CLUSTER BOOSTER ACADEMY

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

NEXT GEN EU

Call for Applications
Cluster Booster Academy

DEADLINE: October 31, 2022

About the Cluster Booster Academy

Managing a cluster requires a large range of skills to ensure efficient support to all cluster members and in particular to especially SMEs. This is why the "Cluster Booster Academy" (the "Academy" from here on), a 4-day intensive series of trainings, is offered by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

Objectives are to:

1. Provide learning opportunities for cluster managers to further develop their skills with regard to topics relevant to the cluster strategy, through tailormade training sessions delivered by experts
2. Meet the needs of European cluster management teams in their daily work, in particular to have the capacity to offer innovative, highly professional and diversified services to SMEs
3. Offer cluster management teams the chance to learn from each other's experiences, discover new effective and efficient practices and tools, find inspiration for new services and business models through peer-learning
4. Provide the opportunity to cluster management teams to co-shape new European value chains and interlink the 14 industrial ecosystems through the interaction and knowledge sharing
5. Support cluster management teams and stakeholders in understanding and contributing to the European policies and programmes related to the global challenges, specifically the digital and green transitions and resilience
6. Help in developing better policy related to clusters
7. Improve the skills of clusters' staff thanks to a "train the trainers" approach by disseminating their knowledge further

During these interactive hybrid training events, participants will engage in intense learning from experts, as well as from other clusters managers (peer learning), by experiencing a variety of training methods:

1. «Frontal » lessons giving space for interaction with the trainer and among participants,
2. Teamwork sessions on case studies or practical exercises in small groups format to encourage peer-learning,
3. Individual "homework" to translate into practice the learnings and debrief with the group during the feedback sessions
4. Participants will t finish the training with a personalized roadmap for their future activities so that the impact of the training can be more practical and induce real changes in the management of the clusters,

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5. An online discussion group for the participants/trainers and speakers of the Cluster Booster Academy to keep in continuous contact between the training sessions to encourage peer-learning,
6. Presentations and guest talks to learn from experts and anticipate trends and innovations in their industrial ecosystem to be able to drive their members in the right direction with the adequate strategic vision.

The Format

The Academy will involve yearly between 25 to 40 participants and will run for 4 days in a hybrid format:

1. 2 days online training course to take place **December 01-02, 2022**
2. 2 days in-person training course to take place **March 02-03, 2023**

A draft agenda[1] of the training contents can be found below:

Online

Day 1 Cluster Strategy Development

Day 2 Business Model Innovation

In-person

Day 1 Workshops to write the own roadmap towards a renewed strategy and business model

Day 2 Action Plan Development

During the event there will be plenty of possibilities to engage, exchange and network with cluster managers from all over Europe. In addition to that the ECCP invited several speakers with deep expertise in cluster management.

The Venue

The 2 day in-person training course will take place at the University of Strasbourg, France. The University has extensive expertise in cluster management, in 2013 a Master Degree in Cluster Management dedicated to enabling students to become cluster and territorial network managers, training them to manage innovative collaborative projects in a context of territorial dynamism, interculturalism and multilingualism was opened.

In collaboration with the University of Strasbourg, we will send the final participants an info pack including hotel recommendations, transport options, etc.

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[1] Draft agenda: contents may change slightly due to further collaboration with renowned speakers

Who can apply?

The Cluster Booster Academy is looking for a diverse group of Cluster Managers interested in learning from experts, expand their network, share their own knowledge and coming from different backgrounds, level of experience, countries etc.

The call is open to **cluster managers[2] only** who are:

- registered[3] on our ECCP platform as cluster managers being in charge of a Cluster Organisation;

- managing a Cluster Organisation from an EU country or countries associated to the COSME strand of the Single Market Programme;[4]

- motivated and commit to attend all 4 training days, turn on camera in the virtual days and do the homework assigned to them in between the virtual and the physical trainings.[5]

Selection of participants

Applications from eligible candidates will be assessed by an evaluation team on the basis of the following criteria:

- Motivation,
- Commitment to transfer the knowledge gained at the "Academy" with others and train other cluster managers and staff of clusters
- Geographical balance of participants,
- Balance in terms of experience level and background of applicants.

The "first come, first served" principle will be applied once the two main criteria 'motivation' and 'commitment to transfer the knowledge gained at the "Academy" with others and train other cluster managers and staff of clusters' have been fulfilled.

Applicants will receive feedback regarding their application within 2 weeks after the closure of the call.

Financial contribution

The transport and accommodation costs are to be borne by the participants themselves and cannot be reimbursed by the ECCP team. The participation in the 2 virtual days and the

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[2] Cluster Managers are considered those who are responsible for the management of a cluster organisation

[3] In case you are not registered, yet, please do so before your application. If you need assistance, feel free to reach out to events@clustercollaboration.eu

[4] : list-3rd-country-participation_smp_en.pdf (europa.eu)

[5] Cancelling last minute (less than two weeks before the intended dates) for unjustified reasons or little to no engagement during the 4 days of training and in the timeframe in between might lead to limited participation opportunities to future ECCP events and access to ECCP services.

2 in-person days is free of charge. Lunches, coffee breaks, etc. throughout the in-person training days will be taken care of by the ECCP team.

How to apply and deadline for submission

European cluster managers interested should fill out the **application form** and follow the indicated guidelines for application. The application form must be submitted electronically by end of day (CET) on **October 31, 2022** at the latest.

Contacts

If you have questions regarding this call, please send an email to events@clustercollaboration.eu

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration

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