



## 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	<b>Registration of participants</b>
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joakim Strand</b>, Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering</li> <li>• <b>Minna Martikainen</b>, rector, University of Vaasa</li> <li>• <b>Jitka Vocaskova</b>, Policy Officer, DG Grow, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Daniel Cosnita</b>, InPulse Partners, ECCP Team Member</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Kristoffer Jansson</b> , Communications & Brand Manager, The Vaasa Region Development Company VASEK
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mats Brandt</b>, Mayor, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia</li> </ul> <b>Presentation of the ECCP input paper on Vaasa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Felix Ginzinger</b>, Prognos AG / ECCP Data &amp; Policy Team Member</li> </ul> <b>Facilitators:</b> <b>Kristoffer Jansson</b> and <b>Daniel Cosnita</b>
10:00 – 11:50	<b>Policies and Strategies</b> <b>European Commission priorities (2026-2030)</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Magdalena Cymerys</b>, Policy Officer at Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>National industrial policy strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antti Valle</b>, Industry Counsellor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</li> </ul> <p><b>The new regional (3S) strategy and the EnergyVaasa cluster strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Niklas Ulfvens</b>, Director of regional development, Regional council of Ostrobothnia</li> <li>• <b>Sabina Storbacka</b>, Program director, Merinova</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Kristoffer Jansson and Daniel Cosnita</p>
11:15 – 12:30	<b>Networking Lunch</b>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Cluster pitching session</b>
13:30 – 14:00	<b>Networking Break</b>
14:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Parallel Workshops that aim to build new project initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Workshop I: Cluster collaboration - increasing productivity through innovation in manufacturing industries</b></p> <p><b>Organisers:</b> Merinova, Regional council of Ostrobothnia, Viexpo Contact person: Sabina Storbacka</p> <p><b>Workshop objective:</b> to promote technological 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.</p> <p><b>Target group:</b> cluster organizations, industry, RDI actors, universities and higher education institutions, companies, and startups.</p> <p><b>Agenda of the workshop:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14:00-14:15 Setting the Scene</li> <li>• 14:15-15:00 Joint Ideation</li> <li>• 15:00-15:30 Tangible collaboration Opportunities</li> <li>• 15:30-16:00 Next actions and wrap up</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderators:</b> <b>Sari Kola</b>, Director, EnergySampo ecosystem, Merinova</p>

	<p><b>Johanna Dahl</b>, Regional Development Expert, Regional council of Ostrobothnia</p> <p><b>Workshop II: Vaasa climate commitment: How to accelerate place-based collaboration for a clean and sustainable transition</b></p> <p><b>Organiser: City of Vaasa</b> Contact person: Johanna Punkari, Suvi Aho</p> <p><b>Workshop objective:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Target group:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Agenda of the workshop:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14:00-14:15 Setting the Scene</li> <li>• 14:15-15:00 Joint Ideation</li> <li>• 15:00-15:30 Tangible collaboration Opportunities</li> <li>• 15:30-16:00 Next actions and wrap up</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderators:</b> <b>Suvi Aho</b>, Strategy manager, City of Vaasa <b>Johanna Punkari</b>, Energy- and climate specialist, City of Vaasa</p> <p><b>Workshop III: Best practices to master industry-university co-operation in RDI projects</b></p> <p><b>Organiser:</b> University of Vaasa <b>Contact person:</b> Philipp Holtkamp, Malin Wikstedt</p> <p><b>Workshop objective and target group:</b> In today's rapidly evolving energy sector, collaboration between industry and academia is essential for developing and piloting innovative solutions. This hands-on workshop brings together professionals from companies, universities, and the public sector to identify and refine <b>concrete best practices</b> for successful cooperation in RDI projects.</p> <p><b>Agenda of the workshop:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14:00-14:15 Welcome and introduction, objectives for the session</li> <li>• 14:15-14:40 Real-world collaboration cases</li> <li>• 14:40-15:45 Building strong consortia and co-creation of best practices</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15:45-16:00 Wrap-up</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderators:</b>  <b>Malin Wikstedt</b>, Senior Specialist in Research Funding, University of Vaasa  <b>Philipp Holtkamp</b>, Manager, Ecosystems and Innovations, University of Vaasa</p>
19:00 – 21:00	<b>Networking cocktails &amp; Arcade games</b>

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

09:00 – 09:10	<b>Welcome and setting the scene for the day</b> <b>Daniel Cosnita</b> , InPulse Partners, ECCP Team Member
09:10 – 9:30	<b>Summary of workshop results presented by workshop leaders</b> <b>Facilitators:</b> Kristoffer Jansson and <b>Daniel Cosnita</b>
09:30 - 10:00	<b>Cluster policies and the clean industrial deal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jitka Vocaskova</b>, Policy Officer, DG Grow, European Commission</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Transformative Innovation for Net Zero</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Davide Magagna</b>, Joint Research Centre, European Commission</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Panel discussion: How can clusters build resilience and renewal capabilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Davide Magagna</b>, Joint Research Centre, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Pia Karumaa</b>, Director, research collaboration, Danfoss Drives</li> <li>• <b>Kenneth Widell</b>, General manager, research coordination and funding, Wärtsilä</li> <li>• <b>Jitka Vocaskova</b>, Policy officer, DG Grow, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Mika Grundstrom</b>, Vice-rector, University of Vaasa</li> <li>• <b>Mats Brandt</b>, Regional Mayor, Region of Ostrobothnia</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Jan Segerstam</b>, Research and Development Director, University of Vaasa</p>
12:00 – 12:10	<b>Closing remarks and presentation of next cluster meet regions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representative from the host alliance</b></li> <li>• <b>Daniel Cosnita</b>, InPulse Partners, ECCP Team Member</li> </ul>
12:10 – 13:00	<b>Networking Lunch</b>

13:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Site Visits</b></p> <p><b>Wärtsilä Sustainable Technology Hub</b></p> <p>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 a photo is required for visiting the Sustainable Technology Hub.</p> <p><b>Technobothnia Research and development laboratory</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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