

# ENHANCING TRANSNATIONAL CLUSTER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

The ClusterCOOP Project Lead Managed by the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary within the framework of the EU ERDF's Central Europe Programme promotes cluster-friendly regulations as a way to support innovation through cooperation. The project also encourages policy that lets clusters work across borders while also identifying emerging industries that can benefit from such transnational cooperation. It is done in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic their respective background institutions, Czechinvest the Investment and Business Development Agency and the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, furthermore the Italian Region of Piedmont, the University of Ljubljana, the Polish city of Rzeszów, MAG Hungarian Economic Development Centre and INNO AG from Baden Württemberg. The 3 year project ends at 31.05.2014.



Central European industry needs reshaping based on technological development in a sustainable, durable form considering the needs of global competitiveness. This is even more accentuated in sectors producing high value added products or when linking value chains but also when considering just in time availability of resources and last but not least focusing on environmental limitations. In its humble way ClusterCOOP helps in the formulation of Innovation strategies linked to industrial policies which are in a way a priority in creating smart specializations. ClusterCOOP via its Virtual Interactive Platform ([www.clustercoop.eu](http://www.clustercoop.eu)) also can serve as a



base for interactive policy creation at the same time helping cross-border or cross-regional network building, finding new partners for business enlargement.

Innovation is a crucial driving force for economic growth, relevant to every economic sector. Europe needs to improve its performance in innovation to withstand comparison with competing global partners. Creating and enhancing framework conditions for the effective cross-regional and cross-border cooperation of clusters embedded in innovation policies in CE requires joint actions by the policy makers.

**Main project results:** common proposals on **harmonisation of national regulatory frameworks** regarding transnational cluster cooperation and on the **alignment and integration of different funding schemes** and on promotion of the **development of emerging industry** through cross regional/border cluster cooperation, setting up a joint **Central European cluster qualification system**; and finally the establishment of a **Virtual Interactive Platform** helped by an international network of **Cluster Contact Points**

Given that **clusters** provide conditions conducive to innovation they remain **fundamental** in promoting new ideas, leveraging economic growth potential by way of creating linkages (e.g. networking) with other relevant stakeholders and exploiting complementarities, which makes them the **best suited organisations for achieving collective impact**. Hence when the task of establishing **Smart Specialisation Strategies** based on Research and Innovation Strategies is on the agenda **results of ClusterCOOP feed in swiftly to the process thus helping decision makers on all levels**.



Read more about the project at [www.clustercoopproject.eu](http://www.clustercoopproject.eu)



ClusterCOOP



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