

Newsletter

Past CxC missions – success stories

EPIX CxC Group Exchange Barcelona, Spain 15-16-17.11.2022



ELCA European Lighting Cluster Alliance organized a fact-finding ClusterXchange 3-day mission to the City of Barcelona on November 15-17 2022, including a deep dive into the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022 #SCEWC22 to be inspired, share, and learn from other cities and institutions.

The main goal of this exchange was to learn more about the Smart City strategy, new urban model and tactical urban interventions managed by the City of Barcelona (Urban Ecology

Department) and enhance the networking and direct dialogues between the city representatives and the EPIX clusters and SMEs providing solutions in the framework of the ecological, sustainable and inclusive city concepts and urban models. Particular focus was be given on exploring municipal plans, ongoing and future projects and approaches as well as technologies, products and solutions in the fields of energy, mobility & logistics and urban revitalisation including the „Superblock” projects, public-private partnerships and citizen engagement.

Thanks to the ELCA collaboration with the SCEWC organisers, 8 EPIX Visitors learnt more about the Smart Cities challenges and solutions they are looking for in the field of energy efficiency, circularity, inclusion, security, urban mobility and digitalisation thanks to the opportunity to attend the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022 events.

EPIX CxC Group Exchange Iceland on 14-15-16.03.2023.

On March 14-16, in the framework of the COSME EPIX project, partner SIC Sustainable Infrastructure Cluster organized a ClusterXchange mission for its SMEs in Iceland, hosted by Mannvit Engineering, Icelandic engineering leader firm in the fields of engineering and technical services.



The mission included on-site visits to local companies – Mannvit network business partners such as ICELANDAIR, KATOR, OLIUDREIFING, THAKEFNASALA, with related B2B meetings, discussion about the development, networking opportunities in the area of sustainable construction products, solutions and technologies offered by Polish visitors. Moreover, commercial workshops with representatives of Iceland companies and product showcasing sessions were organized aiming at introducing innovative and sustainable products to the Icelandic construction market and supporting the collaboration between Polish and Icelandic actors.

EPIX CxC Group Exchange hosted by Luce in Veneto at the Euroluce - Salone del Mobile in Milano, Italy on 18-19-20 April 2023.



Salone del Mobile
Euroluce - Milan, Italy
18-19-20 April 2023



EPIX CXC Group Exchange
hosted by Luce in Veneto

B2B networking, visits to host SMEs stands, participation to open talks, workshops, meetings with the Italian Lighting and Furniture Associations, visits to Milano Design week events and much more!



Rete di Imprese Luce in Veneto, EPIX Coordinator, is organising **ClusterXchange visits on the occasion of Euroluce 2023 – Salone del Mobile in Milan, Italy on 18-19-20 April 2023**, which engaged 14 Visitors from Spain, Basque Country, Czechia, Slovakia and Poland.

In the frame of Salone del Mobile (Milan, April 18-23), **Euroluce, the International Lighting Exhibition, on its 31st edition, is the biennial trade fair that, between technology and poetry, architecture and design, is a source of inspiration par excellence, with the design dimension at its heart.** „The City of Lights” is the concept and the common thread running through the exhibition.

Nearly 450 companies will showcase their latest designs and technical innovations for exterior and interior lighting needs in the five main exhibitions, seeking dialogue with other fields of creativity, such as the world of architecture, interior architecture and displays, installations, painting, sculpture and photography.

The agenda of EPIX CxC includes B2B networking and discussion opportunities (open talks, participation to thematic workshops, events) between exhibiting LIV cluster companies and Visiting SMEs operating in the smart city-related sectors, such as lighting, building, mobility and furniture.

EPIX CxC Group Exchange Hannover, Germany on 18-19-20 April 2023.



EPIX partner DUTIREG-STEPP is organising a ClusterXchange group mission in Hannover, Germany hosted by Druseidt GmbH company, at the Hannover Messe on 18-19-20 April 2023.



The CxC Host Druseidt GmbH, company expert in high-current-engineering, exploited with the Visiting SMEs business collaborations and new R&D initiatives in the framework of the Industry 4.0. four Visitors – hungarian SMEs had the opportunity to learn more about the main trends and technologies leading the Industrial Transformation for the globally and digitally networked industry, thanks to the possibility to attend the Hannover Messe fair and the connected conferences and training events.

The Hannover Messe is one of the world's largest trade fairs, dedicated to the topic of **industry development** combining leading international trade fairs under one roof (Industrial Automation, MDA, Energy, Digital Factory, Comvac, Industrial Supply and Research & Technology). Topics such as Industry 4.0, Logistics 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, 5G and CO2-neutral production are just as much on the agenda at Hannover Messe as lightweight construction solutions or the further development of electric drives.

EPIX 2° International Focus Groups is on the way!

EPIX 2° International Focus Group – 9-10.05.2023 Kassel Germany hosted by MoWin.net

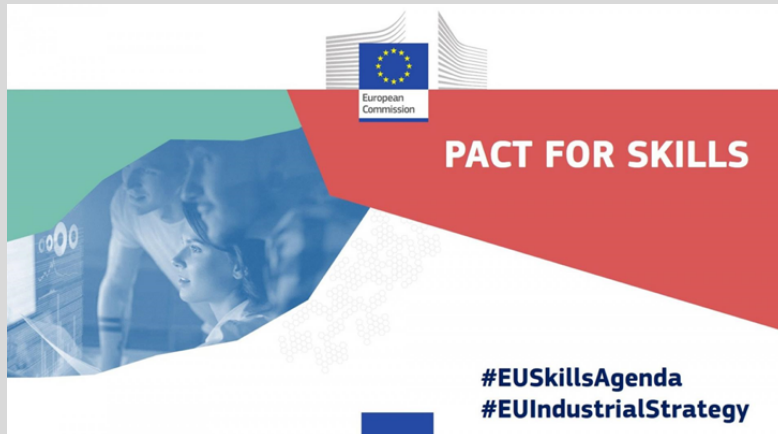
The 2nd EPIX International Focus Group will take place in Kassel, Germany hosted by our partner MoWin.net, on 9-10 May 2023, involving all EPIX partners. The main goal of the Focus Group is to discuss on available technologies for sustainable smart cities; data sharing communities and finance and for a brainstorming with other participants on new ways to apply smart cities projects in their communities.



In Kassel, the EPIX Consortium will meet with the City of Kassel to discuss about their Smart City Strategy and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and the vision and blueprint for Smart Cities and international business collaborations, and with the Regional-management Nordhessen to know more on the lessons learned and ways ahead for Smart City Designs. The focus group will include also deep-dive interactive workshops and visits to local MoWin.net companies focused on smart city related solutions and technologies.



EPIX & Pact for Skills – MoWin.net paves the way for Partners and joins the PfS Charter



EPIX project promotes actively, among its partner-clusters and their SMES, the adhesion to the **EU Pact for Skills**, the first of the flagship actions under the European Skills Agenda, an initiative firmly anchored in the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Pact, launched by the European Commission in 2020, is one of the

main tools to help Europe's industry bounce back from the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, which aims to support up-skilling workers and businesses to deal with the foreseen disruptions to the labour market, including job shifting and losses, and reinforce resilient recovery and deliver on the ambitions of the green and digital transitions and of the EU Industrial and SME Strategies.

The EPIX Consortium promotes the essential contents of the Pact for Skills and encourages SMEs to join this initiative, sign its Charter and invest in the active training and upskilling of their employees. Partner MoWin.Net paved the way for other Partners and joined the Pact for Skills by signing its Charter in September 2022, giving a good example to the consortium and inviting them to follow!

Who can join the Pact?

- Individual companies or other private or public organisations
- Regional or local partnerships
- Industrial ecosystems or cross-sectoral partnerships

How can you join the Pact? Applying through the form available [here](#). All members of the Pact sign up to the Charter and its key principles, which they agree to respect and uphold.

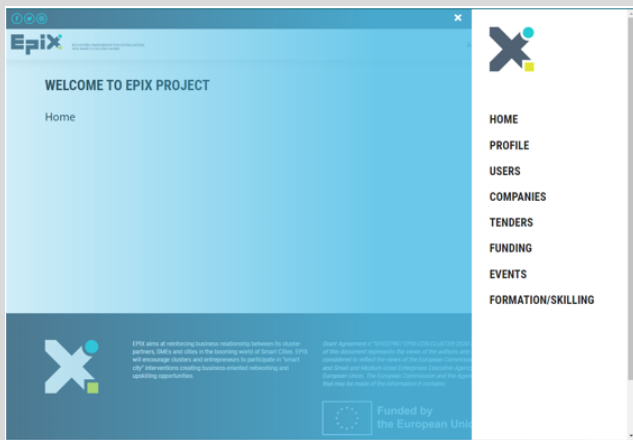
Key principles of the Charter:

1. Promoting a culture of lifelong learning for all
2. Building strong skills partnerships
3. Monitoring skills supply/demand and anticipating skills needs
4. Working against discrimination and for gender equality and equal opportunities

EPIX Transnational platform to support public-private dialogue among Clusters, SMEs and Cities

4. EPIX Transnational platform – *upcoming soon!*

EPIX project partners intend to provide information on shared techniques, technologies, financing opportunities, common issues, and ideas for complementary businesses. For that, **the EPIX transnational digital service platform** has been created as a common point of contact where all the clusters will have the opportunity to share all the information regarding their Clusters and Smart Cities: SMEs, municipalities, tenders, funding, events, formations or skillings and open calls.



The transnational digital service platform aims to facilitate the sharing of information between clusters (C2C) and between partnership SMEs (B2). In order to support the growth of SMEs, aimed at providing a series of information on shared techniques, technologies, financing opportunities, common issues, and ideas for complementary businesses that, when sufficiently rich, result in the formation of an ecosystem.

The platform has 3 types of users who can access different sections depending on their profile: cluster, SME and municipalities, and fuel the demand-offer dialogue.

In the future weeks, the EPIX partners will engage their companies as well as municipalities to register at the database, and populate it with innovative „smart city” solutions, technologies and products offered by the EPIX firms, as well as public procurement and funding opportunities.

EPIX at the EU events

EPIX project at the *Clusters meet Regions* - Kosice, Slovakia, 29 March 2023 - 30 March 2023



The European Cluster Collaboration Platform, on behalf of the European Commission and in partnership with the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, the Union of Slovak Clusters, the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance and the Enterprise Europe Network, organised

the “Clusters meet Regions” workshop on EU-Ukraine Business Partnership in Kosice, Slovakia, on 29-30 March 2023.

The event aimed to integrate Ukrainian clusters and companies into the EU value chains, build EU-Ukraine business relations find partners to trade and invest with, improve the diversification of markets and suppliers for EU and Ukrainian companies, and establish resilient cross-border networks to promote collaboration and understanding between stakeholders.

The workshop brought together more than 200 representatives from EU and Ukrainian clusters and companies, as well as national and regional public authorities, business support organizations, researchers, and other related actors. The event included speeches from high-level officials from the European Commission, Slovakia, and Ukraine, panel discussions, pitching sessions, business-to-business matchmaking, and site visits.



The conference was an opportunity to develop a network of international contacts, learn about funding opportunities for cluster initiatives, also in the context of cooperation with Ukraine, and a great arena to promote our EPIX Project and its Business-to-Cities activities, including also the ClusterXchange mobility scheme!



News from EPIX partners

DUTIREG at the Hungary Cluster Managers Club - focusing on the domestic and international business opportunities of cluster member companies

What services and subsidies can help domestic businesses? What is the vision and main goal of the national R&D Strategy to renew the Hungarian innovation system?



The cluster managers, among which representative of the EPIX partner DUTIREG, discussed this important issue with other Hungarian clusters, Enterprise Europe Network - Hungarian Export Development Agency, National Intellectual Property Office and National Research, Development and Innovation Department. This year's Hungarian cluster manager club event was held on November 12-13 2022, in Balatonszárszó. Following the direction started earlier, after the presentations of the

strategies considered important for cluster development, the cluster managers were able to listen to the presentations of background institutions whose services to clusters can enhance the role of cooperation.

<http://klaszterfejlesztes.hu/news.php?id=127>

Hungary Klaszter EXPO Start



On November 22, the first jointly organized Cluster EXPO Start event of the Hungarian Cluster Association and the introduction of the Cluster EXPO, which takes place every two years, was held. The high-quality event was hosted by the Óbuda University campus.

The purpose of the EXPO was to find an answer to the question, among other

things, why clusters can be the cornerstone of the economy, and to present the technological and business values of clusters. The EXPO included roundtable discussions, which were attended by guests from policy, corporate and cluster fields, on different topics such as the protection of intellectual property, the promotion of patents illustrated by international examples, and the needs of large companies and the indispensable supporting innovations that are increasingly needed at home. There was talk of domestic innovation opportunities, the close cooperation between the university and individual industries in connection with knowledge sharing and quality workforce training. Moreover, visits to the clusters' stands, business meetings and networking opportunities were organised. Dutireg Nonprofit Kft. actively participated in the conference and related business meetings, gathering important insights for the EPIX Smart Cities value chain analysis.

