled on the ECCP



# Cluster organisations also actively support their members with the Twin Transition and building resilience

## Support services provided by EU27 cluster organisations to their cluster members



Support for manufacturing SMEs to test & adopt latest digital technologies.  
Activities include investment readiness, open innovation platform, accelerator programme (including up- & reskilling)



ELBE Eurocluster gathers eight EU clusters to facilitate new value chains through cascade funding for innovation, training & internationalisation in the Offshore RE sector

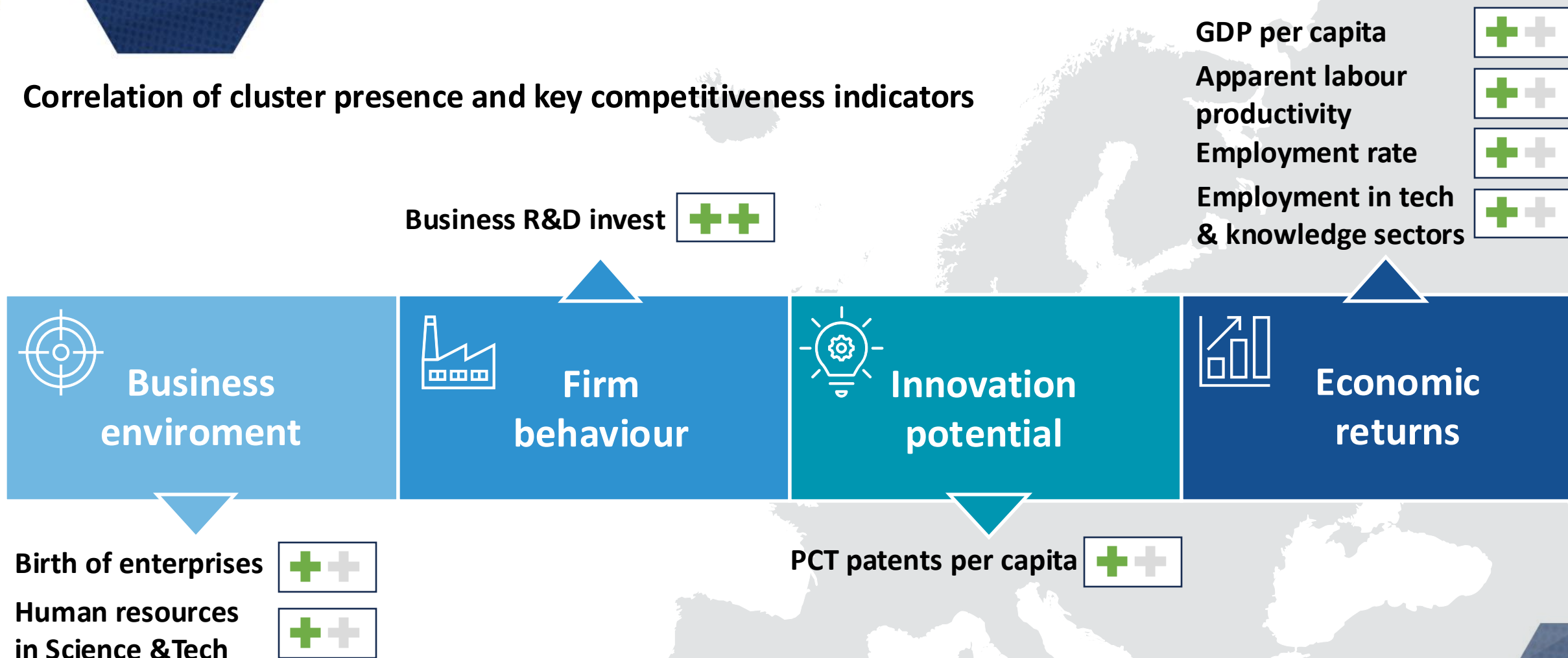


H2Global positions EU as global technological & industrial leader in green hydrogen economy. Facilitates collaboration across borders & sectoral boundaries to build green hydrogen partnership for internationalisation.



# Why clusters are critical to competitiveness: from improvements of business environments to economic returns

## Correlation of cluster presence and key competitiveness indicators



++ Positive correlation    +- Weak positive correlation

# Why clusters are critical to competitiveness: from improvements of business environments to economic returns

Correlation of cluster

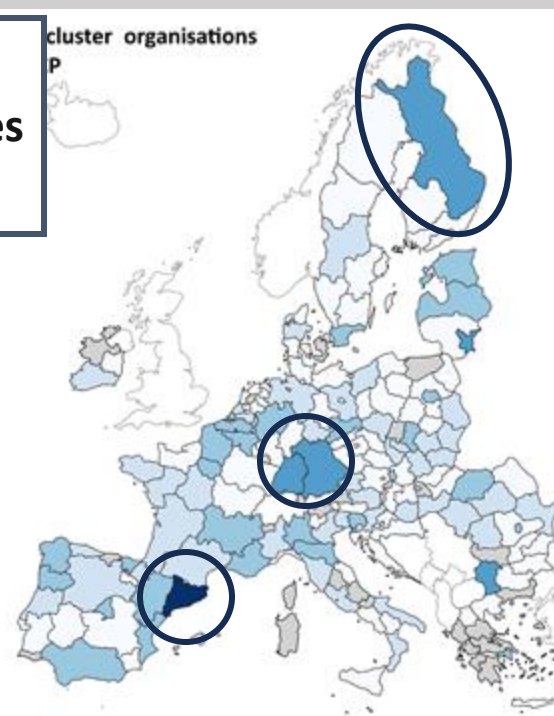
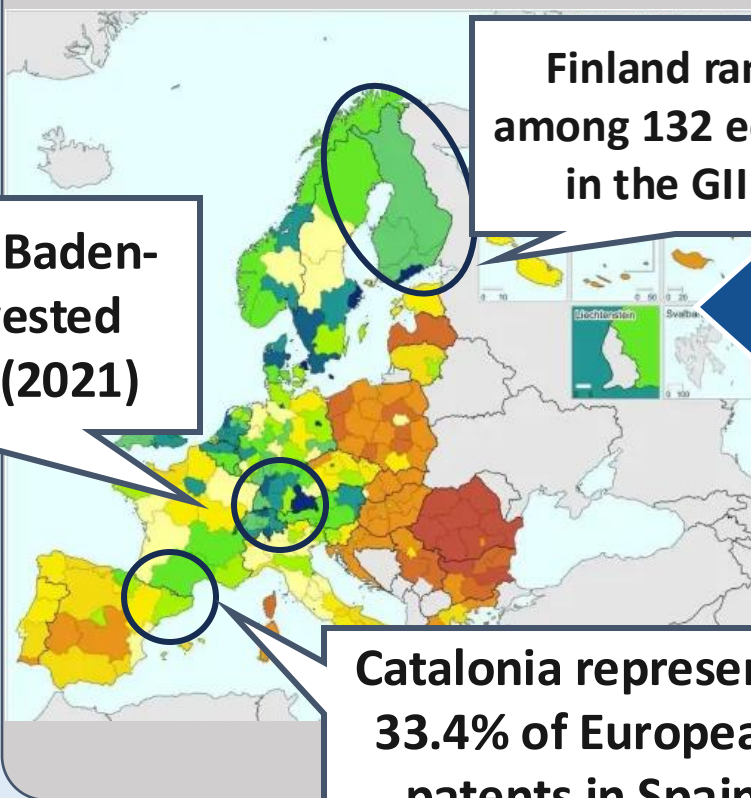
Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023

EU Cluster Ecosystem 2024

Firms in Bavaria & Baden-Württemberg invested 42bn EUR in R&D (2021)

Finland ranks 6th among 132 economies in the GII 2023.

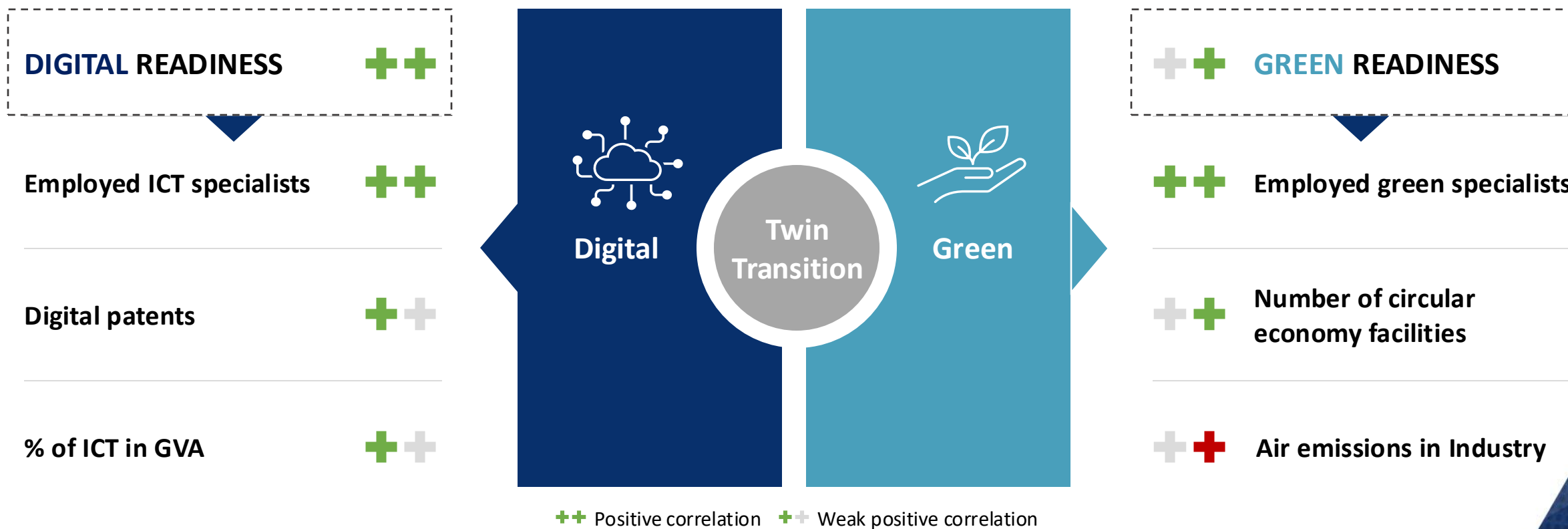
Catalonia represents 33.4% of European patents in Spain



++ Positive correlation    + Weak positive correlation

# Why clusters are important for the Twin Transition: driving digital and green readiness

## Correlation between cluster presence and digital/green readiness



# Why clusters are critical to competitiveness: Attraction of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)

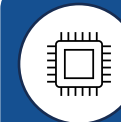
## Clusters as an effective & efficient policy tool for increasing competitiveness

- FDI are an important aspect of competitiveness & can directly increase firm competitiveness
- FDI are at the same time an indication of the attractiveness & competitiveness of a region
- Clusters provide foreign investors access to a skilled labour force, knowledge, specialised suppliers & existing value chains



### Aragón (ES) & North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)

- FDI investments in AI data centres (EUR 6.7 bn & EUR 3.2 bn)
- Investments linked to availability of good infrastructure, highly qualified labour force, existing cluster for digital and quantum technologies.



### Silesia (PL)

- FDI investments in semiconductor industry (EUR 4 bn)
- Investment based on the given access to relevant academic institutions and qualified workers in the region



### Rhineland-Palatinate (DE)

- FDI investment in a high-tech pharmaceutical production site (EUR 2.3 bn)
- Investment was explicitly based on the presence of an existing biotechnology cluster & the access to qualified personnel



# Dedicated cluster policies are well-established across the EU with distinct spatial patterns

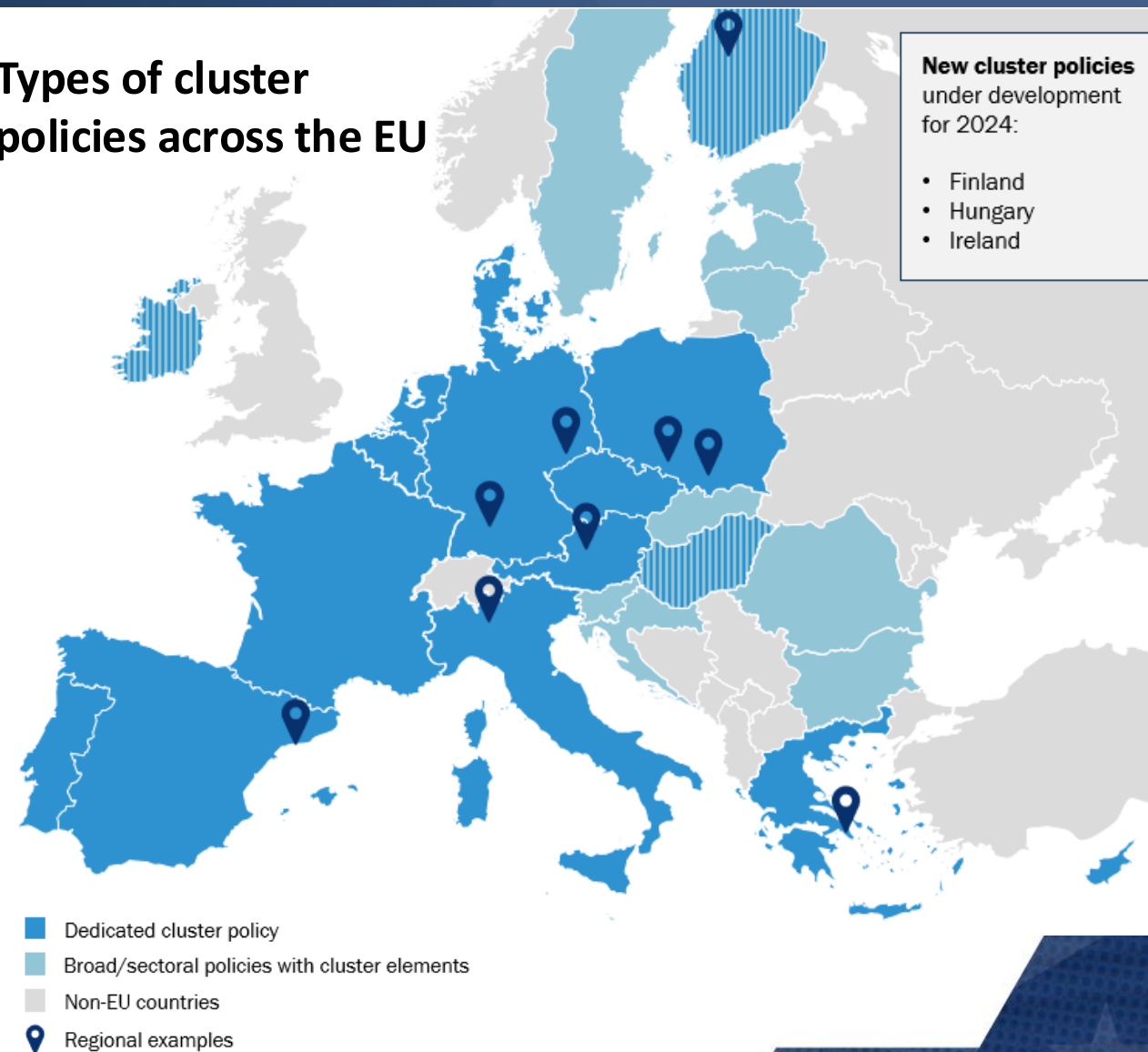
## 14 EU Member States with **dedicated** cluster policy

- Mostly Central and Southern Europe
- 830 cluster organisations on ECCP (71%)
- Special case Belgium: cluster policy in all regions

## 13 EU Member States have **broad/sectoral** policies with cluster elements

- Mostly Northern and South-East Europe
- 340 cluster organisations on ECCP (29%)
- Some countries are currently developing a dedicated cluster policy (e.g., Finland, Hungary, Ireland)

## Types of cluster policies across the EU



Source: ECCP (2024), based on information gathered through desk research and validation by National Authorities.

# Several European regions utilise dedicated cluster policies



## Example 1: Cluster policy and funding in Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

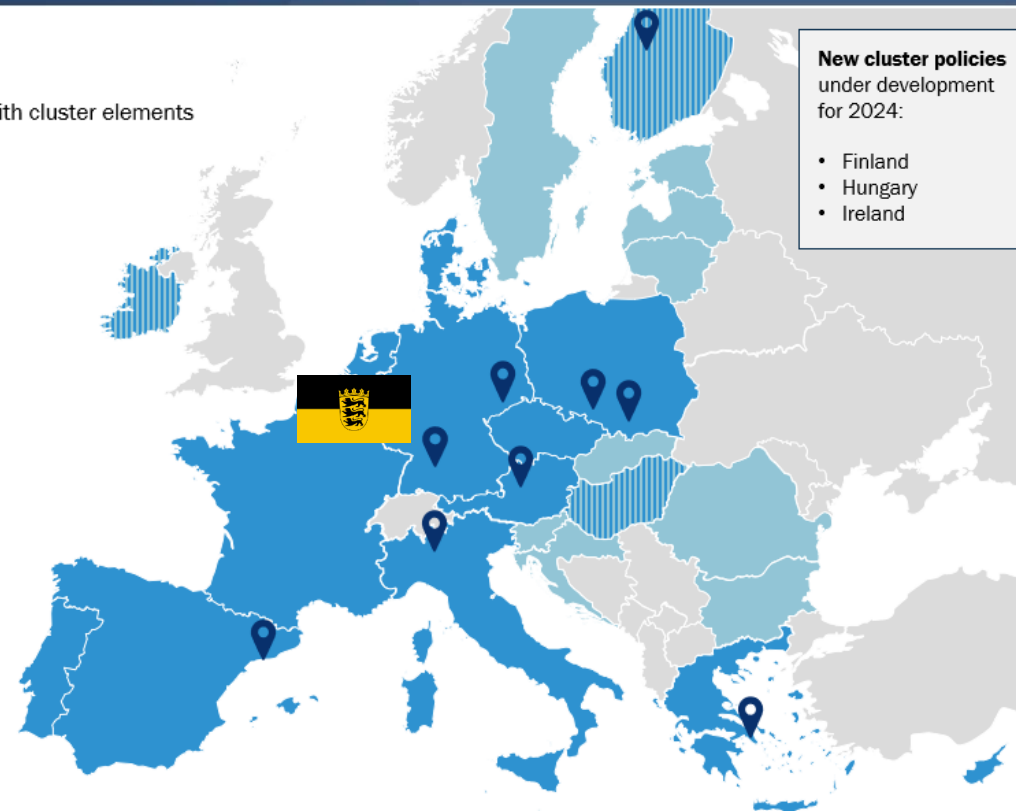
### Cluster policy

- Developing **cluster policy** *along* with the **cluster landscape** and its needs: From mapping of existing cluster initiatives, to professionalisation of cluster management and foresight capabilities
- New **RegioClusterAgentur** integrates cluster policy and regional development with a focus on transition challenges

### Regional public funding

- **No general funding** for cluster organisations: RegioClusterAgentur is a pure service and knowledge provider
- **Public funding** for cluster organisations through **thematic calls**, often ERDF co-financed (e.g. RegioWIN; RIS-Koordinatoren)

- Dedicated cluster policy
- Broad/sectoral policies with cluster elements
- Non-EU countries
- 📍 Regional examples

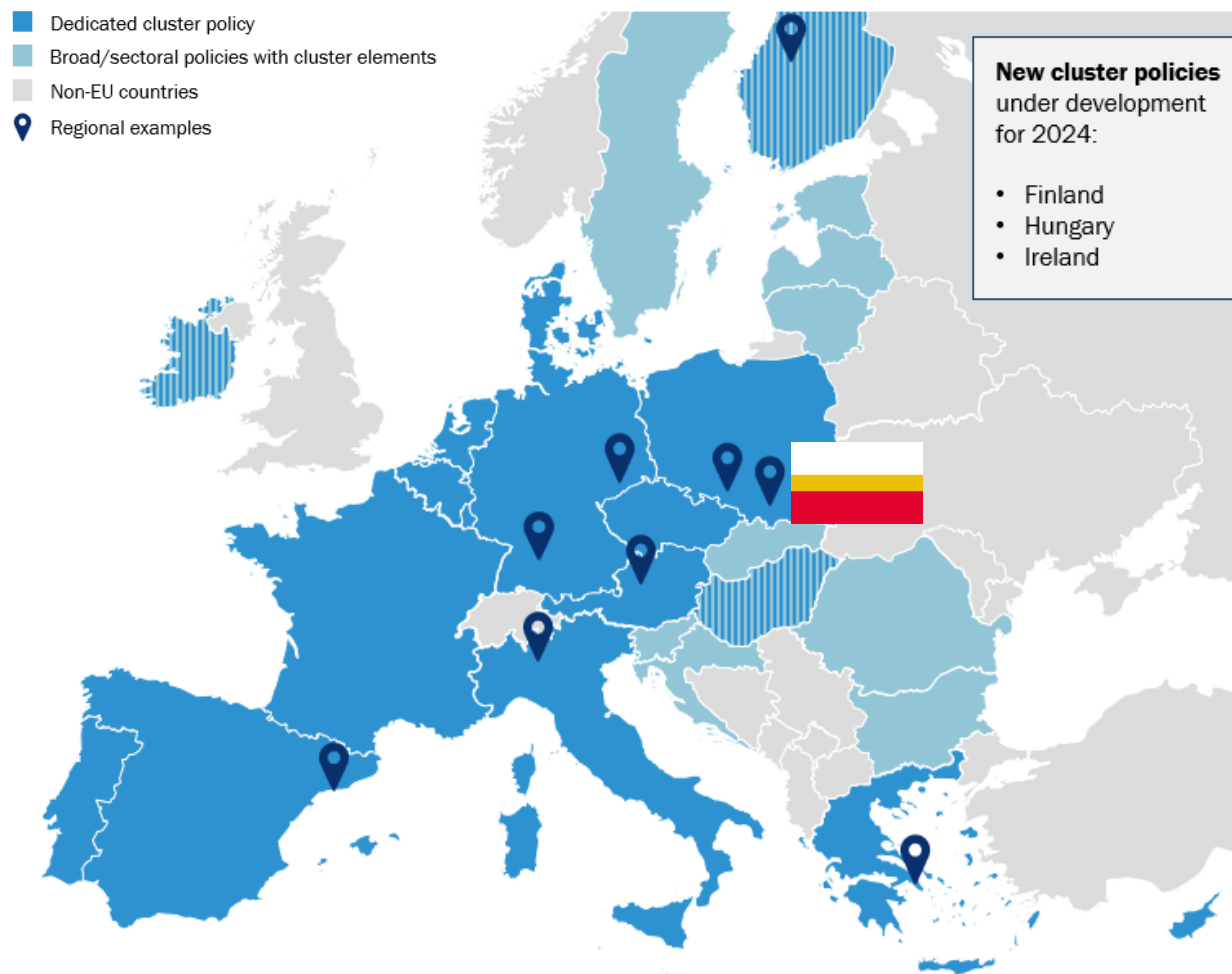


### Cluster funding mix

Funding **sources vary** for different clusters:

- Federal funding programmes
- Regional agencies (e.g. for e-mobility)
- Membership fees
- Fee-based services
- Participation in projects

# While also broader policies include elements of cluster support



Source: ECCP (2024), based on information gathered through desk research and validation by National Authorities.

## Example 2: Regional cluster support in Małopolska (Poland)



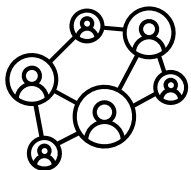
### Cluster support and policy

- Cluster support is linked to **regional innovation strategy** & connects local cluster initiatives to **National Key Clusters** programme
- Regional development agency **MARR** offers diverse services including a business centre and a technology park

### Accessing funding

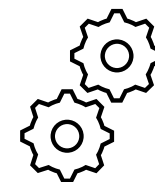
- National Key Clusters (KKK)** programme does *not* provide funding itself but gives designated clusters **access to specific funding streams** (e.g., the ERDF co-financed Internationalisation of National Key Clusters programme)
- Cluster budgets vary greatly** in Poland. Large clusters, often with KKK status, command significant resources while small ones often only survive at the bare minimum. (**exception**: Southern Macroregion incl. Małopolska!)
- Cluster coordinators facilitate access to financial instruments** for cluster members

## Summary: The European cluster ecosystem as a contributor to EU competitiveness & resilience



Cluster organisations in the EU27 are **key integrators**, connecting a wide range of important stakeholders, in all relevant **industrial ecosystems** of the EU Single Market.

European cluster organisations actively **support the competitiveness & adaptation to transition challenges** of their members, especially SMEs.



**Dedicated funding streams and support services** that help cluster organisations to tap into a variety of funding opportunities enable a **sustainable and broad financial basis**.



# Make sure to check out the European Cluster Panorama Report 2024!

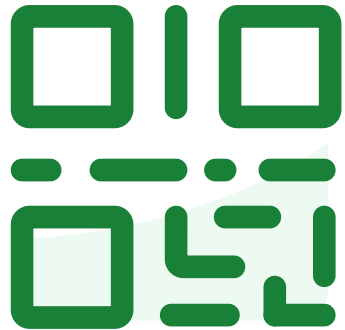




**Thank you for your interest!**

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**#FundingClusters**

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**Which type of financial support is most effective for cluster development in your experience?**

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## How are clusters helping your organisation get funding?

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

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**How can EU Member States improve the alignment of national cluster policies with broader EU policies?**

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

# Panel debate

**Anna Monjo Gallego**, Team Leader of the Catalunya Clusters Program, ACCIÓ

**Annie Renders**, Head of Unit Cluster Policy & Strategic Relations, Government of Flanders, VLAIO

**Michael Liebming**, Cluster Manager, Styrian Business Development Agency (SFG)

**Jiri Herinek**, President, National Cluster Association CZ

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



# Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:
  - **Value creation and transfer to the economy and society** by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors (academia/research; industry/SMEs; public administration/policy-makers and society/citizens);
  - **New solutions to societal and economic challenges** by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;
  - **Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation** through sustainable reforms and new initiatives in line with the ERA Policy Agenda action 7 – Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation
- Topic ID: HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01; HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based
- Deadline: 25 September 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Accelerating uptake through open proposals for advanced SME innovation

- Projects 'results are expected to contribute to some or all of the following outcomes:
  - Development of a mature technological solution addressing EU security policy priorities in the areas addressed by the Cluster 3 work programme;
  - Facilitated access to civil security market for small innovators;
  - Improved cooperation between public buyers and small supply market actors for a swifter uptake of innovation in response to short to mid-term needs;
  - Stronger partnerships between small and medium EU security industry and technology actors to ensure the sustainability of the EU innovation capacity in the civil security domain and reduce technological dependencies from non-EU suppliers in critical security areas
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL3-2024-SSRI-01-02, HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]
- Deadline: 20 November 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Teaming for Excellence

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:
  - **Increased scientific compatibilities of the** coordinating institution and the host country enabling the coordinator and other potential entities from that country to successfully apply for competitive funding in the EU and globally;
  - **Improved the R&I culture** through centres of excellence as lighthouses and role models;
  - **Stimulus** for institutional and systemic reforms and R&I investments at national level
  - **Strengthened and mutually benefitting collaboration** with partners from leading scientific institutions from abroad
  - Developed and enhanced **research and innovation capacities** and the uptake of advanced technologies;
  - Contribution to the **achievement of the specific objectives** of the supporting national/regional/EU programme as complementary funding
  - Enhanced **innovation and integration** of planned processes, services and products of the centre
  - Enhanced **co-operation and synergies** with other European projects
- Topic ID: HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01-01-two-stage, HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based
- Planned opening date: 3 December 2024 Deadline dates: 10 April 2025, 20 January 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Support to the activities of the SET Plan Key Action area Renewable fuels and bioenergy

- Expected Outcome: Engagements of stakeholders is pivotal in the transition to a clean energy system and the achievement of the zero-emissions target.
- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:
  - **Consolidation of strong and sustainable networks** in the technology area of renewable fuels & bioenergy covered through the **Strategic Energy Technology** (SET) Plan and its integrated roadmap.
  - **Cooperation among ETIPs or similar stakeholders'** fora support to existing SET Plan Implementation Plan and advancement towards more interconnected activities, both in terms of contents and implementation mechanisms;
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-13. HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]
- Planned opening date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Deadline: 04 February 2025
- Published on EU [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- 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
- GEMSTONE: Financial support for **training** related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 2024
- INGENIOUS: **Internationalisation** grant for SMEs operating in **energy-intensive industries** to develop activities related to Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2024
- 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
- RESIST: **Coaching and mentoring** for assessment and feasibility services; deadline 1 November 2024
- RESIST: **Training** FSTP for SMEs in the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 30 November 2024
- RESIST: **Networking and marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024
- RESIST: **Internationalisation** FSTP for activities in target markets; deadline 20 December 2024
- SUSTAIN: 2<sup>nd</sup> call for SMEs for developing new products, services or methods addressing the smart building construction challenges; deadline 13 September 2024.

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- RE-CENTRE: Call reopened for **financial support** for participation of SMEs from the traditional furniture and living sector, IT sector, and green/circular economy sector, in B2B meetings with entities from **Mexico or Chile**, deadline 12 September 2024.
- xBUILD-EU: 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals for **Innovate, Global and Digital Green** grants to make SMEs more resilient against value chain disruptions, deadline 2 October 2024.
- SILEO: 3<sup>rd</sup> call for Expression of Interest for the SILEO Pool of **Technology Uptake Facilitators**, deadline 11 October 2024.
- SILEO: 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Call for Advanced Technology Uptake Projects from SMEs operating in the **lighting and furniture industry**, deadline 25 October 2024
- METASTARS: Open call for **prizes** for SMEs from the **Aerospace and Defence** who have made efforts to become more resilient and to adapt to the challenges of the green & digital transition, deadline 13 September
- All calls here: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls>

# Register for the next Talks

**18 September**

Impact Insights: Measuring and Optimising Cluster Performance

# Clusters Talks survey

**Deadline extended until 6 September**

We look forward to hearing your suggestions!

Answer the survey [here](#)

# Continue the discussion



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



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## THANK YOU

