



Hemp Club



Co-funded by the COSME
programme of the European
Union

Total budget: EUR 587 972.48 |

Total funding: EUR 462 976.00

**INDUSTRIAL HEMP TOWARDS AN
INCREASED SUSTAINABILITY IN THE
HEMP SECTOR**

13th of November 2023

What we do

The HempClub project brings together **7 clusters and associations** to unlock the potential of hemp as a valuable biomass for the development of new sustainable business models through the creation of **interconnected and interregional supply chains** between operators in primary production, agri-food processing and green chemistry.

1

Improve the **management skills** of cluster managers.

4

Enhance **collaboration** and **networking** activities between European organisations.

2

Strengthen **cluster excellence capacity**

by improving the portfolio of business support services.

5

Promote **internationalisation, technology** and **knowledge transfer**

through the activation of new opportunities for growth and capacity of excellence for clusters and their members.

3

Facilitate **B2B and C2C** collaborative activities

to strengthen interregional strategies for the bioeconomy



Why hemp

With its **unique chemical properties**, **environmental benefits**, **high yield** and **wide range of applications**, hemp is a valuable crop for the bioeconomy, contributing to achieving climate neutrality, although still representing a niche crop in Europe.

Hemp for environmental protection



Carbon storage



Soil Erosion Prevention



Biodiversity



Minor or no use of pesticides



Small amount of water and land for cultivation



Double fiber yield per hectare

Hemp for several industrial applications



Food and animal feed



Pharma industry



Building materials



Cosmetics



Oil



Paper



Textile



Electricity



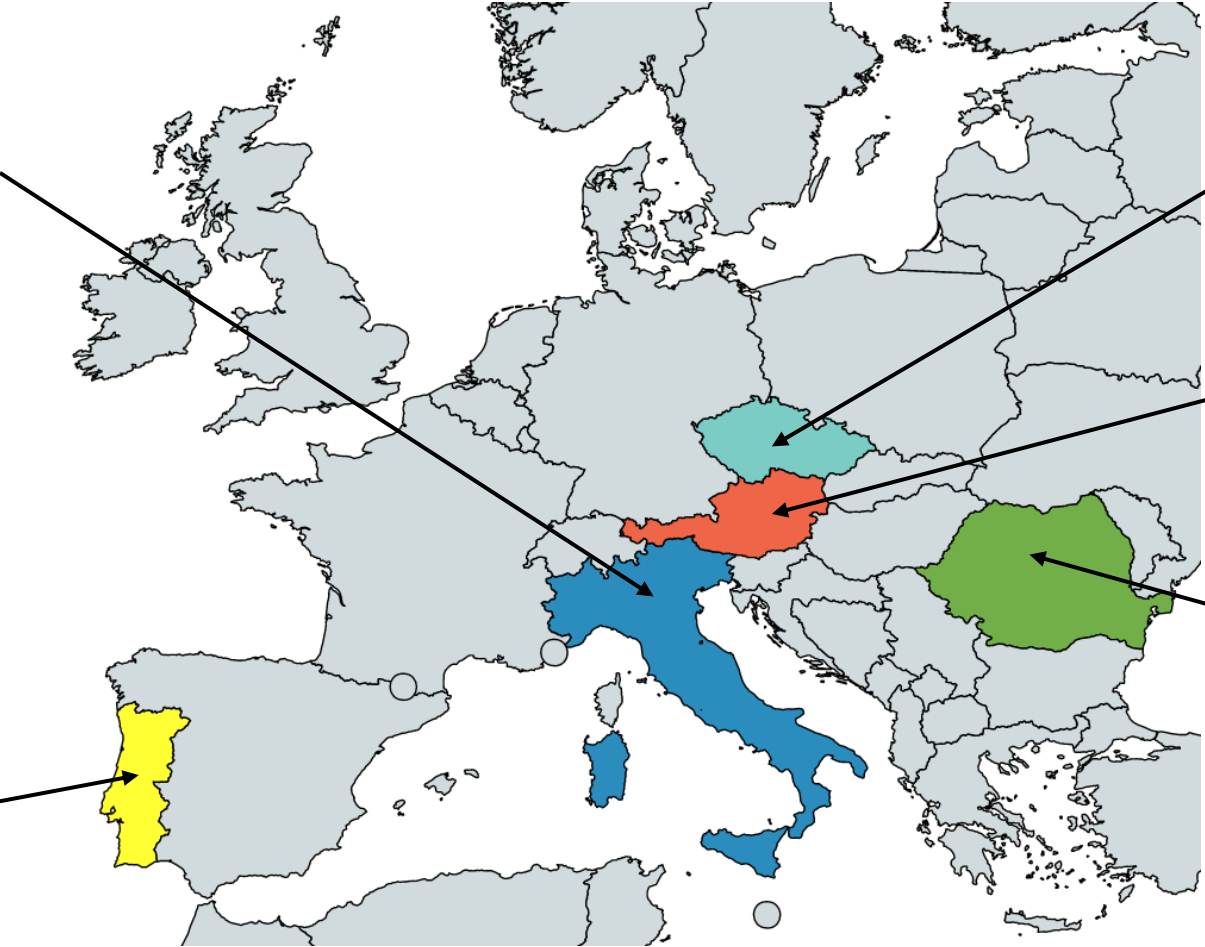
The COSME programme

The project is co-funded by the **Programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises**:

- ❖ Aimed at promoting growth and strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises in the EU.
- ❖ Managed by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).
- ❖ Since 2014, COSME has provided around EUR **51 million in funding** for 130 initiatives that promote clusters.
- ❖ Built on the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform**, which counts with a mapping of more than 1200 European and international clusters, and more than 60 cluster associations.
- ❖ The platform serves as a **unique one-stop shop** for information, learning and collaboration opportunities for industrial clusters across Europe seeking to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of Europe's economy and industry



Project consortium

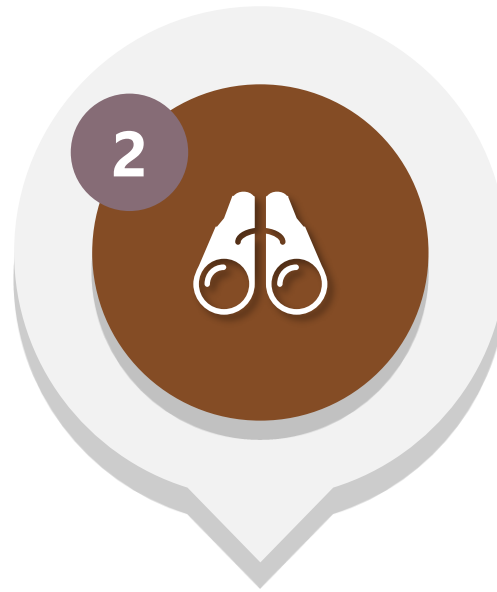


The role of clusters in promoting innovation



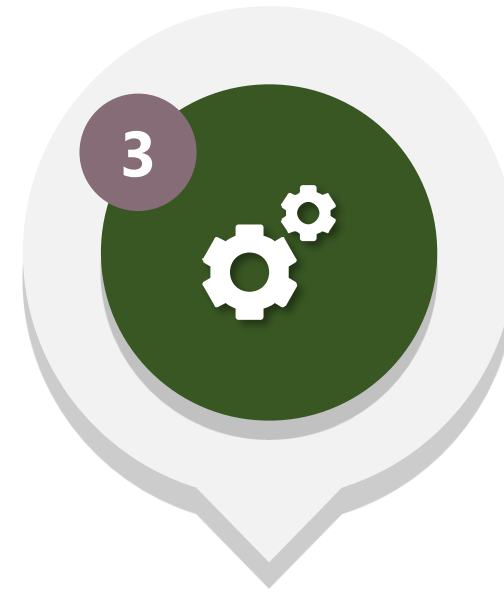
Significant part of the EU industrial landscape

There are around 3000 specialised clusters in Europe, accounting for 54 million jobs, nurturing growth and jobs.



Enablers of business development

Bringing together research organizations, SMEs and large industries, clusters can trigger innovative value chains based on industrial-hemp production and processing.



Contribute to SDGs and Green Deal

By supporting the scaling up of sustainable industries, such as hemp, clusters can better contribute to the achievements of Green Deal objectives and Sustainable Development Goals

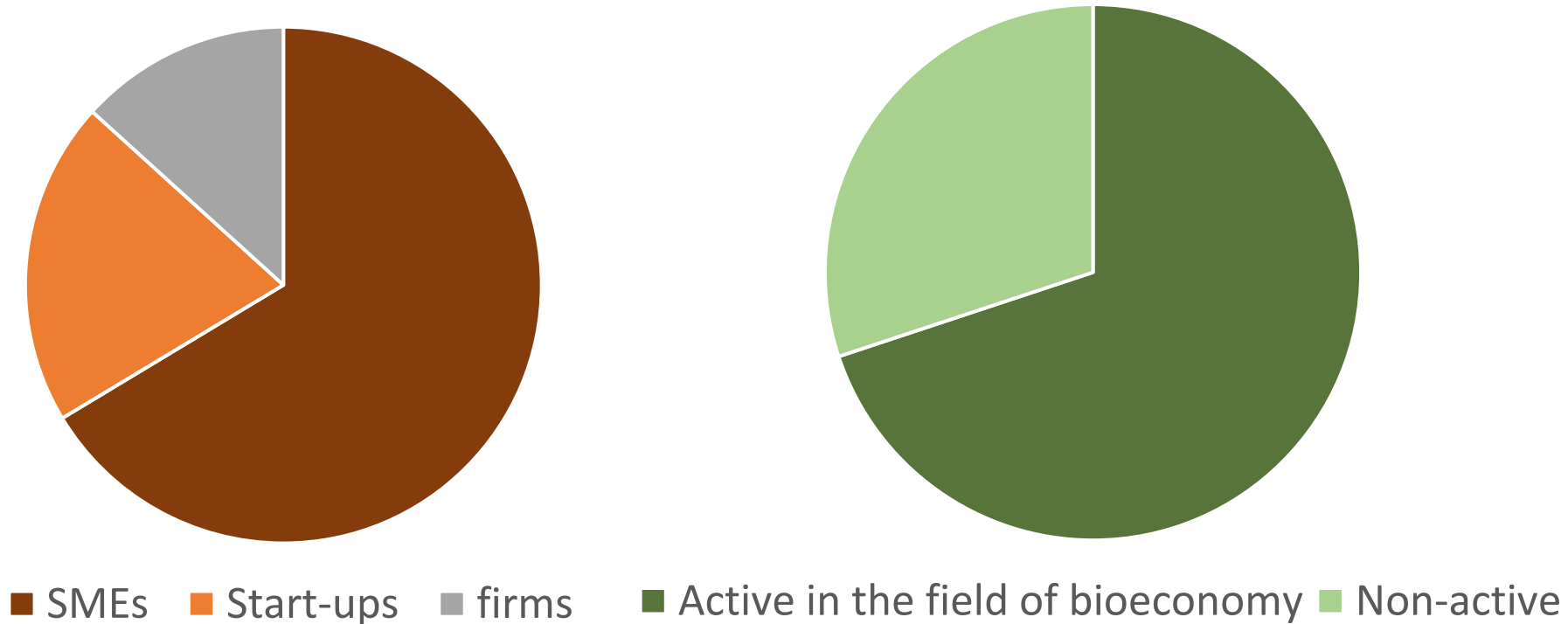


Our cluster members

As part of **Work Package 2** (Portfolio of bioeconomy-added-value services for cluster members), we have carried out a strategic analysis to understand the bioeconomy-related needs and opportunities among our members.

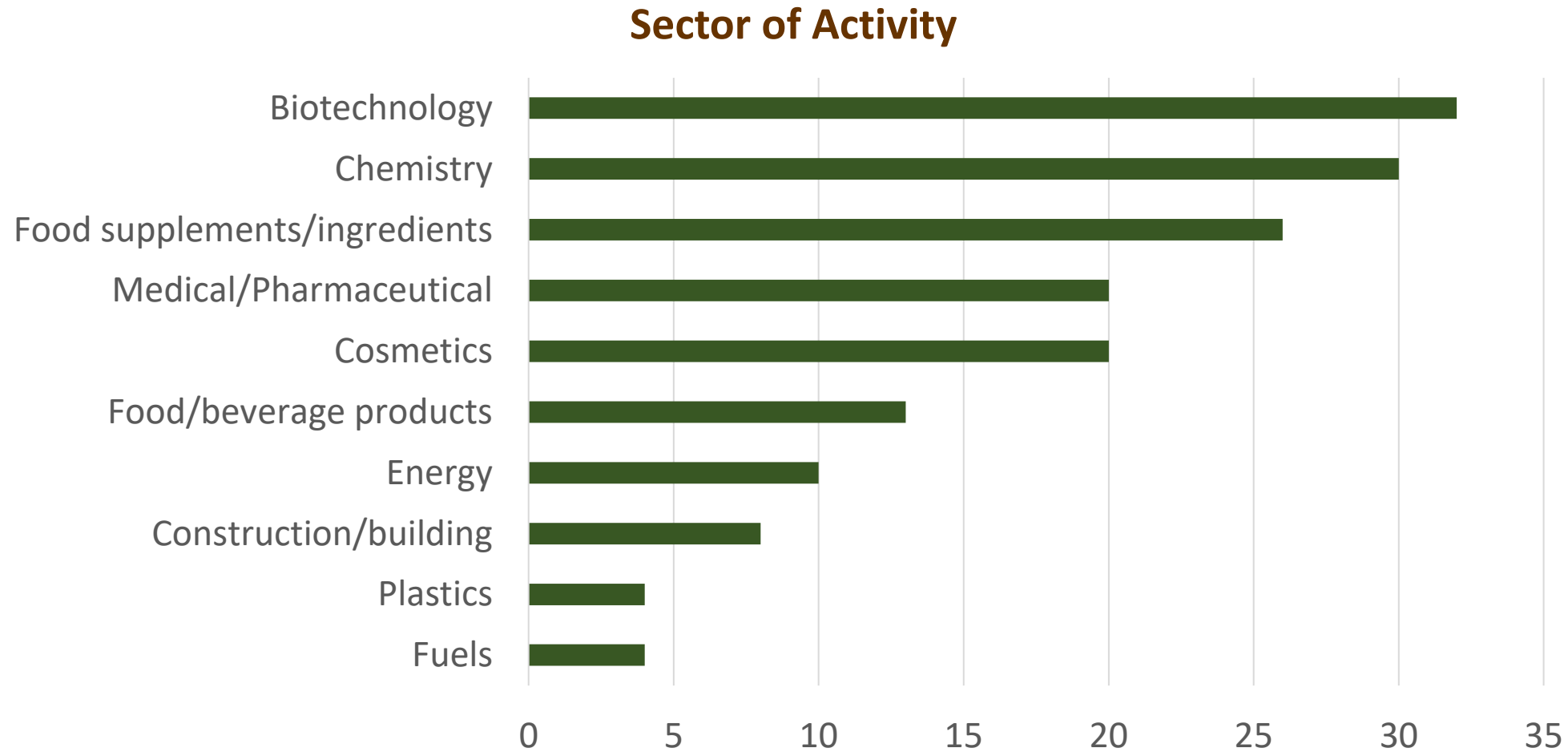
- 179 public and private entities interviewed.

THE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE: 113 companies



Our cluster members

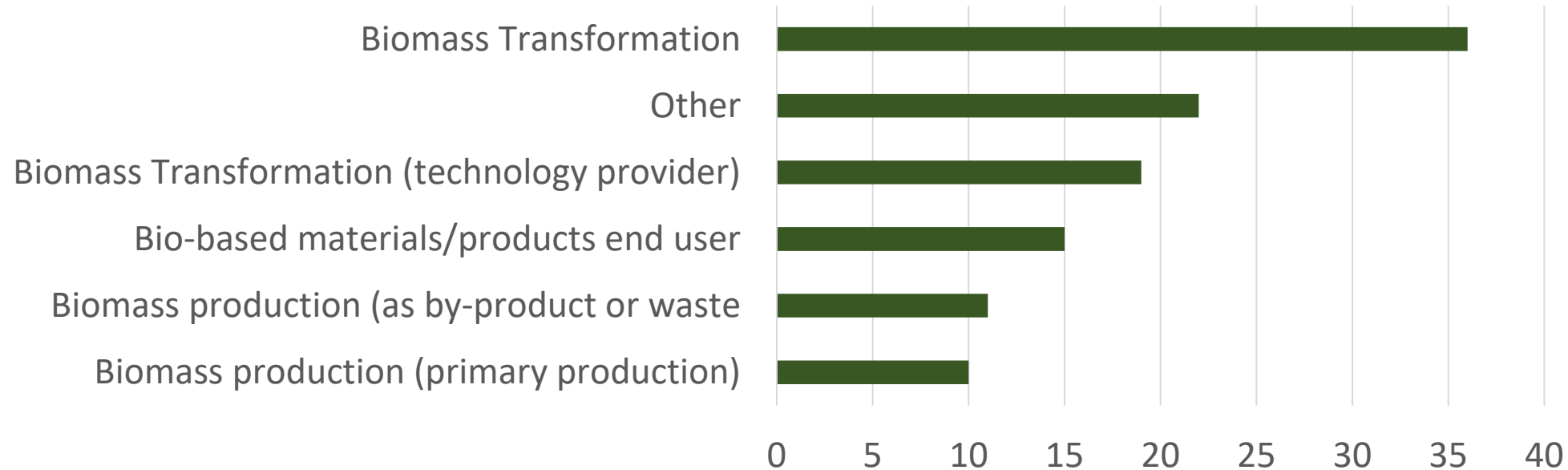
Main fields of activity: biotechnology, chemistry, food supplements, pharma



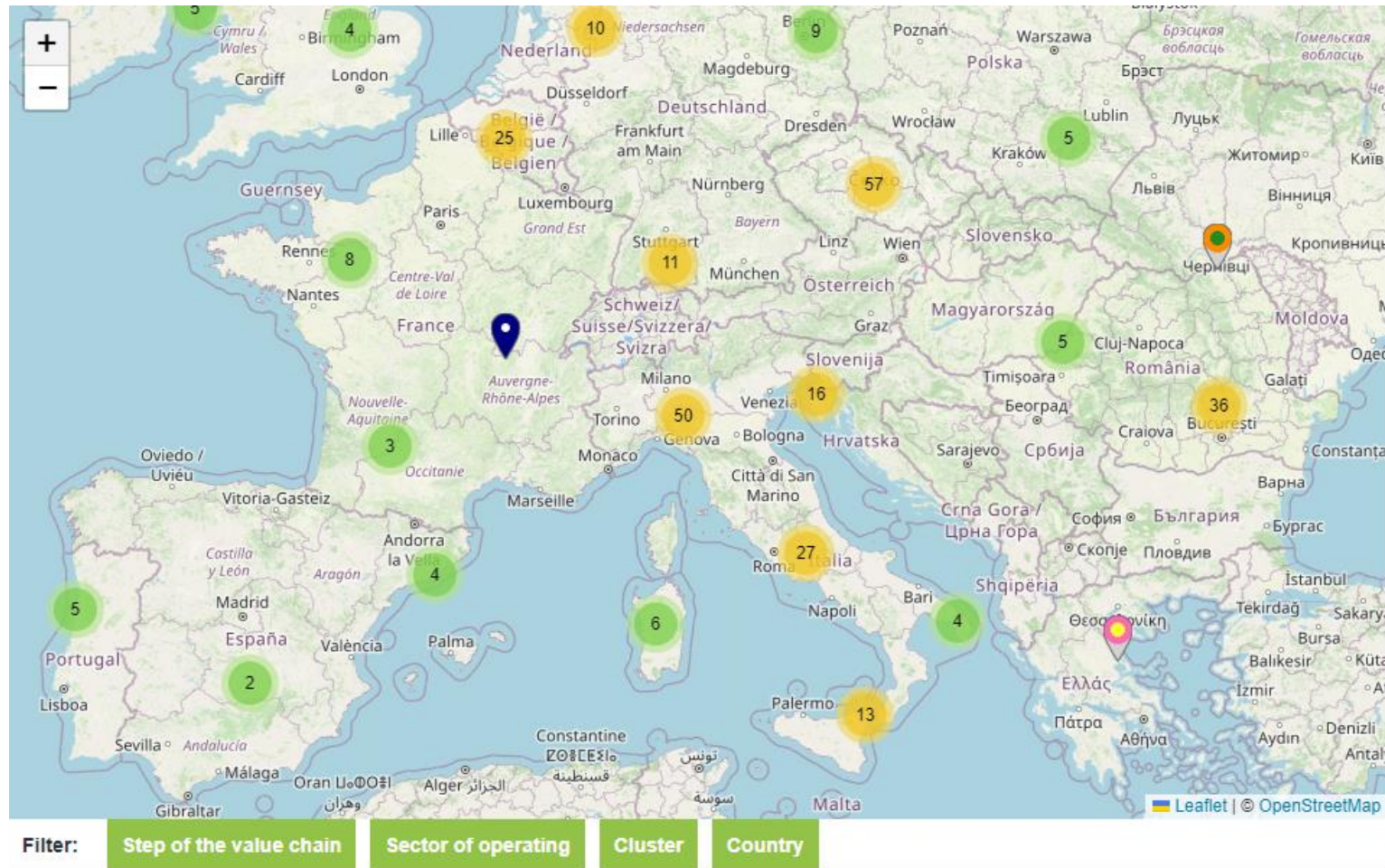
Our cluster members

Position in the value chain: biomass transformation (manufacturer of bio-based products).
The main clusters using hemp as biomass are CZECHEMP and FEDERCANAPA.

Fields of bioeconomy activity



The HempClub platform



Available on our website: <https://hempclubproject.com/map/map.html>



ClusterXChange mobility scheme

ABOUT THE CXC

CXC is a new **pilot scheme** funded by the EU aiming to facilitate transnational cooperation, peer learning, networking and innovation uptake through **short-term exchanges** between **cluster members**.

THE ACTORS

An exchange constitutes a stay abroad performed by a **visiting organisation** from an eligible country at a **host organisation** in another eligible COSME country.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

50% of the participants are **SMEs** and 50% are **clusters**, similar business networks, or scaling-up organizations. Training providers, large companies and public authorities can only participate as host organizations.

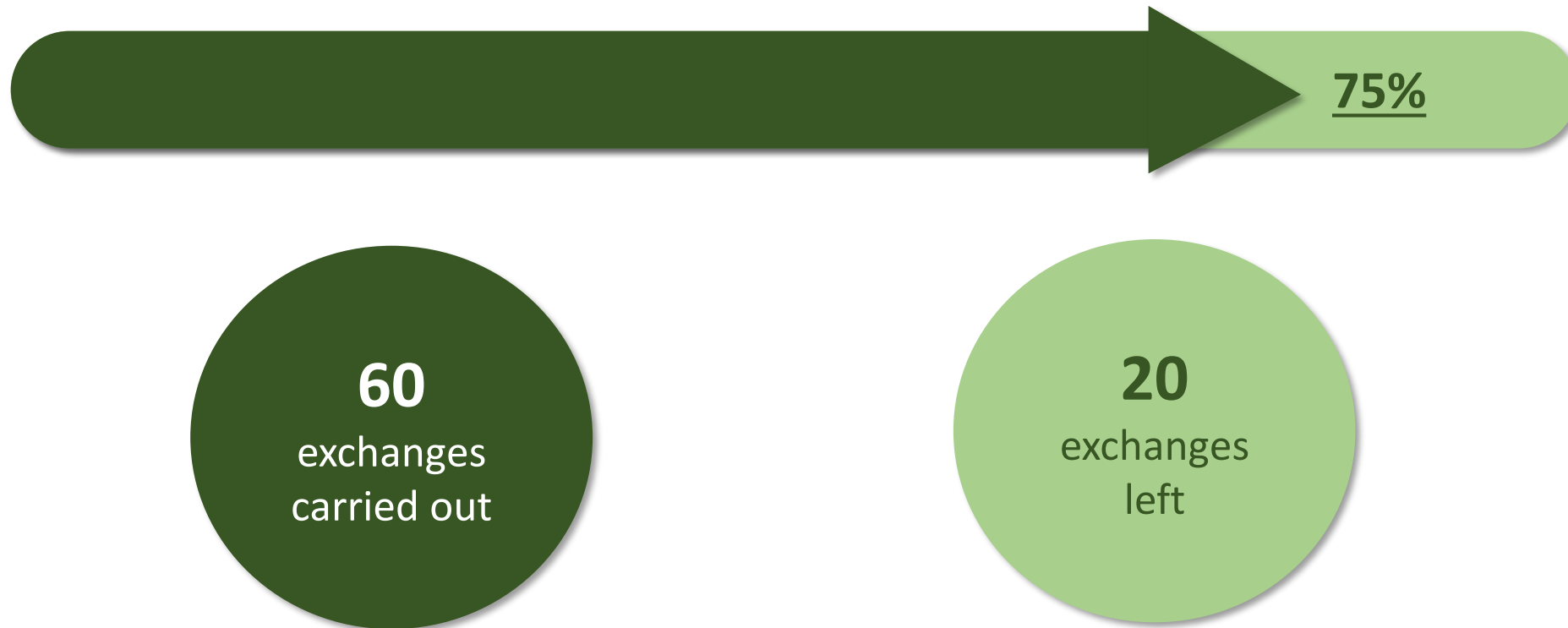
ECONOMICAL SUPPORT

The stay is partly financed by the EC through a lump sum paid to the visitors for **travel and accommodation expenses**. The lump sum must not exceed the threshold defined per host country.



HempClub implementing CXC

Our objective: the project will carry out at least **80 short term exchanges** involving SMEs, scale support organizations, training providers, public authorities and big companies involved or interested in the hemp sector and belonging to a COSME participating country.



HempClub implementing CXCs



September 2022, 5 days in Naples (Italy) in combination with the Canapa Forum conference

February 2023, 3 days in Milan (Italy) with the support of the University of Milano Bicocca



September 2023, 3 days in Stuttgart (Germany) in collaboration with AFWB and the Regio Cluster Agentur

October 2023, 3 days in Prague (Czech Republic) organized by the CZECHEMP cluster



June 2023, 3 days in Prague (Czech Republic) organized by the CZECHEMP cluster



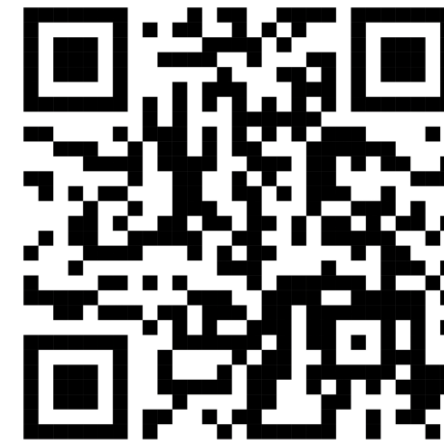
Next exchange – Clusters meet HempClub



- Meet local stakeholders
- Attend the [Clusters Meet Regions conference](#)
- Create new collaboration opportunities with B2B and matchmaking event
- Learn more on how hemp can contribute to the green transition during the **Bioeconomy session** of the event

21 – 23 November
2023

A lump sum of €250 to partially cover for travel and accommodation will be provided to eligible organizations.



<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/cluster-s-meet-hemp-club-iasi-romania-tickets-723276689047?aff=oddtcreator>





Standortagentur



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