

SoCool@EU (Sustainable Organisation between Clusters of Optimised Logistics @ Europe) is a European Regions of Knowledge project through which 5 world-class European clusters have joined forces to create an open European hub for regional innovation in logistics and supply chain management. Its purpose is to enable research-driven regional clusters throughout Europe to collaborate and exchange experiences for increasing regional sustainability and competitiveness of logistics services and intermodal transport operations.



SoCool@EU operational objectives:

- **Fostering trans-national cooperation between research-driven clusters as well as mutual learning between regional actors.** The clusters will work in the areas of interconnecting major EU gateways and hubs for sustainable intermodal transport; mitigating local and regional effects of major hub activities and coordinate involved actors; increasing logistics added value without increasing transport and traffic volumes; enhancing environmental and economic efficiency of urban freight transport and logistics.

- **Developing and implementing joint action plans at the European level to increase regional economic competitiveness.** These action plans will support and drive the creation of the EU policies within intermodal transportation and co-modality and the creation of knowledge that will allow Europe to increase its economic growth without increasing its CO2 emissions.

- **Supporting the internationalization of the regional research-driven clusters.** SoCool@EU has been set up as a starting point and will evolve into an open European platform of excellence that will contribute to the internationalization of regional clusters and the importance of research.

- **Mentoring regions with a less developed research profile.** The cluster platform will be created by highly developed regions that will offer mentoring to regions with a less developed research profile, share knowledge and provide access to a network of clusters beyond SoCool@EU to support their capacity building.



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The five participating clusters represent robust triple helix collaborations between regional authorities, research institutes and business entities as well key and complementary infrastructures and corridors that are essential for optimised logistics: deep- and short-sea ports, airports, and inland hubs.

Consortium



Participating Third Parties



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Sustainable Organization between
Clusters of Optimized Logistics @ Europe

The European Hub for Regional Innovation in Logistics



SoCool@EU
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What can SoCool@EU do for you ...

SoCool@EU is a possibility to provide input for the European logistics agenda for innovation and thereby ensure that the European innovation priorities have a better alignment with the stakeholders' needs, priorities, opportunities and capabilities. Also, the project is an opportunity to develop a European network with other stakeholders in order to exchange information and collaborate.



...if you are a company?



SoCool@EU provides the companies with a platform for initiating projects that are relevant for them and not only academically theoretic or politically defended. These projects increase their competitiveness thanks to more effective and efficient process and product/service management and innovation. Also, it provides them with a possibility to decrease expenses in R&D (share costs) and improve competitiveness through innovative collaboration.



...if you are a research-driven cluster?



The project creates great possibility of creating network cooperation between European logistics cluster organizations. This provides an opportunity to gain knowledge on the way some of the leading logistics clusters in Europe are working towards improving competitiveness through increased collaboration between industry, academia and authorities and can also help the start up or further improvement of less-developed logistics clusters. The project facilitates the development of innovation collaboration projects by which clusters can benefit from innovative/sustainable ideas, best practices from other regions and project opportunities.

...if you are a research centre?



The project creates a collaborative R&D environment that provides an opportunity to get new ideas, discover emerging trends and learn about existing or future challenges and logistics business opportunities. It improves also the alignment of the R&D capabilities & interests of the research institutions and the funding resources coming from the European Commission and this creates more efficiency and effectiveness. Also a better alignment is ensured of the research agendas being carried out by R&D entities and the interests of the industry and the public authorities (closer collaboration and contact). R&D entities can gain knowledge about the agendas that are currently relevant in the logistics industry on an European level, as well as in other logistics clusters and regions. Furthermore, research institutions can get access to a large network of researchers in other clusters and countries through which they can get knowledge on other research carried out and thereby improve their own research. Researchers can benefit from the SoCool@EU research results.



...if you are a Policy maker or an authority at European, national or regional level?



Policy makers will hear about what are the key issues confronting logistics companies internally or externally. This will be based on direct feedback from the business community and the organizations operating in the logistics domain. The authorities can thereby get an overview of the latest topics on the research agenda, mainly identified by the industry. They would receive first-hand information on the industrial needs for changes in the framework conditions for logistics companies and research/education (e.g. land use planning, infrastructure urgency) and innovation if these are met, the competitiveness of European and the individual regions would increase. Also, a possibility of aligning the regional innovation agendas with the European research agendas will be created so that will help local authorities to identify which activities they should address in their regional development plans.

