

Clusters perspectives for a green and digital construction ecosystem

Watch online [HERE](#)

The commentator of the online workshop is **Chris Burns**

Chris begins with something we should keep on our minds:

40% of energy use in the EU is buildings

36% of greenhouse gas emission

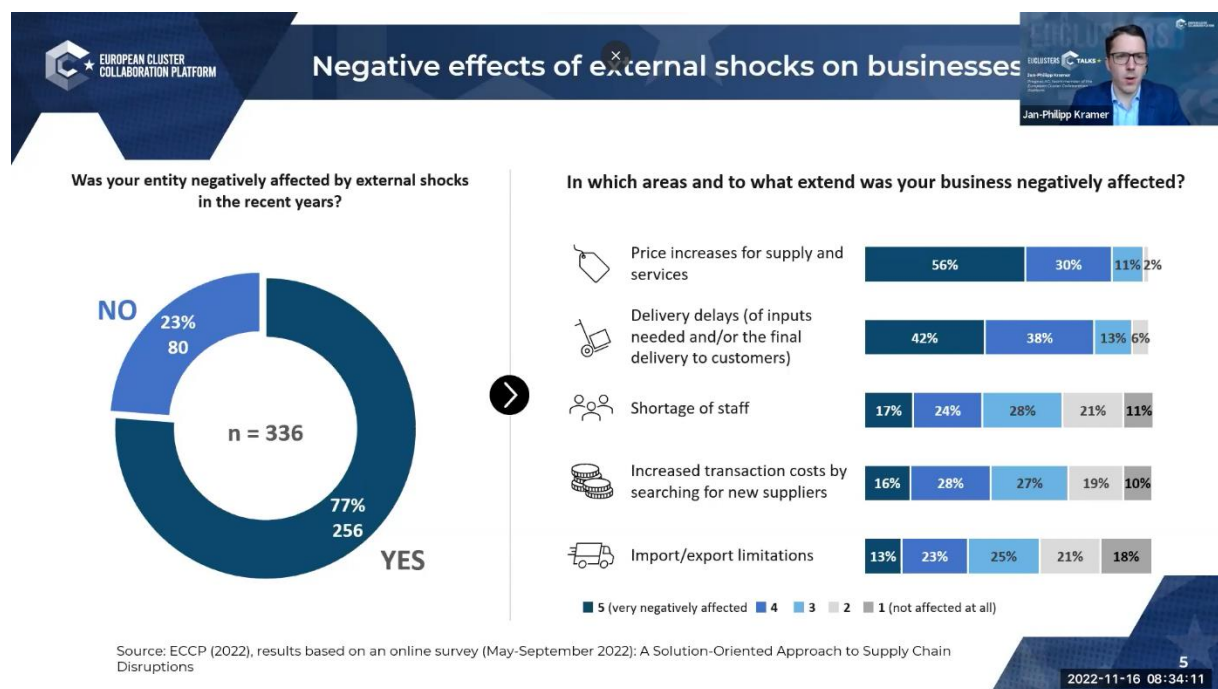
75% of buildings are energy inefficient

Agenda

1. ECCP news: Report on supply chain solutions
Jan-Philipp Kramer, team member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. From Our Own Correspondent: **AEC Eurocluster**
3. Perspectives from the European Commission
Ilektra Papadaki, Team Coordinator, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW), European Commission
4. Panel debate: What are the ecosystem's most urgent challenges for the green and digital transition?
Carmen Devesa Fernández, Director for innovation and internationalisation, AEICE Cluster of Efficient Habitat
Irena Lobocka, Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster
Jorge López Conde, Deployment Chief Manager for New European Bauhaus, European Clusters Alliance
Vladimir Gumilar, Director, Construction Cluster of Slovenia
5. Funding opportunities



The session starts with news from the ECCP with the report on the Supply chain disruptions & possible solutions. The ECCP study from November 2022 by Jan-Philipp Kramer.



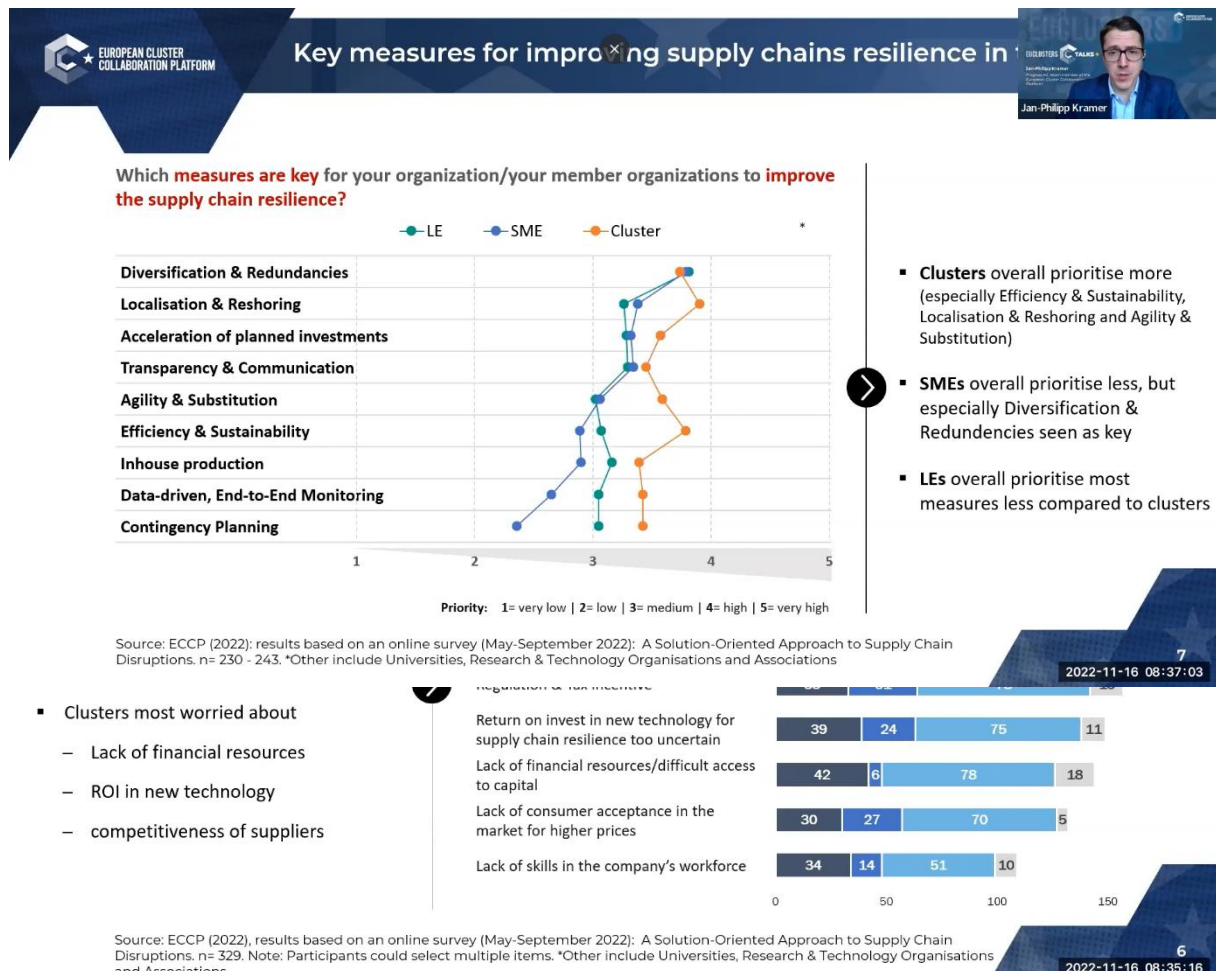
They gathered more than **330 replies**. The majority of participants were **SMEs**. Those who are affected the most. 70% of the industry sector (large enterprises and SMEs) participated.

Participants were asked to report difficulties in making their supply chains more resilient.

The key issue for SMEs surveyed is the capacity shortages of regional suppliers. That's an issue.

More than 55% were SMEs.

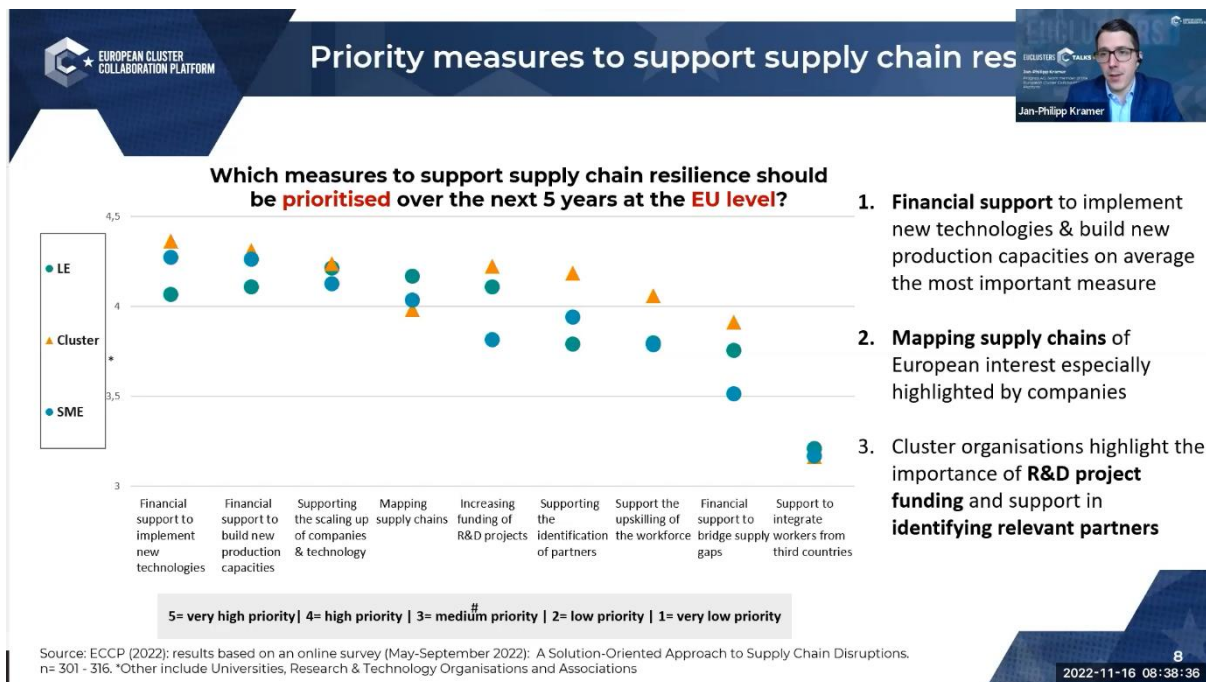
Chris commented on this slide: Lack of skills in the company's workforce is an issue in many sectors. Interestingly, it was pointed out. Jan-Philipp reacted with the comment that Chris is correct and that this is a long-term issue; we shouldn't forget this.



Participants were asked which measures are crucial to improve organisational resilience for their organisation/member organisations.

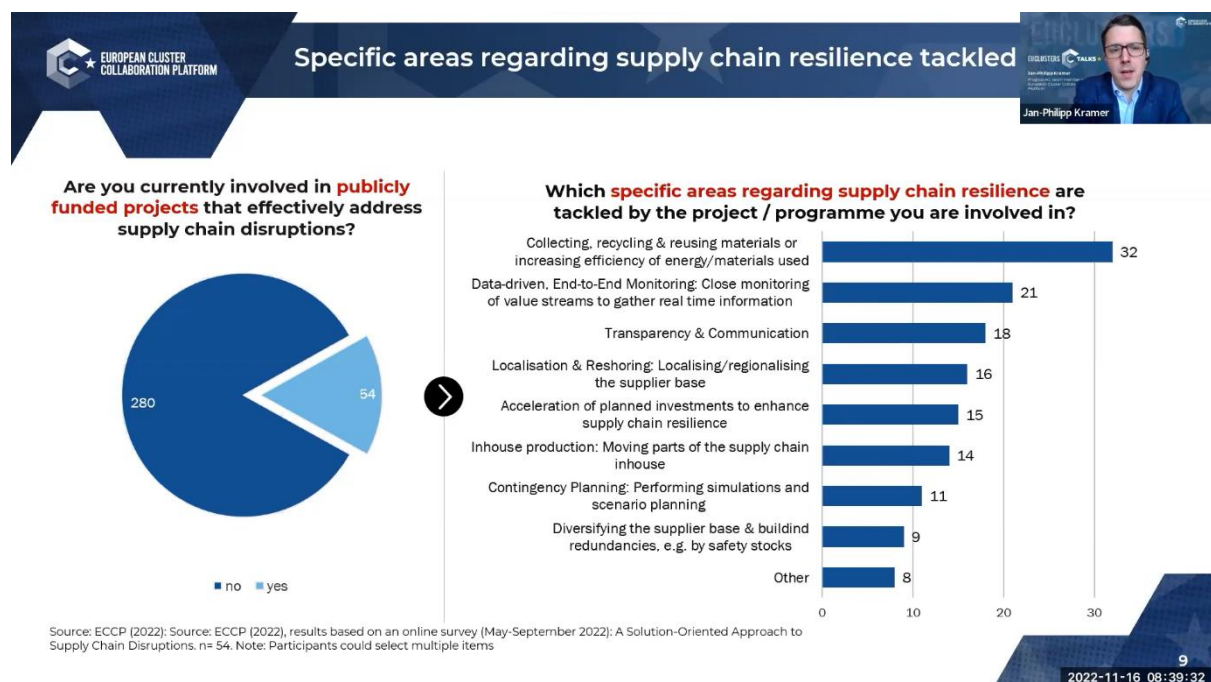
For all participants, number one is Diversification & Redundancies.

What Jan-Philipp finds very important is that, in particular, cluster organisation (orange line) emphasises the need to increase efficiency but also sustainability. The cluster organisations very much highlight the efforts around the green transition. This is very important. A final point – if you look at the bottom and the blue line (SMEs), they are much less focused on the technology (data-driven, end-to-end monitoring, contingency planning).



Three major points:

- Financial support
- Mapping supply chains
- Cluster organisations highlight the importance of R&D project funding and support in identifying relevant partners.

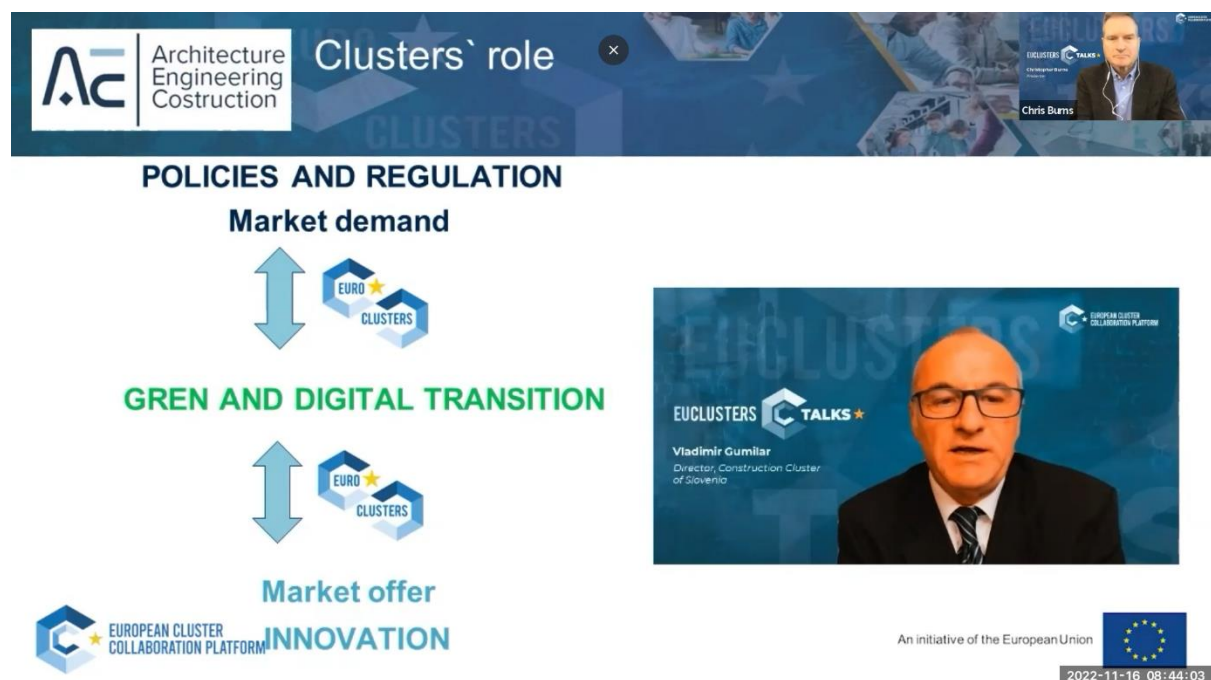


Only a few of those who were surveyed are involved in publicly funded projects—only 54 out of 334.

Why are digital and green transitions needed?

The blue area shows the mass material reduction, which needs to be or can be addressed by the construction and housing sectors.

SMEs' ability to be flexible and adapt to new technologies is their advantage.



Where do the clusters and Euro clusters fit in this scheme? With their services, they can break the gap between these two ecosystem. For example, they can translate green and digital transition policies with different value chains. They can also support innovation within clusters. Clusters can develop new solutions, materials, services, technologies, and business models, which are vital for the transition.

Eurocluster for twin transition and resilience

Architecture Engineering Construction

ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION EUROCLUSTER FOR FUTURE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

AEC EUROCLUSTER (101074498)

ECOSYSTEM STRAND: CONSTRUCTION

COORDINATOR'S NAME: CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA

EURO CLUSTERS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union

Vladimir Gumilar
Director, Construction Cluster of Slovenia

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This consortium connects 6 clusters. Three clusters focus on construction and buildings (Construction Cluster of Slovenia, Business Upper Austria, and Distretto). The Black Sea Energy Cluster focuses on energy, energy efficiency and renewals; Secpho and Technology

Enabled Construction – cluster from Romania are promoting innovation through digitalisation in the sector.

The screenshot shows a video conference interface. At the top left, the 'AEC Architecture Engineering Construction' logo is displayed. The main title 'Project partners' is centered. Below it, several logos of construction clusters are shown: SGGCCS (SLOVENSKI GRADBENI GROZD), business upper austria, did distretto INTERNI DESIGN, secpho, TEC (TECHNOLOGY ENABLED CONSTRUCTION), Black Sea Energy Cluster, and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform. On the right, a small video window shows Chris Burns. Below the logos, a larger video window features Vladimir Gumilar, Director of the Construction Cluster of Slovenia. At the bottom right, there is a timestamp '2022-11-16 08:44:40' and the text 'An initiative of the European Union' with the EU flag.

Next speaker:

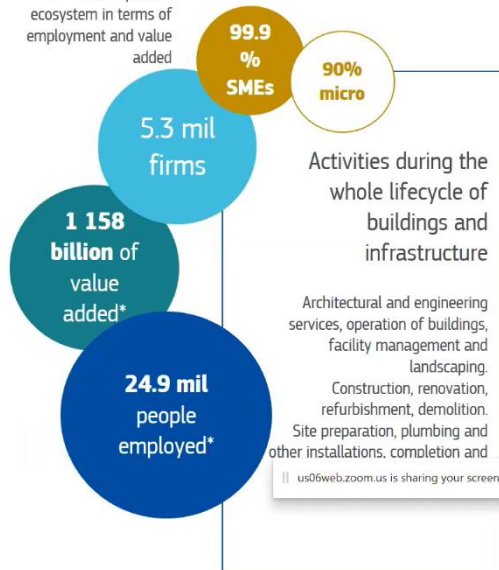
Ilektra Papadaki

Team Coordinator at Directorate-general for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG Grow)
European Commission

The screenshot shows a video conference presentation. On the right, a small video window shows Ilektra Papadaki. The main content area displays the title 'Construction Policy' and her name 'Ilektra PAPADAKI, Team Leader' along with her affiliation 'DG GROW.H1-Construction, European Commission'. Below this is a large image of a modern building's glass facade. At the bottom, there is a timestamp '2022-11-16 08:46:06' and the European Commission logo. A small notification at the bottom center states 'us06web.zoom.us is sharing your screen.' with 'Stop sharing' and 'Hide' buttons.

The Construction Ecosystem

*2nd most important ecosystem in terms of employment and value added



A complex policy and regulatory landscape

Ilektra Papadaki

Industrial Strategy

Renovation Wave (and EPBD)

Construction Products Regulation

Skills Agenda

Climate Adaptation Strategy

Data Act

Circular Economy Action Plan

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Construction transition pathway

The timeline

We are here

108 written consultations

Ilektra Papadaki

80 commitments reported by stakeholders

207 attendees in the High Level Construction Forum meeting

The transition pathway in numbers



European Commission

Ilektra Papadaki

The role of clusters:

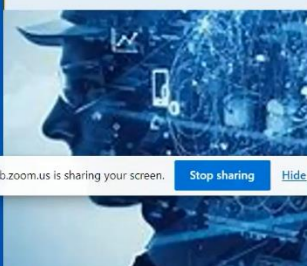
GREENING

- Experiment and mainstream the use of bio-based and circular construction materials, nature-based solutions
- Passive houses, energy efficiency



DIGITALISATION/INNOVATION

- Foster the use of 3D Printing, 3D scanning, drones, IoT, Robotics etc. in construction



RESILIENCE

- Contribute to Upskilling of construction professionals
- Enable collaborations
- Support companies to become more competitive and INTERNATIONALISE



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European Commission expects from clusters their involvement and that they can contribute to the construction industry and collaborate on the national and international levels. This is the most significant contribution which clusters can bring on board.

PANEL DEBATE:

Carmen Devesa Fernández – Director for innovation and internationalisation, AEICE Cluster of Efficient Habitat

Irena Lobočka – Cluster Coordinator, Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster

Jorge López Conde – Deployment Chief Manager for New European Bauhaus, European Clusters Alliance

Vladimir Gumilar – Director, Construction Cluster of Slovenia

What are the ecosystems' most urgent issues for green and digital transition?

Starting with Carmen Devesa Fernández

The size of companies. Companies are too small, and it's too many of them. Carmen believes companies are not ready because they can't see the long-term vision. They have many problems today, and not having a long-term vision is a problem.

Christopher asked, "How to encourage them to keep the long-term vision?"

Keep them together in this collaborative innovation.

Christopher also adds that financing is a key to keeping their long-term vision.

Next speaker Irena Lobočka

She thinks that we are experiencing all types of challenges. Some are more of a global character, and some are local. Speaking about global challenges, they have to deal with the digital and green transition in the construction sector. It isn't a big challenge for their cluster and members because they have been dealing with sustainable construction technologies since 2011. They are actively promoting energy-saving construction technologies and passive building standards, which were ten years ago extravagant. She also mentioned Krakow, a city full of exciting and historical places but also a city full of air pollution and smog. Local authorities are interested in designing public buildings with passive standards.

Christopher jumps in: Since Krakow is a beautiful jewellery box full of constructions, how do you make that energy efficient? That's a question across Europe as well.

Irena says that this is, of course, the biggest challenge. Apart from promoting the high energy efficiency of new buildings, plenty of historical and post-communist buildings need renovation. As a cluster, they try to connect companies and build an ecosystem and network of companies that produce a variety of innovative technologies and solutions for new and old buildings that need renovation. The biggest challenge is the staff shortage in the building market since the staff had to return to Ukraine.

Christopher mentions the skills gap from the survey we saw at the beginning.

Next speaker Jorge López Conde

Christopher mentioned there's much talk about the European Bauhaus and the old Bauhaus in the past. European Bauhaus is adding a green aspect to it, trying to make the structure of humans, green, culture and design.

Jorge mentioned they are creating different documents and researching the European Bauhaus proposal. They are checking other areas of construction f.e. economy, woods, furniture, structure in construction and so on.

Christopher asked about the logo, if it is ready and that he sees this as a conceptual stage. Is this logo going to be similar to the label of excellence? Will this label represent the requirements that could get extra funding to organisations?

Jorge said that this is all in a European parliament document. This document proposes different alliances of the work. F.e., money, diversion, innovation, all of this need a specific budget from the commission. And this is a process.

Next speaker Vladimir Gumilar

The challenge for him as a cluster manager is getting 99% of SMEs on board. They prepared many proposals for EU funding in the past, but getting SMEs to collaborate takes work. SMEs are also short on staff, and clusters should support them.

Christopher asked him about the internationalisation aspect.

They will have their first ICC talk in Africa and are also open to new markets. For example, they are a coordinator of ISBuilds and had training on the Emirates market, which has issues with renovations. But all of this needs some effort to make other countries aware of such opportunities.

Questions follow up for all panel speakers, and Nina Hoppmann finishes the session with Funding opportunities.

More sustainable buildings with reduced embodied energy, carbon, high life-cycle performance and reduced life-cycle costs (Built4People)



- Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:
 - Increased and more traceable **reduction of the GHG emissions** of buildings in design, construction, renovation, operation and end of life.
 - **Faster market uptake** of design solutions, materials, products, techniques and business models
 - Mainstreamed affordable **high life-cycle performance**, and improved circularity of buildings in construction and renovation
- Deadline: 24 January 2023
- HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions; TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL5-2022-D4-02-05
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Solutions for the sustainable, resilient, inclusive and accented regeneration of neighbourhoods enabling low carbon footprints, lifestyles and businesses (Built4People)



- Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes, among others:
 - Lasting **behavioural change of people and economic actors** towards lower carbon footprint lifestyles and businesses.
 - Mainstreamed **participatory planning processes** and interaction with all relevant stakeholder groups in city planning.
 - **More sustainable, low emission, inclusive and affordable** neighbourhoods and built environment.
- Deadline: 24 January 2023
- HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions; TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL5-2022-D4-02-02
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

#EUClustersTalks

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EU Clusters Talks: Clusters perspectives for a green and digital construction ecosystem

The second Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027

#HorizonEU

- The Strategic Plan sets out the policy priorities for Horizon Europe, as well as expected impacts. It is the basis for the work programme covering Pillar II of Horizon Europe and its call topics.
- As the first step in the process, the Commission will create a strong, analytical foundation for the Strategic Plan.
- The Strategic Plan 2025-2027 will be **co-designed with input from citizens and stakeholders**.
- The consultation will be launched on the [Have your say portal](#) in **November**

#EUClustersTalks

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Designs, materials and solutions to improve resilience, preparedness & responsiveness of the built environment climate adaptation (Built4People)



- Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes, among others:
 - Increased **awareness** of the built environment's protective role for people and climate adaptation in case of disruptive events.
 - Mainstreamed **resilience** as a key feature of the built environment across its life cycle.
 - **Strengthened supply chains** for materials and solutions for a resilient and climate proof built environment, adapted to local risks
- Deadline: 24 January 2023
- HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions; TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL5-2022-D4-02-01
- Published on [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Register for the next Talks!



30 November

Agri-food: Cluster activities for a sustainable and resilient ecosystem

14 December

Expert Group on Clusters: National Cluster Policies and Networks

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