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## **GROW your REGION:**

### **Boosting Smart Interregional Collaboration through Clusters**

8-9 November 2017, Valencia, Spain

[Venue: Veles e Vents, Marina de Valencia, Muelle de la Aduana, s/n. 46024](#)

An event co-organised by the European Commission's [Directorate-Generals for 'Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs'](#) and for ['Regional and Urban Policy'](#),  
in collaboration with [the Valencia Regional Government](#)

### **Draft programme** (version of 03/10/2017)

The European Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe<sup>1</sup> and its Start-up and Scale-up Communication<sup>2</sup> outlined the need for more industrial cooperation and strategic connections between regional and local eco-systems. Its recent Communication on 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions'<sup>3</sup> also calls for stronger strategic inter-regional cooperation, sustainable linkages and investments.

This second edition of #GROWyourREGION<sup>4</sup> takes place when lessons are drawn on how smart specialisation strategies, the European Structural Investment Funds and clusters can support resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth in Europe's regions.

#GROWyour REGION is an opportunity to:

- share your smart specialisation and cluster experience and practices;
- exchange ideas about future actions for smart interregional collaboration;
- learn about novel ways of supporting innovation and accelerating industrial modernisation and SME growth.

This conference gathers over 300 national and regional authorities that manage ERDF and INTERREG projects, the business community and cluster stakeholders engaged in European cluster partnerships and cluster projects. Participants will discuss novel ways to boosting smart interregional collaboration through clusters towards more European "Silicon Valleys" and value chain linkages that bring benefits to regions and cities across Europe.

#GROWyourREGION is a conference with a difference. Participants will not just be listening to inspiring practice cases and speakers, but are invited to actively contribute, collaborate and co-create. It aims to gather ideas and proposals for the programming period post-2020 as a follow-up to the Smart Regions conference<sup>5</sup> and the Communication on 'Strengthening Innovation in Europe's Regions'. This shall serve also as an input for the next European Industry Day in February 2018.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/white-paper-future-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/white-paper-future-europe_en)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/20262>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/com\\_2017\\_376\\_2\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/com_2017_376_2_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> It follows in the footsteps of the successful first edition organised in 2015 in Brussels

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/conferences/grow\\_region/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/conferences/grow_region/)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/conferences/smart-regions/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/conferences/smart-regions/)

<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=9063&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=9063&lang=en)

## Day 1: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2017

### 09:00 – 13:00 Parallel pre-events:

- Digital transformation matchmaking event organised by WATIFY (**open event**)<sup>7</sup>
- Steering Committee of lead regions of the Thematic Smart Specialisation Platform for Industrial Modernisation<sup>8</sup> (restricted to lead regions)
- Horizon 2020 INNOSUP-1 cluster projects meeting<sup>9</sup> (restricted to project coordinators)
- European cluster excellence projects meeting <sup>10</sup> (restricted to project partners)

### 13:00 – 14:30 Registration and welcome walking lunch

Opportunity to visit stands and speak to experts of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change, JRC S3 platform, Single Market Service Centre, Wotify, IVACE Invest-CV, Technology Centres Network REDIT, EU Interact Office for Southern Europe

### 14:30 – 15:30 High-level opening session on "Accelerating industrial modernisation together"

High-level opening by:

- Ximo Puig, President of the Valencia Regional Government

Keynote speeches to set the scene by:

- Antti Peltomaki, Deputy Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- Normunds Popen, Deputy Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Mario Buisán, Director General for Industry and SME Policy, Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness
- Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Rapporteur on Smart Specialisation Strategies to the Committee of the Regions
- Bianca Dragomir, Expert in Clusters, SMEs and Cleantech Entrepreneurship, EU Cluster Manager of the Year 2016

### 15:30 – 17:30 Session 1 on "Smart practices of inter-regional collaboration"

This session discusses good and bad practices of inter-regional collaboration through clusters as well as their drivers identified in the smart specialisation strategies. Speakers include:

<sup>7</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/dem/watify/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/smart-specialisation/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/innosup-01-2016-2017.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiative/cluster-excellence-calls>

- Wim De Kinderen, International Project Manager, Brainport Eindhoven EU Office
- Hanna-Kaisa Saari, Aerospace Valley, France/ Neptune –Blue Growth Accelerator, Horizon 2020 Innosup-1 cluster project
- Mateja Dermastia, DanuBioValNet, Interreg Danube project /Poly4EmI initiative
- Karsten Uno Petersen, Southern Denmark European Entrepreneurial Region 2013, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Interactive table discussion on the practical cases, where participants will share their experiences. Discussions are hosted, among others, by Jean-Loïc Carré, vice-president of France Clusters and General Director of the “Pôle de compétitivité Eau” (French Water Cluster); Daniel A. Gottschald, Managing Director, InSITE BAVARIA; Nora Sarasola, Director General Bilbao Ekintza, Spain; Bernhard Grieb, Ministry of Economy of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, Tomasz Petrikowsky, head of Interact Office in Valencia

Roundtable expert discussion. Panellists include:

- Professor Athanasios G. Konstandopoulos, Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas CERTH, Greece
- Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit for Territorial Development, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- Pirita Lindholm, European Regions Research and Innovation Network –ERRIN
- Roland Strauss, Managing Director, Knowledge4Innovation

**17:30 – 18:00 Wrap-up of the day by commentators Allan Mayo and Dorthe Kusk and conference selfie picture**

**18:00 – 20:00 Smart networking opportunities**

**20:00 – 22:00 Smart Collaboration Dinner**

## Day 2: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2017

**08:30 – 9:00 Registration and welcome coffee**

**9:00– 11:30 Session 2: Setting the bar high for the next generation of initiatives to shape joint actions for clusters and smart interregional collaboration**

Welcome by co-moderators followed by discussions on the lessons learned from initiatives under different EU programmes related to clusters, smart specialisation and interregional collaboration and how these can be strengthened in the post2020 programmes. It will be kicked off by speakers from four different services of the European Commission:

- Smart specialisation and interregional collaboration under European Structural and Investment Funds by Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit, Competence Centre: Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO
- Horizon2020 by DG RTD (tbc)
- New connections through Digital Innovation Hubs by Max Lemke, Head of Unit for Technologies and Systems for Digitising Industry, DG CONNECT
- Towards Joint Cluster Initiatives and lessons learned under COSME and Horizon 2020 by Ulla Engelmann, Head of Unit, Clusters, Social Economy and Entrepreneurship Unit, DG GROW

Questions & answers from the audience via an interactive tool to speakers and to feed into a roundtable expert discussions. Panellists include:

- Martin Kern, Director of European Institute of Innovation and Technology (tbc)
- Lukas Nögel, 'go-cluster' German cluster excellence programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany
- Jean-Luc Beylat, President, AFPC - Association Française des Pôles de Compétitivité
- Cristina Múgica, specialist in regional development, Mondragon Corporation, Spain

Interactive table discussion, where participants will share their experiences. Some discussions will be hosted, among others, by Peter Wostner, Government office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Republic of Slovenia; Peter Keller, Head of Unit, International and Cluster Unit, Ministry for National Economy of Hungary, Luigi Martignetti, Secretary General, REVES AISBL; Francisco Álvarez, Director-General of Economy and Entrepreneurship, Region of Valencia, member of the High Level Group of the Interreg iEER project

**11:30 – 13:00 Session 3: "Co-Creation" of new approaches to boost strategic inter-regional collaboration**

This interactive session explores new approaches and ideas for strategic interregional collaboration and cluster partnerships and how to support them. Participants will have the opportunity to co-create and design proposals for future post-2020 under the new Multiannual Financial Framework for interregional collaboration through clusters.

**13:00 – 14:00 Buffet lunch and gallery walk**

Opportunity to look at graphic results and discussion templates and speak to experts of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change, JRC S3 platform, Single Market Service Centre, Watify, IVACE Invest-CV, Technology Centres Network REDIT, EU Interact Office for Southern Europe

**14:00– 15:00 Session 4:"Reality Check" for new implementation approaches**

One-minute presentations and smart voting on the outputs of the "Co-Creation" session followed by a panel discussion that provides feed-back on the proposals. Panellists include:

- Jerzy Buzek, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy(tbc)
- Sławomir Tokarski, Director for Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, DG GROW, European Commission
- Fernando Valdés, Deputy Director General for industrial digitalisation and collaborative spaces, Spanish Ministry for Economy, Industry and Competitiveness
- Daría Terradez, Director General for EU Affairs, Valencia Regional Government
- Cluster manager (tbc)

**15:00 – 15:30 Closing comments by Allan Mayo and Dorte Kusk and conference video: The joint road to delivery**

**15:30 – 16:00 Spanish fare-well drink**

**16:00 – 17:00 Smart networking opportunities**

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<http://ec.europa.eu/grow-your-region>

[grow-your-region-2017@ec.europa.eu](mailto:grow-your-region-2017@ec.europa.eu)

Interactive tool during the event at [www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com) - enter #GROW

