CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

PRAGUE | 23 · 24
CZECH REPUBLIC | OCTOBER 2023

CZECH CLUSTERS AS LEADERS OF GLOBAL DIGITAL AND GREEN ECOSYSTEMS

An initiative of the European Union

#SingleMarket30

## DESCRIPTION

**The European Cluster Collaboration Platform**, on behalf of the **European Commission**, in partnership with the **National Cluster Association of the Czech Republic**, **CEDEG, Klastr MECHATRONIKA** and the **Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences** are jointly organising the workshop and matchmaking under the framework of "Clusters meet Regions" cycle.

The "Clusters meet Regions" workshop dedicated to **digitalisation, cybersecurity, AI, clean technologies, 3D printing and the VR industry** will take place on **the 23 & 24 October 2023 at the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague.**

## CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

**15 regional workshops** are being organised in those EU regions that expressed an interest in hosting such a workshop in the period 2022-23 as part of the "Clusters meet Regions" cycle. These events bring together clusters and policymakers of the EU at the national, regional, and local levels to learn from each other how to better use clusters to strengthen industrial ecosystems, serve national/regional economic development and liaise with other regions facing similar transition challenges.

**We live in a contemporary and ever-evolving world where clusters play a vital role.**

Following the highly successful European Cluster Conference held in Prague in 2022, the National Cluster Association of the Czech Republic, alongside its esteemed counterparts, CEDEG, Klastr MECHATRONIKA and the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, extend a cordial invitation for your return to the Czech Republic.

The cluster landscape in the Czech Republic continues to flourish each year. The National Cluster Association registers over 100 clusters and technological platforms in the Czech Republic, representing 14 EU Industrial Ecosystems. In recent years, the cluster environment witnessed rapid progress, fostering collaboration among Czech clusters at regional and international levels. Czech clusters and their members serve as exemplary partners for innovative projects and lucrative business prospects, with the potential to significantly benefit the European industry and value chains.

During the event, a special segment will be dedicated to the recognition of the Czech Golden Cluster and the announcement of the Best Projects of the Year.

## ▍ Regional focus

The regional focus of clusters in the Czech Republic varies depending on their specific objectives and areas of expertise. While some clusters may concentrate their activities within a particular region, others have a broader national or even international focus. These clusters aim to promote collaboration, innovation, and economic development within their respective regions or across the entire country.
Given the size of the Czech Republic, the regional focus of these clusters extends beyond a specific region, encompassing the entire nation. These clusters drive advancements in digitalisation, cybersecurity, AI, clean technologies, 3D printing, and the VR industry, along with their synergistic impact on other industries. Their influence extends to sectors such as healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and transportation, amplifying the transformative potential of these key areas. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on a national scale, Czech clusters propel the country´s progress across various industries, positioning it as a leader in the digital economy and sustainable development.

## TARGET GROUP

The event will unite over 100 attendees, including representatives from Czech and European clusters and companies, along with national and regional public authorities and business support organisations from the Czech Republic and various EU regions.

## BENEFITS

**This event presents a valuable opportunity to establish business relationships among Czech clusters, companies, and other partners from the EU. It is also an ideal platform for identifying suitable project collaborators.**

The event aims to bring together EU clusters and companies specialising in the Digital and Additive Manufacturing sectors, renowned for their extensive expertise in the field. They will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and best practices with a diverse audience. The participating companies will not only

showcase their capabilities to cluster organisations but also extend an invitation to other European partners seeking potential collaborations.

The event centres around the themes of AI and Cybersecurity in the Manufacturing Sectors, Clean Technologies, 3D printing, and the VR industry. It aims to provide comprehensive insights into each sector and company while also facilitating the exchange of best practices among participants.

## AGENDA OVERVIEW (TENTATIVE)

The agenda will feature keynote speeches from distinguished officials representing the European Commission and the Czech Republic.

The event's primary focus will be on the cluster landscape in the Czech Republic, emphasising the nurturing of collaborations and innovation. Czech and EU companies will showcase modern digital solutions and high technology in the field of AI and cybersecurity. Participants can explore real-world examples and practical implementation of clean technologies, 3D printing and the VR industry. The program will culminate in a panel discussion dedicated to fostering collaboration between clusters and innovation actors at the regional and national levels.
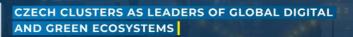
Participants will have the valuable opportunity to present their organisations and engage in matchmaking activities. This provides a platform for networking, exploring potential partnerships, and fostering meaningful connections among the participants.

**(Tentative agenda under development subject to changes depending on speakers' availability and confirmation – All names to be confirmed) V 3 01/08/2023**

## Day 1, 23 October 2023

| 09:00 – 10:00 | **REGISTRATION** |
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| 10:00 – 10:30 | **Welcoming address and setting the scene**<br>**Introduction by the organisers: Renata Pfefferova**, ECCP / **Jiri Herinek**, President, NCA<br>**Session 1: Czech Clusters as Leaders of Global Digital and Green Ecosystems**<br>**Moderation: Jiri Herinek**, President, NCA<br>**Welcome to the Czech Republic**<br><br>- **Petr Filipi,** Director of the Digitalisation and Internet Department EU Funds Section, Ministry of Industry and Trade |

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| | - Hlavní město Praha – region representatives (tbc)<br>- Representative from European Commission, DG GROW (tbc) |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | **The Cluster Landscape in the Czech Republic: Nurturing Collaboration and Innovation**<br>**Moderation: Jiri Herinek**, President, NCA & **Ivo Riha**, Vice-president, NCA and Chairman of the Board, CEDEG<br>- National Cluster Association (Czech Golden Cluster and the Best Projects of the Year announcement) |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | **Setting the Scene – Presentation of ECCP Input Paper for the Czech Republic,**<br>**Jan-Phillip Krammer,** Head of EU Services, Prognos |
| 11:45 – 12:30 | **Panel Discussion: Practice of the Local Collaboration**<br>**Moderation: Jiri Herinek**, President, NCA<br><br>- One year after the EU Cluster conference – good examples<br>- **Petr Filipi,** Director of the Digitalisation and Internet Department EU Funds Section, Ministry of Industry and Trade<br>- Statutory Representatives / Managers of the Awarded Clusters<br>- Cluster Members: Two representatives of Progressive Companies |
| 12:30-13:30 | **LUNCH** |
| 13:30-15:15 | **Session 2: Modern Digital Solutions and High Technology: Harnessing AI and Cybersecurity in the Manufacturing Sector**<br>**Moderation: Ivo Riha**, Vice-president, NCA and Chairman of the Board, CEDEG<br>**Introduction to the topic: Ivo Riha**, Vice-president, NCA and Chairman of the Board, CEDEG<br><br>- Collaborative Innovation: Harnessing AI in the Manufacturing Sector through Cluster partnerships<br>- From Theory to Action: Deploying AI Security Systems in Practice<br>- Is AI a Threat to your organisation?<br>- Collaborative Innovation: Harnessing Cybersecurity in the Manufacturing Sector through Cluster partnerships |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 3: Exploring Real-World Examples and Implementation of Clean Technologies, 3D Printing and VR Industry**<br>**Moderation**: Katerina Podana, Executive Director, Klastr MECHATRONIKA and Member of the Board, NCA<br>**Introduction to the topic, Michal Zemko**, President, Klastr MECHATRONIKA<br>- **Bayern Innovativ GmbH** - Cross-Border Cluster Cooperation in the Field of Additive Manufacturing<br>- Additive Manufacturing is an Ideal Technology in Industry<br>- Incorporation of Advanced Technologies (Additive Manufacturing) into Education and the Possibility of a European Project |

| | - Czech Clusters as a Driver of Cooperation in the field of Clean Technologies, 3D Printing and the VR Industry |
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| 17:15 – 18:15 | **Session 4: Panel Discussion**<br>**Fostering Collaboration among Clusters and Innovation Actors at Regional, National, and International Levels**<br>**Moderation: Jiri Herinek**, President NCA<br>- **Peter Keller**, Hungarian Ministry of Finance, Head of Unit & TCI Director<br>- SMEs - Companies / Clusters CZ/EU / Government / European Commission |
| 18:15 – 18:30 | **Wrap-Up: Jiri Herinek**, President, NCA / **Ivo Riha,** Vice-president, NCA and Chairman of the Board, CEDEG |
| 18:30-19:30 | **Site Visit:** Presentation of the largest institute of the Academy of Sciences |
| 19:30 – till late | **Evening Programme** – Upon registration, please email us at info@nca.cz |

## Day 2, 24 October 2023

| 09:00 – 09:30 | **REGISTRATION and COFFEE** |
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| 09:30 – 10:30 | **PITCHING SESSION** (with emphasis on Czech clusters + foreign clusters) |
| 10:30 – 10:50 | **Coffee break** |
| 10:50 – 12:30 | **Matchmaking session** |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | **Closing ceremony** |