

Cluster Policy Toolkit

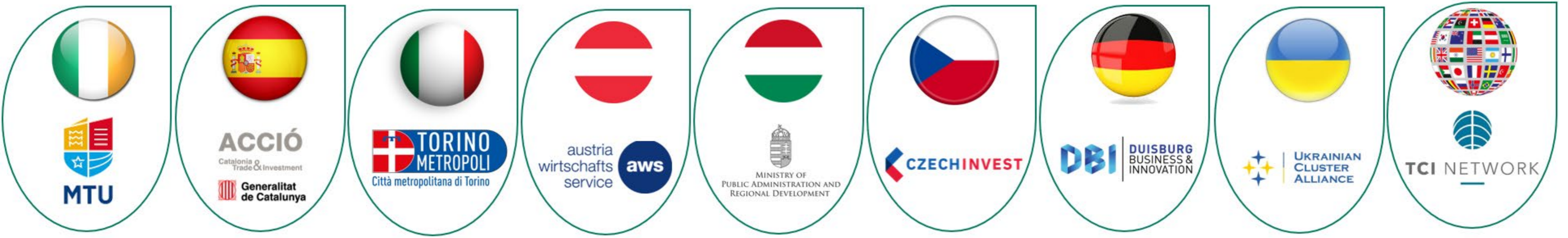
Accelerating Transition through EU's Cluster Policies

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Accelerate GDT is collaboratively updating and advancing national and regional cluster policies across Europe to include supports to ensure that SMEs can collaboratively take steps towards Europe's digital and green transition targets.

4-year Interreg Europe Funded Project - 01 Mar 2023 to 31 May 2027 – 8 Partners and the collaboration of the TCI Network



Q1 Is public policy evolving to incorporate a transformative agenda through public-private collaboration?

- Clustering of industry is negatively correlated with key dimensions of green performance and positively correlated with key dimensions of digital performance, due to the concentration of industry in the same geography (Wilson, J, 2023). However, there is an opportunity for cluster organisations to have a key impact as they are built on cooperative dynamics, clusters provide solid foundations for supporting transformative policy initiatives.
- The European Expert Group on Clusters highlight the use of clusters as drivers of change, accelerators and enablers of the digital and green transition through mobilising and facilitating cooperation among stakeholders in industrial ecosystems and embedding supports into local education and training structures (Pezzi, A. 2023).
- SMEs have a significant impact on the global carbon footprint, they make up over 90% of businesses worldwide and contribute between 60-70% of all CO2 emissions.

There will not be a “one size fits all” cluster policy framework for the future

Policies are becoming more:

- **Flexible and responsive** as cluster organisations are shifting and evolving
- **Connected** and more aware of big picture: policy-mix, culture within region, beyond region, across policy areas
- **Challenge focused**, guided by the broad conception of ‘competitiveness,’ but target difficult issues that require collaboration

	MTU	ACCIÓ	TORINO METROPOLI	austria wirtschafts service	aws	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	CZECHINVEST	DBI DUISBURG BUSINESS & INNOVATION	UKRAINIAN CLUSTER ALLIANCE
N/R Cluster Strategy	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Centralised Supports	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Team Size	0	13	0	5	4	4	0	0	0
Financial Supports									
• Cluster Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Travel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Collaborative Projects	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

Connect with Accelerate GDT

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/accelerategdt>



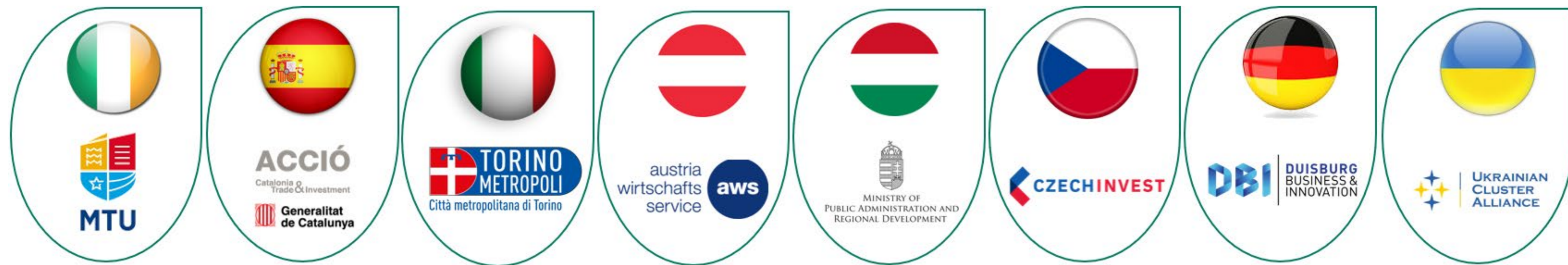
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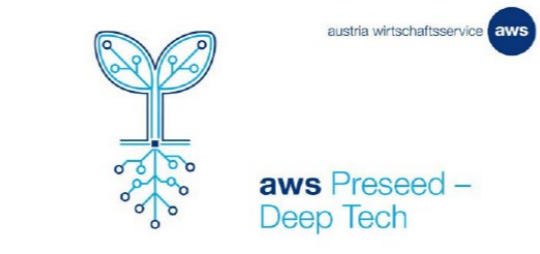



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Q2 How do the different actors in your collaborative model interact to foster transformative agendas







- Within the scope of the Accelerate GDT project each partner region, develops a stakeholder group to ensure that interregional learning does not only take place at an individual partner level, but also at ecosystem, organisational and stakeholder level. Along with partner organisations, stakeholder groups include participants from, government agencies and departments, academic institutions and cluster organisations to get a 360-degree participatory group of the triple helix engaged in clustering.
- Interreg Europe provides a good practice database, where all projects can share good practices related to their thematic area, in a pre-defined template for consistency.
- The Accelerate GDT project is sharing initiatives at our project workshops proposed by our partner regions and their local stakeholder groups which align with 4 topics.
- These good practices can serve as an inspiration to partner regions who wish to support different initiatives to drive their twin transition and include such supports within their policies.











WS 1 "SME Competitiveness and Digital Transformation," – Duisburg, Germany, June 2023

 <p>IE GP Digital Discovery</p> <p>The Digital Discovery grant is an Enterprise Ireland programme to incentivise and support Irish firms to develop a strategy for their digital transition. Support areas include digital mind-set, process flow efficiency, cybersecurity etc. Read More...</p>	 <p>ES GP DIH4CAT</p> <p>The Catalonia Digital Innovation Hub (DIH4CAT) is based on the DIH model of the European Commission. DIH4CAT is a centralised "one-stop-shop" where industry can be supported in their digital transformation efforts. Read More...</p>	 <p>IT GP METRODIGITAL</p> <p>The Metropolitan City of Turin (MCT) presents METRODIGITAL its' initiative of cooperation with the ICT Cluster to implement the digital transformation in its territory as a synonym for local development and SMEs competitiveness. Read More...</p>	 <p>AT GP Pre-seed Deep Tech</p> <p>Innovations develop in the deep tech, sustainable and sometimes in the creative and social sectors. To support Austrian start-ups in their development Austria Wirtschaftsservice provide preseed investment to fund firms on this journey. Read More...</p>	 <p>HU GP Cluster Strategy</p> <p>In the Hungarian Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme clusters play a significant role in transforming the economic environment, and accelerating government supports in sustainability, green and digital transformation. Read More...</p>	 <p>CZ GP DigiAudit</p> <p>In response to the transition to a green and digital economy, the National Centre of Industry 4.0 @ Czech Technical University decided to respond and develop a methodology "DigiAudit," to measure the digital maturity of companies. Read More...</p>	 <p>DE GP Hy.Region.Rhein.Ruhr</p> <p>The Hy.Region.Rhein.Ruhr Association, with Duisburg Business & Innovation as a founding partner is driving decarbonisation in Duisburg with local & transnational partners via the cluster to reach the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Read More...</p>
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WS2: "Initiating Green Transformation for SMEs. Cases and Challenges," – Vienna, Austria, Nov 2023

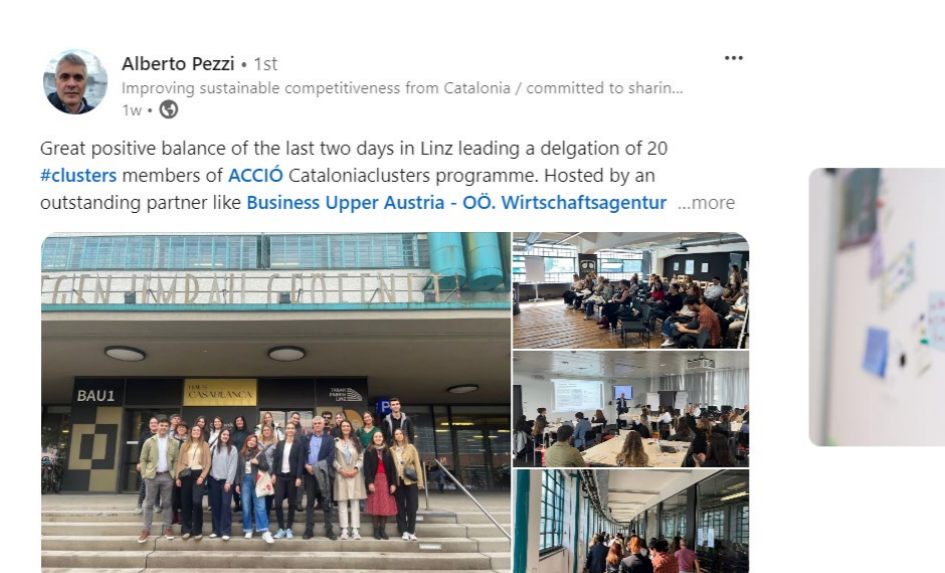



 <p>IE GP Climate Toolkit4Business</p> <p>The Government of Ireland are committed to supporting Irish SMEs and have developed with stakeholders a simple easy to use online Climate Toolkit 4 Business which provides a single point of information and support in a complex policy space. Read More...</p>	 <p>ES GP Circular Fashion Agreement</p> <p>Catalonia faces important challenges with regards to the textile sector. The first year of deployment of the Circular Fashion Agreement in Catalonia has developed several initiatives concerning shared objectives among different links of the textile value chain. Read More...</p>	 <p>IT GP Cluster of Clusters</p> <p>The Piedmont Region Innovation Ecosystem as a "cluster of clusters" was launched on 25th October 2022 with the aim of enhancing the sectorial skills acquired since 2009 by the seven regional Clusters - to support their own sectors and the whole region. Read More...</p>	 <p>AT GP aws Deep Tech Funding</p> <p>Start-ups develop in preseed and seed stages. Innovations are often made in the deep tech sector and can be linked to sustainability. There is a funding system that covers the preseed and seed stage for (sustainable) deep-tech solutions at aws. Read More...</p>	 <p>HU GP Green Champions</p> <p>The Government of Hungary's priority is to support the development of high-growth manufacturing enterprises related to the green economy and industry supporting technology change. Green National Champions applicant registration. Read More...</p>	 <p>CZ GP RESIST Innovation Open Call</p> <p>The RESIST Innovation Open Call provides detailed information about a specific practice aimed at supporting European SMEs, start-ups, and mid-cap companies in the Mobility, Transport, and Automotive (MTA) ecosystem. Read More...</p>	 <p>DE GP Circular Rhine-Ruhr</p> <p>Rasmus C. Beck, Director of Duisburg Business & Innovation GmbH, showcases the newly founded Circular Rhine-Ruhr network, which is actively promoting the circular economy in the region to increase resource efficiency and eliminate waste reduction. Read More...</p>
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WS3: "Cluster Policy: Challenges and Actions to Support SDGs," – Turin, Italy, June 2024

 <p>IE GP Dreambig Talent Attraction</p> <p>Manufacturing SMEs share challenges around talent shortages which impact their ability to grow and scale. Dreambig is an industry-driven initiative aimed at inspiring, engaging, and supporting young people to pursue careers in advanced manufacturing. Read More...</p>	 <p>ES GP Sustainable Clustering</p> <p>Catalonia's packaging cluster is aligning its work with 5 of the UN's SDGs through different actions such as training plans, innovative projects, and an online platform to measure the environmental impact of members packaging products. Read More...</p>	 <p>IT GP Sustainable Innovation</p> <p>Metropolitan City of Turin presents, through the Vortex start-up case study, the role of the Piedmontese innovation ecosystem in supporting an innovative entrepreneurial project with an environmental vocation, which contributes to SDGs. Read More...</p>	 <p>AT GP Green IP Supports</p> <p>The Austrian government, in collaboration with Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws), continues to bolster its support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on sustainable innovations through its "Green IP" program. Read More...</p>	 <p>HU GP Digital Skills Improvement</p> <p>After the launch of the Digital Success Programme (2016-2020), Hungary developed a new Digital Education Strategy to address education and skills development at all levels to enhance the basic digital skills necessary for the labour market. Read More...</p>	 <p>CZ GP ESG - ENVI Scan</p> <p>To tackle ESG reporting, primarily in the automotive industry, the Czech Autoklaster developed ENVI Scan and subsequent recommendations to provide a structured approach to addressing mandatory ESG reporting challenges. Read More...</p>	 <p>DE GP Garage DU Start-up</p> <p>Est'd. in 2022, Garage DU is Duisburg's premier startup hub and with the support of local partners has been making significant strides in the innovation sector. At 2024's Pitch & Match, 30 startups from 9 countries were matched to tackle 17 key challenges. Read More...</p>	 <p>UA GP ESG Cluster Hub</p> <p>The goal of ESG Cluster Hub is to empower Industrial Clusters and SMEs with data space and digital services so as to develop a digital solution for data value creation that drives and accelerates the transition of industrial SMEs to a low-carbon economy. Read More...</p>
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WS4: "Cluster Managers Role in Cross-Cluster GDT Collaboration," – Budapest, Hungary, Jan 2025

Peer review learning has also been utilised in the Accelerate GDT with collaborative learning between regions at a policy level

 <p>TCI Peer Review for a new Cluster Policy and Strategy in Ireland. July 2024.</p>	 <p>Alberto Pezzi - IST Improving sustainable competitiveness from Catalonia / committed to sharein...</p> <p>Great positive balance of the last two days in Linz leading a delegation of 20 #clusters members of ACCIO Catalunai clusters programme. Hosted by an outstanding partner like Business Upper Austria - OO. Wirtschaftsentwick...</p>	 <p>Interreg Europe Co-funded by the European Union</p> <p>Apply for a peer review Submit your peer review application today and find solutions to your policy challenge with our experts and peers!</p> <p>Apply now</p>	 <p>TCI NETWORK TCI CLUSTER POLICY WORKSHOP Clusters beyond policies.</p> <p>REGISTER NOW 6-7 June 2024 Linz, Austria</p>	 <p>Leading industrial transition Two Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform workshops</p> <p>6-7 November 2024 In person Bilbao, Spain</p> <p>Register</p>
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