



## ECCP side event for European Cluster Partnerships & Euroclusters (upon invitation only)

**6 MAY 2024, 12:30 – 18:00**  
**Brussels (European Cluster Conference 2024)**

### Objective

This side event of the European Cluster Conference will be dedicated to the experiences and plans of cluster partnerships and the Euroclusters, which commenced their activities in September 2022. The Euroclusters initiative represents a collaborative effort spanning 30 clusters across 14 diverse industrial ecosystems. 20 Euroclusters work on initiatives in specific industrial ecosystems while 10 Euroclusters work across several industrial ecosystems. The focus of the event will be on sharing insights gained and outlining strategies for upcoming calls.

The objective of this Forum is to pool resources and knowledge to work concretely together on the specific objectives that are crucial for the implementation of the updated EU Industrial strategy.

A particular focus is placed on several themes:

1. **Interactions within the Quadruple Helix:** This objective sets the stage for a detailed examination of the cluster partnerships and Euroclusters projects. It promises a multifaceted approach, covering insights from existing projects, innovative strategies employed, and the dynamic interactions among different stakeholders. This will provide attendees with a rounded understanding of the Euroclusters ecosystem. It will also provide space for reflections on what cluster partnerships and Euroclusters have developed, with a focus on green and digital transition and building resilience.



2. **Feedback, Challenges and Solutions from Project Partners:** Focusing on feedback from project partners offers invaluable insights into real-world applications and experiences within the cluster partnerships and Euroclusters framework. Discussing the challenges faced adds depth to understanding the initiative, preparing potential future participants for realistic scenarios and encouraging problem-solving discussions.
3. **Pathways to Cluster Projects' Success:** This objective highlights the success stories within cluster projects, providing inspiration and serving as a model for best practices. By focusing on success factors, the site event participants will demonstrate what makes these initiatives stand out, offering a blueprint for success in future endeavours.
4. **Forward-looking Perspective on Clusters' Support:** This is a forward-looking objective, aiming to harness the collective knowledge and experience of the participants to shape the future of cluster partnerships and Euroclusters. The event aims to harness participant feedback and ideas on gaps and challenges of the current Euroclusters call as well as other European Commission and European Cluster Collaboration Platform initiatives to drive continuous improvement and adaptation.





# Agenda

## 06 MAY 2024, Brussels

Time (CET)	Agenda point
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Registration</b>
13:00 – 13:20	<p><b>Introduction and overview of the event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ramunas Kuncaitis</b>, Head of Sector “Entrepreneurship and Clusters”, EISMEA, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Welcome address from the European Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mariella Masselink</b>, Head of Unit “Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters”, DG GROW, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Natalia Martinez Paramo</b>, Head of the unit “SMP/SME Pillar, Internal Market and Support to Standardisation”, EISMEA, European Commission</li> </ul>
13:20 – 13:40	<b>Inspirations from the Euroclusters’ Peer Learning Process</b>
13:40 – 15:25	<p><b>Session 1: World-café style parallel discussions</b></p> <p>This session will aim to discuss how best cluster partnerships can contribute to the specific objectives that are crucial for the implementation of the updated EU Industrial strategy.</p> <p><b>(1) Quadruple Helix Stakeholders’ Interaction: Ideas for Successful Collaborations:</b></p> <p>Focuses on sharing good collaboration practices with other ecosystem stakeholders, innovative strategies employed, engagement models, insights from past and current cluster partnerships. Which cluster stakeholder is key to achieve and contribute to the objectives of the Industrial strategy?</p> <p><b>(2) Implementing the Industrial Strategy: Feedback, Challenges and Solutions from Cluster Projects:</b></p> <p>Dedicated to the feedback from Euroclusters and cluster partnerships projects on the main challenges and solutions needed to reach the policy objectives of the Industrial strategy.</p> <p><b>(3) Pathways to Cluster Partnerships and Euroclusters Success:</b></p> <p>Addresses the success factors and the conditions enabling successful results within Euroclusters and other cluster partnerships’ projects, providing inspiration and serving as a blueprint for success in managing cluster projects.</p> <p><b>Debriefing on three topics by rapporteurs</b> – lessons learned, recommendations for the future</p> <p><b>Open discussion</b> – how to use these good practices in other projects and how to collaborate among the projects, <b>Ramunas Kuncaitis</b>, Head of Sector “Entrepreneurship and Clusters”, EISMEA, European Commission</p>
15:25 – 15:45	<b>Networking Coffee</b>



15:45 – 16:05	<p><b>Session 2: Forward-looking Perspective on Clusters' Support</b> Explores the collective knowledge and experience of the participants to shape the future of clusters' support. Measures to support SMEs in their transition towards becoming more green, digital and resilient.</p> <p>Using Sli.do for interaction</p> <p>Facilitated by <b>Ramunas Kuncaitis</b>, Head of Sector “Entrepreneurship and Clusters”, EISMEA, European Commission</p>
16:05 – 17:50	<p><b>Session 3: World-café style parallel discussions</b></p> <p>This session will aim to share examples of good practices, discuss the upcoming activities of cluster partnerships and the Euroclusters, and find synergies between the participants to deepen the collaboration between the consortia.</p> <p><b>(1) Mastering Cascade Funding: Proposal Preparation Insights:</b> Sharing experiences and effective methods in the preparation of proposals utilising cascade funding. Use of cascade funding in fostering dual transition and resilience in SMEs.</p> <p><b>(2) Boosting Engagement: Tactics for Participant Attraction &amp; Project Marketing:</b> Addresses innovative approaches for attracting participants and effectively marketing projects to a broader audience. Clusters' role in facilitating application for SMEs.</p> <p><b>(3) Sustaining Euroclusters and Cluster Partnerships:</b> Strategies for maintaining Euroclusters and cluster partnerships after project completion, covering legal structures, financing, and operational continuity. Strategies for building metaclusters.</p> <p><b>Debriefing on three topics by rapporteurs</b> – lessons learned, recommendations for the future</p> <p><b>Open discussion</b> – how to use these good practices in other projects and how to collaborate among the projects, <b>Ramunas Kuncaitis</b>, Head of Sector “Entrepreneurship and Clusters”, EISMEA, European Commission</p>
17:50 – 18:00	<p><b>Conclusions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Valentino Izzo</b>, Programme Coordination Manager, EISMEA, European Commission</li> </ul>