



Clusters as drivers of the green industrial transition

AGENDA

24 & 25 September 2025
Venue: University of Vaasa, Finland

Day 1 – Wednesday, 24 September 2025 (local time)

08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:30	Welcoming Remarks • Joakim Strand, Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering • Minna Martikainen, rector, University of Vaasa • Welcome statement from DG Grow, European Commission (tbc) • Representative from the ECCP team
09:30 – 10:00	Setting the scene • Mats Brandt, Mayor, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia Presentation of the ECCP input paper on Vaasa • Jan-Philipp Kramer, Head of EU Services, Prognos, ECCP Team Member
10:00 – 11:50	Policies and Strategies European Commission priorities (2026-2030) • Presented DG Research and innovation(tbc) National industrial policy strategy • Timo Jaatinen, Permanent Secretary/, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

	The new regional (3S) strategy and the EnergyVaasa cluster strategy • Niklas Ulfvens, Director of regional development, Regional council • Sabina Storbacka, Program director, Merinova
11:15 – 12:30	Networking Lunch
12:30 – 13:30	Cluster pitching session
13:30 – 14:00	Networking Break
14:00 – 16:00	WORKSHOPS that aim to build new project initiatives Cluster collaboration - increasing productivity through innovation in manufacturing industries Organisers: Merinova, Regional council of Ostrobothnia, Viexpo Contact person: Sabina Storbacka Workshop objective: to promote technology development and the adoption of new technologies. We will co-create project ideas and share best practices in areas such as robotics and production automation, 3D printing, digital twins, and the use of artificial intelligence. Target group: cluster organizations, industry, RDI actors, universities and higher education institutions, companies, and startups. Vaasa climate commitment: How to accelerate place-based collaboration for a clean and sustainable transition Organiser: City of Vaasa Contact person: Johanna Punkari, Suvi Aho Workshop objective: Exploring how place-based collaboration between companies, city and universities can boost clean transition, climate adaptation and strengthen climate leadership in urban areas of Europe. Target group: Sustainability and responsibility experts, business leaders, municipal officials, and university researchers who are driving or influencing climate action. To co-develop local solutions, gain insights into climate adaptation, build strategic partnerships, and strengthen the areal role as a leader in the clean transition. Best practices to master industry-university co-operation in RDI projects Organiser: University of Vaasa Contact person: Philipp Holtkamp, Malin Wikstedt

	Workshop objective: In a changing energy landscape, collaborative rdi projects play a key role in developing and piloting innovative solutions. Workshop aims to crystallize the best practices of industry-university cooperation in RDI projects. Target group: Actors developing and piloting innovative solutions in the energy sector, from companies, universities and the public sector. Publicly funded R&I projects help businesses, communities and municipal actors to develop and pilot solutions that play a key role in achieving sustainability goals. Competition for project funding is fierce at local, national and European level. This workshop identifies and refines the best practices to enhance collaboration needed to build winning project proposals and implement projects successfully.
19:00 – 21:00	Networking cocktails & Arcade games

Day 2 – Thursday, 25 September 2025 (local time)

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and setting the scene for the day
09:10 – 9:30	Summary of workshop results presented by workshop leaders
09:30 - 10:00	Cluster policies and the clean industrial deal Presented by DG GROW, European Commission (tbc)
10:00 – 10:30	Transformative Innovation for Net Zero European Comission, Joint research centre (tbc)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00	Panel discussion : How can clusters build resilience and renewal capabilities
12:00 – 12:10	Closing reamrks and presentation of next cluster meet regions
12:10 – 13:00	Networking Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	Site Visits Technobothnia Research and development laboratory Technobothnia, located next to the event venue, serves the educational needs of 3 universities and functions as a research platform for industries to ensure the regions position as one of the leading technology hubs of Finland. At an area of 8000 square meters, there are 25 different laboratories with their own specific areas of expertise. Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub

	Wärtsilä's Sustainable Technology Hub (STH), located 4 km from the event venue in Vaasa, is a cutting-edge facility that marks a significant leap forward to decarbonisation of the marine and energy industries. Note: An ID document with photo is required for visiting the Sustainable Technology Hub.
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