Clustering as platforms for effective learning ecosystems for European SMEs

European Cluster Conference 2019

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1 Defining key concepts
Cluster vs. ecosystem

Cluster
A cluster is a **geographic concentration** of interconnected companies, suppliers, service providers, and supporting organisations in a particular field.

Ecosystem
An ecosystem is an **environment** of people, resources, processes and technology of (cluster) companies, suppliers, service providers, and supporting organisations, **interacting as a system**.
2 Learning ecosystems for SMEs: Towards a holistic approach

A need for a holistic (ecosystem) approach when addressing training for SMEs


*Italicics = challenges.*
3 Key needs of SMEs to enable effective upskilling/reskilling of workers
The role of clusters in creating learning ecosystems (Part 1)

- Establishing **communities of practice for companies** engaged or considering to get engaged in (online) training, where good practices and experiences can be exchanged by companies directly

- Setting up **collaboration platforms** (including small and large companies, training providers and support structures) with regard to anticipating skill needs for a certain sector, including dissemination of knowledge and sharing of good practices for identifying skill needs

- Developing **libraries of courses** pertinent to SMEs to train their employees in local language using (online) training tailored to the local context
3 Key needs of SMEs to enable effective upskilling/reskilling of workers
The role of clusters in creating learning ecosystems (Part 2)

• **Facilitating partnerships** between training developers & providers and companies (including learners themselves) in order to develop relevant training

• **Providing spaces for experimentation and innovation** at a collaborative level, i.e. an online collaborative space for online training developers and practitioners, in which they can experiment and share good practices

• **Initiating and supporting multi-stakeholder knowledge alliances and thematic networks** aiming to share experience and expertise on online training, and creating a framework for structural collaboration on the joint development, delivery and use of online training for the EU labour market
4 European Strategic Cluster Partnership for Skills

**EU Industrial Cluster Policy Instruments:**
- Cluster Collaboration Platform;
- **Strategic Cluster Partnerships** (e.g. ESCP-S3, ESCP-4i, ESCP4X)
- EU Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change
- EU Cluster Excellence Initiative (Cluster Excellence Labelling), Cluster Management Excellence and Training
- Cluster Exchange Pilot Scheme (Erasmus)
- EU Cluster Week
- Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial value chains (INNOSUP-1)
- S3 Platform->**Thematic S3 Platform for Industrial Modernisation**
- Vanguard Initiative (new growth through S3)
- EUREKA Clusters

**New Skills Agenda**
Digital Skills and Job Coalition
Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills
Digital Education Action Plan
Education and Training 2020
Erasmus +
5 Initiatives contributing to the development of the EU 2030 Skills Vision
Future-proofing European workforce

• “Promoting Online Training Opportunities for the Workforce in Europe”, EASME/DG GROW of the European Commission, October 2017 – September 2019

• “Curriculum Guidelines for Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and Advanced Manufacturing Technologies (AMT)”, EASME/DG GROW of the European Commission, January 2018 – December 2019

• “Skills for Smart Industrial Specialisation and Digital Transformation”, EASME/DG GROW of the European Commission, October 2017 – November 2019

Promoting Online Training Opportunities for the Workforce in Europe

High-level conference

Brussels, 4 June 2019
Thank you very much for your attention!