



# EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

## EU Funding for Critical Technologies:

Special Session on the STEP Initiative

**3 July 2024**

08:30-09:45 CET

**Online**

# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform  
**Nina Hoppmann**, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*
2. Introduction to STEP: policy background, funding opportunities and demo of the platform  
**Benoit Esmanne**, *Task Force Member STEP, DG BUDG, European Commission*
3. Panel discussion  
**Anton Bauer**, *Senior Business Developer, Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology*  
**Kädi Ristkok**, *CEO, Cleantech Estonia and Cleantech for Baltics*  
**Margot Jehle**, *Head for EU Projects, BioRegio STERN Management*
4. Funding opportunities  
**Nina Hoppmann**, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

# Housekeeping rules

Zivile Kropaite, 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



# C2Lab: Join the workshop to set up your next project!



[Join the virtual Info Session on 11 July, 11:00](#)

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, in collaboration with the French Association of Pôles de Compétitivité (AFPC), organises the next edition of the **Cluster Collaboration Labs in Strasbourg, France, on 25-26 September 2023**.

The [C2Lab](#) is a **workshop-style event** where you will have the opportunity to **meet new partners, discuss your project ideas, and initiate collaboration** – for example to apply together for a European call. You can either join with a concrete project proposal or offer your expertise and knowledge by joining others.

# Apply for the next Cluster Booster Academy

The [Academy](#) will involve up to **50 participants** and will run for **5 days** in a hybrid format including an individual coaching session in between:

## **3 days of online training sessions:**

6 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

11 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

15 November: from 10 AM to 2 PM CET

**1 coaching session** to be scheduled individually

**2 days of in-person training sessions:** 3-4 March 2025, hosted at the Warsaw University of Technology



1. Provide **learning opportunities for cluster managers** to further develop their skills
2. Meet the needs of European cluster management teams in their **daily work**
3. Offer cluster management teams the chance to **learn from each other's experiences**
4. Provide the opportunity to co-shape **new European value chains**
5. Support cluster management teams and stakeholders in understanding and **contributing to the European policies and programmes**
6. Help in **developing better policy related to clusters**
7. Improve the **skills of clusters' staff** thanks to a “train the trainers” approach by disseminating their knowledge further

# Save the date for the upcoming Clusters meet Regions!

We invite you to join our “Clusters meet Regions” – transnational events that bring together **clusters and policymakers** at the local, regional, and national levels, with the aim of strengthening the industrial ecosystem in a selected host region.

The events facilitate the **implementation of good practices** where clusters play an active role in regional economies and are drivers for economic transition, and to create and promote **collaboration** between clusters and regional stakeholders for the industrial development of the regions.

**CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS** ★

**COMING UP THIS YEAR 2024**

-  **Chişinău, Moldova**  
10-11 October 2024
-  **Palma de Mallorca, Spain**  
24-25 October 2024
-  **Heilbronn, Germany**  
13-14 November 2024
-  **Charleroi, Belgium**  
27-28 November 2024

 includes a Matchmaking Event

# Apply for EU-Singapore Matchmaking



The [EU-Singapore Matchmaking Event](#) will be held in the context of the **Singapore International Energy Week** on **22-24 October 2024**.

It will provide participants an excellent chance to promote Cluster to Cluster (C2C), Cluster to Business (C2B), and Business to Business (B2B) collaborations between EU/COSME countries and Singapore.

**Focus areas:** Clean Energy and Green Tech, eMobility, Sustainability in Digital Tech, Energy Transition Financing



# Apply for EU-India Matchmaking



An EU delegation of clusters and SMEs will travel to Bengaluru, India, for a [matchmaking event](#) in the context of the [Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024](#) which will be held on **19-21 November 2024**.

The event will bring together cluster organisations and SMEs from the European Union (EU), non-EU countries participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand, and India. It will provide participants an excellent chance to promote Cluster to Cluster (C2C), Cluster to Business (C2B), and Business to Business (B2B) collaborations.

**Focus areas:** Biotech, Digital, Green Tech, Advanced Manufacturing

# Introduction to STEP

**Benoit Esmanne**

Task Force Member STEP, DG BUDG, European Commission



# Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

## **Boosting investment for innovation**



EU Clusters Talks – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Benoit Esmanne, STEP Task Force (DG BUDG)

<https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu>

## What is at stake

- **Competitiveness** and **resilience**
- **Global race** for critical technologies
- **Investment needs** for transition
- **Private capital** not at scale
- Outward forces in the **Single Market**
- Constraints on **EU budget**
- Need for a **European response**

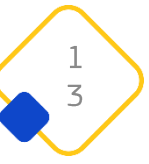
## Industry feedback

- Fragmented/complex **offer of EU funding**, need for clear **timelines** and **success rates**
- Lack of **advisory** and **support services, mentorship programmes**
- Need for **user-friendly** portal
- Added-value **Seal**: helping securing financing



# STEP

## In a nutshell

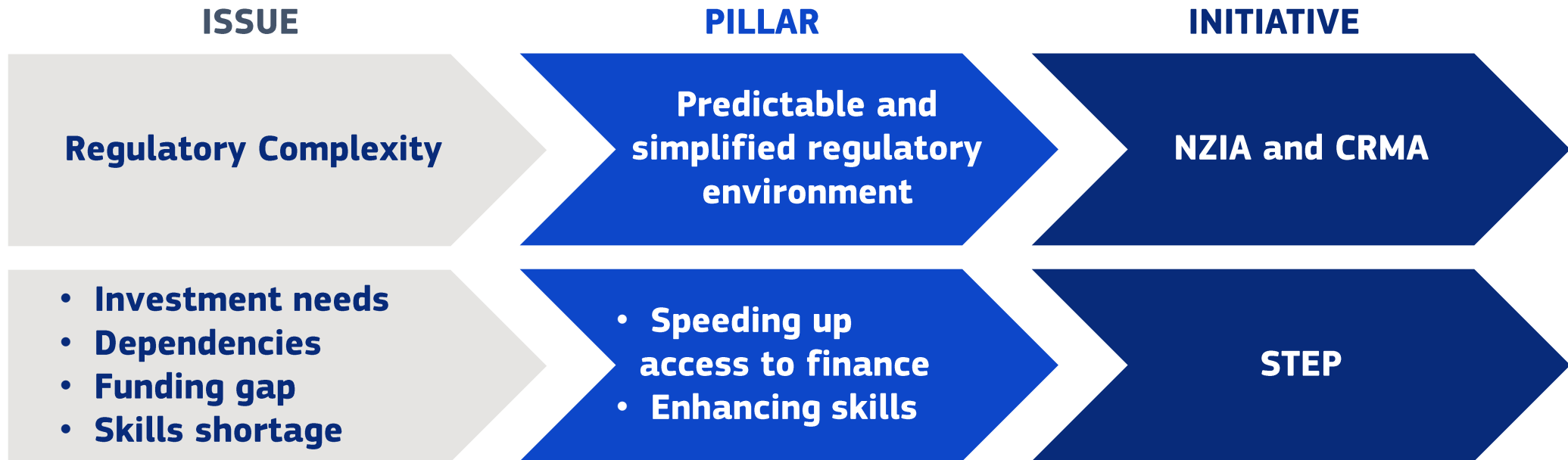


- **Not a new fund:** pooling funding from 11 EU existing programmes, with a top-up of €1.5bn
- **Thriving for efficiency:** use of existing instruments / networks / processes
- **Seamless articulation** direct / indirect / shared managed funds
- **Connecting with implementing partners** (EIB, EIF, NPBIs)
- **A service-oriented team** to support STEP sectors
- **User-centric portal**
- **In line with a future new Competitiveness Deal**
- **Regulation entered into force on 1 March 2024**

# STEP

## Synergies with EU Industrial policy

**Example:** Funding the Green Deal Industrial Plan



# STEP Scope\*

## STEP OBJECTIVES

Supporting the **development or manufacturing** of critical technologies or safeguarding and strengthening their respective **value chains**

Addressing shortages of **labour and skills**

## STEP CONDITIONS

Bring an **innovative**, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market



Contribute to **reduce or prevent strategic dependencies** of the Union

## STEP SECTORS

**Digital and deep tech innovation**

**Clean and resource efficient tech**  
NZIA

**Bio tech**  
CRMA

(indicative & non-exhaustive)

## EXAMPLES

→ Artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced connectivity

→ Carbon capture and storage technologies, heat pumps

→ Molecular biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, crop biotechnology

\*STEP Guidance published mid-May 2024 [here](#)

**NZIA:** Net-Zero industry Act  
**CRMA:** Critical Raw Materials Act



## Reprogramming

of EU funding with dedicated calls  
for STEP sectors



## STEP Seal

Label for high-quality STEP projects  
supporting them to access funding



## STEP Portal

that consolidates all funding  
opportunities for STEP sectors  
financed by the EU



## One-Stop Shop

The single-entry point for any  
contact/question on STEP for industry  
and managing authorities

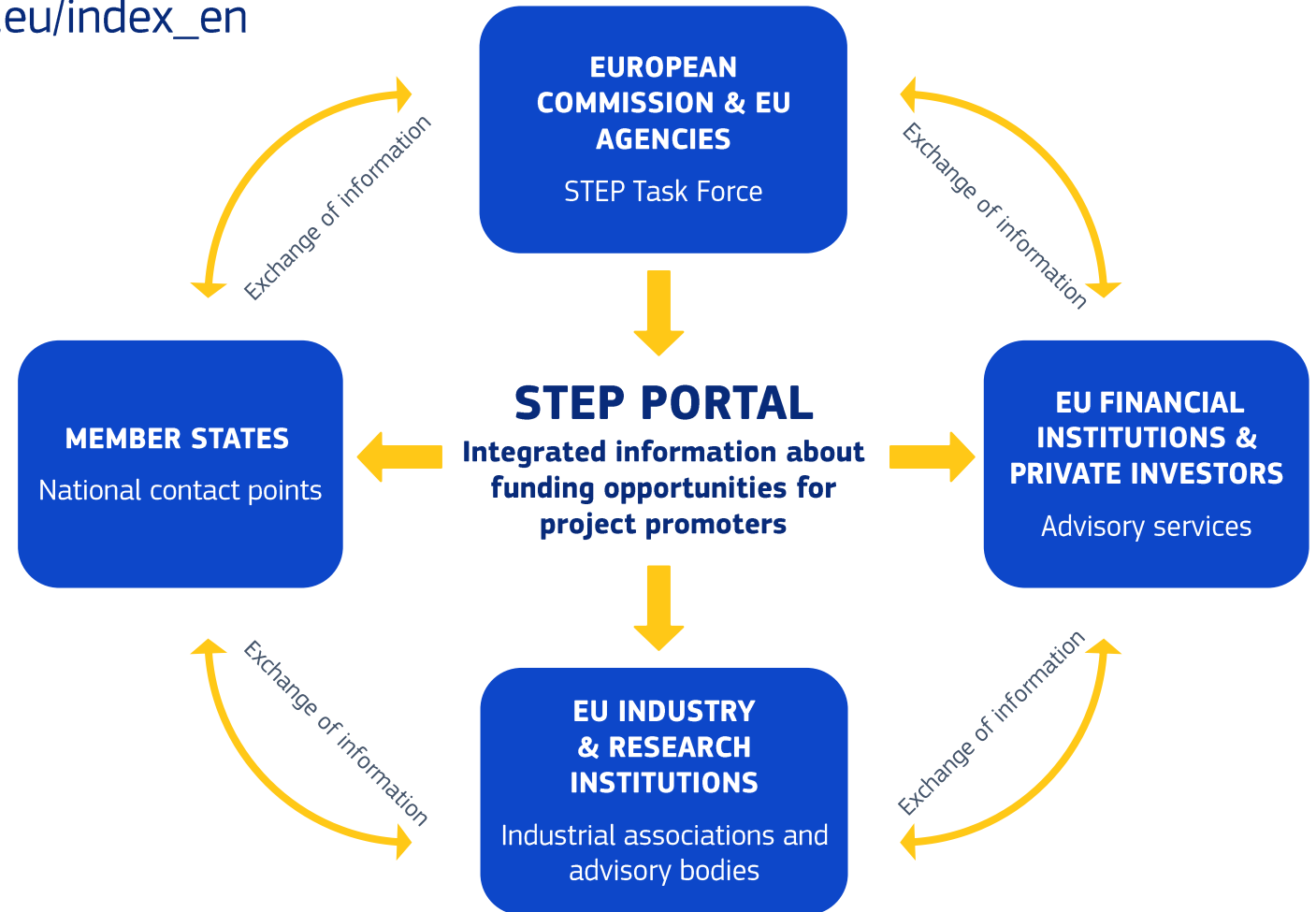


# STEP

## Portal for stakeholders

[https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu/index_en)

**MAKING  
ACCESS TO  
EU FUNDING  
EASIER**



## Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

Home | Get funding ▾ | Get advice | For investors | About ▾ | Stay in touch

Latest update: 13 May 2024

A new practical guidance helps you understand which technological sectors are targeted under STEP.

Find more [here](#)

## EU Industry | Competitiveness | Strategic Technologies

The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) was set up by the EU to support European Industry and boost investment in **critical technologies** in Europe.

STEP will raise and steer funding across 11 EU programmes to three target investment areas:

- Digital technologies and deep-tech innovation
- Clean and resource efficient technologies
- Biotechnologies

STEP also supports projects growing **skills** necessary to the development of those critical technologies. STEP introduces a new **STEP Seal** – an EU label



5 PROGRAMMES MANAGED IN DIRECT MANAGEMENT <sup>(1)</sup>	
Horizon <sup>(2)</sup>	EU4 Health
Innovation Fund	European Defence Fund
Digital Europe Prog.	



6 OTHER PROGRAMMES <sup>(3)</sup>	
European Regional Development Fund	Cohesion Fund
European Social Fund +	Just Transition Fund
Recovery & Resilience Facility <sup>(4)</sup>	InvestEU <sup>(5)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Direct management: EU funding is managed directly by the Commission; shared management: the European Commission and national authorities jointly manage the funding; indirect management: funding is managed by partner organisations or other authorities inside or outside the EU

<sup>(2)</sup> European Innovation Council

<sup>(3)</sup> Network of national contact points to oversee the implementation of STEP in each Member State – list to be displayed

<sup>(4)</sup> Performance based programme managed by the European Commission and implemented by the Member States

<sup>(5)</sup> Implemented through the EIB group & other implementing partners – not awarding the Seal

# STEP

## The STEP Seal 1/2

### PROGRAMMES CONCERNED

Digital Europe Programme

European Defence Fund

EU4Health

Horizon Europe

Innovation Fund

### CONDITIONS FOR ATTRIBUTION

Project complying with the minimum quality requirements

+

Contributing to STEP objectives

=

### PUBLICATION ON STEP PORTAL



Award of STEP Seal



### BENEFITS PER PROGRAMME



# STEP

## The timeline



--- Cohesion policy funds reprogramming --->

--- Revision of RRP --->

--- STEP calls under Directly managed funds / award of Sovereignty Seal --->

# Thank you



Contact us at [EC-STEP-INFO@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-STEP-INFO@ec.europa.eu)



More info on STEP: [strategic-technologies.europa.eu](https://strategic-technologies.europa.eu)

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#STEP**

① Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.



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## Have you heard about the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)?

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

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**What are for you the most critical challenges to access funding?**

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

**slido**

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use



**For which technologies would you be interested in obtaining more information through STEP?**

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

# Panel debate

**Anton Bauer**, Senior Business Developer, Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology

**Kädi Ristkok**, CEO, Cleantech Estonia and Cleantech for Baltics

**Margot Jehle**, Head for EU Projects, BioRegio STERN Management

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# Call for proposal to support innovative manufacturing technologies & processes in the Union for medicines production

- This action covers activities aimed at **developing support** for or innovations targeting the manufacturing of APIs, their intermediates and/or excipients, namely by developing:
  - a) **novel manufacturing processes and technologies**, e.g., additive manufacturing, continuous manufacturing and flow chemistry, and biomanufacturing technologies; combined or not with activities covering
  - b) **novel industrial manufacturing and facility designs**, e.g., modular manufacturing, smart manufacturing execution systems, including automation and robotics, advanced analytics, and smart sensors, among other.
- Topic ID: EU4H-2024-PJ-01; HERA Action Grants
- Deadline: 05 September 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



# Experimentation and exchange of good practices for value creation

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:
  - **Value creation and transfer to the economy and society** by increased interlinkages and cooperation between knowledge valorisation actors (academia/research; industry/SMEs; public administration/policy-makers and society/citizens);
  - **New solutions to societal and economic challenges** by stronger uptake and deployment of research results, including through the involvement of citizens and civil society;
  - **Improvements of structures, strategies, practices and skills for knowledge valorisation** through sustainable reforms and new initiatives in line with the ERA Policy Agenda action 7 – Upgrade EU guidance for a better knowledge valorisation
- Topic ID: HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-02-01; HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based
- Deadline: 25 September 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Bringing available and actionable solutions for climate adaptation to the knowledge of the regions and local authorities

- Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcome:
  - The project serves information and offers the latest available **solutions on adaptation to climate change** to regional and local authorities
  - **Knowledge and understanding of the policy implications** of adaptation solutions is increasingly utilised in the policy cycles at EU, national, and regional and local levels
  - The **wide range of solutions** tested and deployed in the context of the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change and the good practices emerged in its Community of Practice are **harvested, analysed and systematised** to support the implementation of the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change
- Topic ID: HORIZON-MISS-2024-CLIMA-01-01; HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based
- Deadline: 18 September 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Design for adaptability, re-use and deconstruction of buildings, in line with the principles of circular economy (Built4People Partnership)

- Among others, proposals are expected to address all of the following:
  - **Validate construction and renovation solutions** based on the integration of innovative tools, products, techniques, processes and methods, that facilitate deconstruction and reuse, based on life-cycle approaches across the value chain
  - **Deliver guidance and recommendations** for technology providers, regulatory authorities, certification and standardisation bodies, and define and implement ambitious dissemination actions, to promote the approaches demonstrated and support their replication
  - Where relevant, contribute through specific and targeted actions to **standardisation and regulatory evolutions** that can foster reuse and deconstruction of buildings materials and products.
  - Contribute to the activities of the Built4People partners and to the **Built4People network** of innovation clusters
- Topic ID: HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02-04
- Planned opening date: 17 September 2024
- Deadline: 21 January 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- CirInWater: Knowledge lump sum for SMEs offering **water-smart solutions**, especially for the agrifood & energy-intensive industries and that is willing to boost its development **internationalisation** activities towards **North America**; deadline 22 July 2024
- ELBE: Training support for SMEs in renewable energy sector on sustainability and digitalisation, sustainable business and ESG reporting; deadline 31 August 2024
- ELBE: Call for financial support for **individual services** related to access to test facilities, international development, market and business intelligence, development and technology transfer, or green and IT expertise; deadline 31 August 2024
- EuroBoosTex: Call for proposals to support European **textile** SMEs in **internationalisation** in Australia; deadline 17 July 2024
- E-Boost: Mobility lump sum for SMEs to InnosTrans (**railway exhibition**) mission in Berlin, Germany; deadline 30 June 2024
- E-Boost: Supporting individual SMEs or consortia in innovative **Products & Services Development** in **electromobility** sectors (Zero Emission Vehicles); deadline 1 July 2024
- E-Boost: Financial support for **training support** to SMEs from the **electromobility** sector; deadline 31 July 2024
- FRIEND CCI: Call for **providers** offering solutions in **digitalisation, greening, and internationalisation** to collaborate with **Creative and Cultural** SMEs for the realization of funded projects; deadline 1 August 2025
- GEMSTONE: Financial support for **training** related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 2024

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- INGENIOUS: **Internationalisation** grant for SMEs operating in **energy-intensive industries** to develop activities related to Africa, Asia, North America and Latin America; deadline 30 September 2024
- INGENIOUS: **Training** grants to help SMEs improve their digital skills, green transition, resilience preparedness and reskilling and upskilling of the workforce; deadline 14 February 2025
- LEVIATAD: Supporting the **innovation and internationalisation** of European SMEs in the **defence** sector; deadline 8 August 2024
- METASTARS: Prizes for 3 SMEs in the **Aerospace and Defence** sector which have made the best efforts to become more resilient and to adapt to the challenges of the green and digital transition; deadline 23 August 2024
- RESIST: **Training** FSTP for SMEs in the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 30 November 2024
- RESIST: **Networking and marketing** FSTP for SMEs from the **Automotive – Mobility – Transport** ecosystem; deadline 20 December 2024
- RESIST: **Internationalisation** FSTP for activities in target markets; deadline 20 December 2024
- RESIST: **Coaching and mentoring** for assessment and feasibility services; deadline 1 November 2024
- SILEO: Open Call for **Travel Vouchers** to Italy to support the participation of SMEs operating in the **lighting and furniture sector** and **tech-savvy SMEs** in the **SILEO Hack Day event**; deadline 28 June 2024
- **All calls here:** <https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls>

# Register for the next Talks

**10 July**

Transition Pathway for Chemicals

**After a summer break, we will return on 4 September!**

# 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

