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**SUMMIT'23**  
26-27 September

Why agri-food clusters are key to accelerate  
sustainable food production:  
Global insights and cases

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[www.foodbioglobal.com](http://www.foodbioglobal.com)

# It's all about innovation and change

## Company's innovation journey



# Why clusters matter



The challenges of tomorrow demands new ways of collaborating and new business models



No single company, municipality, organisation or university can solve the future challenges alone. Cooperation is key. Clusters address challenges that no sole actor can handle on their own



Clusters, networks, partnerships are the future way of collaborating



Clusters are neutral platforms for collaboration



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# Was green transition a possibility during the pandemic?



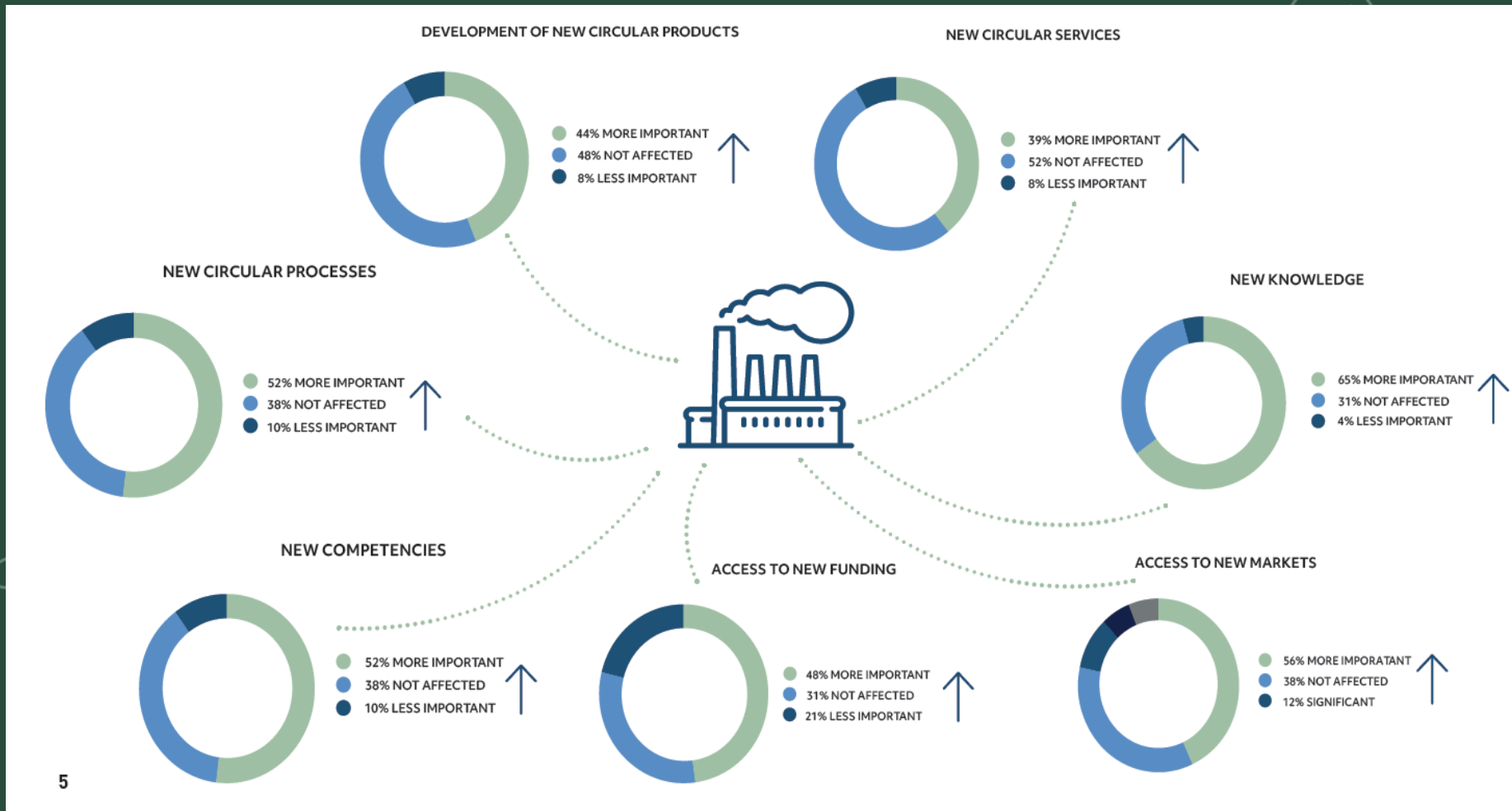
How the pandemic has changed priorities around green transition

Global survey with almost 50 cluster organisations from 17 countries across the world responding

Cases showing how clusters are working with green transition in different sectors and with different methods

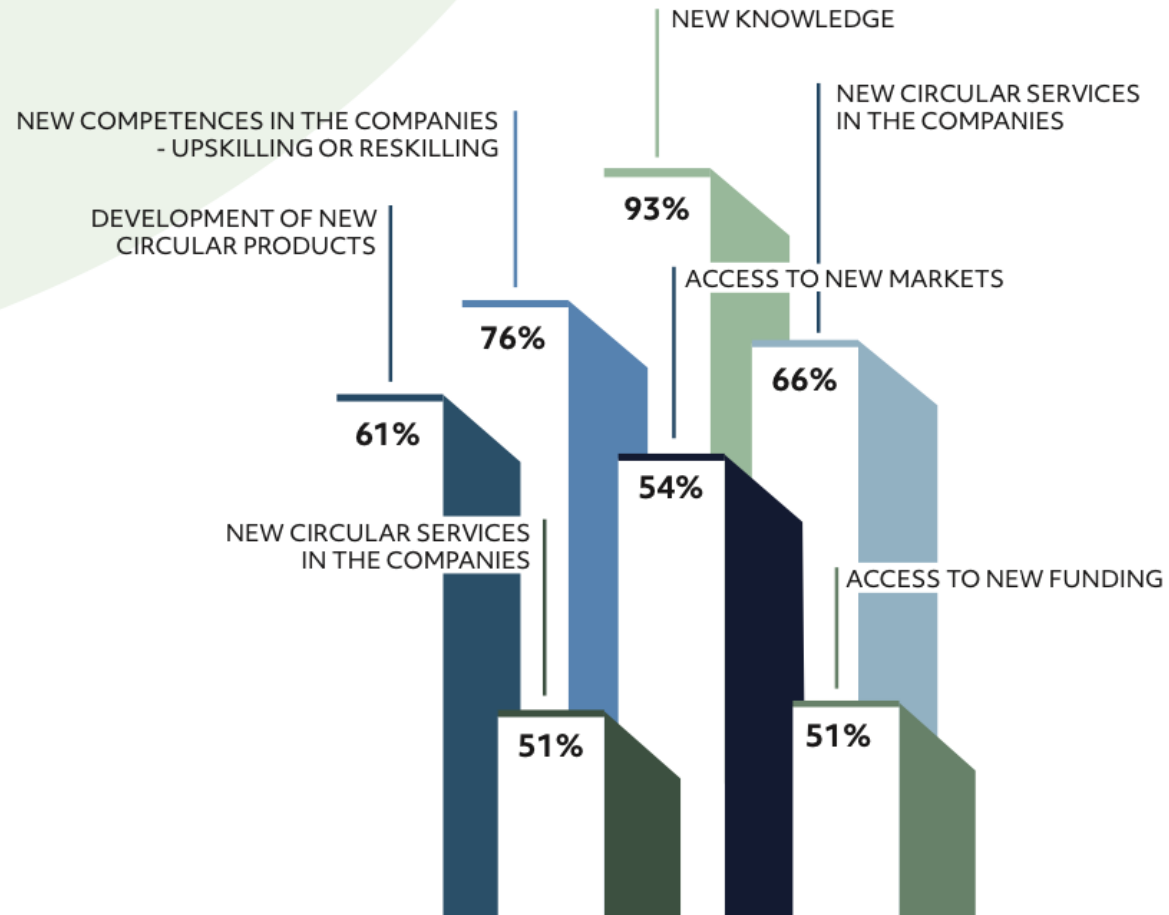


# How the pandemic affected SME'S needs for green and circular support?



# Impact of clusters on green transition

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF YOUR WORK WITH CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND TRANSITIONS?



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# Impact of clusters on green transition



Better use of resources



A more secure supply chain



New markets and products



Access to funding



Digital opportunities



Up- and reskilling



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# Spanish case on pork meat

## GREEN ECONOMY IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

As the global meat business has been attracting growing scrutiny for its climate change consequences in recent years, a Spanish pork industry cluster committed to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions among its members and implemented projects on waste reduction, sustainable packaging, water and energy efficiency and local and ecological food products.

The Spanish cluster – Catalan Association for Innovation in the Pork Sector (INNOVACC) – organize 100+ members.

Due to the first Catalan Climate Act the cluster initiated a project on recovery of protein of low commercial value from pig slaughterhouse co-products and by-products.

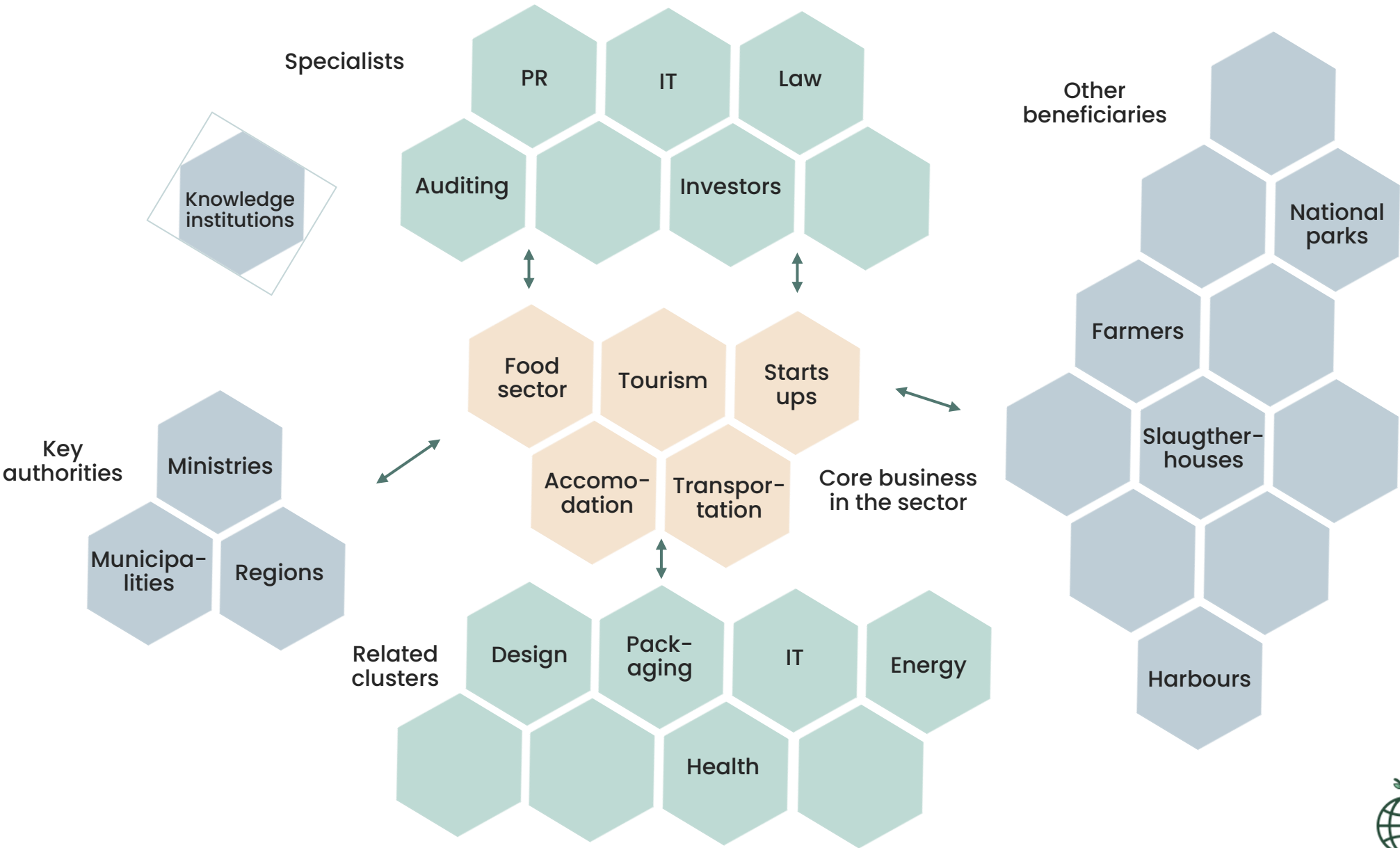
Cluster members learnt how to obtain and wash protein fractions from various pork viscera, such as livers, hearts and spleen, and use them as ingredients in the food industry.

Positive economic impact:

- Slaughterhouses can better value the viscera
- Meat transformers can use the new by-products to prepare their meat products.
- Producing more sustainable products and enforcing circular economy in the pork sector.



# Complexity of clusters are increasing



# Clusters – wide range of related activities



# Why clusters can help – organizing ecosystems and acting as gateways to other ecosystems

Clusters – and supporting organisations – are all over the world. On a world basis around 7.000

Quite many of them have initiated cross border collaboration – either regionally or across the world



Using this collaboration as a tool of intelligence: New trends, inspiration and testing of potential for new projects.

The pandemic has accelerated this  
– easier with digital collaboration and support for disrupted value chains is still needed



# TCI Global Trends: Thinking globally and bigger



Globalization  
of economic  
corridors  
–  
Rules of  
specialisation  
still applies



Link between big  
companies and  
SME's going  
global together  
and involving  
public  
organizations



Merging of  
clusters  
–  
Scale is  
needed to  
tackle  
challenges



Creating new  
networks of  
clusters  
–  
more and  
more cross  
clustering



Looking at  
superclusters  
and their  
strategies



# Why should clusters help to globalise?



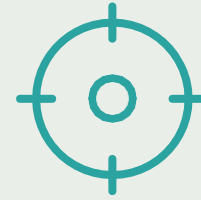
Born global



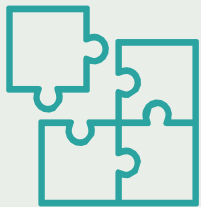
Innovative barriers for the cluster members



Knowledge and research is global



Clusters have an impact for SME internationalisation



Globalisation is matching the needs of the cluster



Often the companies expect to get help to internationalisation. Rarely this comes from the cluster policy side.

# Why internationalization through clusters?

Normally, the degree of internationalization for SMEs is 5–6 pct. When participating in clusters, it is 14 pct. of the companies, have international activities

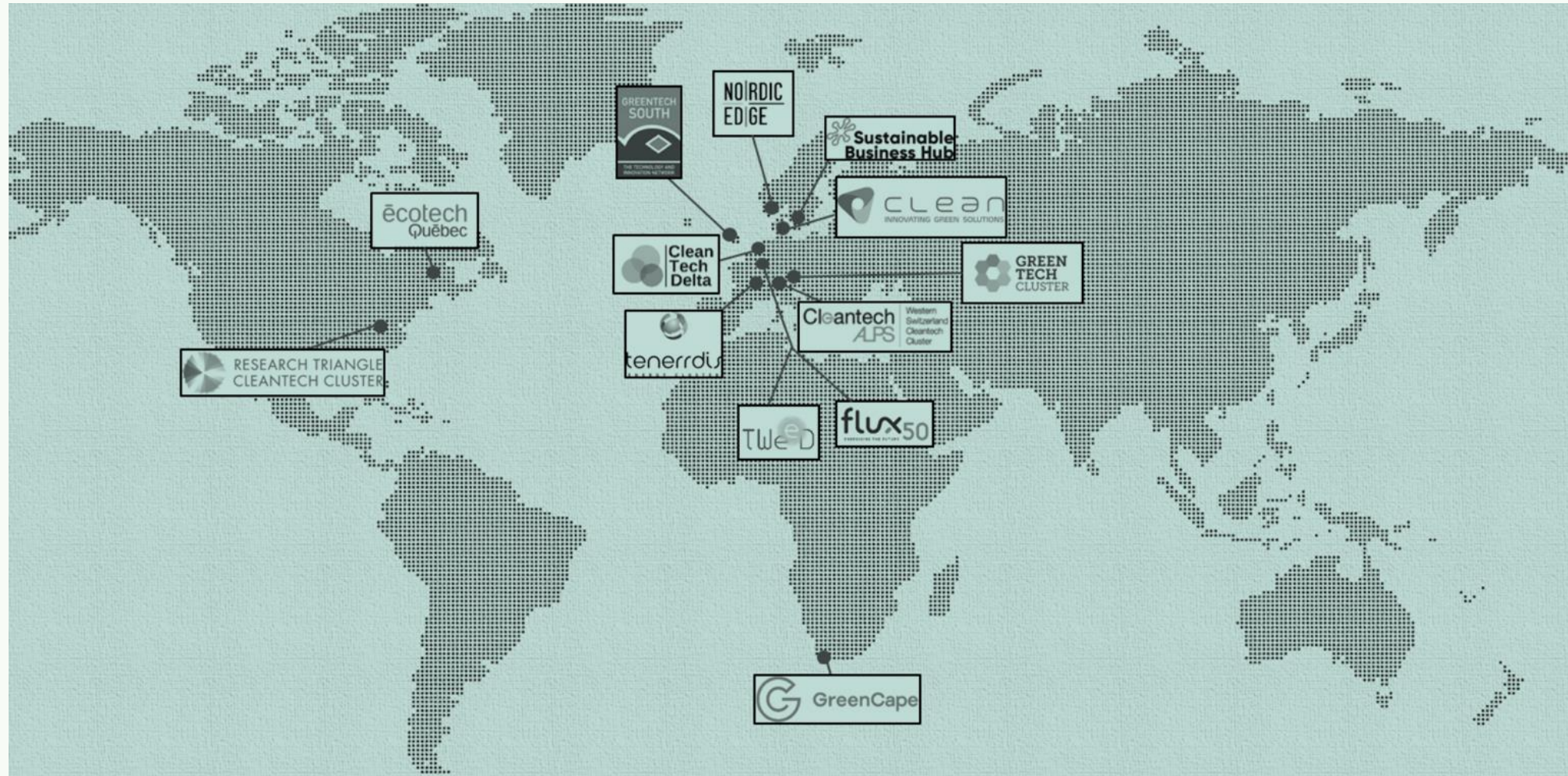
**Source: Professor Philip Schrøder,  
University of Aarhus, 2014**

SMEs usually experience many barriers to internationalisation: lack of time, capacity, funding, partners and skills. Furthermore, they experience that geographical distances, languages and cultures are barriers to cooperation

**Source: Nordic Council of Ministers, 2015**

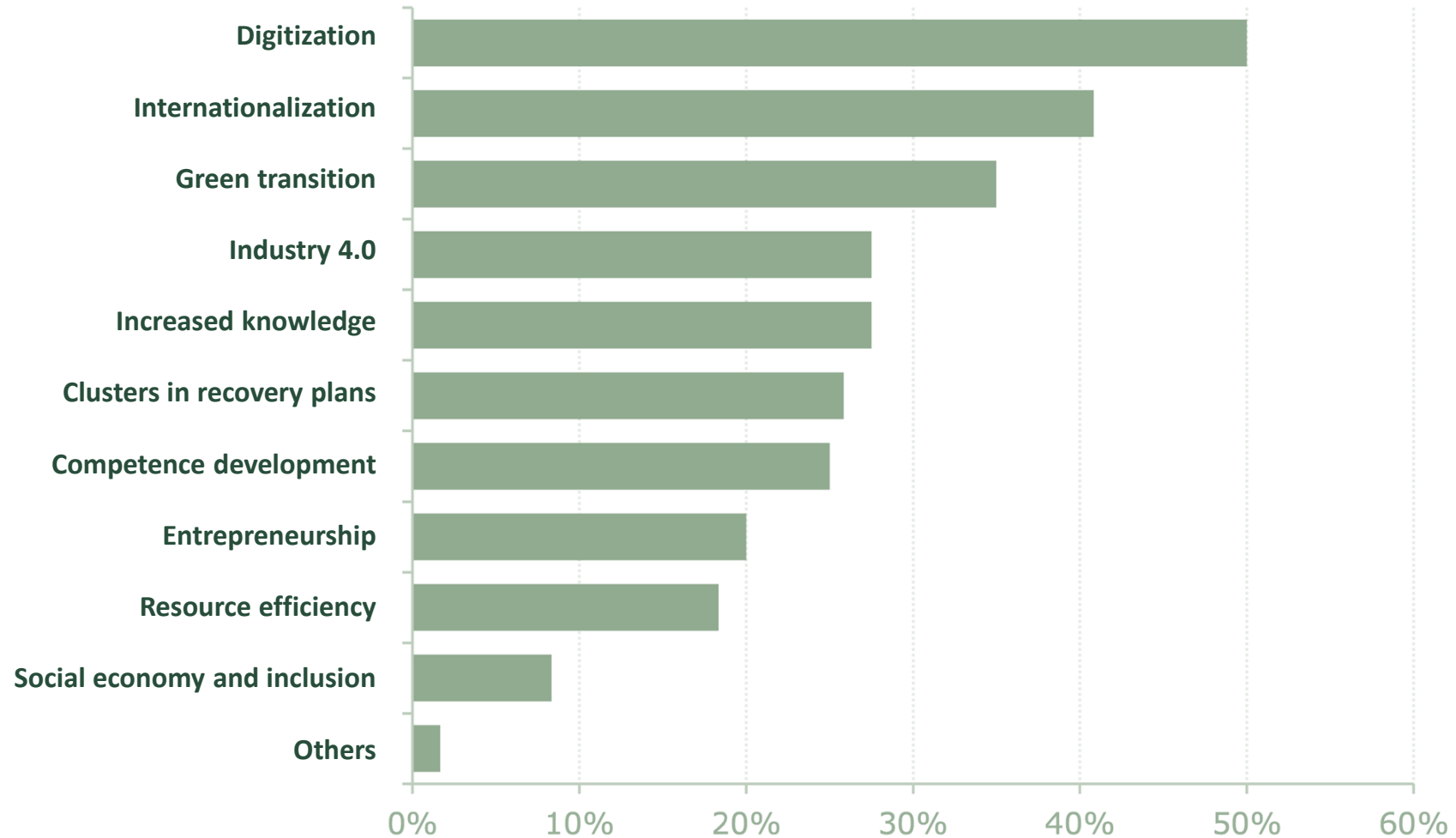


# Global superclusters – International Cleantech Network





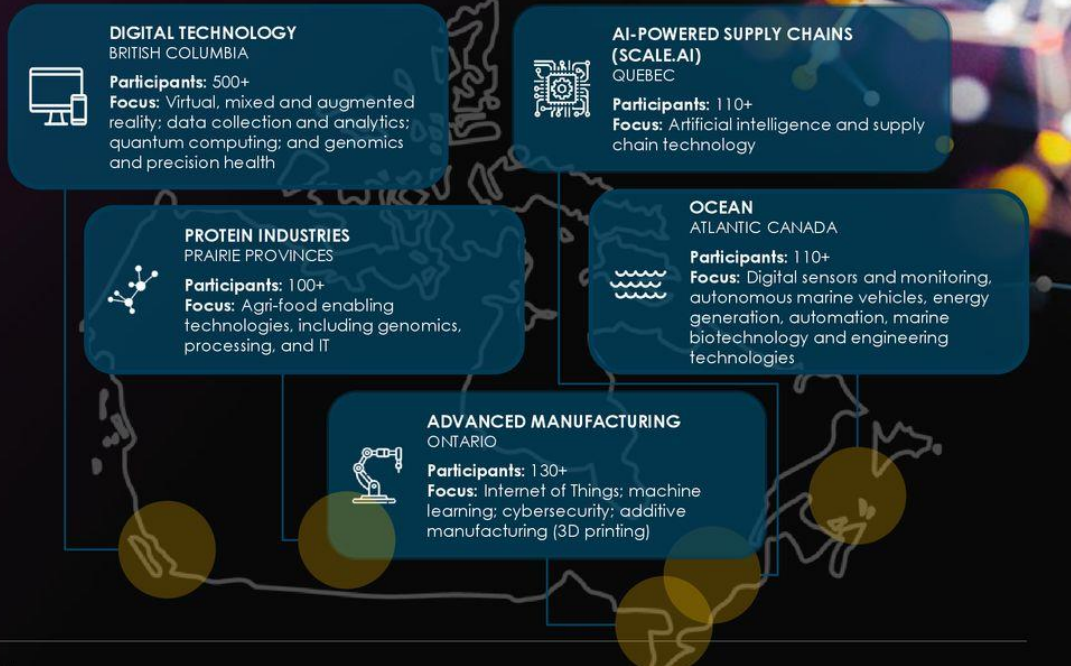
# Key strategic priorities for European clusters in 2021



Source: ECCP 2021, Needs Survey.



# Canada's Five Superclusters



- National cluster program 2018–2028.
- Accelerate growth and development of superclusters to translate the strength of Canada's innovation eco-systems into new commercial and global opportunities
- Focus on – foster partnerships and collaboration, accelerate innovation, develop innovation eco-systems, promote global ambitions
- Funding up to \$1000M for a ten years period

| Goal  | Target                            | Achieved<br>(as of December 31, 2021) |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Build connections and support growth                              | 2                                 | 4.9                                   |
|   | Participants per project          |                                       |
| Connect small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to larger firms | 1                                 | 2.4                                   |
|   | SME(s) per project                |                                       |
| Increase industry investment in innovation                        | 1.2                               | 1.6                                   |
|   | Leverage ratio*                   |                                       |
| Maximize IP creation  | 1                                 | 7.6                                   |
|   | IP rights** generated per project |                                       |
| Connect stakeholders  | 830                               | 7,100+                                |
|   | Members to date                   |                                       |



# TCI Global Trends: Building cross-sector bridges



Linking clusters  
across different  
sectors



Cross-cluster  
collaboration based  
on sustainability,  
and digital  
transformation



Cross-sectoral  
initiatives in smart  
specialization  
–  
moving beyond  
strongholds



Digital bridge  
between clusters  
–  
new digital  
opportunities for  
collaboration



New names –  
innovation  
platforms/hubs/nodes  
–  
for collaborative and  
system innovation,  
addressing societal  
challenges

# Iceland – Ocean Cluster

Mission is to create value by connecting entrepreneurs, businesses and knowledge in the marine industries.

To serve this mission we provide a range of services and invest our resources in new marine spin-offs and projects.

What is new in this cluster:



100 pct fish project



Hack the Ocean



Private investments



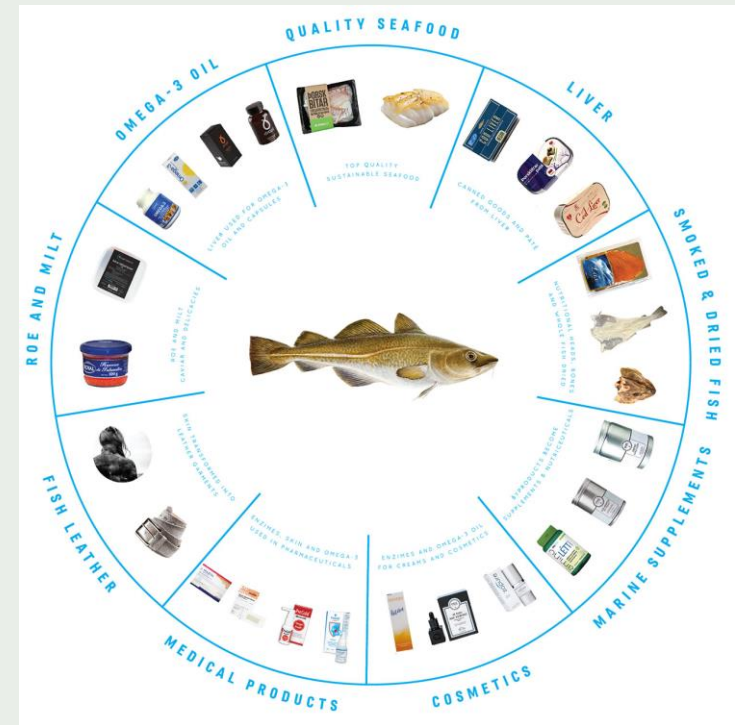
Bringing entrepreneurs in the center



Iceland Eco Business Park – co-locations of energy, water and food companies.



Helping to create new clusters – also in Denmark



# Taking global clusters to the next level?

## Cluster governance on a global level

- have professional boards
- have clear structures for decision making
- ensure collaboration across the clusters

## Sustainability as a core driver:

- Is this part of the strategies?
- Do each of the partners have own climate goals?
- Supporting companies in doing climate accounting?
- What about your own?

## Diversity (a key driver for innovation):

- How are the boards doing on diversity?
- Two female chairpersons in clusters ... around 30 pct. of the board members are women... and some less



# Merete Daniel Nielsen

President, TCI Network – see you in Iceland







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 Danish Board of  
Business Development

