



# EUROPEAN CLUSTER CONFERENCE 2022

SEP 26-27, PRAGUE | BRINGING TOGETHER THE CLUSTER COMMUNITY



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## CONFERENCE

### WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE JOINED?

The European Cluster Conference 2022 was a unique opportunity to have a say about cluster-related policy developments at EU, national and regional level, learn about EU cluster initiatives for post-COVID-19 recovery, addressing supply chain disruptions and clusters' role in the roll out of Transition Pathways in the different industrial ecosystems.

It was also the occasion to find out about the work of the European Expert Group on Clusters, to give feedback in relation to the priorities of the European Commission and the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and comment on challenges and opportunities.

The participants also heard from the experiences of cluster policy makers, cluster managers and experts, plus exchanged ideas and best practices.

The participants got the chance to vote for the Awards for the European Cluster Manager of the Year and found out more about the European Cluster Partnerships of the Year.

## EXHIBITION

For more information about the exhibitors, please visit the e-booth page.

## MATCHMAKING

The matchmaking event within the European Cluster Conference offered the delegates a dedicated framework to find potential business partners at all stages of the supply chain.

## SITE VISITS

Site visits were organised for the conference participants. More information about the visits can be found [here](#).



## WHO WILL BE THERE

The plenary sessions was introduced by high-level speakers including the Czech Vice-Minister for Industry and Trade, the EU Commission representatives, political leaders, academics and business leaders who presented their perspectives on the clusters as drivers for the implementation of Transition Pathways in various Industrial ecosystems, or more largely of industrial change. The audience was composed of up to 40 panellists representing public administration, cluster organisations, businesses, research bodies, etc.

## SPEAKERS



### **Marian Piecha**

Deputy Minister, EU Funds and Digital Economy Section

Marian Piecha was born in 1982 in Třinec. He graduated in Civil Engineering at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Brno University of Technology. He graduated from doctoral studies at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the Czech Technical University and was awarded a Masters of Law at the University of New York in Prague. From 2005 to 2006 he was an official at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, where he was involved in programme funding. He has worked at the Ministry of Industry and Trade since 2006. In 2008, he was appointed Director of the Department of Business and Investment at

the Ministry of Industry and Trade. From 2013 to 2014, he was CEO of the business and investment support agency CzechInvest. In 2014, he became Director of the MIT's SME Support Department, and was appointed Deputy Minister of the EU Funds and Digital Economy Section in 2018. In addition, he lectures at the University of Economics in Prague and is a member of two college councils.



### **Maive Rute**

Deputy Director-General & Chief Standardisation Officer, DG GROW

As Deputy Director-General of GROW, Maive Rute focuses on the green transition of industries, resilience of supply chains, promotion of investments, standardisation and IP rights. In June 2022, the European Commission nominated her the first ever Chief Standardisation Officer. Between 2005 and 2019, she worked as Director for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and as Director and DDG in the research and innovation field of the European Commission. She has also served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Estonia and CEO of KredEx, the Estonian business and export financing body.



### **Jozef Síkela**

Minister of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic

Jozef Síkela was appointed by the President of the Republic as Minister of Industry and Trade on 17 December 2021. Previously, he held various positions in the field of credit risk management and corporate banking, first at the Bank Austria Creditanstalt, later in the management of Česká spořitelna. He then became the First Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Deputy CEO, later the Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of the Erste Bank in Ukraine.

Thanks to the successful consolidation of Erste Ukraina, he was appointed the Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO

of the Slovenská spořitelna. As a head of this bank, he achieved historical record results, the bank repeatedly won the title Bank of the Year, and Jozef Síkela won the Banker of the Year award and was nominated as Manager of the Year. Under his leadership, the bank also became the Most Valuable Brand in Slovakia.

Later, Jozef Síkela was appointed a member of the Board of Directors of Erste Group Bank AG, the parent company of the Erste Group. In this position, he was responsible for corporate and investment banking, mergers and acquisitions, real estate financing including communal housing, trade financing, financial markets and macroeconomic analysis. He covered these activities of the Erste Group in all of Erste's home markets in the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, as well as in the extended markets in Germany, Poland and Switzerland. Erste Group branches in London, New York and Hong Kong were also under his direct responsibility.



### **Jakub Boratyński**

Director for Networks and Governance, DG GROW

Jakub Boratyński deals with Single Market policies related to services, the recognition of professional qualifications, skills and market surveillance. DG GROW is also responsible for supporting industrial networks and alliances including the Industrial Forum, the European Enterprise Network and cluster organisations as well as the coordination of communication and outreach activities and relations with the European Parliament and Council.

Between 2014 and 2021, Jakub worked in the European Commission's Directorate-General Communication Networks, Content

and Technology (CNECT) with a primary focus on cybersecurity. He was involved in legislative negotiations (NIS1 and NIS2 Directives, Cybersecurity Act), the preparation of the Commission's Recommendation for a common EU approach to the security of 5G networks, the EU cybersecurity strategy's actions on resilience and cooperation with the EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA).

Previously (2009-2013), Jakub was the Head of Unit for Organised Crime and Relations with EMCDDA at the European Commission's Directorate-General Home Affairs. Previously, he worked on EU relations with Russia (Directorate-General External Relations). Before joining the European Commission, he was a Director at the Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw and before that, a Policy Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the University of Warsaw (international relations, law).



**Tor-Arne Bellika**

CEO, Innovation Performance AS

Tor-Arne Bellika is the leading Nordic expert in cluster and innovation ecosystem transformation and capacity building. With more than 10 years of experience as a cluster manager in the IT and construction industries, he is an expert in certified cluster organisation benchmarking (by EUCLES, European Cluster Excellence Labelling Structure). His specialities are:

- regional S3 development and implementation through regional cluster portfolio;
- cluster organisation business models and cluster member services development

mentoring;

- digital transformation mentoring – industry transformation potential of local Digital Twins and xR;
- digital innovation hub quality and capacity building;
- business and service development.



**Irene Burroni**

Manager, dID – Technological Cluster for Interiors and Design

Irene Burroni is the manager of dID – Technological Cluster for Interiors and Design. She graduated in Far Eastern languages at Cà Foscari University in Venice (Italy), and has been dID cluster manager since 2011. She has acquired extensive competencies in designing and implementing projects concerning intervention in foreign markets as support to the internationalisation, innovation and technological transfer processes for regional and national businesses in the living environment sectors (interiors, furniture, wood, RV, construction). In this role she has been coordinating S3 scenario definitions as well as deriving R&D projects and

international partnerships under the LIFE, Interreg Med, Erasmus+, Tempus and H2020 programmes.

dID includes 400 companies, 20 research organisations and related infrastructures for which intermediation leads to the development of R&D and technological transfer activities. Irene also represents dID in two National Technological Clusters: MiniIT/Made in Italy and SMILE – Smart Living Technologies. She leads a European Digital Innovation Hub on ambient assisted living, and is part of the EFIC Cluster of Clusters. She is also the coordinator of a just-launched Eurocluster – RE-CENTRE – and represents dID as a partner in the AEC-eurocluster on construction.



### **Mateja Dermastia**

CEO of Anteja

Mateja Dermastia is an expert in value chain transparency, innovation policies and cluster development with 28 years of experience. As the CEO of Anteja, a sustainability consultancy with offices in Ljubljana, Stuttgart and Nairobi, her work focuses on transforming selected industries into innovation-oriented sustainable growth models based on circular value chains. With a focus on transparency and traceability, she has pioneered novel applications of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies in selected sectors of economic importance to the developing world.

Mateja has worked for international financial institutions, multilateral donors, national and regional government entities, and private-sector companies. She developed policies and strategies for national and regional clusters in Africa and Asia and has played an important role in several EU Interreg programmes, such as Ardia-Net, AlplinkBioEco, DanuBioValNet and GoDanubio. She worked as the State Undersecretary at the Slovenian government and at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.



**Bianca Dragomir**

CEO, Valencian Cleantech Cluster AVAENSEN

Bianca Dragomir is an award-winning cluster expert and public speaker on the power of innovation ecosystems in the green transition.

She was the first woman to be named "European Cluster Manager of the Year "by the European Commission, for her work as CEO of the Valencian Cleantech Cluster AVAENSEN in Spain.

An advisor to the European Commission's High-Level Industrial Roundtable 'Industry 2020' and a member of the Expert Group on Industrial Clusters, she pioneered the launch of the first cleantech start-up accelerator in

Spain and expanded it to 12 European countries. Through her work, she has accelerated more than 400 European climate-related start-ups.

Bianca is leader of the Spanish ClimateLaunchpad and The Global Green Business Idea Competition, and founder of the first European cluster accelerator, TheCAP. She also created the clustersofchange.eu initiative to inspire and support a new generation of conscious and impact-driven cluster leaders across Europe and beyond.

Her work has been featured in prominent international media (The Independent, Euronews, Politico, La Vanguardia, El País) and she has spoken at key international events in more than 40 countries.

Bianca has two master's degrees: International Business and European Integration (Universidad de Valencia, Spain) and Business Communication (SNSPA, Romania); she completed studies in Exponential Thinking & Foresight at Singularity University and she frequently collaborates with MIT's Center for Collective Intelligence as well as with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN).



### **Ulla Engelmann**

Head of Unit for Industrial Forum, Alliances and Clusters, DG GROW

Ulla Engelmann is the Head of Unit for Industrial Forum, Alliances and Clusters within DG GROW, the Directorate-General responsible for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs at the European Commission. Her portfolio covers the work of the industrial forum, governance of industrial alliances, the organisation of the EU Industry Days, the management and coordination of networks such as Enterprise Europe Network, clusters and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs. In previous functions, she was responsible for social economy, Pact for Skills, women's entrepreneurship and

entrepreneurship education. She worked at the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the in-house science service of the European Commission. She started at the JRC in Ispra, Italy, in 1993 as a post-doc in fusion research, and moved on to manage various units – communication, international relations and others. Dr Engelmann holds a PhD in analytical and radiochemistry completed at the National Research Centre in Karlsruhe, Germany.



### **Virginie Fermaud**

Coordinator, EU-Japan Regional & Cluster Cooperation Helpdesk

Dr Virginie Fermaud is the coordinator of the EU-Japan Regional & Cluster Cooperation Helpdesk (EJR2C) initiated by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. This helpdesk, dedicated to the promotion of EU-Japan cooperation at the local level of industrial clusters, regions and prefectures, is managed by the European Center for Japanese Studies in Alsace (CEEJA) - Cluster JapanTech Grand Est in Europe and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in Japan. The EJR2C helpdesk organises a series of best practice webinars as well as an annual conference and matchmaking event. In 2022, the helpdesk is

managing a new short-term mobility programme in Japan for EU industry cluster managers. Dr Virginie Fermaud has a PhD in Japanese studies from Strasbourg University and she is the general manager of the

CEEJA, based in the Grand Est region in France. The European office of the EJR2C helpdesk is in Strasbourg.



**Christopher Frieling**

Director Advocacy and Public Policy, SEMI Europe

Christopher Frieling is Director for Advocacy and Public Policy at the SEMI Europe Brussels Office and Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Pact for Skills for Microelectronics. Christopher has a background in EU affairs, innovation and tech policy. Prior to SEMI he worked at the Brussels office of Fraunhofer in several roles including most recently as Senior Advisor. Christopher holds an MSc in Economics of Science and Innovation and a Bachelor of Business Administration.



**Barbara Gibbon**

Director-General, Global Innovation Clusters programme

Barbara has more than 25 years of experience in the Canadian federal public service, with a career that spans policy, communications and corporate roles at the Office of the Secretary to the Governor-General, Transport Canada, Finance Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development. She is currently Director-General for Canada's Global Innovation Clusters programme, a key pillar of the Canadian government's approach to business innovation. The programme, with more than \$1.8 million of federal funding, supports five not-for-profit clusters, which

are charged with building ecosystems of competitive advantage for Canada.

From 2017 to 2019, Barbara served as Director, Innovation at Rideau Hall Foundation, an independent charity founded by the Right Honourable David Johnston during his mandate as Governor-General. In this

role, she led a suite of activities to support a culture of innovation in Canada, with programmes to connect, cultivate and celebrate Canadian innovators.



**Simone Hagenauer**

Project Manager Clusters, ecoplus

Simone Hagenauer holds a master's degree in law from Karl-Franzens University Graz in Austria and specialises in European common law and environmental law. Since 2003 she has been project manager at ecoplus, the Lower Austrian business agency, where she is responsible for cross-border business cooperation projects as well as cluster development projects for the Lower Austrian clusters, currently in the field of green building, food, plastics and mechatronics. Key areas: inter-regional cooperation to improve cluster policies, international cluster co-operation and cluster manager skills. As European Cluster Excellence Assessor since

2012, she has interviewed and assessed cluster organisations in Hungary, Italy, Germany, Sweden and Austria. Simone is a member of the global cluster network TCI, the Steering Committee of the Austrian Cluster Platform and the German "go cluster" Advisory Board.



**José I Hormaeche**

General Manager, Basque Energy Cluster (Asociación Cluster de Energía, ACE)

Jose I Hormaeche has been General Manager of the Basque Energy Cluster (Asociación Cluster de Energía, ACE) since March 2013. ACE is a non-profit private organisation set up in 1996, with the mission of improving the competitiveness of the Basque industrial fabric in the energy sector through collaboration in various fields: technology, international promotion, talent and innovation. ACE includes more than 180 member companies in the energy supply chain: energy operators, component and equipment manufacturers, service companies, research entities and public administration.

From 2006 to 2013, he was Managing Director of the Basque Energy Agency (EVE), a public entity belonging and reporting to the Department of Industry and Innovation of the Basque Government, whose mission is to define the energy strategies and develop programmes and actions to achieve its objectives. From 1998 to 2006, he worked for GAMESA Group, undertaking various responsibilities such as Chief Operating Officer of Gamesa Eólica, one of the leading companies in wind turbine design and manufacturing, which is now part of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy.

He previously worked at ROBOTIKER, a technology centre in the Basque Country, where he held various positions, first in the CAD/CAM/CAE department, later as Marketing Director and the last four years as Deputy Director. He has a degree in Civil Engineering (1986) from the Civil Engineering School of the Polytechnical University of Madrid (specialisation in hydraulics and energy) and a Master in Business Administration (1991) from INSIDE, University of Deusto in Bilbao (specialisation in Marketingmarketing).



**Donato Iacobucci**

Professor of Applied Economics, Università Politecnica delle Marche

Department of Information Engineering, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy

Prof Donato Iacobucci is a full professor of Applied Economics at the Department of Information Engineering, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy. He is the Director of the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Rector's delegate for entrepreneurship and responsible for entrepreneurship education programmes. He is a member of the European University Association expert group on innovation

ecosystems and Scientific Coordinator of the Fondazione Aristide Merloni, a foundation whose main aim is to promote and support entrepreneurial culture. He is also a member of the board of SIEPI, the Italian Association of Industrial Economists.

His main research interests are:

innovation and entrepreneurship;

technology transfer: university-industry relations; academic spin-offs;

business groups: rationale, organization and governance;

small and medium-sized firms: clustering, financing and growth.



### **Dimitri Ionescu**

Founder, of LightMirror

A Franco-Romanian entrepreneur based in Lithuania, Dimitri Ionescu graduated from the École des ingénieurs de la Ville de Paris school of the engineers of Paris in urbanism and civil engineering. In 2019 he began to work on LightMirror, an architectural start-up which that brings sunlight to healthcare buildings and reduces their energy needs.

He is leading leads a consortium of Ukrainian businesses with the goal of prototyping synergies between alternative renovations technics technologies and accelerating the renovation of healthcare infrastructure renovation.

Dimitri won the EU Industry Days competition and got the European Commission Jury and audience in February 2022. His company is recognised as one of the Top 50 climate tech solutions in Central and Eastern Europe by PwC's one of the CEE Net Zero Future50 key innovations report.



### **Mervi Karikorpi**

Head of EU Innovation and Industrial Policies, Technology Industries of Finland

Mervi Karikorpi is the Head of EU Innovation and Industrial Policies at Technology Industries of Finland. Having worked in several leadership, advisory and research positions in consulting engineering companies, research institutes and public sector organisations in the EU, Asia and the US, Mervi has extensive international experience in the areas of the digital and green transformation, innovation capabilities and management, and innovation and industrial policy analysis. She is a member of the EU Industrial Forum Task Force on Investment, a Vice-Chair of DigitalEurope WG

on R&I and a board member of the Finnish Centre of AI.



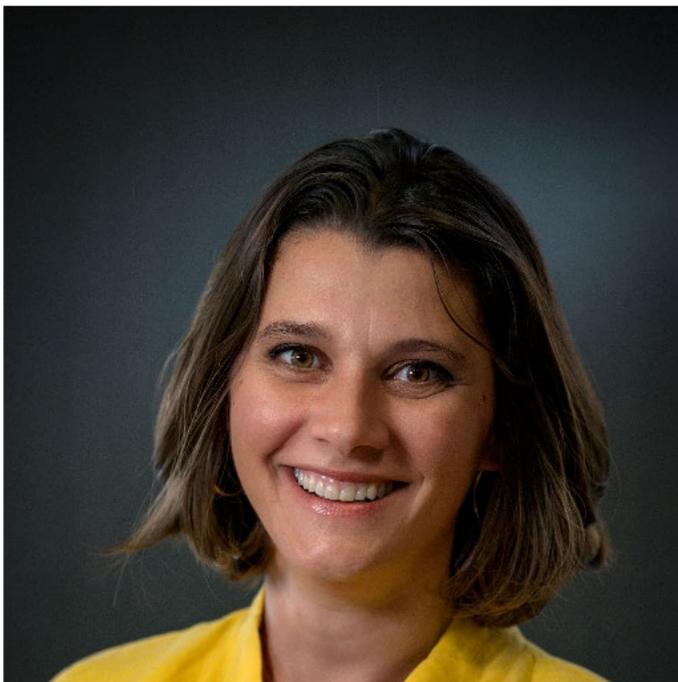
**Anaïs Le Corvec**

Network manager, Council of European Bioregion

Anaïs Le Corvec is a specialist in international research management, and currently works as the network manager of the Council of European Bioregions. She has co-created a social innovation company, Cliclab, whose core mission is social impact and transformative processes for companies, teams and people. In both, her role is to support growth and connections between actors, regardless of their sectors.

She also works as a consultant on research assessment and project implementation. She has worked in many research fields such as health, information and communication

technologies, international cooperation and innovation. She holds a Business Administration degree from the University of Montreal Business School HEC, with a specialisation in marketing and international management. Based in Barcelona since 2001, she has worked as an international research advisor for several entities. She also works as an expert reviewer for the European Commission on research management-related topics.



**Ségolène Leloutre**

International Partnership Director, Cosmetic Valley

Ségolène has worked for Cosmetic Valley for 15 years. Before focusing on the international partnerships of Cosmetic Valley France, she was R&D Project Manager and then Network Manager for the cluster. She coordinates the Global Cosmetics Cluster launched in 2016 and the Global Cosmetics Cluster – Europe ESCP 4i project, co-funded by the EU’s COSME programme. In addition, she is in charge of the Maison Internationale de la Cosmétique, a project that aims to promote the excellence of the cosmetic industry, its know-how and values, while supporting skills development, innovation, business and the

internationalisation of companies.

Ségolène graduated from ESCD 3A in Lyon, France, in Commerce and International Development.



**Mattia Marino**

Project Officer, Eurochambres

Mattia Marino has been Project Officer at Eurochambres in Brussels for the Latin America IP SME Helpdesk and the India IP SME Helpdesk since March 2022. He has five years of professional experience, of which three years have been spent on the management and implementation of EU-funded projects. He is experienced in providing support to EU SMEs active in international markets, and in maintaining effective relationships with international and local partners and stakeholders.

Since joining the Latin America IP SME Helpdesk, Mattia has provided support to more than 150 EU SMEs and business support

organisations at 22 matchmaking events and trade fairs in Germany, Spain, Belgium and Italy, in addition to virtual and hybrid events in Paraguay, Brazil and India. He has previously been a speaker at webinars and events aimed at raising awareness among European SMEs and BSOs.

He graduated in International Relations at the University of Perugia, Italy, with a specialisation in international protection of human rights and international cooperation. He is an active member of the Erasmus+ Generation; he has joined the programme four times during his educational and professional career. He speaks Italian, Spanish and English.



### **Solène Meissonnier**

Project Director for European Policies,  
Directorate-General for Enterprise

Solène Meissonnier has been a Project Director for European Policies at France's Directorate-General for Enterprise (Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Digital and Industrial Sovereignty) since July 2022. She started her career in 2010 as a policy adviser for a Member of the European Parliament, covering internal market and consumer protection, then transport, industry and investment. In 2016, she joined the Directorate-Generate for Mobility at the European Commission as a Policy Officer in charge of implementing the Connecting Europe Facility. Shortly after, she was

appointed European Affairs Manager at Alstom, a position she held for two years before moving to Singapore. She was first recruited by the Ministry in 2020, as a Project Manager for Rail and Maritime Industries. Solène Meissonnier holds a bachelor degree in Political Science and a Master's in European Affairs from the Bordeaux Institute of Political Sciences.



### **Merete D Nielsen**

Director, Cluster Excellence Denmark,  
President TCI Network

Merete D Nielsen is the founder and director of Cluster Excellence Denmark, where she designed the Danish cluster support programme while advising the government on cluster policy for more than 10 years. Since 2018 she has held the presidency of the TCI Network, the global network for cluster practitioners covering 110 countries and 15,000 people. Since 2019, Merete has ben part of the EU's Cluster Expert Group, advising the European Commission on clusters, internationalisation, digitalisation and green transition. She is a frequent keynote speaker at global events, where she spreads the word on clusters and the power of collaboration.



**Antonio Novo**

Managing Director, Cluster IDiA

Antonio Novo combines his training in technology and psychology to develop his professional life around collaborative innovation through clusters.

Antonio is Managing Director of the Cluster IDiA, which brings together 81 companies and institutions in Aragón that work together on the development of ICT projects. He holds the presidency of the European Cluster Alliance and Clusters.es, the Spanish Federation of Clusters. He is also a member of the EU Industrial Forum, and the expert groups on Interregional Innovation Investments and Clusters at the European Commission.



**Anders Olsson**

Manager, Smart Specialisation, Region Värmland

Anders Olsson has more than 25 years of experience in the area of regional sustainable development. He has worked with learning processes and policymaking for regional development internationally, in Sweden and in the region of Värmland with the triple helix actors. Some of his specialities are planning and development processes in systemic perspectives. He has been in charge of elaborating the regional development programme, forming a regional cluster strategy and two generations of smart specialisation strategies. Most recently, he participated in an OECD delegation to evaluate the regional innovation system in Newfoundland.



**Marc Pattinson**

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform,  
Senior Research and Innovation Expert

Marc Pattinson holds a master's degree in Economics, Planning and Public Administration from the London School of Economics. He is currently Director of the Innovation and Territories team at the French company GAC Group and has more than 30 years of professional experience in the domains of policy analysis, innovation, regional development, clusters and interregional cooperation. He is a senior innovation and research expert for Interreg Europe as part of the Policy Learning Team. He has written a number of policy briefs including on Clusters and Smart Specialisation

and has published in total over 10 similar documents on themes relevant to regional innovation ecosystems and interregional cooperation and competitiveness.

He has been closely involved with EU and national cluster policy for the past 10 years. He was part of the team that animated the European Cluster Collaboration Platform between 2016 and 2020 on behalf of DG GROW/EASME and was previously involved with the European Cluster Observatory. He also supports various clusters and national cluster associations across Europe in developing their European projects and their sector and internationalisation strategies. He is an auditor of the European cluster excellence labelling system supported by EUCLES. He regularly organises and moderates workshops, cluster training events and EU-level conferences.



## **Bram Pauwels**

Manager of Strategic Partnerships, EBN

Bram Pauwels joined EBN as its Manager of Strategic Partnerships and contributes to the external positioning of the organisation and facilitation of engagement among the key public and private stakeholders in the European and global innovation ecosystem. With more than 13 years of international experience in strategic communication, marketing and stakeholder relations in the private and public sectors, he has applied his skills predominantly in start-ups, innovation ecosystem building, social innovation and impact entrepreneurship arenas. As CMO for a leading international network, he co-created the first policy programme to support

impact entrepreneurship in the Metropole Region Amsterdam. As a Fellow at a transdisciplinary European think tank, Bram deals with questions related to social and political innovation through his research on the relationships between public policy and empowerment values. He holds a BA in Political Communication and an MA in Political Science (Tel Aviv University) and is enrolled in an Executive Master in European Studies at Gothenburg University.



### **Tero Piispanen**

Senior Executive, HealthTurku

Tero Piispanen is an expert in internationalisation and finding collaboration partners and funding for life science companies. He has long experience in regional, national and international cooperation and coordination, and he is treasurer of the Council of European Bioregions board and vice-president of the ScanBalt Bioregion network. During his career in the medtech industry, Tero was responsible for OEM (original equipment manufacturing), quality assurance and component supply chain from the Far East to Europe. Tero also has experience in corporate finance (risk funding of SMEs). His qualifications include

an MSc(Eng) and an MBA.



### **Marek Przeor**

Team Leader – Cluster Policy, DG GROW

Marek Przeor has been a team leader responsible for cluster policy in the Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) since May 2020. He was previously a team leader for Smart Growth (2013-20) and a programme manager for national and regional operational programmes (2009-13) in the Directorate for Regional Policy. He joined the European Commission in 2004 as a policy officer in DG ENTR. Since 1996 he has worked in the banking sector and top-management consulting services. He graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics in 1997 in finance and banking

and international economic and political relations. He has a Master of Business Administration by Warsaw University and the Free University of Brussels and has completed a PhD study programme in the Faculty of Management at Warsaw University.



**Ingrid Rigler**

Deputy Head of Unit Innovation and EIT,  
European Commission

She has spent the last 20 years of her professional life working for the European Commission. Her main field of expertise are EU education policies and programmes. Since 2021, she has been Deputy Head of Unit for Innovation and the EIT at the Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture.



**Thomas Röhr**

Secretary General, European Automotive  
Cluster Network

Thomas Röhr is Secretary General of the European Automotive Cluster Network (EACN), the leading network of clusters from the automotive-mobility-transport ecosystem on the European continent. It started as an initiative of the ESCP-S3 project EACN for Joint Industrial Modernisation Investments, conducted by six EACN members between 2018 and 2020. Today, 24 clusters from 12 countries join forces to boost competitiveness of their members and the automotive industry as a whole and to excel in cluster management through cluster exchanges, joint actions and services, and close collaboration and mutual support in EU

co-funded projects. Thomas was a member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform Sounding Board, participates in the Automotive Skills Alliance, and contributes to the development of European co-funded innovation at the French automotive cluster Pôle Véhicule du Futur.



## **Lucia Seel**

International cluster expert

Lucia Seel has more than 17 years of experience in international innovation and cluster policies and cluster development and management. She has played an active role in several flagship European projects such as the European Cluster Excellence Initiative and the European Cluster Observatory. In 2011, Lucia started her own consultancy, focusing on the development and/or management of European projects, international cooperation in the field of innovation and clustering related to gender equality and the cultural and creative industries, capacity building and international networking. Since 2019 she has

been a member of the European Cluster Expert Group of the European Commission (DG GROW).

From 2015 to 2020, she was the Community and Content Manager of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, an initiative of DG GROW, and until 2021 she was the Validation Manager of the cluster actor profiles. In 2016 and 2017 she was Community Manager of the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platforms (Research & Innovation and SME competitiveness).

Lucia is a frequent and well-known speaker and moderator at international conferences and workshops. In April 2012 she set up the Cluster Women European Network (ClusterWene), an entrepreneurial initiative to strengthen women's position in the cluster community. Lucia is an evaluator of the EC in the COSME programme and certified ESCA Cluster Benchmarking Expert and Gold Label Assessor.

Lucia is Austrian, but was born in Romania and speaks six languages. As an active international person, she was the founder and first president of AIESEC in Romania and is now a member of several large networks like TCI – The Competitiveness Institute Global Network and EWMD – European Women Management Development Network for which she has been the National Representative for Austria in the International Board since 2019.

Lucia graduated magna cum laude from the Academy of Economic Sciences in Bucharest, Romania. She worked for multinational companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi Centrade in Bucharest and Silhouette International in Linz, Austria (as area manager for South-East Asia and South Europe handling a sales budget of more than EUR 30 million), as well as for small companies in Austria and public administration bodies in Austria and Romania.



## **Lars Visbech Sørensen**

CEO, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark

Lars Visbech Sørensen is the CEO of the Food & Bio Cluster Denmark. The cluster was established in 2021 as one of the 13 national clusters receiving funding from the Innovation Power cluster programme. It recently obtained GOLD for Cluster Management Excellence, having become a Supercluster.

Throughout his career, Mr Visbech Sørensen has worked in the food and bio resource industry and is a very experienced cluster manager. From 2001 to 2020, he was a cluster manager of Agro Business Park, where he was responsible for innovation, incubation and investments in the bio-based

economy and agri-food sector. He was further responsible for business development and strategy, and provision of entrepreneurship advisory services at national level. He has been involved in more than 100 start-up companies and approximately 200 innovation projects in the bio-based economy and agri-food sector. Further, he was the Managing Director of Agro Business Innovation, a pre-seed investment company for innovative knowledge-based companies in the bio-based and agri-food sectors. In addition, he has been on the board of directors for 14 companies and the chairman for the steering committee for Future Food Innovation, and the vice-chairman for INBIOM (Innovation Network for Bioresources) where 750 members represented the industry.

Mr Visbech Sørensen also has vast business experience, having been a marketing manager and area export manager. He holds an MSc International Business Economy and is a frequent speaker at international events.



## **Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė**

AgriFood Lithuania Cluster Manager

Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė is the AgriFood Lithuania Cluster Manager. The organisation was established as a cluster in 2011, and the digital innovation hub (DIH) was later built on its foundation. In 2020, the European Commission highlighted the AgriFood Lithuania DIH as one of two good practice examples of European sectorial DIHs in the JRC science policy report. In March 2021, AgriFood Lithuania achieved the status of EIT FOOD Hub in Lithuania.

Kristina is the Lithuania Cluster Network Managing Director. 57 Lithuanian clusters are members of the association. Uniting 777 business enterprises, Lithuanian Clusters

Network is the largest organisation of its kind in Lithuania. Kristina is an experienced cluster manager. She has vast experience in product development and innovation managing, working with research and development and implementation, information technologies and services, and ICT products on a cross-sectoral basis. She is studying for a PhD in Economics at the Institute of Economics and Rural Development of the Lithuanian Center for Social Sciences. Her scientific area of interest evaluates the effectiveness of the industries' twin transition – digitalisation and the Green Deal – in the EU Member States.

She has more than 12 years of experience as an international digitalisation expert in national and international working groups. Since 2021 she has been Chair of the Agri-Food and Bioeconomy Committee and of the Labour, Social Policy and Human Resources Committee at the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, the biggest association of business in Lithuania. In July 2022 she was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Food and Agriculture Committee at Business at OECD (BIAC). She is a speaker at many national and international events on the twin transition in the EU. She is an active promoter of the clusters and DIH's close collaboration in the creation of the ecosystems which transform sectors.



### **Sandra Sundbäck**

CEO, Paper Province

Sandra Sundbäck has been CEO of the business cluster Paper Province since August 2020.

With a background in communication and sustainability in various industries, she sees collaboration as the main success factor in the transition to a sustainable future.

She studied Media and Communication Science at Karlstad University and Örebro University. Between 2008 and 2014, she was communications manager at the Sports Confederation of Värmland. From 2014 to 2018, she worked as Team Leader and Project Manager at the communications

agency Advant. In 2018, she founded the Women in Karlstad (Wink) network, which today brings together 700 women in Värmland. From 2018 to 2020, she was part of the leadership group for Volvo Construction Equipment in Arvika as Communication & Sustainability Manager before she became CEO of Paper Province in 2020. She has several assignments on her CV, mainly within the sports movement, and is a board member of Karlstad Innovation Park.



### **Olga Trofymova**

Cluster Manager, Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster Director of Internationalisation, Ukrainian Cluster Alliance

Olga Trofymova has been a team leader, coordinator, expert and trainer on 15 international projects, has supported companies in internationalisation, and has been an international lead auditor for quality management systems. For the past 20 years she has provided services for 200 organisations in 11 countries. Her main topics and core competences are quality management and certification, process management, risk management and lean management.

From 2007, she was a partner and trainer of WIFI (Austria). She designed, organised and taught training programmes on lean management and lean production for SMEs in Austria, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Croatia. From 2012, she was a Certified Management Consultant (ICMCI) and accredited assessor for international management consultants. She has been President of CMC-Ukraine since 2020.

She studied engineering and management at the National Aerospace University, Ukraine; she also has a PhD in Industrial Economics from National Polytechnic University, Ukraine. Her further education is in organisational behaviour, cross-cultural management and statistic PLS modelling at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. She is a certified participant of Management Training Program in Spain (TACIS); Dynamic Business Management Program in Netherlands (VNO) and Nordpraktik in Sweden (SIDA). She has also won two Ernst Mach science-research grants in Austria.



### **Doubravská Vendula**

Manager, Zlín Creative Cluster

Vendula Doubravská has been a manager in the Zlín Creative Cluster for a little over a year. She initially studied art, specifically photography, before the desire for a more technical education led her to astrophysics. She remains interested in art and culture. She spent years working on event production, marketing and PR, and as a manager in the Zlín Creative Cluster, she connects her technological and creative knowledge in the field of networking between technological and creative fields. Businesses and individuals from the technology field often overlook the need for a creative component in both development

and final design. Conversely, those in creative industries often do not understand the needs or even the languages of the technological industries.

To help meet these needs, the creative coworking centre HUB 123 opened last year. Apart from networking, Vendula's main task was the launch and prototyping of this project. Coworking centres are known as large business projects in big cities, but they set themselves the goal of creating a suitable environment for business even in a small town, where it is all the more necessary to connect creativity and technical fields.



### **Mantas Vilyis**

Coordinator, Enterprise Europe Network and European Digital Innovation Hub

Mantas Vilyis is an expert in public innovation support, innovation ecosystem transformation and capacity building. He has 17 years' experience in the development and implementation of innovation support services to entrepreneurs and research laboratories, such as transnational technology transfer, innovation advisory services, innovation capacity building, and innovation policy development at regional, national and supra-regional level. He is an advisor to SMEs on innovation and internationalisation projects oriented towards technology partnership building, business and design innovation,

environmental protection, EU research, and eco-innovation. Since 2006 he has been a lecturer at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, he holds a PhD in Management, and he has experience in SME capacity building through training and advice. He is a member of various European Commission expert groups on Science with and for Society and Innovation in SMEs, and the coordinator of Enterprise Europe Network and European Digital Innovation Hub in Lithuania.



### **Birgit Weidel**

Birgit Weidel, Head of Department "Innovation Ecosystems, SMP/Entrepreneurship and Consumers", European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), European Commission

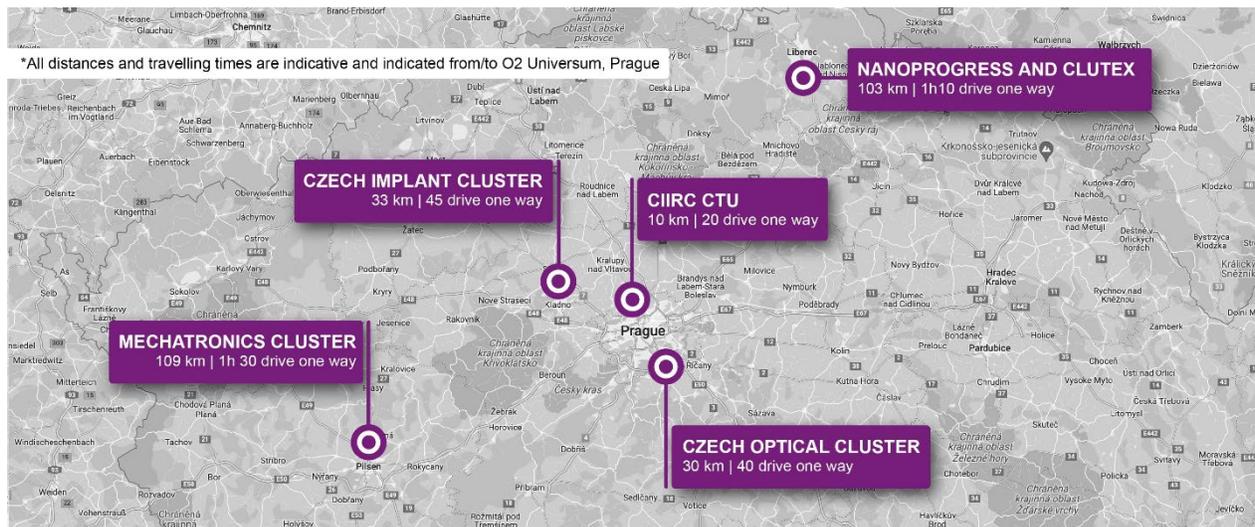
Since May 2022, Birgit Weidel has headed the department responsible for the implementation of parts of the Single Market Programme, Horizon Europe and ERDF in the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA). Her department deals with supporting the creation of an enabling environment in which innovation can flourish across Europe; supporting SMEs and entrepreneurs; standardisation and

consumer protection and product safety. Previously, she headed the unit responsible for promoting the competitiveness of SMEs and designing SME support policies in the European Commission Directorate

General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). She has extensive experience in the internal market for goods and in industrial policy. Before joining the SME Unit, she served as Deputy Head of Unit in the advanced engineering industries, dealing with standardisation, digitalisation and trade negotiations. Previously, she worked as assistant professor at the Vienna University of Economics, where she conducted research on the external economic relations of the EU. Birgit holds a law degree from the University of Vienna as well as a master degree in European Community law from the College of Europe in Bruges.

## SITE VISITS

Participants to the conference were offered the possibility to meet some clusters from Czech Republic in their own premises.



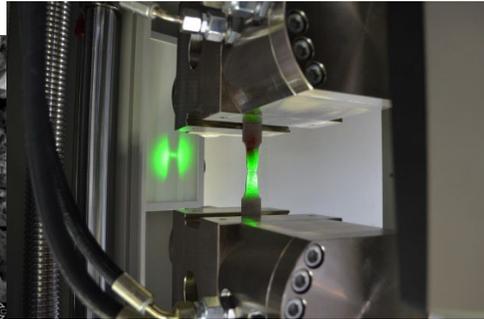
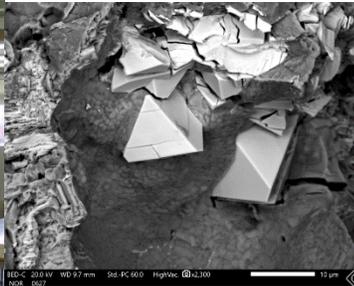
## Mechatronics Cluster

Mechatronics Cluster as a platform for cooperation specializing e.g. in additive manufacturing R&D which will include visits to the Welding School.

[Mechatronics Cluster](#) is a platform for cooperation specializing e.g. in additive manufacturing. The site trip will include visits to the [Welding School](#) - a training and certification institution with a long tradition and well-equipped workplaces unique in the entire Pilsen region and [COMTES FHT](#) - a private research organization, which, thanks to its top laboratories and researchers, significantly contributes to the development of R&D topics in manufacturing processes.

- Mechatronics Cluster: [www.klastrmechatronika.cz](http://www.klastrmechatronika.cz)
- COMTES FHT: [www.comtesfht.com](http://www.comtesfht.com)
- Welding School: [www.skola-welding.cz](http://www.skola-welding.cz)
- [Průmyslová 1298, 334 41 Dobřany](#)

 **Klastr  
MECHATRONIKA**





## Nanoprogress and Clutex

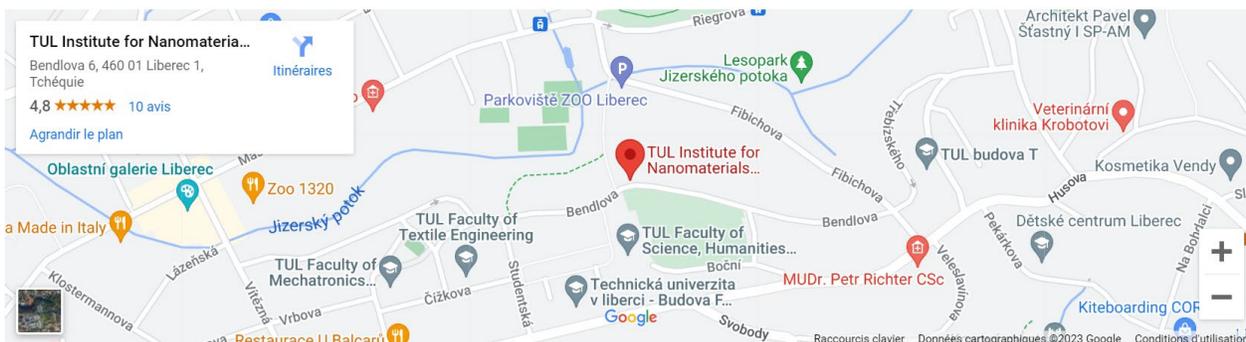
Nanoprogress (Nanotechnology) and Clutex (Technical Textiles)

The site visit will include guided tours through the **Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technology and Innovation (Cxi)** and **Centre for the Development of Engineering Research (VÚTS)**. The participants will get acquainted with top class R&D and industrial infrastructures and the unique equipment of the [Nanoprogress](#) nanotech lab.

- Nanoprogress: <https://www.nanoprogress.eu/>
- Clutex: <http://www.clutex.cz/>
- Nanomaterials, Advanced Technology and Innovation: <https://cxi.tul.cz>
- VUTS: <https://www.vuts.cz>
- [Institute for Nanomaterials, Advanced Technology and Innovation, Bendlova 1409/7 Liberec 1 460 01](#)







Visit to the [Czech Optical Cluster](https://www.optickyklastr.cz) including the presentation and visit to the premises of the [HiLASE](https://www.hilase.cz) (Hi-tech laser research center) and [ELI Beamlines](https://www.eli-beams.eu) (leading laser research center and part of the Extreme Light infrastructure). Guests will be able to see the laser laboratories through the visitor gallery and, if the conditions are favourable, they will visit the experimental halls.

- Czech Optical Cluster: <https://www.optickyklastr.cz>
- HiLASE (Hi-tech laser research center): <https://www.hilase.cz>
- ELI Beamlines (leading laser research center and part of the Extreme Light infrastructure): <https://www.eli-beams.eu>

- [HiLASE Centre Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences Za Radnici 828 252 41 Dolni Brezany](#)





## Czech Implant Cluster

Czech Implant Cluster – medical cluster with focus on implantology

Visit to the [Czech Implant Cluster](#) – medical cluster with focus on implantology which includes visit to the Czech [SME Beznoska](#) with a tour of the company production facilities specializing in R&D, design and manufacture of implants, tools, and surgical utensils for orthopedic surgery and traumatology.

- Czech Implant Cluster <https://czechimplant.cz>
- Czech SME Beznoska : <https://beznoska.com>
- [BEZNOSKA, s.r.o., Dělnická 2727, 272 01 Kladno](#)

CZECHIMPLANT





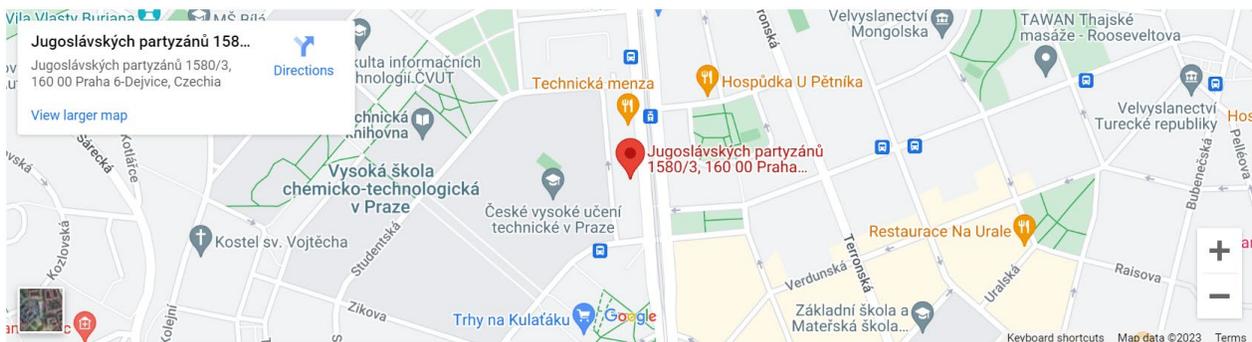
Visit to [CIIRC CTU - Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics](https://www.ciirc.cvut.cz/) and the Testbed for Industry 4.0. CIIRC CTU which concentrates excellent research in the fields of robotics, intelligent systems, computer vision and machine learning, automatic verification, energy transport, including smart homes and smart cities, biomedicine and assistive technologies. CIIRC CTU brings together excellent research teams, young talents and unique know-how to push technological boundaries and build on the best of Czech tradition in technical education

- <https://www.ciirc.cvut.cz/>
- [Testbed for Industry 4.0 Guided Tours](#)
- [Jugoslávských partyzánů 1580/3 160 00 Praha 6, Dejvice](#)









## AWARDS

### 2022 AWARDS – EUROPEAN CLUSTER MANAGER OF THE YEAR AND EUROPEAN CLUSTER PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to both winners, we are looking forward to cooperating with you as ambassadors of the European Cluster Community!

The “European Cluster Manager of the Year” and “European Cluster Partnership of the Year” Awards are organised by the European Commission with the support of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), as a unique opportunity to celebrate the achievements of cluster managers and cluster partnerships, highlighting specifically their efforts and commitment to cluster development as well as to promote and reckon the role of clusters as agents of change, steering and effectively impacting their industrial ecosystem.

**The selection process to grant such awards will be organized in three phases:**

- *Step 1:* After the deadline for submitting applications, an expert jury will pre-select three nominees per each award category, based on the selection criteria outlined.

- *Step 2:* the shortlisted nominees will have to provide a short video/teaser highlighting their achievements and outlining why they deserve such award. They will be put forward for online voting on the digital hub of the European Cluster Conference as from 14 September until 22 September 2022.
- *Step 3:* The participants to the conference will also have the opportunity to cast their vote onsite, in a dedicated ballot box.

The voting will close on Day 1 of the Conference and will be followed by a celebratory Awards Ceremony, during which the winners of each Award will be announced

### [European Cluster Manager of the Year 2022 Award](#)



#### **Sermuksnyte-Alesiuniene Kristina**

AgriFood Lithuania

[Watch the pitching video](#)

Kirstina Sermuksnyte-Alesiuniene has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Politics from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science at Vilnius University, one of the most prominent social science institutions in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region. She completed her Master's degree in European Studies at the same Institute. During her studies, she won a special scholarship for student research on the topic of New activities models of Small States in the European Union: The Case of Lithuanian "Advocacy" for Ukraine. Kristina is presently

undertaking a PhD degree in Economics, scheduled to be completed in 2024, at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences. Her research topic is: Effectiveness assessment model of European Union member states for twin transition (digitalisation and green deal) in the agrifood sector. She has also completed the Baltic Sea Region Cluster Manager Education course and is a lecturer of Digitalisation in the agrifood sector at the Vilnius University of Applied sciences.

For 12 years, Kristina was a team lead for developing ICT products and services in the agrifood sector, implementing technologies and cooperating with academia. She is presently the Coordinator-Director of the AgriFood Lithuania Cluster/Digital Innovation Hub (DIH): an organisation that brings together 92 members representing major research, business, and public stakeholders in Lithuania for the common

pursuit of digital and green transition in the agriculture, food and associated sectors. The Cluster also implements EIT Food Hub Lithuania. In addition, Kristina has several other prominent roles:

- Vice-Chair of Business at the OECD Food and Agriculture Committee;
- The Chairwoman of the Labour, Social Policy and Human Resources Committee at the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (the biggest association of bussiness in Lithuania);
- The Chairwoman of the Agri - Food and Bioeconomy Committee at the Lithuanian Association of Industrialists;
- Association Director of Lithuania Cluster Network, the biggest association of clusters in Lithuania bringing together more than 57 clusters with more than 770 SME's.

Kristina has been active in representing her sector and/or her country at several high-level meetings, including:

- Employer Titular Delegate of the Republic of Lithuania at International Labor Conference 109th Session in Geneva, 2021;
- Speaker at the High Level Roundtable with Commissioner Thierry Breton and Commissioner Nicolas Schmit on Skills for the Agri-food Ecosystem in February, 2021;
- Speaker at the first European Startup Village Forum in 2021.

She is also a regular speaker at conferences on the topics of twin transition of the AgriFood sector and cross sectorial knowledge transfer, clusters and DIHs cooperation, cluster's role in development of regions, women leadership, challenges to attract young talents. She speaks annually for national-level conferences (Vilnius GreenTech Forum, Lithuanian Bussiness Forum, Lithuanian Economic Forum – Davosas, Baltic Clusters Forum) and at the international level (e.g. events organized by European Clusters Collaboration Platform, European Clusters Alliance, European Commision, Smart Agri Hubs, IOF2020).

Kristina is also a participant of working groups on the national and European Union level.

**"To be entrusted with the title of European Cluster Manager of the Year 2022 by the clusters community is a great honor; it is my responsibility not only to continue the work I do but also to represent the clusters and create additional value for them.**

**Cluster, in my opinion, is about understanding business, discovering mutual interests and relationships, forming collaborations, and creating value.**

**Most significantly, participate in European Commission activities to promote the importance of clusters in implementing the updated EU Industrial Strategy" European Cluster Manager of the year 2022.**

[European Cluster Partnership of the Year 2022 Award](#)



## S3FOOD

[Watch the pitching video](#)

The S3FOOD is project funded under the Innovation in SMEs programme (INNOSUP-1) and is implemented by 13 partners and three linked 3rd parties from eight EU countries. The partners collaborated on the project with the aim of facilitating the implementation of innovative digital solutions in the food processing industry.

Over the course of 3.5 years, the consortium assisted more than 500 SMEs active in food processing, technology provision, and digital solutions provision. Through an effective and efficient voucher scheme, over 75 unique SMEs received financial support to realise their innovation

projects.

The sustainability of S3FOOD's outcomes and lessons learnt is ensured via the S3 partnership 'Smart Sensors 4 agrifood', which unites the expertise of 42 partners (clusters and research centres) from 17 regions dedicated to support the digital transformation of the agri-food industry. The ultimate goal of the partnership is to enable digitalisation of the agrifood industry in Europe to become more sustainable, resilient and human-centred.

**"This is a well-earned recognition of the work we have been doing over the past three years and of the great collaboration in the consortium . It is also an encouragement to continue the good work. That is exactly what we are doing through the Smart Sensors 4 Agri-Food S3 partnership, where we already have exciting new projects in the pipeline that will be starting soon. Today a project ends but the journey continues"**European Cluster Partnership of the year 2022, S3FOOD.

## E-BOOTHS



### EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

The European online hub for cluster stakeholders, offering a vast range of tools and opportunities to its members, such as:

- Mapping of over 1,200 profiled cluster organisations, allowing you to broadcast your location as well as search for geographically significant partners for future collaboration.
- The largest cluster information hub containing: online events and webinars, the latest news and open calls to the broad community.
- In person and online Matchmaking events as well as search facilities, allowing you to meet with prospective partners across Europe and the world.
- The most up-to-date information on key policy areas of the European Commission including green and digital policy, social economy, economic resilience and industrial ecosystems.

- Information on potential international trading opportunities.

## MORE INFORMATION

### Contact information

[contact@clustercollaboration.eu](mailto:contact@clustercollaboration.eu)

### Website

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/>



## CLUSTERXCHANGE

*ClusterXchange (CXC) is a program aiming to support short-term exchanges to better connect industrial ecosystems in Europe. It foresees the facilitation of transnational cooperation, peer learning, networking and innovation uptake between members of industrial clusters. It is implemented with support from Cluster Organisations that have teamed up as [European Cluster](#)*

*[Partnerships | Excellence](#) (Partnerships). The scheme is funded by the European Union through its program for Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([COSME](#)). The first set of CXC exchanges have been implemented from 2020 to 2022 in the pilot phase of CXC. The second set of CXC exchanges is to happen between 2022 and 2024.*

[Download ClusterXchange Brochure Partnerships](#)

[Download ClusterXchange Host and Visitor Brochure](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

### Website

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/clusterxchange>



## MEET THE EUROCLUSTERS

Funded through the Single Market Programme, Euroclusters are cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and trans-European strategic initiatives gathering industry clusters and other economic actors to implement the EU Industrial Strategy. They will create new business opportunities for SMEs and integrate them better in European and global strategic value chains.

## MORE INFORMATION

### Website

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/euroclusters>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG BOOTHs



### INDUSTRIAL FORUM

The New Industrial Strategy for Europe announced setting up the Industrial Forum as a new, inclusive and open mechanism for co-designing solutions with stakeholders, supporting the Commission in its systematic analysis of the ecosystems and in assessing the risks and needs of industry as it embarks on the twin, green and digital, transition and the strengthening of its resilience. The Industrial Forum shall also contribute to the coordination of recovery efforts, as a forum for Member States and industry to exchange best practices aiming at the transformation of industrial ecosystems. The Industrial Forum will build on, contribute to and complement the work carried out by the COMPET Council and the High-Level Group for Competitiveness . It will offer a sounding board for stakeholders and showcase the state of the European competitiveness – and the progress towards industrial transformation, bringing together the views of industrial stakeholders, public authorities, civil society organisations and investors.

### MORE INFORMATION

Contact information

[GROW-Industrial-Forum@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-Industrial-Forum@ec.europa.eu)

Website

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3743>

## INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCES



**Industrial alliances are a tool to facilitate stronger cooperation and joint action between all interested partners.**

Industrial alliances can play a role in achieving key EU policy objectives through joint action by all the interested partners. They can make European economies more resilient, ensure the global competitiveness of our industry (including SMEs), support a successful transition to a carbon-neutral continent by 2050 and make Europe fit for the digital age. This is why industrial alliances can be used as one of the delivery vehicles for relevant European strategies, e.g. on hydrogen, raw materials or plastics.

Industrial alliances bring together a wide range of partners in a given industry or value chain, including public and private actors and civil society. Industrial alliances have the following characteristics

- they are built around a common goal to implement EU policy objectives
- they involve all relevant partners (EU countries, regions, industry, financial institutions, private investors, innovation actors, academia, research institutes, civil society, trade unions, and others) along the value chain
- they are based on the principles of openness, transparency, diversity and inclusiveness and comply with competition rules
- are not involved in decision making on policy, regulation or financing
- there is no direct funding for alliances and they do not prejudice potential Important Projects of Common European Interest (which are designed by EU countries and need a separate approval by the Commission)

### MORE INFORMATION

#### Website

[https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/industrial-alliances\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/industrial-alliances_en)

## SUPPORTING CLUSTER NETWORKS



Clusters are groups of firms, related economic actors, and institutions located near each other and with sufficient scale to develop specialised expertise, services, resources, suppliers and skills. Together, SMEs can be more innovative, create more jobs, and register more international trademarks and patents than alone. There are over 1500 clusters located

in more than 200 EU-27 regions. Clusters account for almost 25% of total EU employment.

EU cluster policy uses clusters to implement EU priorities in relation to the Industrial Strategy

### MORE INFORMATION

#### Contact information

[GROW-CLUSTERS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-CLUSTERS@ec.europa.eu)

## Website

[https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/cluster-policy\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/cluster-policy_en)



## ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

The Enterprise Europe Network helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale. It is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions.

The Network is active worldwide. It brings together experts from member organisations that are renowned for their excellence in business support.

Member organisations include:

- technology poles
- innovation support organisations
- universities and research institutes
- regional development organisations
- chambers of commerce and industry

Individual businesses can't become Network members, but they can enjoy the many services offered.

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact information

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/about/branches>

Website

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION BOOTH

### DG CLIMA



The Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) leads the European Commission's efforts to fight climate change at EU and international level.

Its key mission is to formulate and implement EU climate policies and strategies, so that the EU can turn into the first climate-neutral and climate resilient continent by 2050.

DG CLIMA plays a leading role in developing and facilitating the implementation of cost-efficient policies and legislation to deliver the European Green Deal. The DG promotes innovative decarbonisation technologies to tackle global warming. It aims at ensuring prosperity and wellbeing, instilling a new climate culture in Europe, changing behaviours across our society. It maintains an ambitious global leadership in climate action, protecting the ozone layer, enhancing the international and domestic carbon

market. It contributes to greening finance, ensuring the mainstreaming of climate action into the EU budget, into EU and Member States policies.

[Download Innovation fund](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Website

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en)



#### **DG REGIO**

The Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy delivers its objectives through management of programmes financed under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). The implementation of these funds allows fulfilling the long-term objectives of strengthening economic and social cohesion in the EU. Thanks to the policy's specific features (e.g. alignment of investment to EU-wide priorities, concentration of resources on less developed and transition regions, multiannual programming, place-based approach, multi-level governance, interregional cooperation), the supported investments bring strong European added value, while respecting subsidiarity. REGIO is also managing the cross-border components of Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), ensuring EU financial and technical support for reforms in 'enlargement countries'; the cross-border components of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) facilitating continuous cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries and the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), granting financial assistance to Member States and accession countries, mainly in the event of major natural disasters and Urban Innovative Actions, aimed at identifying and testing new solutions through pilot projects in cities. From 1 January 2021, REGIO will also manage the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the third pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) – public loan facility and a new interregional innovation investment instrument.

MORE INFORMATION

Website

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/)



#### **DG DEFIS**

The Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS) leads the European Commission's activities in the Defence Industry and Space sector.

In the area of Defence Industry, DEFIS is in charge of upholding the competitiveness and innovation of the European Defence industry by ensuring the evolution of an able European defence technological and industrial base.

In the area of Space DG DEFIS is in charge of implementing the EU Space programme consisting of the European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus), the European Global Navigation Satellite System (Galileo) and the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS).

Some key actions and priorities for the year ahead:

implementation and oversight of the European Defence Fund  
building an open and competitive European defence equipment market and enforcing EU procurement rules on defence;  
leading on the implementation of the Action Plan on Military Mobility  
fostering a strong and innovative space industry, maintaining the EU's autonomous, reliable and cost-effective access to space;  
implementing the future Space Programme, covering Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus;  
exploring ways in which we can make the most of our assets to deliver on climate objective, improving the crucial link between space and defence and security.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Website

[https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry\\_en](https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry_en)



#### DG CNECT

The Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology develops and implements policies to make Europe fit for the digital age. We invest in research, innovation, deployment and uptake of trustworthy and green digital technologies that improve our economy and people's lives.

Through funding, legislation and policy initiatives, we help ensure European leadership and independence in critical digital technologies (such as Artificial Intelligence, Common Data Spaces, high-performance computing, 5G, micro-electronics, blockchain and quantum).

We work towards making Europe a global leader in the data economy and in cybersecurity. We foster the internal market where all companies can invest and compete on equal terms, develop, market and use digital technologies, products and services and where the rights of creators and consumers are respected. We work on the deployment of very high-speed networks to all companies and households, as connectivity is key for digital transformation. We promote the EU's human-centric model of an innovative, fair and sustainable digital transformation of society, which respects our democratic values, our fundamental rights and cultural diversity. We help bridge the digital divide by supporting digital literacy and skills of EU citizens.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Website

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies>



#### DG RTD

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG Research and Innovation) defines and implements European research and innovation policy with the goal of reinforcing the

scientific and technological base, promoting innovation and turning societal challenges into innovation opportunities. It contributes to the seven headline ambitions of the Von Der Leyen Commission.

Our mission is to design and implement research and innovation policies and programmes in collaboration with Member States, international partners, citizens, industry and other stakeholders. These policies and programmes, supported by investment and relevant regulation, will deliver new knowledge and breakthrough innovation for the green and digital transformations that leave nobody behind and help to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable, safe, fair and prosperous future for people and planet. We aim to have a high scientific, technological and societal impact, built on scientific evidence and strong input from citizens and industry. We operate in an ethically robust, effective and efficient manner and keep a strong focus on the European added value.

[Download Infographic - Transforming Europe for uncertain times](#)

#### MORE INFORMATION

Website

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation_en)



#### DG EAC

DG EAC fulfils its mission under the leadership of Commissioner Gabriel responsible for

DG Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture, in line with the overall objectives and political guidelines of the European Commission. Its mission targets to contribute to a knowledgebased Europe with the aim to achieve a competitive economy and an inclusive society, while addressing both the green transition and the digital transformation.

In this regard DG EAC develops policy actions and fosters cooperation with Member States supported by the relevant programmes:

- ∅ to foster equity, excellence and agility in education systems
- ∅ to promote culture as a catalyst for the European values
- ∅ to stimulate competitive research and innovation
- ∅ to empower young people to become active citizens in the democratic life
- ∅ to develop the European dimension in sport
- ∅ to strengthen international cooperation

To achieve its objectives DG EAC rolls out five EU flagship programmes: Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Creative Europe, as well as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, which are part of the Horizon Programme. The DG is also responsible for two corporate services, the Blue Book Traineeships scheme and the Library.

Across domains, DG EAC aims to support and stimulate the development of competences, the learning mobility of individuals, mutual learning through increased cross border cooperation and involvement of stakeholders, as well as policy reform in Member States and partner countries around the world.

[Download MSCA Poster](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Website

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>



#### **EISMEA**

Established on 1 April 2021, EISMEA groups together in one agency all the activities of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the programmes related to small and medium-sized enterprises:

- [European Innovation Council](#)
- [European Innovation Ecosystems](#)
- [Single Market Programme](#)
- [Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument \(I3\)](#)

[Find projects managed by EISMEA](#)

The predecessor of EISMEA is the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The documents related to the Agency can be found on the legacy [website](#).

[Download Factsheet EIC](#)

[Download SMP/SME pillar](#)

[Download I3 Instrument](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Website

[https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/index_en)



#### **EUWATER4I-SD**

euWater4i-SD, the EUropean Water-smart initiative for fostering International Sustainable Development, is one of the new projects funded under the 4th generation of COSME Clusters Go International. It started on the 16th of September 2021 and will last three years, until the 15th of September 2024. The main objective of the project is to help SMEs to go international in Latin American and Eastern African countries. The focus is set on global water-smart solutions (services, technologies and funding) enabling the transition towards sustainable territories through resource-efficient management and circular economy implementation.

[Download Flyer](#)

[Download Presentation](#)

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<https://clustercollaboration.eu/>



#### **ELCA EUROPEAN LIGHTING CLUSTER ALLIANCE**

ELCA is the international Alliance aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of the European lighting sector in the deployment of smart, energy-efficient and human-centric lighting solutions in the smart home, smart building and smart city framework.

ELCA mission:

-to strengthen the role of the lighting clusters in Europe and to raise the voice of their members, mainly SMEs

-to promote international actions to build up cluster management excellence and facilitate strategic partnering between clusters and specialized eco-systems, industrial and academic across Europe and beyond

-to foster the collaboration and co-learning of clusters and their companies towards customized business support services and internationalization opportunities.

[Download Presentation](#)

[Download Presentation video](#)

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#### **COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN BIOREGIONS**

CEBR is a membership-driven network of life science clusters and regional ecosystems across Europe, representing over 40 subscription members and a large number of cluster partners across the world. Together, we represent and support a critical mass of SMEs, and hundreds of universities and research centres. We work with the aim to strengthen transfer of knowledge and collaboration between life science clusters/ ecosystems in Europe and support sustainable growth for SMEs, creating a competitive Europe in the global economy.

[Download CEBR Flyer Services](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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#### Websites

[www.cebr.net](http://www.cebr.net)

<https://www.linkedin.com/compa...>



#### **AUTOKLASTR / EVOLUTE**

EVOLUTE consists of 6 clusters from the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Serbia, and Spain aims to build high-performance clusters in the Automotive and Land Machinery Industry. Existing industry-relevant data will be analyzed, future outcomes will be discussed with (industry-) partners to gain comprehensive knowledge to underline strategic decisions. The results are intended to 1.

sustainably raise the clusters to a new level of quality and 2. help companies and employees to be prepared for future challenges (e.g. disruptive developments, digital & green transformation, challenges due to Covid-19) through new offers and services.

[Download Partner map](#)

#### MORE INFORMATION

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<https://project-evolute.eu/>



#### **IDEAM CLUSTER**

IDEAM (Irish Digital Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing) Cluster is an innovative national industry-driven cluster located in the heart of the Mid-

West region of Ireland supporting businesses to collaborate, innovate and grow. IDEAM assists manufacturing SMEs in digital & green transformation and our core aim is to unlock new opportunities for industry by working together. IDEAM provides numerous services to its members including; upskilling and training programmes, funding and internationalisation support, research and development activities as well as collaboration and networking events. IDEAM aims to enhance the productivity, competitiveness, internationalisation and growth of the Irish advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

[Download Annual Review 2021](#)

[Download Membership Value Proposition](#)

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## CIMES

CIMES is a French pôle de compétitivité located in both regions Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Nouvelle-Aquitaine and dedicated to Mechanical engineering, Manufacturing and Production performance. Our mission is to coordinate the highly-innovative ecosystem gathering the stakeholders from industry, academic and research communities in order to think, develop and industrialize processes, products and services in the framework of Industry 4.0. We gather companies (SMEs and big groups), research centers (private and public) and education stakeholders with the aim of accelerating innovation and enabling the emergence of innovative collaborative projects. Our large ecosystem is composed of more than 500 organisations.

[Download Flyer](#)

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## ENERGYVAASA CLUSTER

EnergyVaasa is the largest energy technology hub in the Nordic countries, and a world leader in certain technologies, such as smart electrical solutions, flexible power generation, transmission, and digitalisation. The cluster consists of 160 companies of which over 60 are core members. Annual turnover is 5 billion euros of which more than 80% is exported. The cluster has 12.000 employees and annually spends over 200 millions on R&D. The cluster is managed by Merinova with partners and was awarded a Gold Label for Cluster Management Excellence in March 2022.

### MORE INFORMATION

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<https://www.merinova.fi/en/>

<https://www.vaasa.fi/en/energyvaasa/>

<https://www.finlandcleantech.fi/>



## REGIONÁLNY PRIEMYSELNÝ INOVAČNÝ KLASTER RIMAVSKÁ KOTLINA REPRIK

The REPRIK cluster organisation focuses on building regional circular economy centres. The circular economy requires the creation of such products that will consume as few primary resources and energy as possible, while preferring the use of renewable resources and materials. Circulating products must meet the requirements of reusability, repairability, improvement, recyclability or environmentally acceptable degradability, while constantly reducing the carbon footprint. The Regional Hub of Circular Economy is an ecological, economically

efficient and socially just system of the circular economy in the region based on the QUINTUPLE HELIX model oriented to the inhabitants. In its cooperative form, it creates a collaborative knowledge-based economy with its own social and investment fund. Integrated solutions are evaluated and monitored on measurable social, environmental and economic indicators.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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#### VALORIAL

Agri-food competitiveness cluster in western France with offices in Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Normandy. It focuses on 6 areas of expertise health - Quality & safety – Production - Processing & conservation technologies - Functional ingredients - Marketing.

It accompanies project from idea to market. Intelligence - Networking – Stimulate innovation – Partners & funding search - Challenge committee – International & European scale-up – Innovation management - Promote know-how

Key figures:

- 2000+ participants at our communication, resourcing & dissemination events
- 520 collaborative projects (over a billion € in R&D) supported since 2006
- 400 members, 2/3 industrials from multinational to SMEs
- 8 running EU project

[Download Recipe Book](#)

#### MORE INFORMATION

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## REI - REINDUSTRIA INNOVAZIONE

REI is a public-private partnership society, that accelerates innovation and local social-economic development, based in Lombardy Region e especially working in Cremona area. REI focuses on Territorial Marketing, Innovation and Research, Startups. In particular, REI works with the local value-chains on cosmetics industry, agro-food, mechanical processing sector. REI gained experience in ERDF cofunded projects on innovation and applied research, as well as in Erasmus projects, especially regarding the attractiveness of the metal sector, with a focus on welding.

Today REI is the coordinator of the Lombardy Cosmetics System, coordinating the S3P GO4Cosmetics, together with Cosmetic Valley. REI is a member of ECA- European Clusters Alliances and AFIL - Lombardy Intelligent Factory Association.

[Download Living Lab Flyer](#)

### MORE INFORMATION

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[www.reindustria.com/](http://www.reindustria.com/)

<http://cemivet.eu/>



## SUPERECOSYSTEM

WE CROSS-POLLINATE RDI & BUSINESS. SuperEcosystem is the most multi-disciplinary ECCP-certified Meta-Cluster in Europe.

Headquartered in Pohjois-Savo, Finland, SuperEcosystem comprises of six clusters and ecosystems plus two facilitating organizations each specializing in their key capabilities. With a total of 55.5 B€ in revenue and 2.9 B€ in profit of their members, these clusters and ecosystems include:

- bio and circular economy (Bio and Circular Cluster North Savo)
- energy (Energy Cluster North Savo)
- agriculture and food (Agri-Food Cluster North Savo)
- machinery and materials (Machine and Material Technology Ecosystem North Savo)
- water (Kuopio Water Cluster)
- health (Kuopio Health)
- business and entrepreneurship (Business Center Pohjois-Savo)
- digitalization (DigiCenterNS)

Imagine the cutting-edge innovations that can be created and piloted when clusters specializing in health and agri-food cross-pollinate. And what about when a water cluster is added? SuperEcosystem actively

facilitates the cross-pollination within and between all these clusters and ecosystems with the goal of boosting knowledge-sharing, international activities, and sustainable growth.

Members from private organizations range from large multi-national conglomerates to local SMEs to high-growth potential start-ups. Public agencies, educational institutions, and RDI organizations all come together as part of the clusters and ecosystems, including University of Eastern Finland (UEF), Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Savo Vocational College (Sakky), Ylä-Savo Vocational College (YSAO), Kuopio University Hospital (KUH), the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), Natural Resources Institute of Finland (Luke), VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Department of Health and Welfare (THL), Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo, City of Kuopio, City of Iisalmi, City of Varkaus, and many more.

JOIN US IN CROSS-POLLINATING RDI AND BUSINESS!

MORE INFORMATION

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[www.superecosystem.fi](http://www.superecosystem.fi)



#### **ECODOMUS CLUSTER**

The ECODOMUS Cluster brings together the 67 SMEs of the Regional District for ECO-SUSTAINABLE BUILDING, ENERGY SAVING and TECHNOLOGIES POWERED BY RENEWABLE SOURCES, the Ecodomus Consortium and other public and private entities of the Italian territory covering the entire sustainable construction chain: from the design of the sustainable building to the disposal of construction waste, passing from the extraction and sustainable production of raw materials, their marketing, construction and maintenance of the "building" product.

[Download Leaflet](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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<http://www.distrettoecodomus.it/en/>



#### **IFOOD CLUSTER**

iFood Cluster is the inspiring cooperation in the Hungarian food industry more than 10 years. We are a business cluster looking for partnerships in the field of food production, mainly focusing on healthy food development, food waste solutions and food packaging.

[Download Leaflet 1](#)

[Download Leaflet 2](#)

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<http://ifoodcluster.com/>

<http://ifoodklaszter.hu/>



(GER)

### CLUSTER MOBILITY & LOGISTICS

THE TECHNOLOGY NETWORK FOR MOBILITY & LOGISTICS IN REGENSBURG

In the age of electromobility and IT logistics, we work with our +100 partners and members to find intelligent answers to upcoming social and technological challenges. We support in securing existing competitive advantages and creating new ones.

Through broad networking, mediation of project partners, contacts to international networks and the initiation and promotion of research projects, we sustainably shape the innovation fields of mobility and logistics.

#### EU MOBILITY PROJECTS

- RECIPROCITY Replication of innovative concepts for peri-urban, rural or inner-city mobility
- REMOBILISE REgrouping MOBILity clusters to develop Skills and Exchange

[Download Reciprocity Flyer](#)

[Download Remobilise Poster](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

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[www.mobilitylogistics.de](http://www.mobilitylogistics.de)

<https://reciprocity-project.eu/>

<https://remobilise.eu/>



### EA ECO ENTREPRISES

Éa éco-entreprises is a French cluster of eco-enterprises located in the Région SUD, representing more than 160 actors working on circular economy topics such as: water, waste, energy, biodiversity, polluted sites and soils, nature based solutions, air...

Éa éco-entreprises aims to assist its member at all stages of their economic development, with the objective to foster emerging innovative solutions to measure, prevent, minimize or compensate the impacts of human activities on the environment.

Our services and activities are diverse and include: promotion of eco-companies, development of innovation, networking, international development, organisation of working groups and events, participation to international/national exhibitions...

[Download Leaflet P5Innobroker](#)

[Download Plaquette](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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<https://www.ea-ecoentreprises.com/>

<https://p5innobroker.eu/>



#### COMPETENCE CENTER NRW.INNOVATIV

The cluster competence network NRW.innovativ is representing the clusters and networks of the German region of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Its overall objective is to coordinate the clusters and other innovation actors in NRW and to boost the exchange of information and experience between clusters & networks. Important fields of action of NRW.innovativ are in particular the faster identification of trends, the stronger networking of actors (e.g. through a dedicated cluster dialog), the promotion of new innovation potentials for NRW and the identification and further development of new innovative approaches for NRW.

[Download Cluster Panorama NRW](#)

[Download NRW innovativ Brochure](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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<https://nrwinnovativ.de/>



#### ROBONOM - AUTONOMOUS SERVICE ROBOTS

Innovation Network for Mobile Robots in Logistics, Manufacturing and Construction

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Websites

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/cluster-organisations/robonom-autonomous-service-robots>

[https://1drv.ms/u/s!ArDNsbHiJLnI4wDK\\_xEZlrEOTtXv?e=bnZCFi](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ArDNsbHiJLnI4wDK_xEZlrEOTtXv?e=bnZCFi)

<https://www.robonom.de/english>

## Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

### ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is an exchange programme that helps provide aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe. New entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they stay and collaborate for 1 to 6 months. The stay abroad is partly financed by the European Commission. The programme expanded to give new or aspiring entrepreneurs from the EU and UK the opportunity to collaborate with experienced entrepreneurs based in Canada, Israel, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and the USA, for up to 3 months.

[Download EYE Factsheet](#)

[Download EYE Impact](#)

[Download Programme video](#)

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### INTERREG EUROPE POLICY LEARNING PLATFORM

Interreg Europe is an interregional cooperation programme, co-funded by the European Union. We help public authorities and other relevant organisations to improve their regional development policies.

Apart from providing project funding, Interreg Europe has equally set-up the Policy Learning Platform. A space where the European policy-making community can tap into the know-how of regional policy experts and peers. We offer information on a variety of topics via thematic publications, online and onsite events, and direct communication with a team of experts.

[Download Policy Learning Platform Brochure](#)

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[www.interregeurope.eu/policy-learning-platform](http://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-learning-platform)



## European IP Helpdesk

### EUROPEAN IP HELPDESK

The European IP Helpdesk supports European SMEs and research teams involved in cross-border business and/or EU-funded research activities manage, disseminate and valorise their IP. Offering a broad range of informative material, a Helpline service for direct IP support as well as on-site and online training, our main goal is to support IP capacity building along the full scale of IP practices: from awareness to strategic use and successful exploitation.

[Download Guide](#)

[Download Leaflet](#)

#### MORE INFORMATION

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[https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/index_en)



### EUCLES

EUCLES is a non-profit association in charge of the promotion of cluster management excellence based on a coordinated European approach, as well as the delivery of quality Labels (Gold, Silver, Bronze) to qualified cluster management organisations.

The EUCLES association works hand in hand with ESCA (European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis) and has the objective to gradually take over the existing labelling system, growing its European dimension. EUCLES is now in the process of aligning its indicators with the European political priorities.

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### CZ NATIONAL CLUSTER ASSOCIATION



We connect cluster organizations and technology platforms to defend their needs and develop cluster policy in the Czech Republic.

The National Cluster Association (NCA) is a non-governmental non-profit organization that brings together entities and individuals with the goal of coordinated and sustainable development of cluster initiatives and cluster policy development in the

Czech Republic based on the concentration of knowledge, experience and expertise to strengthen the Czech competitiveness.

NCA main services:

- Cluster map of the Czech Republic,
- Info Servis,
- Networking increases inter-cluster cooperation and promotes new business and R&D projects among members,
- Lobbying and promotion,
- Education,
- Internationalisation.

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#### ESTONIAN CLUSTERS

Estonian Clusters is composed of 6 organisations :

- ICT Cluster

We help countries and organizations achieve world-class digital

societies.

Focus areas:

- E-Governance
- E-Industry
- Smart mobility

- Defence- and Security Cluster

Promoting innovation in the defence and security industry to develop new and highly competitive products and services

Focus areas:

- Cyber & Communications
- Life Support & Protection
- Maneuver & Maintenance
- ISTAR & Risk Management
- Clothing & Equipment
- Training & Simulation
- Space Technology

- Drones
- Drone detection systems
- Metal works
  
- Estonian Wooden Houses Cluster  
Using scientific research, certified materials and controlled production processes, Woodhouse Estonia is able to deliver every type of building from a complex high-rise to a handcrafted sauna.  
Focus areas:
  - Modular buildings
  - Element houses
  - Machined log houses
  - Handcrafted log houses
  - Garden houses
  - Solid timber constructions
  
- Connected Health Cluster  
  
Accelerating the adoption of connected health solutions on an international scale.  
Focus areas:
  - Digital Health
  - Remote services
  - Wellness and Mental Health
  - Prognostics and Prevention
  - Diagnostics and Therapies
  
- Estonian Aviation Cluster  
Increasing cooperation along the aviation value chain.  
Focus areas:
  - Air Cargo
  - Airlines
  - Airport related services
  - Maintenance providing
  - Unmanned Aircraft Systems
  - Aviation education
  
- Estonian Digital Construction Cluster  
Offering innovative construction solutions for the entire construction life cycle.  
Focus areas:
  - Research and analysis,
  - expert-to-expert level problem sharing and solving

- Consultation and design
- Construction
- General construction materials
- Interior materials and appliances
- Property management tools
- Digital solutions
- Active and agile collaboration between policy makers and companies

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<https://defence.ee/>

<https://woodhouse.ee/>

<https://connectedhealth.ee/>

<https://eac.ee/>

<https://estoniandcc.com/>



#### HUNGARIAN CLUSTER ALLIANCE

In 2022 five Hungarian Accredited Innovation Clusters started an Intercluster Cooperation Agreement within the framework of the Intercluster Cooperation and Branding Alliance. The aim is to pool the knowledge accumulated by the Hungarian clusters and to jointly showcase the value of clusters by implementing operational actions that promote the expansion of the links, innovation, joint domestic and international opportunities of Hungarian clusters and their member companies and, overall, result in a successful and effective collaborative partnership of common interest.

[Download Video](#)

[Download Leaflet 1](#)

[Download Leaflet 2](#)

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#### UKRAINIAN CLUSTER ALLIANCE

The Ukrainian Cluster Alliance (UCA) is the union of Ukrainian clusters with the strong focus on industrial and high-tech clusters. The war in Ukraine has brought together Ukrainian clusters and SMEs in a unique alliance, the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance. Starting

in March as Clusters4Ukraine, it grew fast, renamed itself to Ukrainian Cluster Alliance (UCA). As for July the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance unites 37 cluster organisations with more than 1900 enterprises and science-research organisations.

From March 2022 Ukrainian Cluster Alliance has been a full member of European Cluster Alliance(ECA) and cooperates with ECA and ECCP on a daily basis to support Ukrainian clusters and companies. During the period we provide C2C (Cluster to Cluster) and other international meetings on a monthly base.

From July 2022 Ukrainian Cluster Alliance become an official network partner for EIT Manufacturing and provided an information day for the cluster members.

The UCA has the mission to develop the cluster movement in Ukraine in line with the principles of cluster policies of the European Union and in collaboration with European clusters. To provide quality services to its members, Ukrainian Cluster Alliance develops coordinated activities at national level which cover all main Ukrainian industries, and which are strongly oriented to the internationalisation of Ukrainian clusters. Ukrainian Cluster Alliance has the structure that aims to support and promote among clusters the initiatives of smart specialisation, better integration into European values chains, innovations, digital and green transition.

The UCA plays an important role not only in survival of Ukrainian innovative manufacturing enterprises but is one of the main players in Recovery Strategy of Ukraine for sustainable economic growth.

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