



Strengthen Cluster management excellence along the industrial new materials value - chain

[WP4] Deliverable D 4.2

Materialix Conference Report

Due delivery Date:	30.11.2017
Actual delivery date	17.01.2018
Author (s):	Pool-Net
Version:	Materialix_WP4_D4.2_Vrsf2
Dissemination level:	Public
Type:	Other

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Co-funded by the COSME programme
of the European Union

**Grant Agreement Nr: 696673
COS-CLUSTER-2014-3-04-02-1**

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to make an overview of the Final Conference of the MATERIALIX project held on 16 November 2017 at TAGUSPARK, Oeiras, Lisbon.

2. Objectives

The objective of the final conference “*Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation*” was to present the findings of the MATERIALIX project to relevant stakeholders and experts, validate and collect their views (especially on the development of a collaborative sustained model for transnational Cluster networks), and also to promote a discussion about Europe 2030 and the links between Cluster, Innovation & Research Policies.

This Final Conference was organised by **POOL-NET** and MATERIALIX partners, in cooperation with the [EUROPEAN TOOLING PLATFORM](#) (*MANUFUTURE SUB-PLATFORM*) and [PORTUGALClusters](#), within the initiatives for the **High-Level Group Meeting of MANUFUTURE** (organised by **EFW**) that was held between 15-17 November in Portugal.

The Target Group:

- ✓ EU policy makers
- ✓ Clusters & business networks/ Innovation support agencies/multipliers
- ✓ Innovators and representatives (companies)

3. Conference Agenda





Co-funded by the COSME programme
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation”

16th November 2017 | Tagus Park | Oeiras, Portugal

08h30	Registration
09h00	Welcome Address Joaquim Menezes / POOL-NET – Portugal / European Tooling Platform Alain Liberos / Policy Officer / DG GROW.F2 / European Commission Luisa Coutinho / EWF Nelson de Souza / Secretary of State for Development and Cohesion
09h15	“Strengthen Innovation through Cluster Policies” Alain Liberos / Policy Officer / DG GROW.F2 / European Commission
09h35	Panel I – “MATERIALIX: Clusters Management Excellence & Meta-Cluster for Green Materials and Clean Technologies” Moderator: Rui Ramos / Universidade Minho - Portugal Rui Tocha / POOL-NET - Portugal Patrick Vuillemoz / PLASTIPOLIS - France Cristina Mönge / AVEP - Spain Giuseppe Augugliari / PROPLAST - Italy
10h35	Case Studies & Best Practices “European Cluster Collaboration Platform” Marc Pattinson / INNO-GROUP “ACTTIVate” Luis Pina / INEGI “Kunststoff Institut – Excellence for Industrial Competitiveness” Raoul Dansi / Kunststoff Institut Lüdenscheid
11h20	Keynote Speaker Ana Teresa Lehmann / Secretary of State for Industry
11h30	Coffee & Networking
11h45	“Panel II: Europe 2030: Linking Research & Cluster Policies” Moderator: José Manuel Mendonça / Fórum Manufature Portugal Gustaf Winroth / DG Research & Innovation / European Commission Marc Pattinson / INNO-GROUP José Carlos Caldeira / ANI
12h15	Panel III: “Clusters: An Integrative Vision for Innovation” Moderator: Manuel Laranja / ISEG - Portugal Sara Pereira / PortugalClusters Jorge Marques dos Santos / IAPMEI Ana Abrunhosa / CCDRC
12h45	Main Conclusions Rui Tocha / MATERIALIX (POOL-NET)
12h55	Closing Session João Faustino / POOL-NET
13h00	Lunch (optional)

ORGANIZED BY








IN COLLABORATION WITH

4. Programme overview

The MATERIALIX Final conference “*Enhancing Excellence with Clusters collaboration & Innovation*”, was organised by the MATERIALIX Consortium and brought together a notable set of international speakers. The event reached 68 attendees, with participants coming from the three main target groups: 17% European policy makers; 66% Innovation support agencies/multipliers; Cluster & Business networks; 17% Innovators and representatives’ companies.

We also highlight the involvement and participation of the European Commission (DG Grow and DG Research & Innovation), the Portuguese Secretary of State for Development and Cohesion, Dr. Nelson de Souza, and the Portuguese Secretary of State for Industry, Professor Ana Teresa Lehmann, and the Portuguese presidents from the National Innovation Agency (ANI); the Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (IAPMEI); and the Regional Centre for the Coordination and Development Commission (CCDRC).

This conference was an opportunity to:

- Present the findings of the MATERIALIX Project;
- Share excellence management and Cluster experiences and practices;
- Exchange ideas about challenges and future research & Cluster policies – Europe 2030;
- Share an integrative vision towards innovation and support SME growth;
- Promote networking activities and increase visibility for the Clusters support on Industrial and Development policies.

The conference was opened by **Rui Tocha, General Manager of POOL-NET** (replacing Joaquim Menezes on the representation of POOL-NET). After whom, welcome words were given by:

- **Luisa Coutinho, General Manager of the European Welding Federation (EWF)**, showing a video about the EWF’s role and its mission to promote education, qualification, and certifications in the welding industry.
- **Nelson de Souza / Portuguese Secretary of State of Development and Cohesion**, assuming the central importance of Clusters as the main drivers to transfer technology and knowledge in order to develop SMEs’ competitiveness.
- **Alain Libéros / DG GROW.F2 / EC Head of Unit from the European Commission**.



After that, **Alain Libéros, Policy Officer / DG GROW.F2 / EC**, as key Speaker of the Event, made a presentation about **“Strengthen Innovation thought Cluster Policies”**, focused on the thematic **“Bringing European Cluster policy to the next level”**. He identified the need to enhance the European Cluster Policy and announced initiatives and instruments to be launched in this context (namely to set up a "High-level Cluster expert group in 2018" and a call for proposals to Clusters, to promote Smart Specialisation investments. Mr. Libéros stated that *“Clusters are a priority to DG GROW, and new instruments will be launched to reinforce the work done by Clusters during the last years”*.

Within the Panel I - **“MATERIALIX: Clusters Management Excellence & Meta-Cluster for Green Materials”**, the MATERIALIX Consortium had the opportunity to present the MATERIALIX Project, its main goals, actions and results, with regard to reinforcing Cluster excellence management and setting up the basis for the formalization of a “European market Cluster in clean technologies and green materials”, to consolidate the excellence of these fields in Europe.

Furthermore, promising services could be offered by MATERIALIX partners to increase the Cluster members’ commitment, cross-sectoral collaboration and internationalization, as well as to promote business cooperation among the Cluster members.

This panel was moderated by Prof Rui Ramos and involved the Cluster managers of Materialix Consortium. They totally agreed on the positive experience of the MATERIALIX Project, putting the main focus on the results of this project.

Partners referred that the project had good results regarding the possibility to develop comparative learning activities between Clusters (helping on the identification of barriers to be overcome and the main challenge with international cooperation and services); the introduction of changes in Clusters activities benefiting from the external experiences/benchmarking; but also, the support to learn and define the basis for the creation of a sustainable Meta-Cluster (and an effective joint action plan), with a progressive approach, step by step, to overcome the new challenges of industry 4.0 and the circular economy.



In addition, the Conference Panel for **Case Studies and Best Practices** presented several cases of international cooperation and business models. **Marc Pattinson**, the **General Manager of INNO-GROUP**, presented the **ECCP - European Cluster Collaboration Platform**, to support Clusters transnational

cooperation (*partner search; Cluster matchmaking events*), to promote business opportunities and partnerships in strategic fields. **Luís Pina (INEGI)** presented the **ACTIVATE platform** focused on cross-sectoral and border technology transfer in different fields (e.g. health; aerospace). **Raoul Dansi (of the Kunststoff Institut Lüdenscheid)** presented “Growing together in the network with innovative services”. He introduced the Business Model of this Cluster of Excellence, based on a Centre of competences for surface technology and plastics, to increase the competitiveness of German SMEs (e.g., the innovation, development and optimization of products, moulds and processes in all areas of plastics technology).

The **Portuguese Secretary of State for Industry, Professor Ana Teresa Lehman**, also participated as a Keynote speaker, stating that “*Cluster policies play a central role in Europe for the competitive strengthening of companies, for the establishment of international networks and support for internationalization, for the exploitation of market opportunities.*” She also referred that the Portuguese Government is very much focused on the role of Clusters in order to promote Innovation, Employment and Economic Development, supporting these initiatives with different instruments to bring together companies, Academia and Research Centres with common goals.

Panel II: “**Europe 2030: Linking Research & Cluster Policies**”, was moderated by **Professor José Mendonça (Forum MANUFUTURE PORTUGAL)**. The experts from this panel stated that policy-makers should reinforce the role of the innovation ecosystem network to support the new framework 2030. On the other hand, they defended the importance of using the results from research & innovation to increase European Industry Competitiveness. They also defended that Clusters organizations have a crucial role in these issues (*Research, Innovation and Development*), to strengthen the SME’s innovation capacity, to identify new opportunities in the market and to promote cross-fertilization developments.

Gustaf Winroth, the **representative of DG Research & Innovation** stated that the “*European DG’s should align their interventions to achieve common objectives and priorities to support the European companies. Clusters foster wider value chains, contributing to a greater impact on the European economy*”. Marc Pattinson, representative of the **INNO-GROUP**, added that “*Clusters are bottom-up strategies creating value, business and growth, and expanding the impact on their members by reinforcing collective strategies. The Regions must strengthen their programs to support Clusters and regional policies, to open new markets, businesses and cooperation networks.*” Finally, **José Carlos Caldeira**, President of **ANI**, reinforced that “*We need to strengthen Innovation ecosystems to support the next EU Framework Program (2020-2030), and Clusters can and should play the leading role in implementing future economic policies.*”



On Panel III: “Clusters: an integrative vision for innovation, **Professor Manuel Laranja (ISEG-Portugal)**, was the moderator, and the panel experts argued that policy-makers should be more committed with Clusters. They referred the importance of having policies and instruments to guarantee stability/framework and better alignment with collective strategies (e.g. to implement successful smart specialization strategies). On the other hand, they concluded that Clusters are drivers for innovation and strategic communities in order to promote networks, innovation, industrial strategy, and knowledge and industry internationalization. All the participants stated that policy-makers and Governments are always discussing the basics of Cluster Policies, thus delaying the implementation of useful programs to develop these collective strategies.

Sara Pereira, the representative of **PORTUGALClusters**, stated that *Portuguese Cluster policies are not aligned with the needs and demands–market of Clusters to speed up industrial competitiveness. She referred the importance of having support for new Clusters policies.* **Jorge Marques dos Santos, President of IAPMEI**, stated that Clusters represent collective strategies, and should therefore reinforce their excellence with GOLD label assessment. **Ana Abrunhosa, President of CCDRC (Regional Authority)**, stated that *since the beginning, Clusters in Portugal are assumed as the right partner to establish smart specialization strategies with, because they are close to the regions and industries; nevertheless, the national programs are not in line with these needs and visions (Lack of instruments to support Cluster activities).*



The event was closed by **POOL-Net**, presenting the main conclusions of the day’s work. POOL-NET referred the importance of these kinds of debates in Portugal and Europe and thanked all the participants for the main contributions and visions presented. POOL-NET stated that this was the major international conference in Portugal to debate Clusters and Innovation Policy, and it was an excellent opportunity to present the main conclusions of the MATERIALIX project. Finally, POOL-NET concluded by stating that the importance of the MATERIALIX project is to reinforce the long-term relationship between Clusters from different Countries that are a part of MATERIALIX (namely, POOL-NET from Portugal, PLASTIPOLIS from France, AVEP from Spain and PROPLAST from Italy), thus expanding the capacity for the success of the future Meta-Cluster in **“Clean Technologies & Green Materials for Sustainable Manufacturing to Support Advanced Products”**.

5. Conclusions

The main conclusions from the MATERIALIX International Conference can be resumed by identifying the following:

- The MATERIALIX Project is an excellent example of a transnational Clusters Cooperation, demonstrating how it is possible to benefit from a long-term partnership (between competitive Clusters from different Countries) to plan the development of a Transnational Cluster/Meta-Cluster (promoting new added-value services to their members);
- Clusters are a critical and an excellent field of action to promote Innovation, Employment, and Development (they bring together SMEs, Academia and Research Centres);
- Clusters are in the centre of the European Policy; Nevertheless, there are not yet coherent and robust instruments (at a European, National and Regional Level) to support this commitment;
- Policy-Makers are always discussing the basics about the Cluster policies and its importance;
- Meta-Clusters / Transnational Clusters are common strategies to strengthen Innovation and European Collective goals, helping to promote new services for their Cluster members);
- Collective Strategies are critical to develop European INTELLIGENCE, COOPERATION and INTERNACIONALIZATION, because they represent larger value-chains;
- Smart Specialization can be more efficient with the support of Clusters;
- European DG's should better align their visions/actions/instruments and support the future market's needs;
- ESCA Labelling is very important in order to highlight the Management Clusters Excellence in Europe;

6. Annexes

6.1. Conference Programme



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation”

16th November 2017 | Taguspark | Oeiras - Lisbon, Portugal



Co-funded by the COSME programme
of the European Union

PROJECT Nr: 696673
[CALL ID: COS-CLUSTER-2014-3-04-02-1]

www.eu-materialix.com



MATERIALIX's main goal is to strengthen cluster management excellence as a way to provide added-value SMEs support services through clusters and therefore contribute to the development of world-class clusters in the EU in clean technologies and green materials.

For this purpose MATERIALIX project^{1,2} was launched in January 2016 (duration: 2 years) and gathers a group of 4 European clusters/business networks from engineering, tooling & plastic sectors, covering the entire value chain for the area of "clean technologies and green materials", which is a key strategic area of Europe's policy of smart and sustainable growth.

Within the project the consortium has improved their management and performance practices, individually and as a collaborative 'meta market cluster' for clean technologies and green materials, reinforced its main skills in Cluster Excellence (e.g. training activities) and promoted cross-cluster learning (e.g. study visits to international clusters organisations). Furthermore, it enables clusters to optimise the cluster's cooperation with its associates, through the redefinition of cluster services, in order to facilitate SMEs internationalisation and better exploit and diffuse Key Enabling Technologies (KETs).

With the project now nearing its end, a final conference "**Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation**" aims to present to relevant stakeholders and experts the findings of the MATERIALIX project, validate and collect their views (especially on the development of collaborative sustained model for transnational Cluster networks), and also to promote a discussion about Europe 2030 and the links between Cluster, Innovation & Research Policies.

This Final Conference organised in cooperation with the **EUROPEAN TOOLING PLATFORM** (MANUFUTURE SUB-PLATFORM) and **PORTUGALclusters**, within the initiatives for the **High Level Group Meeting of MANUFUTURE** (organised by EWF) that will be held between 15-17 November in Portugal, is an opportunity to:

- Share excellence management and cluster experience and practices;
- Exchange ideas about challenges and future research & cluster policies – Europe 2030;
- Share one integrative vision towards innovation and support SME growth;

Target Group:

- ✓ EU policy makers
- ✓ Clusters & business networks/ Innovation support agencies/multipliers
- ✓ Innovators and representatives (companies)

¹ Cluster Excellence Programme under COSME Programme (Call ID COS-CLUSTER-2014-3-04-02-1)
² Grant Agreement N° 696673

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12h55	Closing Session João Faustino / POOL-NET
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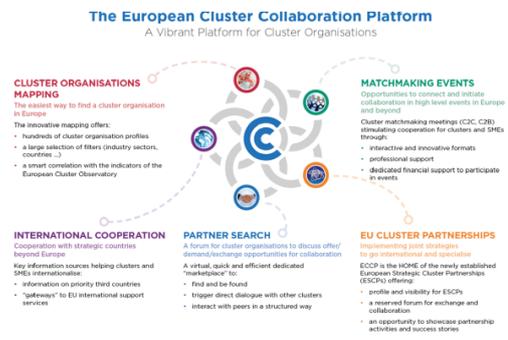


6.2. Presentations

[1] *Strengthen Innovation through Clusters presentation*, Alain Libéros (DG GROW, European Commission)



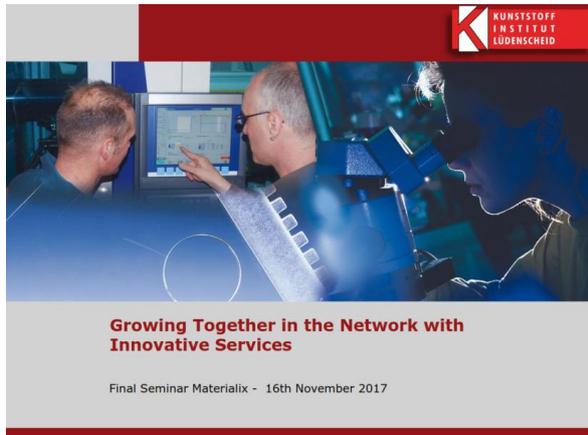
[2] *European Cluster Collaboration Platform*, Marc Pattinson (INNO-GROUP)



[3] *ACTTIVate*, Luis Pina (INEGI)



[4] Kunststoff Institut – Excellence for Industrial Competitiveness, Raoul Dansi (Kunststoff Institut Lüdenschied)



Agenda

- ▶ The Network
- ▶ Data and Facts
- ▶ Structure (Societies/ Interests)
- ▶ Network Effects and Network Activities
- ▶ Summary/ Recommended actions



6.3. Final Attendance List

List of Attendees 1



	NAME	ENTITY	SIGNATURE
1	Eng Patrícia Rodrigues	AIPQR	
2	Ms Marta Candeias	ANI	<i>Marta Candeias</i>
3	Mr José Carlos Caldeira	ANI	<i>José Carlos Caldeira</i>
4	Mr Pedro Colaço	APIP	<i>Pedro Colaço</i>
5	Ms Marta Peres	Associação Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources	<i>Marta Peres</i>
6	Mr Jorge Sales Gomes	A-to-Be	<i>Jorge Sales Gomes</i>
7	Ms CRISTINA MONGE	AVEP	<i>Cristina Monge</i>
8	Mr Severino De Sousa	BGO Consulting, Lda	<i>Severino De Sousa</i>
9	Mr Jose Ferro Camacho	BIID - Business Innovation & Industrial Dynamics	<i>José Ferro Camacho</i>
10	Mr Francisco Alves	CATIM	<i>Francisco Alves</i>
11	Ms Leonor Sopas	Catolica Porto Business School	<i>Leonor Sopas</i>
12	Mrs Margarida França	CCDR	<i>Margarida França</i>
13	Ms Ana Quintais	CCDR	<i>Ana Quintais</i>
14	Mr Carlos Silveira	CCDR	<i>Carlos Silveira</i>
15	Mr Carla Coimbra	CCDR	<i>Carla Coimbra</i>
16	Mr Teresa Jorge	CCDR	<i>Teresa Jorge</i>
17	Mrs Ana Abrunhosa	CCRD-C	<i>Ana Abrunhosa</i>
18	Mr Manuel Oliveira	CÉFAMOI	<i>Manuel Oliveira</i>
19	Mr Nuno Fidelis	Centimfe	<i>Nuno Fidelis</i>
20	Mr Pedro Lourenço	CENTIMFE	<i>Pedro Lourenço</i>
21	Mrs Dulcinea Santos	CENTIMFE	<i>Dulcinea Santos</i>
22	Mr Rui Soares	CENTIMFE	<i>Rui Soares</i>
23	Ms Cristina Quirós	Cluster Habitat Sustentável	<i>Cristina Quirós</i>
24	Ms Marlene Maia	Cluster Habitat Sustentável	<i>Marlene Maia</i>
25	Mr Luis Martins	Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources	<i>Luis Martins</i>
26	Mr Vasco Lagarto	Cluster TICE.PT	<i>Vasco Lagarto</i>



	NAME	ENTITY	SIGNATURE
53	Mr Manuel Laranja	ISEG - University of Lisbon	
54	Mr Pedro Colaço	ISA - APIP	
55	Prof Rui Baptista	IST	
56	Mr Raoul Dansi	Kunststoff Institut Lüdenscheid	
57	Mrs Maria Condessa	M.CONDESSA CONSULTING	
58	Ms Maria João Condessa	M.CONDESSA CONSULTING	
59	Mr Fernando Machado	MOBINOV	
60	Mr Jorge Laranjeira	MOLDIT - Industria de Moldes, SA	
61	Mr Nuno Silva	MOLDIT / CENTIMFE	
62	Mr Maucez Le Dantec	Plastipolis	
63	Mr Patrick Vuillermoz	PLASTIPOLIS - France	
64	Mr Diogo Filipe	POOL-NET	
65	Mr Joaquim Menezes	Pool-Net / European Tooling Platform	
66	Mrs Sara Pereira	PORTUGALclusters	
67	Mr Fernando Sousa	PRODUTECH - Production Technologies Cluster	
68	Mr Carlos Maio	Quasar Human Capital	
69	Mr Nelson de Souza	Secretary of State for Development and Cohesion	
70	Mrs Ana Teresa Lehmann	Secretary of State for Industry	
71	Dr Helena Filipe	Técnisata - Industria Metalomecânica, SA	
72	Mr Tomé Canas	The Navigator Company	
73	Prof Rui Ramos	University of Minho	
74	Eng António Selada	VANGEST, SA	
75	Mr Jorge Santos	VIPEX, SA	
76	HIDENIKO YAMAMOTO	MAKINO	
77	Fabrizio Rodrigues	Dunst - Rotaburgas Portugal, Lda	
78	Pedro Pereira	Dunst - Lda	



	NAME	ENTITY	SIGNATURE
79	PEDRO MATIAS	ISQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
80	Celso Santos		<i>[Signature]</i>
81	Liliana Costa	FICE-PT	<i>[Signature]</i>
82	Alatucha Pinto	Insicluster	<i>[Signature]</i>
83	Tiago Farias	Inov@lus@on	<i>[Signature]</i>
84	LUIS CARNEIRO	INESC TEC	<i>[Signature]</i>
85	FERNANDO OLIVEIRA	CENTIMPA	<i>[Signature]</i>
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List of Attendees 2

13	Ms Ana Quintais	CCDR	
14	Mr Carlos Silveira	CCDR	<i>Carlos Silveira</i>
15	Mr Carla Coimbra	CCDR	
16	Mr Teresa Jorge	CCDR	<i>Teresa Jorge</i>
17	Mrs Ana Abrunhosa	CCDR-C	<i>Ana Abrunhosa</i>

43	Ms Duália Sousa	IAPMEI	<i>Duália Sousa</i>
44	Mr Jorge Marques dos Santos	IAPMEI	
45	Ms Merta Filipe	Imegrisa Portugal S.A.	
46	Mr Luis Pina	INEGI	
47	Mr José Manuel Mendonça	INESC TEC - Fórum Manufatura Portugal	<i>José Manuel Mendonça</i>
48	Mr Marc Pattinson	inno TSD France	

6.4. Promotion & Dissemination

The Materialix Consortium promoted the final Conference through direct invitations and on websites:

- [Enterprise Europe Network-Portugal;](#)
- [Materialix project;](#)
- Partner websites: POOL-NET; PLASTIPOLIS, AVEP; PROPLAST;
- Others websites (e.g. Portuguese Clusters).

materialix HOME OBJECTIVES CONSORTIUM NEWS & EVENTS Q. & A. CONTACT US

The MATERIALIX Final Conference "Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation" will take place on **16 November, from 09h to 13h, in Oeiras (Lisbon)** at the Center of Congresses of the **TAGUSPARK** (main auditorium). The event is organised by **MATERIALIX Consortium** and gathers a notable set of international speakers.

This International Conference aims to present to relevant stakeholders and experts the findings of the MATERIALIX project, validate and collect their views (especially) on the development of collaborative sustained models for transnational Cluster networks, and also to promote a discussion about Europe 2030 and the links between Cluster, Innovation & Research Policies.

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- Share an integrative vision towards innovation and support SME growth;

The **registration** for the conference is now open!
For more details please view the [agenda](#) here.

+ [Practical information](#).

Contact: info@eu-materialix.com

Final conference of #Materialix Project | 16th November 2017 @Clusters_EU @EU_Commission
plastipolis.fr/materialix-con ...

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"Enhancing Excellence with Clusters Collaboration & Innovation"
16th November 2017 | Taguspark | Oeiras - Lisbon, Portugal

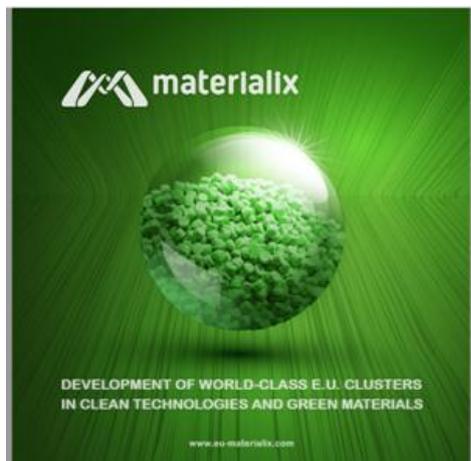
Article

POOL-NET wrote a conference overview that will be published in **O MOLDE Magazine** in **January 2018** (a quarterly magazine).

Promotional material



(Slide)



(Flyer)

