



# CLUSTERIX 2.0

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

Survey on

## Increased professional Capacity

with the help of the Interreg Europe project  
CLUSTERIX 2.0

March 2019

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# Purpose of this survey

Interreg Europe helps practitioners of regional development policies to increase their professional skills thanks to the exchange of experience activities carried out within projects.

Increased professional capacity means that people have gained new knowledge in their field of expertise, knowledge that helps them to better perform their job.

In order to measure the number of people with increased professional capacity we addressed this survey to all people who were particularly active in the exchange of experience activities of the project. This includes both the staff of the partners' organisations and the members of the stakeholder groups.

Based on the template provided by the Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat and using survey monkey we gathered answers of **60 respondents** in a timeframe of 5 weeks (5 February – 11 March 2019) at the end of phase 1 of the project.

**Here are the results:**

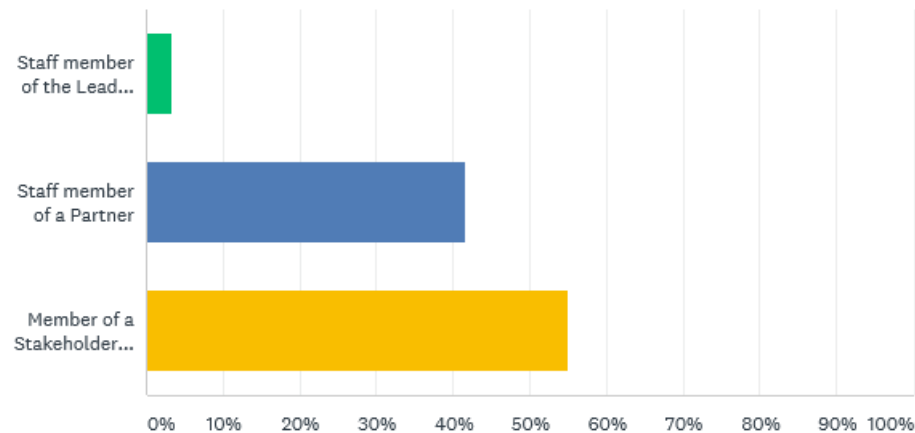
# Respondents' role in the project

9 CLUSTERIX 2.0 partner organisations

- 27 staff members replied
- 33 stakeholders replied

Your role in the Project:

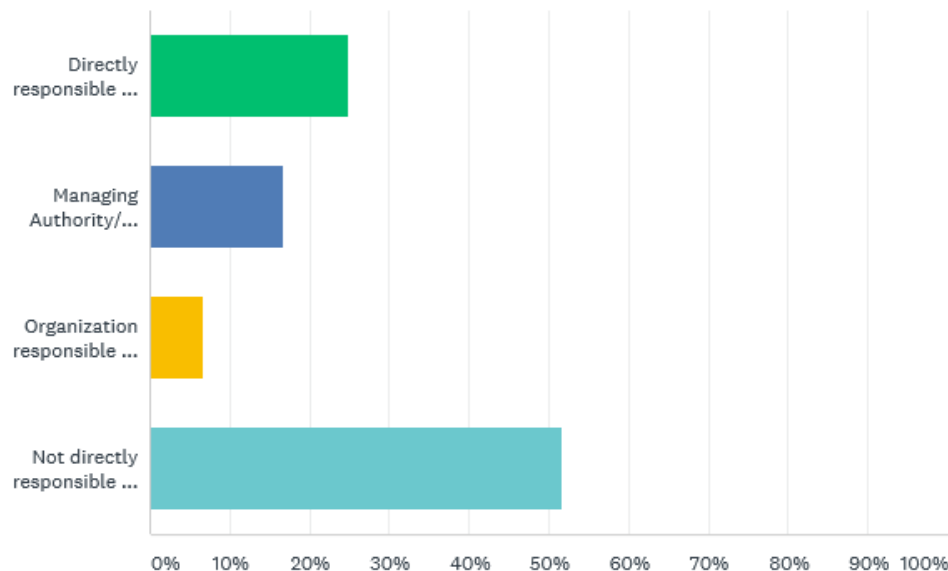
Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES                     | RESPONSES |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| ▼ Staff member of the Lead Partner | 3.33% 2   |
| ▼ Staff member of a Partner        | 41.67% 25 |
| ▼ Member of a Stakeholder Group    | 55.00% 33 |
| TOTAL                              | 60        |

# Respondents' organizational role in relation to the policy instrument addressed

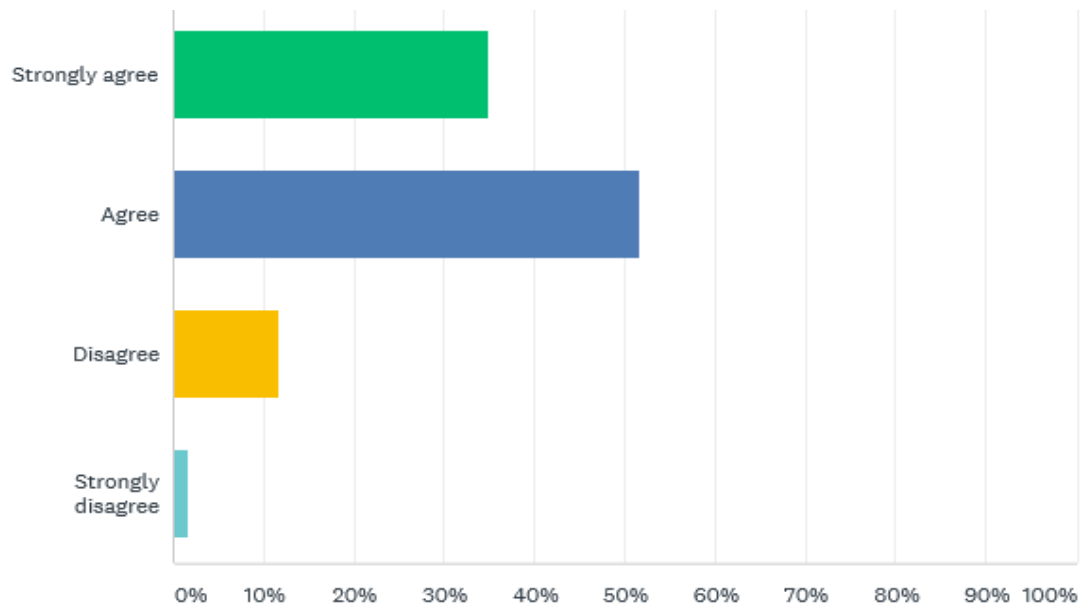
- 29 policy makers replied (responsible for the policy instrument addressed or other SF/national/regional programmes)
- 31 people implementing these policies replied



| ANSWER CHOICES  | RESPONSES |
|---|-----------|
| Directly responsible for the policy Instrument addressed by the Project           | 25.00% 15 |
| Managing Authority/ intermediate Body of a Structural Funds operational programme | 16.67% 10 |
| Organization responsible for other regional development policies                  | 6.67% 4   |
| Not directly responsible for the policy Instrument addressed in the project       | 51.67% 31 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>60</b> |

# Need to increase professional capacity

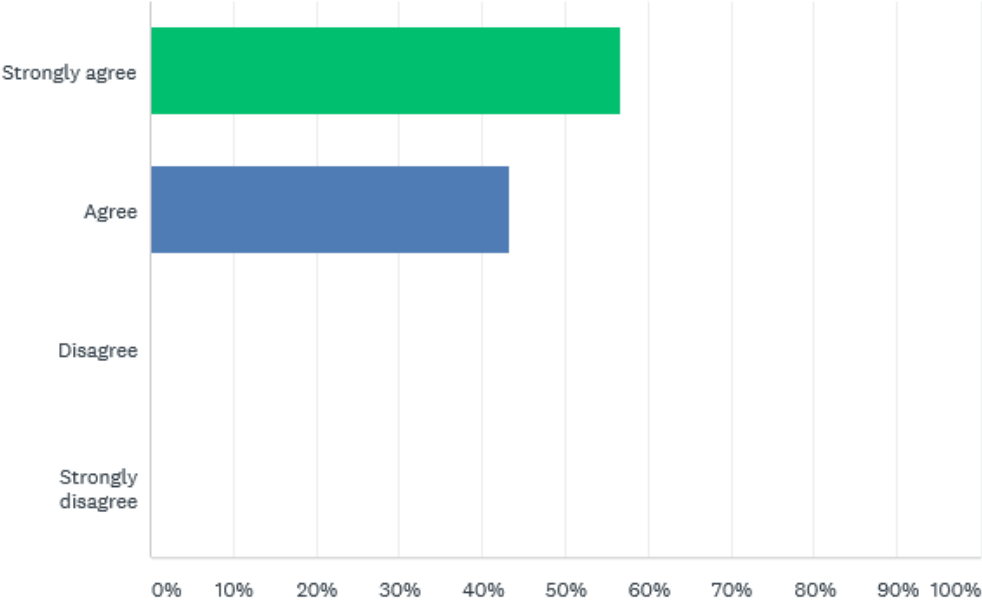
- 52 respondents felt the need to increase their professional capacity before participating in the project
- Only 8 didn't



| ANSWER CHOICES    | RESPONSES |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Strongly agree    | 35.00% 21 |
| Agree             | 51.67% 31 |
| Disagree          | 11.67% 7  |
| Strongly disagree | 1.67% 1   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>60</b> |

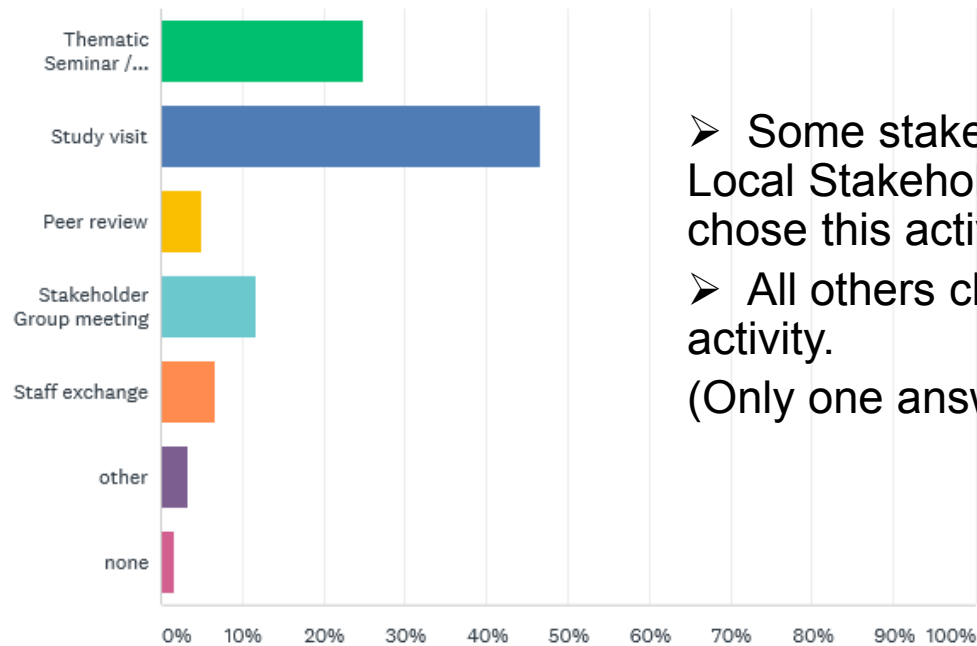
# Interesting Practices and Ideas

➤ All 60 respondents agree that they came across interesting practices and ideas from other regions during the project activities.



| ANSWER CHOICES    | RESPONSES |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Strongly agree    | 56.67% 34 |
| Agree             | 43.33% 26 |
| Disagree          | 0.00% 0   |
| Strongly disagree | 0.00% 0   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>60</b> |

## Most useful project activity for learning?



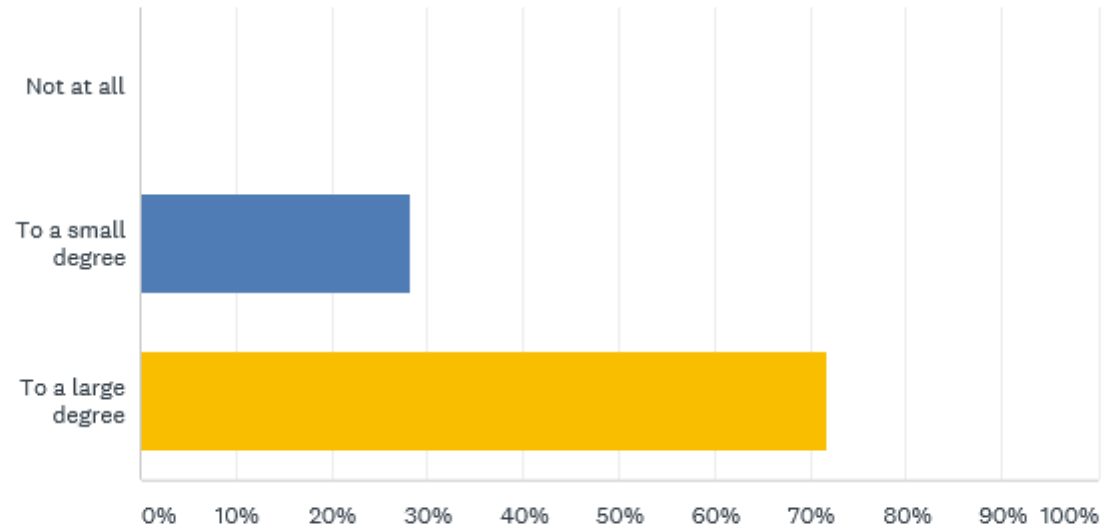
- Some stakeholders only participated in Local Stakeholder Group meetings and chose this activity.
  - All others chose an interregional activity.
- (Only one answer was possible)

| ANSWER CHOICES              | RESPONSES |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Thematic Seminar / Workshop | 25.00% 15 |
| Study visit                 | 46.67% 28 |
| Peer review                 | 5.00% 3   |
| Stakeholder Group meeting   | 11.67% 7  |
| Staff exchange              | 6.67% 4   |
| other                       | 3.33% 2   |
| none                        | 1.67% 1   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>60</b> |

# Self-Assessment of Increased Professional Competence

- All 60 respondents report to have increased their professional competence
- More than 70% even to a large degree

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES      | RESPONSES |
|---------------------|-----------|
| ▼ Not at all        | 0.00% 0   |
| ▼ To a small degree | 28.33% 17 |
| ▼ To a large degree | 71.67% 43 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>60</b> |



# Some of the answers to the open question

## Please indicate which are the practices / ideas you found the most interesting and why (I):

General learnings from Peer Review: I learned about the big differences between Cluster policy concepts in diff. European regions, the Need to clearly define the objectives of the policy in order to set-up the right financing model and the Need for an individual clear monitoring and steering tool; GP "PPI Pool" from Southern Denmark: we learned about procedures and financing tool to foster Public Private Innovation and will test it in Lower Austria; Staff Exchange P7 to Lower Austria (LP): great Inspiration from southern-danish Support for digital Transformation + PPI Pool (s. above); Study visit to Győr (P3): MOBILIS Interactive Exhibition Centre

3/4/2019 2:41 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Ac

- better understanding overview on relevant initiatives and programmes of Clusters and networks on European and inter-regional level; - helped me to interact with and gain new insights from the largest group of experts in the field of Cluster Policy; - workshops provided in-depth knowledge by the partners and institutions and the future vision on the Cluster Policy; - gain new insights into the knowledge and experiences - study visit driven; - I have had the broad possibilities of knowing the latest concerns and practices in the field of innovative clusters (and related fields) in Sweden, which already has a vast experience in this field, thus being a worthy example to be followed for Romania; - gain new insights into fostering new value chains through cooperative and strategic inter-regional partnerships taking into account RIS3 smart specialization focus; - useful knowledge and experience about IDM South Tyrol finances through the dedicated cluster programme the competence mapping of cluster companies -discussing different approaches to implement parts of the competence mapping and focus on the capabilities of Cluster/Ecosystems ;

2/26/2019 2:26 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Ad

Integrated Cluster Services (Romania): how the romanian cluster alliance was organized, what kind of challenges did they face, what kind of service do they offer etc... Strategic Use of Design (Denmark): It was interesting how to develop new model as an innovation tool, how products and solutions to become more competitive thanks to this method. Lessons learned: companies using design strategically perform better than others.

2/26/2019 12:48 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) )

The Hungarian cluster accreditation system, as it is a very useful tool to consider the cluster development in a systemic and systematic way. Transfer potential to the Romanian Cluster Association's cluster evaluation system; - Implementation of the Competence Mapping at the level of South Tyrolean SMEs; a very useful tool to increase the level of innovation in SMEs

2/22/2019 6:16 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

## Some of the answers to the open question Please indicate which are the practices / ideas you found the most interesting and why (II):

Especially the topic of innovation-promoting pilot project calls for demonstration projects with public test users is very exciting and useful in my opinion in order to create useful products and services. Another important topic is the cluster cooperation projects on digitization to develop regional business regions and to better shape the future

2/21/2019 9:47 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

Staff exchange Lower Austria – Romania was one of the very useful action. One of the main points of the visit was the organisation of a “policy learning” workshop with the representatives of the Intermediary Body for ERDF Competitiveness Operational Programmes in which clusters are financed, dedicated to the elaboration of the cluster financing scheme.

2/20/2019 2:23 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

The good practices in cluster development from the countries partners were discussed within the interregional meetings and the inspiring ideas from across the project partnership turned into specific cluster financing schemes dedicated to cluster management. The learnings were shared and discussed in the peer review organized at the regional level in the aim to identify the potential for transferring them. The regional approach builds upon the strong regional focus of the Clusterix 2.0 approach.

2/19/2019 12:00 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Adc

1. Site visit in Bolzano: the concept and the development of the NOI - NATURE OF INNOVATION project (South Tyrol's technology park) - best practice in the field; 2.'Competence Mapping' methodology (South Tyrolean Pilot project, presented by Andreas Winkler /IDM Head of Ecosystem) - best practice in the field, it would be interesting to design a similar system in N-E Romania; 3. South Tyrol branding methodology - very relevant for the N-E Romania regional brand (a project in which I have been thoroughly involved). 4. Cluster Games methodology (introduced by the Hungarian partners) - good and innovative practice for clusters cooperation that can be applied in any regional innovation ecosystem; 5. Open discussions within large audience events (e.g. National Clusters Conference in Romania, WIRE 2018) on the regional progress regarding innovative clusters and clusterization - good opportunity for ideas exchange, for peer-learning, and for promoting relevant regional initiatives.

2/18/2019 2:08 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Adc

## Some of the answers to the open question Please indicate which are the practices / ideas you found the most interesting and why (III):

For me, the most interesting practices and ideas were the ones I learnt during the 3D printing conference MAMC 2018. They are ideas related to 3D printing applications and good practices related to cluster activities and collaborations among clusters. The new things I find out about 3D printing application and technology are important for my company as it offers 3D printing and engineering services and it needs to stay updated in order to be competitive and to further develop. Regarding the good practices related to clusters, these are interesting in the view of our cluster's continuous improvement and development.

2/10/2019 3:04 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

1. The transfer of lessons learned was assured by the involvement of large spectrum of stakeholders from the representatives of policy makers and managing authorities/ intermediary bodies for ERDF Competitiveness Operational Programmes to clusters and cluster members. 2. The Working Groups on different subjects as Cluster Management Organizations Services provided a strong input to the need to diversify the spectrum of cluster services towards the members, in particular with respect to innovation and internationalisation, strategic planning skills at the level of the cluster management and long term sustainable business models

2/12/2019 7:32 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

Practices targeting monitoring and evaluation and effect of cluster Initiatives have been the most interesting for Region Skåne. We did not have a structured way of monitoring the effect of the regional cluster portfolio. With help from the project and our project partners, we have now a state-of-the-art monitoring tool which allow us to track effects on Cluster Organizational level and cluster member level. This will allow us to progress in our future policy and prioritize activities that are most important for our region in creating competitiveness and growth. In addition to this, I would like to pinpoint the overall gained knowledge from different part of Europe; policy, activities, strategies, processes etc. It has been a fruitful and highly valuable exchange that in different way shape the way we work. It's a truly inspiring and positive experience!

2/14/2019 11:34 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Ad](#)

The regional project meetings with the project partners were a great enrichment for my working environment. In particular, the meeting in France Clermont Ferrand and the visit to the organic farm with the bio-fertilizer production has shown a potential for coopertion to a development project N-Reacher of the company SBI. In the field of 3D Printig there is further cooperation with the Romanian cluster organizations and our FOTEC. In Denmark, we were able to learn from practical examples of how innovative public procurement works. In Sweden, Crowd Financing was shown for growth financing of established companies, as well as infrastructure for a dynamic start-up scene. In South Tyrol we learned how to turn an old aluminum production ruin into a thriving technology park. Something similar only with a steelworks we saw in Ostrowa / Czech Republic. The highlight for me was a study tour through Romania, from Bucharest to Brashov on to Temiswar where very big social differences were shown. In

# Some of the answers to the open question **Please explain how the increased competence Impacts your daily work and if it is important for the Action plan implementation (I):**

Working in a public authority responsible for national RDI policies makes best practices very important, such as: - how regional solutions respond to various societal needs; - how regional solutions respond to EU requirements; - how the innovation infrastructure responds to current challenges such as scaling up and open innovation.

2/26/2019 1:53 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) /

- getting ideas on new topics or ways of collaboration which would focus on to integrating national Cluster Policy in Romania

2/27/2019 9:10 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Better understanding for Public Private Innovation (PPI), i.e. the role of public procurement for Innovation; we improved inter-department collaboration in our Region to foster PPI

3/4/2019 2:41 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

In particular, the more holistic approach of Lower Austria to digitalisation was very inspiring and will be integrated as far as possible in the upcoming Regional Development Plan of Southern Denmark. Also the focus on Public Private Innovation has brought about new knowledge and perspectives in terms of using the approach when developing new strategies and initiatives at regional level

2/25/2019 1:57 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Ac

I have applied in my everyday activity at least some elements of the good practices learned during the project (e.g. regional branding methodology; innovation competences mapping methodology), within my organization's projects in the respective areas. I will continue to apply the Clusterix 2.0. lessons learnt, to the extent I contribute to other projects and activities in related fields. I had the opportunity to share regional good practices in interregional events and in international conferences, and to actively participate in peer-learning activities.

2/18/2019 2:08 PM

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# Some of the answers to the open question

## Please explain how the increased competence impacts your daily work and if it is important for the Action plan implementation (II):

I learned a lot concerning the field of innovation, clusters and S3 and how it is implemented in different regions. But I was disappointed by the stakeholders groups, where the local partners didn't show so much enthusiasm to integrate the project findings. Also, due to internal reorganization issues, I wasn't able to involve my own organization in developing and implementing the project results, which was so frustrating.

2/15/2019 6:25 PM

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Due to the long duration of the project, a special relationship of trust could arise between some project partners. This leads to further activities at the project level. We are now partners in the Vanguard Initiative and have been able to participate in further international projects. Furthermore, we are establishing a pilot project in public procurement to use the experience from Denmark and Sweden for us. For companies from Austria, we can now specifically name contact persons in the respective regions. For my daily work as a network manager it is very important to have a trusting network. With Clusterix 2 I was able to expand my predominant regional network to an international European level.

2/14/2019 3:37 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Ai

For me, looking at what happens elsewhere than in my region is always enriching and inspiring. From the study visit to Skane, I learnt another way to approach the cluster policy in our region and therefore to make our job evolve and improve.

2/13/2019 7:17 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

Now we are working on the Hungarian Cluster policy for the next period (2021-27). These learnings strongly influence our work in order to launch new type of calls, and to renew our cluster accreditation process.

2/7/2019 12:31 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Adc

# Some of the answers to the open question **Please explain how the increased competence Impacts your daily work and if it is important for the Action plan implementation (III):**

The project gave us a lot of insights in which services can support cluster, in addition to subsidies. We will implement these learnings in the coming months/years. It gave u also the necessary network to build up this competence and to cooperate further in the future.

2/6/2019 10:51 AM

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We initiated a new dialogue on improving PPI activities in our Region; identified the Need and initiate a new funding scheme for 3D Printing activities of companies; improved our Approach to initiate collaborative Projects on digital Transformation (all 3 Points are Actions in our Action Plan). The staff Exchange gave me the opportunity to spend a week at a Partner organization and was a great opportunity for indepth learning. Also Hosting a staff member of a partner organization was a great experience with indepth discussions and very valuable learnings.

2/5/2019 2:34 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Adc

A better understanding of the local environment and stakeholder group necessities. Increased experience in European project management. Useful exchange of experience with the newtork of people.

2/14/2019 4:30 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Of course, the increased knowledge will help us to implement our action plan in a more efficient way. We have a good structure and idea how to make sure the implementation of the action plan will be made, but also how the outcome of the implementation will advance our way of working with clusters. How to shape future policy, how to prioritise and to be able to work in more efficient processes to obtain our objectives in the region.

2/14/2019 12:34 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) Adc

# CLUSTERIX 2.0

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## Thank you!

A more elaborate version with all answers is available upon request (anonymized).



*Project smedia*