



AGORADA+ discusses the Knowledge Park as a Catalyst for the Green and Digital Transition in the North Adriatic region

Date: 10 & 11 September 2025

Venue: Hall of the First Slovenian Government (Dvorana Prve slovenske vlade), Ajdovščina, Slovenia

Description

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), on behalf of the European Commission, in collaboration with Regional Development Agency ROD Ajdovščina, is pleased to organise the Clusters Meet Regions event in Ajdovščina, Slovenia, on 10 & 11 September 2025.

The event will take place in the heart of the Goriška region, adjacent to the twin cities of Nova Gorica and Gorizia, the joint European Capital of Culture in 2025. This setting presents a unique opportunity to connect innovation with cultural development, and to promote cross-border cooperation in an evolving regional context.

Ajdovščina, located in western Slovenia near the Italian border, is home to the Knowledge Park – a vibrant innovation ecosystem integrating industrial, academic, and policy actors. With strong cluster activity in green technology, sustainable agriculture, and advanced manufacturing, the region offers a compelling backdrop for discussing how place-based innovation can support Europe's twin transition.

Context and Objectives

This Clusters Meet Regions edition will bring together regional and international actors to explore:

- The strategic role of Knowledge Parks in regional development, innovation, and resilience.
- Green and digital transition in the North Adriatic, including the development of the North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley and climate-smart agri-food systems.
- Cross-border innovation collaboration between Slovenia and neighbouring regions in Italy and the Western Balkans.
- The role of regional development agencies and clusters in building strategic autonomy.

Target Groups

The event will gather:

- Cluster managers and regional development agencies.
- National and local public authorities.
- SMEs and entrepreneurs.
- Academic institutions and R&D centres.
- EU institutions and representatives from Interreg, Horizon, and IPA programmes.

Agenda Highlights

Day 1 – 10 September 2025

- Opening session with speakers from local and EU institutions, including DG GROW and the Slovenian Ministry of Economy.
- Input paper presentation and discussion: "Knowledge Park Ajdovščina – Driving Regional Innovation" •
- Panel 1: Green transition and hydrogen solutions in the North Adriatic region.
- Panel 2: Sustainable food systems and biotechnology.
- Co-creation workshop: Building an Innovation Ecosystem.
- Evening cultural programme in Gorizia/Nova Gorica, part of the GO!2025 Capital of Culture.

Day 2 – 11 September 2025

- Roundtable: Role of Regional Development Agencies in the Twin Transition.
- Session: The role of RDAs and clusters in achieving strategic autonomy.
- Site Visits : pioneering aviation, smart manufacturing and agri-food
 - Pipistrel
 - Incom
 - Municipality of Ajdovščina.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened collaboration between clusters and RDAs across borders.
- Practical insights into how Knowledge Parks can enable green and digital innovation.
- Promotion of the role of clusters in achieving EU strategic autonomy and supporting SMEs.
- New project ideas, especially in relation to Interreg, IPA, and Horizon Europe.

Logistical Information

Venue: Hall of the First Slovenian Government, Ajdovščina.

Accessibility:

- Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport (LJU) – approx. 1.5 hours by car
- Trieste Airport (TRS) – approx. 50 minutes by car
- Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) – approx. 2 hours by car

Shuttle transport will be arranged for participants travelling from these airports.

Accommodation:

The local organiser warmly encourages participants to consider dispersed accommodation options. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the region more intimately, connect with local residents, enjoy authentic food and wine, and directly support the local community and economy.

Accommodation details and booking instructions are provided in the Participants Booklet. Participants are encouraged to book their rooms by 25 August 2025.

- [Gold Club](#) (walking distance from the venue)
- [B&W Križ](#) (Vipavski Križ) – *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*
- [Ferjančič wines](#) (Planina) - *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*
- [Boutique Rooms by Petrič Winery](#) (Dobravljje) - *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*
- [Guerila](#) (Planina) - *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*
- [Majerija](#) (Slap) - *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*
- [Čebtron Family Estate](#) (Preserje) - *shuttle service to the venue will be provided*

More Information & Next Steps

A detailed agenda and registration details is available [here](#). Please visit the ECCP website or contact clustersmeetregions@clustercollaboration.eu for the latest updates.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ajdovščina for a dynamic exchange on regional innovation, green transformation, and cross-border collaboration!