Speakers High-Level Policy Roundtable

Ole Janssen, Deputy Director General for Innovation and Technology at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Jordi Arnau Llinares, Deputy-Director for Industry Digitalization

Gabriela Pirvu, Councilor IA, Romanian Ministry of Economy, Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Division
Ole Janssen

Ole is deputy Director General for Innovation and Technology Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany. As Deputy Director General "Innovation and Technology Policy", Ole oversees the following topics: General issues of national and international innovation and technology policy; Accreditation and conformity assessment; Supervision of the Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing (BAM) and the German National Metrology Institute (PTB); Industrial research for companies and innovation guidance for SME; Central Innovation Programme for SME (ZIM) and Innovation Cluster Policy: ZIM-Cooperation (R&D projects between companies or companies and research and technology organizations), ZIM-Networks (network management, R&D cooperation projects) and the go-cluster programme (stimulus to improve cluster management and help turn German clusters into highly effective international clusters).

Previously, Ole served at the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport of Lower Saxony and as Director at the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony.

Ole graduated in economics at Hannover University. He had been an Academic assistant at the chair for economics at Greifswald University and he holds a PhD in economics.

The construction of a bridge is a first step towards mutual trust and success.
Jordi Arnau Llinares

Jordi is a computer scientist and member of the Spanish Civil Service Corps. He has worked as technical consultant for Hewlett-Packard.

Within the Civil Service, Jordi has worked for the Finance Ministry and the Digital Agenda Ministry. He has also worked as public procurement teacher for the Institute of Fiscal Studies in Madrid.

Currently, he is the Deputy-Director for Industry Digitalization and Collaborative Platforms.

#EUcluster2019
Gabriela- Magdalena Pîrvu

Gabriela is co-ordinator of Romanian Cluster Policy at the Romanian Ministry of Economy – Directorate Industrial Policy and Competitiveness.

Since 2009, she has been involved in designing and promoting the Romanian Industrial/Cluster Policy. Since 2007, she also been representing Romania in the Sub-group for Innovation, DG GROW.

Gabriela is project manager of a series of cluster projects: SEENECO, financed by the Competitiveness Innovation Programme (CIP) of European Commission; ClusterPoliSEE implemented and funded within INTERREG IVC; DanuBioValNet – INTERREG Danube.

Gabriela’s main activities consist in designing and coordinating bilateral and multilateral programmes resulting from the agreements with international and European bodies or as a result of Joint Commissions for technical-economical cooperation.

"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.”

*Japanese proverb*

#EUcluster2019
#cooperation
#innovation
Bianca Dragomir, European Cluster Manager of the Year 2016 and Director General of AVESEN Cluster
Bianca Dragomir inspires energy and passion for what she loves to do - build open, fresh, bold, entrepreneurship-driven ecosystems, inspire leaders of leaders and generate clusters of change across Europe and beyond.

Bianca joined AVAESEN, one of Spain's leading cleantech clusters, in 2013. She launched the first climate-specific start-up accelerator in Spain and expanded it across 12 European countries, in a partnership with EIT Climate-KIC. Bianca is Founder of the first Spanish Think Thank Smart Cities and National Leader of ClimateLaunchpad Spain, the Global Green Business Idea Competition, since 2014.

As a member of the European High-Level Industrial Roundtable ‘Industry 2030’, she currently assists the European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, and the European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen, in developing a smart, innovative and sustainable industrial strategy for the future of Europe.

Bianca is the first woman to be awarded as ‘European Cluster Manager of the Year’ by European Commission (2016).

A catalyst for change and an insightful international speaker, she earned two Master’s degrees in International Business and European Integration and Business Communication, having completed several studies in Exponential Thinking and Foresight at Singularity University (California, USA).

European industry needs systemic, exponential change to champion global competitiveness. Clusters play a crucial role in this. They are impact multipliers, brokers of innovation, smart investment boosters and engines of growth. They can catalyse change at speed and scale. Clusters are powerful beyond measure.
Presentations of results from the #EU Cluster Weeks events by rapporteurs

Lucia Seel, European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Kaspar Nielsen, Cluster Excellence Denmark
Mats Williams, Wilconsulting and
Katarzyna Kowalska, UNIMOS Alliance (video testimony)
Lucia is managing Director of Lucia Seel International Consulting GmbH and currently the Communication and Content Manager of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform launched by the European Commission in 2016. Based on her broad experience of over 25 years in international affairs, projects, communication and European programmes, Lucia set up in 2011 her own company focusing on development and management of EU projects, support for international cooperation in the field of innovation and clustering, training and international networking and communication.

Her activities also include speaking and moderating at international conferences and workshops, with a large record of presentations and moderations. She is evaluator in the COSME programme and a certified ESCA Cluster Benchmarking Expert and Gold Label Assessor.

Lucia graduated magna cum laude from the Academy of Economic Sciences in Bucharest and worked both for multinational companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi Centrade in Bucharest/RO and Silhouette International in Linz/AT (as area manager for South-East Asia and South Europe) and for small companies and public administration bodies.

She is European (Austrian citizen, born in Romania, lived in Spain and Albania), speaks 6 languages and member of several international networks.
Kaspar Nielsen

Kaspar has more than a decade of experience in internationalisation, mostly devoted to clusters.

He is one of the driving forces behind the Cluster Matchmaking Conferences and has recently developed a guide to support clusters’ internationalisation and is co-author of “A Little Book about EU-funding – how to get the Euros”.

Kaspar has hands-on experience supporting clusters in- and outside Europe.

“Don’t work with people that you dislike. They tend to disappoint you”.
- Micael Gustafsson, Clusterland Sweden

#EUcluster2019
#EUClusterWeeks
#Clusters
Mats Williams

Mats is specialised in cluster development, cluster management, regional development with cluster tools, innovation and smart specialization strategies in Europe. He coaches cluster managers, Cluster boards of directors, local and regional governments about cluster development methods, how to evaluate and follow up on strategies and tactics, and how to turn results from evaluation into strategy development.

Mats has 11 years experience as Cluster Manager at The Paper Province from its start to one of Europe’s 100 World Class Clusters with more than 100 member companies in the cluster initiative. He is responsible for the start up process of The Packaging Arena cluster initiative and involved in cluster policy strategies development and framework both national and international.

His specialities are a combination of theory and hands on experiences - inspiration and transpiration. Support and coaching in cluster and innovation development processes, cluster project development, cluster manager coaching, cluster evaluation and cluster marketing.

He is member of the TCI network.

#clustercoaching #clusteradvisor #clustermanagement #clusterdevelopment #clusterevaluation #clusterinspiration
Katarzyna Kowalska

Katarzyna is network internationalisation manager, passionate about orchestrating meaningful, cross-sectoral & cross-cluster partnerships.

Katarzyna is the president of UNIMOS Foundation, partner in ESCP S3 project DIGICLUSTERS, co-founder of AgroBioCluster & Eastern European Food Clusters Network.

She is also an academic teacher, facilitator & expert in national and EU projects related to innovations, internationalization and international cooperation development

“If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable”

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

#EUcluster2019
@Katarzyna_UE
http://unimosalliance.com
https://www.clustercolaboration.eu/escp-s3-profiles/digiclusters
Panel discussion on fostering strategic interregional collaboration

Alin-Adrian Nica, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Mayor of Dudeștii Noi Timiș County

Enrico Venturini Degli Espositi, project manager of TEX4IM (ESCP-S3 cluster project) with link to the Thematic Smart Specialisation platform for Industrial Modernisation

Michael Keller, Lead Partner, INTERREG Alpine Space S3-AlpClusters
Alin-Adrian NICA

Alin-Adrian is mayor of Dudești Noi, a rural municipality near Timișoara in the western part of Romania. He is a computer engineer as profession and he used to be the youngest mayor of Romania for two mandates in a row from 2004 to 2012.

Since 2007, he is member of The European Committee of the Regions. Between 2010 and 2012, he used to chair the EDUC Commission, the predecessor of the SEDEC Commission in which now stands as the first vice-president.

Albert-Adrian is an expert in the European jury that selects the European Capital of Culture. Also, he is an observer in the European Commission Working Group on social economy.

#EUcluster2019
#ThinkGlobalActLocal
#Innovation
Enrico Venturini Degli Espositi

Enrico graduated in Economics at the University of Florence, after taking a Textile High School Diploma. He then specialised in Industrial Quality Control and developed significant experience in this field within textile companies.

Since 1996, he has been holding the position of Project Manager at Next Technology Tecnotessile, for research projects. He has also a qualified trainer in the textile sector. He has participated to several EU projects.

Since 2011 he is the manager of OTIR2020 – TUSCANY FASHION CLUSTER, the cluster organisation working in fashion key sectors of the Tuscan manufacturing economy. OTIR2020 principal aims are the operational support in the innovation process and technology transfer in favor of local companies, providing technical assistance and support for the development of new R&D based projects. OTIR2020 - TFC nowadays associates around 480 companies from Tuscany region operating in the fashion value chain (textile and technical textile, clothing, leather, tanning, shoe manufacturing, jewelry). He is now the project manager of TEX4IM action, in the framework of COSME partnerships for industrial modernisation.

Enrico has valuable skills in management and coordination of specific services to SMEs, drawing up of project proposals and promotion and support of R&D programmes for SMEs.

#EUcluster2019
#textile
#innovation
An opportunity to promote strategic cluster collaborations in EU to connect ecosystems and innovate

Michael Kaspar Keller

Europe needs cross-cluster collaboration for the development of transformative activities that lead to innovation and growth in new value chains

Michael serves as Lead Partner of two European cooperation projects (Interreg Alpine Space) for the School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg and the Plastics Innovation Competence Center (both affiliated to the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland):

- AlpLinkBioEco addresses the transition from a fossil-based to a circular bio-based economy.
- S3-4AlpClusters aims at enhancing smart industrial transition in the regions of the Alpine Space by making use of the interplay between clusters and smart specialization strategies.

Michael graduated in economics and social sciences at the University of Fribourg, where he is an Affiliate Member of the Center for Competitiveness. He served as member of the Board of the European MoC Chapter, a regional chapter of Harvard Business School Professor Michael E. Porter’s Microeconomics of Competitiveness network, from 2013 to 2014. From 2015-2016 he was Assistant Editor of the Competitiveness Review, an academic journal published by Emerald.

Michael has published on competitiveness, clusters and innovation and co-authored multiple policy reports for both private and public institutions. Since 2016 he is Visiting Professor at LIUC – Università Cattaneo.

#EUcluster2019
#SmartSpecialisation
#TransformativeActivities
Parallel breakout sessions on challenges and opportunities for future cluster development and industrial transformation

Breakout session 1: Digitalisation and skills gap

Impulse presentations:

• Bianca Muntean, Manager of the Transylvania IT Cluster
• Kristina Dervojeada, Senior Manager Innovation Policy Research for PWC

Panel discussion:

• Katarzyna Koziol, Enterprise and Single Market Adviser, SMEunited
• David Seoane Vilarino, FundingBox, Spain - Project Manager of Connected Car INNOSUP-1 cluster project
• Peter Statev, Chairman, ICT Cluster Bulgaria
• Manuella Portier, Director of European Affairs, Cap Digital
Bianca Muntean

Bianca is known as a “bridger” for creating unique connections between fields apparently without any connection between them, creating projects and contexts which have brought Cluj under the European attention as a good practice. She is the recipient of the Innovation Luminary Award in 2017 as the young innovation role model for dynamic, pragmatic hands-on OI2 bridgership in Cluj, in the OI 2.0 event of the European Commission. She was involved in the organisation of the 2nd edition of Innovation Camp in Cluj-Napoca (October 2018) with the support, which gathered together experts who brought up policy challenges related to innovation in the context of Romanian EU Presidency 2019, allowing for better citizens’ inclusion in the creation of new markets, products and services in the framework of the Digital Single Market strategy; respectively – co-creating innovative public services, co-creating change agents for a transition to urban sustainable transformations, co-creating solutions using technology in the public administration.

Through her participation in different international conferences, high level business missions and workshops all over the world, she actively promotes Cluj and Transylvania business environment and their unique competences.

#EUcluster2019
#CreateInnovation
#SparklingInnovation
Kristina Dervojeda

Kristina specialised in policy research in the field of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and high-tech skills.

Her specific topics of interest include the future of work in industry, digital learning, lifelong learning, Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence and its implications for skills, and 21st Century approaches to education & training of high-tech professionals.

Kristina leads the PwC Innovation Research Centre (IRC). Kristina has been and is involved in various multi-country assignments for the European Commission in a role of Project Manager and Senior Expert.

Kristina holds a PhD degree in Innovation Management.

True learning is not about the acquisition of knowledge or collecting credentials, it is about the application of knowledge in practice.

#EUcluster2019
#skills
#digital
Katarzyna Koziol

Katarzyna is Enterprise and Single Market Adviser at SMEunited (formerly UEAPME), the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe.

SMEunited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members from over 30 European countries. It combines, more than 12 million enterprises with around 55 million employees across Europe. SMEunited is also a recognised employers’ organisation and European Social Partner.

At SMEunited, Katarzyna focusses predominately on digital, consumer and competition topics. Previously, she worked at DIGITALEUROPE.

#EUcluster2019
#SME #Entrepreneurship
#ThinkSmallFirst
#SMEs4Europe
@SMEunited
David Seoane Vilariño

Daniel is project Manager at FundingBox. After obtaining a law Degree (2005) a Master in European Studies (2006), he has been working at Econet consultants since 2008.

His main expertise is fundraising for projects financed under INTERREG, ERDF, FP7 and H2020. Also, he supports on management of projects for third parties/clients, namely INTERREG.

David collaborated as Project Manager in RIOHUB (2016-2017), financed by I4MS initiative, and since April 2017 joined FundingBox to work as Project Manager of IMPACT Connected Car (2017-2019), financed under H2020 in the framework of INNOSUP initiative. From 2019 he is Project Manager of NGI4ALL project, funded under H2020 under Next Generation Internet initiative.

David also provides supporting services, e.g. like fundraising to beneficiaries of previous projects where FundingBox Group has participated like INCENSE or IMPACT.

#EUcluster2019; #FundingBox; #FundingGrowth; #OpenCalls; #Community; #ICCAR; #GrowthCatalysts
Peter has been an entrepreneur for more than three decades, as well as a start-up mentor and business angel in the ICT sector.

Peter has a Master’s degree in Electronics from the Sofia Technical University, an Effective Manager certificate from the Open University, a leading UK flexible study teaching institution. He currently manages Smartcom Group, – group of innovative technology companies active globally.

Peter is the co-founder and Chairman of the “ICT cluster” foundation and “Bulgarian Innovation and Technology Hub – Bulgarian DigiTecH 4.0.” - tools to support SME inclusion in process of building fully automated and robotized enterprises, managed by AI.

He is also Chairman of Supervisory board of Sofia Tech Park.

Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.

#EUcluster2019
#Innovative clusters
#Digital Innovation Hubs
Manuella Portier

Manuella is the Director of European affairs at Cap Digital, the Gold-labelled French Hub for Digital and Ecological transformation and the largest cluster in Europe with +1000 members. This involves managing the Europe service, the cluster’s EU projects portfolio as well as supporting members in their European development and developing new partnerships.

Manuella has a Master degree in Social Science and is an expert in European project management. Before joining Cap Digital in 2017, she has been managing H2020, FP7, EIT, Erasmus+ projects in various fields (Future Internet, gender, citizenship, youth…) in NGOs and public institutions for 10 years.

#EUcluster2019
#DigitalTransformation
#EcologicalTransition
#ProjectManagement
Parallel breakout sessions on challenges and opportunities for future cluster development and industrial transformation

Breakout session 2: Circular Europe

Impulse presentations:

- Luca Donelli, President of the Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster

Panel discussion:

- Christiane Egger, Manager of the Cleantech-Cluster Energy Upper Austria
- Kristiina Jokelainen, Representative of the Arctic Industry and Circular Economy Cluster
- Carlo Cuijpers, KPMG and “Boosting the Circular Economy among SMEs” project
- Francesc Ribera Grau, Cluster Manager of the Catalonia Energy Efficiency Cluster
Born in 1982, Luca graduated at Bocconi University. After an experience at McKinsey&Co., Luca started working with Donelli, now a medium size family business incorporated in 1911 and specialized in corrosion protection services for energy and oil&gas.

As a member of Confindustria Young Entrepreneurs, Luca played a leading role in international networks of including G20 Young Entrepreneurs’ Alliance, where he served as Sherpa and later President of the Italian delegation, as well as Yes for Europe - European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs, which he led in 2016.

He also served at various B20 (Business 20, engagement group at G20) task forces: SME and Entrepreneurship (2015), SME Development (2016), Financing Growth & Infrastructure (2017, member of coordination group) and SMEs Development (2018, co-chair).

Luca is currently President (2017-20) of Lombardy Energy & Cleantech Cluster as well as member of Confindustria General Committee.

Ad astra per aspera is his motto, as well as that of the State of Kansas, where Luca was an exchange student in High School.

#EUcluster2019  
#Cleantech #Scaleup  
#Openinnovation  
#10YearsofLE2C
Christiane is cluster manager Cleantech-Cluster Energy and Deputy Manager of the OÖ Energiesparverband, the energy agency of Upper Austria. She has led the development of this successful network since its beginnings, over 15 years ago. In this period, a number of cluster partner companies grew from small local companies to global players and market leaders in their segment.

Christiane is also the conference director of the World Sustainable Energy Days, one of the largest annual conferences in this field in Europe. She is the Vice-President of FEDARENE, the European network of regional energy and environment agencies.

Christiane is an expert in sustainable energy with a focus in policy and market development. She has developed and successfully implemented numerous European collaboration projects, has and is a frequent speaker at conferences in Europe and North America.

She holds degrees in law and in environmental engineering.
Kristiina works in Lapland, Finland. Since 2012, she has been involved in the creation and implementation of Lapland’s Smart Specialisation strategy and international collaboration. Her main responsibility has been the developing and putting into practice the regional modern clusters approach called Arctic Smartness – regional innovation ecosystem. The aim is to develop cross-regional and cross-sectoral collaboration and to encourage regional actors and SMEs to develop the practises and new types of collaboration in order to be stronger together in the international networks and markets.

Kristiina has over 25 years of experience in working on economic, research and innovation development projects and multi-sector cooperation activities in Finland, EU, Eastern European and Central Asian. She has a long-term expertise in development of strategies and project management, evaluation and monitoring practices, internal-international networking and public-private partnership. She has implemented number of project management programmes and courses.

Kristiina Jokelainen, International relations and S3 Implementation, Regional Council of Lapland, Partner in the Arctic Industry and Circular economy Cluster.

#EUcluster2019
#arcticsmartness
Carlo is an advisor for various industry associations, chambers of commerce and other SME support organisations – helping them to set-up support programmes on circular economy.

Europe needs to transition towards a more circular economy. In recent years Europe has seen an increased uptake of circular economy practices by mainly larger companies. Although the business drivers for corporates and SMEs to become more circular are the same, it is generally more difficult for SMEs to adopt circular economy practices. Therefore we need to inspire and support these.

“Business can not succeed in a world that fails”

#EUcluster2019
#CircularEconomy
#Sustainability
Francesc Ribera Grau

Francesc graduated chemical engineer at the Universitat de Barcelona. He also holds a Master Degree in Experimental Organic Chemistry.

Since 2016, he is cluster manager at Clúster de l'Energia Eficient de Catalunya. Previously, he was general manager of Unió de Polígons Industrials de Catalunya (2011-2016). Francesc also worked as energy and environment manager at the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce (2007-2011).

It is not about energy transition but energy revolution

#EUcluster2019
#ClusterEE
#CatClusters
#EnergyTransition
Parallel breakout sessions on challenges and opportunities for future cluster development and industrial transformation

Breakout session 3: Shared value and social impact

Impulse presentations:

- Ranko Milić, President of the Cluster for Eco-Social Innovation and Development (CEDRA) in Split, Croatia
- Marharyta Zhenchuk, International coordinator Temple Mist & WARM

Panel discussion:

- Alberto Pezzi, Director of Competitive and Clusters Strategy Division, Area of Business Development, ACCIÓ, Government of Catalonia
- Mervi Nikander, Strategy manager, Regional Council of Lapland
- Anders Johansson, Regional cluster coordinator and project leader social innovation of the Orebro Region
- Silvano Bertini, Head of the department Research, Innovation, Energy and Sustainable Economy of the Emilia-Romagna Region
An opportunity to promote strategic cluster collaborations in the EU to connect ecosystems and innovate.

Ranko Milić

Ranko is passionate about eco-socially sustainable economic development, innovation and collaborative soft and hard spaces, projects platforms and infrastructures.

Ranko is an Metapreneur connecting the dots of the vast universe of opportunities, business as unusual consultant, trainer and cluster founder and leader at regional and national level in Croatia.

His special focuses are radical and disruptive innovation in education, tourism, local and regional development platform-oriented start-ups.

#EUcluster2019
#ImpactVentures
#EcoSocInnovation
#DevelopmentHubs

Future of human prosperity is a present tense of human awareness in collaborative action.
An opportunity to promote strategic cluster collaborations in EU to connect ecosystems and innovate

Rita (Marharyta) Zhenchuk

Rita has an academic background in environmental studies – from the universities in Ukraine and the US. She started off with packaging GHG emission reduction projects varying from landfill gas utilization to capturing NOx nitric acid plants in the Eastern Europe.

Later on Rita moved to Ivano-Frankivsk, West of Ukraine, where she started to work on local development projects: ranging from art center management, nature protection, rural tourism, industrial parks establishment on reclaimed industrial territories, and most recent - launch of the most ambitious grassroots driven Promprylad.Renovation project in the country - aiming to transform the remnants of what used to be giant sophisticated manufacturing facility into innovation centers (up to 37 800 m²) with the focus on new economy, urban studies, contemporary art and informal education.

Presently, she is responsible to bring international partners on board.

#EUcluster2019
#Promprylad.Renovation
#TepleMisto
#UrbanSpace100

If life is made up of mistakes and learning, I'm living it to the fullest
Alberto is the Director of competitive strategy at the Directorate General for Industry of the Government of Catalonia. His main task consists in providing strategic analysis inputs for the design and implementation of industrial policies and cluster-based competitiveness reinforcement initiatives.

Alberto has over 22 years of experience in competitive strategy and cluster development working both in international consultancy firms and in the public sector. In the last decade, Mr. Pezzi has been actively involved in different advisory groups at European level such as TACTICS, and the European Forum for Clusters and Emerging Industries. Since its launch in 2009, Alberto has been committed with the different aspects of clusters excellence being fellow of the faculty of the European Foundation for Cluster Excellence, ESCA benchmarking gold expert and member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform support group.

Alberto is the co-author of different books, articles and business cases on cluster policy and practice and he is regularly invited to talk in international forums dedicated to clusters and economic development.

As part of his professional pro-bono activity, Alberto was among the promoters of TCI Network and since 2003 he is member of the Board of Directors, serving as secretary, president and, presently, as treasurer.

Alberto holds a BSc in Economics by the Università di Bologna, a master in European Law and Economics from the European College of Parma and a postgraduate diploma in Economic History and Institutions from the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona.

#EUcluster2019#SharedValue
#Beyondclusterpolicy
#Strategichange

Cluster is the object, not the subject. In regional competitiveness it is not the ingredients it is the recipe. If you don’t know where you’re going, look back to see where are you coming from.
Mervi Nikander

Mervi works in Regional Council of Lapland as a Strategy Manager. She is responsible for regional strategy and program based developing including Regional Developing Plan for Lapland. She has been involved in the creation and implementation of Lapland’s Smart Specialisation strategy from the beginning of the year 2012. Social economy thematic is one of the possible solutions to provide services to sparsely populated areas and also to increase entrepreneurship in those areas.

Mervi’s main responsibility is to coordinate the regional development work in cooperation with other regional and national authorities and municipalities and other regional actors. She has over 20 years of experience in regional developing and strategy work. She also has long-term expertise in project management, evaluation and monitoring practices, internal-international networking and public-private partnership. She has been working in different public authority organisations and sectors such as tourism and education development both in the regional and interregional levels.

Her passion is to develop the Lapland region to a great place to live, work and visit.

#EUcluster2019
#LaplandAboveOrdinary
#LoveMyLapland
Anders Johansson

Anders has a background in agriculture and forestry. During the last 22 years, he has been working in local development with cooperation as a tool.

The driving force of Anders’ work is getting people to solve societal challenges together with others.

Currently, Anders is a manager at one of Cocompanions’ regional offices. Their mission is to give advice and support to people who want to start cooperatives, they also help to develop the social economy in general.

Start a business together - twice as much fun half that hard!

#EUcluster2019
#Coompanion
#Leader
#Regionorebrolan
Silvano studied economics and management. He is an industrial economist and he specialised in clusters, regional development and SMEs, by participating to national and international projects since 1988.

Silvano was member of the TCI Board of Advisors since 1999 to 2009. Since 1999, he has been working for the Emilia-Romagna Region and at present, he is Head of the “Research, Innovation, Energy and Sustainable Economy” Unit. In these years, he has been working to establish a regional dynamic Innovation Ecosystem and to involve traditional clusters into this new perspective, based on the involvement of the scientific community and the activation of the sphere of creativity.

Recently, a new generation of innovation and research-based cluster organisations, focused on the S3 priorities, have been promoted. They are virtual organisations whose members are research labs, firms and any other organisation involved in the cluster items. In parallel to them, physical spaces such as technopoles (for technology transfer) and business accelerators, fablabs and collaborative hubs (for generating new innovative and creative firms) have been realized. According to Silvano, The future challenge is that of promoting a strong industrial and civil transformation towards a high level of sustainability.
Closing panel discussion

Daniel Cosnita, President of the Romanian Cluster Association Clustero

Merete Nielsen, Director of Cluster Excellence Denmark and President of TCI Network

Péter Keller, Head of International and Cluster Unit, Hungarian Ministry for National Economy
Daniel graduated both as an engineer and economist. He has been working in the last 16 years in the fields of technology transfer and innovation, regional economic development and cluster policy support in Romania and abroad.

Daniel is a member of the Export Council of Romania and of the National Council for Technology Transfer and Innovation. Since 2011, he has been the President of the Romanian Cluster Association.

#EUcluster2019
Merete Daniel Nielsen

Merete is co-founder and director of Cluster Excellence Denmark established in 2009 with the aim of supporting Danish clusters on competence development, professionalisation and internationalisation. Today, Cluster Excellence Denmark is considered as best practice on cluster development in Europe.

Serving as President for the global TCI Network, Merete is helping members from 110 countries around the world to improve their knowledge and competences on clusters, innovation and competitiveness. TCI Network reached out to 9,000 practitioners around the world.

For five years, she has been co-organising the largest Cluster Matchmaking Conferences in Europe helping more than 300 clusters to more internationalisation. With 25 years of experience in education, innovation and competitiveness she is an expert, speaker and author covering these topics.

#EUcluster2019
#tcinetwork

Clusters help tie our world together - let's take the global journey with them.
Peter Keller

Peter started his career at the SME Development Department of the Ministry of Economy and Transport in 2002, playing an active role in planning the SME Development priority of the I. National Development Plan 2004-2006 (NDP). After 2006, he coordinated the planning process of the Economic Development Operational Programme 2007-2013 in the framework of the II. NDP.

Between 2010 and 2011, he worked as a government adviser at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. He was responsible for cohesion policy especially related to Structural Funds.

Since 2012, Peter is responsible for the implementation of the Hungarian cluster development policy by leading the International and Cluster Development Unit at the Managing Authority (MA) of Economic Development Programmes in the Ministry of Finance.

From 15 April 2019, Peter is acting as a head of department at the Ministry of Finance responsible for designing and managing all the economic development related call for proposals, including cluster development calls. In 2018, he was elected as a Director of the TCI Board.

#EUcluster2019