



TWIN TRANSITION THROUGH INNOVATION - THE ROLE OF CLUSTERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND DIGITAL INDUSTRIAL REGION

8-9 November 2023, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1 – Wednesday, 08 November 2023 (CET)

10:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Setting the scene: Transformation through innovation - the role of clusters in the development towards a climate-neutral and digital industrial region Mistress of ceremonies: Teodora Jilkova, ECCP team member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming and introduction by the representative of the host by Dr Tobias Traupel, Head of Department “Europe, Law and Foreign Trade”, Ministry of Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia • Keynote speech – Cluster organisations as drivers of the green transition in European regions by Jakub Boratynski, Director Networks & Governance, DG GROW, European Commission
11:00 – 11:15	<p>Introduction to the regional cluster ecosystem of North Rhine-Westphalia – Presentation of the ECCP input on North Rhine-Westphalia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jan-Philipp Kramer, Head of EU Services, Prognos
11:15– 12:00	<p>Panel discussion I – Strategic approaches – The role of regional clusters in developing twin transition solutions <i>The focus of the discussion will be on strategic and theoretic approaches discussing how cluster organisations can be enabled to support twin transition processes within regional innovation ecosystems. The objective of the panel discussion is to gain insights into how policy makers and regional authorities can enable cluster organisations in becoming facilitators for change.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Antonio Novo, European Clusters Alliance President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marek Przeor, Team Leader, Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters (GROW.D.2), DG GROW, European Commission • Professor Dr Matthias Kiese, Institute of Geography of the Ruhr University Bochum, Expert on regional economics & clusters • Dr Tobias Traupel, Head of Department “Europe, Law and Foreign Trade”, Ministry of Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia • Dr Reimar Molitor, CEO of Region Cologne/Bonn e.V., part of Regionen.NRW, which is the association of the regional development and marketing organisations of the nine regions of North Rhine-

	<p>Westphalia. Among other, it organises regional development processes & projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jan-Philipp Kramer, Head of EU Services, Prognos
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Pitching session – Interregional cooperation as driver of twin transition processes Moderator: Teodora Jilkova, ECCP team member</p> <p><i>If you are interested in presenting your organisation in the pitching session, please indicate this during the registration process.</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Networking lunch</p>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Matchmaking sessions with regional cluster organisations for collaborative opportunities (20 min. per round) Facilitator: Daniel Cosnita, InPulse Partners, ECCP team member</p>
16:00 – 16:15	<p>Coffee break* *Time to prepare the stage for panel discussions</p>
16:15 – 17:30	<p>Panel discussion II – Insights from regional practitioners – Good practices on how to put into practice the Green Deal Industrial Plan and the EU's digital strategy through cluster collaboration. <i>The focus of the second discussion will be on the practitioner's view by inviting cluster managers from regional and international cluster organisations. The objective of the panel discussion is to gain practical and specific insights into how regional cluster organisations act as regional enablers for structural change. More specifically, the panel will showcase the potential of North Rhine-Westphalia for the transition (from a market and technology perspective), outline how interregional collaboration within the EU can contribute to that and invite for future collaboration opportunities among cluster organisations.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Marek Przeor, Team Leader, Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters (GROW.D.2), DG GROW, European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr-Ing. Harald Cremer, CEO of the regional cluster NanoMikroWerkstoffePhotonik (NMWP.NRW). The cluster aims at strengthening NRW's position in nanotechnology, microtechnology, new materials and optical technologies • Andreas Mucke, Managing Director of the Circular Valley initiative. The organisation works across sectors & technologies to close material cycles along existing value chains, develop policy recommendations & sustainably inform the public about the topic of circular economy. • Norbert Reichl, CEO of the regional cluster Food-Processing Initiative, which aims at increasing the competitiveness of companies in the food value chain in North Rhine-Westphalia • Luc Hulsman, Manager at the Northern Netherlands Alliance (SNN), responsible for Smart Specialisation of the Northern Netherlands • Fabrizio Guarrasi, Innovation Manager at Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster. The organisation focuses on the areas of smart energy systems, sustainable manufacturing, green building, water energy, clean air & circular economy.
17:30 – 18:30	<p>High-level policy discussion –Enabling regional innovation clusters to foster the economies of the future: The role of policy makers <i>This high-level discussion will bring the aspects from the first two panel discussions (theory and practice) to give the floor to the policy makers from the regional, federal and EU perspectives. The objective of the session is to discuss the role of policy makers in fostering innovation through clusters. The closing words will then be addressed by Mona Neubaur, Minister for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Nils Dülfer, Manager at NRW.innovativ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mona Neubaur, Minister for Economy, Industry, Climate Protection and Energy & Deputy Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jakub Boratynski, Director Networks & Governance, DG GROW, European Commission • Dr Ole Janssen, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Head of Department, "Innovation & Technology Policy", <i>Lead</i> of "go cluster" initiative.
from 18:30 onwards	Get together

Day 2 – Thursday, 9 November 2023 (CET)

Site visit

08:30 – 09:30	Bus Transfer from Düsseldorf to thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG in Duisburg
09:30 – 12:00	<p>Guided Tour at the thyssenkrupp steel plant (focus: decarbonising of steel production processes and acceleration of the uptake of renewable hydrogen plus the role of clusters in the transformation)</p> <p>The "Steel in Transition" tour includes a drive past the blast furnaces and port area as well as a visit to the steelworks and hot strip mill units, thereby focusing on the transformative activities.</p>
12:00	Snack
after 12:00	Transfer back to Düsseldorf