



Hemp Club



Co-funded by the COSME
programme of the European
Union

Total budget: EUR 587 972.48 |
Total funding: EUR 462 976.00

14th of December 2023

HempCluB project and hemp potential
Maria Elena Saija - LGCA

What we do

The HempCluB project brings together **7 clusters and association** operating in the bioeconomy, advanced manufacturing and hemp production sectors to create **interconnected and interregional supply chains** between operators in primary production, agri-food processing and green chemistry by strengthening industrial symbiosis and sustainable and renewable business models in the **hemp sector**.

1

Improve the management skills and performance of cluster managers

through a specialist and multidisciplinary training course.

2

Strengthen cluster excellence capacity

by improving the portfolio of business support services.

3

Facilitate B2B and C2C collaborative activities

to strengthen interregional strategies for the bioeconomy.

4

Enhance collaboration and networking activities between European clusters and organisations.

through extensive communication and dissemination activities and exchange good practices

5

Promote internationalisation, technology and knowledge transfer

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



Why hemp

With its **unique chemical properties** (replace fossil resource), **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 industrial applications



Food and animal feed



Pharma industry



Building materials



Cosmetics

Oil



Paper



Textile



Electricity



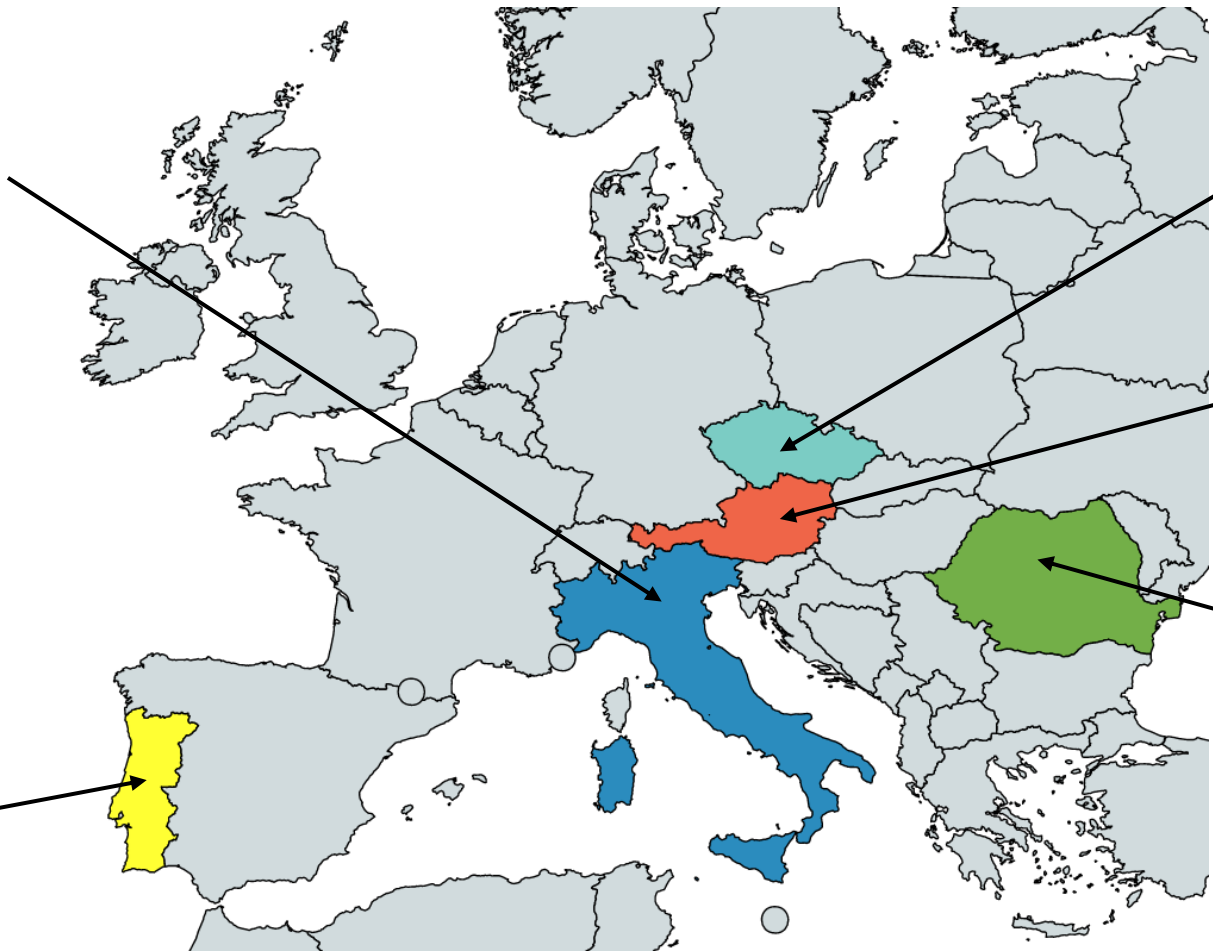
The COSME programme

The project is co-funded by the ***Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) programme***:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Funds many initiatives that help small businesses access new markets.
- ❖ 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



Lombardy Green Chemistry Association

LGCA is the reference point for the **Lombard bioeconomy** both at national and European level, shaping the bio-based economy as the most powerful tools for sustainable development. Founded in 2013 by Consorzio Italbiotec, LGCA was recognised by Lombardy Region as the **regional Cluster of Bioeconomy and Green Chemistry** in 2015.



Country: Italy

Mission: actively involving all regional players potentially involved in the bioeconomy, LCA aims at creating, in close cooperation with the regional authorities, the **most favourable environment for the development of the bioeconomy in Lombardy**. It represents a **meeting point** for all actors, a major reference for the regional authorities and an **access point to international players**.

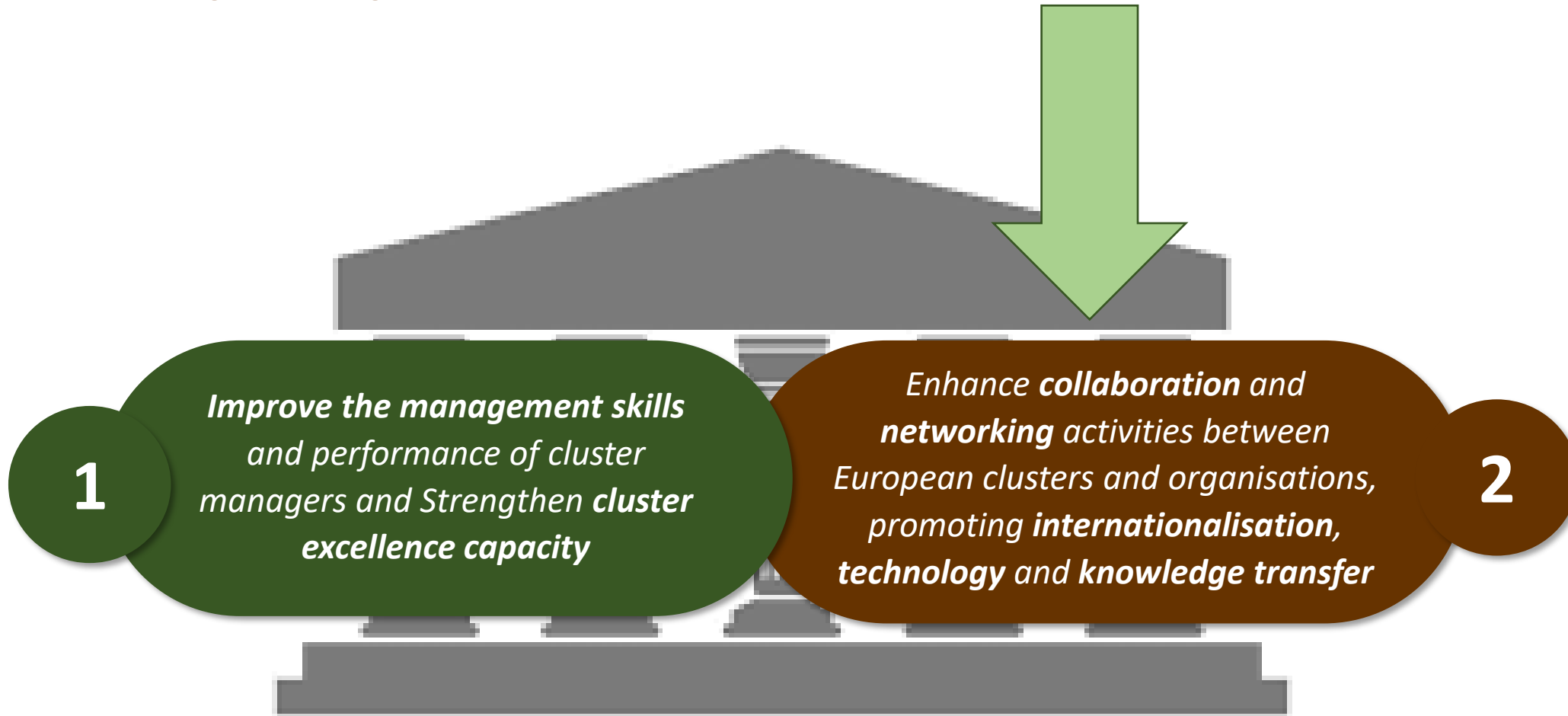
Cluster members: 52 (50% SMEs, 15% big industries, 35% universities and research centers).

Sectors/value chains covered: agrifood, green chemistry, food/pharma, wood

Role in the project: Project coordinator, managing the exchanges under the CXC mobility scheme

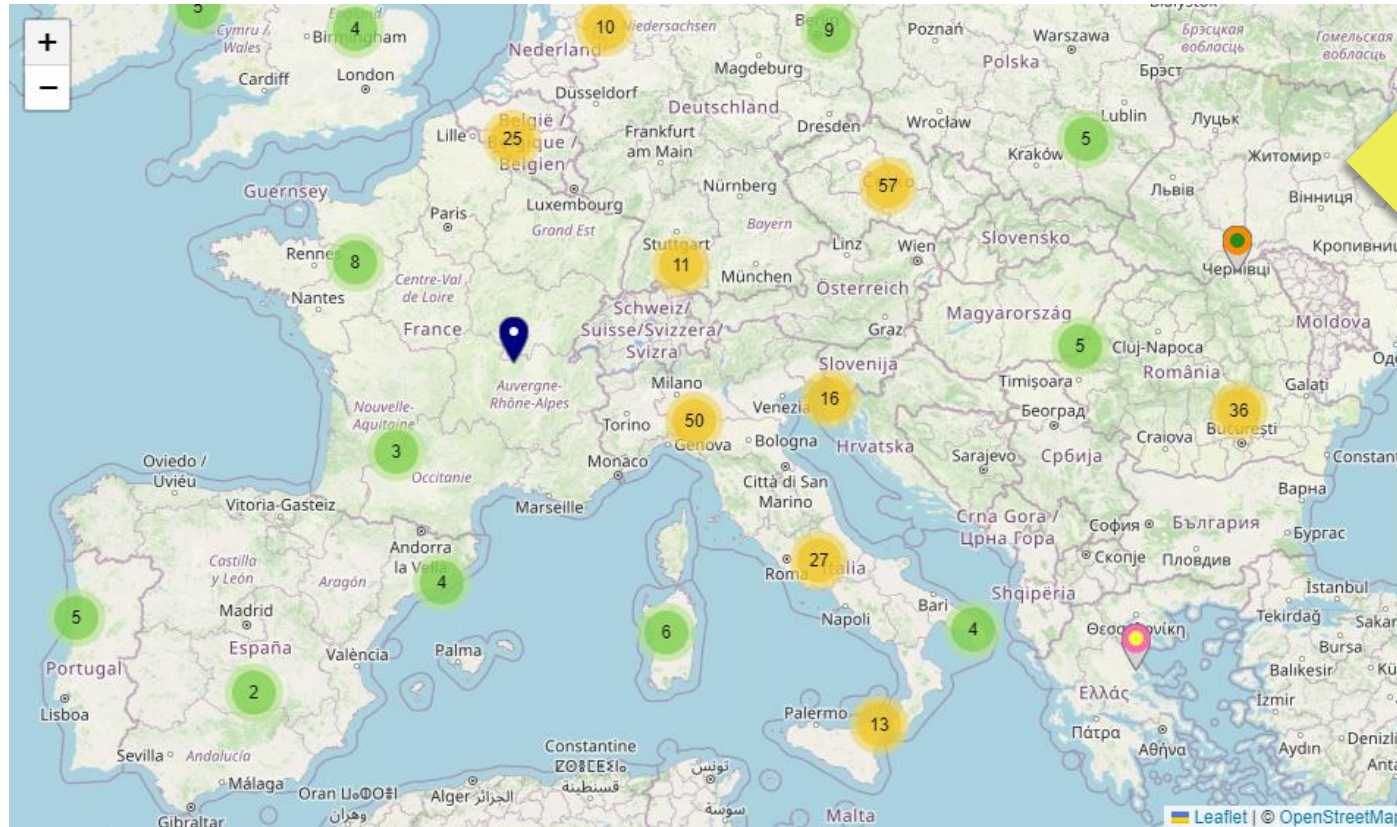


HempCluB pillars



The HempCluB platform

Construction of an interactive digital map of industries operating in hemp sector in Europe



To find the best matching opportunities for organisations in the bioeconomy/hemp sector

Filter: Step of the value chain Sector of operating Cluster Country

Available on our website:

<https://hempclubproject.com/map/map.html>

Be part of our interactive map by registering your organization at <https://shorturl.at/bKOQ1>

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.

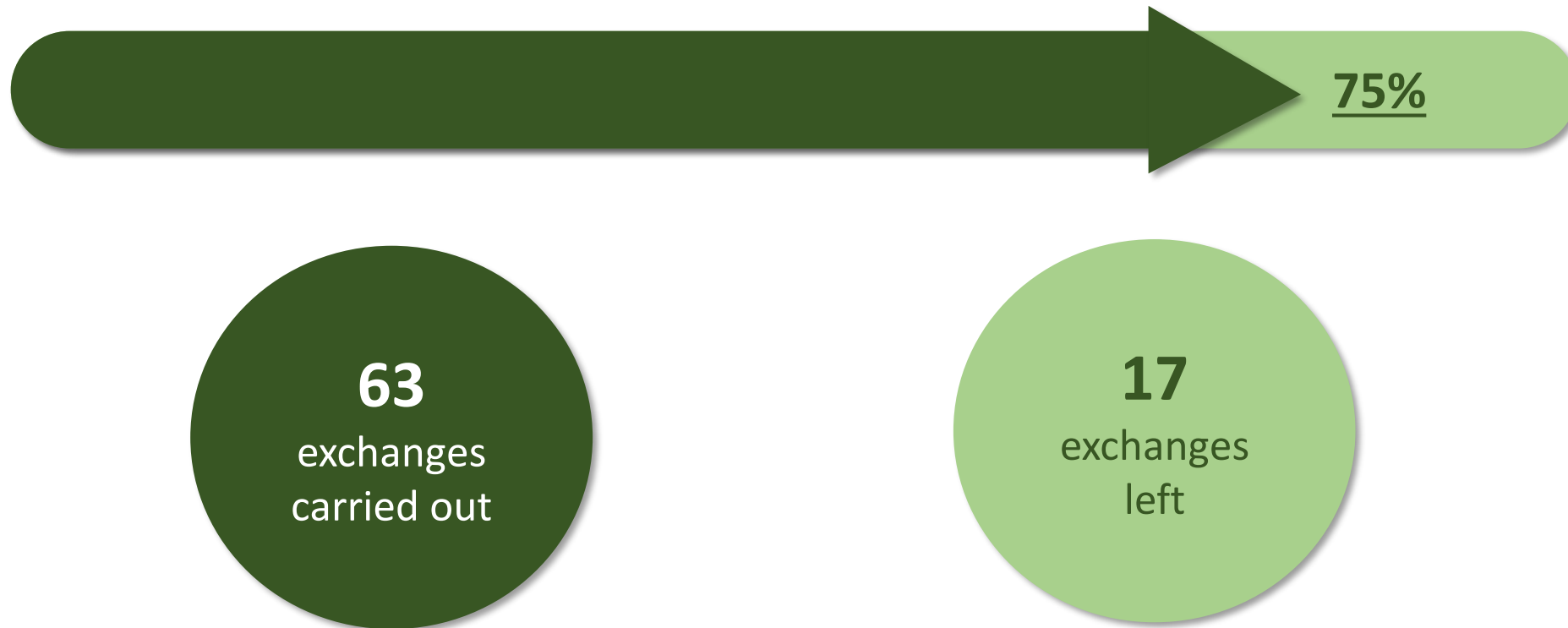
ECONOMICAL SUPPORT

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 CXC



When: 26-28 February 2024

Where: Padua, Italy

Host: Federcanapa in collaboration with the University of Padua

Programme and registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/biglietti-circular-solutions-for-textile-value-chain-776180074497?aff=oddtcreator>

Exchange Objectives

- *Gaining insights from industry experts and visionaries shaping the future of textile sustainability.*
- *Networking with professionals and stakeholders committed to driving change in the textile industry to discover actionable strategies and innovative approaches to integrate circular solutions into this sector.*
- *To share knowledge, individuate potential collaboration and commercial opportunities in the bioeconomy among the Host Organization (and its cluster associates) and Visiting organizations.*
- *To enhance collaboration and networking among actors of EU hemp-based value chains to enhance and promote the European hemp industry globally.*
- *To visit local companies and interact with local stakeholders operating in the hemp sector.*





Standortagentur



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 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/83302386>

 hempclubeu@gmail.com