



EUROPEAN CLUSTER  
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# Country factsheet

Slovakia

An initiative of the European Union





## Contents

Introduction .....	3
1. Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape .....	5
Employment in the 14 ecosystems in the country .....	5
Regionally relevant nodes (agglomerations) .....	6
Cluster organisations in the regions .....	7
2. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives .....	10
3. State of play of cluster policy.....	16
Bibliography.....	20
Annex.....	22



## Introduction



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Slovakia. 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 Slovakia](#). The European Semester is 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented economic shock to the European and global economy. 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<sup>1</sup> to ensure a recovery that addresses the challenges identified in the European Semester. The measures of Slovakia's Recovery and Resilience Plan are built on three pillars: innovative economy, modern administration and healthy country, whereby clusters are mentioned in the national recovery and resilience plan. The Union of Slovak Clusters which is an active member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) participated in the creation of the Covid-19 Industrial Clusters Response Portal<sup>2</sup> and clusters have been included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of Slovakia<sup>3</sup>. In addition, to the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing Russian military aggression on Ukraine has also taken its toll on EU companies and industrial ecosystems, highlighting the significance of policy efforts in supporting SMEs and clusters.

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

- 1) an overview of the industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape in Slovakia,
- 2) an overview of the broad policies which provide policy interventions for the development of clusters in Slovakia,
- 3) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

<sup>1</sup> The National Recovery and Resilience Plan of Slovakia has been approved by the European Commission on 21 June 2021. The text of the Plan (in Slovak) can be found here: [https://www.planobnovy.sk/files/dokumenty/kompletny-plan\\_obnovy.pdf](https://www.planobnovy.sk/files/dokumenty/kompletny-plan_obnovy.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Únia klastrov Slovenska, ECCP vytvorila portál s cieľom pomôcť prekonať pandémiu koronavírusu COVID-19 aj v spolupráci s klastrami – Covid-19 Industrial Clusters Response Portal. Available at: <http://uksk.sk/blog/2020/04/08/eccp-vytvorila-portal-s-cielom-pomocť-prekonať-pandémiu-koronavírusu-covid-19-aj-v-spolupraci-s-klastrami-covid-19-industrial-clusters-response-portal/>.

<sup>3</sup> ECCP, Open for business: European economy, the Recovery Plan and how clusters can help. Available at: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/news/open-business-european-economy-recovery-plan-and-how-clusters-can-help>.

01

# Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape



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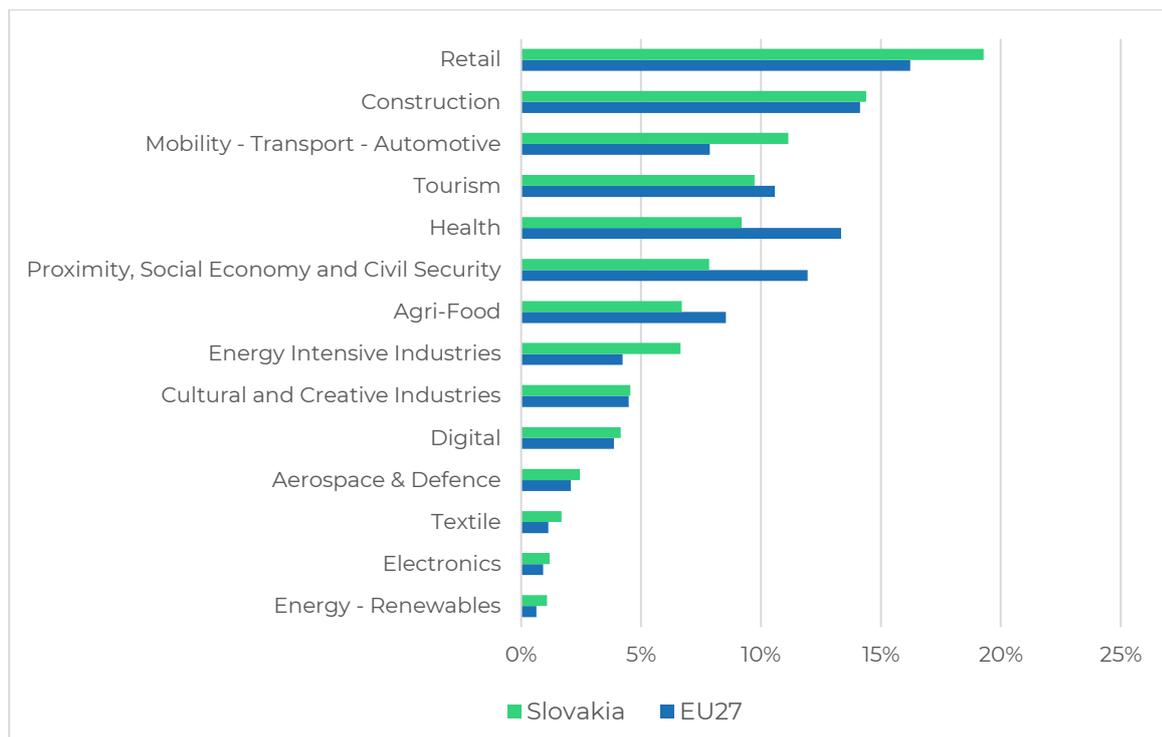
# 1. Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape

## 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>4</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>5</sup>

In the following figure, the employment share of Slovakia 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. For Slovakia, the three main ecosystems by employment are “Retail”, “Construction” and “Mobility – Transport – Automotive”. In these three sectors and also in “Energy Intensive Industries” Slovakia has employment share above the EU27 average which outlines the relative strengths of the country in those ecosystems.

**Figure 1: Employment in the ecosystems**



Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration based on data from Eurostat

<sup>4</sup> see here for more information <https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/industrial-ecosystems> (last access 09.01.2023)

<sup>5</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>6</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 34 in the country, while the second table is based on the 14 ecosystems, which total 10 in the country.

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

Region	# of nodes	Node 1	Node 2	Node 3	Node 4	Node 5
<b>SK01: Bratislava</b>	12	C29 - Manuf. of motor vehicles & trailers	N82 - Business support activities	M73 - Advertising & market research	J61 - Telecommunications	L68 - Real estate
<b>SK02: West Slovakia</b>	7	C22 - Manuf. of rubber & plastic products	C27 - Manuf. of electrical equipment	C25 - Manuf. of fabricated metal products	C29 - Manuf. of motor vehicles & trailers	C23 - Manuf. of other non-metallic mineral products
<b>SK03: Central Slovakia</b>	9	C16 - Manuf. of wood products	C24 - Manuf. of basic metals	C29 - Manuf. of motor vehicles & trailers	C25 - Manuf. of fabricated metal products	C28 - Manuf. of machinery and equipment
<b>SK04: East Slovakia</b>	6	C24 - Manuf. of basic metals	C16 - Manuf. of wood products	C25 - Manuf. of fabricated metal products	C29 - Manuf. of motor vehicles & trailers	C27 - Manuf. of electrical equipment

Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration based on data 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. The country's employment strength in the industrial ecosystem "Mobility-Transport-Automotive" (see Figure 1) is reflected in the Top 5 regionally relevant sectoral nodes of a number of different regions. This includes, for instance, the sector manufacturing of motor vehicles & trailers (C29) which is a regionally relevant sectoral node in all regions of Slovakia. For the capital region of Bratislava (SK01) this is also a regionally relevant ecosystem node. The capital region of Bratislava (SK01) is also a relevant region for digitalisation activities as supported by telecommunications (J61) as a regionally relevant sectoral node and "Digital" as a regionally relevant ecosystem node for that region. Moreover, many Slovakian regions have regionally relevant nodes in sectors such as manufacturing of rubber and plastic products (C22), manufacturing of basic metals (C24) and manufacturing of fabricated metal products (C25) which is also reflected in their regionally relevant ecosystem nodes ("Energy-intensive industries").

<sup>6</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)



**Table 2: Regionally relevant ecosystem nodes by region**

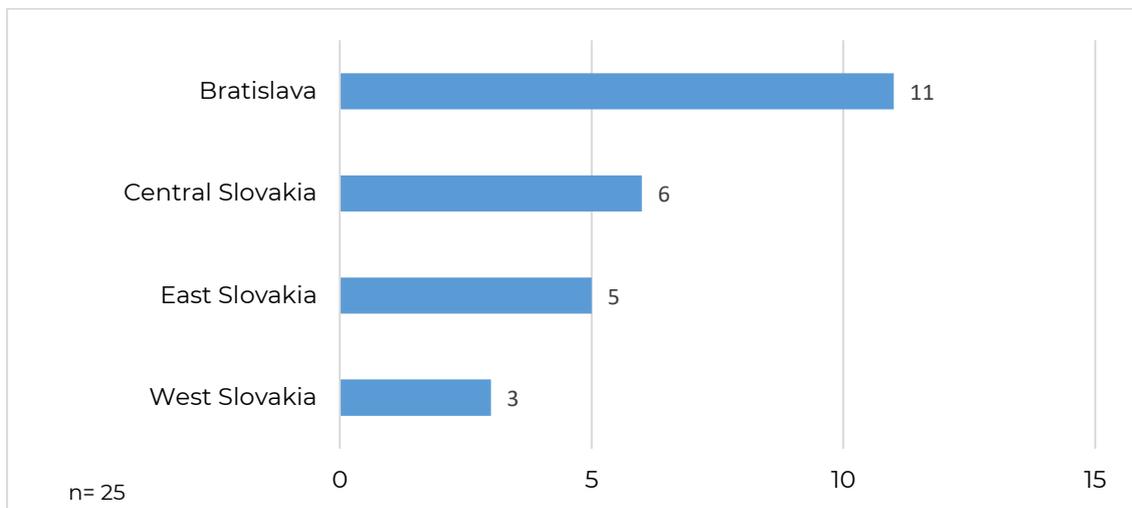
Region	Number of ecosystem nodes	Node 1	Node 2	Node 3	Node 4
<b>SK01: Bratislava</b>	2	Mobility-Transport-Automotive	Digital	-	-
<b>SK02: West Slovakia</b>	4	Energy-renewables	Textile	Electronics	Energy Intensive Industries
<b>SK03: Central Slovakia</b>	2	Energy-intensive industries	Electronics	-	-
<b>SK04: East Slovakia</b>	2	Textile	Energy-intensive industries	-	-

Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration based on data from Eurostat

## Cluster organisations in the regions

There are 25 cluster organisations registered on the ECCP in the country. The majority of these cluster organisations are located in the capital region of Bratislava (11 cluster organisations). In Central Slovakia are 6 cluster organisations, in East Slovakia 5 and in West Slovakia are 3 cluster organisations with profiles on the ECCP. The following figure shows the presence of cluster organisations in the different regions.

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



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

SMEs (77%, EU: 84%) followed by large enterprises (14%, EU: 9%) and research organisations (9%, EU:7%) constitute the majority of member organisations of Slovak cluster organisations with profiles on the ECCP. From a thematic perspective, these Slovak 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.

- Digital (8 cluster organisations)
- Creative & Cultural Industries (3 cluster organisations)
- Renewable Energy (2 cluster organisations)



- Agri-food (2 cluster organisations)
- Mobility-Transport-Automotive (2 cluster organisations)
- Energy Intensive Industries (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 cluster policies in Slovakia. 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 and third column represent the cases of broad policies in Slovakia which focus also on cluster creation and development.

Within the table the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2022), which is applied for the comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights about the cluster policy in Slovakia.

Policy type:	Broad policy	Broad policy
Policy name:	SK RIS3 2021-2027	Programme Slovakia
<b>POLICY OBJECTIVES</b> 	<b>Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors</b> <b>Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale up of SMEs</b> <b>Supporting internationalisation activities</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>Supporting the consolidation of existing cluster organisations</b> <b>Supporting the creation of new cluster organisations</b> <b>Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs</b>	<b>Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors</b> <b>Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale up of SMEs</b> <b>Supporting internationalisation activities</b> <b>Fostering R&amp;D activities, technology development and implementation</b> <b>Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems</b> <b>Supporting the creation of new cluster organisations</b> <b>Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs</b> <b>Promoting resilience and sustainable economy and other solidarity-based initiatives</b> <b>Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences</b>



Policy type:	Broad policy	Broad policy
Policy name:	SK RIS3 2021-2027	Programme Slovakia
	<p><b>Promoting resilience and sustainable economy and other solidarity-based initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences</b></p> <p><b>Strengthening the network of cluster organisations/cross-clustering</b></p>	
	SK RIS3 2021-2027 is focused on priority areas and transformation goals of defined domains - Innovative industry for 21st century, Mobility for 21st century, Digital transformation of Slovakia, Healthy population, Healthy food and environment.	Programme Slovakia is focused on 5 policy objectives: More competitive and smarter Europe; Greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy; More connected Europe by enhancing mobility; More social and inclusive Europe; Europe closer to citizens.
<b>POLICY FOCUS</b> 	<p><b>Cross-sectoral strategy</b></p> <p>Focus on 5 main domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative industry for 21st century</li> <li>• Mobility for 21st century</li> <li>• Digital transformation of Slovakia</li> <li>• Healthy population</li> <li>• Healthy food and environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cross-sectoral strategy</b></p> <p>Focus on 5 policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More competitive and smarter Europe</li> <li>• Greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy</li> <li>• More connected Europe by enhancing mobility</li> <li>• More social end inclusive Europe</li> <li>• Europe closer to citizens</li> </ul>
	<p><b>In charge of drafting</b></p> <p><b>In charge of implementation</b></p> <p><b>Provides funding</b></p> <p><b>Oversees the implementation</b></p>	<p><b>In charge of drafting</b></p> <p><b>In charge of implementation</b></p> <p><b>Provides funding</b></p> <p><b>Oversees the implementation</b></p>



Policy type:		Broad policy	Broad policy
Policy name:		SK RIS3 2021-2027	Programme Slovakia
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES</b> 		<p>The responsible authority for SK RIS3 2021-2027 is the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. For the implementation, the responsible body is the Slovak Government Council for Science, Technology and Innovations.</p>	<p>The responsible authority for Programme Slovakia is the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (in charge of drafting; oversees the implementation). In addition, bodies in charge of the implementation of Programme are both the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport.</p>
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b> 		<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>Business associations</b></p> <p><b>Large firms</b></p> <p><b>NGOs</b></p> <p><b>Technology centres</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>Business associations</b></p> <p><b>Large firms</b></p> <p><b>NGOs</b></p> <p><b>Technology centres</b></p>
<b>INSTRUMENTS</b> 	Financial	<p><b>Funding collaboration initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Support to R&amp;D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Funding collaboration initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Support to R&amp;D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc.</b></p> <p><b>Financing networking events</b></p> <p><b>Innovation: voucher, support to hire PhDs, cooperation with R&amp;I actors</b></p>



Policy type:		Broad policy	Broad policy
Policy name:		SK RIS3 2021-2027	Programme Slovakia
	Technical assistance	<p><b>Infrastructure: coworking spaces, offices, incubation and accelerator spaces, research centres, technology parks etc.</b></p> <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>	<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> <p><b>Marketing activities: advertising, communication, events, fairs</b></p>
	Explanation	The set of selected measures is focused on the support of research and innovation activities of clusters	Financial instruments will be provided in the form of start-up capital financing, guarantee schemes for the support of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as portfolio guarantee schemes in the initial stages of business.
<b>HISTORY</b> 	Period	<b>Limited period</b>	<b>Limited period</b>
	Ending year (for policies with limited period)	2027	2027
	Starting year	2021	2021



Policy type:		Broad policy	Broad policy
Policy name:		SK RIS3 2021-2027	Programme Slovakia
	<b>Explanation</b>	The strategy has been updated for the period 2021-2027	The programme has been approved in November 2022 and the activities will be implemented till 2030.
<b>BUDGET</b> 	<b>Overall</b>	N/A	12 594 000 000 EUR
	<b>Annual</b>	N/A	N/A
	<b>Source of funding</b>	Programme Slovakia (ERDF, Cohesion fund, ESF+, JTF)	ERDF, Cohesion fund, ESF+, JTF
<b>POLICY</b>  <b>EVALUATION</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; ex-post evaluation</b>	<b>Ex-ante</b>
	<b>Results</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH</b>  <b>THE EU</b>  <b>PRIORITIES</b>		<b>Green Economy</b> <b>Digitalisation</b> <b>Resilience</b>	<b>Green Economy</b> <b>Digitalisation</b> <b>Resilience</b>

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 cluster policy in Slovakia 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 Slovakia** for 2022. The total score of Slovakia is 2 point out of 8.

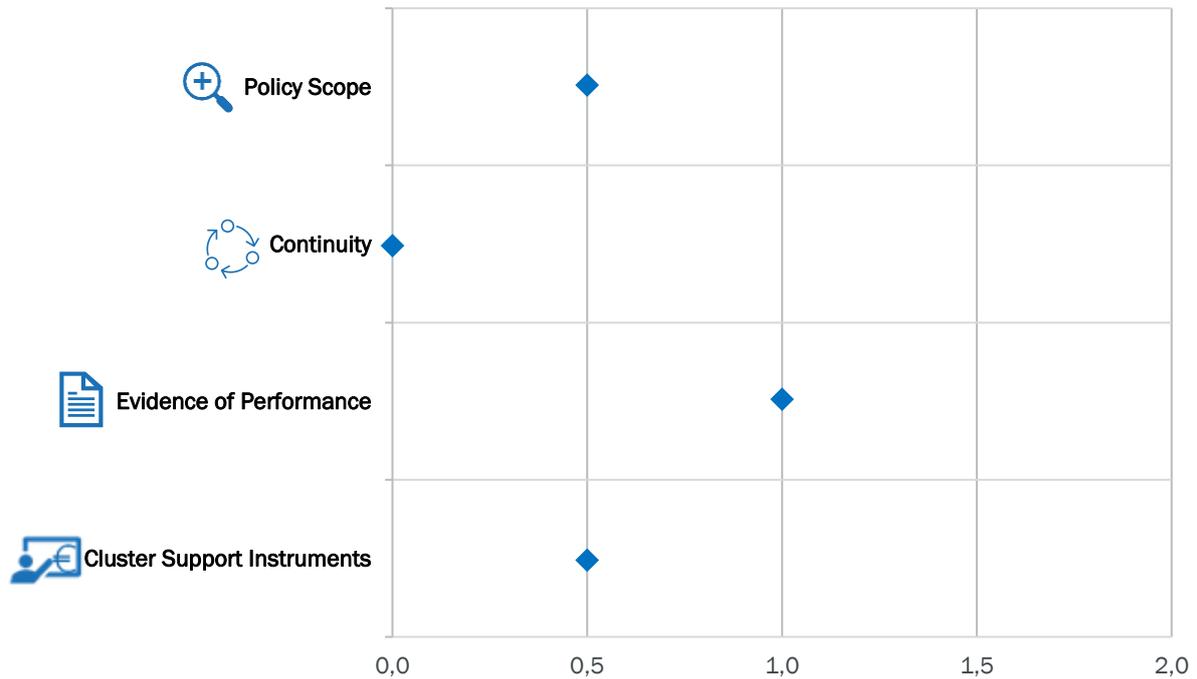
Slovakia	MATURITY ASSESSMENT	Max score	Actual score
<b>POLICY SCOPE</b>	Absence of cluster policy	0	
	Broad policy	0,5	<b>0,5</b>
	Sectoral policy	1	
	National and/or regional cluster policy	2	
<b>CONTINUITY</b>	No cluster policy available	0	<b>0</b>
	Cluster policy established recently	0,5	
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years	1	
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago	2	
<b>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	<b>1</b>
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation	2	
<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	<b>0,5</b>
	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>TOTAL (8)</b>			<b>2,0</b>

Source: ECCP (2022)

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



**Figure 2: Maturity of cluster policy - Slovakia**



Source: ECCP (2022)

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

### **Policy scope**

In Slovakia, no national cluster policy is in place. There are only broad policies addressing also objectives in area of cooperation and networking. Such broad policies are SK RIS3 2021-2027 (which supports development and creation of cluster organizations, strengthens cooperation between SMEs, industry and RTDI actors, internationalisation activities and networking, etc.) and Programme Slovakia (supporting creation and development of clusters, cooperation between SMEs and RTDI organizations, internationalisation activities, promoting entrepreneurship and employment, etc.).

### **Continuity**

The main goal of the Innovation Policy of the Slovak Republic for the years 2008 to 2010 was the elaboration of individual measures of the Innovation Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the years 2007 to 2013 for specific measures and tasks. The fulfilment of the set tasks aimed at creating favourable conditions for the creation and implementation of support mechanisms for the establishment and development of regional innovation structures, innovative enterprises, partnerships and cooperation between enterprises and universities in the field of research, development and innovation as well as the gradual implementation of long-term conceptual plans of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the area of support for innovative activities. Part of this policy was improving the innovative environment and supporting the development of clusters through which the conditions for cooperation are to be created following the development potential in the regions.

The Scheme to support industrial cluster organisations (de minimis scheme) within the competence of the Ministry of Economy, which is currently in place, has been implemented in two parts: Scheme DM - 18/2014 and DM scheme - 13/2017 in the period between January 2015 and December 2020. In addition, the Scheme DM – 6/2022 is currently being implemented – it was launched for period 2022-



2023. The first call within DM – 6/2022 was open from 22.07.2022-26.08.2022, whereby the minimum amount of subsidy is 10 000 EUR and maximum amount 55 000 EUR. The financial resources allocated for given call for year 2022 is in the amount of 250 000 EUR.

In February 2020 was, for the first time, launched call funded from European Structural and Investment Funds under Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure. Actually, there were two calls, one for Bratislava region and for the rest of Slovakia. As part of the call, cluster organizations that are interest associations of legal entities and at the same time hold at least a bronze certificate in terms of evaluation according to the methodology of the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) could be supported. The aim of the published calls was to support the activities of the cluster organisation aimed at fulfilling the tasks and goals arising for it from the document Strategy for the development of the cluster organisation valid during the period of implementation of the main activity of the project and at the same time evaluations and recommendations resulting from the process of certification or recertification carried out according to the methodology of the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) with an emphasis on streamlining the activities and development of the cluster organization, supporting its innovative potential, mutual cooperation with other cluster organizations, promoting awareness of its mission and activities, and supporting its internationalization. The budget allocated was 2 700 000 EUR (rest of Slovakia) and 2 300 000 EUR (Bratislava region) respectively. In recent period, the visibility of clusters has increased and the regional development policies consider clusters as partners for collaboration, transfer of know-how and innovation activities.

### **Evidence of performance**

SK RIS3 2021-2027 includes system of continuous monitoring of the strategy implementation and regular evaluation at the level of strategic objectives, individual measures and transformation maps. The main goal is to identify potential risks of the implementation and to ensure their mitigation through various corrective measures. Analytical tools will be used to assess effects and impacts of selected monitored indicators of the research and innovation ecosystem.

Programme Slovakia includes the system of strategic monitoring of fulfilment of action plans, the indicators and intervention logic as well as the analysis of systematically collected data and information in order to assess the overall implementation of the operational programme.

### **Cluster support instruments**

Among Slovakia's broad policies support instruments are also instruments for creation and further development of clusters, e.g. support for cooperation and collaboration activities, support to R&D projects, development of innovations, etc.

### **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. Slovak cluster organizations have been involved in three consortia of the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships out of which two partnerships were focused on internationalisation (ESCP-4i) and 1 partnership was on cluster management excellence (ESCP-4x). Consortia partners came from 8 different EU member states (ES, FR, CZ, DE, DK, PT, IT, BE).

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 Slovakia, two clusters are part of two Euroclusters with partners from seven countries (AT, IT, ES, RO, BG, PT, GR). These Euroclusters are AEC Eurocluster and xBUILD-EU. Collectively, they cover three industrial ecosystems, with the "Textile" and "Digital industries" ecosystems (xBUILD-EU) and "Construction" (both Euroclusters with Slovak participation).

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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)