



Workshop for Project Clustering

Minneapolis, June 21 2017

A) OBJECTIVES

The workshop will gather key partners from clusters of existing and funded projects. It provides a restricted forum for discussions. The real focus is to stimulate the clusters to deliver new benefits in addition to those stated in the individual projects. Project partners in each cluster will come together with the purpose of pooling existing and expected exploitable results and possibly agree on specific activities which could increase the impact of these results. Through discussion and facilitation, they should be able to identify synergies, new ideas within the cluster and any initiatives which could bring benefit to the cluster including its expansion by drawing in new stakeholders from within and outside the IMS program.

The outcome of the workshop should be:

- 1) the formation of project clusters in specific themes in Industry 4.0
- 2) preliminary work-plans for these clusters, to be part of a Memorandum of Agreement

B) METHODOLOGY

The projects participating in the workshop are selected from a group of homogenous on-going R&D projects from the IMS regions, sharing similar issues or a common theme, and probably with different approaches for addressing the challenges associated with the theme. An established methodology based on identifying areas of mutual interest will be used to select a high performance cluster with the potential to achieve excellent results.

C) IMPACT

- Reduce duplications in R&D projects and harmonization of R&D activities among the cluster participants
- Generate additional added value
- Improve communication
- Create critical mass with new stakeholders
- Target gaps and weaknesses
- Encourage SME internationalization
- Encourage the creation of other clusters to streamline their activities and increase competitiveness
- ...

D) HOMEWORK

A desk-based preparation before the workshop requires close cooperation between facilitators, clusters and when applicable, those in charge of the projects composing the cluster.

Two areas will be addressed for each project: The exploitable results and the characterization of the exploitable results

Each project will identify its exploitable results according to a specific definition which will, on purpose, reduce their numbers to the most significant ones, to be manageable during the workshop. The objective is to identify, when possible, a few main results from the projects around which clusters could be formed and work-programs drawn.



Each project will also state its expression of interest in the exploitable results of the other projects.

The exploitable results from the single projects and their expression of interest are analyzed and grouped, based on what they have in common and on their complementarities. The result of such analysis will provide lists of projects/interconnected results to pool together to develop activities as a cluster which should be able to deliver new benefits in addition to those stated by the single projects.

The characterization of the exploitable results will provide some detailed and relevant information which will help to fine tune and adjust when necessary the grouping of the results into clusters.

E) WORKSHOP

The workshop will be organized around activities split in three main sessions.

1. Recap of each project's objectives, exploitable results and relevant characterization, (including the IPR situation within and outside the single projects). Expression of interest in the exploitable results of the other projects in which cross cooperation could become possible.
2. Discussion forum among interested parties and formation of working groups
3. Working groups initiated by participants sharing similar or complementary interest.

Preliminary working plans are expected to be drawn up by the working groups by the end of the workshop to continue dialogue and cooperation after the workshop.

The expected outcome of the workshop is a report highlighting a potential plan for cooperation within the clusters based on the shared vision of its participants.