

D.T.2.3.1

Interregional event

International Cluster Conference in Moldova

CLUSTERO
01/2022



Project Information

Project Title: GoDanuBio - ‘Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy’

Project code: DTP3-471-4.1

Lead partner: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

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<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/godanubio>

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1	22/12/2021	Report on International Conference of SMEs „Clusters as drivers of resilient, digital and green economic competitiveness”	Gabriela Pirvu (CLUSTERO)	BIOPRO
2	14/01/2022	Report on International Conference of SMEs „Clusters as drivers of resilient, digital and green economic competitiveness”	Gabriela Pirvu (CLUSTERO)	

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1. Introduction

On 7 and 8 December 2021, the International Cluster Conference entitled "Clusters as drivers of resilient, digital and green economic competitiveness" was held within the framework of the GoDanuBio project. The event took place in Chisinau, being organized online due to COVID-19, through the Zoom Platform. It was also broadcasted live through several communication channels.

The event was organised by the **Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova** and the **EU4Moldova: Focal Regions Programme** with the support of the **Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODIMM)**, **Romanian Cluster Association (CLUSTERO)**, and the **Project „Participative Ecosystems for fostering the revitalization of rural-urban cooperation through governing Danube Circular Bioeconomy”- GoDanuBio (Danube Transnational Programme)**.

The conference was well attended with approximately 200 representatives of clusters, companies, RDI organizations, and regional and national public authorities.

2. Concept and development

The International Cluster Conference, entitled "Clusters as drivers of resilient, digital and green economic competitiveness", aimed to inform about the role of clusters in the global economy and the start of the clustering process at national level as well as to rise the awareness about the importance of bioeconomy in the region. It had a focus on the Republic of Moldova, since the cluster landscape is still under development in this country and events of this kind have been scarce till date.

On the first day, the role of clusters as drivers of green, resilient, and digital transition was highlighted, in the context of the [new European industrial policy](#) of the European Commission, through interventions by officials of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the European Commission, and representatives of the European Cluster Alliance (ECA).

During the thematic workshops, an exchange of good practices was made between the Romanian clusters and the emerging initiatives in the Republic of Moldova. The thematic fields concerned were: tourism, agri-food, textiles, wood, and furniture.

The second day was dedicated to the bioeconomy. BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg (Lead Partner of GoDanuBio) presented the project in the ECA Morning session with around 35 attendees. This session on 8 December included discussions about how clusters and, to some extent, public administration can shape circular bioeconomy ecosystems at regional, national and macro-regional levels.

Cluster representatives from Germany and Romania and a policy representative from the SME Agency of the Republic of Moldova participated to share their examples and practices. The presentations were followed by discussions and exchanges of ideas with the audience.

Later on in the plenary session (around 80 attendees), some funding programmes and measures to support the deployment of bio-based value chains in the Danube region were discussed. Among them was the new [Interregional Innovation Investments \(I3\)](#) and the [Green Innovation Programme \(GIP\)](#) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The second part of the second day was

dedicated to the best practices on mobilising bioeconomy regional excellence in countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia and Slovakia, in line with what has been mapped and assessed in WP T2 so far.

3. Impact and conclusions

The event was distributed by the www.privesc.eu and www.afaceri.ro portals, in the social pages of the organizers and partners and also on facebook .

The conference was live on facebook and had a very strong impact:

- The impact for the first day was 2,000 people.
- The impact for the second day was 1,800 people.

During the event, new models of collaboration that would accelerate economic development by revitalizing key sectors and providing a necessary environment for regional research, innovation and development were discussed, with a special focus on Moldavia. In this regard, more attention has been paid to opportunities to incorporate the dimensions of "circular economy" and "digitalisation" in the context of cluster development.

A key takeaway is that the sustainable development of clusters and the growth of their international competitiveness must be the result of the development and application of new technologies (e.g. digitalisation) and principles. This can be done, by updating the technological process, while respecting the principles of environmental protection.

The conference can be revisited at:

<https://www.facebook.com/clustero>

<https://www.facebook.com/odimm.md/videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/Afaceri.ro>

4. Annexes

Annex 1: Conference Agenda

Annex 2: Pictures

Annex 3: Number of participants according to the target groups of the GoDanuBio project

Annex 1: Conference Agenda

Day 1: December 7, 2021
A focus on the Republic of Moldova

09:15 – 09:30 - Registration of participants

09:30 -09:50 - Opening Remarks

Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova

Mr. Gintautas Baranauskas Deputy Head of the Operations Section, European Union Delegation in the Republic of Moldova

Mrs. Dima Al-Khatib UNDP Resident Representative to the Republic of Moldova

Moderator: Mr. Ghenadie Ivascenco, Director Europolis

09:50 - 10:50 - Plenary Session:

Conceptualization of the national cluster development policy: objectives and EU lessons learned

Key speakers:

Mr. Dumitru Pintea, Interim General Director ODIMM

Mrs. Ulla Engelmann, Acting Director Networks & Governance, DG GROW, European Commission

Mr. Antonio Novo, President of the European Clusters Alliance

Mr. Daniel Coșniță, President CLUSTERO Association of Clusters from Romania

Moderator: Mrs. Lucia Seel, International Cluster Expert

10:50 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 -12:20 Parallel sessions:

Emerging cluster initiatives in Moldova: challenges and opportunities

Session I: Tourism

Key speakers:

Mr. Silvia Știrbeț Eco-Village Văleni of Cahul Tourism emerging Cluster

Mrs. Olga Munteanu - Representative of Ungheni Tourism emerging Cluster

Mr. Emil-Anton Comsa Manager Cluster Transylvania Lands

Mrs. Carmen Nastase Universitatea "Stefan cel Mare" Suceava

Moderator: Mr. Viorel Miron, Europolis-International

Session 2: Agri-food

Key speakers:

Mr. Nicolae Minciună entrepreneur of Wine emerging Cluster from Cahul

Mrs. Zinaida Plamadeala, entrepreneur (producer of berries) of Berries emerging Cluster from Ungheni

Mr. Sergiu Tutovan entrepreneur (producer of grapes), Executive Director of the Association of Table Grapes producers from Cahul

Mr. Baltag Grigore Executive Director, National Federation of Sheperds

Mrs. Maria Gaspar Manager AgroFood Covasna cluster

Mr. Felix Arion Manager of AgroTransylvania Cluster (Cluj/Romania)

Mr. Costin Lianu Manager of Bioconcept Valea Prahovei Cluster

Catalin Maxim Manager of BioNest Cluster (Iași, Romania)

Moderator: Mrs. Oxana Paladiciuc, ODIMM

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Session 3: Furniture

Key speakers:

Mr. Procopciuc Ion entrepreneur (producer of furniture) of Furniture emerging Cluster Ungheni

Mr. Rezzo Kadar Manager of ProWood Cluster (Sfântul Gheorghe/ Romania)

Mr. Ciprian Morcan Manager Transylvanian Furniture Cluster

Moderator: Mrs. Angela Cașcaval, Europolis-International

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Session 4: Textile

Key speakers:

Mr. Petru Babenco entrepreneur of Carpet emerging Cluster from Ungheni (producer of carpets)

Mr. Andrei Marza manager Sorintex

Mrs. Mirela Bogyo, manager Transylvania Textile & Fashion

Mrs. Mirela Puiu Manager Romanian Textile Concept

Mr. Serban Stratila Manager Astrico Nord-Est

Moderator: Mrs. Lilia Surdu, Business Development Officer

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12:20 - 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 12:45 Conclusions of the day

Moderator: Mr. Simion Berzoi, Business Development Investment Attraction Officer

Sesiunea ECA (ONLY ENGLISH)

ECA Morning Session,

9:30 – 10:30 EET

Before joining the conference on the 2nd day we recommend you to take part in the European Clusters Alliance's Morning Session on Sustainable Bioeconomy Models.

Mrs. Oxana Paladiciuc, Head of Regional Development and Business Support Infrastructure Department, ODIMM

Mr. Sergi Costa, Project Manager, BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH

Mrs. Boglarka Vajda Manager ECA Morning Session, Green Energy Cluster

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, clusters, associations, institutions, universities, companies, social economy stakeholders and other entities, have been meeting on a regular basis to find solutions to the challenges brought to us by the crisis.

Further details about the Morning Sessions on <https://clustersalliance.eu/events/eaac-morning-discussions/>

Click here to participate <https://www.gotomeet.me/europeanclustersalliance>

Day 2: December 8, 2021
A focus on circular bioeconomy in the Danube macro-region

11:00 – 11:15 Keynote: Bioeconomising through clusters at regional and national level;
Mr. Prof. Dr. Ralf Kindervater, CEO (BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH)

11:15 -12:15 Plenary Session

Funding opportunities for supporting cross-regional bio-based value chains

Key speakers:

Mr. Johan Magnusson DG REGIO

Mrs. Andreea Pena, Danube Strategy Point

Mr. Nicolo Giachino Associate, Green Economy and Climate Action European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Mr. Simion Berzoi, Business Development Investment Attraction Officer

Moderator: Mrs. Teodora Jilkova, Veritas Cluster

12:15-12:30 Q&A

12:30-12:45 Coffee Break

12:45 – 13:45 Panel Discussion

Towards an integration plan: best practices on mobilising bioeconomy regional excellence

Mr. Daniel Acs, Bioeconomy Cluster Slovakia

Mrs. Eszter Tanka, expert, IFKA

Mrs. Cornelia Muraru Ionel, Manager Indagro Pol

Mrs. Genoveva Christova, Cluster Ligna

Mrs. Zorica Maric, International Cluster Expert

Moderator: Daniel Coșniță, President of the Association of Clusters from Romania

13:45-14:00 Q&A

14:00 – 14:30 Conclusions of the Conference and follow up

Key speakers:

Mr. Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova

Mr. Christian Ballaro, EU Delegation in Moldova

Mr. Dumitru Pintea, Interim General Director ODIMM

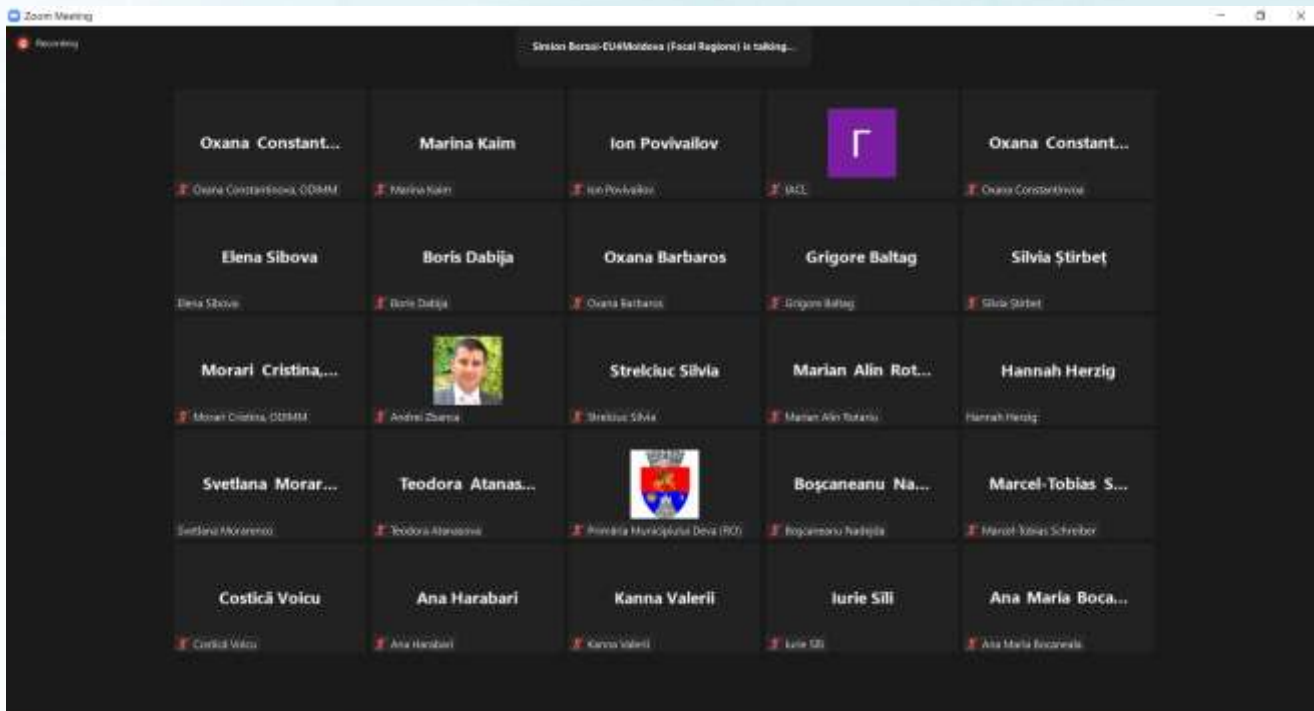
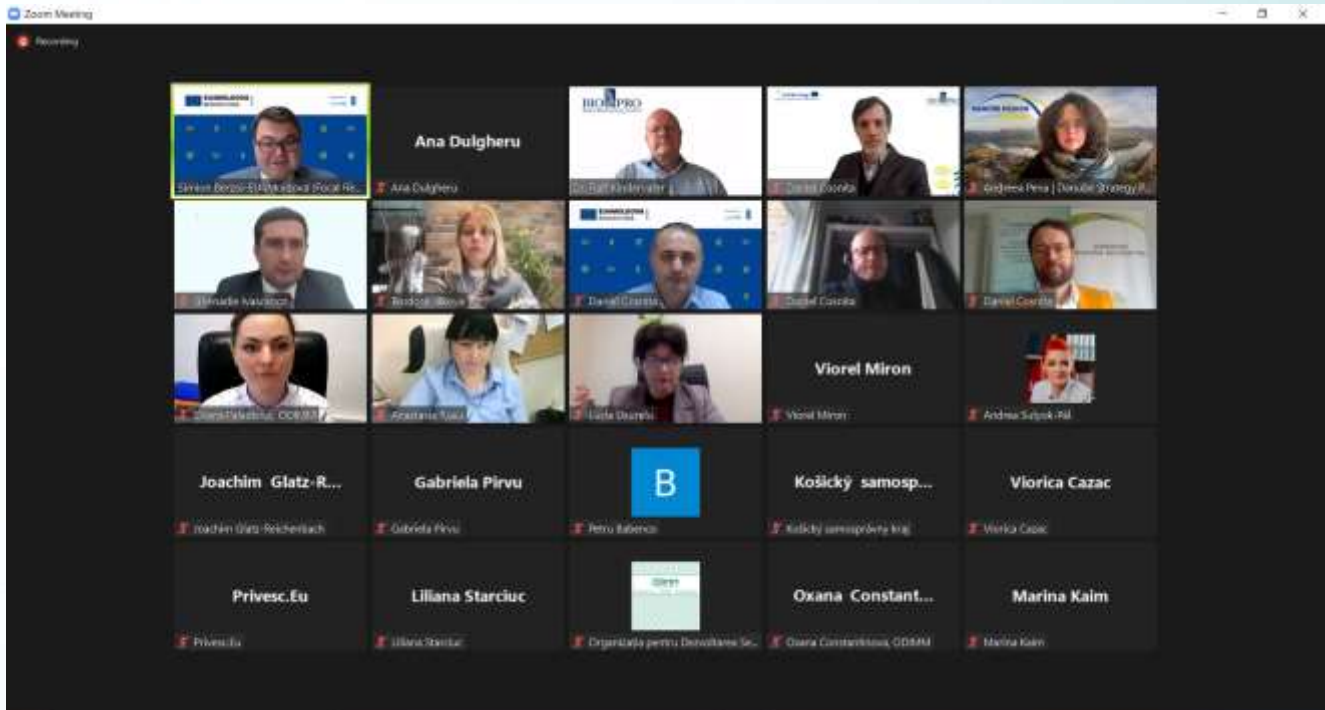
Mr. Daniel Coșniță, President of the Association of Clusters from Romania

Mr. Darie Andrei, Programme Specialist, Inclusive Growth Cluster Lead, UNDP Moldova

Moderator: Mr. Dumitru Parfentiev, Project Manager Business Development

End of the event

Annex 2: Pictures



Annex 3: Number of participants according to the target groups of the GoDanuBio project

	Target groups	Target value
1	Local public authority	3
2	Regional public authority	4
3	National public authority	1
4	Sectoral agency	2
5	Interest groups including NGO	2
6	Higher education and research	4
7	Enterprise, excluding SME	1
8	SME	6
9	Business support organisation	13
10	Others	5