

EUROPEAN CLUSTER CONFERENCE 2022

26-27 SEPTEMBER 2022, PRAGUE



#EUClusterConference



Why do/should we talk about gender equality and clusters?

Because...

- “By 2050, improving gender equality would lead to an increase in EU (GDP) by 6.1 to 9.6%, which amounts to €1.95 to €3.15 trillion.
- Improved gender equality could boost the long-term competitiveness of the EU economy.”

(Source: <https://eige.europa.eu/>)

Looking from the SME side

- The lack of qualified workforce = barrier for SMEs' growth and competitiveness
- SMEs have difficulties to **understand the business rationale** behind gender equality.
- SMEs lack the **knowledge to develop gender-inclusive business models** and an inclusive, **gender-friendly work culture** (correlated to “new work” approaches).
- SMEs lack the adjusted framework conditions (policy intervention – that lacks the related monitoring and evaluation instruments)



Clusters have a role to play

Where to look for (cluster) inspiration?

France



France Clusters' work on gender equality

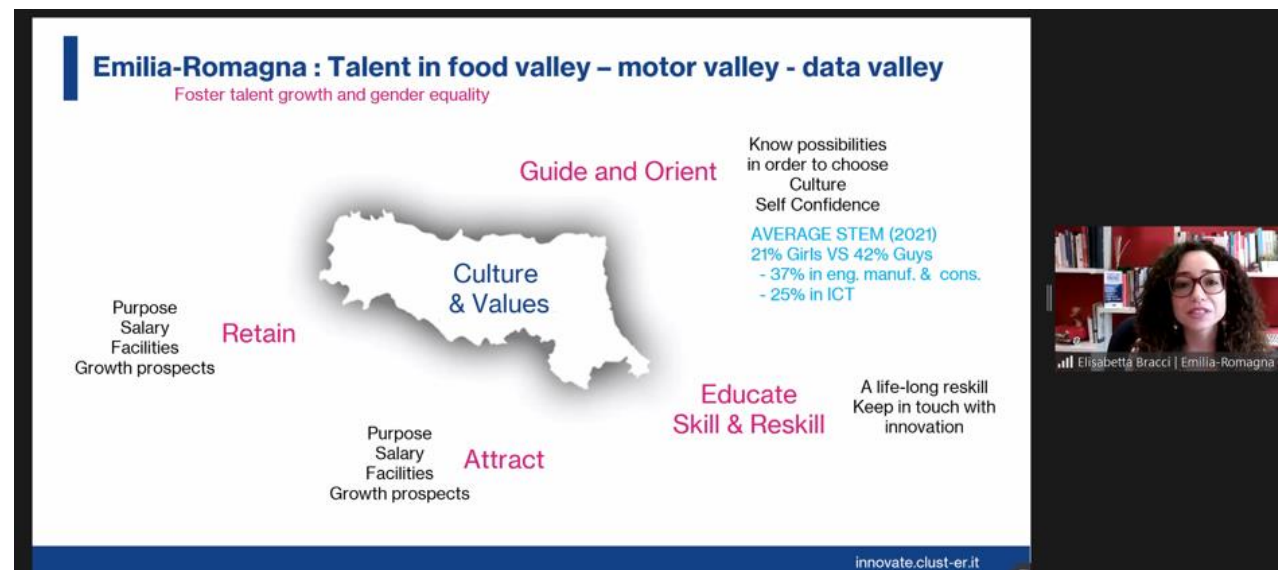
- „Female Sector Leaders“ Publication
- Thematic Trophy (Actions with impact for the feminization of the sector)
- Toolbox (good practices, arguments, etc.)



Italy



Emilia-Romagna Clust-ERs



Where to look for (cluster) inspiration?

Spain



- wants to be able to lead and support any initiative that promotes the growth of the furniture industry and the defense of equal opportunities without gender discrimination;
- has expertise in sectorial projects focused on the gender perspective, the promotion of gender equality and the development of gender mainstreaming strategies.

UNIDO



Gender mainstreaming in the cluster methodology



First steps, next steps

- Dedicated sessions at the TCI Global Conferences since 2012
- 3 dedicated sessions of the European Clusters Alliance morning sessions in 2021
- Smart Specialisation Academy and integration of gender perspective in the S3 of Region Värmland, capacity building for SMEs, clusters and policy makers
- Industry manufacturing and gender equality in the region of Navarra, strong focus in the cluster policy in the Lapland region
- Gender equality plans for clusters in the region Emilia-Romagna
- Development of tools for monitoring and evaluation
- Upcoming collaborative cluster projects (e.g., PENELOPE / Erasmus+, possibly others)
- ...

Thank you

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