

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

**EUROPEAN WEEK** of  
**REGIONS** and **CITIES**

**Empowering Communities**

**30 October 2024**

**08:30 - 09:45 CET**

**Join us online**

# EU Clusters Talks

Leveraging generative AI for regional competitiveness

An «EURegionsWeek close to you» event



**#EUClustersTalks**

**#EURegionsWeek**

An initiative of the European Union



# Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

**Ángela Negrete Benedí**, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

2. Presentation on the creation of a mission-oriented innovation ecosystem on GenAI

**Antonio Novo**, President, European Clusters Alliance. Managing Director Cluster IDIA

3. Panel debate

**María del Mar Paños**, Director General for Industrial Promotion and Innovation, Government of Aragón

**Bianca Muntean**, Transilvania IT Cluster Manager and Coordinator of the European Digital Innovation Hub in Transilvania

**Ola Svedin**, CEO at OpenTech, COB at Clusters of Sweden

4. Funding opportunities

**Ángela Negrete Benedí**, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

# Housekeeping rules

Chris Burns, 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

# Save the date for the upcoming EU-UKRAINE Investment Conference



Organised in **Warsaw** on **13-14 November** by the **European Commission and the Government of Ukraine** as part of [the 4th ReBuild Ukraine International Exhibition in Warsaw](#), it will mobilise private investment towards Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernization.

The event will showcase first results of the EU's Ukraine Investment Framework, foster EU-Ukraine business partnerships and take stock of Ukraine's integration into the EU Single Market and business environment reforms.

- If you want to take part in the Investment conference (attendance upon availability of spots) and workshops (for any workshops that you are interested) please reach out to [EU-UkraineB2B@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EU-UkraineB2B@ec.europa.eu)
- Opportunity to take part in [matchmaking sessions](#) for EU and Ukrainian businesses.

# Don't miss out - Clusters meet Regions!



We invite you to join our “Clusters meet Regions” in Charleroi on **27 and 28 November 2024**, to explore how regional development agencies, clusters and other actors could foster **stronger collaboration** in the implementation of regional and national economic development policies.

The 18th event in Charleroi, Belgium, will showcase the region's economic transformation, leveraging European and regional funds in sectors like **Life Sciences, Cleantech, and Advanced Manufacturing**. Charleroi's shift from an industrial hub to an innovation-driven economy highlights the role of clusters.

# Presentation on the creation of a mission-oriented innovation ecosystem on GenAI

**Antonio Novo,**  
President, European Clusters Alliance,  
Managing Director, Cluster IDIA

# GenAI Europe



*Cultivating a  
Mission-Oriented Innovation Ecosystem*



**Data** gains its true worth  
only when it evolves into **actionable insights**,  
transforming potential into **progress**.  
*The same applies to networking*



2004  
IDiA is created



2005  
First common  
trainings in SAP  
Business  
Intelligence



2007  
eInvoicing Spanish  
standard -  
developed for  
Advanced Planning



2008  
creation of a  
master in digital  
innovation and BI



2011  
First formal  
proposal: Aragon as  
core data center for  
Iberia

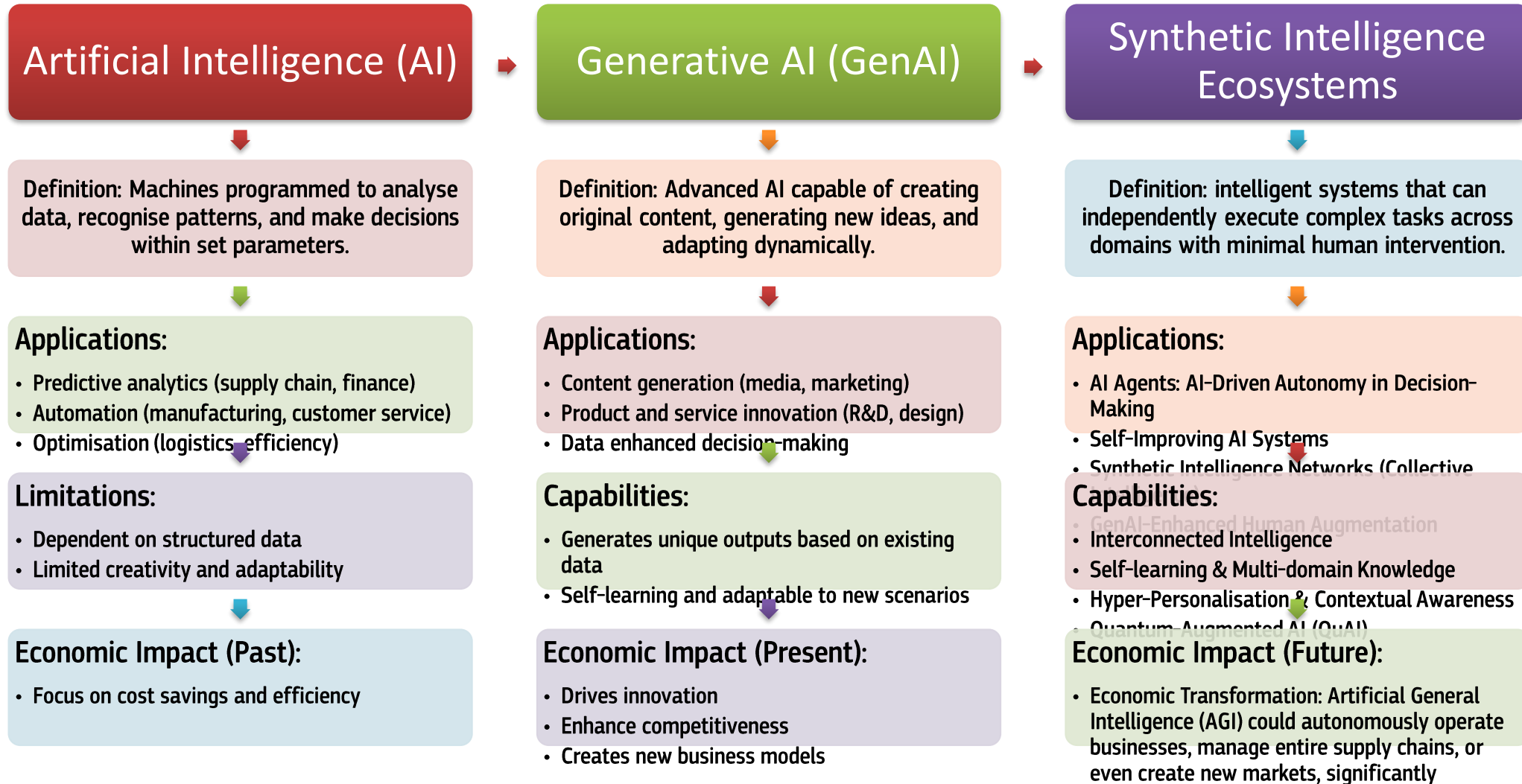


2014  
Agreement on a  
common  
framework for  
developers



# A Quantum Leap in Economic Potential

How the leap from AI to GenAI reshapes our economy and future opportunities



A painting depicting a small wooden boat with a European Union flag on the water, surrounded by the massive hulls of a Chinese and an American ship. The Chinese ship's hull is red with yellow stars, and the American ship's hull is white with red stripes. The water is turbulent with white foam. The text "Why we believe this initiative matters?" is overlaid in white on the scene.

Why we believe this initiative matters?

# Our Objective

To establish a **mission-driven innovation ecosystem**, designed for responsive prioritisation and nimble adaptation.

Improving the competitive positioning of European companies

Promoting the productive application of Generative AI

Creating an attractive business ecosystem of high added value

### Exemplary Information Technology Faculty

Aragon boasts one of the leading IT faculties in Europe, driving innovation and expertise in the field.

### Strategic Fibre Optics Network

Aragón is a critical hub for Spain's main fibre optics networks, ensuring high-speed connectivity.

### Home to Major Data Centers

Aragon hosts key data centers for global giants AWS, Meta and Microsoft, between others.

### Abundant Natural Resources

With the Ebro River and robust renewable energy sources from Ebro Valley winds, Aragon has a sustainable edge. 80% of the energy created in Aragon has renewable sources.

### Stable and Supportive Government

Aragon benefits from a stable government committed to supporting technological advancement and innovation.

### IDiA: A Digital Cluster

Hosting cluster IDiA, Aragon stands out for its digital ecosystem, promoting collaboration and digital transformation.



## Private investments:

- AWS: 18.2 billions €
- Microsoft: 7.029 billions €
- Meta: TBD
- Box2Bit: 1.5 billions €



## A strong foundation in Europe's centre: NRW driving applied GenAI through a distinct and unique AI & QT landscape

### Leading AI & QT Research Institutions

- Fraunhofer IAIS
- Lamarr Institute for ML & AI
- RWTH Aachen, AI Center
- Center for Cognitive Interaction Technology
- Joint Artificial Intelligence Institute

### Industrial Powerhouse

- Broad and diversified industrial basis
- Industrial AI role models for Europe
- Growing digital hardware players (Black SC, Cologne Chips)
- Large-scale Microsoft investment & digital park development

### Strong Clusters for AI & QT Transfer & Application

- KI.NRW, NMWP NRW, EIN Quantum, it's OWL etc.
- AI Village as digitalised campus & demonstrator space
- WestAI to promote AI access for SMEs
- Future Cluster NeuroSys

### Unique AI & Quantum Infrastructure

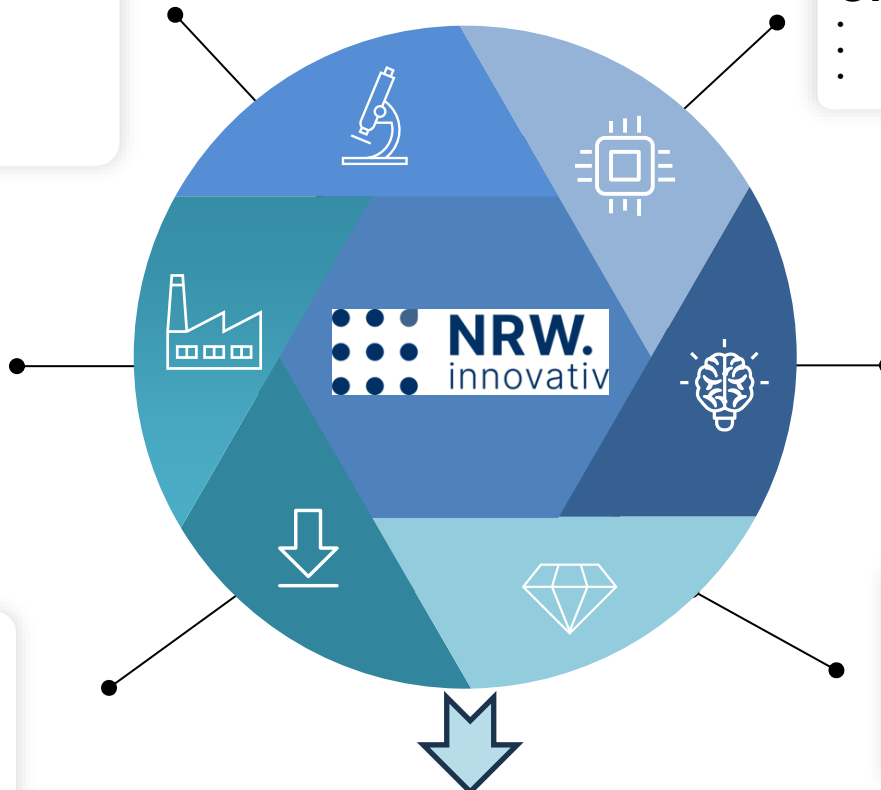
- Jülich Supercomputing Centre (JSC)
- Microsoft investment in Hyperscale Data Centres
- High Performance Computing

### Flagship AI Projects across Europe

- OpenGPT-X & EuroLingua-GPT: Developing LLMs for Europe
- Certified AI: Developing standards for trustworthy AI
- SmartHospital.NRW for leading AI applications in life science

### Effective Deep-Tech Start-up Support

- High-Tech.NRW accelerating Deep-Tech Start-ups
- DWNRW – Digital Hubs & EDIH



### NRWxGenAI Vision

Accelerate industrial GenAI & QT application  
from Europe across Europe in a large scale



**NMWP.NRW**  
Cluster NanoMikroWerkstoffePhotonik



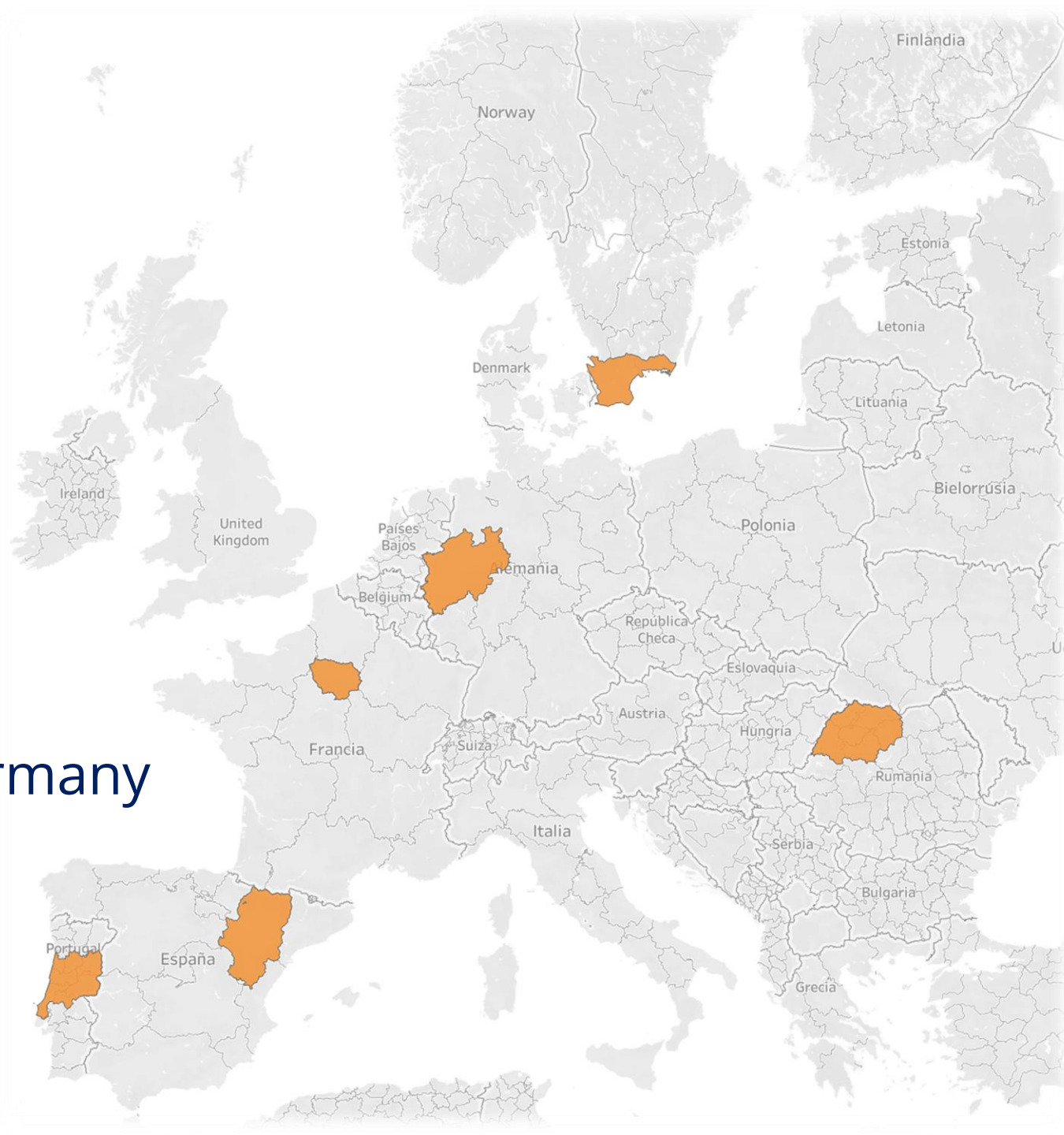
**EIN  
Quantum  
NRW**





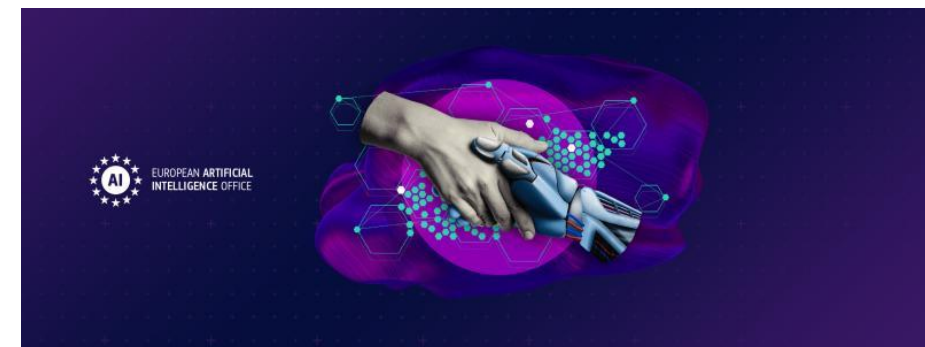
## Core group

- Aragón, Spain
- Centro Region, Portugal
- Cluj, Romania
- Île-de-France, France
- North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
- Skåne, Sweden



## The Capacity-Building and Application Plan of GenAI Europe is aligned with Commission's actions

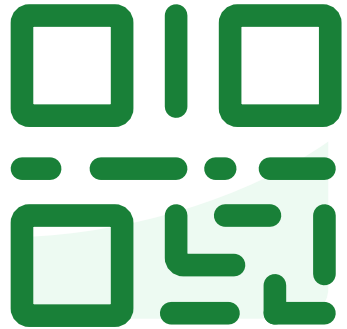
- Support the setup of “**AI Factories**” and the “**AI Office**”
- Accelerate the development and deployment of the **Common European Data Spaces** and make them available to the AI community
- Support the development of large **AI models and systems**
- Support “**GenAI4EU**” for developing novel use cases and emerging applications in several industrial and societal sectors
- Support initiatives to strengthen the Union’s generative **AI talent pool**
- Provide innovative **financial instruments** through the EIC Accelerator Programme and the InvestEU guarantee and encourage Member States and private investors to undertake similar investments for AI startups and scale-ups





**slido**

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



**Join at [slido.com](https://slido.com)**  
**#Gen\_AI**

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

**slido**

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



**How would you rate your organisation's level of awareness and engagement with AI solutions in its development and application?**

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

**slido**

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



**In which areas are your stakeholders expressing the most interest in applying generative AI?**

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

slido

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



**What is the biggest challenge for clusters and regions in collaborating on GenAI initiatives?**

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

# Panel debate

**María del Mar Paños**, General Director for Industrial Promotion and Innovation,  
Government of Aragon

**Bianca Muntean**, Transilvania IT Cluster Manager and Coordinator of the European Digital  
Innovation Hub in Transilvania

**Ola Svedin**, CEO at OpenTech, COB at Clusters of Sweden

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# Digital tools for CSP and solar thermal plants

- The call aims to promote a sustainable, secure, and competitive energy supply through research and innovation (R&I) activities. It focuses on **renewable energy development, energy system integration, carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS)**. Expected impacts are:
  - **Leadership in renewable technologies:** Strengthen European leadership in renewable power technologies and enhance competitiveness technologies and enhance competitiveness technologies and enhance competitiveness in worldwide markets;
  - **Energy security:** Ensure a price-powerful and reliable power deliver in situations of excessive renewable electricity penetration, with a focal point on clever and cyber-steady power grids.
  - **Environmental sustainability:** Improve the environmental overall performance of renewable technologies, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and improving circularity.
  - **Job creation:** Promote huge-scale deployment of renewable technology, creating local employment opportunities.
- Topic ID: HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions
- Deadline: 04 February 2025
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Development and Deployment of Advanced Key Technologies

- The objective is to enable **European cybersecurity actors** to take advantage of these new breakthroughs, improving detection and prevention capabilities, efficiency, scalability, and facilitating data sharing and regulatory compliance.
- Projects must contribute to the following outcome:
  - Deployment of state-of-the-art **technologies in the area of cybersecurity**
  - Tools **for automated threat detection, monitoring of networks, data protection and incident response**
  - Deadline: 21 January 2025
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07-KEYTECH
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://european-cybersecurity-portal.europa.eu/)



# Towards networked Local Digital Twins in the EU

- Expected impacts are:
  - An EU ecosystem of **LDTs sharing a common blueprint**
  - An uptake in the number of **local platforms and digital twins**, with associated services compatible with the **EU data cloud** infrastructure, reusing interoperable and open-source tools from the **LDT toolbox**.
  - **New AI-based services** extending and supplementing the catalogue of the EU LDT toolbox for cities and communities.
  - **Increasing and maturing the AI services** offering the public domain with new predictive and modelling services and immersive solutions, paving the way to the CitiVerse.
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-DATA-AI-07-DIGITALTWIN
- Deadline: 21 November 2024
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Joint EUROCLUSTERS for Europe's recovery

- This call focuses on reinforcing innovation and adoption of new technologies for **strategic autonomy**. In particular, the emphasis is on **value chains** within or across one or more of the 14 industrial ecosystems identified in the European Industrial Strategy.
- The call is divided **into two strands**:
  - Strand 1 focuses on **net-zero technologies and critical raw materials**:
  - Strand 2 covers **value chains not covered in Strand 1**.
- Number of projects to be funded: **16** (with at least **8 projects for Strand 1**)
- Maximum project duration: **36 months**
- Budget: **42 million EUR**
- Topic ID: SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER-01
- Deadline: **05 February 2025**
- Functional Mailbox for applicants: [EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu)
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Joint EUROCLUSTERS for Europe's recovery (info session)

- **Informative session:** On 14 November 2024, EISMEA will host an [informative session](#) about the call SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER.
- 📅 Thursday **14 November** 2024, 09:30 - 12:30 (CET)
- 📍 **Online only**
- FMB for applicants: [EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu)
- [Register here](#) **before Tuesday 12 November 2024, 18:00 (CET)!**



**Online Info Session:**  
**14 November 2024, 09:30-12:30 CET**

**Call for proposals - Joint Cluster Initiatives  
(EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe's recovery  
(SMP-COSME-2024-CLUSTER)**

**#SINGLEMARKET**

# Opportunities for SMEs: Calls from Euroclusters

- FRIEND CCI: Call for **providers** in the following areas: digitalization, green transition, service for internationalization; deadline 01 August 2025
- GEMSTONE: Financial support for **training** related to **Green Manufacturing**; deadline 31 December 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
- RESIST: **Coaching and mentoring** for assessment and feasibility services; deadline 1 November 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.
- SILEO: Best Company **Storytelling Video** Contest, deadline 13 December 2024.

All calls here: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/open-calls>

# Register for the next Talks

**13 November**

Innovation Procurement

**27 November**

Transition Pathway for Metals

# Register for the next Talks

## Upcoming dates and topics in December!

- |                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>4 December</b>  | Smart Specialisation and S3 Platform |
| <b>11 December</b> | Green Transition                     |
| <b>18 December</b> | State Aid                            |

# Continue the discussion



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

# Visit the ECCP website and follow us on social media



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



@Clusters\_EU



European Cluster Collaboration Platform

#EURegionsWeek #EUClustersTalks #ECCP



EUCLUSTERS

THANK YOU

