



**Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs**

**European Cluster Policy  
– using clusters to  
support European SMEs**

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European  
Commission



*Investing in a smart,  
innovative &  
sustainable Industry:*

*A renewed EU  
Industrial Policy  
Strategy*



*Strengthening  
Innovation in  
Europe's Regions:*

*Strategies for  
resilient, inclusive &  
sustainable growth*



*Europe's next  
leaders:*

*The Start-up & Scale-  
up Initiative*

**EU Policy Framework for Clusters**

# Cluster policies at centre of regional, national & international industrial policies

- **31 national cluster programmes** in 20 European countries with different extent of support

- **High importance for regions with 2.320 billion € of envisaged ESIF investments (2014-2020)**

- **Many non-European countries too use clusters to promote growth, e.g. Canada's industrial supercluster**

=> *crucial instrument for economic development*



# European Cluster Policy Forum



Dialogue among  
all EU Member States,  
European Commission &  
experts about modern  
cluster policies

*watch here:*

<https://youtu.be/hoAtGU1casQ>

Synergies between cluster initiatives and industrial, innovation and regional policies, especially in relation to smart specialisation, SMEs scaling-up and cross-sectoral collaboration

Using clusters in supporting entrepreneurship and the scaling-up of SMEs

Using cluster partnerships to help clusters & their members go international

Cluster capacity-building & professionalisation of cluster management (Erasmus for cluster managers)

# EU cluster initiatives

## Building bridges across Europe's ecosystems



**Clusters as  
accelerators  
for innovation  
& industrial  
change**



**Inter-  
regional &  
international  
cluster  
cooperation**

**Capacity-  
building**

**Cluster  
Excellence  
Programme**



**COSME**  
Programme for the  
Competitiveness of  
Enterprises and SMEs  
2014-2020

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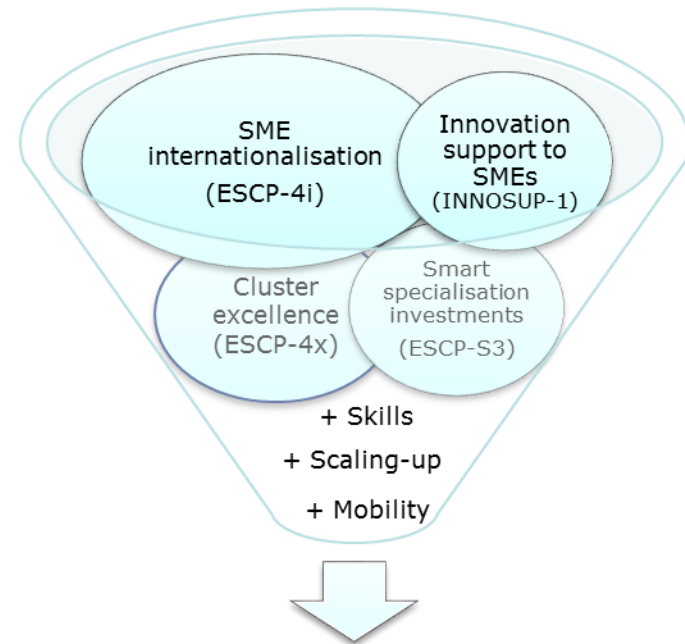
# Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives

- Industry-focused actions guided by joint strategies of **specialised SME intermediaries**
- Thematically targeted, with **cross-regional and cross-sectoral outreach to SMEs**
- Channelling scale-up support to groups of SMEs to boost **industrial transformation**

Building EU value chains,  
industrial modernisation &  
capacity building

Skills upgrading,  
talent attraction &  
entrepreneurship  
acceleration

Boosting  
internationalisation  
& access to  
global value chains



**Joint Cluster Initiatives**

# Joint Cluster Initiatives

## creating linkages with other policies

- ***Sustainable partnering*** with continuation funding allowing long-term planning and engagement of industry and public authorities
- ***Strategic tool for the acceleration and implementation of other policies***, notably for
  - smart specialisation strategies and Cohesion Policy investments,
  - (digital) innovation hubs,
  - Horizon Europe with the European Innovation Council etc.,
  - Erasmus,
  - Cities and Regions,
  - and others...
- ***Scalable potential*** to use SME intermediaries of Joint Cluster Initiatives and Enterprise Europe Network to implement further scaling-up support to SMEs

# Scope for more ?

## EU Superclusters

- *focusing on EU Strategic value chains*
- *moving towards a value-based economy*
- *creating more shared-value*
- *born European acting globally*

## Commission expert group on Clusters

*Composed of representatives of the **Member States** (nominated) **and individual experts** (selected through a call for the expression of interest)*



Thank you

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/policy/cluster>  
<http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

[@Clusters\\_EU](https://twitter.com/Clusters_EU)



Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy unit (GROW.F2)

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High Level Conference

# Digital Cities Challenge: A strategy for EU cities in the 21st Century

05 June 2019

## Social economy in clusters

- Locally anchored and resilient
- Reinvest profit in social impact
- Create social impact by doing business



- Main drivers for Social innovation
- Source of skilled and motivated staff



→ Shared value principle



→ Co-creators of competitive and sustainable values