1-9 MONTHS TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

Single Market Programme (SMP COSME)

Joint Cluster Initiatives (EUROCLUSTERS) for Europe's recovery
(SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER)

Grant Agreement number: 101074486

Project acronym: EPICENTRE

Project title: EmPowering Industrial eCosystems to boost clustEr facilitated greeN and digiTal tRansition in Europe

Project co-ordinator name, title and organisation: Yeimy Ospina, Clúster Digital de Catalunya

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Progress Report: X 1ˢᵗ or ☐ 2ⁿᵈ

Dates of period covered: from 01 / 09 / 2022 to 31 / 05 / 2023

DECLARATION BY THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

I, as coordinator of this project and in line with my obligations as stated in the Grant Agreement declare that:

- The attached technical progress report represents an accurate description of the work carried out in this project for this reporting period[1];

- The project [tick as appropriate]:

  ☒ has fully achieved its objectives for the period;

  ☐ has achieved most of its objectives for the period with relatively minor deviations;

  ☐ has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or is deviating significantly from the schedule.

Name and position of Co-ordinator's Legal Representative (LEAR): ......*GEMMA BATLLE*..........................

....

Date: ...*10*.../...*10*.../...*2023*   Signature: ....

GEMMA

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[1] For projects with a duration of 36 months:
First 9-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 1 to 9, with submission deadline on month 10.

Second 9-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 19 to 27, with submission deadline on month 28.

For projects with a duration of 30 months:
First 8-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 1 to 8, with submission deadline on month 9.

Second 8-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 16 to 23, with submission deadline on month 24.

For projects with a duration of 28 months:
First 7-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 1 to 7, with submission deadline on month 8.

Second 7-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 15 to 21, with submission deadline on month 22.

For projects with a duration of 24 months:
First 6-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 1 to 6, with submission deadline on month 7.

Second 6-months mid-term technical report and presentation on the progress implementation of actions (including deliverables and key performance indicators) covering months 13 to 18, with submission deadline on month 19.

Single Market Programme (SMP)

Periodic Report

Technical Report (Part A)
Technical Report (Part B)
Financial Report

Version 1.0
01 April 2022

EU Grants: Periodic report/Additional prefinancing report/Beneficiary termination report (SMP): V1.0 –

IMPORTANT NOTICE

What is the Periodic Report?

The Periodic Report/Final Report is the pre-condition for receiving payments; it must be submitted through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Grant Management System by the Coordinator within 60 days after the end of the reporting period.
The Report is divided into a technical and financial
report. The Technical Report consists of 2 parts:

- Part A contains structured tables with project information
- Part B is a narrative description of the work carried out during the reporting period.

Part A is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information which you enter into the Portal Continuous and Periodic Reporting modules.

Part B (+ annexes) must be uploaded on the Technical Report (Part B) screen. The templates to use are available there.

The Financial Report normally consists of:

- the individual financial statements (Annex 4 to the GA) for each Beneficiary
- a summary financial statement
- a detailed cost reporting table
- a certificate on the financial statements (CFS) (if threshold reached).

The Financial Report is generated by the IT system on the basis of the financial information entered into the Periodic Reporting module (and any other documents uploaded, e.g. CFS and detailed cost reporting table).

How to prepare and submit it?

The Periodic Report must be prepared by the consortium in the Continuous and Periodic Reporting modules and then be submitted by the Coordinator.

The Continuous Reporting module is always open and can be updated at any moment during the project (submit deliverables, report on milestones, etc.). It automatically feeds Part A of the Periodic Report.

The Periodic Reporting module is opened after the end of the reporting period. It allows you to:

- download and upload the Part B of the Technical Report (upload only by the Coordinator)
- complete their financial statements on-line (each Beneficiary for themselves and their Affiliated Entities)
- consolidate the individual financial statements into a summary financial statement (Coordinator)
- upload the detailed cost reporting table (each Beneficiary)
- submit the Periodic Report (Coordinator).

Make sure that all the information in the Continuous Reporting module is updated *before* 'locking the periodic report for review'. Updates entered after this step will be included in the Periodic Report of the following period (if any).

This document is tagged. Be careful not to delete the tags; they are needed for the processing

TECHNICAL REPORT (PART A)

COVER PAGE

Part A of the Technical Report must be completed directly on the Portal Continuous Reporting screens.

PROJECT	
Project number:	101074486
Project acronym:	EPICENTRE
Project name:	EmPowering Industrial eCosystems to boost clustEr facilitated greeN and digiTal tRansition in Europe
Call:	SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER
Topic:	SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER-01
Type of action:	SMP Grants for Financial Support
Service:	European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency
Project starting date:	1 / 09 / 2022
Project duration:	36 months

REPORTING PERIOD	
Period covered:	from 01 / 09 / 2022 to 31 / 05 / 2023
Reporting period number:	1
Periodic report date and version:	23 / 06 / 2023, version No. 1

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary

Continuous Reporting (Summary for publication screen) — Provide an overall description of your project.

This summary should give readers a clear idea of what the project is about.

It should be written as a stand-alone text to promote the project. It should be structured but descriptive and easy to read. Diagrams or photographs illustrating the work of the project can be included (but only as images).

Note: *We may publish this summary for publication/dissemination purposes. Use only diagrams and photographs for which you have the rights, avoid any references to information that is not publicly accessible and do not include any confidential information or personal data (e.g. names and addresses).*

Context and overall objectives

Describe the context and overall objectives of your project.

EPICENTRE envisions to create new cross-sectoral/border value chains by establishing a SMEs – Clusters – Corporate three-dimensional ecosystem to leverage the innovative potential of SMEs tapping into the networking capacity of clusters and scaling up ability of the corporates. The main aim is to ensure that innovations developed by the SMEs can easily reach a market-ready stage. Driven by Key Performance Areas of large industrial players (KPAs), EPICENTRE builds and facilitates an open and collaborative ecosystem for high impact innovators SMEs and acts as a cross-border/ sectoral market-maker. The project aims to generate, take up and better capitalise on the growth and impact potential of cutting-edge innovations by providing access to dynamic and across the board acceleration framework, top business training and professional services, funding and exposure to global markets. EPICENTRE will develop new cross-sectoral value chains from ICT and fintech industrial ecosystems to health and agri-food for a more personalised nutrition and healthy and sustainable lifestyles between EU citizens to contribute to a green and digital transition in Europe, building social and economic resilience. EPICENTRE proposes a holistic approach in accelerating market placement of business solutions brought by innovative SMEs as well as fostering their green and digital transformation. The nucleus of our approach relies on four pillars: (1) Selecting, funding and supporting high-potential European SME cross-sectoral and cross-border consortia with strong market-focused strategies answering to market needs and challenges; (2) Ensuring fertile collaboration schemes between small and big players thus empowering marketisation of innovative solutions; (3) Deploying a proven selection methodology within a competitive Open Call procedure; (4) Providing a superb portfolio of business training centred around the specific collaboration spheres between clusters, small and big in project description.

Work performed and main achievements

Describe the activities performed and the main achievements. For the Final Report, include the outcomes of the action.

WP1: Overall project Management (CLDI):

The overall project management ran smoothly. For the GA preparation several meetings were held previous the project start. The project's kick-off meeting took place online, on September 7th, 2022. Partners discussed the project objectives, the work plan, the main KPIs and milestones to achieve, the deliverables, the cost management, the reports to be done along the project implementation, the next steps and the plan to hold the next project meetings.

The communication between the project partners has been maintained through recurrent emails exchange and monthly meetings. Some key discussion topics were: the Key Performance Areas selection, the EPICENTRE call conditions, the proposal evaluation and the project progress and updates.

One crucial aspect of the project's quality management is the continuous monitoring of project results and ensuring the timely achievement of milestones. Throughout the project's duration, regular monitoring and assessment of progress have been conducted to track the project's performance and ensure its successful execution.

The financial and administrative coordination of the project was also effectively managed. The project coordinator successfully handled the funding of each partner. All financial aspects and fund transfers were

carried out in compliance with Commission regulations and the EC Grant Agreement.

D1.1 Project Management Plan was submitted on 17th January 2023 and MS1 Successful EPICENTRE project kick off was achieved on 7th September 2022.

WP2: Analysis and assessment of the EPICENTRE Key Performance Areas through the active engagement of large industrial players (CBIOS):

This WP is dedicated to identifying the KPAs, defined as "a corporate´s innovation need", which has to be translated into technical requirements, together with likely cooperation scenarios between corporates and SMEs to fine-tune the Open Call so that SMEs are adequately challenged to develop new products or improve existing ones, services and business models that are market-oriented, scalable and capable of generating high impact. The Preliminary assessment of the Key Performance Areas and corporates was realised by a combination of on- desk research and qualitative assessment (studies for the identification of the innovations that companies are currently working on, the innovations needed for the future and the expected impact on the performance of the EU industry and establishment of new value chains) and quantitative assessment (online surveys and questionnaires).

Interviews were organised with relevant stakeholders in order to obtain a frame to organise the work. They were conducted between October and December 2022, online and face to face. Some of the innovation ecosystem actors interviewed were: EIT HEALTH, Enterprise Europe Network - EEN/ ENEA, SMAU, I3P INCUBATOR, VITA ACCELERATOR, BUSINESS SWEDE.

For the on-desk research, several references and platforms were used: Fondazione Cotec, Mind the Bridge, European Innovation Scoreboard, Growth Market Reports, Citeline and Frost & Sullivan platforms.

The questionnaire and the interviews are based on the collection of information about innovations and technological challenges that corporates intend to promote through their participation in the Epicentre project. It was strategic the organisation of personalised meetings with the identified corporates for the evaluation of the KPAs, preliminarily identified on-desk, and understand the expectations of the large corporates in terms of SMEs profile to be involved in the project (start-ups, established SMEs, minimum turnover, patents, IP, growth potential, etc).

Each cluster sent the questionnaire to the identified corporates and organised one-to one interview with the corporates that had shown their interest (all partners contribution).

Besides, additional activities were conducted to attract corporates through the combination of individual target approach and strong and open marketing effort of EPICENTRE benefits for corporates. A tailored Expression of Interest (EoI) for Corporates to join EPICENTRE was realised to ensure their commitment with the key processes and activities. This EoI was published on several platforms, EEN and ECCP - CEBR - ALISEI and promoted through the partners' networks and newsletters.

A list of target corporates, big companies and stakeholders to be involved in the project EPICENTRE was also created, together with a dedicated project presentation to be sent to corporates and stakeholders in order to explain the project paths and invite them to join the EPICENTRE project. Additionally, promotion of the project towards corporates was done through several communication channels. Some events were the Clusters participated are: INNOVATION VILLAGE - EEN - ENEA (Oct 2022), MATCHER Human Centric Innovation (Nov 2022), SMAU EVENT (Dec 2022), SMAU - TECHNICAL ROUND TABLES WITH CORPORATES (Dec 2022), CLUSTER MEET REGIONS- BARCELONA (Dec 2022), VITA ACCELERATOR - Meet the Innovation Ecosystem Event (Jan 2023), EMBASSY Of SWEDEN - SWEDEN meet ITALY Life Science Event (Feb 2023).

Tailored newsletters were also prepared and periodically launched, reaching 126K recipients, 25K opens (20.56%) - 36K total (which means more than 10K people reopened it) and a click-through rate of 2.66%. IN/FB/IG: 750 reaches | 1.8% CTR, 3.4% interest rate.

For the validation of the KPAs and cooperation scenarios, considering the result of the on-desk analysis, of the companies needs identification, based on surveys, interviews and B2B meetings, 3 KPAs for each sector Digital/ Fintech - Agrifood and Health, were outlined and validated and cooperation scenarios were drawn for each corporate selected, with the identification of priority topics, markets, technologies, and all the collected data is being used for the open call and SMEs selection.

For each sector, 2 CHALLENGES, and SUB-CHALLENGES, were identified from specific needs that innovative SMEs and startups can respond to, in order to meet the innovation needs.

The 3 KPAs identified and validated for each sector are:

Digital/ Fintech KPAs: Sustainability - Digital Solution - Security

Agrifood KPAs: Sustainability - Automation - Security

Health KPAs: Sustainability - Virtual Care - New Products

The 2 Challenges identified and validated for each sector are:

- **Digital-Fintech Challenge 1:** How to apply digital finance solution (fintech) to cross- sectoral fields (data science, AI, blockchain, machine-learning, cybersecurity)

- **Digital-Fintech Challenge 2:** Digital Payment and Digital Identity (block chain, data sharing, digital transformation, gamification)

- **Agrifood Challenge 1:** Monitoring the health status of food production and shelf-life extension (security)

- **Agrifood Challenge 2:** New packaging materials and smart use of resources (sustainability, automation and security)

- **Health Challenge 1:** Development of new digital solutions in the learning and behavioural sphere that can be used by patients and families (virtual care and new products)

- **Health Challenge 2:** New therapeutic solutions derived from natural products and organic extractions (sustainability and new products)

To formalise the engagement of the selected corporates a partnership agreement has been signed. It includes a letter of intent, signed by a legal representative of the companies; and a technical annex that includes the Key Performance Areas in which the company wishes to explore opportunities for cooperation with SMEs.

DEL2.1 Results of the call for Expression of Interest by corporates and validated Key Performance Areas was submitted on 27th February 2023. MS2 Partnerships signed with at least 10 large corporates and KPAS identified was achieved on 15th March 2023.

WP3: Call for proposals and SMEs sub-projects management (CLDI):

This WP addresses the crucial objective of providing comprehensive support to a group of outstanding SMEs by implementing a three-step funnel acceleration program and publishing open calls for participation. The first step for this was the call definition. The following activities were performed:

A. Preparation of the call documents: These documents included the open call text, guidelines, materials such as contract templates for sub-grantees. All partners reviewed and approved the final open call documents.
B. The design of the Application Form: An online application form was designed with questions organised into sections, aiming to collect precise and concise answers.
C. The Open Call publication: The first open call was published on the 28th of March 2023. The due date to submit the proposals was 29th May 2023.
D. The Publication/Promotion and Support: All partners, along with engaged stakeholders, made concerted efforts to communicate and disseminate the call through their websites, social media and networks. Support was provided to interested applicants to ensure that their questions and doubts were clarified, through email, a FAQ section on the website, an online forum for open questions, and a series of webinars to present the procedures and address queries.

Throughout the process, the collaborative efforts of all partners ensured effective execution of the open call management activities, that belong to T3.1 and is still on-going.

Next tasks to be performed include the proposals evaluation, the awarding process, the implementation of the Acceleration Program along the defined LAUNCH, SUSTAIN and DRIVE phases, as well as the launching of the 2nd call for proposals.

DEL3.1 Open call documents KIT and sub-grantees financing rules was submitted on 30th March 2023 and MS3 1st Open call publication was achieved on 28th March 2023.

WP4: Education, Training and business support to Start Ups and SMEs consortia (CLDI):

The main objective of WP4 is to develop and implement a set of innovative business support services in order to help SMEs create and manage viable and sustainable consortia, develop and implement collaboration agreements with corporates and, therefore, increase the SMEs' competitiveness and market reach. The work performed in this WP includes the creation and conceptualization of the EPICENTRE business model and approach through recognizing the specific needs and challenges faced by SMEs in managing internal open innovation practices and establishing collaboration agreements with other SMEs and large corporations.

Also, with the aim of supporting SMEs to apply to the EPICENTRE program, the webinar "Breaking Barriers" was organised by CLDI on the 29th of March 2023. The webinar was structured as a 2.5-hour session, with expert speakers sharing their insights and experiences. The topics addressed were the project presentation and the 1st call for proposals publication, a session dedicated to Women entrepreneurship and leadership,

followed by the session Business model: Why Startups Fail?, ending with the session Legal & IP: Fundamentals of corporate-SME collaboration strategy. A 15-minute Q&A session was conducted at the end of the webinar to address any questions or concerns from the participants. 201 SMEs participated in the webinar, participating 84 women in the women-entrepreneurship and leadership workshop.

D.4.1 Developed portfolio of services regarding reskilling and upskilling offered by cluster organisations to SMEs was submitted on 27th February 2023.

WP5: Cluster capacity building and Go International (LITMEA):

WP5 is addressed to build up the cluster manager's skills to offer better services for up / re-skilling and attracting talents and to establish services that support international trade, investment and partnering opportunities for European SMEs to boost their internationalisation beyond Europe by intensifying business network collaboration. The work performed so far include the following activities:

The identification of 5 skills per clusters (Sub-task 5.1.1) to be improved during the project implementation within the Co-learning interregional boot camp, organised for the development of cluster management skills towards more European world-class clusters. The skills identified were categorised under 'Technical skills', 'Strategic thinking', 'Innovation' and 'Networking'. The training, coaching and mentoring activities to work toward the improvement of the identified skills are planned to start in the coming months, ending on 30/09/2023.

Besides, the participating Clusters will be trained in 5 topics, according to their needs: (1) green and digital transformation (CBIOS), (2) adoption of innovation (CLDI), (3) internationalisation (CLDI, CBIOS) (4) circular economy (LITMEA), (5) Sustainability & Certification (LITMEA) according to the qualifications and competences of the project partners' expertees in those areas.

Up to 3 online 'knowledge and expertise sharing workshops' by partners will be organised in the coming months. Partners already started discussing the valuable topics:

1. Project partner CLDI proposed the topic: The Key Steps of an End-to-End Innovation Process,
2. Project partner CBIOS proposed the topic: Strategies for clusters internationalisation, and
3. Project partner LITMEA proposed the topic: Networking and collaboration activities.

Partners also worked towards joining in the Pact for Skills. All clusters joined the Pact and signed up the Charter and its key principles: promoting a culture of lifelong learning for all; building strong skills partnerships; monitoring skills supply/demand and anticipating skills needs and working against discrimination and for gender equality and equal opportunities. Besides, they started to prepare a guidebook for the implementation of Pact for Skills.

The task addressing the Joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap for the Partnership towards specific third markets and Intelligence gathering started with the identification of the 3rd countries which will be involved in project activities. The rest of the defined tasks will start in the coming months, as well as the tasks included under Implementation of International activities: development and signature of cooperation agreements (C2C) and orchestration of business agreements (B2B), to start in 2024.

MS9 The Pact for Skills signed was achieved on 20December 2022.

WP6: Communication, Impact Assessment, Dissemination and Exploitation (CLDI):

This WP focuses on raising awareness and visibility of the EPICENTRE project. The activities performed include explaining and setting up a framework for communication between clusters, large corporate players, and innovative start-ups/SMEs to create buzz, raise awareness, and enhance the visibility of the EPICENTRE project. Proactive online communication actions were implemented to engage a large number of innovators from all European verticals and clusters, attracting a diverse community of high-impact innovators who could offer technological solutions within EPICENTRE's targeted sectors.

The Communication Outreach Book (D6.1) was delivered on 2 February 2023. It includes the communication and dissemination activities developed throughout the project, along with their outcomes. It provided a comprehensive overview of the project's communication strategy.

Activities aimed to capitalise on EPICENTRE's existing partner networks and establish a collaborative ecosystem attracting a critical mass of market-makers and foster a favourable open innovation environment were also carried out. A set of workshops and webinars were performed with the objectives of:

1. Attracting and engaging top-notch innovators to the EPICENTRE business support program.

2. Facilitating the creation of consortia that would apply to the open calls.

3. Cross-promoting success stories.

4. Highlighting the role of clusters in bridging the gap between start-ups/SMEs and corporates.

Efforts were made to explore synergies with other EU Cluster initiatives and partner networks. A specific focus was placed on communicating and disseminating the potential of the open calls to the target audience, which included cluster SMEs, technology SMEs, and innovators from any sector offering solutions within EPICENTRE's four targeted sectors. Clusters made a strong effort to organize sector-specific webinar to explain the expectations from EPICENTRE and the Key Performance Areas (KPAs) to be addressed.

The dissemination of the open call was done through various channels, including EC channels, the EEN network, ECCP, EPICENTRE website and social media and relevant networks of all clusters.

The webinars performed are:

- #Breaking Barriers (March 2023)
- Cluster Alisei Communication Group - Board Members Webinar (April 2023)
- Info session: Convocatòria per a PIMES i Startups del projecte EPICENTRE (April 2023)
- Meeting with cluster members and presentation of open calls (On-site) (April 2023)
- Business breakfast with SMEs and Startups for funding opportunities (On-site) (April 2023)
- Info session for CBIOS partners (May 2023)
- Webinar on presenting funding opportunities for SMEs (Zoom invitation) (May 2023)
- Euroclusters webinar: Internationalisation of innovation (May 2023)

In the coming months, the project will start tasks focusing on monitoring the project's progress in achieving desired outputs and impact within the open innovation system involving clusters, start-ups/SMEs, and corporates. Lessons learned, best practices, and insights gained from these tasks will contribute to the improvement of the project and future open innovation initiatives. The findings and analysis from these upcoming tasks will be reported in the next reporting period.

Results and impacts

Describe the results of the project (so far) and (actual and expected) impacts (on target groups, change, procedures, capacities, innovation, etc.). For the Final Report, include an overview of the results.

The work performed contributed to the achievement of the following results:

Task and project objectives KPIs:

- The good coordination of the project partners to deliver the activities plan, including a smooth communication. 9 PEB meetings were held, the 1st payment was done within the 30 days after the EC payment was delivered to the coordinator. (T1.1, T1.3)

- The completion of 27 surveys and 20 interviews with Corporates and relevant actors from the Digital, Health and Agrifood ecosystems, having contacted 119 Corporates. (T2.1, T2.2)

- The engagement of 62 Corporates through the Expression of Interest call, and the selection of 28 to participate in the Acceleration Program. (T2.2)

- The identification of 3 KPAs, 2 challenges per KPA and 51 Corporate scenarios for the 1st call for proposals. (T2.3)

- The signing of 17 partnership agreements with Corporates. (T2.4)

- The delivery of 6 webinars to attract applicants for the 1st call for proposals, having participated 201 SMEs, and, in terms of gender, 84 women. (T3.2)

- The preparation and launching of the 1st EPICENTRE call for proposals. (T3.1)

- The submission of 81 proposals of which 78 were accepted as eligible being 16 addressed to the Digital sector, 18 to the Agrifood sector and 34 to the Health sector. (Obj. 1)

- The identification of 5 skills per Cluster to be improved as well as 2 topics per Cluster. (T5.1)

- 1 brainstorming session facilitated by a cluster with corporates and SMEs, DIHs and public institutions (about challenges raised and possibilities to solve them (before corporates provided the challenges to our Call). (Obj. 1)

- The signing of the Pact for Skills promoting a culture of lifelong learning for all; building strong skills partnerships; monitoring skills supply/demand and anticipating skills needs and working against discrimination and for gender equality and equal opportunities. (T5.1)

- Organisations contacted to build EPICENTRE ecosystem - open call, supporting programme, social media, surveys, registrations in the project platform, the SMEBOOK, participants in webinars and B2Bs, etc.) = 500 (Obj. 6)

- 202 posts on project's social media channels, 4 entries (articles/press releases) in local, regional, national and European press, both printed and online, 34 specialized blog posts on the project website and the ECCP. 27 EPICENTRE Newsletters delivered (T6.1)

- 15 workshops, webinars, and roadshow info days (both online and in-person) (T6.2)

- >2.274 of European innovators were informed about project's Open Calls. (T6.2)

- > 4 communication synergies were identified with other EU funded projects (T6.2)

Impact KPIs:

Compulsory Single Market Programme indicators	Target	Achieved (cumulated result)	Comments
How many SMEs, clusters and business network organisations, and business support organisations did receive support from the action?	>100 SMEs, >10 clusters & business network, > 5 business support organisations	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
How many business partnerships were concluded by the supported companies at the end of the action?	No. of long-term business agreements between SMEs and SMEs corporates > 50	17	17 corporates partnership agreements signed to join the EPICENTRE program as the first

			step to design the call KPAs, the selected SME-projects and the further agreements between Corporates and SMEs.that will be signed once the program is more advanced.
How many entrepreneurs benefitted from mentoring and mobility schemes, from the action (including young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups)?	>100 entrepreneurs (60% under 30 years old, 60% women, 75% from less developed EU regions)	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.

Compulsory Call indicators	Target	Achieved (cumulated result)	Comments
1. Number of resilience preparedness/business continuity plans	4 (one per EPICENTRE targeted sectors)	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
2. Number of new-to-firm products/services identified	No. of new products or services leading to potentially optimised value chains after the project ends (at least 5). Time plan: 5 years after the project, estimates will be done on M36. Source: Survey among participated SMEs and corporates regarding expectation on this indicator	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
3. Number of SMEs supported which undertook business process innovation tied to technological adoption leading to higher sustainability and digitalisation	>100 SMEs comprising consortia selected by EPICENTRE programme	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
4a. Number of employees in cluster organisations which received trainings	At least 7	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
4b. Number of SMEs investing in skill development of their employees in the scope of	% of SMEs investing in skill development of their employees:	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.

the project	100% of the EPICENTRE supported SMEs		
5a. Number of collaboration agreements signed with entities in third countries	No. of new collaborations between the EPICENTRE clusters and/or with other clusters in third countries: >10	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
5b. Number of SMEs that benefited from internationalisation services	> 50 SMEs (25 SMEs consortia invited to the Sustain phase)	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.
6a. Number of Social Media followers (per Social Media channel used)	>3000; Twitter> 750 LinkedIn>1500 Facebook>750	200 followers in LinkedIn	200 followers in LinkedIn
6b. Number of SMEs directly supported and coming from regions and countries different from those of individual Euroclusters' partners	>25 SMEs (out of 100 for the whole program)	0	To be achieved. The related task has not finish yet.

Additional project indicators *Report on the additional project indicators which were part of the proposal and now of the Grant Agreement.*	Target	Achieved (cumulated result)	Comments
Number of business and non-business actors linked to existing or new value chain;	>2300 contacted (>2000 SMEs for the Open Call, >150 corporates (T2.2), >50 clusters (T5.3), >50 other OI actors (T6.2)	2.274 SMES 119 Corporates	119 Corporates and stakeholders reached to participate sharing their KPAs. 2.274 SMEs contacted to apply to the EPICENTRE program 5000 organisations contacted to build EPICENTRE ecosystem - open call, supporting programme, social media, surveys, registrations in the project platform, the SMEBOOK, participants in webinars and B2Bs, etc.)
Number of SMEs accessing market information	No. of SMEs participating in EPICENTRE webinars and	201	201 SMEs participating in webinars.

	B2Bs>500, Time plan: (M36) Source: WP3 (task 3.1), WP6 (task 6.3)		
Number of businesses/SMEs directly benefitting from new value chains interlinkages developed by the Partnership.	>100 SMEs comprising consortia selected by EPICENTRE programme Time plan: (M12) Source: WP3 (task 3.1)	78	78 cross sectoral consortia applying to the 1st EPICENTRE call.
Number of Pact for Skills including a clear reference and role to clusters with regards to up and re-skilling	One Pact for Skills Time plan: (M33). Source: WP5 (task 5.1)	1	Achieved 1 Pact for Skills signed

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Latest Legal Data Beneficiaries screens — Overview of the consortium changes.

Partner No	Role	Short Name	Legal Name	Country	PIC	Entry date	Exit date
1	COO	CLDI	ASSOCIACIO CLUSTER DIGITAL DE CATALUNYA	ES	926261246	1/9/2022	-
2	BEN	CBIOS	DISTRETTO TECNOLOGICO CAMPANIA BIOSCIENCE SCARL	IT	925527247	1/9/2022	-
3	BEN	LITMEA	LIETUVOS MAISTO EKSPORTUOTOJU ASOCIACIJA (LITMEA)	LT	911929981	1/9/2022	-

LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverables

Continuous Reporting (Deliverables screen) — Add actual delivery dates (or new due date for late deliverables, together with an explanation for the delay). In the Comments, please indicate if the deliverable was achieved as planned or not.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision 2015/444. For items classified under other rules (e.g. national or international organisation), please select the equivalent EU classification level.

DEL No.	DEL No.	WP No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date	New Due Date (if delay)	Delivery Date (actual)	Status	Comments
D1.1	Project Management Plan	WP1	1 - CLDI	R	SEN	31 Oct 2022	-	17 Jan 2023	Approved	
D1.2	1st mid-term technical report	WP1	1 - CLDI	R	SEN	30 Jun 2023	-		Pending	
D1.3	2nd mid-term technical report	WP1	1 - CLDI	R	SEN	31 Dec 2024	-		Pending	

D2.1	Results of the call for Expression of Interest by corporates and validated Key Performance Areas	WP2	2 - CBIOS	R	PU	28 Feb 2023	-	27 Feb 2023	Submitted	
D3.1	Open call documents KIT and sub-grantees financing rules	WP3	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Mar 2023	-	30 Mar 2023	Submitted	
D3.2	Open calls report	WP3	1 - CLDI	R	PU	30 Apr 2024	-		Pending	
D3.3	New-to-firm products and/or services in the industrial ecosystem/s	WP3	2 - CBIOS	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	
D3.4	Business process innovations adopted in the industrial ecosystem/s;	WP3	3 - LITMEA	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	

D4.1	Developed portfolio of services regarding reskilling and upskilling offered by cluster organisations to SMEs	WP4	1 - CLDI	R	PU	28 Feb 2023	-	27 Feb 2023	Submitted	
D4.2	EPICENTRE Academy program Results Report	WP4	2 - CBIOS	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	
D5.1	Trainings for cluster managers	WP5	3 - LITMEA	R	PU	31 Oct 2023	-		Pending	
D5.2	Services portfolio to implement internationalisation actions	WP5	3 - LITMEA	R	SEN	31 Aug 2024	-		Pending	
D6.1	Communication outreach Book 1	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	30 Nov 2022	-	02 Feb 2023	Submitted	

D6.2	EPICENTRE Resilience Preparedness Plan	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	
D6.3	Impact evaluation report	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	
D6.4	Communication outreach Book 2	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Aug 2023	-		Pending	
D6.5	Communication outreach Book 3	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Aug 2024	-		Pending	
D6.6	Communication outreach Book 4	WP6	1 - CLDI	R	PU	31 Aug 2025	-		Pending	

LIST OF MILESTONES

Milestones

Continuous Reporting (Milestones screen) — Update the status (and add new due date for late milestones). In the Comments, please indicate if the milestone was achieved as planned or add an explanation for the delay.

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification	Due Date	New Due Date (if delay)	Delivery Date (actual)	Achieved	Comments
1	Successful EPICENTRE project kick off	WP1	1-CLDI	Minutes of Meeting	30 Sep 2022	-	07 sept 2022	YES	-
2	Partnerships signed with at least 10 large corporates and KPAS identified	WP2	2-CBIOS	Signed partnerships	30 Apr 2023	-	15 March 2023	YES	--
3	1st Open call publication	WP3	1-CLDI	Publication of the call on available platforms	31 Mar 2023	-	28 March 2023	YES	-
4	2nd Open Call publication	WP3	1-CLDI	Publication of the call on available platforms	31 Oct 2023	-	-	NO	-
5	Launch phase finished after reception of SME consortia Video Pitches	WP4	1-CLDI	1st deliverable of SMEs sub-projects approved	31 Mar 2024	-	-	NO	-

6	Sustain phase finished after the presentation of solutions in the final GALA	WP4	1-CLDI	2nd and 3rd deliverables developed by SMEs sub-projects approved	31 Jan 2025	-	-	NO	-
7	Drive phase completed	WP4	1-CLDI	Final deliverable of SMEs sub-projects approved.	31 Aug 2025	-	-	NO	-
8	EPICENTRE joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap created and designed	WP5	3-LITMEA	Clusters have agreed on the terms of the strategy	31 Aug 2024	-	-	NO	-
9	The Pact for Skills signed	WP5	3-LITMEA	Document signed by clusters	31 Dec 2022	-	20 December 2022	YES	-
10	Collaboration agreements signed	WP5	3-LITMEA	Document signed by the parties	31 Aug 2025	-	-	NO	-
11	Business agreements signed	WP5	3-LITMEA	Document signed by the parties	31 Aug 2025	-	-	NO	-

| 12 | Indicators defined for Impact Assessment | WP6 | 1-CLDI | All partners agrees on indicators to measure the impact | 30 Sep 2024 | - | - | NO | - |
| 13 | EPICENTRE final Event | WP6 | 1-CLDI | Final event carried out | 31 Aug 2025 | - | - | NO | - |

LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

Foreseen risks

Foreseen risks			
The table shows the risks already listed in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement (read-only).			
Risk No	**Description**	**Work Package No(s)**	**Proposed Mitigation Measures**
1	Coordination and/or management of EPICENTRE fails [(i) L, (ii) H]	WP1	The project coordinator, members of the Project Executive Board and other project partners have exhaustive experience in managing and running EU research, and the professional project management will plan and proactively avoid deviations and failures.
2	Difficulty finding and motivating the partners in the project for collaboration and feedback gathering [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP1	All partners are strongly committed to the objectives in the proposal phase. Close monitoring will be established and, if interests change during project lifetime, additional professional workshops, networking events or other motivating initiatives will be organised.
3	Partner fails timely reports of financial/effort consumption for the management report [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP1	The project management will enforce timely and correct reporting. In the worst case, the missing data for reports and cost statements will be handed later or after the final reporting

			period.
4	Partner overspending resources and/or allocated budget [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP1	The project management team will monitor the partner spending through WP reports and through partners progress reporting. If necessary, a reallocation of resources of partners will be initiated.
5	General lack of quality and/or lack of quality of deliverables [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP1	A quality plan will be developed to safeguard high standards with respect to project outcomes, including the appointment of reviewers (partners) for each deliverable.
6	Lack of answers from corporates to the call for Expression of Interest [(i) M, (ii) L]	WP2	The application form for companies will be as simple as possible to encourage companies answering to the call for EoI. Furthermore, all efforts will be done in task 2.3 to promote the concept of the EPICENTRE project and the invitation to EoI to pre-identified companies, and support can also be made by EPICENTRE partners to help them complete the application form.
7	Lack of commitment of selected corporates in future activities [(i) M, (ii) H]	WP3, WP2, WP4	The risk of corporates not being committed into the EPICENTRE project activities exists since they do not receive any funding and therefore there is no such incentive against their commitment. However, Task 2.5 is about preparing a simple but efficient contract protecting corporates from undesired effects of collaboration with SMEs, but in the same time engaging them into the EPICENTRE project activities. This contractual framework should discourage corporates from not being committed into EPICENTRE. The project will also establish the mechanisms to engage high quality SMEs and projects. This will guarantee the enthusiasm of the corporations to collaborate with EPICENTRE.
8	Low participation in the open calls [(i) M, (ii) H]	WP6, WP3	If the reception of proposals is low, we will push the dissemination activities. Networking activities and visits to reference clusters and business centres/ incubators for raising awareness could be also an option for the increase of awareness for future calls. In this sense, the budget for its organisation will be deducted from the calls budget. During the opening periods of the calls, the number of received pre-proposals and the number of requests for support will be a good indicator to know if the numbers will be reached or if additional efforts on dissemination and engagement activities are needed.

9	SMEs face difficulties to reach expectations and fail in the process [(i) M, (ii) H]	WP3, WP4	The selection process in WP3 will be exhaustive minimising the chance of selecting SMEs consortia without the demanded skills. The continuous regular contact and monitoring by the EPICENTRE Project Officers and Business Support Managers will help us to early identify issues and propose mitigation actions. Within WP3, support through different channels including direct calls will be offered. In WP6 the ecosystem building activities will help us to gather the business competences to address and overcome SMEs difficulties.
10	Lack of agreements between SMEs and corporations during the program [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP3, WP4	Provision of objective (no conflict of interest) IP advisory to all parties involved and mediation during contract signatures (if requested) to increase chances of reaching agreements
11	EPICENTRE internationalisation strategy fails [(i) M, (ii) M]	WP5	A sound internationalisation strategy will be developed in WP5 (T5.2) to ensure a smooth and effective process. Several measures will be taken like: i) deep market research to analyse market insights in third countries targeted by EPICENTRE, ii) initial exploratory missions for EPICENTRE clusters third countries, iii) mapping of potential partners in third countries, iv) development of international skills for clusters and v) development of an implementation roadmap for the internationalisation strategy
12	Clusters capacity building does not work as planned [(i) L, (ii) H]	WP5	A sound process will be deployed to ensure that cluster teams improve their capacities to support SMEs in building new cross-border and cross-sectoral value chains in targeted sectors (WP5). Firstly, an in-depth analysis will be made to identify the areas of skills improvement for clusters and secondly, EPICENTRE will select top-notch coaches and mentors for the training sessions (T5.1)
13	Delays in providing input data from other WPs [(i) M, (ii) H]	WP6	This WP relies heavily on input data provided by other WPs. Delays in the work of other WPs may affect the work in WP 6. To overcome this problem CLDI (project coordinator) is appointed as a task leader of the Task 6.2 on main data gathering process, which will allow to keep a strict planning and whenever necessary quick anticipation of the problems.
14	Low response to the survey among companies [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP6	Design of a simple, clear, easy and quick to fill in survey questionnaire.

15	Disperse and low-quality data provided in the surveys [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP6	In order to carry out quantitative impact assessment, the availability of the high-quality data is required. Applying a simple and a clear survey questionnaire is the first step to gather good quality data. Next to it, whenever quantitative information will not be available an alternative qualitative analysis will be carried out to retrieve the impact.
16	Slow growth of the EPICENTRE community [(i) L, (ii) M]	WP6	Relevant KPIs are assessed under task 6.1 and whenever the targets are not reached, modification of communication and dissemination strategies will occur. The experience of the EPICENTRE partners and their awareness of the intricacies of open innovation and collaboration between large corporates and innovative start-ups/SMEs, as well as the fact that the supporting platform, SMEBOOK, has a growing number of users, as well as the use of the EEN and ECCP, will ensure continuous growth of the EPICENTRE community.
17	The entire budget reserved as direct funding for SMEs is not consumed. [(i) M, (ii) M]	WP3, WP4	If the 1M euros reserved for direct funding to sub-granted SMEs are not consumed, the remaining budget will be used to reward those SMEs that have had a high performance during the EPICENTRE support program.

Unforeseen risks

Unforeseen risks			
Risk No	**Description**	**Work Package No(s)**	**Proposed Mitigation Measures**
18	Corporates are reluctant to sign the partnership agreement, after sharing the challenges addressed by EPICENTRE call for proposals.	WP2	Be open to collaborate with new corporates, sign the partnership agreement as a prerequisite for the corporates to share their challenges.
19	Technical issues with the proposal management website	WP3	Renew the website to avoid technical issues.

State of play

State of play				
Continuous Reporting (Critical Risks screen) — Give the state of play of the risks that were identified in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement (and new risks that materialised during project implementation) and add new mitigation measures, if needed.				
Risk No	**Reporting Period**	**Did you apply risk mitigation measures?**	**Did your risk materialise?**	**Comments**
18	1	YES	YES	[Risk] Corporates are reluctant to sign the partnership agreement, after sharing the challenges addressed by EPICENTRE call for proposals. [Mitigation measure] Be open to collaborate with new corporates, sign the partnership agreement as a prerequisite for the corporates to share their challenges.
19	1	YES	YES	[Risk] Technical problems with the website for managing the proposals. [Mitigation measure] Renew the website to avoid technical issues.

DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Dissemination activities

Dissemination activities				
Continuous Reporting (Dissemination screen) — List the dissemination activities carried out in the context of the project. Include dissemination activities mentioned in the proposal and new ones.				
Dissemination Activity Name	**What?** Type of dissemination activity	**Who?** Target audience *(Choose one or more items)*	**Why?** *(max 200 characters)*	**Status**

Dissemination Activity Name	What?	Who?	Why?	Status
Innovation Village 2022	Conference: Pitch session	SMEs Start-ups Spin-offs Research centres Universities Stakeholders	Presentation of the project: https://innovation-village-2022.b2match.io/components/22972?session=c2Vzc2lvbjoxMzQ4MzA%3D	Delivered
MATCHER Human Centric Innovation 2022	5 B2B meetings	Industry: Corporates	Attracting corporates to participate in the project. https://matcher-human-centric-innovation-2022.b2match.io/marketplace/opportunities/UGFydGljaXBhdGlvbk9wcG9ydHVuaXR5OjU0NjU1	Delivered
Clusters Meet Regions Barcelona	Clustering activities: Pitch session	Cluster managers, Cluster Policy Makers, EU business community, Investors, SME	Matchmaking. Presentation of the project: https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/clusters-meet-regions-barcelona-spain	Delivered

SMAU Napoli 2022	Conference: 2 pitch session - 2 round table - 21 B2B meetings	Startup Industry,business partners Civil Society	Presentation of the project and matchmaking: https://www.smau.it/napoli/partners/distretto-tecnologico-campania-bioscience	Delivered
VITA Accelerator - Meet the Ecosystem Event - Salerno	Ecosystem event. Industry Collaboration.	Startup Industry,business partners	Pitch session: Presentation of the project and matchmaking	Delivered
Startup Village Networking Event '23	Networking event	Startups	Presentation of the project https://startupvillagealliance.eu/#	Delivered
EMBASSY Of SWEDEN - SWEDEN ITALY Life Science Event - Rome	Seminar	Scientists, Innovators, Startups, Industry	Participation in a round table	Delivered
#Breaking Barriers	Webinar	SMEs, Startups, Women	Presentation of EPICENTRE + Short training (epicentre academy). Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Cluster Alisei Communication Group	Webinar	Partners, SMEs, Startups	Inform Cluster Alisei partners about SMEs and Startups call Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Info session: Convocatòria per a PIMES i Startups del projecte EPICENTRE	Online meeting: Info Session	Partnres, SMEs, Startups	Inform cluster partners about EPICENTRE project and the call for SMEs. Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered

Meeting with cluster members and presentation of open calls	On site meeting: Info Session	Partners, SMEs, Startups	Inform cluster members and partners about EPICENTRE and open calls for SMES. Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Business breakfast with SME and Startpups for funding opportunities	On site meeting: Business breakfast	SMEs, Startups	External event organized with partners for all who are interested are invited. Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Info session for CBIOS partners	Online meeting: Info Session	Partners, SMEs, Startups	Inform CBIOS partners about SMEs and Startups call Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Webinar on presenting funding opportunities for SMEs	Webinar	Partners, SMEs, Startups	Presentation of EPICENTRE and Call #1 Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered
Euroclusters webinar: Internationalization of innovation	Webinar. Collaboration with EU-funded projects	Euroclusters	Presentation of EPICENTRE and Call #1. Disseminate the 1st call for SMEs and Startups	Delivered

Communication activities

Communication activities

Continuous Reporting (Communication screen) — List the communication activities carried out in the context of the project.

Comm. Activity Name	Description	Who? Target audience *(Choose one or more items)*	How? Communication channel *(Choose one or more items)*	Outcome	Status
Website creation	Landing page with an overview of the project (CLDI website)	Citizens	Website	Launched in M2.	Delivered
Website	Website with the form for the SMEs and Startups participation	Startups, SMEs	Website	Launched in M5	Delivered
YouTube Project Playlist	Creation of a Project Playlist on YouTube: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A	Citizens, Startups, SMEs, Industry Corporates	Communication Channel	Continuously updated	Delivered
Video	Infographic video: EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQaro6Lrek8&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A	SMEs, Startups	Video	531 views	Delivered
Video	Infographic video EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups [short version]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9gbIPnbFms&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=2	SMEs, Startups	Video	20 views	Delivered

Video	Infographic video: EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | What corporate's challenges will you face?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dccLOyQwxPM&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=3	SMEs, Startups	Video	194 views	Delivered
Video	Infographic video: EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | How does it work?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dccLOyQwxPM&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=3	SMEs, Startups	Video	38 views	Delivered
Video	Infographic video: EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | How to apply?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rFJIYYc-Pw&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=5	SMEs, Startups	Video	22 views	Delivered
Video	Webinar recorded: WEBINAR EPICENTRE #BreakingBarriers [Part 1]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_aOR57MIZ4&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=6	SMEs, Startups, Women, Citizens.	Video	29 views	Delivered
Video	Webinar recorded: WEBINAR EPICENTRE #BreakingBarriers [Part 2]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB0qawwPYkQ&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=7	SMEs, Startups, Women, Citizens.	Video	48 views	Delivered
Blog Posts	Specialised blog posts on the project website	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU	Blog Posts	34 views	On Going

		Institutions			
Logo	Project Logo	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Visual Identity	Published in M2	Delivered
Press Releases, Articles, News	Entries (articles/press releases) in local, regional, national and European press, both printed and online	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens	Press release / Media Article: - La Repubblica - Napoli - Il Corriere del Mezzogiorno - Sole 24ore - Il denaro	4 Press release / Media Article	On Going
LinkedIn	LinkedIn EPICENTRE Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/epicentre-project/	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Social Media	200 followers	Delivered
Twitter	Twitter EPICENTRE Profile: https://twitter.com/epicentreproj	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Social Media	7 followers	Delivered
SM Posts	Posts on LinkedIn and Twitter	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Social Media	202 posts	On Going
Newsletters	EPICENTRE Newsletters delivered	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies	Newsletters	27 newsletters	On Going
Information document:	Document with information for corporates: How does it work	Corporates, Industry companies	Print/Digital material: document	N/A	Delivered

Flyer	Infographic flyer with information about how to participate in the project, for corporates	Corporates, Industry companies	Print/Digital material: Flyer	N/A	Delivered
Roll-up	Roll-up of the Project with the logo, project name, partner logos and EU flag.	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Print material: roll-up	N/A	Delivered
Brochure	Brochure with project information for SMEs and Startups	SMEs, Startups	Print/Digital material: Brochure	N/A	Delivered
Social Media creativities	Images to illustrate the SM and Blog Posts	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies, Citizens, EU Institutions	Images	N/A	On Going
EPICENTRE for corporates	Presentation of the project	Corporates, Industry companies	Presentation (PPT-pdf)	N/A	Delivered
Acceleration Program	Slide with the Acceleration Program	SMEs, Startups, Corporates, Industry Companies	Presentation (PPT-pdf)	N/A	Delivered

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

Sub-calls							
Continuous Reporting (Financial Support to Third Parties screen) — List the FSTP calls launched under the project.							
Call Reference	**Call Budget**	**Budget Awarded**	**Call Publication Date**	**URL to F&T Portal** (if applicable)	**Call Status**	**No. of Received Proposals**	**N. of Awarded Proposals**
1st call for proposals	525.000€	-	29-03-2023	Link	Awarding on-going	81	-

The results of the first call for proposals is currently under evaluation, thus, no results can be published yet.

Awarded recipients							
Continuous Reporting (Financial Support to Third Parties screen) — List the recipients of financial support to third parties.							
Call Reference	**PIC**	**Legal Name**	**Organisation Type**	**Country**	**Funding Awarded**	**Funding Paid**	**Comment**
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TECHNICAL REPORT (PART B)

COVER PAGE

Part B of the Technical Report must be downloaded from the Portal Technical Report (Part B)/Termination Report screen, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF on that screen.

PROJECT	
Project number:	101074486
Project name:	EmPowering Industrial eCosystems to boost clustEr facilitated greeN and digiTal tRansition in Europe
Project acronym:	EPICENTRE

REPORTING PERIOD	
⚠ *Please note that you must report on the entire reporting period.*	
RP number:	1
Duration:	from 01/09/2022 to 31/05/2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

#@PER-REP-SMP@#
#@PRO-GRE-PG@# [This document is tagged. Do not delete the tags; they are needed for the processing.]

1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS

1.1 Summary of work performed and achievements, results and impacts

> **Work performed and main achievements**
>
> *Short summary of progress towards the project objectives. Highlight significant activities and achievements. Provide clear and measureable details.*
>
> *Analyse the outcome of the project (so far) and its (actual and expected) impact (on target groups, change, innovation etc.), including a description of the European dimension and added value. For the Final Report, include the conclusions of the action.*
>
> *Report on objectives not fully achieved or not on schedule.*
>
> ⚠️ *Do not simply cut and paste the project summary (filled in online on the Summary for Publication screen). Contrary to the summary, this section is for reporting to the EU and will not be published.*

 The activities performed since the project starts, the main achievements and their contribution towards project objectives are described below:

 WP1: Overall project Management (CLDI): this WP addressed the overall coordination of the project.

The activities performed in WP1 were implemented under T1.1. Team and project coordination, T1.2 Project's Quality management and T1.3: Financial and Administrative coordination of the project and SMEs sub-projects.

 T1.1. Team and project coordination

The project began with a series of meetings focused on preparing for the General Assembly. These meetings aimed to ensure that all necessary preparations were made before officially commencing the project. After the initial planning phase, the project's kick-off meeting took place on September 7th, 2022, conducted online.

The kick-off meeting encompassed various important aspects of the project. The agenda for the meeting included several key points that were addressed to provide a comprehensive overview to all participants. Here is a breakdown of the agenda items discussed during the meeting:

1. Project Objectives: The meeting started by presenting and discussing the overall objectives of the project. This involved clearly defining the goals and desired outcomes that the project aimed to achieve.

2. Project Summary: A summary overview of the project was provided, highlighting its scope, key activities, and the intended impact. This helped the participants gain a better understanding of the project as a whole.

3. Project GANTT Chart: A GANTT chart was presented. It displayed the various tasks and their dependencies, enabling the participants to visualize the project's schedule and progress.

4. Deliverables: An in-depth review of the deliverables was conducted. Each work package's specific outputs and outcomes were discussed to ensure clarity on what was expected to be delivered throughout the project's duration.

5. Work Packages: The meeting delved into a detailed review of each work package (WP). This involved discussing the different WPs, their objectives, tasks, deliverables, and milestones. The participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the project's structure and how the different components

interconnected.

- WP1: Overall Project Management.

- WP2: Analysis and assessment of the EPICENTRE KPA through the active engagement of large industrial players.

- WP3: Call for proposals and SMEs sub-projects management.

- WP4: Education, training, and business support to Start-Ups and SMEs consortia.

- WP5: Cluster capacity building and Go international.

- WP6: Communication, Impact Assessment, Dissemination, and Exploitation.

6. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): The meeting highlighted the KPIs that would be used to measure the project's progress and success.

7. Next Steps: The partners were informed about the upcoming steps and actions required to move the project forward. This included discussing the immediate tasks and milestones that needed to be accomplished.

8. Project Meetings: The meeting addressed the importance of regular project meetings for effective coordination and communication among the team members. The frequency, format, and purpose of future project meetings were discussed.

9. Cost Management: The meeting covered the financial aspect of the project. This involved discussing the budget, financial responsibilities, and cost-tracking procedures to ensure proper financial management throughout the project's lifecycle.

10. Q&A: The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session, allowing participants to seek clarification on any aspects of the project discussed during the meeting.

By covering these agenda items, the kick-off meeting provided a solid foundation for the project, ensuring that all participants were aligned with the project's objectives, work packages, and timelines. It fostered a shared understanding among the team members and established a clear roadmap for the project's successful execution.

The communication between the project partners has been maintained through various channels, including recurrent emails and monthly meetings held. These communication efforts have been crucial for ensuring effective collaboration and coordination among the project team:

- Recurrent Emails: Partners have used emails as a primary mode of communication to share updates, exchange information, and discuss important project-related matters. Regular email exchanges have facilitated timely and continuous communication between the partners, allowing them to stay informed about the project's progress and address any issues or concerns that may arise.

- Monthly Meetings: The project partners have also conducted monthly meetings. These meetings serve as an opportunity for partners to come together, review project activities, and make key decisions. The meetings provide a platform for sharing insights, providing updates, and addressing any challenges or questions that require collective input.

During the monthly meetings, several main topics have been discussed to ensure effective project management and decision-making. Some important points of discussion to highlight include:

1. Call Conditions: The partners have deliberated and reached an agreement on the conditions surrounding the project's calls for proposals. This includes aspects such as eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, submission guidelines, and timeline for proposal submission.

2. Proposal Evaluation: An important point of discussion has been how to conduct the evaluation of the received proposals. Decisions regarding the evaluation criteria, scoring mechanisms, and the composition of the evaluation committee have been made during these discussions.

3. Project Progress and Updates: The monthly meetings have served as a platform to review the project's progress, ensuring that all partners are up to date with the ongoing activities, achievements, and

challenges.

These topics highlight the significance of the monthly meetings in facilitating effective communication and decision-making among the project partners. By addressing these important points, the partners ensure that they are aligned in their approach, maintaining transparency, and actively collaborating to achieve the project's goals.

The DELs (deliverables) listed below, along with their respective leaders and months, have been successfully submitted according to the defined due date:

1. D1.1: Project Management Plan. Leader: CLDI. Month: October 2022. The Project Management Plan was prepared and submitted by CLDI in October 2022. It outlined the project's strategy, objectives, scope, and implementation details.

2. D6.1: Communication Outreach Book 1. Leader: CLDI. Month: November 2022. CLDI completed the preparation of Communication Outreach Book 1 and submitted it in November 2022.

3. D2.1: Results of the Call for Expression of Interest by Corporates and Validated Key Performance Areas. Leader: CBIOS. Month: February 2023. CBIOS took the lead in preparing and submitting the results of the Call for Expression of Interest by Corporates and Validated Key Performance Areas in February 2023. This deliverable provided an overview of the received expressions of interest and the validated key performance areas.

4. D4.1: Developed portfolio of services regarding reskilling and upskilling. Leader: CLDI. Month: February 2023. CLDI completed the development of a portfolio of services related to reskilling and upskilling, and it was submitted in February 2023. This deliverable outlined the various services offered to support SMEs and Startups in acquiring new skills.

5. D3.1: Open call documents KIT and subgrantees financing rules. Leader: CLDI. Month: March 2023. CLDI took charge of preparing and submitting the open call documents KIT and subgrantees financing rules in March 2023. These documents provided guidelines and rules for potential applicants interested in participating in the project through open calls and obtaining financial support.

All of these deliverables were completed and submitted by the respective leaders within the specified timeframes, ensuring effective coordination of the DELs submission process.

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:
- Number of general assembly meetings: 0
- Number of PEB meetings: 9
- Number of videoconferences between the PC and the EC: 1
- Number of internal reports (other than official EC reports): 0

T1.2 Project's Quality management

One crucial aspect of the project's quality management is the continuous monitoring of project results and ensuring the timely achievement of milestones. Throughout the project's duration, regular monitoring and assessment of progress have been conducted to track the project's performance and ensure its successful execution. This monitoring process includes:

- Milestone Achievement: The project team has closely monitored the progress of milestone completion. Milestones serve as important markers of progress and are typically associated with significant achievements or deliverables within the project timeline. The team has diligently worked towards meeting these milestones on time, as they are essential for project success. Regular tracking has helped identify any potential delays or challenges that could hinder the achievement of milestones.

T1.3: Financial and Administrative coordination of the project and SMEs sub-projects.

The financial and administrative coordination of the project was effectively managed. The project coordinator successfully handled the funding of each partner. All financial aspects and fund transfers were carried out in compliance with Commission regulations and the EC Grant Agreement.

CLDI, serving as the project treasurer, took charge of executing payments to the partner. The payment process adhered to the established timelines.

Overall, the diligent execution of financial and administrative coordination tasks resulted in the successful management of funds, adherence to timelines, and timely disbursement of payments to project partners. These efforts fostered a productive and compliant environment within the consortium, ensuring smooth project execution and enabling the achievement of project objectives.

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

- Payment date from coordinator to project partners: 1st payment done within the 30 days after

the EC payment was delivered to the coordinator.

- Payment from CLDI to sub-granted projects coordinator: to be performed starting July 2023.

Deliverables:

The consortium successfully submitted D1.1 - Project Management Plan in M2. This document outlined the project management procedures to be followed throughout the EPICENTRE project's execution. The PO raised clarification requests regarding the Risk Management plan, which were promptly addressed within the specified timeline. The submission of D1.1 and resolution of clarification requests demonstrated the consortium's commitment to transparent communication and adherence to project guidelines.

Milestones:

Milestones Achieved:

-Successful EPICENTRE project kick off (M1)

WP2: Analysis and assessment of the EPICENTRE Key Performance Areas through the active engagement of large industrial players (CBIOS):
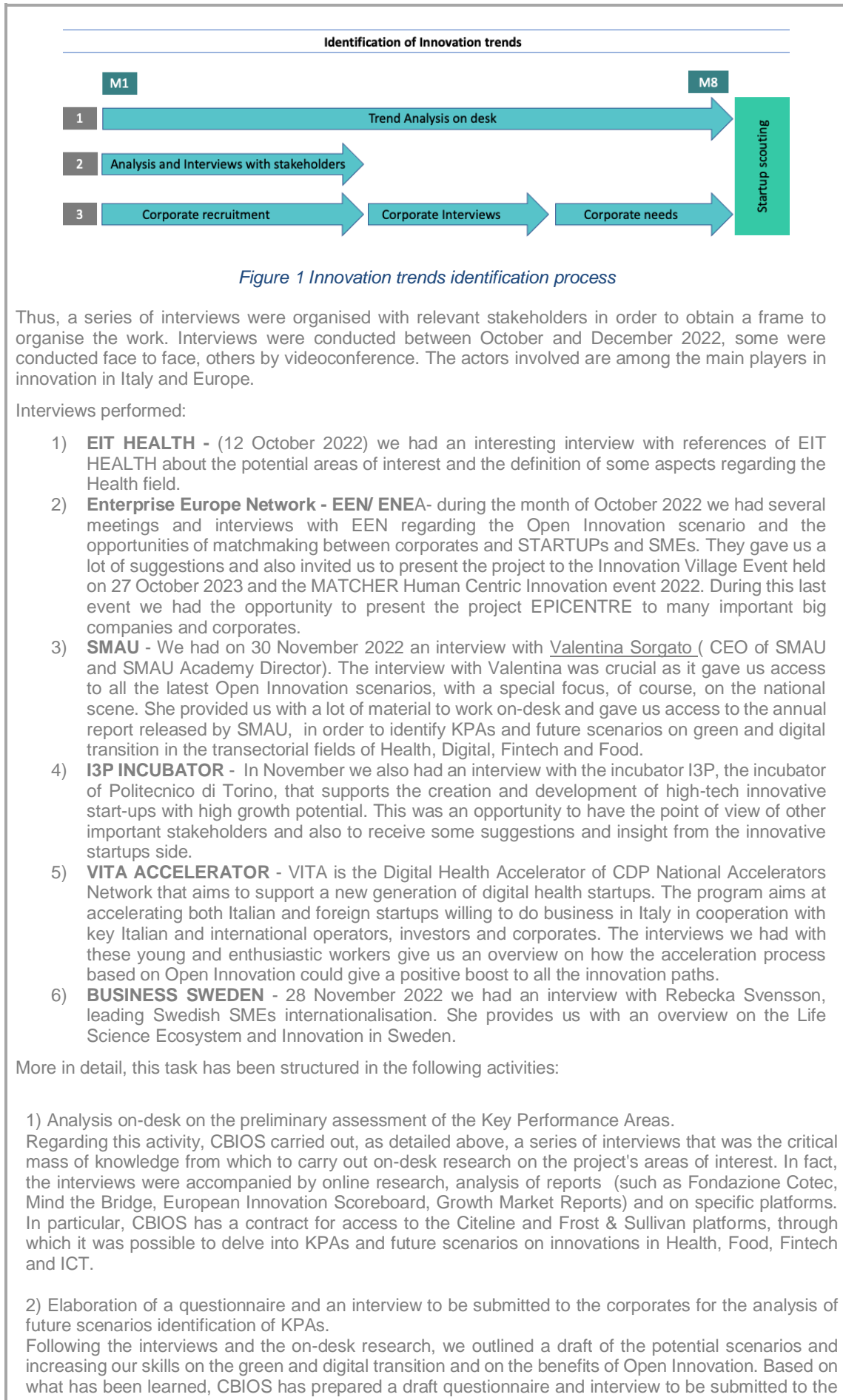
The key objectives are:

- Foster key corporate engagements from Digital, Agri-food and Health sector in order to create interaction with the SMEs involved in the project.

- Scan needs and challenges to explore future scenarios for creating collaborations between corporates and SMEs.

- Formalise corporate needs into Key Performance Areas (KPAs), that will be the basis for the definition of the Open Call for SMEs projects (WP3).

This WP is addressed to identify the KPAs, defined as "a corporate´s innovation need", which has to be translated into technical requirements, together with likely cooperation scenarios between corporates and SMEs to fine-tune the Open Call so that SMEs are adequately challenged to develop new products or improve existing ones, services and business models that are market-oriented, scalable and capable of generating high impact. The Preliminary assessment of the Key Performance Areas and corporates was realised by a combination of on- desk research and qualitative assessment (studies for the identification of the innovations that companies are currently working on, the innovations needed for the future and the expected impact on the performance of the EU industry and establishment of new value chains) and quantitative assessment (online surveys and questionnaires).

The activities performed in WP2 were implemented under T2.1 Preliminary assessment of Key Performance Areas, T2.2 Promotion of EPICENTRE towards corporates and selection of corporates, T2.3 Validation of the KPAs and cooperation scenarios and T2.4 Corporates formal commitment.

T2.1 Preliminary assessment of Key Performance Areas

This activity is focused on the assessment of KPAs. The way to obtain this result was multi-faced. As the first step, in order to organise this crucial activity, a Strategic Methodology for the final assessment of the KPAs was defined. In detail, the study and analysis of the innovation trends for the identification of KPAs foresees several phases as shown in the figure below: 1) Analysis on desk; 2) analysis of the scenario with the main stakeholders, through surveys and interviews. 3) In parallel the study concerned the collection of corporate needs, collected through questionnaires, interviews and targeted meetings. (Contributors CBIOS)

Identification of Innovation trends

Figure 1 Innovation trends identification process

Thus, a series of interviews were organised with relevant stakeholders in order to obtain a frame to organise the work. Interviews were conducted between October and December 2022, some were conducted face to face, others by videoconference. The actors involved are among the main players in innovation in Italy and Europe.

Interviews performed:

1) **EIT HEALTH -** (12 October 2022) we had an interesting interview with references of EIT HEALTH about the potential areas of interest and the definition of some aspects regarding the Health field.
2) **Enterprise Europe Network - EEN/ ENE**A- during the month of October 2022 we had several meetings and interviews with EEN regarding the Open Innovation scenario and the opportunities of matchmaking between corporates and STARTUPs and SMEs. They gave us a lot of suggestions and also invited us to present the project to the Innovation Village Event held on 27 October 2023 and the MATCHER Human Centric Innovation event 2022. During this last event we had the opportunity to present the project EPICENTRE to many important big companies and corporates.
3) **SMAU** - We had on 30 November 2022 an interview with Valentina Sorgato (CEO of SMAU and SMAU Academy Director). The interview with Valentina was crucial as it gave us access to all the latest Open Innovation scenarios, with a special focus, of course, on the national scene. She provided us with a lot of material to work on-desk and gave us access to the annual report released by SMAU, in order to identify KPAs and future scenarios on green and digital transition in the transectorial fields of Health, Digital, Fintech and Food.
4) **I3P INCUBATOR** - In November we also had an interview with the incubator I3P, the incubator of Politecnico di Torino, that supports the creation and development of high-tech innovative start-ups with high growth potential. This was an opportunity to have the point of view of other important stakeholders and also to receive some suggestions and insight from the innovative startups side.
5) **VITA ACCELERATOR** - VITA is the Digital Health Accelerator of CDP National Accelerators Network that aims to support a new generation of digital health startups. The program aims at accelerating both Italian and foreign startups willing to do business in Italy in cooperation with key Italian and international operators, investors and corporates. The interviews we had with these young and enthusiastic workers give us an overview on how the acceleration process based on Open Innovation could give a positive boost to all the innovation paths.
6) **BUSINESS SWEDEN** - 28 November 2022 we had an interview with Rebecka Svensson, leading Swedish SMEs internationalisation. She provides us with an overview on the Life Science Ecosystem and Innovation in Sweden.

More in detail, this task has been structured in the following activities:

1) Analysis on-desk on the preliminary assessment of the Key Performance Areas.
Regarding this activity, CBIOS carried out, as detailed above, a series of interviews that was the critical mass of knowledge from which to carry out on-desk research on the project's areas of interest. In fact, the interviews were accompanied by online research, analysis of reports (such as Fondazione Cotec, Mind the Bridge, European Innovation Scoreboard, Growth Market Reports) and on specific platforms. In particular, CBIOS has a contract for access to the Citeline and Frost & Sullivan platforms, through which it was possible to delve into KPAs and future scenarios on innovations in Health, Food, Fintech and ICT.

2) Elaboration of a questionnaire and an interview to be submitted to the corporates for the analysis of future scenarios identification of KPAs.
Following the interviews and the on-desk research, we outlined a draft of the potential scenarios and increasing our skills on the green and digital transition and on the benefits of Open Innovation. Based on what has been learned, CBIOS has prepared a draft questionnaire and interview to be submitted to the

companies (both those initially identified and those reached through the dissemination and presentation of the project at the various events). The questionnaire and the interview are based on the collection of information about innovations and technological challenges that corporates intend to promote through their participation in the Epicentre project. It has been taken into account that in it was strategic the organisation of personalised meetings with the identified corporates for the evaluation of the KPAs, preliminarily identified on-desk, and understand the expectations of the large corporates in terms of SMEs profile to be involved in the project (start-ups, established SMEs, minimum turnover, patents, IP, growth potential, etc). These first drafts were presented at the monthly consortium meeting and submitted to the evaluation of the other partners. After some evaluations and exchanges of point of views regarding the questions of the questionnaire and in the interviews, we agreed on a final version of the questionnaire and an outline of the questions to be asked during the interviews to be submitted to the corporates. (Contributors CBIOS)

3) Each cluster sent the questionnaire to the identified corporates and organised one-to one interview with the corporates that had shown their interest (all partners contribution)

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

- Questionnaire sent: 45 corporates
- Responses to questionnaire: 27
- Corporates interviewed: 20 interviews

T2.2 Promotion of EPICENTRE towards corporates and selection of corporates

This task consists in activities aimed to attract corporates through the combination of individual target approach and strong and open marketing effort of EPICENTRE benefits for corporates. A tailored Expression of Interest (EoI) was realised to ensure corporate commitment with key processes and activities from EPICENTRE.

The activities of this task are as follows:

1) Identification and creation of a list of target corporates, big companies and stakeholders to be involved in the project EPICENTRE.
This first activity was the starting point for the work done by the partners. CBIOS prepared a master file to collect a list of corporates and stakeholders or other entities with whom we already had collaborative activities and/or members of our respective clusters. (contributors CBIOS and all partners)

2) Elaboration of a project presentation to be sent to corporates and stakeholders in order to explain the project paths and invite them to join the EPICENTRE project.
In order to adopt effective communication and involve the big companies and corporates in the EPICENTRE project, a presentation was prepared that would accurately and effectively explain the objectives, methods of implementation, and expected results of the acceleration process implemented during the project. In addition, a note was prepared and each partner sent it, together with the presentation, to all corporates that had been initially identified within their cluster members. To maximise the effects of communication CBIOS set off a press release in a national newspaper announcing the start of the project. (Contributors to CBIOS and all partners).

3) Promotion of the project towards corporates (CBIOS and all partners contribution)

In order to promote the project objectives through several communication channels and attract corporates for their involvement we participated in disparate events:

- INNOVATION VILLAGE - EEN - ENEA - 19 October 2022

- MATCHER Human Centric Innovation - online event - 20 November 2022

- SMAU EVENT - Napoli - 15 and 16 December 2022

- SMAU - TECHNICAL ROUND TABLES WITH CORPORATES - Napoli - 15 and 16 December 2022

- VITA ACCELERATOR - Meet the Innovation Ecosystem Event – Salerno - 27 January 2023

- EMBASSY Of SWEDEN - SWEDEN meet ITALY Life Science Event – Rome - 28 February 2023

4) Tailored newsletters

In order to attract a maximum number of corporates, tailored newsletters was prepared and periodically launched. Here follows the numbers of audience:
- 126K recipients,

- 25 K opens (20.56%) - 36K total (which means more than 10K people reopened it!) and a click-through rate of 2.66%.
- IN/FB/IG: 750 reach | 1.8% CTR |
- 3.4% interest rate

5) Elaboration of the call for Expression of Interest (EoI) and validation of other partners

We prepared a draft of the Expression of Interest and an introduction of the objectives of the project and the benefits of joining the project.
Generic questions (company name, scope, project contact person or innovation sector) were included in the first part of the EoI. The second part, on the other hand, contains questions regarding the areas in which the companies would like to explore potential innovations; whether they are willing to collaborate with other companies and following the progress of the proposals submitted by innovative start-ups and SMEs. The draft was submitted to the partners approval. (Contributor CBIOS)

6) Elaboration of an online application form (Contributor CBIOS)

Once the Expression of Interest was approved, on 14 November 2022 it was launched online and linked to the project webpage and also to the partners web pages. An introduction page was dedicated to the criteria, the opportunities offered and the guideline for participation. The open call for Corporate EoI was open until 20 January 2023. (Contributors CBIOS and all partners)

7) Publication of the EoI on several platforms, EEN and ECCP - CEBR - ALISEI and promotion through the partners' networks and newsletters. (Contributors CBIOS and all partners)

To maximise the impact of the open call for expressions of interest from companies, we launched it on several platforms, emphasising the benefits for companies to participate:
● The opportunity to build new innovation capabilities.

● A customised service to better define your needs and strengths to facilitate matchmaking.

● A tailor-made vetting service to identify suitable start-ups to provide solutions that address predefined corporates criticalities.

● Implementation of prototypes in real environments through financial support to SMEs and STARTUPs.

● Exploring potential partnership agreements

8) List of participating corporates (CBIOS and all partners)

After the deadline, all Expressions of Interest were collected and a master file of all corporate feedback was compiled and integrated with the answers from the questionnaires and interviews. (CBIOS and all partners)

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:
● number of corporates and stakeholders preliminary identified:119
● number of email sent to corporates and stakeholders preliminary identified:119
● number of corporate applicants to EoI: 62
● number of selected corporates after EoI: 28

T2.3 Validation of the KPAs and cooperation scenarios

Following the study of the background and of the innovation scenarios in the sectors of Food, Health, Digital and Fintech, the EPICENTRE Partners focused on a multi-modal strategic approach to ensure corporate participation in order to identify their innovation needs, the trends of innovation in which they are open to explore potential solutions and the KPAs.

Summarising, the strategy adopted to collect and reach the final validation of KPAs consists of several and multifaceted approaches:
1) Firstly, we have prepared a list of companies to be contacted according to our previous collaborations.
2) In parallel, we used several communication channels in order to increase the number of potential participants.

3) We have prepared a call for Expression of Interest for the participation of the corporate to the project Epicentre.

4) We also prepared a questionnaire and an interview to be submitted to the corporate that answered to the EoI, and to be used as inspiration for interviews.

5) We participated in several events (on line and in attendance) in order to launch the opening of the phase for the submission of expressions of interest and to maximise the impact of the project.

6) Following this phase we start a period of tailored B2B meetings and interviews for the presentation of the project, individually or to a wide audience, in order to receive more applications to the Open Call for Corporates.

7) In order to broaden the participation of companies and obtain support in identifying innovation trends and refine and customise the questionnaires according to the needs of the project, CBIOS also involved SMAU as experts in the field of open innovation, that is a company whose aim is to organise national and international events and to promote open innovation and interaction between the world of corporate and start-ups. This collaboration allowed us to reach a large number of companies and also to receive extensive feedback in terms of EoIs, interviews and surveys. For this procedure, CBIOS also received the support of an in-house resource, a journalist, expert in life sciences communication, who carried out all the interviews and assisted us in merging and synthesising all the results of the previous phases.

8) In the last phase, a document was produced that merged all the results from the EoIs, questionnaires and interviews. This document has been strategic for the identification of KPAs and the definition of challenges to be included in the Open Call for innovative SMEs and STARTUPs.

At the end of all these steps, from the result of the on-desk analysis, of the companies needs identification, based on surveys, interviews and B2B meetings, 3 KPAs for each sector Digital/ Fintech - Agrifood and Health, were outlined and validated and cooperation scenarios was drawn for each corporate selected, with the identification of priority topics, markets, technologies, and all the collected data are used for the open call and SMEs selection.

Within each KPA, several aspects where innovation could bring improvements are listed. For each sector, 2 CHALLENGES, and SUB-CHALLENGES, were identified from specific needs that innovative SMEs and startups can respond to, in order to meet the innovation needs.

The 3 KPAs identified and validated for each sector are:

- **Digital/ Fintech KPAs:** Sustainability - Digital Solution - Security

- **Agrifood KPAs:** Sustainability - Automation - Security

- **Health KPAs:** Sustainability - Virtual Care - New Products

The 2 Challenges identified and validated for each sector are:

- **Digital-Fintech Challenge 1:** How to apply digital finance solution (fintech) to cross- sectoral fields (data science, AI, blockchain, machine-learning, cybersecurity)

- **Digital-Fintech Challenge 2:** Digital Payment and Digital Identity (block chain, data sharing, digital transformation, gamification)

- **Agrifood Challenge 1:** Monitoring the health status of food production and shelf-life extension (security)

- **Agrifood Challenge 2:** New packaging materials and smart use of resources (sustainability, automation and security)

- **Health Challenge 1:** Development of new digital solutions in the learning and behavioural sphere that can be used by patients and families (virtual care and new products)

- **Health Challenge 2:** New therapeutic solutions derived from natural products and organic extractions (sustainability and new products)

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

- Number of cooperation scenarios: 3 by corporate.

T2.4 Corporates formal commitment

The objective of this task is to formalise the engagement of the selected corporates with a partnership agreement that include:

1. a letter of intent, signed by a legal representative of the companies,
2. a technical annex that includes the Key Performance Areas in which the company wishes to explore opportunities for cooperation with SMEs

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

- Number of corporates partnership agreements signed = **17**

Deliverables:

Within WP2 and during the reporting period, **D2.1 – Results of the call for Expression of Interest by corporates and validated Key Performance Areas** was submitted in M6. The document aims to create, in a first phase, a preliminary study on desk for the identification of innovation 'perimeters' and potential innovation scenarios in which to set up project activities. Parallel to the on-desk study, an activity is carried out to involve large companies in the identification of innovation trends and Key Performance Areas. The participation in the project foresees several steps: an expression of interest, a specific questionnaire on innovation trends and challenges for start-ups and Innovative SMEs and interviews dedicated to an in-depth analysis of companies' innovation needs.

Therefore, the second part of this document is dedicated to the identification of corporates and large companies, divided by sector of activity; the evaluation of the applications received by the corporates and of the proposed innovation scenarios. The final part of the document is focused on the definition of the Key Performance Areas extracted and identified from the work carried out on-desk and with the selected companies.

Milestones:

Number of corporates partnership agreements signed = **17**

Contribution towards project objectives:

The tasks performed so far in WP2 contribute to Objective 1: to facilitate the generation of resilient new cross-sector/border value chains from ICT and Fintech to Agri-food and Health to foster personalised nutrition, healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Any **Objective 1 KPIs** apply to WP2.

WP3: Call for proposals and SMEs sub-projects management (CLDI):

This WP addressed the crucial objective of providing comprehensive support to a group of outstanding SMEs by implementing a three-step funnel acceleration program and publishing open calls for participation. The activities performed in WP3 during the reporting period were implemented under T3.1 Open Call Management: from publication to selection. Taks T3.2 LAUNCH, T3.3 SUSTAIN and T3.4 DRIVE will be implemented in the coming months and will be reported in the next reporting period.

T3.1 Open Call Management: from publication to selection.

This task was successfully performed concurrently with the activities of WP2. The following activities were carried out in accordance with the outlined plan:

- Preparation: The preparation phase began in M1 and concluded in M8 with the finalisation of WP2, D2.1. CLDI led the process, while all partners reviewed and approved the final open call documents. These documents included the open call text, guidelines, materials such as contract templates for sub-grantees.
- Application Form: An online application form was designed with questions organised into sections, aiming to collect precise and concise answers. The form aimed to minimise administrative burden and allow applicants to focus on key areas.
- Open Calls: One open call was published, one in M8. The primary input for the open calls was D2.1.
- Publication/Promotion and Support: All partners, along with engaged stakeholders, made concerted efforts to communicate and disseminate the call. The call documents were published on EPICENTRE's website. Support was provided to interested applicants to ensure that their questions and doubts were clarified, enabling them to submit their high-potential applications

within the designated timeline. Offering email support, an FAQ section on the website, an online forum for open questions, and a series of webinars to present the procedures and address queries.

Throughout the process, the collaborative efforts of all partners ensured effective execution of the open call management activities. Any difficulties that arose were addressed.

Main **Task KPIs** achieved:

- Number of webinars conducted to explain the open call procedure: 6
- Number of open calls published: 1
- Number of SME sub-granted projects with signed contracts ready to start the EPICENTRE support program: 0

Deliverables:

Within WP3, the deliverable D3.1 - Open call documents KIT and subgrantees financing rules was successfully submitted in M7. This important deliverable encompasses essential components such as the Call for Proposals, subgrant agreement, and application form for the EPICENTRE project. It serves as a comprehensive guide outlining the requirements and specifications of the Call for Proposals, which is fully supported by the EPICENTRE project consortium and funded by the European Union.

The submission of D3.1 represents a significant milestone in the execution of WP3, ensuring that the necessary documentation and guidelines are in place to facilitate the open call process. It sets the stage for attracting high-potential SMEs, encouraging their active participation, and ultimately selecting successful applicants to benefit from the EPICENTRE project's support and financing opportunities.

Milestones:

The milestone achieved in this work package is the successful publication of the 1st Open call, led by CLDI in month 7. The call was effectively disseminated on various platforms, attracting eligible SMEs in the targeted sectors. This milestone signifies progress in promoting innovation and fostering cross-border collaborations within the EPICENTRE project.

Contribution towards project objectives:

The tasks performed so far in WP3 contribute to Objective 1: to facilitate the generation of resilient new cross-sector/border value chains from ICT and Fintech to Agri-food and Health to foster personalised nutrition, healthy and sustainable lifestyles; and to Objective 3 (partially): To select and engage 50 innovative concepts with high market and growth potential in a dynamic and challenging business support program aimed at facilitating the adoption of new processes and technologies by SMEs, and comprising 3-phases: LAUNCH-SUSTAIN-DRIVE**.**

Objective 2: To deliver a strong combination of support instruments and tools for scaling up innovation, matchmaking, and demonstrating at large scale innovative market-oriented applications developed by outstanding SMEs that respond to the challenge of a more digitised and green European Industry; and Objective 3 (completely); will be addressed once the 1st cut of the Acceleration Program finishes (end of 2023).

According to the **Objectives KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the status for the KPIs applicable to WP3 are the followings:

- (Obj. 1) No. of corporates involved during EPICENTRE support program to SMEs (>25): To be achieved once the 1st cut of project proposals are selected.
- (Obj 1) No. of cross sectoral and regional consortia applying to the 2 EPICENTRE calls (>200): 78 applications received in the 1st cut-off.
- (Obj 3) No. of SMEs contacted to apply to the EPICENTRE program (>2.000): 2.274
- (Obj 3) No. SMEs invited to start the EPICENTRE acceleration program (LAUNCH phase) (>50 per call, >100 for the 2 calls): to be achieved.
- (Obj 3) No. of SMEs finishing the 3rd phase of the EPICENTRE acceleration program (DRIVE phase) (>6 per call, >12 for the 2 calls), to be achieved.
- (Obj 3) % of total EPICENTRE budget used to support innovation in SMEs directly> 75%: to be achieved.
- (Obj 3) TRLs of the products to be accelerated (6 to 8): to be achieved.

WP4: Education, Training and business support to Start Ups and SMEs consortia (CLDI):

The main objective of WP4 is to develop and implement a set of innovative business support services in order to help SMEs create and manage viable and sustainable consortia, develop and implement collaboration agreements with corporates and, therefore, increase the SMEs' competitiveness and market

reach. The activities performed in WP4 during the reporting period were implemented under T4.1 Generation of a new concept: innovative business model for SMEs and start-ups open innovation consortia and T4.2 EPICENTRE Webinar: Support SMEs to apply to the EPICENTRE program. Taks T4.3 EPICENTRE Academy and T4.4 Monitoring of the EPICENTRE Academy program will be implemented in the coming months and will be reported in the next reporting period.

T4.1 Generation of a new concept: innovative business model for SMEs and start-ups open innovation consortia

Within Task 4.1 of the EPICENTRE project, the generation of a new concept involved the development of an innovative business model for SMEs and start-ups open innovation consortia. This task was successfully completed, resulting in the creation and conceptualization of the EPICENTRE business model and approach.

The activities performed in this task included recognizing the specific needs and challenges faced by SMEs in managing internal open innovation practices and establishing collaboration agreements with other SMEs and large corporations. Through extensive analysis and providing answers to relevant working questions, the project partners worked together to define and formalize the EPICENTRE business model.

The work distribution within this task involved CLDI taking the lead role, supported by the rest of the clusters.

T4.2 EPICENTRE Webinar: Support SMEs to apply to the EPICENTRE program.

The 1st webinar was organized by CLDI on the 29th of March 2023. During the "Breaking Barriers" webinar, a series of activities were conducted to empower SMEs, startups, and women, helping them overcome obstacles and achieve success in their professional journeys. The webinar structured as a 2.5-hour session, with expert speakers sharing their insights and experiences.

Here is a detailed breakdown of the activities performed, time of delivery, work distribution, key points of discussion, problem-solving, and achievements:

Activity 1: Presentation of EPICENTRE project (9:30 - 9:45)

Speaker: Núria Serra, Project Manager of EPICENTRE project at Clúster Digital de Catalunya

- The project manager, Núria Serra, delivered a 15-minute presentation introducing the EPICENTRE project and its role in supporting SMEs.

- The work distribution for this activity involved Núria Serra as project manager of EPICENTRE project and the rest of the partners providing support and input.

- Key points of discussion included the objectives of the EPICENTRE project and how to participate in the 1st call

- No difficulties were encountered during this activity.

Activity 2: Woman entrepreneurship and leadership (9:45 - 11:15)

Speaker: Iolanda Marchueta, Senior Advisor & Professor

- Iolanda Marchueta, an experienced Senior Advisor and Professor, conducted a 1.5-hour session on woman entrepreneurship and leadership.

- Key points of discussion included the challenges faced by women in male-dominated industries and strategies to overcome them.

- No specific difficulties were mentioned, indicating a smooth delivery of the session.

Activity 3: Business model: Why Startups Fail? (11:15 - 11:45)

Speaker: Albert Rivero, Expert in business development and strategic planning.

- Albert Rivero, an expert in business development and strategic planning, conducted a 30-minute session on the reasons why startups fail and introduced the concept of Lean Startup and Lean Experiment Map.

- Key points of discussion included common pitfalls that startups face and the importance of adopting a lean approach to minimize risk.

- No difficulties were reported, indicating successful delivery of the session.

Activity 4: Legal & IP: Fundamentals of corporate-SME collaboration strategy (11:45 - 12:15)

Speaker: Marc Milian, Expert in corporate Venturing and entrepreneurship

- Marc Milian, an expert in corporate venturing and entrepreneurship, delivered a 30-minute session on the fundamentals of corporate-SME collaboration strategy, focusing on legal and intellectual property aspects.

- Key points of discussion included strategies for effective collaboration between corporations and SMEs, emphasizing the importance of addressing legal and IP considerations.

- No specific difficulties were mentioned, indicating a smooth execution of the session.

Activity 5: Q&A session (12:15 - 12:30)

- A 15-minute Q&A session was conducted at the end of the webinar to address any questions or concerns from the participants.

- The work distribution for the Q&A session involved all speakers and partners collaborating to provide comprehensive answers and insights.

In conclusion, the "Breaking Barriers" webinar organized by CLDI on the 29th of March 2023 was a successful event aimed at empowering SMEs, startups, and women in their professional journeys. The webinar encompassed a range of activities and expert speakers who shared valuable insights and experiences.

The session on woman entrepreneurship and leadership, led by Iolanda Marchueta, provided participants with valuable knowledge and strategies to overcome challenges faced by women in male-dominated industries. The absence of specific difficulties indicates a well-delivered session that resonated with the attendees.

Albert Rivero's session on startup failures and the concept of Lean Startup was another significant highlight. Participants gained insights into common pitfalls faced by startups and the importance of adopting a lean approach to minimize risks.

Marc Milian's session on corporate-SME collaboration strategy emphasized the significance of legal and intellectual property considerations. Attendees learned about effective collaboration strategies and the importance of addressing these aspects for successful partnerships.

The Q&A session allowed participants to seek clarifications and receive comprehensive answers from all the speakers and partners involved. This interactive segment ensured that attendees had their concerns addressed and provided a well-rounded conclusion to the webinar.

The participants provided positive feedback from this webinar. The attendees likely benefited from the diverse range of topics discussed, gaining valuable insights and practical knowledge to apply in their professional endeavours.

In closing, the "Breaking Barriers" webinar successfully empowered SMEs, startups, and women by providing them with essential information, strategies, and inspiration. The collaboration between the speakers, partners, and attendees facilitated a productive and engaging event, setting the stage for future endeavours in overcoming obstacles and achieving success.

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

- No. of SMEs participated in the Webinar: 201

- No. of women participated in the women-entrepreneurship and leadership workshop: 84

Deliverables:

During the reporting period within WP4, the deliverable D4.1 titled "Developed portfolio of services regarding reskilling and upskilling offered by cluster organizations to SMEs" was successfully submitted in M6. This important document pertains to the services that will be provided by the EPICENTRE Academy, which is a key component of Work Package 4. The primary objective of this work package is to offer comprehensive education, training, and business support specifically tailored for startups and SMEs. In order to achieve this, a collaborative effort between CLDI and WORSLEY Acceleration Services has been established. The portfolio of services described in D4.1 encompasses a wide array of reskilling and upskilling opportunities that are designed to empower SMEs with the necessary knowledge and

skills required to not only survive but thrive in today's dynamic and ever-evolving business landscape.

Milestones:

N/A

Contribution towards project objectives:

The tasks performed so far in WP4 contribute to Objective 1: to facilitate the generation of resilient new cross-sector/border value chains from ICT and Fintech to Agri-food and Health to foster personalised nutrition, healthy and sustainable lifestyles;

The following Objectives will be addressed once the 1st cut of the Acceleration Program finishes (end of 2023).

- Objective 2: To deliver a strong combination of support instruments and tools for scaling up innovation, matchmaking, and demonstrating at large scale innovative market-oriented applications developed by outstanding SMEs that respond to the challenge of a more digitised and green European Industry;
- Objective 3: To select and engage 50 innovative concepts with high market and growth potential in a dynamic and challenging business support program aimed at facilitating the adoption of new processes and technologies by SMEs, and comprising 3-phases: LAUNCH-SUSTAIN-DRIVE*;*
- Objective 4: to provide an end-to-end business support services program to support the SME consortia to achieve the product market fit phase either by formalissing a business collaboration agreement with corporates or other market players (sales agreement, licensing, investment in the SME or acquisition…) or getting early adopters to use the technology*;*

According to the **Objectives KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the status for the KPIs applicable to WP4 are the followings:

- (Obj. 2) No. of SMEs participated in webinars and B2Bs>500: 201

- (Obj. 2)No. of women participated in the women-entrepreneurship activities >100: 84

- (Obj. 2) No. of industrial and business experts available to provide support to SMEs (> 30): to be achieved.

- (Obj. 2) No. of external players joining EPICENTRE's innovation hubs created via SMEBOOK> 250: to be achieved.

- (Obj. 4) No. of long-term business agreements between SMEs and SMEs- corporates (>50);

- (Obj. 4) No. of SMEs receiving business support services (>100): to be achieved.

WP5: Cluster capacity building and Go International (LITMEA): this WP is addressed to build up the cluster manager's skills to offer better services for up / re-skilling and attracting talents and to establish services that support international trade, investment and partnering opportunities for European SMEs to boost their internationalisation beyond Europe by intensifying business network collaboration. The activities performed in WP5 during the reporting period were implemented under T5.1 Build up the cluster's managers' skills to offer better service for up/reskilling and talents management. T5.2 Joint internationalization strategy with implementation roadmap for the Partnership towards specific third markets and Intelligence gathering.

Other WP5 tasks as T5.3 Implementation of International activities: development and signature of cooperation agreements (C2C) and orchestration of business agreements and T5.4 Services portfolio for international activities will start in the coming months and will be reported in the next reporting period.

T5.1 Build up the cluster's managers' skills to offer better service for up/reskilling and talents management.

T5.1 - In process

The Sub-task 5.1.1. Co-learning interregional boot camp about the development of cluster management skills towards more European world-class clusters started with the identification of areas for improvement made by the internal team of each cluster. Each Project partner identified 5 skills which should be improved during the project implementation, see the table below.

No.	Cluster Name	Skills should be improved				
		1.	**2.**	**3.**	**4.**	**5.**
1.	CLDI	Technical Skills: to analyse global value chains, develop new business models, and promote the uptake of innovations. To have expertise in digital transformation and resource-efficient solutions.	Strategic Thinking: To identify opportunities for internationaliz ation and define the services that will be provided to cluster members and SMEs	Strategic Thinking: To identify opportunities for internationaliz ation and define the services that will be provided to cluster members and SMEs	Innovation: To foster a culture of innovation within the cluster and its members. To be able to identify innovative solutions to problems and promote the uptake of new technologies.	Networking: To have strong networking skills to establish and maintain relationships with cluster members, stakeholders, and partners. To be able to identify potential collaborators and opportunities for growth.
2.	CBIOS	Technical skills: Increase the capacity to monitoring and mapping the skills of cluster members in order to be able to offer more and more customised and targeted services according to their needs.	Strategic Thinking: improve our knowledge on green and sustainable transition and expand our capacity to disseminate this knowledge to cluster members.	Strategic Thinking: improve the potential to become a "reference point" for cluster members on the topic of internationalis ation.	Innovation: Increase the capacity to foster a culture of innovation among cluster members and the ability to act as an innovation broker by identifying innovative solutions and promoting the adoption of new technologies.	Networking: increase the cluster networking power, both inwardly, by circulating ideas, initiatives and opportunities for collaboration among cluster members, and outwardly, in order to promote the critical mass of cluster expertise and have a return in terms of image, promotion of regional and sectoral skills.
3.	LITMEA	Resource-efficient mapping and analysis of cluster members' needs	Fostering active engagement of cluster members in cluster activities.	Opportunities for internationaliz ation for cluster memebers	Promoting SMEs' uptake of innovation	Networking (strengthening relations with cluster members, looking for new members, fostering intra-collaboration between cluster members)

Table 1 Skills to be improved identified by the Clusters

After identification, the training, coaching and mentoring activities started to be planned and organised. All training is planned to finish until the end of 30/09/2023.

The Sub-task 5.1.2 Equipping activities for the clusters management team started by sharing the main 5 topics (1) green and digital transformation, on (2) adoption of innovation, on (3) internationalisation and on (4) circular economy, (5) Sustainability & Certification according to the qualifications and competences of the project partners' expertees in those areas. The topics were divided by project partners as shown in the table below.

No.	Topic name	CLDI	CBIOS	LITMEA
1.	Green and digital transformation		x	
2.	Adoption of innovation	x		
3.	Internationalisation	x	x	
4.	Circular economy			x
5.	Sustainability & Certification			x

Table 2 Topic identified by the Clusters

The Sub-task 5.1.3. Knowledge and expertise sharing online workshops about good practices of helping clusters organisations to team up at European level is in process and started with the discussion about the valuable topic for knowledge and expertise sharing workshops (planning to organise up to 3 online workshops by each project partner).

4. Project partner CLDI proposed the topic: The Key Steps of an End-to-End Innovation Process,
5. Project partner CBIOS proposed the topic: Strategies for clusters internationalisation, and
6. Project partner LITMEA proposed the topic: Networking and collaboration activities.

Sub-task 5.1.4. Joining in the Pact for Skills: signing up to the Charter. During the reporting period all clusters joined the Pact and signed up the Charter and its key principles, which they agreed to respect and uphold. The key principles of the Charter are: promoting a culture of lifelong learning for all; building strong skills partnerships; monitoring skills supply/demand and anticipating skills needs and working against discrimination and for gender equality and equal opportunities.

Sub-task 5.1.5 Preparation of guidebook for the implementation of Pact for Skills. During the reporting period the preparation of the guidebook was started. The structure was created, and the content started to be filled in.

T5.2 Joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap for the Partnership towards specific third markets and Intelligence gathering

T5.2 - In process

Sub-task 5.2.1. Deep market research of 3rd countries and opportunities identification for EU SMEs. In the mid of the reporting period the T5.2 started to plan the implementation of the sub-task 5.2.1. The sub-task was started with the identification of the 3rd countries which will be involved in project activities and will be explored by each project partner. Mostly was suggested these 3rd markets: USA, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Colombia, Ecuador, Singapore, Georgia. The structure of market research is developing during the reporting period. The exploratory missions for EPICENTRE clusters to third countries is planning for better results on research.

Sub-Task 5.2.2. Development of international skills for clusters. During the reporting period it was decided to organise a 2-day session in Lithuania (on-site) in November, 2023. All preparation activities and tasks are started.

Sub-Task 5.2.3. EPICENTRE joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap. Not started yet during this reporting period. All activities in sub-task 5.2.3. will start after sub-tasks 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

T5.3 Implementation of International activities: development and signature of cooperation agreements (C2C) and orchestration of business agreements (B2B) Not started. Planning to start on the 01/09/2024

T5.4 Services portfolio for international activities Not started. Planning to start on the 01/12/2024

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the following have been achieved:

5.1 TASK KPIs:
- Number of employees in cluster organisations which received trainings: 0
- Number of Pact for Skills: 1 - Achieved
- Number of training plans supported for clusters and their managers: 0

5.3 TASK KPIs:

- Number of collaboration agreements signed with entities in third countries: 0
- Number of business agreements (or equivalent formal cooperation documents) 0

Number of SMEs that benefited from internationalisation services: 05.4 TASK KPIs:

Number of SMEs that benefited from internationalisation services: 0 **Deliverables:** to be achieved when the tasks finish.

D5.1 Training for cluster managers will be submitted in M14, after the present reporting period. This document will include reporting information, training material, agenda, and other proof about the deliverable.

D5.2 Services portfolio to implement internationalisation actions will be submitted in M24. This deliverable will be a services portfolio created via virtual, iterative and collaborative way.

Milestones: to be achieved when the task finishes.

- MS1 EPICENTRE joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap created and designed M24.
- MS2 The Pact for Skills signed M4 - Achieved
- MS3 Collaboration agreements signed M36.
- MS4 Business agreements signed M36.

Contribution towards project objectives:

The tasks performed so far in WP5 contribute (partially so far) to Objective 5 (WP5) to deliver a "Go International Programme" for EPICENTRE clusters and a "Capacity Building" process with the aim of providing them with the necessary skills so that they offer better services to their networks and facilitating long-term collaboration with innovation ecosystems in third countries that lead to new business opportunities for SMEs in their networks.

According to the **Objectives KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the status for the KPIs applicable to WP5 are the followings:

- (Obj.1) No. of Cluster Facilitated Brainstorming Sessions (6): 1
- (Obj. 5) No. of training plans supported for clusters and their managers (3): to be achieved.
- (Obj. 5) No. of employees in cluster organisations which received trainings (>15 - either from the EPICENTRE consortium and outside): to be achieved.

WP6: Communication, Impact Assessment, Dissemination and Exploitation (CLDI):

This WP addressed the goals outlined in the original project plan, focusing on raising awareness and visibility of the EPICENTRE project. The activities performed in WP6 during the reporting period were divided into two tasks: T6.1 EPICENTRE's Dissemination - Strategy, Plan, and Networking, and T6.2 EPICENTRE's Open Call & Programme - Dissemination and Supporting Hub. These tasks aimed to achieve the following objectives:

T6.1 EPICENTRE's Dissemination - Strategy, Plan and Networking

This task involved explaining and setting up a framework for communication between clusters, large corporate players, and innovative start-ups/SMEs. The goal was to create buzz, raise awareness, and enhance the visibility of the EPICENTRE project. Proactive online were implemented to engage a large number of innovators from all European verticals and clusters. The intention was to attract a diverse community of high-impact innovators who could offer technological solutions within EPICENTRE's targeted sectors.

During the project, Task D6.1 focused on producing a Communication Outreach Book that would serve as a repeatable and scalable resource for dissemination and dynamic communication strategies. This deliverable aimed to introduce lean dissemination principles.

The resulting Communication Outreach Book (D6.1) incorporated all the communication and dissemination activities developed throughout the project, along with their outcomes. It provided a comprehensive overview of the project's communication strategy.

CLDI took the lead as the task leader, working closely with all partners involved in the project. Together, they collaborated to create and implement highly focused, intensive communication. All partners actively contributed to the communication and dissemination activities. They played a crucial role in providing

relevant content and presenting the project to maximize the impact and visibility of EPICENTRE.

CLDI, as the lead partner, assumed the responsibility of coordinating the efforts and ensuring the smooth execution of the task.

According to the **tasks KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:
- Number of posts on project's social media channels: 202
- Entries (articles/press releases) in local, regional, national and European press, both printed and online: 4
- Specialized blog posts on the project websiteand the ECCP: 34
- Number of EPICENTRE Newsletters delivered: 27

This task continues until the end of the project, the KPIs will increase as more communication actions are implemented.

T6.2 EPICENTRE's Open Call & Programme - Dissemination and Supporting Hub

This task aimed to capitalize on EPICENTRE's existing partner networks and establish a collaborative ecosystem. The objective was to attract a critical mass of market-makers and foster a favourable open innovation environment.

During Task D6.1, a series of activities were performed, including workshops and webinars jointly organized with WP3 and WP4 webinars. The main objectives of these webinars were as follows:

1. Attracting and engaging top-notch innovators to the EPICENTRE business support program.

2. Facilitating the creation of consortia that would apply to the open calls.

3. Cross-promoting success stories.

4. Highlighting the role of clusters in bridging the gap between start-ups/SMEs and corporates.

These activities aimed to raise awareness, generate interest, and increase the visibility of the EPICENTRE project and its open calls. The outcomes of cluster-facilitated brainstorming sessions were incorporated into this task to be disseminated, further promoting the project and increasing its visibility.

Additionally, efforts were made to explore synergies with other EU Cluster initiatives and partner networks. A specific focus was placed on communicating and disseminating the potential of the open calls to the target audience, which included cluster SMEs, technology SMEs, and innovators from any sector offering solutions within EPICENTRE's four targeted sectors. Clusters made a strong effort to organize sector-specific webinar to explain the expectations from EPICENTRE and the Key Performance Areas (KPAs) to be addressed.

The dissemination of the open call was done through various channels, including EC channels, the EEN network, ECCP, EPICENTRE website and social media and relevant networks of all clusters.

In terms of the participants' roles, CLDI led this task with the support of all partners, as reflected in their active involvement in the various activities and contributions to the dissemination efforts.

List of webinars performed:

- 29-03-2023: #Breaking Barriers

- Link: [https://www.clusterdigital.cat/events/webinar-epicentre-breakingbarriers/] (https://www.clusterdigital.cat/events/webinar-epicentre-breakingbarriers/)
- Partner: CLDI
- Activity: Webinar: Presentation of EPICENTRE + Short training (epicentre academy)
- Participants Registered: 214
- Attendees: 96

- 12-04-2023: Cluster Alisei Communication Group - Board Members Webinar

- Partner: CBIOS
- Activity: Inform Cluster Alisei partners about SMEs and Startups call
- Participants Registered: 40
- Attendees: 31

- 19-04-2023: Info session: Convocatòria per a PIMES i Startups del projecte EPICENTRE

- Link: https://www.clusterdigital.cat/events/info-session-convocatoria-per-a-pimes-i-startups-del-projecte-epicentre/
- Partner: CLDI
- Activity: Inform cluster partners about EPICENTRE project and the call for SMEs
- Participants Registered: 18
- Attendees: 10

- 20-04-2023: Meeting with cluster members and presentation of open calls (On-site)

  - Partner: LITMEA
  - Activity: Inform cluster members and partners about EPICENTRE and open calls for SMEs
  - Participants Registered: 21
  - Attendees: 16

- 28-04-2023: Business breakfast with SMEs and Startups for funding opportunities (On-site)

  - Partner: LITMEA
  - Activity: External event organized with partners for all who are interested are invited.
  - Participants Registered: 25
  - Attendees: 15

- 02-05-2023: Info session for CBIOS partners

  - Partner: CBIOS
  - Activity: Inform CIBIOS partners about SMEs and Startups call
  - Participants Registered: -
  - Attendees: 12

- 08-05-2023: Webinar on presenting funding opportunities for SMEs (Zoom invitation)

  - Partner: LITMEA
  - Activity: Presentation of EPICENTRE and Call #1
  - Participants Registered: 62
  - Attendees: 39

- 17-05-2023: Euroclusters webinar: Internationalization of innovation

  - Registration link: https://forms.gle/LeqS1iebFiQyooa29 // Teams
  - Partner: CLDI
  - Activity: Presentation of EPICENTRE and Call #1

According to the tasks KPIs defined in the project proposal, the followings have been achieved:

  - Number of workshops, webinars, and roadshow info days (both online and in-person) :15

  - number of European innovators informed about project's Open Calls >2.274

  - number of identified and established communication synergies with other EU funded projects > 4

This task continues until the end of the project, the KPIs will increase as more communication actions are implemented.

In the coming months, the project will start Tasks T6.3 Monitoring and Reflection, T6.4 Resilience Preparedness, Sustainability and Exploitation, and T6.5 Impact Analysis. These tasks will focus on monitoring the project's progress in achieving desired outputs and impact within the open innovation system involving clusters, start-ups/SMEs, and corporates. Lessons learned, best practices, and insights gained from these tasks will contribute to the improvement of the project and future open innovation initiatives. The findings and analysis from these upcoming tasks will be reported in the next reporting period.

Deliverables:

Within WP6, D6.1 – Communication outreach Book 1 was submitted in M3. This document includes all the communication and dissemination activities developed throughout the project, along with their outcomes. It provided a comprehensive overview of the project's communication strategy.

Milestones:

N/A

Contribution towards project objectives:

The tasks performed so far in WP5 contribute (partially so far) to Objective 6: to take a comprehensive strategy to effectively carry out communication and dissemination activities, which will be aligned with EPICENTRE objectives and built on messages targeted to different audiences.

According to the **Objectives KPIs** defined in the project proposal, the status for the KPIs applicable to WP6 are the followings:

(Obj. 6) No. of organisations contacted to build EPICENTRE ecosystem - open call, supporting programme, social media, surveys, registrations in the project platform, the SMEBOOK, participants in webinars and B2Bs, etc.) > 3000 = 5000

1.2 Consortium set-up

Participants
Report on <u>changes</u> in the consortium composition (including structural, legal or management changes, if any).
See Technical Report (Part A).

Consortium cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)
Report on <u>changes</u> in the way the participants work together (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, etc.).

The consortium cooperation and division of roles within the project have proceeded according to the planned framework. Each work package (WP) leader, task leader, and deliverable (DEL) leader has fulfilled their respective responsibilities in an organised and efficient manner, contributing to the successful execution of the project.

The WP leaders have played a crucial role in overseeing the progress of their respective work packages. They have coordinated the activities of the teams working within their work packages, ensuring that the objectives are met within the specified timelines. The WP leaders have facilitated communication and collaboration among the team members, providing guidance and support whenever needed. By closely monitoring the progress and addressing any challenges that arise, the WP leaders have maintained a steady workflow and ensured the completion of the designated tasks.

The task leaders, on the other hand, have been responsible for the specific tasks assigned within each work package. Through regular progress updates and milestone evaluations, the task leaders have ensured that the tasks are executed effectively, meeting the desired quality standards.

Additionally, the DEL leaders have overseen the creation and delivery of project deliverables. They have closely monitored the progress of the deliverables, ensuring that they are developed according to the defined specifications and within the designated timeframes. The DEL leaders have coordinated with the relevant stakeholders, including the WP and task leaders, to gather the necessary inputs and ensure the accuracy and completeness of the deliverables. They have also conducted thorough reviews and quality checks to guarantee the final deliverables meet the project's objectives.

Overall, the consortium cooperation and division of roles have been executed in a well-structured and organized manner. The collaboration among the WP leaders, task leaders, and DEL leaders has facilitated smooth workflow, effective communication, and timely completion of tasks and deliverables.

1.3 Project teams, staff and experts

Project teams and staff (if applicable)
Report and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement regarding the organisation of staff or project teams. Provide CVs of key actors that had to be replaced (if required).

CLDI:

Mr. Christian Moscardi left CLDI before the project starts. Ms. Nuria Serra and Ms. Yeimy Ospina joined the CLDI in August and September, respectively.

Núria Serra is a project manager with track record in European projects. She has experience in financial management and control, project development status reporting, and risk management. Núria graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Barcelona and later pursued a Master's degree in Project Management from Salle Business Engineering School-Universitat Ramon Llull.

Currently, Núria is a project manager at digital cluster and oversees ongoing projects from planning to completion. Her responsibilities include overseeing planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring projects are completed on time, within budget, and to quality standards. She compiles and edits project reports, communicates progress to stakeholders, and participates in conferences. Núria also manages project budgets and schedules, develops project documentation, and engages in dissemination and communication activities.

Yeimy Ospina holds a degree in Law by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and holds a master's degree in international relations by the Institut de Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). She has extensive experience in managing research projects both at national and international level, in creating trustful relations with partners and local, national and international authorities, and in preparation and coordination of use of resources. Ms. Ospina responsibilities in CLDI are to supervise the comprehensive management of ongoing international, national and national projects, to participate in proposals strategy, design, writing and review sessions, and to foresight opportunities in European Projects.

Ms. Ospina is Epicentre Project Coordinator, thus, her role in the project is related to lead and contribute to the proper project execution on time and quality, to maintain close contact with R&D centres, municipalities and SMEs in order to ensure the achievement of the project's objectives; and to lead and contribute to compile reporting information, drafting and editing of project reports.

Mr. Joan Puaté remains as part of the team participating on behalf of CLDI.

CBIOS:

CBIOS includes a new collaborator:

Ms. Daniela Russo. With over 15 years of experience in communication, she began her career as a journalist working with local economic newspaper "Il Denaro", and today she writes for Il Sole24Ore, Italy's leading financial and economic newspaper. She is communication manager of the Tech Cluster Campania Bioscience, active in the life sciences field. She is also communication manager of the Meditech 4.0 National Competence Center, dedicated to SMEs' digital transition.

Over ten years of agency experience, she has been in charge of communications for Italian agencies operating in strategic European innovation and technology communities, such as ENEA in the framework of the Enterprise Europe Network, and the press offices of large companies, such as Laminazione Sottile and Adler Group, and trade associations, such as Confindustria Giovani.

With a degree in communication sciences, she holds a master's degree in journalism and several certifications in social media management.

Its role in the project is related to supporting CBIOS in the elaboration of interviews for companies and in the on-desk research for the identification of KPAs.

LITMEA:

On behalf of LITMEA, only Mr. Giedrius Bagušinskas - Senior Expert and Ms. Laura Uturytė - Expert remain as staff participating in the project.

1.4 Consortium management and decision-making

Consortium management and decision-making (if applicable)

Report on important _changes_ in the management or decision-making mechanisms.

The consortium management and decision-making processes have been executed as per the planned framework, ensuring effective coordination and collaboration among the consortium members. The following procedure was followed to facilitate smooth management and decision-making:

1. Project Meetings: Regular meetings and conferences were conducted throughout the project duration to facilitate communication and management strategies. Efforts were made to minimize travel costs by considering factors such as location choice and the number of representatives present. Virtual means were utilized when necessary. However, face-to-face meetings were prioritized for critical events like the

project kick-off meeting. Other meetings were held via teleconference.

2. General Assembly (GA) Meetings: planned to start in September 2023.

By adhering to these procedures, the consortium ensured that project meetings were conducted regularly, allowing for effective communication and decision-making among all stakeholders.

#§CON-SOR-CS§# #@PRJ-MGT-PM@#

1.5 Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy

Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy

Report on changes to the overall project management concept, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy (if any).

In terms of project management, quality assurance, and monitoring and evaluation strategy, CLDI ensured that the planned procedures were followed consistently. The project management approach adopted aligned with the initial plan, ensuring effective coordination and oversight of activities. The monitoring and evaluation strategy, as outlined in the relevant tasks and deliverables, was implemented to track progress, assess performance, and measure the impact of the project. Quality assurance measures were in place to ensure that deliverables met the required standards and that the project activities adhered to the defined objectives and guidelines. Through systematic monitoring, evaluation, and quality control, the project management team upheld the project's overall performance and ensured its alignment with the planned objectives and milestones.

#§PRJ-MGT-PM§# #@FIN-MGT-FM@#

1.6 Cost effectiveness and financial management

Cost effectiveness and financial management *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants)*

Inform about significant budget overruns or important changes in the financial management (if any).

During the implementation of the EPICENTRE project, CLDI has effectively executed cost effectiveness and financial management practices. A qualified financial manager was appointed, possessing expertise in managing budgets within EU Projects and cascade funding processes.

The financial manager diligently monitored the consumption of the project's budget, tracked EC funding, and ensured timely payments to all project partners.

Payment terms between the coordinator and partners were defined in the consortium agreement, aligning with the grant agreement with the EC, guaranteeing prompt payment to partners upon receiving funds from the EC. Throughout the project, CLDI has demonstrated a robust financial management approach, ensuring transparency and adherence to the agreed-upon financial procedures.

In the course of this project, we are pleased to report that there have been no instances of overbudget runs or overconsumption of resources. Our diligent planning and resource management have ensured that the project remains well within its allocated budget and resource limits, demonstrating our commitment to efficient project execution.

#§FIN-MGT-FM§# #@RSK-MGT-RM@#

1.7 Risk management

Critical risks and risk management strategy

Report on the state of play concerning the risks and risk mitigation measures (if any).

See Technical Report (Part A).

#§RSK-MGT-RM§# #@IMP-ACT-IA@#

1.8 Impact

Impact
Report on __changes__ in your impact analysis/strategy (if any) and the effects on the project/need for adaptations.

A dedicated task (T6.5) under WP6 addressed the Impact analysis. So far, no changes are considered on the impact analysis strategy. The data gathered on impact indicators together with success and failure factors, bottlenecks and learning points from all WPs will be the basis for the impact analysis, being focused on:

1. Impact evaluation of funded projects (input from WP3): quantitative and qualitative analysis will be applied to determine whether the supported SMEs' projects have reached their objectives.

2. Impact evaluation of supporting services of EPICENTREs clusters: analysis of types of services to start-ups/SMEs which appear to add more value to open innovation, especially when imparted by government-sponsored programs and enhancing collaboration with corporates.

The indicators used to evaluate the above-mentioned impacts are listed as follows, including the ones (partly) achieved:

Impact assessment KPI	Target impact KPI	Level of compliance
How many SMEs, clusters and business network organisations, and business support organisations will receive support from the action?	>100 SMEs, >10 clusters & business network, business support organisations> 5 Time plan: (M36). Source: WP3, WP4 and WP5 outcomes	To be achieved. The related tasks are ongoing.
How many business partnerships will beconcluded by the supported companies at the end of the action?	No. of long-term business agreements between SMEs and SMEs- corporates> 50. Time plan: (M36). Source: WP3 and WP4 (task 3.3, task 3.4 and task 4.3)	17 corporates partnership agreements signed to join the EPICENTRE program, as the first step to design the call KPAs, the selected SME-projects and the further agreements between Corporates and SMEs once the program is more advanced.
How many entrepreneurs will benefit from mentoring and mobility schemes, from the action (including young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups)?	>100 entrepreneurs (60% under 30 years old, 60% women, 75% from less developed EU regions) Time plan: (M36). Source: WP4 (task 4.3)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
1. "Network" related KPIs		
Number of resilience preparedness/business continuity plans	4 (one per EPICENTRE targeted sectors) Time plan: (M36) Source: (task 6.4)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of business and non-business actors linked to existing or new value chain;	>2300 contacted (>2000 SMEs for the Open Call, >150 corporates (T2.2), >50 clusters (T5.3), >50 other OI actors (T6.2) Time plan: (M36). Source:WP1 (Task 1.4), WP3 (task 3.1), WP2 (task 2.2), WP5 (task 5.3)	119 Corporates and stakeholders reached to participate sharing their KPAs. Tailored newsletters sent to 126K OI actors, reaching 25 K opens (20.56%) 2.274 SMEs contacted to

		apply to the EPICENTRE program 5000 organisations contacted to build EPICENTRE ecosystem - open call, supporting programme, social media, surveys, registrations in the project platform, the SMEBOOK, participants in webinars and B2Bs, etc.)
Volume of production/services under agreements	100% of products and services delivered by SMEs in EPICENTRE will be supported by agreements between the parties involved (SME-SME/SME- corporate) Time plan: (M36) Source: WP2 (task 2.4), WP4 (task 4.3)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of SMEs accessing market information;	No. of SMEs participating in EPICENTRE webinars and B2Bs>500, Time plan: (M36) Source: WP3 (task 3.1), WP6 (task 6.3)	201 SMEs participating in webinars.
Number of policy forums among value chain actors held to identify and address constraints atmicro and macro level (regulatory framework, trade policy etc.);	6 (T5.1 in WP5: workshops with regional clusters and relevant local public authorities such as innovation agencies to exchange best practices in providing support to innovative SMEs Time plan: (M36) Source: WP5 (Task 5.1)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of policy papers addressing key value chain constraints submitted to regional, nationaland EU authorities.	1 (to be included as part of D6.3) Time plan: (M36) Source: WP6 (task 6.5)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
2. "Innovate" related KPIs		
Number of new-to-fir products/services identified	No. of new products or services leading to potentially optimised value chains after the project ends (at least 5). Time plan: 5 years after the project, estimates will be done on M36. Source: Survey among participated SMEs and corporates regarding expectation on this indicator	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of businesses/SMEs directly benefitting from new value chains interlinkages developed by the Partnership;	>100 SMEs comprising consortia selected by EPICENTRE programme Time plan: (M12) Source: WP3 (task 3.1)	78 cross sectoral consortia applying to the 1st EPICENTRE call.
Number of and type of SMEs new innovation projects and new collaboration partnerships developed by businesses/SMEs directly benefitting from the action;	50 SMEs consortia (joint projects) selected to enter EPICENTRE innovation funnel Time plan: (M12) Source: WP3 (task 3.1)	To be achieved. The related task started in June 2023.
Number of and type of new or significantly improved products (goods and/or services), processes, new marketing methods, or new organisational methods, or eco-innovative and resource-efficient solutions developed by businesses/SMEs directly benefitting from the action;	% of supported SMEs that achieve market phase and demonstrate 1st customers/early adopters >60%. Time plan: (M36). Source: Survey among participating SMEs (WP6, task 6.2)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.

the contingency plan signed by consortia partners and SMEs supported.	50 contingency plans signed by EPICENTRE partners and SMEs consortia supported (these plans will be included as an annex to the sub-grant contracts). Time plan: (M36). Source: Survey among participating SMEs (WP6, task 6.2)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet
3. "Adopt processes and technologies" related KPIs		
Number of SMEs supported which undertook business process innovation tied to technological adoption leading to higher sustainability and digitalisation	>100 SMEs comprising consortia selected by EPICENTRE programme (higher sustainability and digitalisation potential will be criteria to select t SMEs consortia) Time plan: (M12) Source: WP3 (task 3.1)	To be achieved. The related task started in June 2023.
Number of projects based on specific needs selected for technical assistance;	50 SMEs consortia (joint projects) selected to address corporates needs (KPA) Time plan: (M12) Source: WP2 (task 2.3) WP3 (task 3.1)	To be achieved. The related task started in June 2023
Number of SMEs that receive the knowledge/training in each clusters;	All the supported SMEs (>100) will receive knowledge/training Time plan: (M36) Source: WP4 (task 4.3)	To be achieved. The related task starts in September 2023
Added value/total investment generated also as a percentage compared to this Action's budget;	1) Private funding raised: During the project> 0,5M€. 5 years after the project ends> 25 M€. Source: EPICENTRE call for proposals (WP3) and EPICENTRE business support program (WP4). Public funding raised by EPICENTRE supported SMEs. During the project> 5M€ (to be achieved during the project). 5 years after the project ends > 100M€. Source: EPICENTRE call for proposals (WP3task 3.3 and task 3.4) and EPICENTRE business support program (WP4 task 4.3).	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of green products and services commercialised under legally binding contracts;	at least 5 (out of the 25 initially developed in the Sustain phase). Time plan: 5 years after the project, estimates will be done on M36. Source: Survey among participated SMEs and corporates regarding expectation on this indicator	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
4. "Train" related KPIs		
Number of employees in cluster organisations which received trainings	At least 7 (all the EPICENTRE cluster team members indicated in section 2.3). Also, other cluster managers outside the consortium will be invited to join this trainings (in exchange of services to EPICENTRE) Time plan: (M36), Source: WP5 (task 5.1)	To be achieved. The related task starts on June 2023.
Number of SMEs investing in skill development of their employees in the scope of the project	% of SMEs investing in skill development of their employees: 100% of the EPICENTRE supported SMEs (to be achieved by M36). Time plan: (M36).Source: WP4 (Task 4.3) and WP6 (Task 6.4)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.

Number of Pact for Skills including a clear reference and role to clusters with regards to upand re-skilling;	One Pact for Skills Time plan: (M33). Source: WP5 (task 5.1)	Achieved. 1 Pact for Skills signed
Number of training plans supported for clusters and their managers/staff;	3 (one per EPICENTRE cluster) Time plan: (M33). Source: WP5 (task 5.1)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of clusters applying for a cluster Excellence management label and/or upgrade;	2 (two out of the three EPICENTRE clusters will apply for getting or upgrading cluster Excellence management label)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
5. "Go international" related KPIs		
Number of collaboration agreements signed with entities in third countries.	1) No. of new collaborations between the EPICENTRE clusters and/or with other clusters in third countries: >10. Time plan: (M36). Source:WP5, (Task 5.3) and WP6 (task 6.4)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of SMEs that benefited from internationalisation services	> 50 SMEs (25 SMEs consortia invited to the Sustain phase) Time plan (M36) Source: WP5 (task 5.3)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Number of (a) business agreements (or equivalent formal cooperation documents) (b) joint collaborative projects and (c) business contracts signed between the Partnership SME members and business and other relevant stakeholders from third countries (i.e. from non- COSME countries), leading to increase exports, investment opportunities and international ventures generating employment for European businesses;	>12 SMEs (6 SMEs consortia invited to the Drive phase) Time plan (M36) Source: WP5 (task 5.3)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet.
Expected impact of business agreements and joint collaborative projects supported through thisaction in terms of increased exports, increased jobs in Europe, new talents attracted, critical imports secured and direct foreign investments.	1) Potential No. of jobs created by EPICENTRE project at the end of the project >20. Time plan: M36. Source: WP6 (questionnaire to partners and supported SMEs) Potential No. of jobs created by EPICENTRE beneficiaries (SME & corporates) in the long run >100.Time plan: 5 years after the project ends. Source: WP6 (estimates based on the gathered information through questionnaire to SMEs and corporates at the end of the project)	To be achieved. The related task has not started yet
6. "Communication actions" related KPIs		
Number of Social Media followers (per Social Media channel used).	>3000; (Twitter> 750), LinkedIn>1500, Facebook>750)	200 followers in LinkedIn
Number of SMEs directly supported and coming from regions and countries different from those of individual Euroclusters' partners	>25 SMEs (out of 100 for the whole program) Time plan: M36. Source: WP3 and WP4 outcomes	To be achieved. The related task starts in June 2023.

Table 3 Impact KPIs

SMEs *(for SMP COSME)*	
How many SMEs, clusters and business network organisations, and business support organisations did receive support from the action?	To be achieved in the coming months, when WP3 finishes.
How many business partnerships were concluded by the supported companies at the end of the action?	To be achieved in the coming months, when WP3 finished
How many entrepreneurs benefited from mentoring and mobility schemes, from the action (including young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups)?	0

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1.9 Communication, dissemination and visibility

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding

Report on the communication and dissemination activities undertaken (to whom, which format, how many, etc.).

Describe how the visibility of EU funding was ensured.

If you described your project on your website(s) and/or social media accounts, please provide the links.

The project has undertaken various communication and dissemination activities to ensure the visibility of EU funding. These activities have targeted different audiences and have utilized various communication channels.

Communication Activities:

1. Websites:

   - A landing page was created on the CLDI website, providing an overview of the project and targeting citizens. https://clusterdigital.cat/projecte-epicentre/?lang=en

   - Another website was developed with a form specifically for SMEs and startups to participate in the project. https://epicentre.idconsortium.com/

2. YouTube:

   - Several infographic videos were produced, focusing on the EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups. The videos provided information on the call, corporate challenges, the application process, and how the project works. The links to these videos are provided below:

- EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQaro6Lrek8&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A

- Open Call for SMEs and Startups [short version]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9gbIPnbFms&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=2

- EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | What corporate's challenges will you face?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dccLOyQwxPM&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=3

- EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | How does it work?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dccLOyQwxPM&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=3

- EPICENTRE Open Call for SMEs and Startups | How to apply?:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rFJIYYc-Pw&list=PLs5npqBOcg02jiLUuPyLVwPQ-LxF_2h4A&index=5

3. Blog Posts:

- Specialized blog posts were published on the project website and ECCP, targeting SMEs, startups, corporates, industry companies, citizens, and EU institutions. A total of 34 blog posts have been published to date.

4. Logo:

- A project logo was created to establish a visual identity for the project.

5. Press Releases, Articles, News Entries:

- The project has generated articles, press releases, and news entries in local, regional, national, and European press, both in print and online formats. These communications have targeted SMEs, startups, corporates, industry companies, and citizens. Some examples of the press releases and articles include:

  - La Repubblica - Napoli

  - Il Corriere del Mezzogiorno

  - Sole 24ore

  - Il denaro

- Four press releases or articles have been published thus far.

6. LinkedIn:

- The project has established a LinkedIn profile to engage with SMEs, startups, corporates, industry companies, citizens, and EU institutions. The LinkedIn profile link is: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/epicentre-project/ The project has gained 200 followers on LinkedIn.

7. Twitter:

- A Twitter profile was created to communicate with SMEs, startups, corporates, industry companies, citizens, and EU institutions. The Twitter profile link is https://twitter.com/epicentreproj . The project has acquired 7 followers on Twitter.

8. Social Media Posts:

- Regular posts have been shared on LinkedIn and Twitter to engage with the target audiences. A total of 202 social media posts have been published thus far.

9. Newsletters:

- The project has developed a newsletter to provide regular updates and information to SMEs, startups, corporates, industry companies, citizens, and EU institutions. The newsletter is sent out monthly via email and covers project updates, upcoming events, success stories, and relevant news related to the project. The newsletter has a subscriber base of 500 recipients.

10. Webinars and Events:

- The project has organized webinars and events targeting different audiences. These events include informational webinars for SMEs and startups, industry-specific workshops, networking events, and presentations at relevant conferences and exhibitions. The webinars and events aim to provide information about the project, its objectives, opportunities for participation, and success stories.

11. Targeted Outreach:

- The project team actively reaches out to specific target groups through personalized communication, such as direct emails and phone calls. This approach is used to engage with potential participants, encourage their involvement in the project, and address any questions or concerns they may have.

These communication and dissemination activities aim to raise awareness about the project, attract participation from SMEs and startups, foster collaboration with corporates and industry companies, and showcase the impact of EU funding in driving innovation and economic growth.

1.10 Sustainability and continuation

Sustainability, long-term impact and continuation (if applicable)

Report on changes in your sustainability analysis/strategy (if any).

For the Final Report, describe the follow-up of the project after the end of the EU grant. How will the results be used or further developed. Describe the strategy to ensure sustainability of results and long-term impact. Comment on possible synergies/complementarities with other (EU funded) activities (if any).

The project sustainability is driven by the defined common exploitation plan, the defined business model and the exploitable results. According to the WPs and tasks implemented, it is soon to decide if changes are needed. to So far, it is envisioned that the sustainability strategy remains the same. Some learnings that will reinforce the project sustainability are:

- Engage the Corporates as soon as possible, work with them closely in defining the KPAs and Corporate scenarios and continue in close contact. Furthermore, the signing of the partnership agreement will be compulsory for them before publishing the call for proposals.

- Tests to verify any technical issues that may occur in the online platform used to manage the proposals and the interaction with the applicant is key to avoid unexpected events. A trial period of about 2-3 weeks in needed.

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1.11 Follow-up to EU recommendations

Follow-up to EU recommendations

Highlight corrective actions taken as a result of EU monitoring activities (including follow-up to EU project reviews, if any). List each recommendation/comment and explain how they have been followed up.

In response to the EU recommendations and as part of the monitoring activities, several corrective actions have been taken to address the identified issues. The following is a list of each recommendation/comment along with an explanation of how they have been followed up:
1. Extended the risk management plan: Based on the Project Officer (PO) recommendation, the risk management plan was extended to encompass additional potential risks and their mitigation strategies.
2. Suggestions to manage budget in case of changing cost categories of CBIOS: The PO provided suggestions on managing the budget in situations where there are changing cost categories. The project team has carefully reviewed these suggestions and implemented appropriate measures to effectively handle any budgetary changes.
3. Plan the call publication for the PO review and approve: As per the EU's recommendation, the project officer has taken the necessary steps to plan the publication of the call for the Program Officer (PO) review and subsequent approval.
4. The PO reviewed and gave feedback on the call document, providing several suggestions and reminders:

- Reminder that the call must be opened for 2 months.

- The deliverable must include the Eurocluster logo.

- Consider to fund 'up to' 25 proposals per cut-off.

- Include the SMP associated countries as eligible participants.

- Be more specific on the payments to be delivered by the SMEs for the EPICENTRE Academy

- Clarify the payments conditions to the SMEs – after completing the milestones.

These corrective actions demonstrate the project team's commitment to addressing the EU's recommendations and incorporating them into the project's management and operational framework.

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1.12 Policy feedback

Policy feedback *(for SMP COSME)*

Formulate possible recommendations to the EU with the aim to shape future policies for SME support (e.g. how to design the actions, potential new services for EU SMEs, what should be the budget and/or duration per project to maximize their impact, possible synergies/complementarities with other (EU funded) activities (if any) etc.

During the activities implemented several learnings and insights gained can contribute to EU policies to support SMEs:

- Encourage cross-sectoral partnership collaborations.

- Work towards the needs of the value chains.

- Collaboration between Euroclusters network: communication and dissemination activities to promote Euroclusters funded projects, identifying best practices and insights to approach SMEs and work with the value chains ecosystems.

- Access to mentoring and advisory services through the Financial Support to Third Parties.

- Capacity building program for European Cluster to tackle topics that contribute to the Digital and Green transition, re-skilling and up-skilling the Cluster management to tailer the specific needs of SMEs.

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2. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND TIMING

2.1 Work packages, activities, resources and timing

WORK PACKAGES

Work Package 1

Work Package 1: OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT (CLDI)

Activities

Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.

Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Task Name	Implemented? (Yes/No/Partially)	Justification (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T1.1	Team and project coordination	YES	T1.1 Team and project coordination was successfully executed, facilitating effective collaboration and communication among team members. Regular meetings were held to discuss progress and address any challenges. To prevent future issues, communication and coordination will remain a priority, with periodic evaluations for improvement. Overall, the team aims to maintain proactive and adaptable coordination throughout the project.
T1.2	Project's Quality management	YES	T1.2 Project's Quality management was effectively implemented to ensure the delivery of high-quality outcomes. Quality standards and processes were established and adhered to by all project participants. The project team will

			continue to uphold rigorous quality management practices, conducting regular assessments and making necessary improvements to maintain the highest quality standards throughout the project.
T1.3	Financial and Administrative coordination of the project and SMEs sub-projects	YES	T1.3 Financial coordination ensured timely and accurate payments to project partners. A dedicated financial manager oversaw budget monitoring and facilitated prompt disbursement of funds to partners as per the agreed payment terms. Continuous monitoring will ensure efficient financial coordination throughout the project, specifically regarding partner payments.
Other issues Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.		No significant unexpected events or adjustments were encountered during the project. All tasks were executed as planned, and there were no major impacts on resources, planning, or timing. The project proceeded smoothly without any significant issues.	

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*

Explain deviations from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).
Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)
Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).

There is any budget deviation neither use of resources so far.

Other issues	N/A

Work Package 2

Work Package 2: Analysis and assessment of the EPICENTRE Key Performance Areas through the active engagement of large industrial players (CBIOS)			
Activities			
Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.			
Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Task Name	Implemented? (Yes/No/Partially)	Justification (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T2.1	Preliminary assessment of Key Performance Areas	Yes	CBIOS has successfully carried out this activity with on - desk research and interviews of corporate t and stakeholders. Furthermore, CBIOS has also engaged an external agency (SMAU) that helps us to identify the scenarios through an interview and the participation in a unique event and working round tables during which we have met the most important companies of the innovation scenarios. And we were also involved in the project: a communication consultant that supported us in the interviews and in merging all the data collected to elaborate the final document on the KPAs.
T2.2	Promotion of EPICENTRE towards corporates and selection of corporates:	Yes	CBIOS carried out all the activities foreseen in this task and promoted during several events, from the earliest stages, the objectives of the project and the benefits that companies would gain from their participation.
T2.3	Validation of the KPAs and cooperation scenarios	Yes	CBIOS conducted an extensive work, in cooperation with the other partners, which, through the processing of data collected from questionnaires, interviews and on-site research, led to the elaboration of KPAs and their validation.
T2.4	Corporates formal commitment	Yes	With regard to the latter task, CBIOS, in cooperation with the other partners, although more companies joined through the expression of interest, achieved the signing of 17 agreements.

Other issues *Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.*	In general, all the objectives set were achieved. Certainly, our massive commitment to promoting the project and the benefits of corporate participation in the project had led us to hope for a greater response in terms of signed agreements. To adjust our approach, we also involved an external company that could help us to increase the number of big companies to be involved and, together with the other partners, we conducted a significant number of interviews.

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*

Explain <u>deviations</u> from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).

Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)

Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).

In order to carry out some activities provided within the WP2, CBIOS is supported by a natural person under direct cost, Daniela Russo, she is in charge to conduct interviews and produce questionnaires for the stakeholders and corporate.

In particular, Daniela Russo, as our regularly communication expert, journalist and strategist, was engaged with a time-limited contract, to carry out some activities related to the elaboration of the interviews to be submitted to the companies; moreover, thanks to her experience, she supported CBIOS in the interpretation of all the data collected on-desk and in the identification of the KPAs.

In this case, CBIOS didn't ask for a shift of cost category, as Daniela Russo has been hired under a direct contract, which falls under "Personnel Cost" category.

Other issues	N/A

Work Package 3

Work Package 3: Call for proposals and SMEs sub-projects management (CLDI)			
Activities *Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.*			
Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Task Name	Implemented? (Yes/No/Partially)	Justification (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T3.1	Open Call Management: from publication to selection	Partially	During the implementation of the project, we successfully executed the 1st call for project proposals. However, we encountered some issues with our platform, which temporarily prevented us from receiving project proposals for an uncertain period, likely around 1-2 weeks. Despite this setback, we were able to close the 1st call successfully. We received an impressive response, with over 80 project proposals (81 to be exact) submitted by more than 90 SMEs and startups from 19 different countries, from which 78 proposals haven been accepted for evaluation.

To address the platform issue, we immediately engaged our technical team to resolve the issue promptly and ensure that it does not recur in the future. We are committed to improving the platform's performance and reliability to avoid any similar disruptions during future calls for proposals.

As we move forward, we have scheduled the 2nd call for October 2023. Based on the lessons learned from the 1st call, we will take necessary measures to ensure a smooth and uninterrupted submission process for project proposals. We will closely monitor the platform's functionality and promptly address any issues that may arise to maintain the efficiency of the call and achieve successful outcomes. |
| T3.2 | LAUNCH | No | CLDI - planned to start in August 2023 |

T3.3	SUSTAIN	No	CLDI- planned to start in November 2023
T3.4	DRIVE	No	CLDI - planned to start in September 2024
Other issues *Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.*		Some technical issues occurred with the online platform used for the management of the call for proposals, but they were solved and no impact occurred in the reception of the applications.	

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)
See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)* *Explain deviations from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).* *Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)* *Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).*	
There is any budget deviation neither use of resources so far.	
Other issues	N/A

Work Package 4

Work Package 4: Education, Training and business support to Start Ups and SMEs consortia (CLDI)			
Activities *Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.*			
Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Task Name	Implemented? (Yes/No/Partially)	Justification (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T4.1	Generation of a new concept: innovative business model for SMEs and start-ups open innovation consortia	Yes	During Task 4.1, the EPICENTRE project partners worked together to understand the needs and challenges of SMEs in managing open innovation and collaboration. They conceptualized the EPICENTRE business model to address these needs. The full implementation of the model will occur in later tasks. The partners will continue to collaborate, evaluate the model's effectiveness, and make necessary adjustments. This iterative process ensures ongoing improvement and valuable solutions for SMEs and startups. Lessons learned will inform future projects and initiatives to enhance open innovation practices.
T4.2	EPICENTRE Webinar: Support SMEs to apply to the EPICENTRE program	Yes	The 1st webinar was organized by CLDI on the 29th of March 2023. During the "Breaking Barriers" webinar, a series of activities were conducted to empower SMEs, startups, and women, helping them overcome obstacles and achieve success in their professional journeys. The webinar structured as a 2.5-hour session, with expert speakers sharing their insights and experiences. The participants provided positive feedback from this webinar. The attendees likely benefited from the diverse range of topics discussed, gaining valuable insights and practical knowledge to apply in their professional endeavors.
T4.3	EPICENTRE Academy	No	CLDI - planned to start In September 2023.

T4.4	Monitoring of the EPICENTRE Academy program	No	CLDI - planned to start In September 2023.
Other issues *Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.*		Any unexpected events or adjustments were needed.	

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)
See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)* *Explain deviations from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).* *Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)* *Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).*
There is any budget deviation nor use of resources so far.

Other issues	N/A

Work Package 5

Work Package 5: Cluster capacity building and Go International (LITMEA)			
Activities *Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.*			
Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	**Task Name**	**Implemented?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Justification** (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T5.1	Build up the cluster's managers' skills to offer better service for up/reskilling and talents management	Partially	During the reporting period in T5.1 each project partner identified 5 skills which should be improved internally in each cluster during project implementation. After identification, the training, coaching and mentoring activities were started to plan and organise. Also during this period was started to organise training with 5 topics (proposed in project proposal). Experienced experts are invited to lead training for each topic. Also 3 topics for C2C online workshops were agreed. All training and workshops are planned to finish till the end of 30/09/2023. Also all clusters joined the Pact and signed up the Charter. The preparation of the guidebook for the implementation of Pact for Skills was started. All activities are done on a timeline.
T5.2	Joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap for the Partnership towards specific third markets and Intelligence gathering	Partially	During the reporting period in T5.2 each project partner identified the 3rd market countries which will be assessed to be involved in project activities. The exploratory missions for EPICENTRE clusters to third countries are started to plan for better results on market research. Also for better understanding a 2-day session in Lithuania (on-site) in November, 2023. Are planning to organise the training on the internationalisation topics. All activities are done on a timeline.
T5.3	Implementation of International activities:	NO	Not Started. Planning to start at 01/09/2024

	development and signature of cooperation agreements (C2C) and orchestration of business agreements (B2B)		
T5.4	Services portfolio for international activities	NO	Not started. Planning to start at 01/12/2024

Other issues *Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.*	Any unexpected events or adjustments were needed.

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*

Explain deviations *from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).*
Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)
Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).

There is any budget deviation neither use of resources so far.	
Other issues	N/A

Work Package 6

Work Package 6:Communication, Impact Assessment, Dissemination and Exploitation (CLDI)			
Activities *Report on the implementation status of the activities that were to be implemented during the reporting period and explain <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. In case an activity was not implemented or a deliverable not produced, please explain why.*			
Task No (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Task Name	Implemented? (Yes/No/Partially)	Justification (explain what was done and by whom; explain what was not done and why not; indicate how you intend to handle the situation and new timing; indicate if it was a one-off issue or how you intend to avoid similar issues in the future)
T6.1	EPICENTRE's Dissemination - Strategy, Plan and Networking	Partially	Successfully implemented the planned dissemination and communication activities outlined in the strategy book (D6.1). We engaged with stakeholders, leveraged partner networks, and utilised platforms such as the Enterprise Europe Network. Overall, the strategy effectively promoted the EPICENTRE brand, built ecosystems, and engaged stakeholders.
T6.2	EPICENTRE's Open Call & Programme - Dissemination and Supporting Hub	Partially	Delivery of 8 webinars to disseminate the Open Call. Communication through social media and customized emails.
T6.3	Monitoring and Reflection	No	CLDI - planned to start in September 2023.
T6.4	Resilience Preparedness, Sustainability and Exploitation	No	CLDI - planned to start in 2025.

Other issues	Any unexpected events or adjustments were needed.
Mention and explain unexpected events and adjustments that had to be made. Explain impact on other tasks, available resources and planning/timing.	

Milestones and deliverables (outputs/outcomes)

See Technical Report (Part A).

Budget implementation — Use of resources (deviations) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*

Explain deviations from the budget planning (i.e. differences between actual and planned use of resources, especially for personnel).

Include explanations on transfers of cost categories in the estimated budget (if applicable)

Don't forget to attach the detailed cost reporting table (if any).

There is any budget deviation neither use of resources so far.

Other issues	N/A

Subcontracting

Subcontracting (new subcontracts) *(n/a for Lump Sum Grants) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*
Report on new subcontracts. Explain the specific circumstances that caused the need for a subcontract

Include only subcontracts that are best-value-for-money and for which there is no conflict of interest. Keep in mind that subcontracting is not possible for key coordinator tasks and may normally not cover a major part of the action.

Subcontract number (continuous numbering linked to WP)	Subcontract name (subcontracted action tasks)	Description (including task number to which it is linked)	Costs (EUR)	Justification (why did subcontracting become necessary?)	Best-value-for-money (how did you ensure it?)
S2.1	CBIOS -SMAU SERVIZI SRL	Within the WP2 objective we consider that in order to increase the project visibility we need to enter a specific network of corporate and big companies. SMAU Servizi (which is today the most structured Italian platform dedicated to innovation, corporate and startups), through several activities and the opportunity to participate to their unique event gave us their support in the scouting of corporates interested in joining the project, and in strengthen the EPICENTRE positioning on the themes of innovation and Open Innovation	8.000€	While the project partners possess a robust network of contacts and the necessary skills to independently manage this endeavor, CBIOS recognized that engaging Open Innovation experts would strategically enhance the impact of the message intended by the EPICENTRE project. SMAU, with its annual involvement of over 50,000 companies across diverse sectors, stands as the pivotal platform for direct engagement with key players within the Italian innovation ecosystem. By collaborating with	7

				SMAU, the project gained unparalleled access and resonance within this dynamic landscape, making it a strategic choice in amplifying the project's influence and reach.	

Other issues	N/A
If subcontracting for the project rises above 30% of the total eligible costs during the project implementation, give specific reasons. Mention and explain other issues, if needed.	

Timetable

Timetable (projects of more than 2 years)

Report on <u>deviations</u> from Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.
Fill in the planned implementation in beige and the deviations in red. Adapt and repeat lines/columns as necessary.

Starting date: 01 September 2022

ACTIVITY	Y1				Y2				Y3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Task 1.1 - Team and project coordination	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task 1.2 - Project's Quality management	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task 1.3 - Financial and Administrative coordination of the project and SMEs…	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task 2.1 - Preliminary assessment of Key Performance Areas	■											
Task 2.2 - Promotion of EPICENTRE towards corporates and selection of…	■	■										
Task 2.3 - Validation of the KPAs and cooperation scenarios		■	■									
Task 2.4 - Corporates formal commitment		■	■									
		🟥	🟥	🟥								

Task												
Task 3.1 - Open Call Management: from publication to selection												
Task 3.2 - LAUNCH												
Task 3.3 - SUSTAIN												
Task 3.4 - DRIVE												
Task 4.1 - Generation of a new concept: innovative business model for SMEs…												
Task 4.2 - EPICENTRE Webinar: Support SMEs to apply to the EPICENTRE…												
Task 4.3 - EPICENTRE Academy												
Task 4.4 - Monitoring of the EPICENTRE Academy program												
Task 5.1 - Build up the cluster's managers' skills to offer better service foR…												
Task 5.2 - Joint internationalisation strategy with implementation roadmap for…												
Task 5.3 - Implementation of International activities: development and…												
Task 5.4 - Services portfolio for international activities												

#§WRK-PLA-WP§#

#@ETH-ICS-EI@#

3. OTHER

3.1 Ethics

Ethics
Not applicable

#§ETH-ICS-EI§# #@SEC-URI-SU@#

3.2 Security

Security
Not applicable.

#§SEC-URI-SU§# #@DEC-LAR-DL@#

4. DECLARATIONS

Combined surveys (if applicable) *(for SMP ESS) (n/a for Additional Prefinancing Report)*
Were there any changes in the repartition key (as compared to the proposal)? If YES, explain why.
N/A

Double funding	
Information concerning other EU grants for this project ⚠ *Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions).*	**YES/NO**
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it benefit/have benefitted from any other EU grant *(including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies (e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc).* If NO, explain and provide details	YES
We confirm that to our best knowledge neither the project as a whole nor any parts of it are (nor will be) submitted for any other EU grant *(including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies (e.g. EU Regional Funds, EU Agricultural Funds, etc).* If NO, explain and provide details.	YES

#§DEC-LAR-DL§#

FINANCIAL REPORT

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement must be filled out directly on the Portal Financial Statements screen.

N/A

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The consolidated Financial Statement is generated automatically by the system.

N/A

ANNEXES

LIST OF ANNEXES

Standard

Detailed cost reporting table (annex 1 to Part B) *(template* available *on Portal Reference Documents) — mandatory (n/a for Lump Sum Grants)*

Certificate on the financial statements (CFS) (annex 2 to Part B) *(template available on Portal Reference Documents) — mandatory if threshold reached (n/a for Lump Sum Grants)*

N/A

Special

n/a

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	29.6.2023	DEL1.2 1st mid-term technical report submission