GROW your REGIOn:
Boosting Smart Interregional Collaboration through Clusters

8-9 November 2017, Valencia, Spain
Venue: Veles e Vents, Marina de Valencia, Muelle de la Aduana, s/n. 46024

An event co-organised by the European Commission's Directorate- Generals for 'Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs' and for 'Regional and Urban Policy',
in collaboration with the Valencia Regional Government

Programme

The European Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe[1] and its Start-up and Scale-up Communication[2] outlined the need for more industrial cooperation and strategic connections between regional and local eco-systems. Its recent Communication on 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions'[3] and the EU Industrial Policy Strategy[4] also calls for stronger strategic inter-regional cooperation, sustainable linkages and investments.

This second edition of **#GROWyourREGIOn**[5] takes place when lessons are drawn on how smart specialisation strategies, the European Structural Investment Funds and clusters can support resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth in Europe's regions.

#GROWyour REGIOn is an opportunity to:
- share your smart specialisation and cluster experience and practices;
- exchange ideas about future actions for smart interregional collaboration;
- learn about novel ways of supporting innovation and accelerating industrial modernisation and SME growth.

This conference gathers over 300 national and regional authorities that manage ERDF and INTERREG projects, the business community and cluster stakeholders engaged in European cluster partnerships and cluster projects. Participants will discuss novel ways to boosting smart interregional collaboration through clusters towards more European "Silicon Valleys" and value chain linkages that bring benefits to regions and cities across Europe.

#GROWyourREGIOn is a conference with a difference. Participants will not just be listening to inspiring practice cases and speakers, but are invited to actively contribute, collaborate and co-create. It aims to gather ideas and proposals for the programming period post-2020 as a follow-up to the Smart Regions conference[6] and the

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/white-paper-future-europe_en

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/20262

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/com_2017_376_2_en.pdf

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/new-industrial-policy-strategy-2017-sep-18_en

[5] It follows in the footsteps of the successful first edition organised in 2015 in Brussels
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/conferences/grow_region/

[6] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/conferences/smart-regions/

Communication on 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions'. This shall serve also as an input for the next European Industry Day in February 2018.[7]

> **We will use an interactive tool during the event at <u>www.slido.com</u> (enter #GROW)**
> **Please, do not forget your smartphone or tablet!**

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[7] http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=9063&lang=en

Day 1: Wednesday, 8th of November 2017

08:00 – 09:00 Pre-registration and welcome coffee

09:00 – 13:00 Parallel pre-events:

- Matchmaking session on data-driven consumer goods organized by WATIFY [8]
- Steering Committee of lead regions of the Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial Modernisation[9] (restricted to lead regions)
- Horizon 2020 INNOSUP-1 cluster projects meeting[10] (restricted to project partners)
- European cluster excellence projects meeting [11] (restricted to project partners)
- RIS3 Comunidad Valenciana Steering Committee (restricted to members, 13:15-14:15)

13:00 – 14:30 Registration and welcome walking lunch

Opportunity to visit stands and speak to experts of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, JRC S3 smart specialisation platform, Single Market Service Centre, Watify, Valencian Institute for Business Competitiveness IVACE, Technology Centres Network REDIT, Interact Office Valencia, EIT Climate KIC, European Network of Defence-related Regions

14:30 – 15:35 High-level opening session on "Accelerating industrial modernisation together"

Welcome by moderator Kimmo Halme and facilitator Linda Mitchell

High-level opening by:

- Ximo Puig, President of the Valencia Regional Government

Keynote speeches to set the scene by:

- Antti Peltomaki, Deputy Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Mario Buisán, Director General for Industry and SME Policy, Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness

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[8] https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/dem/watify/

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/smart-specialisation/

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/innosup-01-2016-2017.html

[11] https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiative/cluster-excellence-calls

- Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Rapporteur on Smart Specialisation Strategies to the Committee of the Regions
- Bianca Dragomir, Expert in Clusters, SMEs and Cleantech Entrepreneurship, European Cluster Manager of the Year 2016

15:35 – 17:30 Session 1 on "Smart practices of inter-regional collaboration"

This session discusses good and bad practices of inter-regional collaboration through clusters as well as their drivers identified in the smart specialisation strategies. Speakers include:

- Wim De Kinderen, International Project Manager, Brainport Eindhoven EU Office
- Hanna-Kaisa Saari, Aerospace Valley, France/ Neptune –Blue Growth Accelerator, Horizon 2020 Innosup-1 cluster project
- Karsten Uno Petersen, Southern Denmark European Entrepreneurial Region 2013, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Interactive table discussion on the practical cases, where participants will share their experiences. The results of the discussions will be analysed, among others, by Jean-Loïc Carré, Vice-president of France Clusters and General Director of the "Pôle de compétitivité Aqua-Valley" (French Water Cluster); Daniel A. Gottschald, Managing Director, InSITE BAVARIA; Bernhard Grieb, Ministry of Economy of Baden-Württemberg, Germany; Tomasz Petrykowski, Head of Interact Office Valencia; Marc Pattinson, Coordinator European Cluster Collaboration Platform ECCP; Loles Vidal, Valencia Region Foundation; Peter Simkens, DSP Valley and Vice-Chairman of Silicon Europe Alliance

Roundtable expert discussion. Panellists include:
- Athanasios G. Konstandopoulos, Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas CERTH, Greece
- Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit for Territorial Development, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Pirita Lindholm, European Regions Research and Innovation Network –ERRIN
- Roland Strauss, Managing Director, Knowledge4Innovation

17:30 – 18:00 Wrap-up of the day with comments by Dorthe Kusk and Allan Mayo, a graphic summary by Sabine Soeder and a conference selfie picture

18:00 – 20:00 Smart networking opportunities

20:00 – 22:00 Smart Collaboration Dinner with music

Day 2: Thursday, 9th of November 2017

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and welcome coffee

09:00– 11:10 Session 2: Setting the bar high for the next generation of initiatives to shape joint actions for clusters and smart interregional collaboration

Welcome by co-moderators followed by discussions on the lessons learned from initiatives under different EU programmes related to clusters, smart specialisation and interregional collaboration and how these can be strengthened in the post2020 programmes. It will be kicked off by speakers from four different services of the European Commission:

- Smart specialisation and interregional collaboration under European Structural and Investment Funds by Marek Przeor, Team Leader, Smart and Sustainable Growth unit, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

- Horizon2020 by Doris Schroecker, Head of Unit, Policy and Strategy, DG RTD

- New connections through Digital Innovation Hubs by Alexandra Tasigiorgou, Programme Officer, Alexandra Tasigiorgou, Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry, DG CONNECT

- Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives and lessons learned under COSME and Horizon 2020 by Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit, Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship Unit, DG GROW

Interactive table discussion, where participants will share their views and experiences. The results of the discussions will be analysed, among others, by Peter Wostner, Government office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Republic of Slovenia; Peter Keller, Head of Unit, International and Cluster Unit, Ministry for National Economy of Hungary, Samuel Barco-Serrano, REVES AISBL; Francisco Álvarez, Director-General of Economy and Entrepreneurship, Region of Valencia, member of the High Level Group of the Interreg iEER project; Cristina del Campo, Managing Director at REDIT, network of Technology Centres; José L. Muñoz-Bonet, EIT Climate-KIC Spain Director.

Roundtable expert discussions. Panellists include:

- Mathea Fammels, Head of Unit, European Institute of Innovation and Technology

- Lukas Nögel, 'go-cluster' German cluster excellence programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

- Jean-Luc Beylat, President, AFPC - Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité

11:10 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Session 3: "Co-Creation" of new approaches to boost strategic inter-regional collaboration

This interactive session explores new approaches and ideas for strategic interregional collaboration and cluster partnerships and how to support them. Participants will have the opportunity to co-create and design proposals for future post-2020 under the new Multiannual Financial Framework for interregional collaboration through clusters.

13:00 – 14:00 Buffet lunch, gallery walk and smart networking opportunities

Opportunity to look at graphic results and discussion templates and speak to experts of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, JRC S3 smart specialisation platform, Single Market Service Centre, Watify, Valencian Institute for Business Competitiveness IVACE, Technology Centres Network REDIT, Interact Office Valencia, EIT Climate KIC, European Network of Defence-related Regions

14:00– 15:00 Session 4:"Reality Check" for new implementation approaches

One-minute presentations and smart voting on the outputs of the "Co-Creation" session followed by a panel discussion that provides feed-back on the proposals. Panellists include:

- Lambert Van Nisterlrooij, Member of the European Parliament
- Sławomir Tokarski, Director for Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, DG GROW, European Commission
- Fernando Valdés, Deputy Director General for industrial digitalisation and collaborative spaces, Spanish Ministry for Economy, Industry and Competitiveness
- Javier Mínguez, Head of SMEs and Cluster Area, IVACE
- Felipe Carrasco, ATEVAL, Textile association of entrepreneurs

15:00 – 15:30 Comments by Dorthe Kusk and Allan Mayo, a graphic summary by Sabine Soeder and closing remarks by Ulla Engelmann, DG GROW, followed by the conference video: The joint road to delivery

15:30 – 16:00 Spanish fare-well drink

16:00 – 17:00 Smart networking opportunities

#GROWyourREGIOn @EU_Growth @EU_Regional

www.slido.com Event Password #GROW