INTRODUCTION

The aim of the ClusterPoliSEE eNewsletter is to inform regional bodies, universities, R&D centres, business associations and other key stakeholders that make up a typical cluster environment about ClusterPoliSEE project activities, new initiatives, events and interesting case studies. More information about the ClusterPoliSEE project is available on the website: www.clusterpolisee.eu.
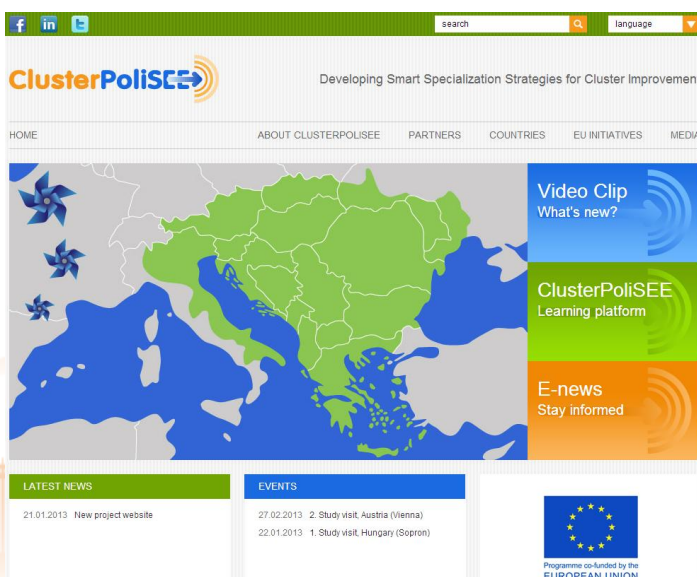
ABOUT ClusterPoliSEE PROJECT

ClusterPoliSEE's main objective is to enhance the capacity of regional policy makers to confront, prevent and anticipate change, developing smart specialisation strategies for cluster improvement, thus accelerating differentiation and structural change towards a knowledge-based economy in which there is a place for all SEE regions to position themselves.

The 25 members in the partnership cover 11 different SEE programme countries (8 EU MSs and 3 IPA) to develop smarter cluster policies supporting territorial cohesion, R&D and open innovation systems in SEE, encouraging transnational cluster cooperation between strong performing regions and weak performing regions both represented.

The project work plan runs through a matrix approach where **six cross cluster development areas** are analysed and tested: Innovation, R&D driven Cluster Development; Sustainability through Cluster Development; International Cluster Cooperation and Networking, Financial Framework Improvement (Cluster Financing), Cluster and Regional Specialization, New skills and Jobs creation.

Operational phases of the project are: 1. to identify the information gap data and existing barriers and how to remove them for the learning process and 2. to improve effective regional cluster policy making. Therefore, pilot actions and their assessment complement and instantiate abstract prioritizations, serving as benchmarking for current and perspective initiatives. Therefore, different pilot actions will take place which will be assessed. The results of the assessment will be used to define priorities and utilised to benchmark current and perspective initiatives.

ClusterPoliSEE WORKING GROUPS (WG)

WGs' main objective is to contribute to a broader understanding of the tackled cluster policy area to anticipate future needs and to foster greater cooperation amongst policy researchers and decision-makers from both government and business sectors. For this purpose we established six working groups:

WG 1 - **Innovation, R&D driven Cluster Development**
Responsible organization: Emilia Romagna Regione, Directorate for Industry, Trade and Tourism,e-mail: alaterza@regione.emilia-romagna.it

WG 2 - **Sustainability through Cluster Development**
Responsible organization: Istrian Development Agency, e-mail: tamara.kirsic@ida.hr

WG 3 - **International Cluster Cooperation and networking**
Responsible organization: Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency,
e-mail: b.vatashka@sme.government.bg

WG 4 - **Financial Framework Improvement (Cluster Financing)**
Responsible organization: MAG, Hungarian Economic Development Centre,
e-mail: keller.peter@magzrt.hu

WG 5 - **Clusters and Regional Specialization**
Responsible organization: Athena Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies / Corallia Clusters Initiative Unit,
e-mail: n.berikou@corallia.org

WG 6 - **New skills and Jobs creation**
Responsible organization: North East Regional Development Agency, e-mail: gmacoveiu@adrnordest.ro

LATEST NEWS

Clusters in Europe III Conference
Hungary, 11. – 12. April 2013, Organized by MAG-Hungarian Economic Development Centre, the conference will focus on the way of bridging the innovation gap in Europe. More...

Cluster Academy 2013
Austria, 15. – 17. May 2013, At the 4th edition of the Cluster Academy, organized by Clusterland Upper Austria, their expertise in cluster management operations will be shared with participants. More...

INNOVATION express
Denmark, 9. – 10. April 2013, Join the conference in Copenhagen and meet other clusters during two match-making sessions. Innovation express is supporting cross-cluster initiatives and SME's. More...

INVENTICA 2013
Romania, 19. - 21 April 2013, The international Conference is intended to join professors, researchers from universities and industry to share their recent major achievements in the field of inventics. More...

PROJECT PARTNERS INVOLVED IN ClusterPoliSEE project:

LP - Marche Region - European Policies Department - Managing Authority for ERDF and ESF, Italy

PP1 - Emilia Romagna Region, General Directorate for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Italy

PP2 - Veneto Region, Industry and Craft Department, Italy

PP3 - Pannon Business Network Association, Hungary

PP4 - Maribor Development Agency, Slovenia

PP5 - The Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency, Bulgaria

PP6 - Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce, Greece

PP7 - Region of Central Macedonia, Greece

PP8 - Athena Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies / Corallia Clusters Initiative Unit, Greece

PP9 - AWS, Austria Wirtschaftsservice Ltd, Austria

PP10 - Ecoplus - The business Agency of Lower Austria Ltd, Austria

PP11 - North East Regional Development Agency, Romania

PP12 - Institute for Economic Forecsating, Romania

PP13 - Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business Environment, Romania

PP14 -The Union of Slovak Clusters, Slovakia

PP15 - Trnava self Governing Region, Slovakia

PP16 - University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre of Koper, Slovenia

PP17 - Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia

PP18 - MAG - Hungarian Economic Development Centre, Hungary

IPA-I PP1 - Istrian Development Agency, Croatia

IPA-I PP2 - Povincial Secretariat fo Economy, Serbia

IPA-I PP3 - Albanian Investment Development Agency - AIDA, Albania

IPA- PP4 - University of Novi Sad, Serbia
EU ASP1 - Ministry of Economic Developmemt - Department for Development and Economic Cohesion, Italy