

## Final Conference- CLUSTERS3 Interreg Europe Leveraging Cluster Policies for successful implementation of RIS3

Antwerp, Flanders BE

October 9, 2019

Venue: FMCCA | Elisabeth Center, Koningin Astridplein 20, Antwerp, Flanders BE

### Programme

14.30	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b>  <b>Welcome from the hosts</b>, Patricia Valdenebro TCI Network and Annie Renders VLAIO  <b>Introduction to CLUSTERS3</b>, CLUSTERS3 Lead Partner, Txomin Olabarri, SPRI  <b>INTERREG Europe Programme</b>, Mar Martin, Interreg Programme Officer</p>
14.50	<p><b>The CLUSTERS3 Project. What have we Learnt?</b>  The CLUSTERS3 Interreg Europe Project was launched in 2016 to provide answers to challenges of implementing cluster policies in coordination with other competitiveness policies. Four years of peer learning have focused on the design and implementation of cluster policies, the cluster organisation ecosystem, the monitoring and evaluation of clusters, and the link between clusters and regional smart specialisation strategies. In this session the 7 partner regions will share some of their key learnings around these themes.  SPRI - Basque Business Development Agency  Lubelskie Voivodeship  Piedmont Region  Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia  Hajdú-Bihar County Council  Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)  Invest Northern Ireland / Department for the Economy  Roundtable, moderated by Patricia Valdenebro, TCI Network</p>
15.30	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
16.00	<p><b>CLUSTER POLICY AND S3. Where Next?</b>  After four years of inter-regional learning around the implementation of cluster policies in the context of smart specialisation, this session asks, 'where next?'. The context will be set by briefly summarising relevant analyses, peer learning and good practices captured in the project's policy learning documents and more widely in the EU cluster policy landscape. This will lead into facilitated group dynamics to work on specifying key challenges for cluster policies and S3 in Europe, for example facilitating digitalization among SMEs, supporting the achievement of SDGs, and fostering continuous policy learning that can integrally support regional smart specialization strategies.  <b>Setting the Context.</b>  Ulla Engelmann, Head of unit responsible for advanced technologies, clusters and social economy, DG Grow @EU Commission.  James Wilson, ORKESTRA Basque Institute of Competitiveness  <b>Group Dynamics</b>  <i>How should the cluster policy of the future address key emerging challenges?</i></p>
17.00	<p><b>Closing Session</b>  Ulla Engelmann, Head of unit responsible for advanced technologies, clusters and social economy, DG Grow @EU Commission.  Merete Daniel Nielsen, President TCI Network  <b>Wrap-up</b> and CLUSTERS3 Family Picture</p>