



CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

VILNIUS | 26 · 27
LITHUANIA | APRIL

BALTIC REGION CLUSTERS: ELIMINATING RISKS, CREATING RESILIENCE,
AND STRENGTHENING LOCAL AND EUROPEAN VALUE CHAINS IN THE FACE
OF GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

NEXT
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EU

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS 26~27 APRIL 2022

VILNIUS / LITHUANIA

Note: all hours indicated in the concept note are in Brussels time CET – time in Vilnius is EET

EU companies are currently facing challenges as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical situation. In this situation, such companies often need to reshape existing value chains or construct new ones. In addition, further integration of EU companies into the Single Market will help overcome and mitigate issues related to loss of markets and disruption of supply chains.

The European Commission, in collaboration with the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, AgriFood Lithuania DIH, Smart Food Cluster and the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), organises this workshop in Vilnius/Lithuania followed by a virtual matchmaking event.

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss responses to the economic challenges, such as the supply chain disruptions and loss of markets and inputs
- Enable EU companies interact with each other and develop business cooperation and investments.

TARGET GROUPS

EU companies, cluster organisations, EEN, other business support organisations and EU national/regional public authorities principally from the Baltic Sea regions, but also from all EU Member States/regions interested in cooperation.

WHEN, WHERE, WHAT?

26 April

9:00-18:00 CET – onsite and webstreamed

The **workshop** will include interventions and panel discussions on:

- Role of business collaboration in reshaping and strengthening the value/supply chains for regional development and its resilience,
- Measures to mitigate supply chain disruptions in the EU Single Market,
- Implementation of the industrial policy objectives: green and digital transition,
- Design and implementation of the smart specialization strategy within the Baltic Sea regions

27 April

8:30-9:30 CET – EU Clusters Talks

9:30-11:30 CET – pitching and testimonials

12:30-16:30 CET – matchmaking online

The **virtual matchmaking** on the B2Match Platform will include pre-scheduled one-to-one meetings (20 min. each). The targeted participants come from the following key areas of activity: Agri-food, Automotive, Chemicals (mainly plastics), Engineering (mainly lasers and photonics), Health technologies (mainly biotechnologies), Industrial Information and Communication Technologies, Wood (incl. furniture).



AGENDA

26 APRIL 2022

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

OPENING

09:00 – 09:15 CLUSTERS AS KEY DRIVERS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH: REPAIR AND PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

- Address by Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the Internal Market
- Address by Aušrinė Armonaitė, Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania

The opening of the workshop: *Clusters meet Regions* will demonstrate the need for the involvement of clusters and business networks in regional and European economic governance, in policy design and implementation, in particular in time of supply chain disruptions.

09:15 – 10:00 OPENING HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Antonio Novo, President, European Clusters Alliance

- **Ieva Valeškaitė** – Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Maive Rute** – Deputy Director General of DG GROW, European Commission

10:00 – 10:30 SETTING THE SCENE

Moderator: Eva Revilla, DG GROW, European Commission

- **Giedrius Bagušinskas** – Lithuania Clusters Network President, European Clusters Alliance Board member, Smart Food Cluster coordinator
- **Clusters' Ecosystem in Lithuania**
Ričardas Valančauskas – Director of the Innovation and Industry department, Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Input paper for the Lithuanian workshop**
Dr. Jan-Philipp Kramer, Head of EU Services, Prognos

10:30 – 10:50 COFFEE BREAK

10:50 – 12:20 CLUSTERS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION

Moderator: Mantas Vilys, Director, Lithuanian Innovation Center, EEN in Lithuania

- **Jakub Boratynski** – Director Network & Governance, DG GROW
- **Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė** – Lithuania Cluster Network Director, AgriFood Lithuania DIH Director

Panel discussion: (60 min)

- **Jakub Boratynski** – Director Network & Governance, DG GROW
- **Ieva Valeškaitė** – Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Stanislaw Szultka** – Director, Economic Development Department, Pomorskie Region, Poland
- **Kristina Ananičienė** – Cluster manager Laser & Engineering Technologies Cluster, LITEK, Lithuania
- **Triinu Varblane** – International Business Developer at Technology Centre MERINOVA/Energy Vaasa Cluster, Finland
- **Ola Svedin** – CEO Mobile Heights, Chairman of the Board Clusters of Sweden

12:20 – 14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30 CLUSTER DRIVEN INTERREGIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRIORITIES OF LITHUANIA

Moderator: Teodora Jilkova, Team member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Linkages and cooperation with clusters from other regions require identification of partners and building common ground for collaboration. Experiences from other regions will be shared, as well as information on value chains and clusters partnerships, and guidance on searching for collaboration areas.

Presentations: (30 min)

- **Slawomir Tokarski** – Director European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation I, DG REGIO
- **Anders Bergström** – Policy Area Coordinator, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

Panel discussion: (60 min)

- **Slawomir Tokarski** – Director European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation I, DG REGIO
- **Eglė Markevičiūtė** – Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Giedrius Bagušinskas** – Lithuania Clusters Network President, European Clusters Alliance Board member, Smart Food Cluster coordinator
- **Skirmantė Baležientienė** – Cluster coordinator at Photovoltaics Technology Cluster FETEK
- **Susanne Baden Jørgensen** – Senior International Manager at Food & Bio Cluster Denmark, member of the cluster group at the Enterprise Europe Network
- **Anders Bergström** – Policy Area Coordinator, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

15:30 – 15:40 COFFEE BREAK

15:40 – 16:40 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FINANCIAL SCHEMES FOR THE CLUSTERS

Moderator: Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė Lithuania Cluster Network director, AgriFood Lithuania DIH Director

European level overview

- **Marco Francini** – Head of Regional EIB Group Office for the Baltic States

Panel discussion:

- **Marco Francini** – Head of Regional EIB Group Office for the Baltic States
- **Gerda Sakalauskaitė** – Managing Director at Lithuanian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- **Armands Lejas** – Krumins, Cluster manager at Food Products Quality Cluster Latvia, Chairman of Latvian Clusters Network
- **Johan Wasberg** – Development Director at Merinova OY
- **Daniel Acs** – CEO at Prounion and President of the Union of Slovak clusters

16:40 – 17:40 LITHUANIA ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON CLUSTERS POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN LITHUANIA

Moderator: Marek Przeor, Team Leader Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission

Round table discussion on cluster development strategy implementation in Lithuania:

- **Ričardas Valančiauskas** – Director, Innovation and Industry Department, Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania
- **Augustus Alešiūnas** – CEO, ART 21, Business Angel in AgriFood Tech
- **Andrius Rakickas** – Director at Lithuanian Automotive Export Association LAUGEA)
- **Darius Sakalauskas** – Baltic Film & Creative Tech cluster partner
- **Jolita Razumienė** – Inolink Project Manager, Lithuanian gency for Science, Innovation and Technology
- **Diana Vertelkienė** – Health technology iVita cluster manager
- **Giedrius Bagušinskas** – Lithuania Clusters Network President, European Clusters Alliance Board member, Smart Food Cluster coordinator
- **Arūnas Junevičius** – Cluster coordinator at Lithuanian prefabricated wooden house cluster – PrefabLT

17:40 – 18:00 CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS: CONCLUSIONS AND TAKEAWAYS

Moderator: Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, Lithuania Cluster Network director, AgriFood Lithuania DIH Director

AGENDA

27 APRIL 2022



08:30 – 09:30 EU CLUSTERS TALKS

Moderator: Antonio Novo, European Clusters Alliance President.

09:30 – 10:30 OPENING AND PITCHING SESSION COOPERATION PROPOSALS FORUM

Moderator: Teodora Jilkova

The *Clusters meet Regions* organisation provides a space for the clusters and regions to present themselves, their collaboration proposals and expand their network partners. Participation as a panellist in this part of the conference is open to any event delegate and by previous registration as a panellist to pitch.

10:30 – 11:30 MATCHMAKING EVENTS AS BOOSTERS OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Moderator: Agnė Jaraitė, Head of International Relations and Protocol Department, Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, EEN in Lithuania

Testimonials, inspirational practical cases, and previous experiences in Matchmaking Events with Baltic/Lithuanian organisations.

11:30 – 12:30 NETWORKING LUNCH

12:30 – 14:00 MATCHMAKING MEETINGS

14:00 – 14:30 COFFEE BREAK

14:30 – 16:00 MATCHMAKING MEETINGS

16:00 – 16:30 DEBRIEFING SESSION / ONLINE SURVEY

Moderator: Agnė Jaraitė, Head of International Relations and Protocol Department, Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, EEN in Lithuania

CONTEXT

The war in Ukraine is causing negative effects on economic growth in the Baltic Sea region, and across the whole of Europe.

Growing price pressures, especially higher energy prices, disruptions in supply chains, general uncertainty over the impact and outcome of the war, as well as, sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus, will inevitably weaken consumer confidence, affect investment decisions, and create supply and demand shocks.

EU regions need to stay resilient in the face of pandemic, geopolitical or any other crisis. They need to be able to compete with other more advanced and emerging economies in a dynamic economic and social environment.

Location matters, particularly for clusters. They develop more easily in urban and regional ecosystems with a favorable administrative and regulatory environment and access to skilled labor, markets, financial and business support services.

INTEGRATION OF CLUSTERS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE, POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IS ESSENTIAL

Regional authorities need to know their clusters and understand how they can shape, improve and effectively help in the design and the implementation of regional development policies.

Cluster organisations and their members should take actions and implement projects that are relevant for the economic development of their local communities. They should engage in collaboration with other European clusters in the same or related economic activities and thus complement regional assets and reinforce capacities to lead green transition, accelerate digital transition and build resilience.

This event is one of the **15 “Clusters meet Regions” regional workshops** that are being organised in EU regions in 2022-2023. Organisations around the EU are invited to express their interest in hosting these events. The workshops will bring together clusters and policymakers of the EU, national, regional and local level to learn from each other how to better use clusters to strengthen industrial ecosystems, serve national/regional economic development and liaise with other regions with similar transition challenges. Further workshops in this series can continue to focus on supply disruptions caused by the war.