



The initiatives of the European Commission to support the twin transition of SMEs

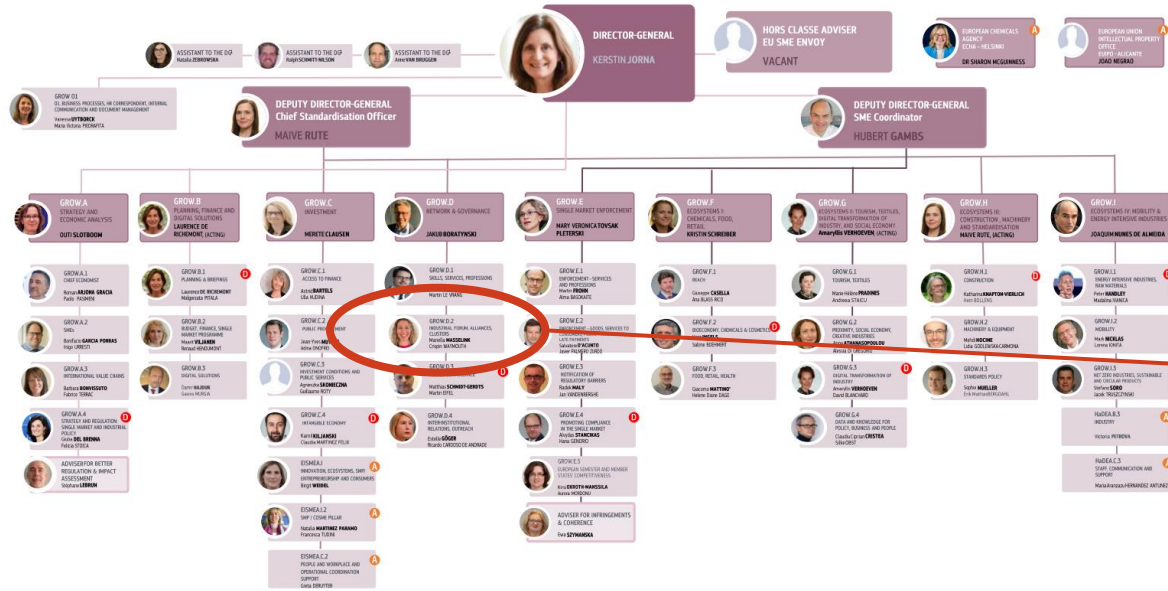
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Context

The EU Industrial Strategy

- On 10 March 2020, the Commission laid the foundations for an industrial strategy that would support the **twin transition to a green and digital economy**, make EU industry more competitive globally, and enhance Europe's open strategic autonomy.
- On 11 May 2021, the Commission updated the EU Industrial Strategy to ensure that its industrial ambition takes full account of the new circumstances following the COVID-19 crisis and helps to drive the **transformation to a more sustainable, digital, resilient and globally competitive** economy.

DG GROW and Unit D2



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Specialised private /
public bodies



Regional government or
development
/ innovation agencies



Economic Chambers



Research
Institutes /
Science parks

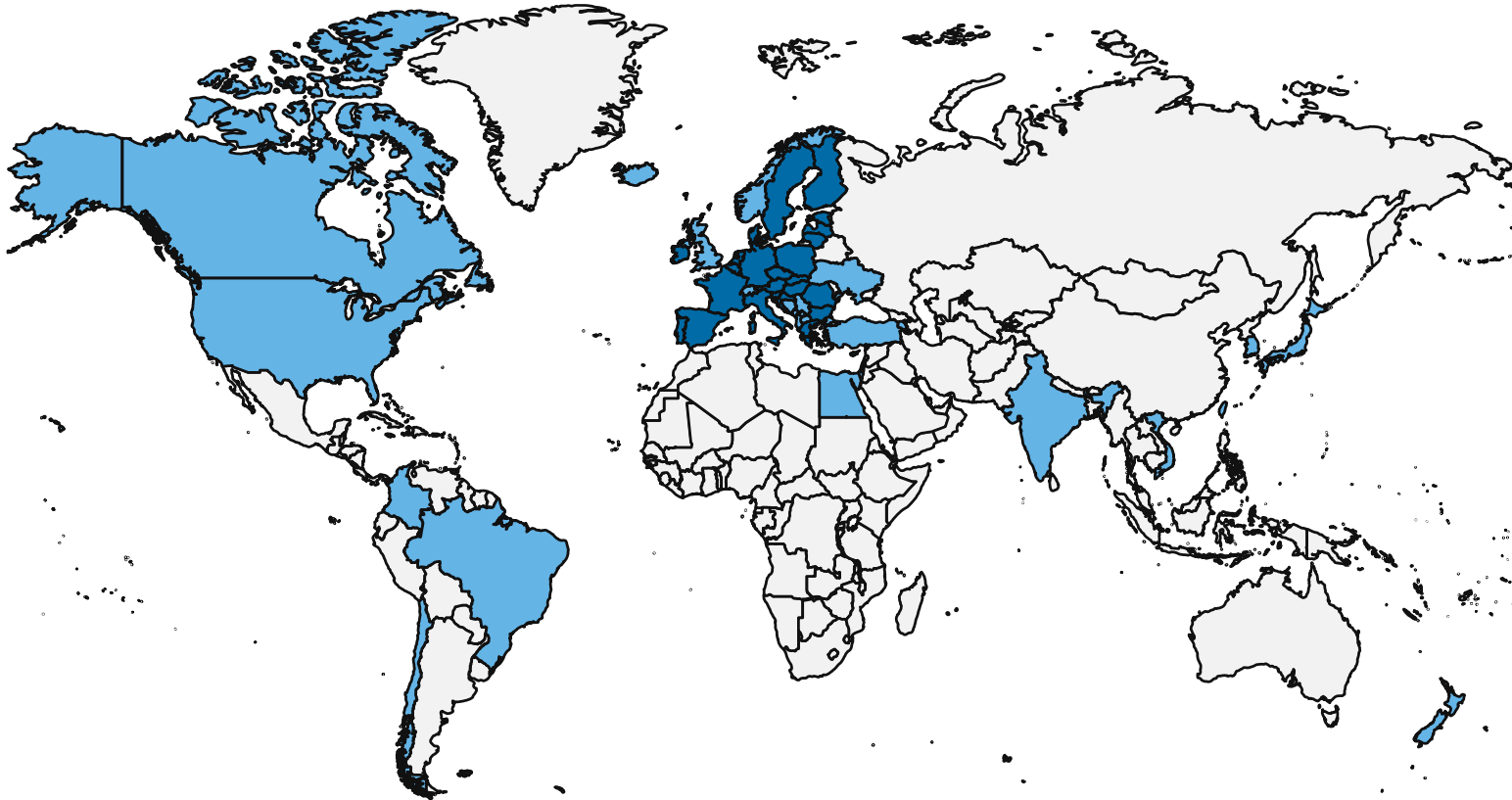


Professional associations



Other

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Disclaimer: Some countries' agreements might still be in process of being signed

EU-27

- 📍 Austria
- 📍 Belgium
- 📍 Bulgaria
- 📍 Croatia
- 📍 Cyprus
- 📍 Czechia
- 📍 Denmark
- 📍 Estonia
- 📍 Finland
- 📍 France
- 📍 Germany
- 📍 Greece
- 📍 Hungary
- 📍 Ireland
- 📍 Italy
- 📍 Latvia
- 📍 Lithuania
- 📍 Luxembourg
- 📍 Malta
- 📍 Netherlands
- 📍 Poland
- 📍 Portugal

- 📍 Romania
- 📍 Slovakia
- 📍 Slovenia
- 📍 Spain
- 📍 Sweden

International

- 📍 Albania
- 📍 Armenia
- 📍 Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 📍 Brazil
- 📍 Canada
- 📍 Chile
- 📍 Colombia
- 📍 Egypt
- 📍 Iceland
- 📍 India
- 📍 Israel
- 📍 Japan
- 📍 Korea
- 📍 Kosovo
- 📍 Moldova
- 📍 Montenegro
- 📍 New Zealand
- 📍 Northern Macedonia
- 📍 Norway
- 📍 Serbia
- 📍 Singapore
- 📍 Switzerland
- 📍 Taiwan
- 📍 Türkiye
- 📍 Ukraine
- 📍 United Kingdom
- 📍 United States
- 📍 Vietnam

Enterprise Europe Network

How the EEN helps SMEs



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How the EEN helps SMEs



Thematic Group Sustainability and the sustainability advisors

- The thematic group “Sustainability” is divided in three sub-groups: Circular Economy, Green Innovation and Social Sustainability
- As specified in the EEN call, every consortium needs to have at least one sustainability advisor
- The priorities of the groups for 2024 are:
 - Green reporting
 - Energy efficiency
 - Circularity
 - Social sustainability

ECCP and Euroclusters

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM



EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM



- Hybrid event (2 days on site, 2 days online), taking place once a year
- Objective is to support cluster managers in developing their skills by providing tailor-made trainings with the help of professional trainers
- **Strengthen cluster capacities to deliver the green and digital transitions**

Euroclusters

- The call for Euroclusters was launched in 2021/2022, and in September **30 Euroclusters** started their operations, with **171 partners** across **23 EU Countries**
- The objective of Euroclusters is to implement the EU Industrial Strategy by create new networks and collaborations across clusters and SMEs in Europe. 75% of the funding dedicated to the initiative is directly streamed to SMEs.
- Every Eurocluster has **5 main goals** to achieve:
 1. Create new **networks** across Countries and Industrial Ecosystems
 2. Foster **business innovation**
 3. Foster new technologies and processes for the **green and digital transitions**
 4. Organize **trainings** for the **upskilling and re-skilling** of the workforce
 5. Help clusters to **internationalise** to Third Countries

The 30 active EUROCLUSTERS



Digital Innovation Hubs

European Digital Innovation Hubs



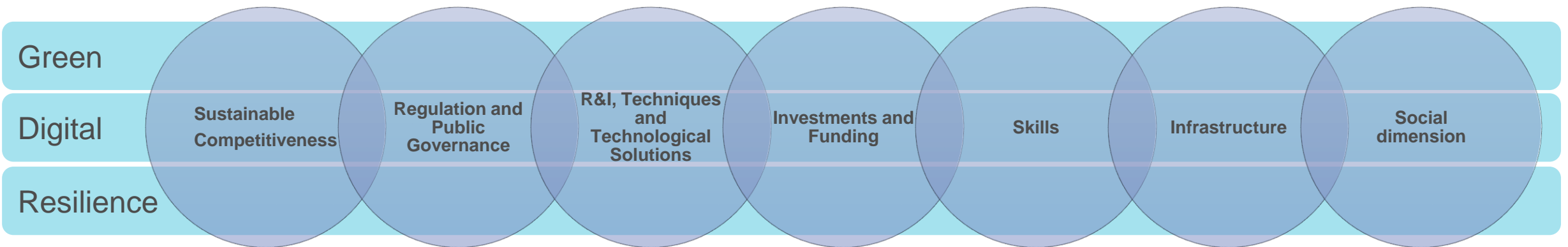
- Offer support for digital transformation which is adapted to local needs, based on a specialisation
- Build regional ecosystems of users and suppliers, strengthening local innovation environment
- Connect to the whole of Europe through the network:
 - Share best practices with other hubs
 - Connect local SMEs to SMEs outside the region, building new value chains in Europe



Transition Pathways

Transition Pathways

The Industrial Strategy Update calls for the **co-creation of transition pathways** in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders. Transition pathways offer a better understanding of the scale, cost, long-term benefits and conditions of the green, digital, and resilient transition and present specific actions to be taken up by the EU, Member States, and industry to accelerate it.



Transition Pathways: State of play

Tourism	
Proximity and Social Economy	
Chemicals	
Construction	
Textiles	
Mobility	
Agrifood	
Retail	
Metals	Q1/Q2 2024

Sustainable Partnerships for SMEs (pilot project)

Fostering collaborations among SMEs and NGOs and CSOs

- The general objective is to tap into the expertise of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/ Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to assist SMEs in their transition to more sustainable business models
- Practical projects/actions are funded with the aim to impact the environmental and/or social performance of the SMEs
- This call builds on the mission of the Enterprise Europe Network to assist SMEs in their transition, so projects/actions are coordinated by an active EEN member
- 5 projects have been funded in the pilot

Example of a Project: ECOFashionEU



Targeted sector: Textile



Geographical Scope: Greece



Objective: reduce the environmental impact of the textile sector by conducting a sustainability assessment of the SMEs involved (4). Following up on the assessment, practical actions are proposed especially in terms of: **reducing** the consumption of **chemicals** by replacing them with enzymes, using dye controllers and dyeing machinery that require **less water**, and **water recycling** as well as **upcycling of raw materials** and garments.


European Monitor of Industrial Ecosystems

EMI

- The European Monitor of Industrial Ecosystems (EMI) is one of the main tools the European Commission uses to monitor and assess trends as regards the implementation of the green and digital transition across industrial ecosystems.
- On an annual basis, the EMI project gives comprehensive information to better understand the complex interlinkages between industrial ecosystems and value chains across global economies through a set of industrial ecosystem reports, EU country reports, international reports, a yearly EU report, and a set of technology centres reports.
- Within the EMI, **400 technology centres** have been mapped- across ecosystems, technologies and regions. This information is most relevant for SMEs that want to accelerate their technology adoption.

Low Carbon Business Action in the Americas

LCBA

 Targeted sectors: agriculture & forestry, renewables, biofuels, waste management, industrial processes, energy efficiency



Targeted technologies: Cleantech technologies, low – carbon and circular economy



Geographical Scope: EU, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia



Objective: fostering long-term SMEs and clusters business partnerships in low carbon and circular economy. The aim is to develop commercially viable joint business projects for the transfer and application of green technologies, from EU to the Americas.



LC₂BA
LOW CARBON BUSINESS ACTION

Project example: NGIF & Finrenes



Targeted sector: Biofuels



Geographical Scope: Finland, Canada



Objective: Producing Finrenes Biomethane from wet wood waste. The project will utilize an estimated feedstock of 20.5k tons per year, primarily sourced from branches, smaller trees, and other waste biomass materials. The resulting BioFuel, with a capacity of 50 GWh, generates 5,940t of digestate and 3,960t of biomethane. This translates to 5,099,526 m³ of natural gas, resulting in **an annual carbon savings of 20,483 tons of GHGs.**



LC₂BA
LOW CARBON BUSINESS ACTION

Horizon Europe: Innovate2Transform

Innovate2Transform



Main objective: Increased resilience of SMEs, by fostering **technological and social innovation** in SMEs to support their **transition to more sustainable business models** and more resource-efficient and circular processes and infrastructures.



Modality: The first 50% of the budget is allocated to advisory services for capacity building on innovation and sustainability practices. The second half is dedicated financial support to SMEs to implement the elaborated recommendations.

Innovate2Transform- example of a project: SURE 5.0



Targeted sector: Mobility, Transport & Automotive, Aerospace & Defence, Electronics



Duration of the project: 01/06/2022 - 31/05/2025



Objective: Support European SMEs working in specific industrial ecosystems, to advance in their digital transformation process while becoming more human-centric, sustainable and resilient.

Thank you!