



ClusterXchange

#ClusterXchange | #EUCluster | #ECCP

An initiative of
the European Union





For cluster members
who want to...



Acquire new
skills



Improve their
services



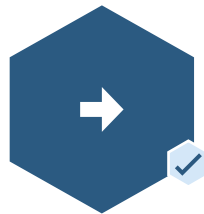
Create
innovative ideas



Find new
partners



Internationalise



And more

ClusterXchange

What is ClusterXchange?

ClusterXchange is a programme for short-term exchanges between actors member of a cluster within a similar or from different industrial ecosystems. ClusterXchange is funded by the European Union and aims to facilitate transnational cooperation, learning, networking and innovation-oriented activities between the participants.

Who runs ClusterXchange?

ClusterXchange is implemented by the European Cluster Partnerships | Excellence (Partnerships) , with the support of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

15 Partnerships will implement the Excellence programme from January 2022 until January 2024, bringing together 78 cluster organisations from 23 different COSME participating countries across 9 different industrial ecosystems.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform assists in the execution of the programme by providing:

- ✓ a dedicated ClusterXchange Support Office for general information and guidance on participation in ClusterXchange. The Support Office also supports the Partnerships in their tasks and in communication activities.
- ✓ a CXC IT Tool that aids Partnerships in the implementation of the programme.




What is an exchange?

An exchange in ClusterXchange constitutes a stay abroad by a Visiting Organisation (Visitor) at a Host Organisation (Host) to explore collaboration and growth opportunities.




The Partnerships financially contribute to exchanges by providing a lump sum to Visiting Organisations to cover part of their travel and accommodation expenses for the stay. An exchange can be minimum three working days and maximum one month executed consecutively, excluding travel time. All exchanges must be encoded in the CXC IT Tool by the Partnership.

Who can participate in ClusterXchange?

You can participate as a VISITOR if you are

-  A cluster or similar business network organisation
-  A scaling-up support organisation (technology centre, research institute, fab-lab, resource-efficiency service provider, [digital] innovation hub, creative hub, incubator or accelerator) that is a cluster member or
-  A small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) that is a cluster member




You can participate as a HOST if you are one of the above or:

-  A training provider that is a cluster member;
-  A large company that is a cluster member;
-  A public authority at both regional and city/administration levels that is active in a cluster.

Eligible participants must be from countries participating in the COSME programme of the European Union. These countries include all European Union Member States and other third countries, as has been listed at: <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/39579>

What can an exchange entail?

The activities to be implemented during the exchange will be defined during the exchange preparation phase in the form of an action plan agreed upon by the Visitor and the Host. These may include:

-  Individual or grouped capacity building provided to visitors
-  Sharing of knowledge, experience and information in specific areas
-  Project development, innovation and research
-  Market research
-  Networking, identification of new partners and creation of business opportunities



ClusterXchange | Hosts

As a host, you are the non-travelling party of the exchange. Hosting exchanges will allow you to receive short visits of foreign cluster members that are active in business areas relevant to your organisation.

The Partnership of your choice will be by your side to guide you during the preparation, implementation and finalisation of the exchanges. With their support, you have the freedom to design the exchange, focusing on your needs and the competences that you can offer to Visitors during the exchange.

How will hosts benefit from ClusterXchange?

Hosting an exchange will allow you to:

- ✓ Increase the visibility of your organisation, services and products in relevant communities (this exposure can be increased if you host multiple exchanges)
- ✓ Share your knowledge, experience and information in specific areas
- ✓ Expand your network of contacts and develop new cross-border partnerships
- ✓ Gain knowledge on visitors' foreign markets and develop business and collaborations with them



ClusterXchange | Visitors

As a visitor, you are the travelling party of the exchange, allowing you to visit a foreign cluster member active in business areas relevant to your organisation.

The Partnership of your choice will be by your side to guide you during the preparation, implementation and finalisation of the exchange. With their support, you have the freedom to choose the best suited exchange that best fulfils your needs (e.g. capacity-building, organisational, technological and commercial).

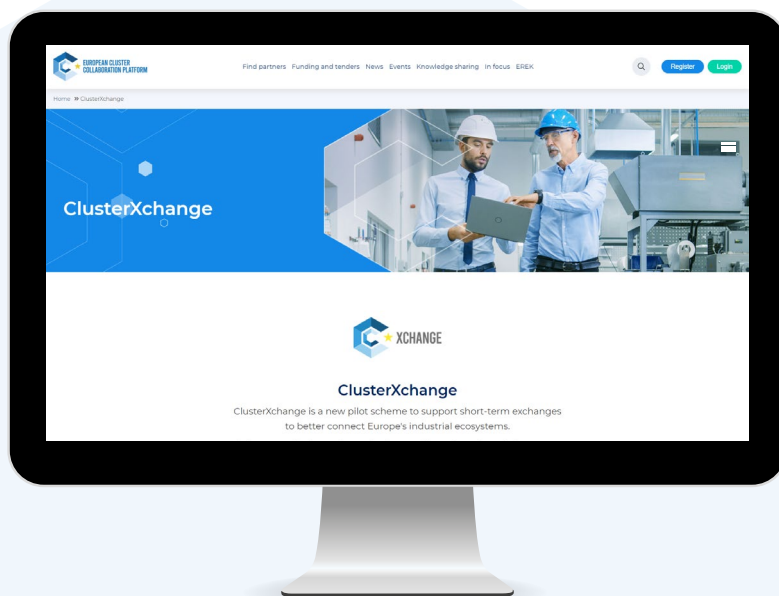
How will visitors benefit from ClusterXchange?

A stay abroad with a selected host in another participating country will allow you to:

- ✓ Broaden your sector- and non-sector specific skills and knowledge through capacity-building
- ✓ Gain insights into the operation and techniques used by your host organisation
- ✓ Expand your network of contacts and develop new cross-border partnerships
- ✓ Find innovative solutions to upgrade your business, products and services
- ✓ Create new business opportunities and get involved in new innovative projects
- ✓ Gain knowledge on foreign markets and cultures
- ✓ Benefit from financial assistance for your exchange

The ClusterXchange portal

The ClusterXchange online portal is housed in the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) website. It provides you with **access to detailed information on ClusterXchange** such as the eligibility criteria, information on how you can participate, on financial assistance stipulations for the visiting organisations, as well as background information on the Partnerships and the ClusterXchange Support Office. The CXC IT Tool is also available to the Partnerships in this portal.



You can also **sign up for news and updates** on the activities and accomplishments of the Partnerships and the ClusterXchange scheme.

To find out more, please visit the ECCP website or get in contact with the ClusterXchange Support Office via email (clusterxchange@clustercollaboration.eu)

How to be a *host* or a *visitor*? It is easy...

Eligibility



Check the profiles of the Partnerships on the ECCP webiste to see which one will be most suited to assess your application and supervise your exchange.

Contact the Partnership of your choice via email or via their exchange opportunities formulaires available on the CXC portal.

Preparation



After the Partnership has approved your expression of interest, plan your exchange with your chosen Visitor or Host with the support of your respective Partnership.

Prepare your action plan and sign the Commitment to Quality report and Financial Agreement for the exchange.

Execution



Participate in the exchange and submit a brief closing report about the exchange to your Partnership.

Finalisation



Receive your financial assistance as a Visitor of the exchange after the closing report has been accepted by your Partnership.

For further information:



Visit our website www.clustercollaboration.eu and clustercollaboration.eu/clusterxchange for detailed information on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the ClusterXchange scheme and the Partnerships.



Contact the ClusterXchange Support Office for queries and guidance at ClusterXchange@clustercollaboration.eu

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Open 10:00-14:00 (CET) Monday to Friday on working days



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