



Exploring the Innovation Ecosystem: Clusters as Catalysts for Regional Competitiveness

3 – 4 JUNE 2025

Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park AEROPOLIS

Jasionka 954, Building of the Technology Incubator Aeropolis

Master of ceremony: Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster, ECCP team member

Day 1 – Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025

12:45 – 14:00	On-site Registration of Participant, Networking & lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Welcoming address and opening remarks Introductory remarks will be delivered by representatives of the Regional government, the European Commission, the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, and the event facilitators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Government of the Podkarpackie Region • Mariella Masselink, Head of Unit, Industrial Forum, Alliances, Clusters, European Commission, DG GROW
14:30 – 14:45	Setting the Scene Presentation of the ECCP input paper on Podkarpackie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan-Phillip Kramer, ECCP team member, Prognos
14:45 – 15:00	The concept of networking cooperation in establishing an innovation ecosystem A brief presentation will introduce the concept of clustering and showcase the Podkarpackie innovation ecosystem along with its key players. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Member of the Board of the Podkarpackie Region, Government of the Podkarpackie Region
15:00 – 15:50	Panel discussion No. 1: The role of clusters in accelerating the economic development of the region and the country. The panel will focus on identifying best practices and barriers for cooperation between the administration and clusters in implementing development

	<p>policy. It will also provide an opportunity to present experiences of international cluster cooperation in key areas for the regional economy, such as education and the labour market. Representatives from the administration responsible for creating and implementing development policy, as well as representatives from regional, supra-regional, national clusters, and those with international connections, will be participating in the panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monika Antonowicz, Expert, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Department of Analyses and Strategies • Niklas Schilling, Manager International Affairs, European Aerospace Cluster Partnership, Hamburg Aviation Cluster • Marek Darecki, President, Aviation Valley Association • Ryszard Jania, President, East Automotive Alliance • Antonio Novo, President, iDIA cluster and European Cluster Alliance <p>Moderator: Agnieszka Olechnicka, Professor, Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG) University of Warsaw</p>
15:50 – 16:10	Coffee Break
16:10 – 17:00	<p>Panel discussion No. 2: Industry transformation towards a zero-carbon economy</p> <p>The panel discussion will focus on technologies to accelerate the transformation, including hydrogen technologies, and also the challenges and barriers faced by companies in reducing their environmental impact. The panel will also attempt to identify areas of support that clusters can provide in the transformation process. Entrepreneurs representing companies at various levels of development (micro, small, medium, and large) implementing low- or zero-carbon economy solutions, as well as representatives of clusters involved in the development and dissemination of zero-carbon technologies, will be participating in the panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Kozera-Szałkowska, Managing Director, PlasticsEurope Polska • prof. Jarosław Sęp, President, Subcarpathian Hydrogen Valley Association • Thilo Schönfeld, Deputy Director for International Affairs, AEROSPACE VALLEY • Patrick Dufour PhD, Managing Director, Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH • Lorenzo Galligani, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Councillor of Pistoia, Italy <p>Moderator: Irena Łobocka- Coordinator, Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster</p>
17:00 – 17:50	<p>Pitching session: Activities of clusters for economic development.</p> <p>The session will offer a chance for a concise presentation of clusters, highlighting their role in the ecosystem, experiences, challenges, etc. Each presentation will be limited to a maximum of 3-5 minutes. Following each presentation, there will be a Q&A session for the audience to ask questions.</p> <p>Moderator: Thomas Röhr, Secretary General, European Automotive Cluster Network</p>
17:50 – 18:00	<p>Wrap up Day 1 and intro to Day 2</p> <p>Łukasz Bis, Investor Support Officer, Sokołów Małopolski Municipality</p>
18:30 – 20:00	<p>Networking cocktail for all participants in Podkarpackie Science Centre 'Łukasiewicz'</p>

Day 2 – Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:30 – 09:40	<p>Setting the scene</p> <p>Brief summary of the 1st day and introduction of the 2nd day</p>

09:40 – 10:30	<p>Panel discussion No. 3: Dual-use technologies building security and developing innovation in the economy</p> <p>The panel will address the development of dual-use technologies in various sectors of the economy, presentation of good practices, challenges and barriers to scaling production. Representatives from the business sector, with experience in developing dual use solutions, as well as clusters and defence administration, among others, will be participating in the panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janusz Michalcewicz, CEO, Eurotech sp. z o.o., • Sebastian Rynkiewicz, President, EVOLUMA industry cluster • Davide Magagna, Team Leader, Unit Innovation Policies and Economic Impact, Joint Research Centre European Commission Seville • Bartosz Mielecki, Managing Director, Polish Automotive Group cluster • Sebastian Babiarz, Business Development Director, Skypuzzler <p>Moderator: Marta Mackiewicz, Professor, SGH Warsaw School of Economics</p>
10:30– 11:20	<p>Panel discussion No. 4: Development of unmanned systems and opportunities for their application</p> <p>The panel will focus on the role of unmanned systems in the development of various sectors of the economy. The panellists will be able to present their experiences of cross-sector and inter-regional cooperation and present opportunities and challenges for developing this sector of the economy. Entrepreneurs (manufacturers and end users of unmanned systems) and representatives of clusters and the scientific industry will be participating in the panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aneta Łobodzińska, CEO, Science-Technology Centre for Unmanned Systems • Margarita Chrysaki, Communication and Project Officer, Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies • Sylwester Wyka PhD Eng., Acting Director, Łukasiewicz- Institute of Aviation • Wojciech Skarka PhD Eng, prof. SUT, Expert, Silesian University of Technology • Grigory Rotshteyn, Senior Engineer, Unisphere <p>Moderator: Dominika Kuberska, PhD, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn</p>
11:20 – 11:50	Coffee Break
11:50 – 12:50	<p>Pitching session: Startups in creating an innovative economy</p> <p>It is similar to the session on clusters. Each invited startup will have the opportunity to give a concise presentation of their activities and successes in creating and developing innovative solutions. Following the presentations, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions (a maximum of 3-5 minutes for each presentation).</p> <p>Moderator: Łukasz Bis, Investor Support Officer, Sokołów Małopolski Municipality</p>
12:50 – 13:45	<p>Panel discussion No. 5: European programs and their role in directing the development of the region's economy</p> <p>The panel will provide an opportunity to discuss the most important financial and non-financial instruments at the European, national, and regional levels to develop a competitive and innovative economy. The discussion will cover the implementation process, successes in applying these instruments for business development, and barriers encountered in the application and settlement process. Representatives from institutions responsible for implementing European funds and entities/clusters implementing projects financed by these funds will be participating in the panel.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krzysztof Krystowski, President, Polish Clusters Association and Silesian Aviation Cluster • Jakub Stolf PhD, President, Automotive Skills Alliance • Dr Ramūnas Kuncaitis, Head of Sector “Entrepreneurship and Clusters”, European Innovation Council and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Executive Agency • Ewelina Rathje, Project Advisor, European Health and Digital Executive Agency • Grzegorz Orawiec, Head of Department of Innovation and Development Support Programmes, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy • Bożena Lublińska- Kasprzak- First Deputy Director, National Centre for Research and Development <p>Moderator: Marta Mackiewicz, Professor, SGH Warsaw School of Economics</p>
13:45 – 14:00	<p>Summary of the official part of the event</p> <p>Łukasz Bis, Investor Support Officer, Sokółów Małopolski Municipality</p>
14:00 – 15:00	Networking Lunch
15:00 – 17:30	<p>Site Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Podkarpackie Innovation Center – a key institution supporting R&D and technology transfer in the region. • Option 2: Technology Incubator of the Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park – fostering high-tech entrepreneurship and industrial innovation.