Clusters as platforms for effective learning ecosystems for European SMEs

European Cluster Conference 2019

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15 May 2019

1 Defining key concepts
Cluster vs. ecosystem

2 Learning ecosystems for SMEs: Towards a holistic approach

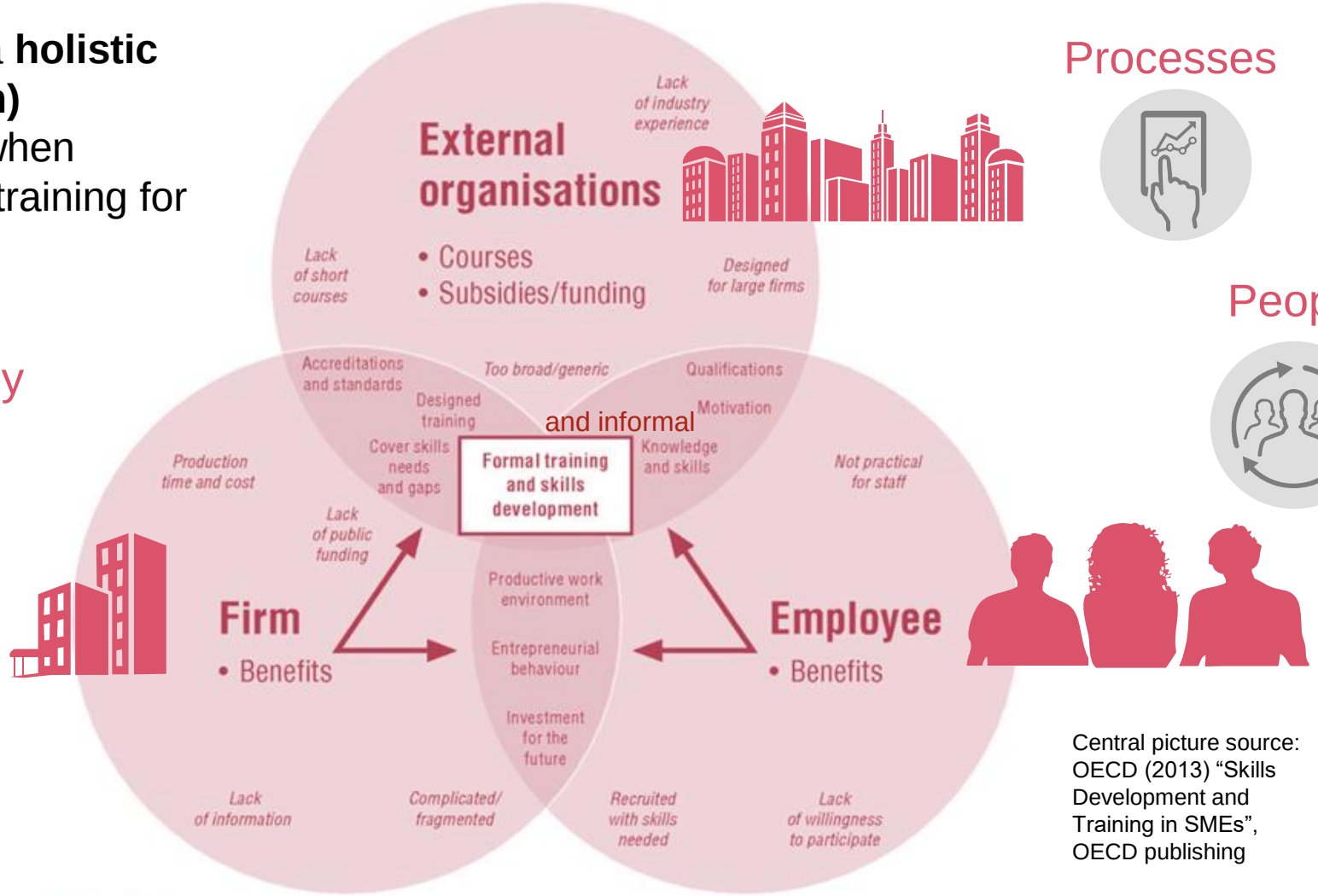
A need for a **holistic (ecosystem) approach** when addressing training for SMEs

Processes

People

Technology

Resources



Central picture source: OECD (2013) “Skills Development and Training in SMEs”, OECD publishing

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

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

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

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4 European Strategic Cluster Partnership for Skills

EU Industrial Cluster Policy Instruments:

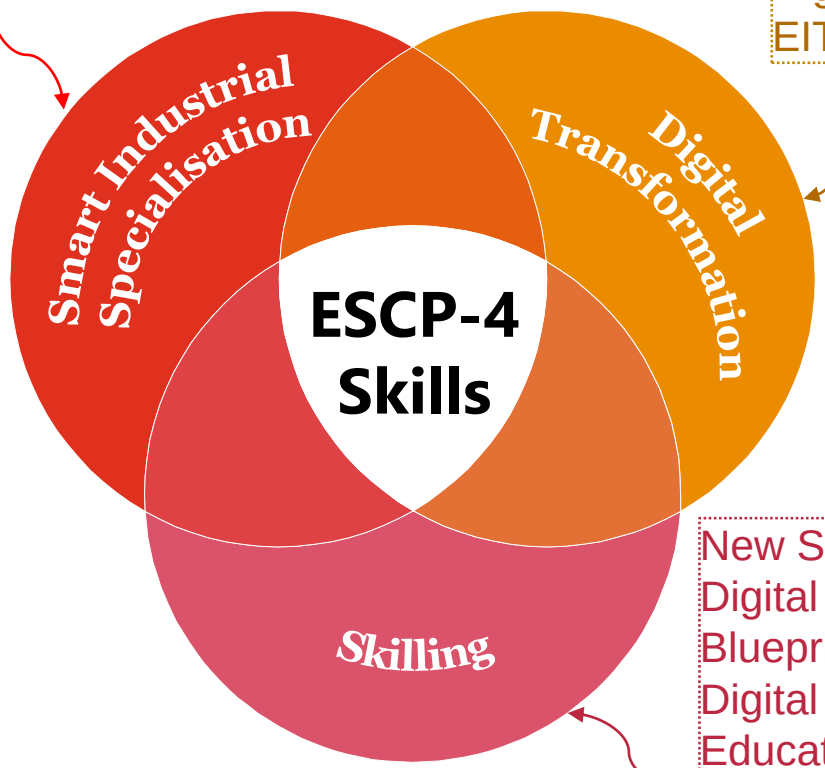
- Cluster Collaboration Platform;

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**

Smart Specialisation Strategy & RIS3
KETs Obs./KETs Excellence Centres
EIT-KICs
cPPPs , ETPs, JTIs

EU Digital Single Market Strategy
Digitising Europe Strategy and Initiative
EU Digital Agenda Toolbox
Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs)
EIT-Digital



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

- “**High-Tech Skills for Europe: National Policies and Funding Programmes for Skills Development**”, EASME/DG GROW of the European Commission, August 2017 – September 2019

Promoting Online Training Opportunities for the Workforce in Europe

High-level conference

Brussels, 4 June 2019

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