EU CLUSTER WEEKS 2019
A learning cluster journey throughout Europe

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Kick-off: The Joint Romanian-Hungarian Cluster Conference 2018
20-22 November 2018 in Oradea & Debrecen

2 host countries – cross-border – 400 participants from 16 countries – 55 speakers – 11 sessions plus an EEN brokerage event – 8 testimonials - strong echo in the media
Kick-off: The Joint Romanian-Hungarian Cluster Conference 2018
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Relevant issues for the cross-border region:

• the positive evolution of the cluster concept with a particular focus on innovation clusters and the need to continue on this path in the future

• the importance of the talent attraction – and retention – for a competitive and long term development of the industrial tissue and SME competitiveness
Key needs emerging from discussions:

• Cluster associations should be given a stronger role in the European cluster policy approaches, especially in countries with a rather weak public support for cluster development.

• Clusters have an important role as motors of the regional innovation ecosystem with a growing complexity of their activities recognized, but they need support for that - a stable and reliable framework to perform. And new indicators adapted to their complex role.

• More efforts needed to bridge gaps between the West and the East, by promoting the transfer of Central and Eastern European cluster success stories towards the rest of the continent.
Bulgarian National Cluster Conference 2019
26-27 March 2019 in Sofia

Innovations & Clusters To a Knowledge-Driven Economy

Objectives/themes/outcomes:

• Create new opportunities for Bulgarian clusters and business, but also to start the tradition of holding an annual cluster conference, similar to good practices known in countries such as Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Norway and Denmark.

• Synergy of Components and Ecosystem Unity with sessions dedicated to various sectors with cluster development (automotive, life&health industry, creative industries, ICT).

• Towards setting up a European network of cluster associations.
EU Cluster Weeks’ Main Anchor Event In The Context of the Hanover Fair 1-2 April 2019

High-Level event organised by the European Commission (DG GROWTH) in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Canadian Innovation, Science and Economic Development Ministry (ISED)

Focus on internationalisation opportunities, and more specifically with Canada and the Canadian Innovation Superclusters Initiative

10 Canadian participants and 30 European cluster managers from 15 countries as well as other various cluster stakeholders and policy makers from Canada and the European Union (in total 70 participants)
EU Cluster Weeks’ Main Anchor Event In The Context of the Hanover Fair
1-2 April 2019

High-level opening presentations, joint and bilateral discussions at cluster level (see testimonials on the ECCP)

Outcomes:

• A strong will for development of cooperation expressed by both European and Canadian clusters, based on similar values and targeting a win-win approach
• European cluster structures are a source of inspiration for the Canadian Superclusters
• Ideas for next steps to exploring concrete collaboration in Toronto, 5-7 June 2019
• Increased presence of Canadian clusters on the ECCP
Kick-off: The 2nd Cluster Week Germany
2 April 2019 at the Hanover Fair

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy together with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research undertook the patronage of the “Clusterwoche Deutschland 2019” to present the variety and performance of German cluster initiatives to a wider public.

Dr. Ulla Engelmann (DG GROWTH) and Dr. Ole Jannsen (BMWi) discussed about the importance of clusters going beyond national borders and of exchanges between networks. Dr. Janssen also emphasized the importance of looking overseas for collaboration partners and be visible for these.
And the learning journey goes further...

Learn more about the whole journey at
https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/event-calendar/eu-cluster-weeks