



**Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs**

European Cluster Policy

National cluster conference
Lisbon, 11 December 2019

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GROW F.2 Advanced Technologies, Clusters & Social Economy

New Commission in place

.. new set of priorities

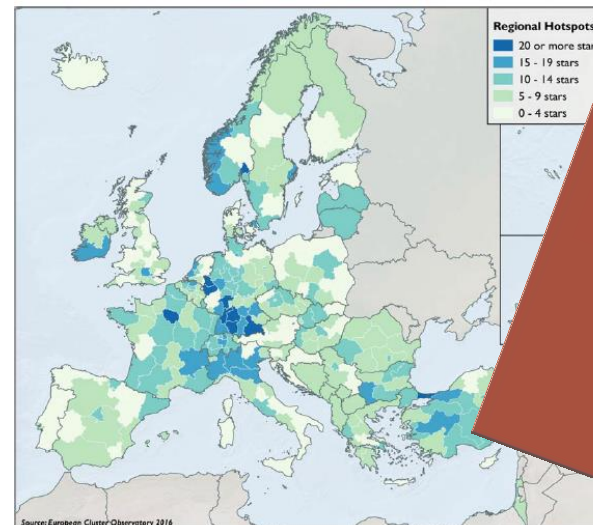
- **Green Deal**
- **Industrial Strategy (2020)**
- **SME Strategy (2020)**

..and clusters are strategic tools
to support these objectives



Clusters are *accelerators* for innovation & industrial change

- **3043 strong clusters** account for more than 54 million jobs
- **Boosting collaboration and connecting enterprises** via 1000 registered cluster organisations that reach out to over **100.000 specialised SMEs**, some **8.000 large firms** and **11.000 universities/research organisations**.



Ongoing European Cluster Initiatives



COSME
Programme for the
Competitiveness of
Enterprises and SMEs
2014-2020



**Clusters as
accelerators
for innovation
& industrial
change**

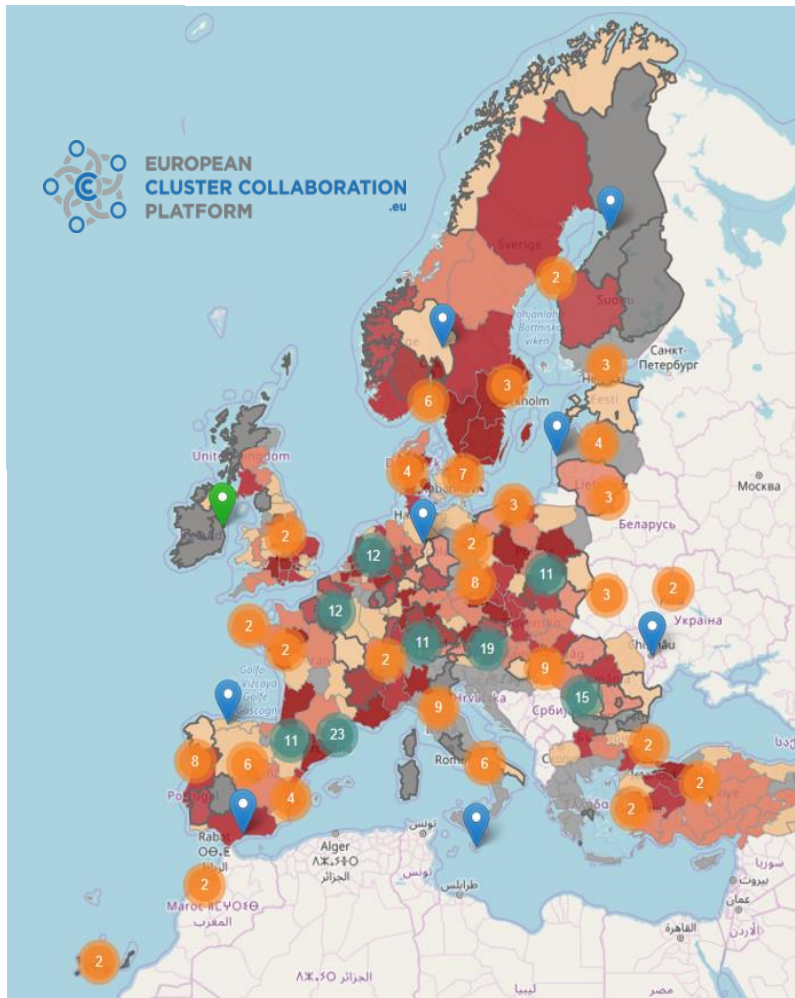


**Inter-
regional &
international
cluster
cooperation**

**Capacity-
building**

***Cluster
Excellence
Programme***

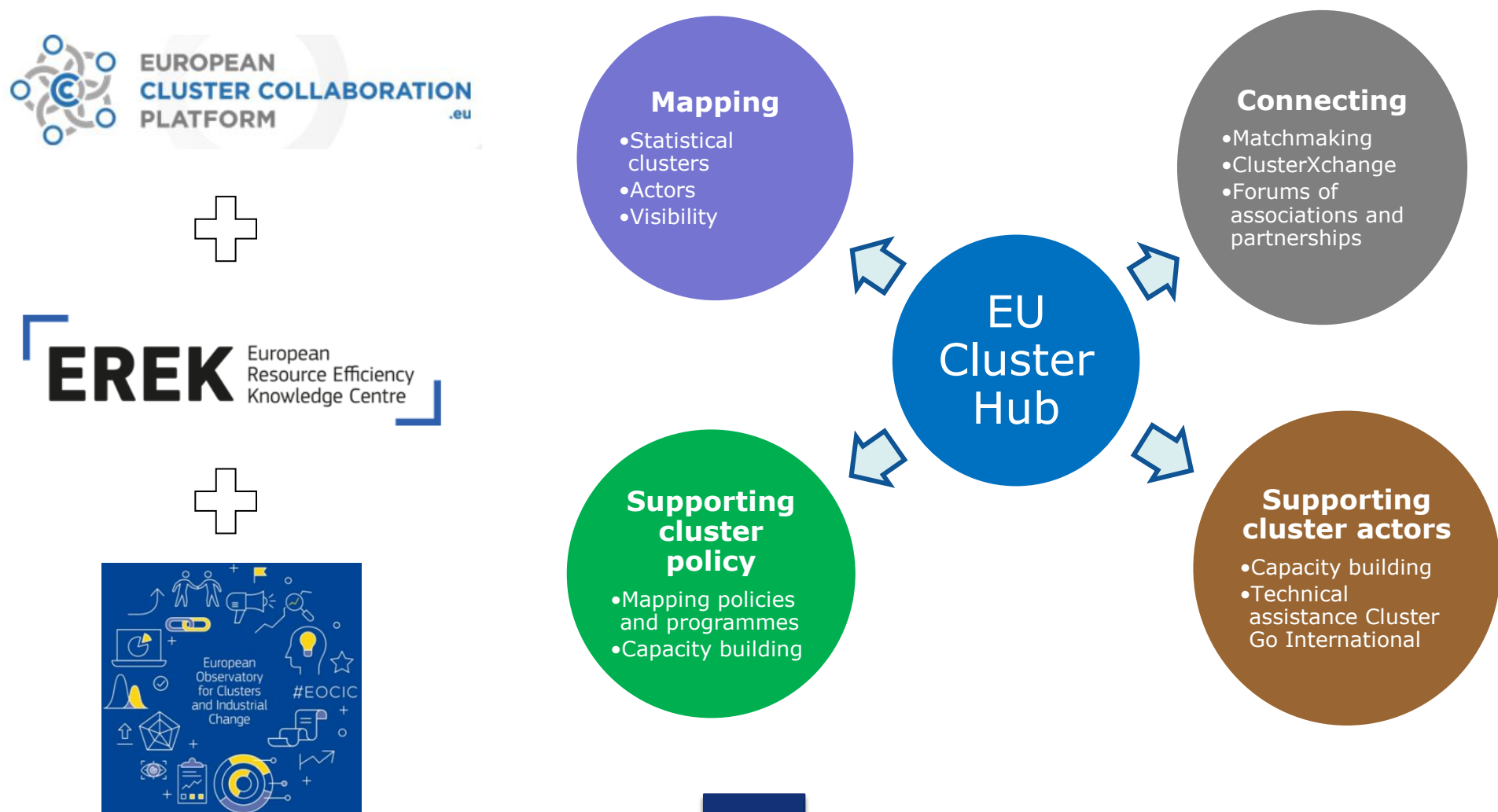
Ready to implement the **European Green Deal**



**250 clusters operating
in environmental
technologies**

**But also...
400 clusters operating
in digital technologies**

2020: A renovated European Cluster Collaboration Platform





Commission Expert Group on Clusters

- Announced in **renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy** *"to provide recommendation on how to better use clusters as **a strategic tool of industrial policy**"*
- Responds to 2018 Council Conclusions calling for "further development of European cluster policy" & highlighting that "**clusters are key** for the implementation of the EU industrial policy strategy".
- **Follow-up** to discussions of **European Cluster Policy Forum**, and liaise and build upon other relevant Commission expert groups
- Composed of representatives of **23 Member States** and **10 individual experts**, 2nd meeting will be in February, working group on **skills** will be set up

European Cluster Excellence Programme

*Strengthen cluster management excellence & strategic interregional partnering
to foster cluster capacity building & SME competitiveness*

- **11 completed projects** (2.47 million, COSME 2014 and 2015 calls for proposals) gathered 57 cluster organisations representing 11,000 SMEs
- **10-12 new cluster partnerships to start around February 2020** (3.6 mio EUR, COSME 2018 call for proposals)

1. Enhance cluster managers' **skills** (benchmarking, training, coaching and mentoring) 
2. Support **cluster strategy** development (at cluster & partnership levels)
3. Organise twinning, collaboration, networking/learning activities & joint **cooperation** projects
4. Implement a **new „ClusterXchange"** pilot scheme (supporting short-term growth exploration visits with lump sums of up to 1100 EUR to third party cluster members) 

ClusterXchange to **start mid-2020**



Ongoing final call for Innosup-1 proposals

Call open since 07/11/2019

EUR 25.15 Mio (EUR 4 to 5 Mio per project)

Deadline (1st stage): 2nd April 2020

Deadline (2nd stage): 8 September 2020

Number of projects to be funded: 5-6

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/news/innosup-01-2018-2020-call-proposals-cluster-facilitated-projects-new>

Horizon 2020 Innosup data hub <https://innosup.easme-web.eu/>

Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Industry-focused actions guided by joint strategies of clusters and other associated **specialised SME support actors**
- **Thematically targeted** for 10-20 industrial specialisations, **with cross-regional and cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs**
- Creating business opportunities and accelerating growth by channelling **direct scaling-up support** to groups of SMEs for:



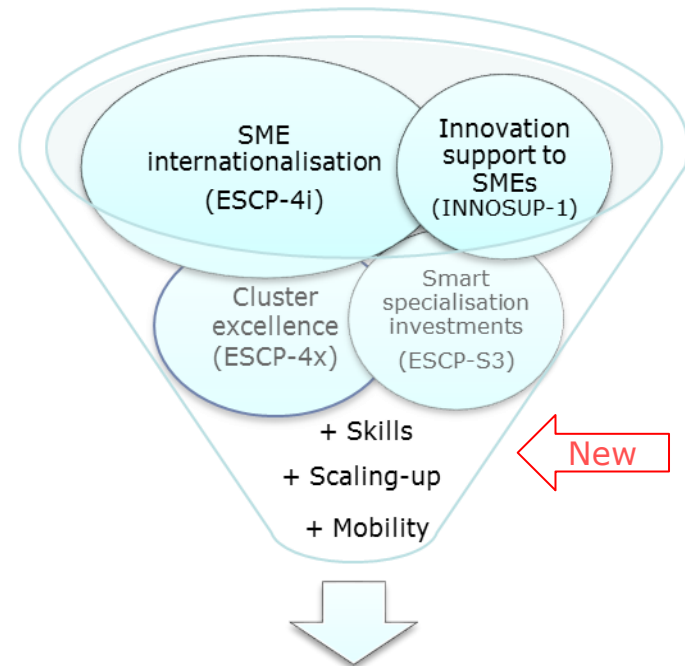
Shaping European strategic value chains
through connecting specialised ecosystems



Boosting internationalisation and access
to global value chains



Facilitating industrial transformation
towards uptake of advanced technologies
and services, digitalisation, new business
models, resource-efficient solutions towards
decarbonisation and the Circular Economy,
creativity and design, upskilling, talent
attraction and entrepreneurship acceleration



Specificities of the Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Achieving **critical mass**
- Building transnational **transformation partnerships** upon success of existing EU cluster initiatives under COSME and Horizon2020
- **Sustainable partnering with continuation funding** (if performance and participation milestones are reached)
- Supported by the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform**
- **Contributing and building linkages to other EU actions:** (digital) innovation hubs and investments under Cohesion Policy and Horizon Europe & exploring synergies with Erasmus+



Cluster matchmaking events 2020

Interested?

Watch out for our calls of expression of interest @Clusters_EU

Japan – 27-29 April, Strasbourg, France

Korea – 27-29 May, Seoul

Taiwan – 1-3 June, Taipei

Canada – 2nd semester, poss. Blue growth (in EU)

South MED – poss. October (in EU)

With other European clusters – 11 Nov, Berlin, Germany, European Cluster Conference

European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change

Available/upcoming deliverables

- *Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond*
<https://www.eucluster2019.eu/files/events/4538/files/eocic-cluster-programme-report.pdf>
- *Summary Report on lessons learnt from fostering modern Cluster Policy in regions in industrial transition*
<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/news/summary-report-cluster-policy-regions>
- *Smart guide to entrepreneurship support through clusters* <https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/guide-entrepreneurship-support-through-clusters>
- *European Panorama of Clusters and Industrial Change* (forthcoming)
- *European Cluster Trends report* (forthcoming)



Thank You

More information

EU Cluster Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cluster/>

European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP)

<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

European Cluster Initiatives

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiatives>

COSME calls

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme>

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