



## ECCP Meeting of the European Cluster Associations and Networks

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

The upcoming meeting aims to bring together representatives from European cluster associations, networks, and organizations across Europe. The primary focus is to facilitate the exchange of experiences and gather ideas on how EU cluster initiatives can optimally support the EU's efforts towards a greener, more digital, and more resilient economy.

The diverse group of participants includes representatives from national cluster associations, including those affiliated with the European Clusters Alliance, as well as representatives from cluster sectoral networks and officials from the cluster team within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs (DG GROW).

The event also aims to foster direct contact among various stakeholders in the European cluster landscape, with plans for continued collaboration through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

A particular focus is placed on several themes:

### **1. The purpose and impact of cluster policies and cluster associations**

Explore the strategic role of cluster associations in navigating challenges and seizing opportunities in today's dynamic environment. This session delves into the purpose and impact of these associations, shedding light on the role of cluster policies in their evolution. Join us to understand the significance of cluster associations in shaping the future of industry sectors.

### **2. Enhancing Cluster Networks for the EU Industrial Strategy: Fostering SME Participation and Cooperation**

This theme explores how cluster networks, leveraging initiatives at the European level, can improve collaboration to effectively implement the updated EU Industrial



Strategy, with a particular focus on involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The discussion will delve into the synergies between clusters, strategies for inclusive growth, and the pivotal role of SMEs in driving innovation and competitiveness within the European industry framework.

### 3. The Evolution of Our Industry: What Were the Critical Developments and Milestones in the Last Two Years?

Explore the key developments and milestones that have transformed our industry in the last two years. This session focuses on the significant technological advancements, policy changes, and market trends that have shaped the industry's current landscape. It's an opportunity to discuss the lessons learned and how these critical changes are influencing future directions and strategies in our industry.

### 4. Cluster and Networks Collaboration in Practice: Project Highlights and Case Studies

Dive into the practical aspects of collaboration between clusters and networks through project highlights and case studies. This session showcases real-world examples of successful partnerships, illustrating how collaboration drives innovation and creates value. Join us to gain insights into practical strategies and learn from the experiences of leading collaborative projects.

## Agenda

### 06 May 2024, Brussels

Time (CET)	Agenda point
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Registration</b>
13:00 – 13:25	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Kristina Sermuksnye-Alesiuniene</b>, Master of the Ceremony, European Cluster Collaboration Platform / AgriFood Lithuania DIH</li><li>• <b>Jakub Boratynski</b>, Director of the “Networks and Governance” Directorate, DG GROW, European Commission</li><li>• <b>Birgit Weidel</b>, Head of Department “Innovation Ecosystems, SMP/Entrepreneurship and Consumers”, EISMEA, European Commission</li></ul> <b>Reflections from the European Cluster Alliance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Antonio Novo</b>, President of the European Cluster Alliance (ECA)</li></ul>
13:25 – 14:05	<b>Session I: Presentation of Insights on Cluster Policy in the EU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jan-Philipp Kramer</b>, Team Leader 'Data &amp; Policy' (ECCP)</li></ul> <p><i>This presentation will set the scene for the meeting by presenting key insights from the Cluster Panorama Report 2024 on the different cluster</i></p>



	<p><i>policy support schemes in the European Union. The presentation will outline the different cluster policy approaches across the EU and discuss their contribution to the Twin Transition and Resilience Building.</i></p> <p><b>European Automobile Host Spots and the Role of Clusters – Results from the European Monitor of Industrial Ecosystems (EMI) Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kíncső Izsak</b>, Project leader, Technopolis</li> </ul>
<p>14:05 – 14:30</p>	<p><b>Cluster Action for Ecosystem Innovation Network (CAFEIN)</b></p> <p><b>Horizon Europe Synthesis: Unveiling the Joint Action Plan for an Innovative EU Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pauline Capus</b>, Director, AFPC - Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité</li> <li>• <b>Carolina Garcés</b>, Project Manager Innovation &amp; Internationalisation, Clusters of Sweden/ Mobile Heights</li> <li>• <b>Monika Antonowicz</b>, Expert, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development</li> </ul>
<p>14:30 – 15:20</p>	<p><b>Session 2 – part 1: Strategy Talks</b></p> <p><i>Selected Association representatives will be invited to make a brief presentation on national cluster policies or their strategies/good practices.</i></p> <p><b>Green Industrial Solutions – How Cluster Policy Can Support the Transformation Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lukas Nögel</b>, Consultant, VDI/VDE Innovation + Technology GmbH, Go-clusters</li> </ul> <p><b>Driving the Green Transition: Fostering Sustainable Innovation in the Automotive and Industrial Sectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bruno Grandjean</b>, President, EACN – European Automotive Cluster Network</li> </ul> <p><b>Building a National Cluster Association in a Country Without a National Cluster Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ola Svedin</b>, Chairman of the Board, Clusters of Sweden</li> </ul> <p><b>Integrated Ecosystems: Example of Romania</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Daniel Cosnita</b>, President, Romanian Cluster Association - CLUSTERO</li> </ul> <p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and Facilitating Green Industrial Solutions</li> <li>• Scaling up Innovation Ecosystems and Support</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion on the topics spotting good practices and potential common action points, facilitated by <b>Jitka Vocaskova</b>, Policy officer – DG Grow/Cluster Team.</i></p>
<p>15:20 – 16:10</p>	<p><b>Session 2 – part 2: Strategy Talks</b></p>



	<p><b>Pôles de Compétitivité Label as a Facilitator for SMEs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pauline Capus</b>, Director, <b>Hervé Floch</b>, President, AFPC - Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité</li> </ul> <p><b>Tools to Support Clusters and Enterprises: Funding for Research and Development, Internationalisation of Cluster Members' Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sebastian Rynkiewicz</b>, Member of the Council of the Polish Clusters Association, President of EVOLUMA Industrial Cluster</li> </ul> <p><b>TCI Cluster Accelerator Programme: Building Capacity in our Membership Base</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John Hobbs</b>, Director, V-LINC Cluster Research Group, TCI Network</li> </ul> <p><b>Improving Skills of Cluster Teams Through Trainings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lisa Besnard</b>, EU and International Project Manager, France Clusters</li> </ul> <p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening and facilitating access to Funding to SMEs</li> <li>• Improving Skills &amp; HR competencies</li> </ul> <p><i>Open discussion on the topics of spotting good practices and potential common action points, facilitated by <b>Marta Batalla-Masana</b>, Policy officer – DG Grow/Cluster Team</i></p>
16:10 – 16:30	<b>Networking Coffee</b>
16:30 – 17:50	<p><b><u>Session 3: World-café style parallel discussions</u></b></p> <p>This session will aim to share examples of good practices, discuss the past and upcoming activities and future of the National Cluster Associations and Networks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Building new and reshaping existing value chains in Europe:</b> Explores the strategies for constructing new and transforming existing value chains in Europe to enhance competitiveness and sustainability in the global market.</li> <li><b>2. The importance of cluster organisations attracting investments:</b> Focuses on the critical role of cluster organisations in attracting investments and how they can leverage their networks and resources to boost regional economic growth and innovation.</li> <li><b>3. Shaping the future of the cluster associations and networks:</b> Examines how we can shape the future of cluster associations and networks to foster innovation, collaboration, and growth in various industries.</li> </ol> <p>Reporting on the table discussions.</p>
17:50 – 18:00	<b>Conclusions and next steps – Marek Przeor</b> , Team Leader - Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission