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Foreword



Dear potential member of ECP4,

I'm rejoicing the fact that your organisation is making steps to become part of the ECP4 network.

We believe that ECP4 has a role to play in succeeding better to drive innovation for our industries with the aid of the available EU-funding for research and development activities, such as the current Horizon 2020 programme which foresees 68 billion EUR of funding for collaborative innovation projects from now until 2020.

ECP4 members belong to one of following three categories: EU-level organisations of the plastics and composites industry, regional innovation clusters and research centres. Although small- and medium sized companies are an important target for our actions, individual enterprises obtain access to ECP4 via their (cluster) organisation provided it is an ECP4 member. Please do not hesitate to inform which steps your local network organisation has already taken towards ECP4.

ECP4 organises targeted events allowing members to explore early collaboration opportunities, thereby using the available expertise of industry and R&D centres. Examples are our info-days on project opportunities and networking events, which support members and members of members to bridge the gaps between potential innovation partners.

Not all EU-projects lead to industrial innovation, only those which have strong consortia and reliable partnerships have a high likelihood of delivering what is really important for the industry. Therefore, the effect you should expect from ECP4 membership is more and also better EU-level collaboration opportunities. Along the road, it is also important to interact with the various stakeholders in Brussels to prioritise those topics and challenges of our industry that deserve top-priority.

Application for membership is easy and straight forward. All that is needed for the Board of Directors of ECP4 to assess a request, is a one-page written request addressed to our head office, signed by the authorized signatory of your organization, which includes sufficient details on the activities of the organization.

With the hope to welcome you soon within our network I greet you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. De Meersman', written in a cursive style.

Clement De Meersman,

President of the European Composites, Plastics and Polymers Processing Platform, ECP4

Who we are

ECP4, the 'European Composites, Plastics and Polymer Processing Platform', is an industry-driven collaboration platform that unites the top-level European research institutions, regional plastic clusters, and European Plastics Converters.

ECP4 is not a project but a non-profit organisation with legal personality, which is stable and may EU-funds for its activities, but

ECP4 brings experts together to identify R&D opportunities for converters that can alter their position in the value chain. Thereby it is important to prioritise the 'must haves' rather than the 'nice to haves'. ECP4 advocates for capitalising on the diversity of skills among various clusters of plastics and composites converters in Europe.

Mission of ECP4

- To facilitate the acquisition of European funds for the European Composites and Plastics Processing industry
- To deduct from new legislation (via EuPC) the necessary R&D Technology developments
- Networking & Communication to the industry

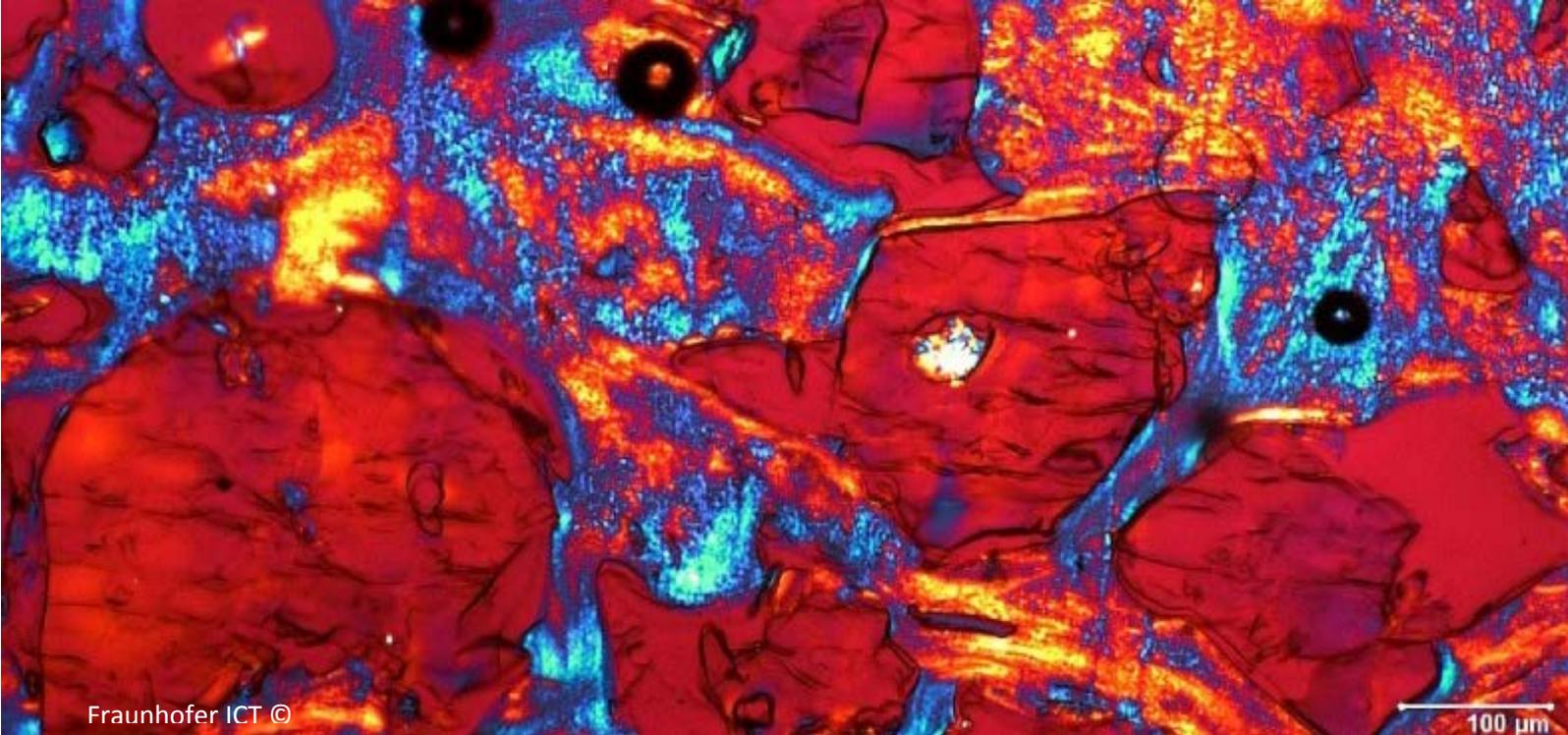
Who can be member of ECP4?

ECP4 will target three types of members

- Research organisations active in Europe
- Plastics converters, tooling manufacturers and compounders if not represented by clusters
- Regional cluster organisations and EU-level industrial organisations of plastics converters

Facts & Figures

- ECP4 members have mobilised all together over 61 projects supported by the European Commission under FP5, FP6 and FP7, with an overall total budget of 185.246.339 EUR.
- Membership fees for R&D institutes are fixed on 2500 EUR per year, whereas all industrial organisations pay 1500 EUR.



ECP4 Strategy

Providing value to different stakeholders

Research entities have possibilities to work on their deeper understanding of value creation by SME's. Close contact with EU-level associations and regional clusters allow to focalise on specific innovation areas and long-term goals ('must haves').

Regional clusters

Regional clusters will use ECP4 to obtain contacts with top level polymer research institutes across Europe. Opportunities exist to connect with other regions and start collaborative funded research projects. Cluster organisations can also support their SME-members to have better access to EU-funding. Some of the roadmapping activities of ECP4 will be organised locally.

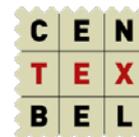
SME's (via local cluster organisations)

SME's can use the link of their cluster to capture new ideas from committed members. Access to European funds through collective identification of research opportunities. Informal networking and exploration of future scenarios by means of roadmapping events and innovation sessions

External stakeholders

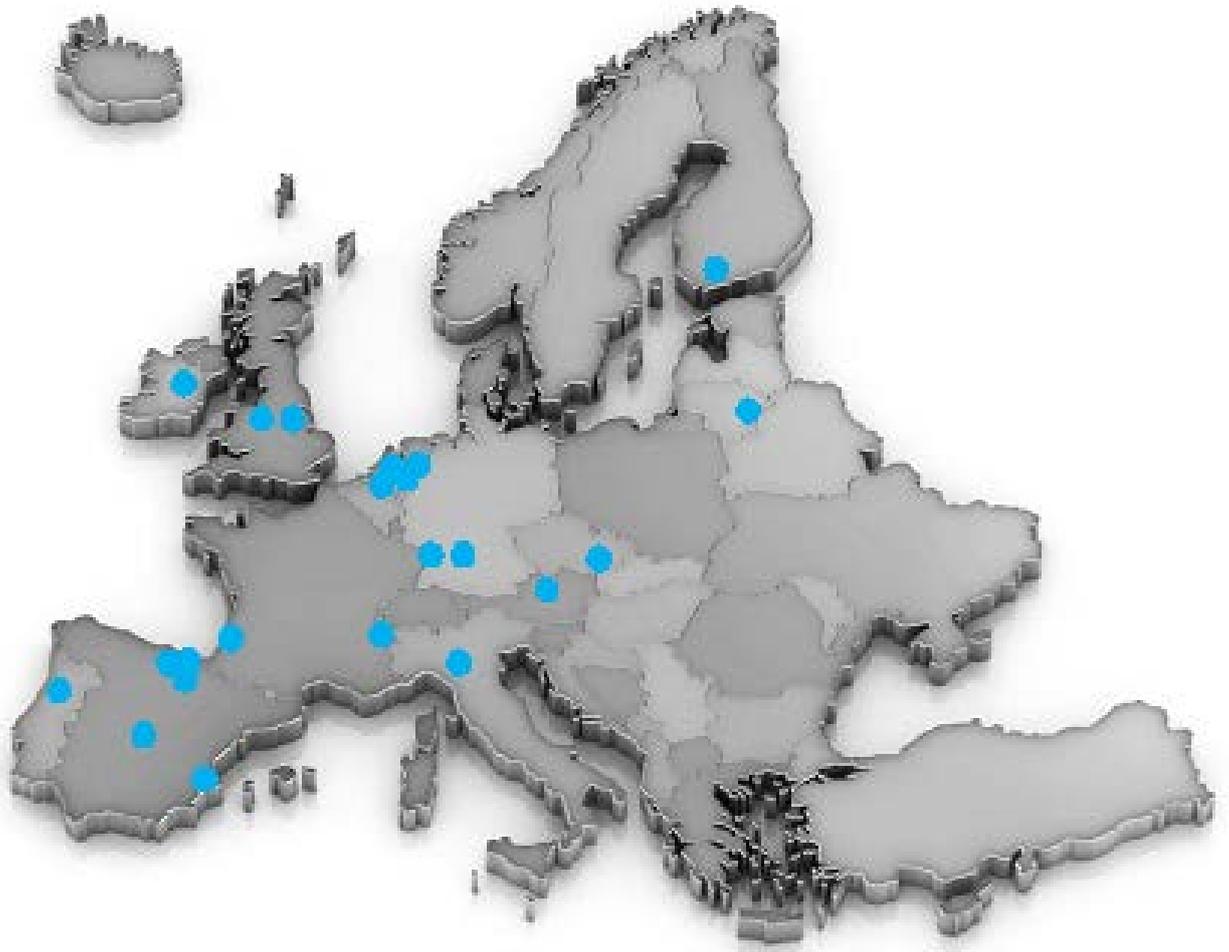
ECP4 invites various external stakeholders such as existing platforms and to take part in certain activities (such as roadmapping activities). ECP4 will also interact with the European Commission, with existing cluster Collaboration initiatives, Public Private Partnerships and interested third parties.

ECP4 Members



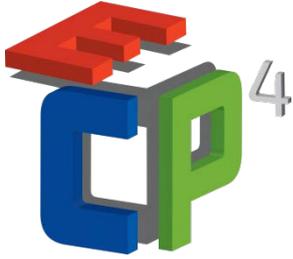
Lithuanian Plastic Cluster





Join our network of strong innovation partners shaping the plastics- and composites industry

- ✓ R&D institutes
- ✓ Regional innovation clusters
- ✓ EU level industrial organisations



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