

REMIX_Castilla y León – EU Cluster Matchmaking Event 9.04.2019



Opening Session Castilla y León-EU Cluster Matchmaking Event

Clusters are multipliers entities because they have the chance to talk to a lot of entities simultaneously. For this reason, meetings between clusters was thought as the best way to boost new partnerships for R&D collaboration, in terms of mutual trust, knowledge and learning, which is one of the main objectives of REMIX and further to achieve the mining sector' competitiveness.

“The event concerned about how to strategically partner clusters and specialised eco-systems across Europe and show the best practices in such a collaboration in stimulating new partnerships.”

“The importance and value of analyzing the eco-systems and networking potential of EU industrial clusters, in order to foster their industrial members' competitiveness in exploiting their innovation and, demonstrate their growth potential in key presentations according to a systemised structure, was one of the objectives of the event.”

“The event was an opportunity for attendees to meet peers from the same cluster topic and to broaden the knowledge, skills and business connections on an international, national, regional and local level.”

“The Castilla y León – EU Cluster Matchmaking Event was an opportunity to team up amongst EU regions, encouraging European partnering, increasing awareness on the role of clusters and their achieved results and collecting feedback on common challenges and the ways they can be addressed in the future initiatives. This EU, national and regional partnerships demonstrate the importance and success of such collaborative endeavors in supporting SMEs in their expansion and growth efforts.”



Attendees to the Castilla y León-EU Cluster Matchmaking Event

The topics discussed were:

1. Strategic partnering between clusters and specialised eco-systems across Europe

The session analysed the eco-systems and networking potential of EU industrial clusters to foster their industrial members' competitiveness in exploiting their innovation and growth potential. The presenters of this session briefly introduced their clusters and described the opportunities, potential, bottlenecks of a cross European cooperation.

- Ilari Havukainen (Lapland; Finland) presented REMIX Mining regions team, in particular the good practices picked up by the consortium, between them, 2 clusters: the Cornwall Mining Alliance (UK) and the Iberian Sustainable Mining Cluster (Spain) and their goals.
- Igor Ďuriška (Slovakia) presented the Faculty of Mining, Ecology, Process Control and Geotechnologies (FBERG) belonging to the technical University of Kosice, the EIT Raw Materials in general and the the EIT RM Hub Centrum Kosice in particular, with emphasis in its work about clustering with networks.
- Luis Martins (Portugal) presented ACPMR (Association Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources), its activities and advantages of being associated.

- Vicente Gutiérrez Peinador (Spain) presented CONFEDEM (National Mining Association in Spain) and its work about Sustainable Mining Management Certification systems and the opportunity to deploy internationally this good practice to achieve SLO.
- Ilkka Nykänen (Finland) presented Outokumpu Mining Camp and the need to strength cooperation within Europe to win the international competition (S3P Mining Industry).
- Wolfgang Reimer (Germany) presented the GKZ Geocompetence Centre Freiberg (Triple helix raw materials cluster) and its cooperation activities at regional, national, European and international level.
- Andres Sanabria (OECD Rural Development Unit): presented how clusters can spur innovation in rural areas (low density economies), specially referring to Mining and extractive industries.

2. Panel discussion- European Clustering and global networking

This session was about how to enhance the collaboration, networking and learning of cluster organisations and their members towards the professionalization of specialised and customised business support services provided or channeled to SMEs.

- Santiago Cuesta López (Spain) presented IBERIAMINE (Iberian sustainable mining cluster) and how connecting with the regional system and its associated industrial network, looking abroad for good lessons learnt and Identifying and connecting opportunities at similar ecosystems of innovation.
- Lorena Jurado presented the EIT RawMaterials and its main activities as European “cluster”.
- Wolfgang Reimer (GKZ Geocompetence Centre Freiberg, Germany) and Jacek Major (Polish Stonemason's Cluster Poland) presented cross-border Germany-Poland-Czech Republic clustering collaborations in the building stone sector.
- Finally María Dolores Pereira (University of Salamanca, Spain) presented the Global Heritage Stone Resource Designation as a tool to collaborate internationally in order to preserve cultural and architectonic heritage.

The contribution to the project is clear, because all the presentations and topics discussed were done in order to facilitate collaboration between mining entities, emphasizing on clusters’ tasks as multipliers entities, in order to improve mining sector’ innovation and sustainability and thus mining sector’ competitiveness and SLO.