



# EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

## Europe's Technological Future:

Driving Innovation for Economic Security

**26 February 2025**

08:30-09:45 CET

**Online**

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform  
**Nina Hoppmann**, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Input from the European Commission  
**Valentina de Vito, Policy Officer, DG CNECT, European Commission**
3. Panel debate  
**Aiga Irmeja**, Executive Director, Latvian IT Cluster  
**Alfonso Gabarrón González**, CEO, Spanish Association of Semiconductor Industry  
**Dr. Daniel Stadler**, CEO, EIN Quantum NRW  
**Roberta Lauro**, Funding, Internationalisation and Networking Officer, Distretto Campania Bioscience
4. Funding opportunities  
**Nina Hoppmann**, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

# Housekeeping rules

Andrew Lansley, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch polls. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

# NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

# A bolder, simpler, faster Union: the 2025 Commission work programme

- The EC's [2025 work programme](#) is focused on competitiveness, security, and economic resilience.
- Designed to make EU policies and laws work **better and faster**.
- [More info](#)



« Today, we are setting out a vision for an implementation and simplification agenda that will deliver fast and visible improvements for people and business. European businesses should spend less time and resources complying with red tape, so that they can instead focus on what really matters: developing innovative ideas, putting them into motion in Europe and creating high-quality jobs. Every hour saved on paperwork can be a win for all Europeans. We are determined to set the right conditions for more innovation, more business and better jobs in Europe. »

Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner for Economy and Productivity;  
Implementation and Simplification



« Citizens and businesses have called for a simpler and leaner European Union. This roadmap charts our course to a more competitive, resilient, and prosperous Europe. »

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

## Key priorities:

- Sustainable prosperity and [competitiveness](#)
- Defence and security
- Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model
- Sustaining our quality of life
- Protecting democracy and upholding values
- A global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships
- Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

# Young European Entrepreneur Award



## What is it?

- **Business pitching competition**
- **10 finalists** will receive tailored support through a pre-incubation/acceleration programme to advance their businesses

## Who should apply?

- An EU-based owner or founder of an SME
- Between the ages of 18 and 40

More info: [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/learn-and-plan-entrepreneurship/young-european-entrepreneur-award\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/learn-and-plan-entrepreneurship/young-european-entrepreneur-award_en)

## Timeline

- 20 January ○ Launch of the call for applications
- 14 March ○ Deadline for application submissions
- 15 March–27 April ○ Application screening and review
- 28 April ○ Announcement of the top 10 finalists
- 5–9 May ○ Coaching sessions for finalists  
Each of the 10 finalists will receive a one-hour group session, plus one hour of one-to-one support to prepare them for the final pitching event.
- 14 May ○ Online three-minute pitch event and selection of the top five finalists for the final pitch
- 5 June ○ Final pitching event and award ceremony  
The top five finalists will pitch their ideas live to a jury at the EU Industry Days 2025 event on 5 June in Rzeszów, Poland.

**⚠ Applications are open until 14 March**

**[APPLY NOW!](#)**

# Save the date: EU-Ukraine Business Summit



The EU-Ukraine Business Summit will take place in **Brussels on 10-11 April 2025.**

The summit will feature engaging panel discussions, interactive workshops, and hands-on sessions designed for businesses looking to **explore opportunities** in Ukraine. Discussions will also focus on **Ukraine's reconstruction** within the broader framework **of European reindustrialization**, highlighting key reforms aimed at unlocking investment and improving the business climate.

**European Business Summits website:**

<https://ebsummits.eu/our-summits/future-of-ukraine/>

# Plan your next European project!

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, in collaboration with the Government of Aragón, organises the next edition of the [Cluster Collaboration Labs in Zaragoza, Spain, on 19-20 March 2025](#).

This C2Lab has a special focus on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions**.

The Cluster Collaboration Labs (C2Labs) are **interactive workshops** for cluster organisations, companies, research organisations, actors from civil society, and other interested entities.

The **purpose** of these events is to bring and find collaboration partners, mature your project idea, and build the business case for your idea.



## Proposed project topics

- AI for Net Zero Technologies
- AI for Industrial Transformation and Competitiveness
- AI for Healthcare Innovation
- AI for Dual Use Technologies
- AI for Smart Cities
- Collaborative AI Infrastructure
- AI for Crisis Management
- Your own project idea

# Save the date and register for the next ECCP events!

**EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM** An initiative of the European Union

## ECCP Events to Kickstart 2025

- Biweekly Online EU Clusters Talks**  
12 March - 26 March at 8:30 CET
- Zaragoza, Spain**  
Cluster Collaboration Labs | 19-20 March
- Heilbronn, Germany**  
Clusters meet Regions | 9-10 April & EU Matchmaking
- Esbjerg, Denmark**  
Cluster Collaboration Labs | 6-7 May
- Rzeszów, Poland**  
Clusters meet Regions | 3-4 June
- Eindhoven, The Netherlands**  
Clusters meet Regions | 26-27 March & EU Matchmaking
- Alentejo, Portugal**  
Clusters meet Regions | 29 April
- Palma de Mallorca, Spain**  
Clusters meet Regions | 14-15 May & EU Matchmaking
- Cluj, Romania**  
Clusters meet Regions | 1-2 July & EU Matchmaking

Legend: Clusters Meet Regions C2Lab

Registration is open for Clusters Meet Regions in [Eindhoven, The Netherlands](#), and [Heilbronn, Germany](#).

# Input from the European Commission

**Valentina de Vito**

*Policy Officer, DG CNECT, European Commission*



# Strengthening Economic Security in Europe

26 February 2025

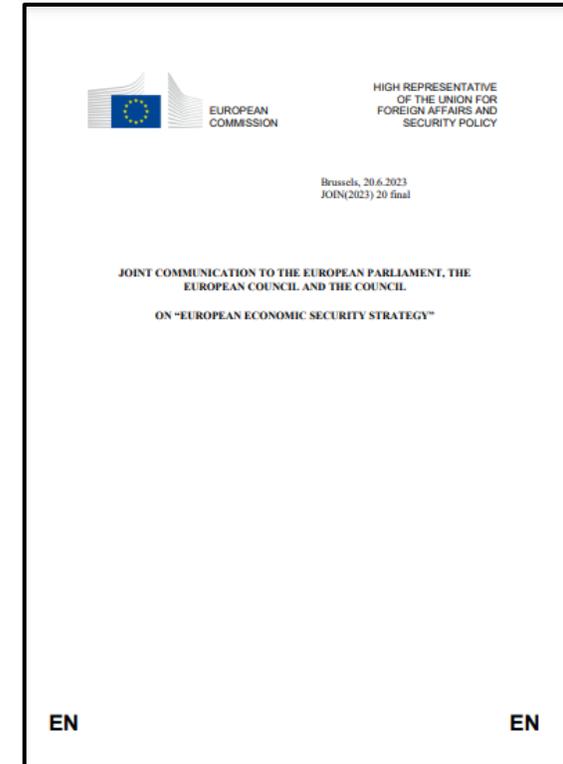
*Valentina DE VITO, DG CNECT*

# The geopolitical context



# Economic Security Strategy (June 2023)

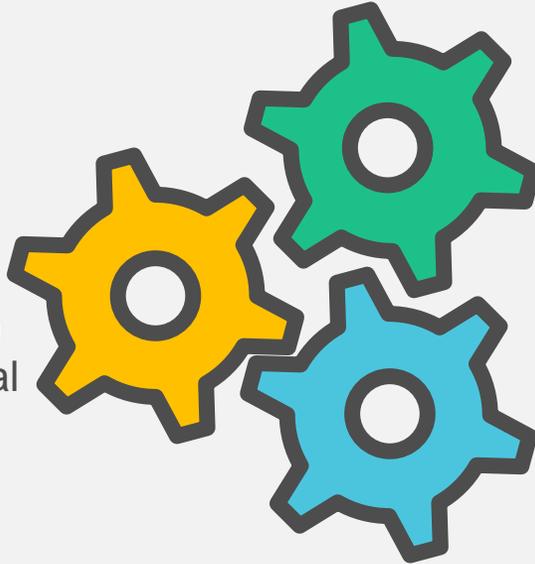
*A comprehensive strategic approach providing a framework for a robust assessment and management of risks to economic security, while preserving openness to trade*



# Mitigation of risks: the “3Ps”

## PROTECT

the EU’s economic security via existing and new tools in a way that limits the potential negative spillovers on the global economy



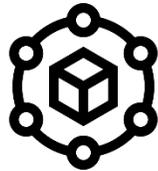
## PROMOTE

the EU’s competitiveness by strengthening the Single Market, supporting a resilient and strong economy, investing in skills fostering the EU’s research and industrial base

## PARTNER

With G7 and like-minded countries and beyond, through Global Gateway and FTAs to advance common interest

# Identifying risks to economic security



Supply chains



Technology security and leakage



Critical infrastructure



Economic coercion

## Risk categories:



Technology security  
and technology  
leakage



Resilience of  
supply chains



Cybersecurity of  
Critical  
infrastructure



Weaponization of  
economic  
dependencies /  
economic coercion

Commission recommendation on  
critical technology areas for ESS  
*C(2023) 6689 of 3.10.2023*

List of critical technology areas

**Advanced semiconductor  
technologies**

**Artificial intelligence  
technologies**

**Quantum technologies**

**Biotechnologies**

Advanced connectivity, navigation  
and digital technologies

Advanced sensing technologies

Space and propulsion technologies

Energy technologies

Robotics and autonomous systems

Advanced materials, manufacturing  
and recycling technologies

Areas that are likely to present the most  
sensitive and immediate risks in terms of:

- Enabling and transformative potential
- Civil and military fusion and impact on  
undermine peace and security
- Misuse of technology for human rights  
violation

1. Advanced semiconductor technologies
2. Artificial intelligence technologies
3. Quantum technologies
4. Biotechnologies

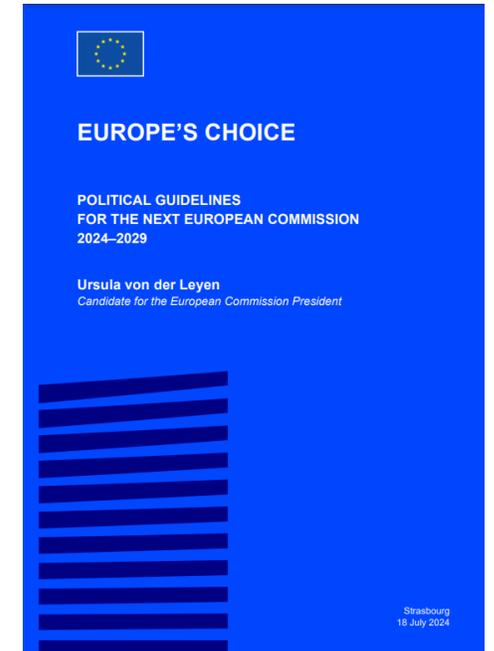
# Strategy into action: the January package

- “**January package**”: one ‘chapeau communication’ and five initiatives related to trade and research:
  - Proposal for revised **Foreign Direct Investment Screening** Regulation
  - White Paper on **Export Controls**
  - White Paper on **Outbound Investment**
  - White Paper on options for **R&D support for technologies with dual use** potential
  - Proposal for a Council Recommendation on enhancing **research security**

# Economic Security in the new mandate

A new **Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security** leading on the implementation of the European Economic Security Strategy and driving the reflections towards a “*new economic foreign policy for today’s realities*”

- Economic security and economic statecraft
- Trade
- Partnerships



# What is going on operationally?

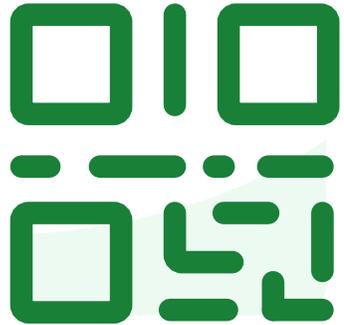
- **Strengthened Commission-wide reflections** via CPGES, ISGs, Task Forces
- Ongoing risk assessments but also...flash **scenario-based analyses**
- Mapping of existing work in the **6 remaining areas** (robotics, connectivity, space, energy...)
- Start of reflections on proposals for **proportional and targeted** mitigating measures
- Development of **economic security standards** for key supply chains with our G7 and other like-minded partners

# Thank you

Valentina.DE-VITO@ec.europa.eu

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#Critical\_tech**

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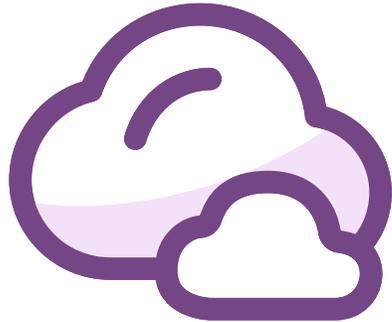


**Which critical technology do you think will have the biggest impact on your industry in the next five years?**

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## What are barriers in adopting and scaling critical technologies?

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**How can Europe boost private and public investment in critical technologies?**

**You can select more than one option.**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# Panel debate

**Aiga Irmeja, Executive Director**, Latvian IT Cluster

**Alfonso Gabarrón González**, CEO, Spanish Association of Semiconductor Industry

**Dr. Daniel Stadler**, CEO, EIN Quantum NRW

**Roberta Lauro**, Funding, Internationalisation and Networking Officer,  
Distretto Campania Bioscience

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# EIC Accelerator 2025 - Short application

- The EIC Accelerator supports SMEs and **start-ups in scaling up high-impact innovations** that have the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones. It offers:
  - Funding between €0.5 million and €12.5 million.
  - Business Acceleration Services to facilitate growth and investment.
- The programme particularly targets deep tech innovations that require **long-term funding** ('patient capital') and struggle to secure private investment due to high risks and long return periods.
- Applicants to EIC Accelerator can submit proposals through the following topics:
  - **EIC Accelerator Open** – Open to all fields of technology and application.
  - **EIC Accelerator Challenges** – Focused on strategic and emerging technologies in predefined priority areas.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIC-2025-ACCELERATOR-01
- Deadline: 18 December 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# EIT Jumpstarter Next 2025

- EIT Jumpstarter promotes innovation and entrepreneurship in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe, creating a lasting **economic impact**. The aim of this call is to **drive innovation and market access**, tackling global challenges through collaborative efforts.
- Open to companies whose founders or management board members are **alumni of specific EIT Community programmes**
- Applicants can submit their ideas in one of the following eight categories:
  - HealthcareFood & Agritech
  - Metals, minerals, advanced materials & industrial side streams
  - Energy and Renewables
  - Advanced and Green Manufacturing
  - Smart Cities and Mobility
  - New European Bauhaus (NEB)
  - Rebuild Ukraine
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIT-2023-25-Cross-KIC-Regional-Innovation
- Deadline: 11 April 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# European Quantum Communication Infrastructure

- This call aims to support the cross-border deployment of quantum communication infrastructure (QCI) across EU Member States, Outermost Regions, and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). It focuses on **securing critical public infrastructures** and enhancing **EU digital strategic autonomy** through quantum-based secure networks.
- This topic supports the deployment of cross-border quantum **communication infrastructure** in areas where national QCI segments are already in place or planned.
- The expected impacts for the call are:
  - Secure transmission of sensitive data between public authorities, research institutions, and critical infrastructures.
  - Strengthening Europe's capacity in quantum-based secure optical communication networks.
  - Creating a pan-European quantum industry and promoting market adoption.
- Topic ID: CEF-DIG-2024-EUROQCI-WORKS
- Deadline: 27 March 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- BLUEDOTS – Open Call for Proposals: Financial support for **Social Economy SMEs** and enabling organisations in the blue sector across Europe; deadline 21 March.
- CirclnWater Internationalisation 2nd round: Lump sum grants offer to individual SME providing water-smart solutions, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries via internalization activities in **North America (Canada & USA)**; deadline 30 April 2025.
- FRIEND CCI – Call for Providers: Seeking **experts** in digitalisation, green transition, and internationalisation services to support SMEs.; deadline 1 August 2025.
- INGENIOUS: Training grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 30 June 2025.
- POLREC – 2nd Networking Open Call: Call for **Polymer Recycling Industries** to collaborate and innovate in recycling processes; deadline 14 March.

**All calls here:**

[https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/funding?f%5B0%5D=status%3A1\\_open&f%5B1%5D=type%3A101189](https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/funding?f%5B0%5D=status%3A1_open&f%5B1%5D=type%3A101189)

# Register for the next Talk

**12 March**

Clean Industrial Deal

# Continue the discussion



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/>

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[www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu)



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THANK YOU

