Charter of the European Cluster Alliance for Green Manufacturing

Preamble

The undersigned parties, recognizing the urgent need to accelerate the green and digital transition of European industry, and building upon the collaborative work initiated under the GEMSTONE project, hereby establish the European Cluster Alliance for Green Manufacturing (hereinafter "the Alliance"). This Charter sets forth the shared vision, objectives, principles, and governance of the Alliance.

Once signed by the founding members, the Charter will be supplemented by the Partnership Agreement, which defines the operational and decision-making rules of the Alliance. The founding members will have up to six months after signing the Charter to draft and validate this Agreement.

Article 1: Purpose of the Alliance

The purpose of the Alliance is to bring together European industrial clusters into a dynamic and collaborative platform and become a driving force in the green and digital transformation of European industry, aiming to:

- Facilitate cross-border cooperation and networking among clusters to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices related to green manufacturing.
- Encourage joint initiatives that address the environmental, technological, and economic challenges of manufacturing industries.
- Strengthen the capacity of clusters and their members, particularly SMEs, to innovate, adopt sustainable practices, and compete globally.
- Serve as a collective voice representing industrial cluster interests towards European institutions and stakeholders.
- Support the implementation of the European Union's strategic priorities in sustainable and digital industrial transformation.

Article 2: Objectives

The Alliance pursues the following objectives, each with associated simple indicators:

1. Knowledge Exchange and Cooperation:

 Facilitate knowledge sharing, best practices, and green technology transfer among clusters.

Indicator: Organize at least 2 cross-cluster workshops or webinars per year.

2. Project Emergence and Development:

 Support the creation of collaborative projects with strong industrial and environmental impact.

Indicator: Initiate or support at least 1 joint project proposal per year involving multiple clusters.

3. Support to SMEs:

 Provide tools, services, and B2B opportunities to support SMEs in their green transition.

Indicator: Reach at least 20 SMEs per year with direct support services or participation in Alliance activities.

4. Policy Contribution:

 Act as a dialogue partner for European institutions, contributing to policy development.

Indicator: Issue at least 1 policy recommendation per year or participation to policy development workshop at European level.

Article 3: Core Values

The Alliance is committed to the following values:

- Openness and inclusiveness
- Transparency and accountability
- Proactivity and dynamism
- Industrial relevance and demand-driven focus
- Scientific excellence and research-based innovation
- European added value

Article 4: Membership & expected commitment

The founding members are the GEMSTONE project partners.

Membership is open to any industrial cluster committed to the objectives and values of the Alliance. The new members will follow a validation process that will be defined in the Partnership Agreement.

Members shall actively participate in the activities of the Alliance and contribute to its objectives.

The clusters members of the Alliance must have an up-to-date ECCP profile.

Article 5: Governance Structure

The governance of the Alliance consists of:

- 1. **Assembly of Members**: The main decision-making body, composed of all members. It meets at least once per year for the General Assembly.
- 2. **Coordinator of the Alliance**: A Coordinator of the Alliance will be chosen among the Assembly of Members. He/She will ensure the management of the Alliance, coordination of activities, and partner mobilization.

3. **Coordinators of Actions**: Appointed by the Assembly, the Coordinators ensure operational management of the different actions implemented by the Alliance

The Coordinator of the Alliance and the Coordinators of Actions will be gathered in the Coordination Team.

4. **Advisory Council**: An advisory body composed of representatives from industry, academia, and research organizations, ensuring alignment with market needs and scientific developments.

Article 6: Activities and Tools

The Alliance will deploy several instruments to achieve its mission, including but not limited to:

- An online catalogue of best practices and industrial green solutions.
- Joint participation in European projects and funding programs.
- Organization of/Participation to events, fairs, and workshops.
- Active communication through websites, newsletters, social media, and press.

Article 7: Financial Sustainability

Participation in the Alliance is originally voluntary and free of charge.

Nevertheless, to facilitate the implementation of the future activities and the development of the Alliance, the Assembly of Members will be allowed to decide any additional financial arrangements ensuring the financial sustainability of the Alliance.

The Alliance will consider any type of external funding that could support the implementation of the actions.

Article 8: Entry into Force and Duration

This Charter enters into force upon signature by the founding members. The existence of the Alliance will be renewed every year by the Assembly of Members during the General Assembly.

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by any member and require approval by the Assembly.

Article 9: Final Provisions

The Alliance operates in full respect of European values, legal frameworks, and ethical standards. Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Charter shall be resolved amicably among the members.

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