

An initiative of the European Union



INFO SESSION

KUOPIO, FINLAND

28-30 OCTOBER 2025



CLUSTER COLLABORATION LABS & CLUSTER SUMMIT FINLAND 2025 (28 October 2025)

Kuopio, Finland

28-30 October 2025



KUOPIO WATER CLUSTER



Agenda

1. Welcome, agenda and housekeeping rules
Nina Hoppmann, ECCP team
2. Welcome from the European Commission
Romain Bouttier, EISMEA
3. Welcome from the hosts and presentation of Cluster Summit Finland 2025 and Clusters meet Regions
Bailey Lähdesmäki, Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences
4. C2Lab event format
Agenda and topics for C2Lab in Kuopio
Antonio Novo, ECCP team
Harriet Lonka, Project Lead, Comprehensive Security Cluster North Savo
Tiina Haatainen, Cluster Manager, Kuopio Water Cluster
5. Travel information and recommendations
Bailey Lähdesmäki, Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences
6. Registration and preparatory activities for the participants
Nina Hoppmann, ECCP team
7. Q&A with the audience
Nina Hoppmann, ECCP team

Housekeeping rules

- Please use the **chat** or the **Q&A function** to send in your questions.
- If you want to ask your question in person: 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.

WELCOME FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Romain Bouttier

EISMEA, European Commission

WELCOME FROM THE HOSTS

Bailey Lähdesmäki

Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences

CLUSTER SUMMIT FINLAND 2025

Bailey Lähdesmäki

Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences

Full speed ahead!

CLUSTER SUMMIT FINLAND 2025

Join us to strengthen clusters, enhance cooperation, and shape policy

28.10.2025 Kuopio, Finland

Together with ECCP's C2Lab on 29.-30.10.2025

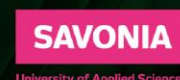
Topics: Water resilience, Comprehensive security & more!



KUOPIO HEALTH



BIO AND CIRCULAR CLUSTER
NORTH SAVO FINLAND



North Savo
Regional Council



Co-funded by
the European Union



28 October 2025

Time (EET)	Agenda Point
8:00	<i>Registration and Networking Coffee</i>
8:30	Welcome to the Cluster Summit Finland 2025
8:35	The Role of Clusters in The Regional Strategy
8:50	Clusters as Drivers of Productivity, Innovation, and Sustainability
9:05	Situating clusters in the current EU mandate (Competitiveness Compass, Clean Industrial Deal, Single Market & Simplification and next MFF)
9:20	How can Finland Achieve a National Cluster Policy?
9:35	The Case of Nokia: Tangible Results of How Clusters Support Business Growth, Evidence from Practice and Research
10:05	<i>Break</i>
10:20	The State of Clusters and the Industry – Regional Clusters' Introductions
10:35	Workshop: How Can Clusters Impact National and Regional RDI?
12:45	<i>Networking lunch</i>

Time (EET)	Agenda Point
14:00	Clusters Supporting Regional Resilience and Preparedness
14:15	Workshop wrap-up
14:35	Panel discussions Theme 1: Cluster Policy Good Practices from the EU Theme 2: Ideas to Roadmaps to Action: Next Steps for Finland
15:30	Cluster and laboratory tours with networking Theme 1: AI, Robotics, XR/AR/VR + Energy + 3D Printing + EMC + Water Lab Theme 2: Bio and Circular Lab + UEF Microsurgery Centre + Agri-Food
18:30	<i>Networking Dinner</i>

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

Bailey Lähdesmäki

Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences



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CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS



CLUSTERS AS DRIVERS OF

THE GREEN INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

VAASA
FINLAND

24 · 25
SEPTEMBER 2025



ENERGY
VAASA

VAASA
VAASA



VASEK

INNOVATION HUBS BY
NORDEUROPEAN INVESTMENT
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEXT
GEN
EU

Nordic energy capital, leading the way in renewable technologies, smart energy systems, and industrial innovation

Showcase Finland's leadership in sustainable energy and digitalisation, contributing to the broader European innovation agenda

Facilitate cross-border partnerships, unlocking new opportunities for SMEs, investors, and energy technology providers.



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Agenda Highlights

Day 1 – 24 September 2025

The first day of the event will focus on **building new collaborative initiatives** and **exploring regional strengths**:

Opening plenary session, featuring welcome remarks from local and European representatives and setting the strategic tone for the event.

Pitching session, where selected participants will present ideas for future collaboration, potentially feeding into the next C2Lab edition planned in Finland later this year.

Parallel workshops designed to generate concrete project ideas and enhance interregional cooperation:

Cluster collaboration: Increasing productivity through innovation in manufacturing industries – focused on robotics, AI, 3D printing, and digital twins.

Vaasa Climate Commitment: Accelerating place-based collaboration for a clean and sustainable transition – promoting cross-sector partnerships for climate leadership.

Best practices for mastering industry-university cooperation in RDI projects – identifying effective models for co-developing energy innovations.

Networking opportunities throughout the day to connect with regional, national, and international stakeholders.

Day 2 – 25 September 2025

The second day will be dedicated to **gaining hands-on insight** into the region's innovation ecosystem:

Inspiration session showcasing successful EU-funded collaborations and cross-border innovation practices.

Company and site visits in the Vaasa region, offering direct exposure to industrial leaders and green transition pioneers.

C2LAB EVENT FORMAT

Antonio Novo
ECCP Team

C2Lab concept



The Cluster Collaboration Labs (C2Labs) are **1.5-day interactive workshops** for project creation organised by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) on behalf of the European Commission.



The overall objective of the C2Labs is **to generate new projects and collaboration** between businesses, clusters, and research organisations.



C2Lab should contribute to generate, facilitate, and mature project ideas based on the interests and matching of the participants, which will be **further implemented after the workshop itself**, e.g. in an application to an open call.

Credits: Icon 1: Vectors Tank – Flaticon; Icon 2: juicy_fish – Flaticon; Icon 3: Vectors Tank – Flaticon

Who is it for?

We welcome different entities that are interested in collaborating with others in projects!

- **SMEs and companies**
- **Cluster organisations**
- **Universities and research organisations**
- **Actors from the civil society**
- **Policymakers**

Participation is open to entities from the **EU and SMP/COSME countries**.

What to expect at the workshop?

- **Work on defining excellent projects**
- Discover **synergies** among participants and **common goals**
- **Start the project discussions, e.g.:**
 - Define the **common objectives** of the potential consortium
 - Select the idea and **determine the activities**
 - Determine the **roles of each partner** of the project
- Define the **next steps** for the development of the project after the workshop

The discussions are guided by a facilitator from the ECCP team.



Previous C2Lab in

- ✓ Esbjerg, Denmark, 6-7 May 2025
- ✓ Zaragoza, Spain, 19-20 Mar 2025
- ✓ Strasbourg, France, 25-26 Sep 2024
- ✓ Vilnius, Lithuania, 14-15 Nov 2023
- ✓ Ljubljana, Slovenia, 25-26 Oct 2023
- ✓ Lund, Sweden, 21-22 Mar 2023
- ✓ Cluj-Napoca, 22-23 Jun 2022



29 October 2025

Time (EET)	Agenda Point
8:00	<i>Registration and Networking Coffee</i>
8:30	Site Visits (Bus Transportation After Registration) <i>Water and agri-food technologies + 2 SME presentations</i> <i>OR</i> <i>Machinery and energy technologies + 2 SME presentations</i>
11:00	Welcome to the C2Lab Greetings from Finnish Public Authorities
11:10	Water Technology Ecosystem Landscape: How to Combine Established Strengths with New Innovations
11:20	Comprehensive Security Ecosystem Landscape: How to Turn Threats into Possibilities on Technological, Societal, and Operational Levels
11:30	Funding Programmes: Overview of EU Opportunities
11:45	Presentation of Input Paper and Project Creation Methodology
12:00	Presentation of Participants and Pitching Ideas
12:30	<i>Networking lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:30	Working Group Phase
18:30	<i>Networking dinner (Bus Transportation Provided from City Centre to Koivumäki Manor at 18:30 and returning 21:00)</i>

30 October 2025

Time (EET)	Agenda Point
8:00	<i>Networking Coffee</i>
8:30	Introductory Words and Summary of Day 1
8:40	Access to Private Investments
8:50	Working Group Phase <i>Discussion on Project Ideas in Working Groups Guided by a Facilitator, “including brainstorming on simplifications in EU funded projects preparation and implementation phases based on current experience</i>
11:15	Presentation of Results <i>Each Working Group Will Present their Results to the Plenary</i>
11:55	Closing Words and Feedback Survey
12:00	<i>Break and “To Go” Lunch Package</i>
12:20	<i>Bus Transportation Provided to Kuopio Airport (Flight to Helsinki at 14:00) and Kuopio Train Station (Train to Helsinki at 14:11)</i>

Topics

1. Your Own Project Idea

Pitch your own idea and invite others to join you!

2. Water Resilience

3. Comprehensive Security

4. Critical Raw Materials

5. Agrifood and Food Security

6. Digital and AI

7. Energy Transition

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY

Harriet Lonka

Project Lead, Comprehensive Security Cluster North Savo,
North Savo Regional Council



Safer Together Strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness

Report by **Sauli Niinistö**, former President of the Republic of Finland,
In his capacity as Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission



Comprehensive Security - Needs of Increasing Interest and Importance

A key question raised by former Finnish President Niinistö in his report 2024:

How to mainstream civilian and military preparedness across sectors to overcome a silos approach and enhance EU resilience

Strengthening resilience in the society for normal conditions as well as for crisis

How to safeguard vital functions of society for all circumstances and through all societal branches.

Increasing industrial activity in cross sectional manner

How to push forward industrial modernization connecting different business fields and creating new business opportunities at the interfaces.

Enhancing innovativeness in various related fields

How to increase innovativeness in the context of comprehensive security in the wide range: from defence industry to dual-use technologies, from social innovations to robust industrial solutions.

Examples of project topics related to Comprehensive Security

- Increased resilience for critical infrastructure
- Continuity management of industrial installations and services
- Safeguarding food production against cyber attacks, shortage of energy and water deficiency
- Innovations for defence technologies and dual-use technologies
- Preparedness for responding to accidents and recovering from them
- Who should join? Relevant industry sectors e.g. energy systems, machinery, water management, food industry, chemicals, IT, cyber

WATER RESILIENCE

Tiina Haatainen

Cluster Manager, Kuopio Water Cluster,
Savonia University of Applied Sciences



Why Water Resilience Matters

Essential Role of Water

Water supports life, economy, food production, and healthy ecosystems worldwide.

Threats to Water Resources

Europe faces pollution, climate change, and overuse stressing water resources.

Persistent Pollutants Impact

PFAS pollutants cause health risks and costly impacts estimated billions annually.

Urgency of Water Demand Gap

By 2030, global water demand will exceed supply by 40%, requiring urgent measures.

Examples of project topics related to Water

- Restoring and protecting the water cycle
- Securing clean and affordable water
- Detection and prevention of PFAS
- Reduction of nutrients pollution
- Enhancing resilience of water infrastructures towards physical, chemical and cybersecurity attacks
- Strengthening the innovation capacity and new investments for sustainable water management
- Leakage reduction and infrastructure modernization
- Climate change adaption towards extreme weather events (floods, droughts)
- The Water-Food Nexus: sustainable and resilient food production
- Smart infrastructures and flood management in cities
- Safe water re-use
- Ensuring water for critical uses such as hospitals or during crisis situations

TRAVEL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bailey Lähdesmäki

Project Manager, Savonia University of Applied Sciences

Travel information

Getting to Kuopio from Helsinki

- By plane: Finnair offers 4 daily flights (~1h).
- By train: 7 daily rail connections (~4h).

Return to Helsinki (30 October)

- Hosts will provide bus transfer to airport/train station.
- Connections available:
 - Flight at 14:00
 - Train at 14:11

Travel and accommodation costs are not covered by ECCP. [MORE INFO](#)

REGISTRATION AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Nina Hoppmann

ECCP Team

Registration

- 1 Go to the B2Match event
<https://www.b2match.com/e/cluster-collaboration-lab-c2lab-kuopio>



- 2 Create a B2Match profile or use an existing account



Cluster Summit Finland 2025
& Cluster Collaboration Lab
(C2Lab) Kuopio, Finland >
28-30 October 2025
Kuopio, Finland

- ☒ Create an account
- ☐ Complete your profile

Create new Account

or [log in](#) with your existing b2match account

Your email address

Password

First name*

Last name*

or



Continue with LinkedIn



Continue with Google


[Cancel registration](#)

Continue



Registration

3 Complete your profile and answer the registration questions



Cluster Summit Finland 2025
& Cluster Collaboration Lab
(C2Lab) Kuopio, Finland >
28-30 October 2025
Kuopio, Finland

☒

Create an account

☐

Complete your profile

☐

Organisation details

[Cancel registration](#)

Complete your profile

Profile image



Upload profile image

Delete

Your profile picture should be a JPG, PNG, or GIF file, and it should not be larger than 800 kb.

Job Position

Pitch

Introduce yourself to other participants with a short summary.

Back

Continue

4 Await confirmation

- ## 5 Once approved, you can:
- Tell people more about yourself
 - Browse the participants
 - Book bilateral meetings with other participants until 28 October
 - Publish any project ideas or expertise offerings in the Marketplace

Online pitching sessions



On **18 September 2025 (10:00)** and **9 October 2025 (10:00)**, we will invite you to online pitching sessions to **present yourself** personally to the other participants and/or to **pitch a concrete project idea**.

This is an additional opportunity for you to meet your prospective project partners.

You can express your interest during the registration. All confirmed participants will be invited to join one or both sessions.

In-person workshop



We will meet in Kuopio on 28-30 October 2025. Based on your **project ideas** or **topic selection**, you will join the **respective working group** to initiate your project ideas with your fellow peers. Each working group will be guided by a **facilitator**.

Within your group, you will develop your project proposal by discussing the main elements of every project:

- Common goals
- Objectives and scope of the project
- Target groups
- Activities, deliverables and milestones
- Risks and assumptions

Register now!



The banner features a teal background with a cityscape on the left and a group of smiling people on the right. The C²LAB logo is prominently displayed in the center. Text on the right side specifies the location and dates. The bottom of the banner contains a row of logos for various partners and sponsors.

C²LAB

**CLUSTER
COLLABORATION LABS**
& CLUSTER SUMMIT FINLAND 2025 (28 October 2025)

Kuopio, Finland
28-30 October 2025

An initiative of the European Union

Logos at the bottom: European Cluster Collaboration Platform, European Commission, North Savo Regional Council, Comprehensive Security Cluster Finland, SAVONIA University of Applied Sciences, Boost ECO., Super Ecosystem, KUOPIO WATER CLUSTER, NEXT GEN EU.

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/content/cluster-summit-finland-2025-cluster-collaboration-lab-c2lab-kuopio-finland>

Q&A

THANK YOU