



**PARTICIPANTS'
BOOKLET**

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

SCALING INNOVATION THROUGH CLUSTERS:
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND ECOSYSTEM COLLABORATION

CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

ATHENS 2026

Participants' Booklet: everything you need on the ground

6-7

October 2026

Athens

Attica Greece

2 days

Dialogue, peer
learning and
matchmaking

ECCP

An event organised
for the European
Commission by the
ECCP

An event organised in collaboration with:



CLUSTERS MEET REGIONS

ATHENS
GREECE

6 · 7
OCTOBER 2026

SCALING INNOVATION THROUGH CLUSTERS: STRENGTHENING
REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND ECOSYSTEM COLLABORATION



“Clusters Meet Regions 2026”

Hosted by Region of Attica

Athens, 6-7 October 2026

1. Welcome to Athens!

Welcome to Athens for **Clusters Meet Regions 2026 – Attica**, taking place on **6-7 October 2026**.

Organised by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), on behalf of the European Commission, in collaboration with the Region of Attica, the Attica Region Innovation Center and the Regional Development Fund of Attica, the event will bring together policymakers, cluster organisations, businesses, research institutions and innovation stakeholders from across Europe to discuss the role of clusters in strengthening innovation, competitiveness and regional development.

Key information at a glance

Event: Clusters Meet Regions 2026 – Attica (Athens)

Title: *Scaling Innovation through Clusters: Strengthening Regional Competitiveness and Ecosystem Collaboration*

Dates: 6-7 October 2026

Venue: [Athens Conservatoire](#) (Ωδείο Αθηνών)

Address: [Rigillis St & Vas. Georgiou Avenue B' 17-19](#), 10675 Athens, Greece

Registration: Please, register via the [B2Match platform](#)

Working language: English

2. About the Event

The **Clusters Meet Regions** initiative aims to strengthen the links between EU cluster policy and regional development priorities, highlighting the contribution of clusters to innovation, competitiveness and sustainable growth. The event will provide a platform for dialogue and exchange among policymakers, cluster organisations, businesses, research institutions and other innovation stakeholders.

Against the backdrop of Attica's dynamic innovation ecosystem, participants will explore how clusters can facilitate innovation uptake, support SME growth and internationalisation, contribute to industrial transformation and strengthen cooperation across European regions. The event will encourage mutual learning, the exchange of good practices and the development of new interregional partnerships.

Key Themes

- Innovation uptake, commercialisation and scale-up
- SME competitiveness and internationalisation
- Cluster-led collaboration and industrial transformation
- Interregional cooperation
- Smart Specialisation Strategies
- Integration into European value chains
- Access to investment opportunities
- Regional competitiveness and innovation-driven growth

Ecosystems in Focus

- **Digital and AI**
Exploring how digital technologies and artificial intelligence can support business growth, innovation and industrial modernisation.
- **Health and Biotech**
Highlighting developments in health technologies, biotechnology and life sciences and their contribution to regional and European competitiveness.
- **Microelectronics and Deep Tech**
Showcasing opportunities in microelectronics, photonics, space-related applications and other deep-tech fields.

3. Programme & Participation

The programme combines high-level policy discussions, thematic sessions, presentations of cluster initiatives and regional experiences, networking opportunities and interactive exchanges aimed at fostering collaboration among European innovation stakeholders.

The latest version of the programme is available via:

Event webpage: [Clusters Meet Regions - Athens, Greece | European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#)

Event Agenda: [Draft Agenda - CMR Attica.pdf](#)

Arrival and Registration

Participants are invited to register through the event's [B2Match platform](#) and collect their badge upon arrival at the Athens Conservatoire.

Registration desk: A registration desk will be available at the entrance of the Athens Conservatoire for badge collection and participant assistance throughout the event.

Networking and Matchmaking

The event will offer dedicated opportunities to connect with cluster organisations, SMEs, investors, policymakers, research organisations and innovation support actors from across Europe. Participants will be able to identify potential cooperation opportunities, build new partnerships and exchange experiences with peers from different regions.

A dedicated matchmaking system will be available through the event's B2Match platform. Participants are encouraged to complete their profile in advance and describe their collaboration interests. Bilateral meetings are expected to become available through the B2Match platform in **early September 2026**.

Travel Information

Arriving in Athens

Athens International Airport (ATH) "Eleftherios Venizelos" is the main international gateway to Athens and offers direct connections to major European destinations.

Airport information: [Travellers | AIA](#)

How to reach the Event's venue

1. Arriving from Athens International Airport (ATH)

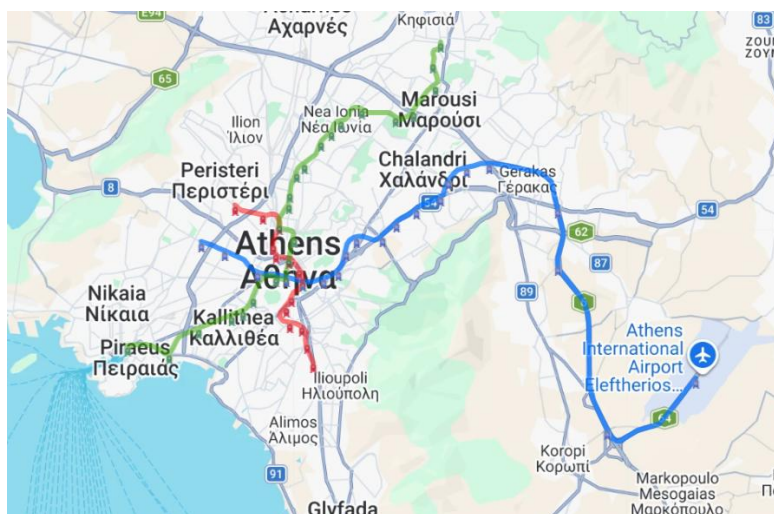
Metro (recommended)

Metro [Line 3](#) (Blue Line) provides a direct connection between Athens International Airport and the city. The airport fare indicated in the travel information is **€9**.

Useful stations:

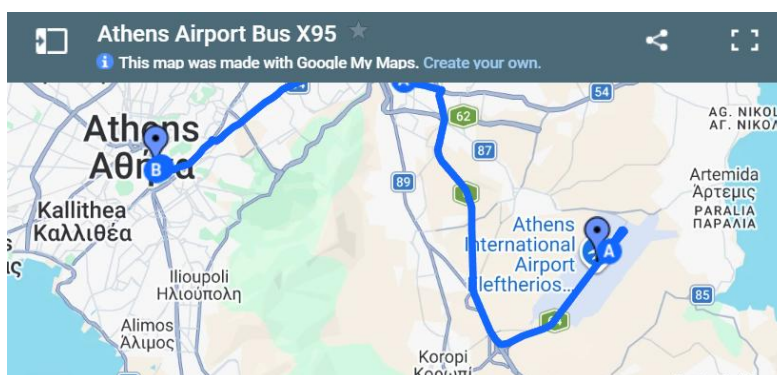
Evangelismos (Event venue) - [Line 3](#): Agia Marina-Doukissis Plakentias/Airport, [schedule here](#)

Syntagma (city centre)



Bus

The [X95 Airport Express Bus](#) connects Athens International Airport with Syntagma Square and Evangelismos. The journey takes approximately 40 minutes, depending on traffic.



2. Arriving from Piraeus Port

Participants arriving via Piraeus Port can use **METRO Line 1 (Green Line)**, connecting Piraeus with central Athens. From **Monastiraki** or **Omonia** stations, connections are available to reach the event venue via the Athens metro network.

The journey from Piraeus to central Athens takes approximately 20 minutes.

Useful information about the Port of Piraeus: [here](#)

3. Taxi Services

A taxi journey between the airport and central Athens typically costs approximately **€50-60**, depending on time of the day, traffic conditions and destination. Credit and debit cards are generally accepted.

Available services include:

[Athens Airport Taxi Transfers 24/7](#)

[Freenow](#)

[Uber Greece](#)

4. Other Bus Services in Athens

Several local bus lines serve the area surrounding the Athens Conservatoire.

Bus stop: [National Research Foundation](#)

Bus lines: 550 ([P.Faliro-Kifisia](#)) and 10 ([Tzitzifies-Chalandri](#))

Additional nearby stops on Vasilissis Sofias Avenue:

- Rigillis
- Byzantine Museum-Rigillis

4. Accommodation

Participants are invited to arrange their accommodation independently. The following hotels were identified by the organisers as convenient options with easy access to the venue.

Within Walking Distance of the Venue

1. [Delice Hotel-Family Apartments, Λεωφ. Βασιλέως Αλεξάνδρου 3, Αθήνα 115 28](#), (Booking platform link [here](#))
2. [Ilisia Hotel, Μιχαλακοπούλου 25, Αθήνα 115 28](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))
3. [The Marblous Athens, 24 Voulis And, Μητροπόλεως Street, Αθήνα 105 63](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))

These hotels are located approximately **10-20 minutes on foot** from the Athens Conservatoire.

Accessible via public transport

1. [14 Reasons Why, Μιαούλη 21, Αθήνα 105 54](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))
2. [Carolina Hotel, Κολοκοτρώνη 55, Αθήνα 105 60](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))
3. [Athens Starlight Hotel | Ξενοδοχείο Athens Starlight Hotel στο Κέντρο της Αθήνας, Αγάθωνος 9, Αθήνα 105 51](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))
4. [Whisper Athens Suites, Αγ. Αναργύρων 8, Αθήνα 105 54](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))
5. [International Atene Hotel, Βερανζέρου 26, Αθήνα 104 32](#) (Booking platform link [here](#))

These hotels are located near Monastiraki, Syntagma or Omonia, with convenient access to the venue via **Metro Line 3** and Evangelismos Station.

5. Discover Athens

Athens combines a rich historical heritage with a vibrant contemporary culture, offering visitors a unique mix of world-renowned landmarks, lively neighbourhoods and welcoming public spaces.

Recommended Attractions

[Acropolis & Acropolis Museum](#): Greece's most iconic archaeological site and one of the world's most important cultural landmarks.

[Syntagma Square](#): The central square of Athens, home to the Hellenic Parliament and the ceremonial Changing of the Guard.

[National Garden](#): A peaceful green space located between Syntagma Square and the Athens Conservatoire.

[Plaka](#): Athens' historic neighbourhood, characterised by picturesque streets, local shops and traditional architecture.

[Panathenaic Stadium](#): The venue of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, located within walking distance of the event venue.

[Kolonaki](#): One of Athens' most vibrant districts, known for its cafés, restaurants and boutique shops.

6. Useful Links

Event Website: [Clusters Meet Regions - Athens, Greece | European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#)

Registration & Matchmaking Platform: [B2Match platform](#)

Agenda: [Draft Agenda - CMR Attica.pdf](#)

Athens International Airport: [Travellers | AIA](#)

7. Contacts

ECCP Contact: clustersmeetregions@clustercollaboration.eu

Local Organiser Contacts:

Mr. Petros Podaras, Coordinator of the Innovation Center of Attica Region
(petros.podaras@innovationattica.gr)

Emergency Information: 112 – European Emergency Number (police, ambulance, fire brigade) available 24/7 and free of charge



GET INVOLVED

JOIN EUROPE'S CLUSTER COMMUNITY

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform connects cluster organisations, SMEs and policymakers across Europe — with the tools, partners and funding to grow together.



Partner search & matchmaking

Find collaborators among thousands of profiled clusters across Europe and beyond.



Funding & Euroclusters

Discover EU calls and join cross-border initiatives to scale your ecosystem



Events & matchmaking missions

European and international matchmaking to open new markets.



Insights & mapping tools

Cluster data, country factsheets and market intelligence in one place.

READ IT ONLINE

Scan for the Clusters meet
Regions event page



[clustercollaboration.eu
/content/clusters-meet-
regions-athens-greece](https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/clusters-meet-regions-athens-greece)

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