



EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

Revising the EU Public Procurement Directives: A Strategic Tool for Europe's Competitiveness

11 February 2026

08:30-9:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

2. Public Procurement Directives Revision

Henning Ehrenstein, Head of Unit Public Procurement, DG GROW, European Commission

3. Panel debate

Ester Davanzo, Senior European Affairs Coordinator, France Digitale

Jorge González, Director, Ticbiomed

Montse Daban, Strategic Foresight and International Relations Director, Biocat

Yannis Zormpas, Principal, Boston Consulting Group

4. Funding opportunities

Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Housekeeping rules

Jennifer Baker, 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.



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.

[Slides and recording: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 1](#)

[Slides and recording: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 2](#)



Clusters and Europe's Competitiveness: ECCP Summary Report 2025

A central contribution of the report is its clarification of how clusters can advance the three core priorities of the Competitiveness Compass:

- **Closing the innovation gap** by organising demand-driven collaboration, connecting SMEs with anchor firms and testbeds, and building cross-border technology adoption pipelines, illustrated by meta-cluster models such as Silicon Europe.
- **Decarbonising with competitiveness by enabling collective action**, including shared infrastructure, industrial symbiosis and coordinated roadmaps, supported by place-based approaches such as Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys.
- **Reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security** by supporting value-chain diversification and re-anchoring, accelerating technology substitution, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.

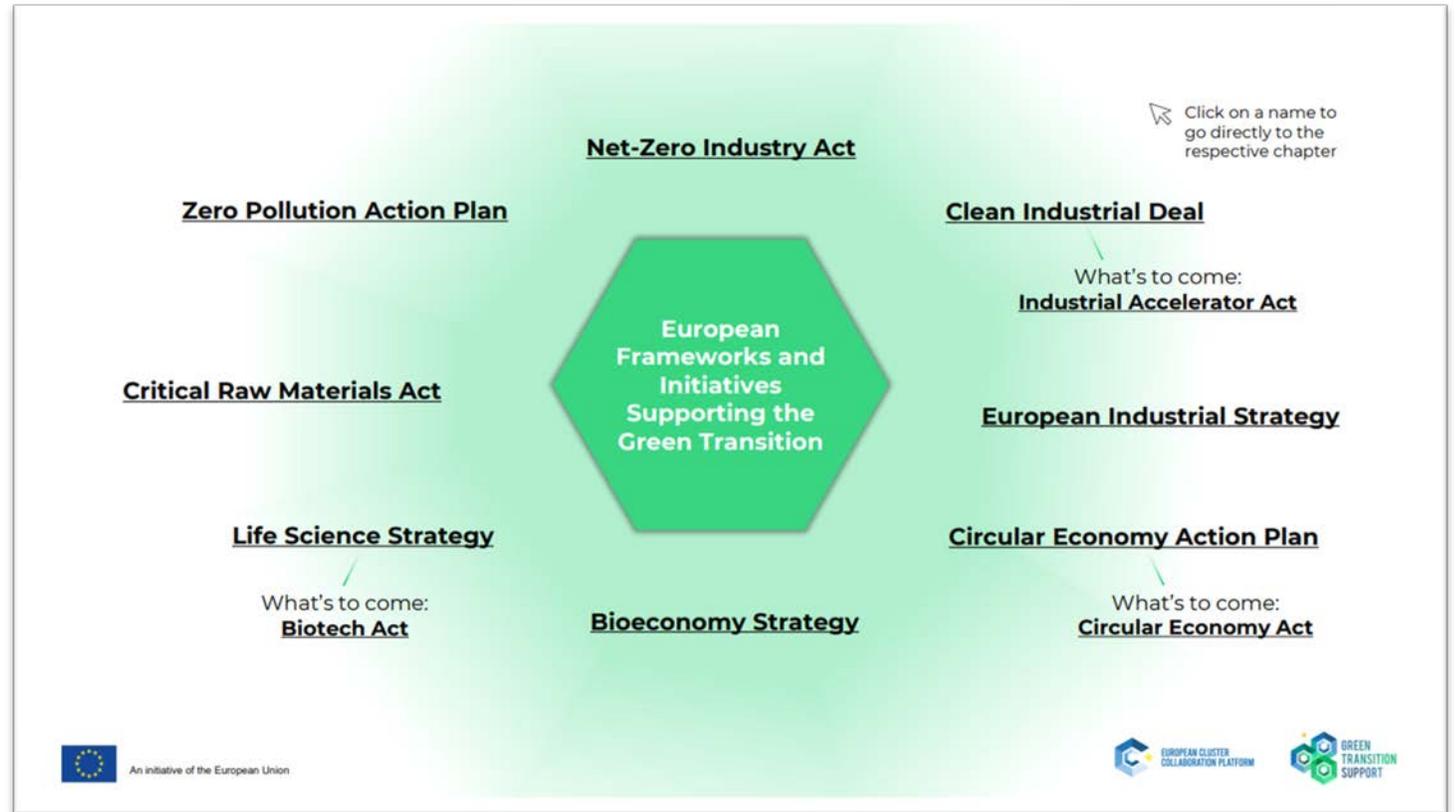
👉 Available in the [ECCP Library](#)



New guide: European Frameworks and Initiatives Supporting Clusters in the Green Transition

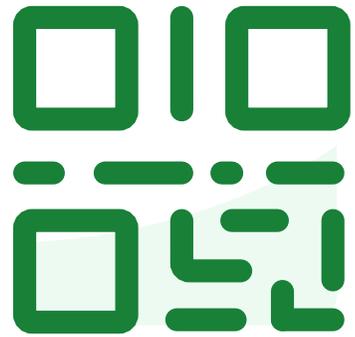
Whether you are a cluster manager, a project coordinator, or an organisation seeking an overview of EU policy, this slide deck serves as a **practical guide to understanding the regulations, initiatives, and strategies** driving the green transition.

👉 Available in the [ECCP Library](#)



Input presentation

Henning Ehrenstein, Head of Unit Public Procurement,
DG GROW, European Commission



**Join at slido.com
#PublicProcurement**



How relevant is public procurement for your organisation/your members?



What is the biggest challenge in public procurement today?



What is one change you would like to see in EU procurement rules?

Panel debate

Ester Davanzo, Senior European Affairs Coordinator, France Digitale

Jorge González, Director, Ticbiomed

Montse Daban, Strategic Foresight and International Relations Director, Biocat

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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](#).

European Startup and Scaleup Hubs pilot

- The action aims to pilot a network of **around 10-18 ESSHs** — highly capable startup and scaleup hubs deeply integrated with leading research, technology and higher education institutions and strong track records in venture building, scaling, and investment attraction as well as providing entrepreneurial education.
- Projects under this topic will contribute to the following outcomes:
 - **Accelerate market expansion** for European deep tech startups across EU regions and beyond by fostering collaboration and mutual support among European tech startup ecosystem actors;
 - **Establish robust, pan-European alliances** of top-tier tech startup and scaleup hubs embedded in research, technology and higher education ecosystems;
 - Enable cross-border **access to infrastructures**, facilities, corporates, investors and talents to deep tech startups and scaleups, including those funded by the European Innovation Council (EIC);
 - Enable more European deep tech startups to **succeed scaling** into globally competitive companies;
 - Strengthen less-connected innovation hubs by **integrating** them into a Europe-wide collaborative network;
 - Mobilise greater **private and public capital** into deep tech ventures across participating innovation hubs.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIE-2026-02-CONNECT-01
- Deadline: 10 March 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3): CAPACITY BUILDING CAP2B

- Regional innovation ecosystems are expected to **strengthen their capacity to deliver concrete interregional innovation investments** within EU value chains and the capacity to tap into other funding instruments, to cover additional funding needs (if necessary).
- Upon project completion, involved SMEs will possess enhanced capacity to **cooperate in interregional value chains** and to attract private investments or to create public- private partnerships.
- This call for proposals aims to improve the capacity of **public authorities and innovation intermediaries** (e.g. clusters) to support companies in the identification of investment portfolios at an interregional scale.
- Topic ID: I3-2026-CAP2B
- Deadline: 19 March 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Register for the next Talks

25 February

Delivering Impact for Europe's Clusters: ECCP Activities and Results

4 March

The Industrial Accelerator Act: Speeding Up Strategic Projects

Continue the discussion



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European Cluster Collaboration Platform



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THANK YOU

