

XMAS ECA NEWS!

2014 will see the beginning of a new phase of cluster policy development activities as the ECA network aims to actively support and engage with the new phase of the European Cluster Observatory (Phase 2). The ECO 2 will put forward new ideas, forums, newsletters and collaboration concepts and statistical tools and the ECA policy making community will seek to play an active part in developing and contributing to this new agenda. More details will follow early in 2014.

Next year will also see the launch of a new phase of cluster development actions through the launch of cluster projects and initiatives in Horizon 2020 and COSME. More details of the specific initiatives supported by the COSME programme will be made available in January and the ECA will keep you informed. In the meantime you can review current COSME activities by going to <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/cosme/>

ECA WORKSHOP
14TH MAY 2013

S3 ECA WORKSHOP BRUSSELS ON TUESDAY THE 14TH OF MAY.

The last ECA workshop took place in the Brussels office of the Catalan Regional Government and was attended by 80+ persons. The topics discussed included S3 strategies and the role clusters could play in supporting their preparation, an overview of the current internationalisation support provided for clusters by DG Enterprise and the role clusters can play in support of emerging industries. The case study of the EU4SportsClusters, a project co-financed by the European Commission whose aim is to facilitate the internationalisation of European SMEs dedicated to sports using clusters as a tool was presented at the workshop. This project recently held its final meeting in Brussels on the 12th of December. Further details of the results of this project can be obtained from Ms. Emma Vendrell: emma.vendrell@gencat.cat;

A further example of the work and support provided by DG Enterprise can be found in the European Cluster Observatory "Emerging Industries" report <http://www.clusterobservatory.eu/system/modules/com.gridnine.opencms.module.s.eco/providers/getpdf.jsp?uid=b20af4e5-581d-4462-a3eb-d178e4754011>

DG Regio and DG Research were also present at the workshop, illustrating the role clusters have across EU policy fields, and provided updates on how they intended to support clusters in the forthcoming funding periods. Dr Christian Kettels presented an overview of progress of a working group looking at the role of clusters in smart specialisation strategies on behalf of DG Research. The report is now available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/regions/documents/publications/clusters_smart_spec_2013.pdf

CLUSTER INTERNATIONALISATION ACTIONS

The EU-India Matchmaking Event on Resource Efficiency and Clean technologies took place from the 23rd to the 25th of October 2013. It involved a delegation composed of 12 participants representing clusters and SME members in the field of resource efficiency and clean technologies from 6 European countries who went to Mumbai (India) to initiate partnerships with Indian clusters and enterprises during the IFAT Exhibition 2013.

The trip was supported by the DG Enterprise cluster development support programme. Further trips will be organised in 2015 where countries such as Mexico and Korea (tbc) will be targeted. A full copy of the India visit report can be found on the newly designed ECCP site at <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/>

CLUSTER TRENDS TO WATCH FOR IN 2014

Many regions are expected to launch **evaluations** of their clusters and cluster programmes in 2014. These evaluation actions will play an important part in refocussing cluster actions and ensuring they fit within Structural funding and Interreg funding opportunities. The French government has recently launched an evaluation of their “Grappes programmes” and results will be available in 2014.

The summary results of two national level evaluations (France and Portugal) published in 2013 can be found on the ECA web site.

The movement for the creation of more “**meta clusters**” both formal or informal will continue as clusters seek new ways to organise and collaborate around their international actions. The development of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships by DG Enterprise provides further concrete proof of these trends.

ECA TACTICS handbooks covering the themes of cluster evaluation and internationalisation support can be downloaded from the ECA web site.

INTERNATIONALISATION: NEW CLUSTER AND B2B OPPORTUNITIES

EuroMed@Change : new dynamics for SME and cluster internationalisation

ANIMA Investment Network and **TECHNOPARK** in collaboration with other European partners (EEN, EBN, INNO, Fondation Sophia Antipolis) and Moroccan partners (AMIC, Centre Marocain pour l'Innovation, Maroc Numeric Fund, AFEM, Centres Régionaux d'investissement) have organised the Euromed@Technopark event which will take place in Casablanca (Technopark's headquarters) on **22 and 23 January 2014**.

The event will focus on bringing together clusters and SMEs in B2B meetings from the following sectors: ICT, Clean Techs and agro food sectors.

Partial reimbursement for travelling and accommodation expenses will be available for the most interesting projects. For more information please contact monica.airoldi@anima.coop; Registration can be done by following the link <http://www.b2match.eu/euromed/participants/new?locale=en>

EuroMed@Change is a pilot project initiated by the European Parliament and co-financed by the European Commission (DG Enterprise).

OTHER EVENTS:
SAVE THE DATES

- Alps4EU Final Conference-Fostering internationalisation of SMEs through Meta-Cluster 16th January Eurorégion Alpes Méditerranée- delegation office. The focus of the conference lies on the question **how cluster initiatives can support the internationalisation of SMEs through meta-clusters** (small networks of cluster initiatives focusing on a specific topic or sector). For more information and registration, please visit the Alps4EU Website.....
<http://www.alps4eu.eu/registration>
- *These and details of other relevant cluster events will be posted on the ECA web page.*

CONTACT

Please update your address books with our new contact address and we hope to see you in 2014.

contact@eca-tactics.eu / www.eca-tactics.eu

Best wishes and seasonal greetings for 2014

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