

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****International Consortium Launches Initiative to support EU businesses to Enhance Resilient Supply Chains for Europe**

Oslo, Norway, 9 March 2024 - The ResC4EU Consortium proudly announces the launch of its collaboration and support initiative "Resilient Supply Chains for Europe" (ResC4EU) funded by the European Union with 3 million Euros.

The purpose of this ambitious three-year initiative is to support EU businesses, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to become more resilient and sustainable and be able to quickly adapt to supply chain disruptions such as experienced during COVID-19 crisis or other ongoing conflicts or disasters (e.g. Suez Channel closure, Ukraine war, floodings) by adopting advanced technologies.

The ResC4EU will provide an open space for collaboration, develop and provide models and tools that can assist companies in detecting and anticipating disruptions in their supply chain, and offering SMEs tailored support and training programmes as part of the ResC4EU Net-Zero Industry Academies.

Another focus is to explore collaboration opportunities and building alliances among traditional manufacturing SMEs in need of implementing advanced technologies and tech-savvy SMEs providing innovative solutions for more resilient and sustainable processes.

The Consortium will start with an assessment of the needs, risks, disruptions, challenges and opportunities for SMEs.

ResC4EU will bolster the resilience of European supply chains in Europe's most critical industrial ecosystems: mobility, transport & automotive; retail; proximity & social economy; textiles; tourism; aerospace & defence; renewable energy; energy-intensive industries, electronics; digital; construction; agri-food; health; and creative & cultural industries.

The ResC4EU consortium comprises six of Europe's leading industry clusters, one inter-cluster and innovation management expert (SME), one tech-savvy SME and two research organisations with a direct outreach to up to 1000 SMEs across Europe and covering all envisaged 14 industrial ecosystems. The project will be coordinated by the German Leading-edge Cluster Composites United e.V.

The ResC4EU consortium partners are:

- Composites United e.V. (CU, Germany) - Coordinator
- Maritime Cluster Northern Germany e.V. (MCN, Germany)
- Latvian Information Technology Cluster (Latvia), a European Digital Innovation Hub
- AIDIMME (Spain), Technology Institute and Innovative Business Association
- Polish Cluster of Composite Materials (PKTK, Poland), coordinated by GoFar Sp.z.o.o

- Advanced Technology in Manufacturing Cluster (ATIM, Ireland), facilitated by Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS)
- Scaberia AS (Norway)
- Greentwin GmbH (Austria)
- Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL, Germany)
- Fraunhofer Society e.V. (Germany)

For more information about ResC4EU and its initiatives, please visit our website (www.resC4EU.com).

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