

CALL



IDEALIST

**CALL TO ACTION
FOR INDUSTRIAL
CLUSTERS AND SMES**

**Strategic Foresight and Horizon Scanning
under IDEALIST Project Aiming to Strengthen
SME Resilience and Technological Adoption**



CALL TO ACTION FOR INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS AND SMES

In an unprecedented collaboration, a consortium of 14 partners from across 7 European countries have come together to launch the IDEALIST project, under the auspices of Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation.

This ambitious initiative seeks to address the urgent challenges faced by SMEs in the Energy-Intensive Industries, Aerospace & Defence, and Mobility, Transport & Automotive sectors, promoting resilience, sustainable practices, and advanced technological adoption in the face of global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts.

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BEYOND STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

IDEALIST's core mission is to empower SMEs within these crucial industrial ecosystems to not only anticipate and withstand unexpected global challenges but also to emerge stronger and more competitive. This core part of the project will be aimed at identifying supply chain disruptions and opportunities for the uptake of advanced technologies: to shape the future, companies will be equipped with concrete foresight tools and methodology enabling them to make decisions in advance in order to better predict trends and prepare for future challenges, transforming uncertainty into a strategic advantage.

Therefore, we activate a local Focus Group, with the goal to « explore the future ». Each Focus Group will be composed of up to 20 permanent representatives of selected organisations among clusters' members, mainly SMEs. During the meetings of the Focus Groups, a series of foresight tools will be introduced and activities such as disruptions and driver mapping, horizon scanning, and trend analysis will be carried out.

CALL TO ACTION



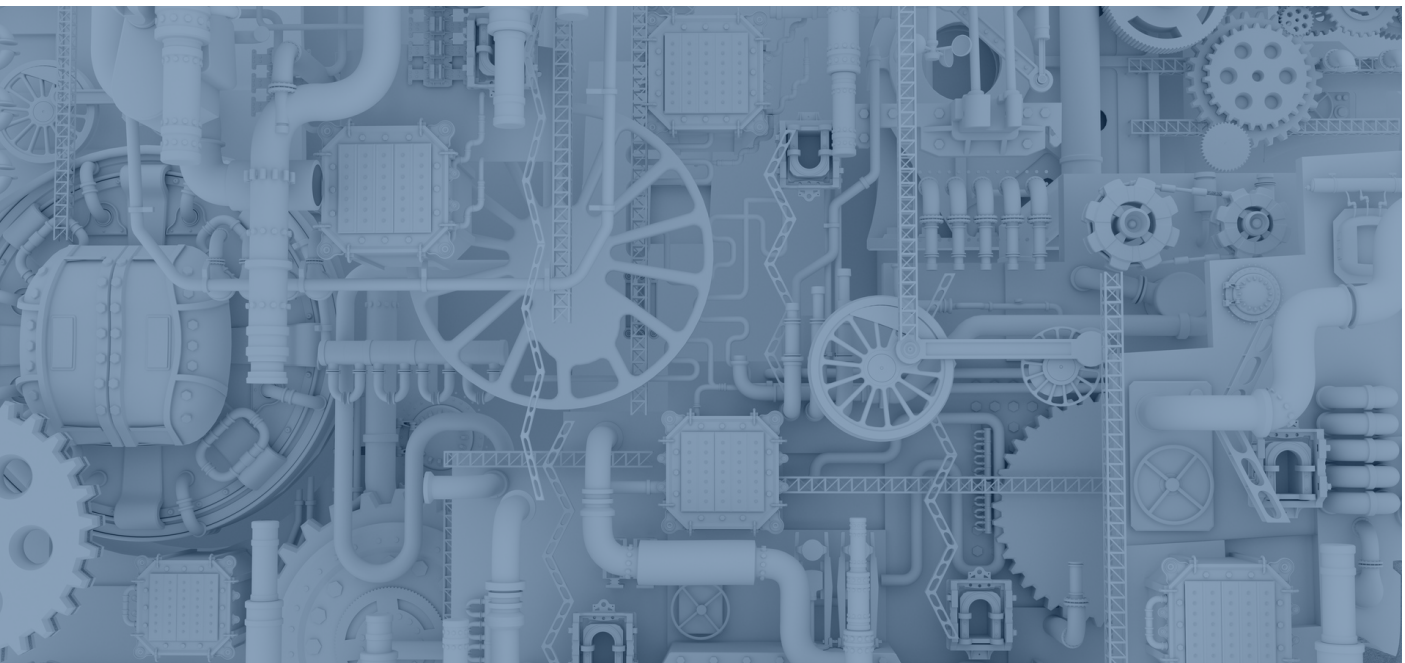
As a first call, we invite you to the online foresight training and Horizon Scanning (HS) activities scheduled for the period of May - November of 2024. Join one of the three Focus Groups and commit to:



participate in a 2.5 day long online foresight training on the Horizon Scanning methods taking place in the span of 6-10 May 2024, and



participate in an online Horizon Scanning process to identify disruptions, drivers of change, weak signals and trends in an ecosystem of your choice (Energy-Intensive Industries, Aerospace & Defence, and Mobility, Transport, & Automotive) over May - November 2024.



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Your participation would be fundamental to:



connect the foresight perspective (Horizon Scanning) with the risk management across the supply chains;

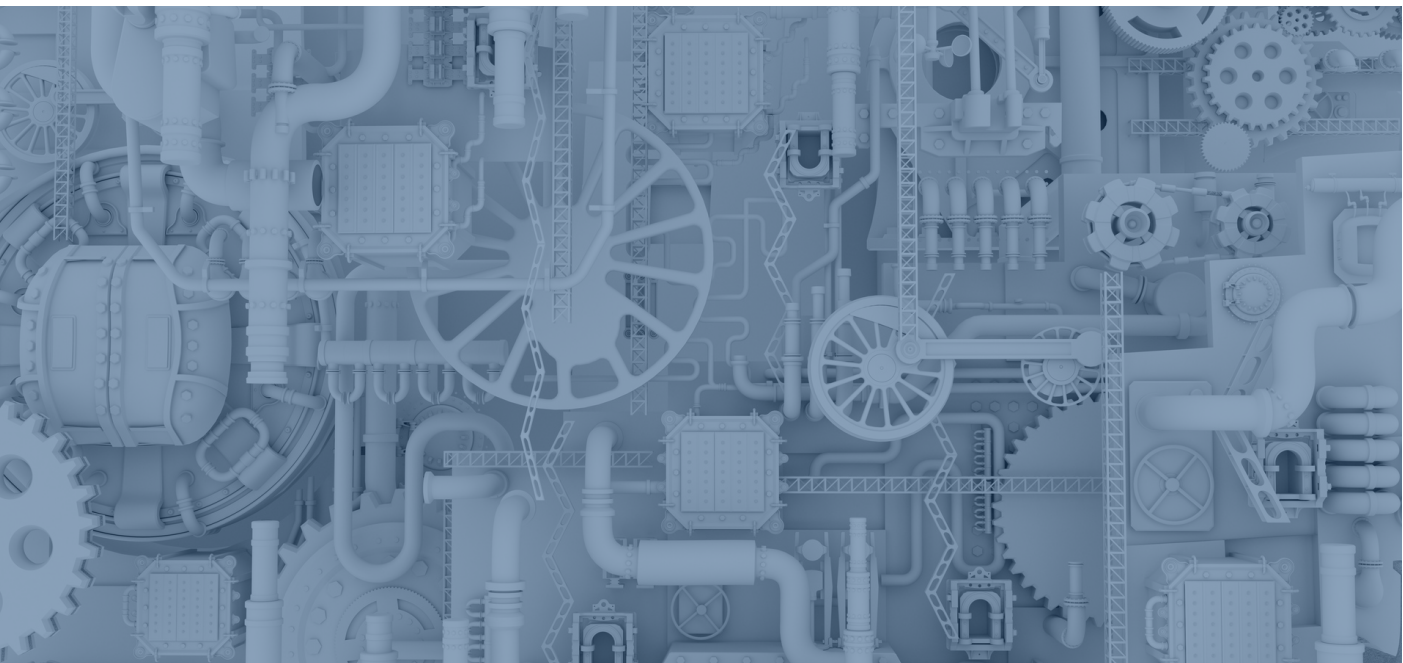


understand a broader environment and external factors within which an industrial cluster operates;



understand operational dynamics and day-to-day activities of the clusters.

Please note, that the Horizon Scanning activities will be structured and regular between June and November, thus demanding your activity and commitment in this period of time





STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Foresight encompasses a spectrum of approaches, strategies, tools, and methodologies that assist organisations in actively examining, shaping, and navigating the future. This involves grasping key factors driving change, envisioning potential future scenarios, and assessing how these changes might impact specific businesses, projects, or contexts. The aim of foresight activities isn't to predict the future with absolute certainty, but rather to facilitate the exploration of plausible future scenarios, drawing on current trends, emerging signals of change, and trajectories.

Foresight employs a diverse array of techniques, spanning from imaginative methods like wildcards or speculative fiction to evidence-based practices such as modelling and bibliometrics. These methods can range from expert-driven approaches, like technology roadmapping and Delphi surveys, to highly interactive or participatory methods like brainstorming and prototyping. Many of these techniques have roots in disciplines such as social psychology, scientific management, systems theory, probability, and game theory.



HORIZON SCANNING

Horizon Scanning involves a structured approach to identifying early indications of potentially significant developments. These may manifest as faint signals, emerging trends, unexpected events (wild cards), or persistent issues and risks, including factors that challenge established assumptions. Horizon Scanning can either be broad and exploratory, or focused and targeted based on the specific goals of projects or tasks. Its objective is to discern what remains stable, what might evolve, and what is in a state of continual flux within the timeframe being examined. Various criteria are applied during the process of searching and filtering information. The timeframe for analysis can range from short- to long-term perspectives.

ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

The IDEALIST consortium comprises a diverse group of partners, including Clusters organisations, industry leaders and research institutions from 7 European countries, representing thousands of SMEs across the targeted sectors. An added value to the consortium, the presence of EIT Manufacturing, a public-private partnership, co-funded by the European Union and established in 2019. EIT Manufacturing is one of the nine Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This collaboration ensures a broad and inclusive approach, with insights and expertise from across the industrial spectrum.

MORE INFO



4CF

Anna Sacio - Szymańska
anna@4CF.eu

Bartosz Frąckowiak
bartek@4cf.pl

Dariusz Kozdra
darek@4cf.pl



info@idealist-project.eu



www.idealists-project.eu

