



EUROPEAN CLUSTER  
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# Country factsheet

France

An initiative of the European Union



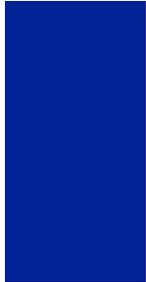


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## Introduction



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in France. Given the importance to contextualise the cluster policies (and related) analysed in the factsheets, a comprehensive outlook of the country in socioeconomic terms can be consulted in the [European Semester Country Report for France](#).

The European Semester was an instrument introduced to coordinate the EU Member States economic policies and address the economic challenges faced by the EU. Its goals are “to ensure sound public finances, to prevent excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the EU, to support structural reforms to create more jobs and growth, and to boost investment”. Thus, it focuses on the following areas: business environment; financial and fiscal stability; green economy; public administration; labour market and skills; and, social protection and cohesion.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, European as well as global economies have been subject to severe output losses. In response, policymakers at EU and national level have acted decisively and at short notice to make available very significant financial resources, notably through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, to tackle the threat of a prolonged downturn. [National recovery and resilience plans](#) have been drafted in each Member State to ensure a recovery that addresses the challenges identified in the European Semester. In France, clusters have acted as a partner in drafting the plan and setting the strategic priorities<sup>1</sup> although they are not directly mentioned in the National recovery and resilience plan. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine has also taken its toll on EU companies and industrial ecosystems, highlighting the significance of policy efforts in supporting SMEs and clusters.

The [ERDF Partnership Agreement 2021-2027](#) in France refers to clusters. To boost the creation of jobs in SMEs, clusters are supported as intermediary structure to strengthen research and innovation capacities in France by organising and animating group of enterprises and regional sectors.

In the following, a succinct overview of the cluster policy in France will be provided. The structure of this factsheet generally encompasses:

- 1) an overview of the industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape in France
- 2) an overview of the national cluster policy,
- 3) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

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<sup>1</sup> ECCP (2020). Clusters in the National Recovery Plans: France. Available at: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/news/clusters-national-recovery-plans-france> (last access 27.01.2023).

01

# Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape



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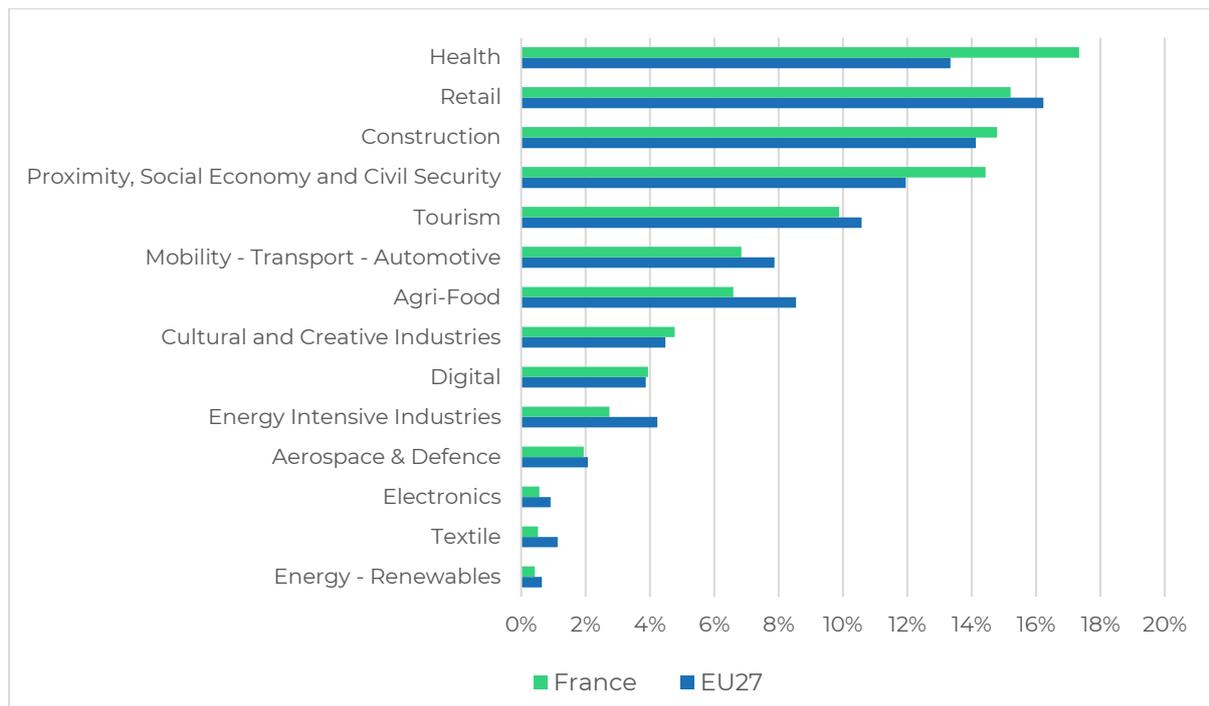
# 1. Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape

## Employment in the 14 ecosystems in the country

As part of its Industrial Strategy (March 2020), the European Commission has selected 14 industrial ecosystems that are particularly relevant in Europe and encompass all players operating in a value chain.<sup>2</sup> The classification of the 14 industrial ecosystems have been calculated by aggregating NACE 2 -digit activities, following the methodology established in the European Commission.<sup>3</sup>

In the following figure, the employment share of France and the EU27 in each industrial ecosystem is shown relative to the number of employed persons in the 14 industrial ecosystems. The ecosystems are ordered, from top to bottom, according to the amount of employment in the country. When the bar for the country is higher than that of the EU27, it indicates that the country is more specialised in that ecosystem. Here, the three main ecosystems by employment for France are “Health”, “Retail” and “Construction. France has employment shares higher than the EU27 average in the industrial ecosystems “Health”, “Construction” and “Proximity, Social Economy and Civil Security” which indicates the relative strength of the country in those industrial ecosystems.

**Figure 1: Employment in the ecosystems**



Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

<sup>2</sup> see here for more information <https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/industrial-ecosystems> (last access 09.01.2023).

<sup>3</sup> see European Commission (2021): Annual Single Market Report, SWD(2021)351.



## Regionally relevant nodes (agglomerations)

Economic activity, and therefore employment, is not equally distributed in all regions. Specialisation can be measured through Location Quotients (LQ) that reflect the relative specialisation of an activity in a region compared to the EU average. If the LQ for a given activity-region combination is above 1.5, it is considered a specialisation node, and if the activity accounts for at least 1 % of total employment in the region, it is considered regionally relevant.<sup>4</sup> The following tables shows the total number of regionally relevant specialisation nodes (agglomerations) in each region in the country and identifies the top five most specialised of these nodes. The first table focuses on the 88 NACE 2-digit activities or sectors, totalling 91 in the country, while the second table is based on the 14 ecosystems, which total 11 in the country.

**Table 1: Number of regionally relevant sectoral nodes and Top 5 nodes by region (NACE)**

Region	Number of nodes	Node 1	Node 2	Node 3	Node 4	Node 5
<b>FR1: Île-de-France</b>	15	J61 - Telecommunications	H53 - Postal and courier activities	J58 - Publishing activities	N77 - Rental and leasing activities	N80 - Security and investigation activities
<b>FRB: Centre-Val de Loire</b>	4	C27 - Manufacture of electrical equipment	N78 - Employment activities	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	G45 - Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	
<b>FRC: Burgundy-Franche-Comté</b>	2	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	C25 - Manufacture of fabricated metal products			
<b>FRD: Normandy</b>	4	C10 - Manuf. of food products	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	N81 - Services to buildings and landscape activities	G47 - Retail trade	
<b>FRE: Hauts-de-France</b>	5	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	N80 - Security and investigation activities	G47 - Retail trade	N82 - Office administrative, office support, etc.	N81 - Services to buildings and landscape activities
<b>FRF: Grand Est</b>	2	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	N78 - Employment activities			
<b>FRG: Loire Region</b>	3	C10 - Manuf. of food products	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	N78 - Employment activities		
<b>FRH: Brittany</b>	5	J58 - Publishing activities	C20 - Manuf. of chemicals and chemical products	N81 - Services to buildings and landscape activities	C10 - Manuf. of food products	Q88 - Social work without accommodation
<b>FRI: New Aquitaine</b>	1	Q88 - Social work without accommodation				
<b>FRJ: Occitania</b>	1	Q88 - Social work without accommodation				
<b>FRK: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes</b>	3	N78 - Employment activities	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	G45 - Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles		
<b>FRL: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur</b>	4	N81 - Services to buildings and landscape activities	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	H52 - Warehousing and support	L68 - Real estate activities	

<sup>4</sup> for more information on the methodology please see the methodology note: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/policy-acceleration/country-factsheets-on-cluster-policies-and-programmes> (last access 09.01.2023).



				activities for transportation		
<b>FRM: Corsica</b>	3	F43 - Specialised construction act.	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	I55 - Accommodation		
<b>FRY1: Guadeloupe</b>	8	H51 – Air transport	N77 – Rental and leasing activities	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	E38 – Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities	N81 – Services to buildings and landscape activities
<b>FRY2: Martinique</b>	7	N80 - Security, investigation activities	G45-Trade & repair of motor vehicles	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	E38 – Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities	O84 – Public administration and defence
<b>FRY3: French Guiana</b>	7	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	N80 - Security, investigation activities	E38 – Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities	O84 – Public administration and defence	Q87 – Residential care activities
<b>FRY4: Réunion</b>	4	Q87 – Residential care activities	S94 – Activities of membership organisations	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	O84 – Public administration and defence	
<b>FRY5: Mayotte</b>	13	H52 – Warehousing and support activities for transportation	Q88 - Social work without accommodation	S94 – Activities of membership organisations	R90 – Creative, arts and entertainment activities	G46 – Wholesale trade

Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

Overall, there are fewer numbers of ecosystem nodes compared to the regionally relevant sectoral nodes by NACE sectors. This more concentrated agglomeration can at least partially be linked to the methodology of measurement of the 14 industrial ecosystems. Additionally, particularly the ecosystem nodes shown in Table 2 are heavily skewed towards small regions with a less diversified economy due to the methodology used.

Looking at the results, the capital region of Île-de-France (FR1) shows an ecosystem node in Digital industries which relates to the NACE node in telecommunications (J61). Likewise, the Energy-Renewables ecosystem node in Centre-Val de Loire (FRB) re-emerges in the NACE nodes as a clear emphasis on the manufacture of electrical equipment (C27). The ecosystem nodes shown for the French overseas regions are the methodological relicts of small, little diversified regional economies. Compared to Germany (14) and Italy (20), metropolitan France shows therefore a markedly smaller number of industrial ecosystem nodes.

**Table 2: Regionally relevant ecosystem nodes**

Region	Number of ecosystem nodes	Node 1	Node 2
<b>FR1: Île-de-France</b>	1	Digital	-
<b>FRB: Centre-Val de Loire</b>	1	Energy - Renewables	-
<b>FRC: Burgundy-Franche-Comté</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRD: Normandy</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRE: Hauts-de-France</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRF: Grand Est</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRG: Loire Region</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRH: Brittany</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRI: New Aquitaine</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRJ: Occitania</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRK: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRL: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur</b>	0	-	-



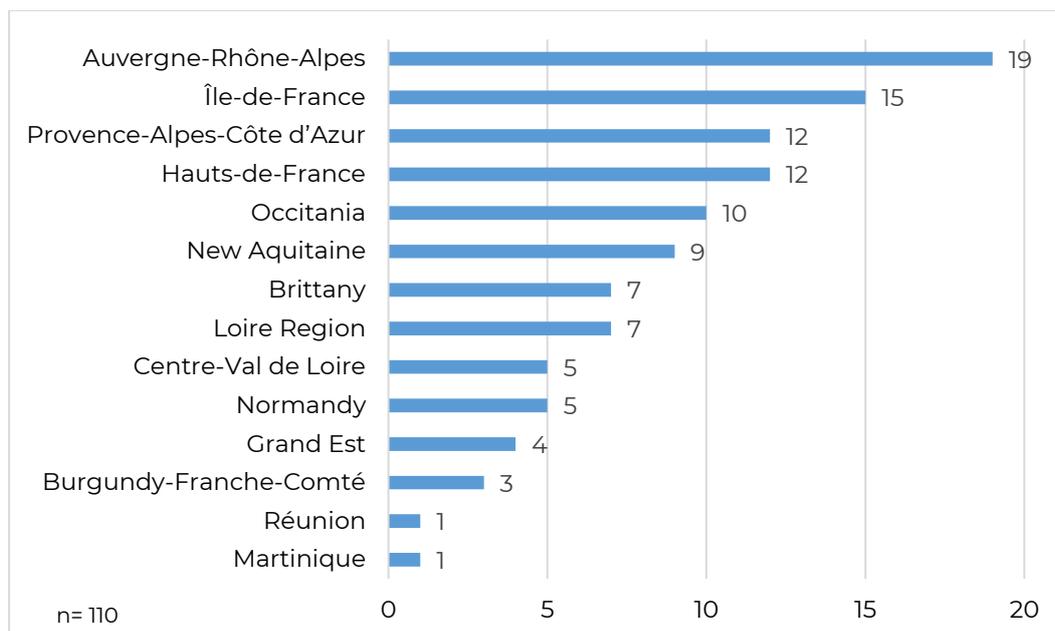
<b>FRM: Corsica</b>	0	-	-
<b>FRY1: Guadeloupe</b>	1	Health	-
<b>FRY2: Martinique</b>	2	Aerospace & Defence	Health
<b>FRY3: French Guiana</b>	2	Health	Proximity, Social economy and Civil Security
<b>FRY4: Réunion</b>	2	Health	Proximity, Social economy and Civil Security
<b>FRY5: Mayotte</b>	2	Health	Proximity, Social economy and Civil Security

Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

## Cluster organisations in the regions

There are 110 cluster organisations registered on the ECCP coming from France, 19 of which are located in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. 15 cluster organisations are based in Île-de-France. Among the three regions with the most cluster organisations registered on the ECCP are also Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Hauts-de-France with both 12 cluster organisations. The following figure shows the presence of cluster organisations in the different regions.

**Figure 2: Cluster organisations profiled on the ECCP**



Source: ECCP (2022). Note: the data for the analysis was extracted on 14/10/2022

SMEs (74%, EU: 84%) followed by large enterprises (17%, EU: 9%) and research organisations (12%, EU: 7%) constitute the majority of member organisations of French cluster organisations with profiles on the ECCP. From a thematic perspective, these French cluster organisations are operating in the following industrial ecosystems. Since not all cluster organisations on the ECCP provided this information, the number of cluster organisations with an allocated industrial ecosystem is lower than the overall number of cluster organisations in the country.

- Aerospace & Defence (9 cluster organisations)
- Digital (8 cluster organisation)



- Agri-food (7 cluster organisations)
- Health (7 cluster organisations)
- Renewable Energy (5 cluster organisations)
- Mobility-Transport-Automotive (4 cluster organisations)
- Construction (3 cluster organisations)
- Textile (2 cluster organisations)
- Creative & Cultural Industries (1 cluster organisation)
- Energy Intensive Industries (1 cluster organisation)
- Tourism (1 cluster organisation)

# 02

## National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives



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## 2. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives

In this section we provide an overview of the existing French cluster policy on the national level.

The breakdown is presented in the form of a table, with the first column showcasing information on the aspects which constitute the policy (beginning with 'Policy Objectives', following with 'Policy Focus', etc.). The second column represents the case of the French national cluster policy. As no independent regional cluster policy exists in France, no regional example is showcased. Within the table the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2022), which are applied for comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights about the cluster policy in France.

While the Competitiveness Cluster Policy is generally considered a 'national' cluster policy, it is important to note how it is implemented at the regional level in France. Hereby, each region is responsible for managing and coordinating the clusters in its respective territory, as regional agencies standing out as key actors in this process. The involvement of French regions in the Competitiveness Cluster Policy is crucial to its success, as it allows for a coordinated and tailored approach to economic development in the distinct regions of France.

Policy type:	National cluster policy
Policy name:	Competitiveness Cluster Policy (Pôle de compétitivité)
<b>POLICY OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>Enhancing the visibility of clusters</b> <b>Fostering R&amp;D activities, technology development and implementation</b> <b>Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems</b> <b>Supporting cluster excellence and professionalisation of cluster management</b> <b>Strengthening the network of cluster organisations/cross-clustering</b>



Policy type:	National cluster policy
Policy name:	Competitiveness Cluster Policy (Pôle de compétitivité)
	<p>France has had a national cluster policy since 2004. The previous phases targeted mainly R&amp;D industrialisation and innovation support. The policy is now in its fourth phase (2019-2022), focusing on cluster collaboration, involvement in European projects (Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe) and promotion of cluster excellence.</p> <p>The policy of the Enterprise clusters (“Grappes d’entreprises”) initiated in 2009 aimed to complement the Competitiveness clusters policy. It was specifically targeted at micro and small companies in sectors with low R&amp;D uptake, that are less represented in competitiveness clusters (food industry, textile, metallurgy, naval construction, etc.). The Enterprise clusters policy terminated in 2014.</p>
<b>POLICY FOCUS</b> 	<p><b>No specific focus</b></p> <p>The policy does not focus on any specific sector, the main target group is innovative SMEs.</p>
<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>  <b>AUTHORITIES</b>	<p><b>Drafting and implementation</b></p> <p>The Ministry of the Economy and Finance is in charge of drafting and implementing the national cluster policy. Funding used to be provided by the State (via a special fund – the FUI, and its regional antennas - DIRECCTE), the regions and local authorities, and the private sector. The State renewed its support and its contribution to the funding of clusters alongside those of the regions, for the next four years (2023-2026)</p> <p>The State is supported by different partners to support cluster organisations and cluster members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bpifrance and Caisse des Dépôts, the public investment banks; ANR, the state research agency;</li> <li>• Different regional agencies depending on the regions. The Enterprise clusters policy was initiated by the Ministry of Territorial Development and implemented by the Interministerial Delegation for Territorial Development and Regional Attractiveness (DATAR).</li> </ul> <p>France Clusters is the umbrella organisation supporting all types of cluster organisations, cluster members and territories in the implementation of cluster-related projects. It provides training and advice, mentorship, help for internationalisation, organises events and forums to exchange practices, etc. It is co-financed by the State, public investment banks (Caisse des Dépôts and Banque des Territoires), the European Union and some French regions (Nouvelle Aquitaine and Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur).</p>



Policy type:	National cluster policy	
Policy name:	Competitiveness Cluster Policy (Pôle de compétitivité)	
	<p>With the Competitiveness Clusters Policy implemented differently across regions, one can cite exemplary case of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. As the framework of the overarching French national cluster policy is drafted and overseen by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, partnerships are fostered with regional and local authorities for the further funding and implementation on a local level.</p> <p>Hereby, the regional agency of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes ("Clusters et réseaux d'entreprises" Clusters and business networks [in Auvergne- Rhône-Alpes]) is responsible for managing and coordinating said initiative, including the setting up of new financial instruments for different parts of the region. This specifically involves public-private capital funds in the form of providing risk capital to startups, in a bid to ward off foreign investment. A further example is that of seed capital funds which support industrial clusters by metropolises of Lyon and Saint-Étienne.</p>	
<p><b>BENEFICIARIES</b></p> 	<p><b>SMEs</b></p> <p><b>Cluster organisations</b></p> <p><b>Research organisations</b></p> <p><b>Academic institutions</b></p> <p><b>Start-ups</b></p> <p><b>Large firms</b></p> <p><b>Technology centres</b></p> <p>Funding and technical support channelled through this policy is provided to cluster organisations and their members, i.e. enterprises (large and small), research organisations, academic institutions focused on technology and technology centres, etc.</p>	
<p><b>INSTRUMENTS</b></p> 	Financial	<p><b>Support to R&amp;D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc.</b></p> <p><b>Application to labelling schemes and similar initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Subsidies to hire personnel</b></p> <p><b>Subsidies for cluster infrastructure (e.g. offices, equipment)</b></p>



Policy type:		National cluster policy
Policy name:		Competitiveness Cluster Policy (Pôle de compétitivité)
	Technical assistance	<p><b>Support for hard skill development: knowledge transfer, intellectual property, entrepreneurship, export advice, market intelligence</b></p> <p><b>Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling</b></p> <p><b>Support for networking and partnership building (at national and/or international level)</b></p>
	Explanation	Funding covers administrative spending of cluster organisations (in staff, office space, office supplies, etc.), and project funding for their members. Since 2018, cluster organisations can apply via the Ministry of the Economy for a quality label. As regards non-financial support, the Ministry organises trainings for hard and soft skills such as cybersecurity, supports the clusters' professionalization and excellence, and provides support to internationalisation to cluster organisation and their members.
<b>HISTORY</b> 	Period	<b>Limited period</b>
	Ending year <i>(for policies with limited period)</i>	2026 (fifth phase of the Competitiveness clusters) 2015 (Enterprise clusters)
	Starting year	2023 (fifth phase of the Competitiveness clusters)
	Explanation	The first French Competitiveness cluster policy was launched in 2004. Since then, four phases have taken place: phase 1 (2005-2008), phase 2 (2009-2012), phase 3 (2013-2018), phase 4 (2019-2022). The fifth phase will start in 2023 and will last until 2026. The policy is evaluated between each phase.



Policy type:		National cluster policy
Policy name:		Competitiveness Cluster Policy (Pôle de compétitivité)
		The Enterprise clusters Policy initiated 2009 and ended 2015. The policy was evaluated in 2014.
<b>BUDGET</b> 	<b>Overall</b>	No data available
	<b>Annual</b>	No data available
	<b>Source of funding</b>	Private sector, State, and regions.
<b>POLICY EVALUATION</b> 	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Ex-post</b>
	<b>Results</b>	<p>All previous cluster policies have been evaluated. According to the last evaluation conducted in 2017, there are 71 competitiveness cluster organisations with 100 to 600 members per cluster (enterprises, research organisations, academic institutions focused on technology and technology centres), 20-50 projects within each cluster. Overall, the Competitiveness clusters policy has had positive effects on the auto-financing of R&amp;D activities and employment of the business members of cluster organisations. However, the effect on export, turnover and productivity is more limited.</p> <p>A study on the French cluster policy was conducted in 2021-2022, but the results have not been published at the moment of elaboration of the factsheet (November 2022).</p> <p>The evaluation of the Enterprise clusters policy, carried out in 2014, was also positive. The policy generated the creation of 261 start-ups, and the implementation of 186 enterprises in the territories. 40% of cluster members had seen an increase in their turnover. However, the level of auto-financing was very low and many of them could not sustain the withdrawal of State funding in 2015.</p>
<b>POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU PRIORITIES</b> 		<b>Green economy</b> <b>Digitalisation</b> <b>Resilience</b>

Source: ECCP (2022)

# 03

## State of play of cluster policy



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### 3. State of play of cluster policy

This section presents an overview on the state of play of French cluster policy in the form of a quantitative and qualitative assessment. The data below illustrates how the country ranks in terms of **maturity of cluster policy at the national level**. The maturity assessment is based on a combination of factors presented in Chapter 2, which receive a score based on the existence or absence of a given element in the cluster policy.

Note: the maturity assessment does not reflect the performance of a country, but only the degree of development of their national cluster policy at the moment of data collection (Q3 2022). The assessment illustrates how the country scores for each of the four criteria (policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, cluster support instruments) compared to the maximum score that they can reach. Please refer to the **Annex** for the detailed overview of the categories and the scoring system.

The table below presents an overview of the **maturity assessment for France** for 2022. The total score of France is 8 points out of 8.

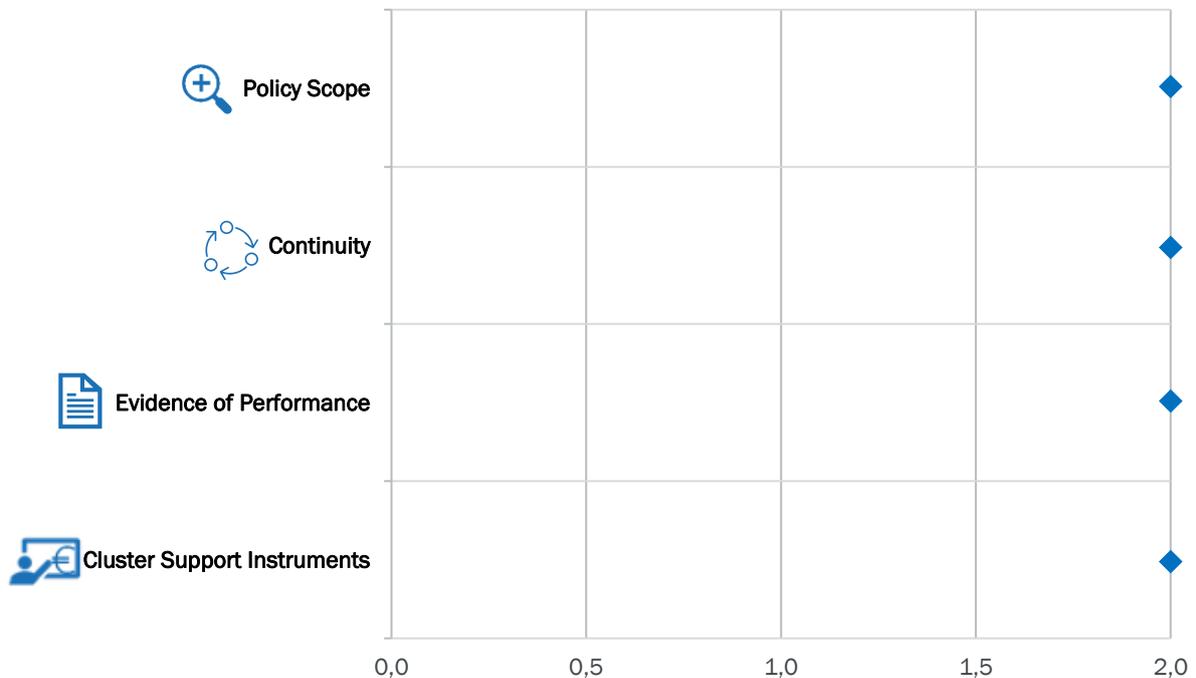
France	MATURITY ASSESSMENT	Max score	Actual score
<b>POLICY SCOPE</b>	Absence of cluster policy	0	
	Broad policy	0,5	
	Sectoral policy	1	
	National and/or regional cluster policy	2	<b>2</b>
<b>CONTINUITY</b>	No cluster-specific policy available	0	
	Cluster policy established recently	0,5	
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years	1	
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago	2	<b>2</b>
<b>EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE</b>	No evaluation and / or monitoring available	0	
	Existence of evaluations of past policies	0,5	
	Existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation	1	
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation	2	<b>2</b>
<b>CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS</b>	No instruments for cluster development	0	
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy	0,5	
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	1	
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	2	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL (8)</b>			<b>8</b>

Source: ECCP (2022)



Drawing from the table above that showcases the scored points in France's cluster policy, the Figure below portrays the **degree of maturity** across four categories related to the national level cluster policy.

**Figure 3: Maturity of cluster policy - France**



Source: ECCP (2022)

The text below provides a **qualitative description** of the state of play of the cluster policy in France, which is complementary to the maturity assessment presented above.

### **Policy scope**

The French *pôles de compétitivité* as part of the French national cluster policy are development clusters initiated and supported by the French ministry of economic affairs. The *pôles de compétitivité* are governed by representatives of national institutions located in all regions. Up to October 2022, a total 54 *pôles de compétitivité* exist and are located in all French regions. They accompany around 2000 innovation projects in which around 7,5 billion euro have been in total invested. The *pôles de compétitivité* interact with the various players in this ecosystem (including players from the French "Investissements d'Avenir" program, regional innovation and development agencies, public and private incubators, consular networks, and regional and foreign clusters), with a view to co-constructing conditions conducive to innovation. The goal for clusters is to forge cross-partnerships with these players around collaborative R&D projects and to enhance their offer to companies.

### **Continuity**

The first French *pôles de compétitivité (FCC)* were launched in 2004 aiming at the strengthening of industrial potential in France. Since then, the *pôles de compétitivité* have been further evolved. In 2019, the French government decided to further regionalise the policy on the *pôles de compétitivité* meaning that the regions became the main contact for clusters while the state still relies on the *pôles de compétitivité* as important parts on the national and industrial policy. The ongoing fourth phase



(2019-2022) focuses on the European dimension and aims at bringing more French stakeholders in European collaborative projects, mostly of the Horizon Europe programme. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the fifth phase of the pôles de compétitivité will start. In the fifth phase, the competitiveness clusters, with their dual national and regional and regional dimension, will focus more on their role in the proper coordination of national policies in favour of innovation, ecological and energy planning and reindustrialisation, and the strategic economic development priorities of territorial ecosystems.<sup>5</sup>

### **Evidence of performance**

All previous phases of the French cluster policy have been evaluated. The evaluation of the third phase of the Competitiveness clusters policy ending in 2017 showed mixed results. Enterprises belonging to cluster organisations (business cluster members) tend to increase the auto-financing of their R&D activities beyond public funding (3 euros spent for 1 euro of funding received). The policy has had a positive effect on employment among business cluster members. However, the effect on performance is limited: business cluster members do not export more than other enterprises, do not have a higher turnover nor a higher productivity. As a result, the fourth phase has strengthened the selection criteria in order to focus on excellence and introduced a quality label for cluster organisations. The goal is to encourage the amelioration of cluster members' performance regarding trade, turnover and productivity and strengthen international cooperation.

A study on the French cluster policy was conducted in 2021-2022, but the results have not been published at the moment of elaboration of the factsheet (November 2022).

### **Cluster support instruments**

The French ministry of economic affairs supports together with regional and local authorities the pôles de compétitivité with financial and technical support. On the one hand, they provide grants/financial aid to R&D projects (call for projects) and they give financial support to the governance structures of the pôles de compétitivité. On the other hand, since 2018, cluster organisations can apply via the Ministry of the Economy for a quality label. As regards non-financial support, the Ministry organises trainings for hard and soft skills such as cybersecurity, supports the clusters' professionalisation and excellence, and provides support to internationalisation to cluster organisation and their members.

### **Cross-regional / international cooperation**

In the 2014-2020 funding period, the European Cluster Partnerships and the INNOSUP-1 initiative have been launched by the European Commission to encourage clusters from Europe to intensify collaboration across regions and sectors. French cluster organisations have been involved in 85 consortia of the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships out of which 60 partnerships were focusing on internationalisation (ESCP-4i), 18 partnerships were on cluster management excellence (ESCP-4x) and eight on smart specialisation (ESCP-S3). Consortia partners came from 24 different EU member states (PT, DK, UK, ES, TR, RO, IT, EL, RS, NL, DE, SK, EE, BE, BG, FI, PL, CZ, IE, HU, AT, SE, SI, LT). Moreover, 35 French cluster organisations participated in the INNOSUP-1 initiative with partner organisations coming from 24 countries (IL, ES; DE, PL, DK, NL, CZ, IT, BE, SI, NO, HU, UK, SE, RO, EL, PT, IE, LT, AT, FI, CH, GR, BG).

In the 2021-2027 funding period, the Single Market Programme supports clusters as part of the Joint Cluster Initiatives (Euroclusters) for Europe's recovery. From France, 19 clusters / pôles de compétitivité are part of 18 Euroclusters with partners from 21 countries (BE, ES, GR, EE, DE, NL, PL, FI, CZ, AT, RO, IT, SE, DK, NO, PT, LV, HR, BG, HU, LT). Collectively, they cover 12 out of 14 industrial ecosystems. The industrial ecosystems "Textile" and "Proximity and Social Economy" are not covered by those Euroclusters.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the fifth phase see: <https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/files/files/aap/poles-de-competitivite/Cahier-des-charges-phase-V-poles-de-competitivite.pdf> (last accessed on 22.03.2023).

<sup>6</sup> <https://clustercollaboration.eu/euroclusters> (last accessed on 31.03.2023)

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EUROPEAN CLUSTER  
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration



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## Annex

Criterion of maturity assessment	Description	Scoring (points between 0 and 2)
<b>Policy scope</b>	assessment whether the country has a dedicated cluster policy, or cluster creation and/or development is targeted through broader policies, e.g. foreign trade policies, labour and social policies or specific sectoral policies, e.g. industrial policy tourism policies, agriculture policies	<p><b>absence of cluster policy = 0</b></p> <p><b>existence of broader policies = 0,5</b></p> <p><b>existence of specific sectoral policies = 1</b></p> <p><b>existence of targeted cluster policies = 2</b></p>
<b>Continuity of cluster policies</b>	assessment of the duration and experience of the country in carrying out cluster policies. This criterion assesses only existence of targeted cluster policies and not broader policies or sectoral policies	<p><b>absence of policies supporting cluster development = 0</b></p> <p><b>cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) = 0,5</b></p> <p><b>cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years = 1</b></p> <p><b>cluster policy established over 10 years ago = 2</b></p>
<b>Evidence of performance</b>	assessment whether there are evaluations of past and ongoing policies and a monitoring system in place. The existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms determines the degree of policy development in the country	<p><b>no evaluation and / or monitoring available = 0</b></p> <p><b>existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante = 0,5</b></p> <p><b>existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation =1</b></p> <p><b>existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation =2</b></p>
<b>Cluster Support Instruments</b>	assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	<p><b>no instruments for cluster development =0</b></p> <p><b>financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy = 0,5</b></p> <p><b>financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 1</b></p> <p><b>financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 2</b></p>

Source: ECCP (2022)