

Conference: “Cooperation for cluster excellence innovation and competitiveness”

Riga, Latvia 24.05.2017.

Key-note speaker and Peer Review expert’s profiles



Key-note speaker: Christoph Matthias Reiss-Schmidt

Organization: Business Upper Austria

Country: Austria

Bio: Christoph Matthias Reiss-Schmidt holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Politics and Administration of FernUniversität of Hagen (Germany) and a Master’s Degree in Public Health of Maastricht University (the Netherlands). At Business Upper Austria (Clusterland dept.) he is coordinator of third-party funded projects on national and international level and responsible for international project development and international affairs. He is/oversaw EU-projects such as the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (Phase 2 as Lead partner), the European Cluster Excellence Initiative, CLUSTRAT, SME-Internationalization through Clusters etc. Furthermore, he was in charge of organizing the European Cluster Conference 2012 in Vienna. Additionally, he is Benchmarking Expert, Silver- and Gold Label Assessor, trainer of the European Foundation of Cluster Excellence, member of the technical advisory board of the European Secretariat of Cluster Analysis, is conducting a vast variety of cluster management trainings incl. strategy- and service development and is a renowned speaker within and outside Europe. Finally, he is lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland (Master: European Studies - Management of EU-Projects)



Peer Review expert: Emily Wise

Organization: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Consulting

Lund University and IEC

Country: Sweden

Bio: Dr. Emily Wise has more than 20 years’ experience in strategic consulting and international economic development – spending the past 13 years working as a public policy analyst focused on cluster development programmes and international innovation collaboration. Currently, Emily is a research fellow and independent consultant – providing research, analysis, advisory support and process facilitation services in the field of innovation policy. Emily has a particular focus on strategy and governance of clusters and other collaborative ecosystems, international innovation collaboration, and policy approaches to operationalize interregional smart specialization (within macro regions or broader international contexts). Emily has conducted international benchmarking studies and other analyses, and facilitated transnational policy learning processes in the field of innovation and

cluster development since 2003 (through e.g. BSR InnoNet, StarDust and TACTICS projects, as well as the European Cluster Policy Group and BSR Stars Innovation Express activities). More recently, Emily has been involved in providing advisory support and fostering peer learning processes on governance and implementation of smart specialization strategies, internationalization and interregional collaboration.



Peer Review expert: Gerd Meier zu Köcker

Organization: VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH (VDI/VDE-IT)

Country: Germany

Bio: Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker made his PhD in Material Science in 1995 and joined VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH in 1999, where he currently acts as deputy General Manager. From 2007 until 2012 he led the Agency Competence Networks Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology. Currently he is managing the ClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg. In 2009 he also became Director General of the Institute for Innovation and Technology, Berlin. Gerd has

led many innovation policy and cluster projects in several parts of the world, mainly in Europe, Africa and Asia. He has widely written about innovation, clusters, and related policy issues. He is a frequent speaker and gave many guest lectures at universities world-wide. He is leading the European Cluster Observatory Team since 2013. In former times he contributed to the European Cluster Memorandum as member of High Level Advisory Group as well as member of the European Cluster Policy Group on behalf of the European Commission.



Expert, "CLUSTERS3" lead partner representative: David Fernández Terreros

Organization: SPRI Basque Business Development Agency

Country: Spain

Bio: David has more than 15 years' operational experience in trade and competitiveness, both in the public policy managing side and hands-on field experience. Through his professional career he has

supported internationalisation of both SMEs and large firms, especially in emerging markets and he has worked as well in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotion. Currently, he works in the Cluster Programme managing team at the Dept. of Economic Development and Competitiveness of the Basque Country Government and he has enjoyed a unique opportunity of taking part in the review of their 25 years long Clusters Policy, credited to have been the first in place worldwide. As a member of the board in different Cluster organisations, for nearly ten years now, he has been directly involved in the challenge of promoting cooperation and fostering open innovation for competitiveness.



CONFERENCE “*COOPERATION FOR CLUSTER EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS*”

Registration is opened!

Theme:

Development, role and impact of clusters and cross-industrial collaboration on competitiveness of companies and their innovation capacities in context of RIS3.

Date, time and venue:

May 24, 2017. 10.30 – 17.00. Chamber Hall, area of former VEF Factory, Ieriķu iela 5A, Riga, Latvia.

Target audience:

- Clusters' developers and managers
- National and regional public authorities
- Companies
- Business and industry associations

Key activities:

During the event participants will have possibility to listen and exchange opinion about clusters development in various areas and different countries, to discuss issue of clusters' excellence (what it is and how to achieve it), to share experiences and acquire new contacts. Also participants will have a special opportunity to take part in Peer Review exercise to help to shape the future cluster policy in Latvia.

Detailed agenda is provided below. Number of participants is limited. Please do not forget to register timely!

Registration can be done [here](#).



THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE
“COOPERATION FOR CLUSTER EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS”

Date and venue: 24.05.2017, Chamber Hall, area of former VEF Factory, Ieriķu iela 5A, Riga, Latvia.
 Format: Presentations of the partners, key-note speakers, moderated panel discussions.
 Language: English
 Target audience: Cluster developers and managers, national and regional public authorities, companies, business and industry associations.
 Moderator: Ms. Inese Suija-Markova, managing director at “Institute for Environmental solutions”
<https://lv.linkedin.com/in/inese-suija-markova-7819301>

Time	Content
10.30 - 11.00	Registration, coffee&snacks
11.00 - 11.10	Introduction and opening remarks
11.10 - 11.20	Supporting cluster excellence - projects funded under the COSME Programme of the European Union Mr. Andrea Golfieri, European Commission Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME)
11.20 - 11.45	The project “5FOREXCELLENCE” - cross sectorial cluster collaboration example, and presentations of clusters involved Project partners from Sweden, Estonia, Latvia
11:45 - 12:15	Key note presentation: <i>Clusters strategic development and cross-industrial collaboration for innovation in Austria – experience of “Business Upper Austria”</i> Mr. Christoph Matthias Reiss-Schmidt, Business Upper Austria
12.15 - 12.35	Why companies say “yes” to clusters - impact of clusters activities on performance of companies Mr. Jānis Garančs, CEO of Aloja Starkelsen, Ltd
12.35 - 12.55	Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Baltic Sea region countries Ms. Maija Kāle, Nordic Council of Ministers in Latvia
12:55 - 13.20	Panel discussion - The role of the clusters in development of innovation and competitiveness (key note speaker, clusters CEO' s, policy makers)
13.20- 14.20	Lunch and networking
14.20 - 14.40	How to support clusters - Cluster development policy in Europe: INTERREG Europe project “Clusters3” presentation Mr. David Fernández Terreros, Clusters Coordination and Research, SPRI - Basque Country Business Development Agency
14.40 - 16.00	Workshop - Clusters and stakeholder engagement in RIS3 (Peer Review exercise) Dr. Emily Wise, Lund University, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Consulting
16.00 - 16.30	Panel discussion - The role of clusters in the context of RIS3 Dr. Gerd Meier zu Koecker, Managing director Cluster Agentur Baden-Württemberg
16.30 - 17.00	Summary and next steps
17.00	Coffee, snacks, networking
+	Additional session only for partner cluster managers and board members – together with key note speakers. Workshop and peer review on cluster development (after the conference finishes, before dinner)

Registration can be done [here](#).