



# Smart cities in a green, digital and resilient EU

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**DG GROW**

*5 October 2023*

# The EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL



The EU as a  
global leader

A European  
Climate Pact

## The EU will:



Become  
climate-neutral  
by 2050



Protect human life,  
animals and plants,  
by cutting pollution



Help companies  
become world leaders  
in clean products and  
technologies

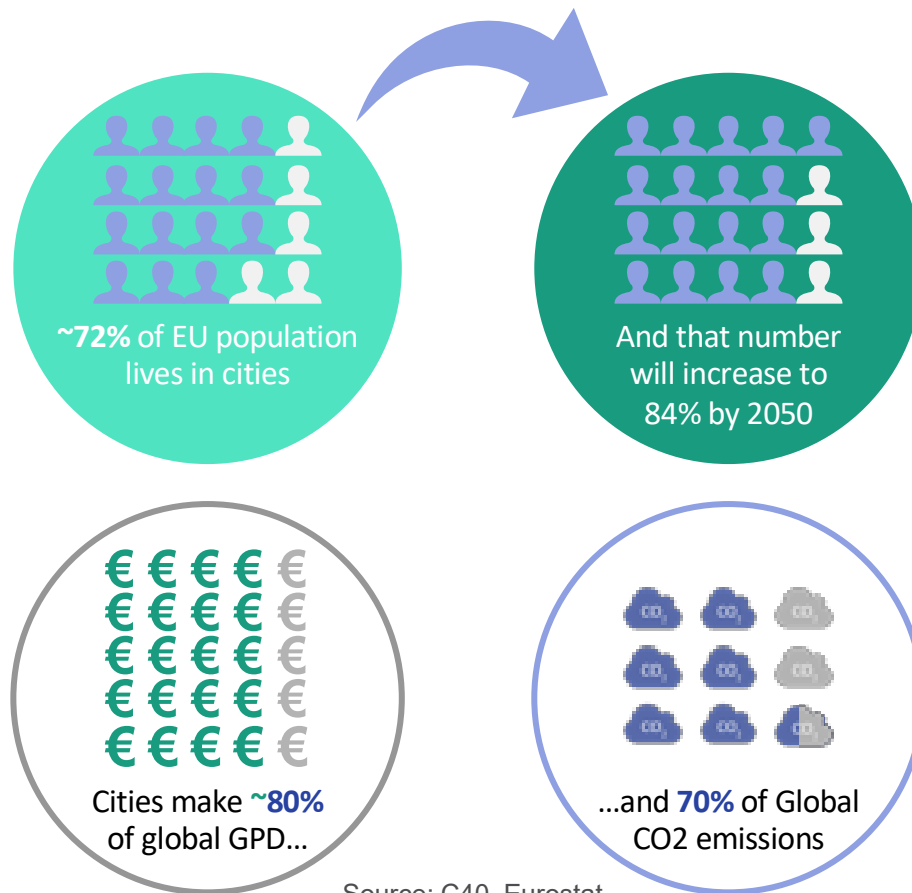


Help ensure a  
just and inclusive  
transition



European  
Commission

# Why do cities matter?



## Cities shape the future of the EU

Since 2016, the **Urban Agenda for the EU** brings together EU countries, the European Commission and other stakeholders to stimulate growth and innovation in EU cities and to tackle social challenges

## Cities are drivers of green & digital transition

Twin transition = new opportunities to **decarbonise** the economy and create resilient and sustainable economic sectors

**Sustainable development is a core principle** of the Treaty on European Union and a priority objective for the EU's internal and external policies



# Smart cities and EU related policies



## Energy and smart cities



## Transport and smart cities



## Digital transformation of cities



# The Intelligent Cities Challenge

The European Commission's  
**INTELLIGENT CITIES  
CHALLENGE**

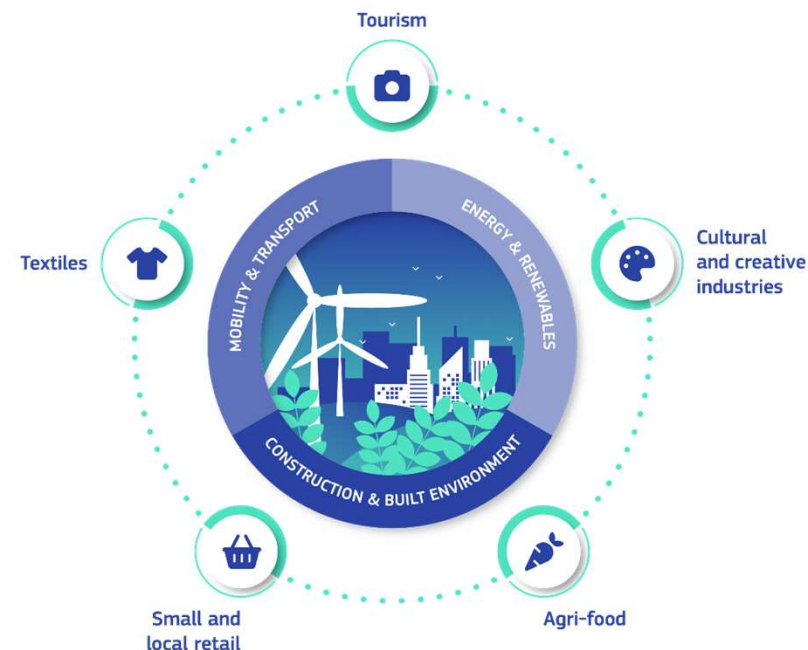
One of EU's biggest initiatives supporting European cities towards the green and digital transition of their local economies

Harness the power of **digital and clean tech**, while strengthening sustainable competitiveness, social resilience and the European citizens' quality of life.

Local Green Deals are a **promising governance approach** to **strengthen partnerships** with the cities' stakeholders.

New phase will build on lessons learned in the first phase with a revamped approach to generate **more impact tailored to cities' needs**:

- Focus on **three core sectors** of strategic importance and five secondary sectors based on their preferences
- **Follow the programme at different speeds**, in accordance with their available resources
- Collaborate with smaller group of cities facing similar challenges.





# The Intelligent Cities Challenge 1 - achievements



**€1.9 billion**

Funding earmarked for ICC cities' actions



**€247 million**

Leveraged public funding from EU, national and regional sources



**42**

Cities on their way to launch a **Local Green Deal**



**35**

Cities signing the **Pact for Skills** and other skills initiatives



**23**

Cities among the 100 cities selected for the **Cities Mission**



**336**

Actions planned by 136 Core cities

# The Intelligent Cities Challenge

## The goals and vision

**Tailored guidance** and **expert support**, access to advisory and city peer networks (European and international), and capacity building tools, to drive priority policy goals and the implementation of Local Green Deals.

Through its action oriented and collaborative approach, the ICC helps cities to:



Identify local strengths and formulate priorities and real needs



Learn from and share experiences



Leverage cutting-edge technologies to bring innovation to the city



Scale up visibility, recognition and business opportunities for their city



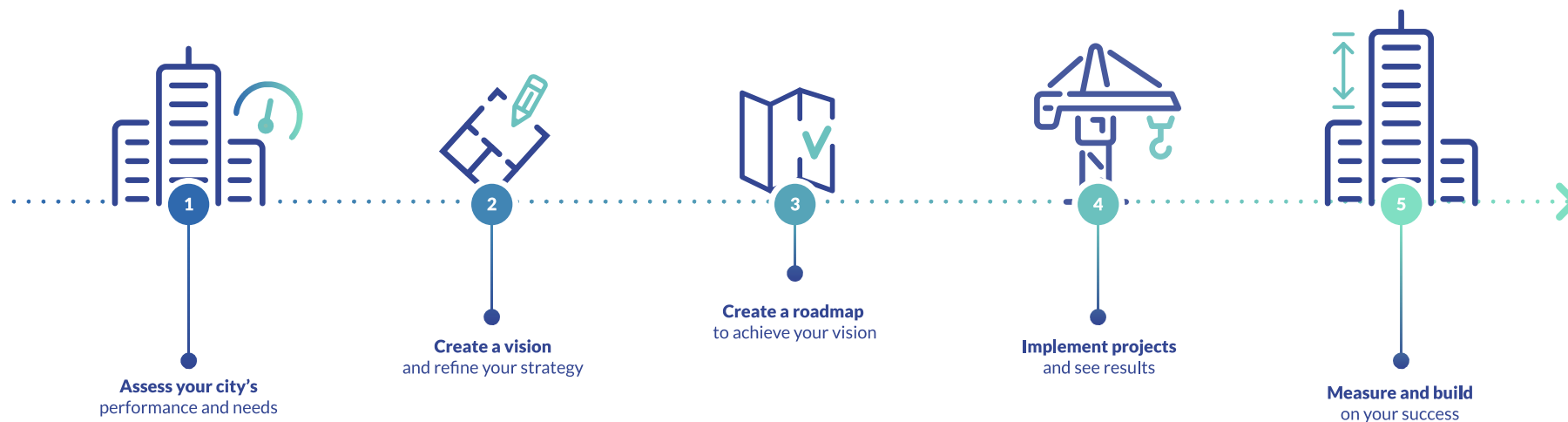
Engage in long-lasting collaborations to co-create and co-design



Get their voices heard

# The Intelligent Cities Challenge journey

**Core cities** will receive world-class support from leading experts and EU and international mentor cities – in person, online and as a community – to **transform their strategies into effective action** by empowering their ecosystems and developing **concrete agreements with businesses**, Local Green Deals. Support and activities will include expert consultant support on the ground, facilitated sessions at several high-profile multi-city events, and a suite of online tools.





# The Intelligent Cities Challenge

ICC support all participating cities' transition across predefined sectors of intervention:

➤ **three core sectors of strategic importance**, where cities have a high degree of local influence (in order of preferences across 3 sectors):

1. Construction & built environment
2. Energy & renewables
3. Mobility & transport

➤ **five secondary sectors of influences**, where cities will identify areas, they wish to build their involvement in the ICC on; secondary sectors focus include:

1. Tourism
2. Small/Local retail
3. Agri-food
4. Textiles
5. Cultural and creative industries



The most popular sectors among the secondary sectors will be given priority. This means that there is no guarantee that all sectors in the second group will be covered.

# The Intelligent Cities Challenge

Whilst the formal application period is now closed, if your city is still interested in getting involved with the ICC programme, please contact the Intelligent Cities Helpdesk ([helpdesk\\_icc@technopolis-group.com](mailto:helpdesk_icc@technopolis-group.com)) to explore the possible options.

## To be eligible to participate in the ICC, you must be:

- A local public government entity (i.e. municipalities, districts) that are either responsible for or involved in the funding and/or implementation of a policy or programme of a city related to digital transformation, smart / intelligent city, sustainable urban development
- Located within the European Union
- Representing cities with more than 50.000 inhabitants, exceptions:
  - Cities located in an EU-27 country with less than 1.5 million habitants
  - Cities located on an island in an EU-27 country (excluding Ireland)
- Stand-alone applicant\*



**\*This eligibility criteria does not apply to existing ICC cities (edition 2020-2022)**

*The existing ICC cities (edition 2020-2022) that show a high level of commitment and interest will be selected to continue in the second phase of the Challenge. They must nevertheless present a complete and satisfactorily completed EOI.*

# Cities on a journey to climate neutrality

- 100 **climate-neutral** and **smart cities** by 2030
  - Ensure that these cities act as **experimentation and innovation hubs** to put all European cities in a position to become climate neutral by 2050
- 
- ☒ **Being part of a powerful community of ambitious cities**, which fosters learning and exchange of experiences
  - ☒ **Enhanced development of local cross-sectoral net-zero solutions**, through tailored advice and assistance from a Mission Platform
  - ☒ **Attracting investments** from EU and national programmes, as well as private investors, including Research & Innovation funding opportunities
  - ☒ **Engagement with national governments** through national coordination networks
  - ☒ **Boosted support from citizens and local communities** through citizen and stakeholder involvement
  - ☒ **Higher visibility** and political profile, attractiveness for skilled workers, and international outreach



**100 EU cities**

**12** cities from Horizon Europe associated countries



Cities from every Member State



Capital cities

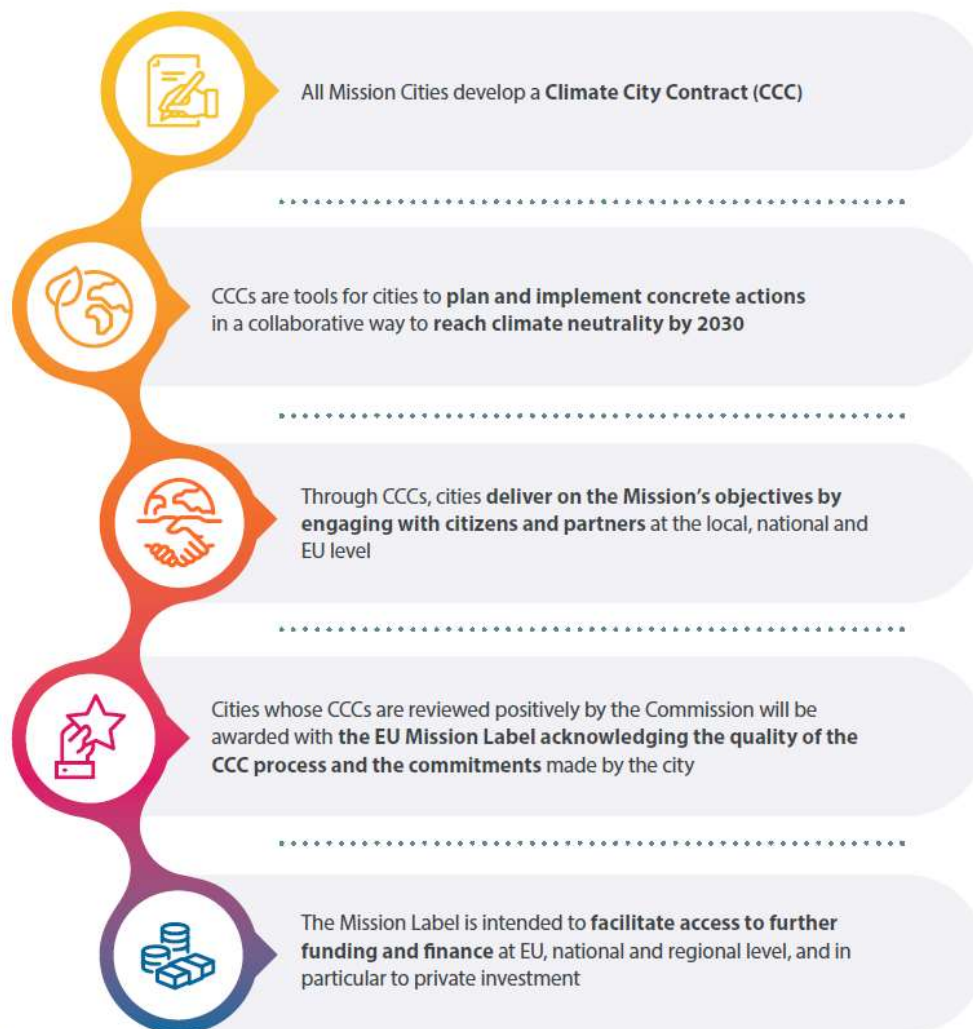


Small, medium, large cities



Frontrunners and less prepared cities

# The climate city contracts





# Clusters and Smart Cities

European Expert Group on Clusters provided policy recommendations on cluster policy in December 2022

- Leading the green transition
- Accelerating the digital transition
- Building resilience



**Smart Cities through  
smart Clustering striving  
for Excellence**

## Project partners

The SmartCTClusters project brings together 5 European clusters with extensive experience in different capacities in the smart cities value chain:



Asociación Clúster de Movilidad y Logística de Euskadi [www.mlcluster.com](http://www.mlcluster.com)



Associació Clúster Digital de Catalunya [www.clusterdigital.cat](http://www.clusterdigital.cat)



Fondazione Torino Wireless [www.torinowireless.it](http://www.torinowireless.it)



Electric Vehicles Industrial Cluster [www.emic-bg.org](http://www.emic-bg.org)



Netzwerk Energie & Umwelt e. V. [neu.energiemetropole-leipzig.de](http://neu.energiemetropole-leipzig.de)



Smart buildings/city  
ICT & Digitalisation  
CYBER SECURE LIGHT  
IT ES SI FR PL HU



European  
Commission

# European Cluster Collaboration Platform



The European online hub for industry clusters  
Strengthening the European economy through collaboration

- Unique one-stop shop for news, learning and collaboration opportunities for industrial clusters across Europe
- Boosting visibility + showcasing impact of European clusters in cutting-edge industries + expanding markets throughout the world
- Supporting business competitiveness through information on resource efficiency & innovation





# Thank you



[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster_en)  
<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu>



@EU\_Growth  
@ThierryBreton  
@Clusters\_EU  
@EREK\_EU



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-cluster-collaboration-platform-eccp/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/resource-efficient/>



[ECCP's European Cluster Panorama and Policy Toolkit - YouTube](#)



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# Policy background

## ➤ March 2020: EU Industrial Policy



- July 2020: European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience (November 2020: launch of Pact for Skills)
- 2021: Updated EU Industrial Policy
- 2023: Green Deal Industrial Plan

# LONG-TERM COMPETITIVENESS OF THE EU: LOOKING BEYOND 2030

**30TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
SINGLE MARKET**

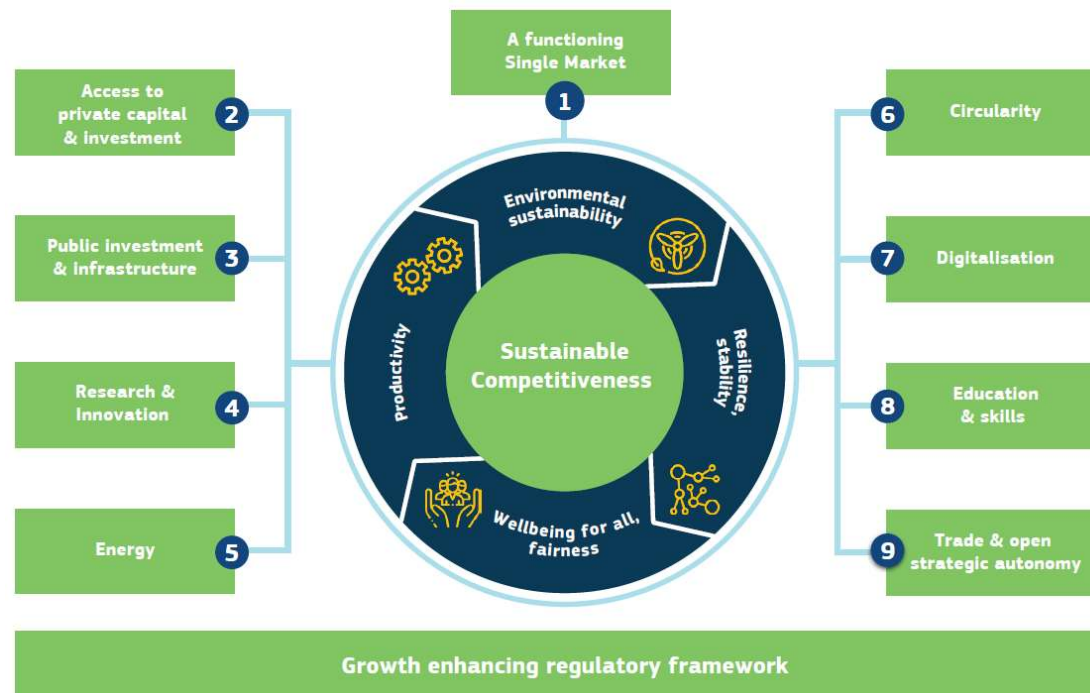
#SingleMarket30



## Based on 4 PILLARS



## NINE DRIVERS FOR COMPETITIVENESS





# Join, disseminate info on our activities 2022-2023

15 workshops over 2022 - 2023 in EU Regions which have to apply to host such event

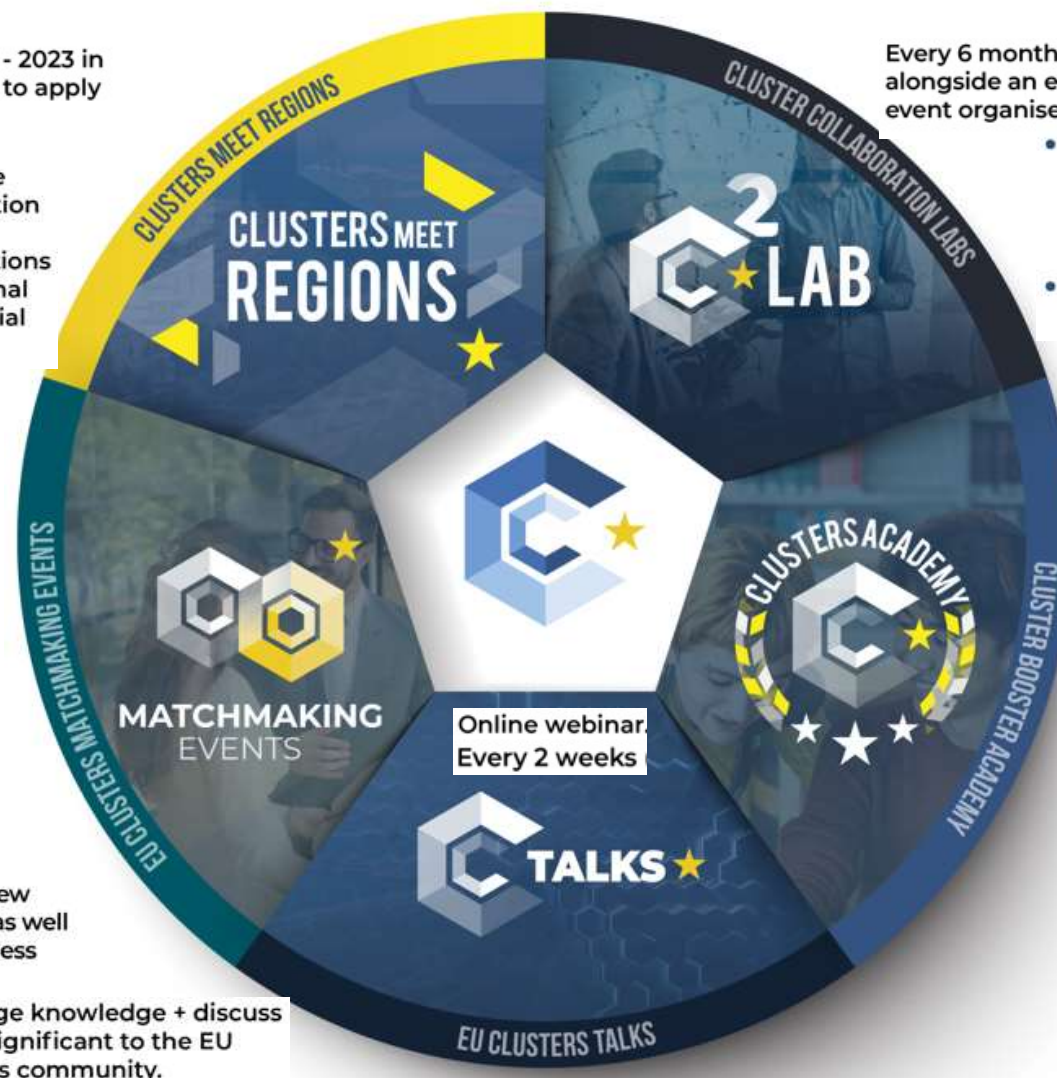
- Facilitate clusters active role in regional economic transition
- Create + promote collaborations between clusters and regional stakeholders for the industrial development of EU regions

11 physical (5 outgoing + 5 incoming + 1 intra-EU)  
8 virtual intra-EU

Ad hoc basis

- Team up with other cluster organisations from Europe and third countries to find new collaboration opportunities as well as new markets for EU business

- Exchange knowledge + discuss topics significant to the EU business community.





# EU Clusters Expert Group

# European Expert Group on Clusters

- Started work in October 2019
- Twelve formal meetings
- Mandate expires in December 2022

- Main deliverables:

2020 – Recommendation Report on Cluster Policies

2021 - Cluster Policy Toolkit

- Working webinars:

2020 – green transition, digital transition, resilience

2021 – one on each recommendation of the cluster policy report (15)

2021 – focus group on the link between clusters and the EEN

2022 – transition pathway on tourism (further sessions)



## Policy Toolkit

Access the policy toolkit which provides a searchable database of policy initiatives from 53 countries to support clusters in fostering the twin transitions and building resilience



# Policy recommendations on cluster policy

Fifteen specific recommendations, along with examples of good practices. It offers ideas for policymakers at European, national, regional, and local levels on how to leverage and support clusters.

- Leading the green transition
- Accelerating the digital transition
- Building resilience



[clustercollaboration.eu/content/recommendations-cluster-policies-boost-resilience-and-foster-green-and-digital](https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/recommendations-cluster-policies-boost-resilience-and-foster-green-and-digital)

# Lead the green transition

**Use clusters as drivers of change, accelerators and enablers of the green transition** through mobilising and facilitating cooperation among stakeholders in industrial ecosystems.

**Use clusters to develop and implement circular economy strategies and action plans**, detect opportunities for circular solutions and bring circularity in the business processes.

**Recognise clusters as essential contributors to European alliances and missions** relevant for the green economy mobilising their members and engaging in sustainable development.

**Develop capacity-building programmes to help clusters provide sustainable advisory services** and convince business about the importance of the green transition.

**Use clusters as intermediaries to support the green transition** and channel expertise and financing to SMEs for becoming more resource-efficient and carbon neutral.

# Accelerate the digital transition

**Mobilise clusters to participate in digital and green skills related initiatives** such as the EU Pact for Skills and embedding them to local education and training structures.

**Increase cluster capacity to provide advanced business services** shifting from knowledge-based intelligent manufacturing to data-driven/knowledge-enabled smart manufacturing.

**Make clusters an integral part of Digital Innovation Hubs** through incorporating clusters into their governance and operations in a continuous collaboration on the digital transition.

**Use clusters to initiate new and to reinforce existing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** for boosting digital and advanced technologies value chains and technological platforms.

**Use clusters as strategic agents for the implementation of European digital policies** and development of initiatives reaching out to SMEs and other users of digital solutions.

## Build resilience

**Use collective intelligence of EU clusters to make value/supply chains more resilient** to anticipate developments and prepare for new opportunities and challenges.

**Develop an active role of clusters in local labour markets** through building their capacities for reskilling and upskilling and participating in the implementation of the Pact for Skills.

**Promote clusters which implement shared value projects to solve local societal challenges** and help companies construct new products and services with the community stakeholders.

**Reinforce activities to develop a strategic approach to international cluster collaboration** and build a critical mass of SMEs, businesses and researchers to enter global markets.

**Initiate cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary and transnational cluster collaboration** to develop new products/services which guarantee EU companies critical inputs and technology.

# EU Cluster Policy Toolkit

**Aim: Strengthen cluster policy practice and leverage clusters for the green and digital transition and for resilience**



**Database of around 200 practices from EU27 countries and beyond**

## Practices tagged

**Geography**

**Thematic Priority**

**Strategic Challenge**

**Cluster function**

**EG Recommendations**

**Users can mix and match among the options on these five filters to return inspiring examples that correspond to their specific context and/or challenges ...**



An initiative of the European Union

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/policytoolkit>



<https://clustercollaboration.eu/policytoolkit>

Keywords

Country

Choose some options

Territorial validity

- Any -



Strategic challenges

- Any -



Thematic Priority

Choose some options

Type of cluster  
support

## Policy Toolkit Database



[Supporting quality services provided by professional cluster](#)



[Sustainable Chemistry 2030](#)







# European Cluster Partnerships & Euroclusters

# European Cluster Partnerships | COSME



## European Cluster Partnerships | Innovation

The European Cluster Partnerships | Innovation addresses the challenge to develop new cross-sectoral industrial value chains across the EU, by supporting the innovation potential of SMEs.

[View More](#)



## European Cluster Partnerships | International

The European Cluster Partnerships | International facilitates collaboration on internationalisation strategies and helps European SMEs access markets beyond Europe.

[View more](#)



## European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence

The European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence supports the development of cluster management excellence and strengthens strategic cross-regional collaboration between industrial clusters across Europe.

[View more](#)



## European Cluster Partnerships | Smart Specialisation

The European Cluster Partnerships | Smart Specialisation facilitates cluster cooperation in thematic areas related to regional smart specialisation strategies.

[View more](#)

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/eu-cluster-partnerships>

# European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence

- 4 Generations of Excellence Partnerships
- 39 partnerships made of 200+ partners
- Total budget = 12+ millions EUR



Strengthening *cluster management excellence*

Facilitating exchanges and *strategic partnering* between clusters and specialised eco-systems and cities across Europe

Implementing *ClusterXchange* mobility scheme

2014

- MATERIALIX
- RUE AERO
- CECIL
- 5forEXCELLENCE
- CLUSTEM
- TCE

2015



2018



2020



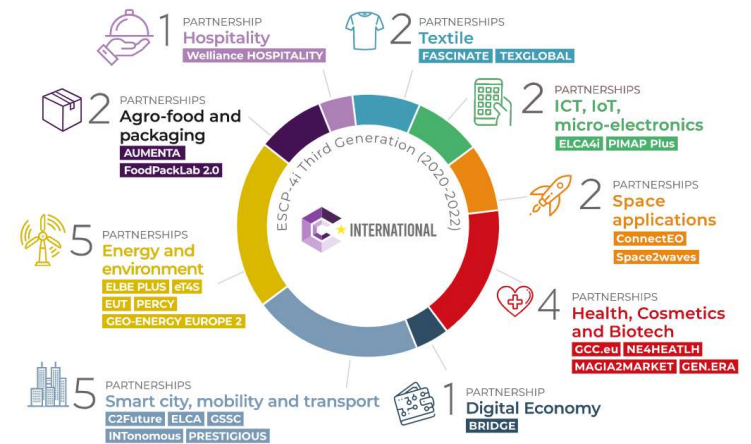
# European Cluster Partnerships | International

- 4 Generations of Cluster Go International Partnerships
- 90 partnerships supported

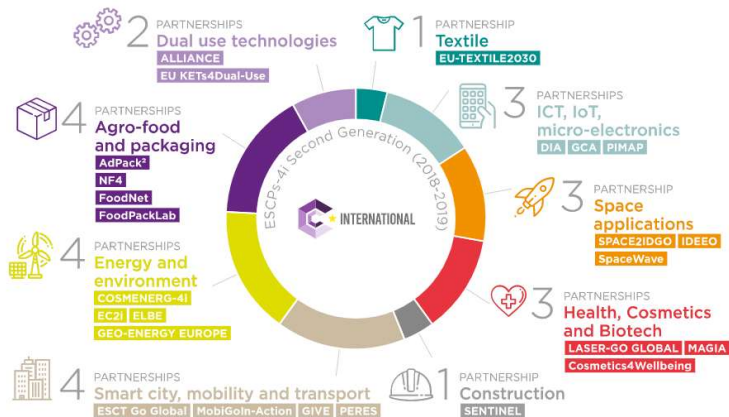
2016  
-  
2017



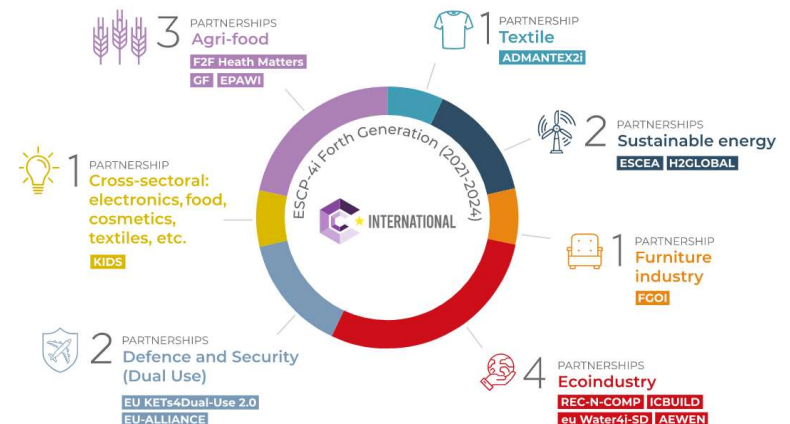
2020  
-  
2022



2018  
-  
2019



2021  
-  
2024



# EU funding supporting cluster organisations

*From*

COSME + H2020



**78 Partnerships (4 generations) of**  
[European Cluster Partnerships | International](#)



**38 Partnerships (4 generations) of**  
[European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence](#)



**9 Partnerships**  
[European Cluster Partnerships | Smart Specialisation](#)



**30 Partnerships**  
[INNOSUP-1](#)  
[HORIZON 2020](#)

2014-2020



*To*

**SMP**

Joint  
Cluster  
Initiatives



**EURO  
CLUSTERS**

2021-2027

# Euroclusters in a nutshell

## WHAT FOR?

to help in the implementation of the EU Industrial Strategy: green & digital transitions + resilience

## HOW?

by creating collaboration networks at EU-level that will develop and implement supporting measures for SMEs

## WHO?

consortia of cluster organizations teaming up with other types of organizations





# Specific objectives

30 Euroclusters

42  
Million  
EUR

## NETWORK

- Resilience preparedness/business continuity plans

## ADOPT

- SMEs supported which undertook business process innovation

## GO INTERNATIONAL

- Collaboration agreements signed with third countries
- SMEs benefited from internationalisation

## INNOVATE

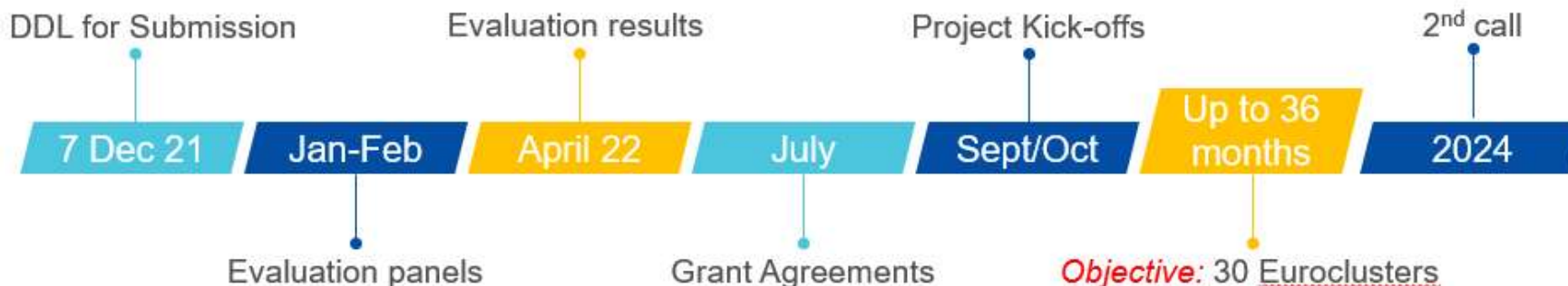
- New-to-firm products/services identified

## TRAIN

- Cluster organisations which received training
- SMEs investing in skills development

## COMMUNICATE

- Social media followers
- SMEs supported coming from countries/regions different from those of Euroclusters partners



**30 Euroclusters**  
started work in  
September 2022

**171 partners**

**23 different  
countries**

Activities:

1. Networking
2. Innovating
3. International
4. Adopting
5. Training
6. Outreach

