

European Clusters Alliance collaborates with European Commission to increase the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Europe

ECA identified and created a map of resources of European companies that can help in the different stages of the COVID-19 vaccines production. Based on these results, the European Commission organised in partnership with ECA a matchmaking event to offer companies a common space to explore new collaborations.

Brussels, 31st March 2020. The European Clusters Alliance (ECA) has been collaborating actively with the “Task Force for Industrial Scale-up of COVID-19 vaccines” set up in DG GROW, European Commission, to ramp up the production of COVID-19 vaccines in the European Union. Following the Commission’s request to look for potential production capacities in Europe, ECA and the Council of European BioRegions ([CEBR](#)) mobilised their networks and sent a questionnaire to their members and collaborators to identify companies with production facilities in the EU. Within three weeks, 250 companies answered to the call. Based on the answers, ECA and CEBR wrote a report to the European Commission informing about the potential capacities and the bottlenecks that companies face to enter the production capacities.

Following these results and the recommendations of the European Clusters Alliance, the European Commission organised in partnership with ECA, CEBR and the [European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#) the first pan-European matchmaking event to scale up production of COVID-19 vaccines, which took place on 29th and 31st April 2021. More than 300 companies from 25 Member States took part to address production and supply chain bottlenecks. The event sought to promote new collaborations between companies based in or having facilities in the European Union to produce vaccines by offering them a shared platform and a meeting space to explore possibilities to ramp up production. The European Clusters Alliance advised the Commission on the design of the event and the registration process and gave continued support in its implementation.

European Commissioner Thierry Breton, responsible for the Internal Market, stated: “The ramp-up of vaccine production in Europe is unprecedented, both for our immediate and medium-term vaccination needs. We are working with industry to make better use of existing capacity and build new capability all around Europe. The matchmaking event is all about fostering new connections and partnerships across the production and supply chain. I encourage the many companies involved in the vaccine manufacturing process to make the most of the matchmaking opportunities.”

Furthermore, Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager said with respect to this event: “The number and variety of players attending the matchmaking event showcases the importance of having a vibrant, competitive pharmaceutical industry in the EU. Cooperation to combine complementary assets and increase vaccine capacity can be decisive in speeding up the vaccination of European citizens and overcoming the outbreak – for this reason, the Commission has issued an antitrust comfort letter which facilitates matchmaking between companies while protecting fair competition.”

The European Clusters Alliances continues to collaborate with the “Task Force for Industrial Scale-up of COVID-19 vaccines” on next steps after this event.

About the European Clusters Alliance

The European Clusters Alliance is a non-profit association and bottom-up initiative that gathers 18 National Cluster Associations and country ambassadors, representing more than 800 clusters in Europe. The Alliance is the common voice of the European cluster community and aims at positioning industrial clusters as key agents in the European innovative ecosystem for the development and growth of our economy and competitiveness. ECA is member of the European Commission's Industrial Forum, the EU Expert Group of Clusters, and the European Economic and Social Committee.

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