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# Clustering Q&A

*A project labelled by the UfM*



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## Abbreviations

NHM = The Natural Heritage Mission

AR = Amplification Room

WG = Working Group

C4N = Community4Nature

D4N = Dialogue4Nature

PP = Project Partner

AP = Associated Partner

TP = Thematic Project

CoP = Community of Practice



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## Q&As

Here you can find a selection of often asked questions and answers for you to help you understand the clusters and clustering process. Please, re-read this Q&A when you work on a cluster since information might be updated and/or expanded.

### ***What is a cluster?***

A cluster is a small working group with concrete objectives, answering to a specific question, need or issue in the community. The clusters are tools, and they aim to facilitate the transfer of solutions. They are result-based, have a start and ending and a specific roadmap of activities. They are described in a summary factsheet and reported to the CoP.

### ***What objectives do clusters have?***

The main objectives of the clustering activities are transference and adoption of concrete TP results. The clusters aim to respond to specific needs within the community, creating a tailored environment. The outcomes of the clustering activities are transference, networking, answering a specific problem, adoption, peer-revision of community results, and concrete experiences to feed the policy statements built within the WGs.

### ***Who can participate in a cluster?***

The whole CoP is welcome to participate and foster the creation of clusters. This includes C4N, D4N, APs, TPs, TPs' APs, and any person you consider relevant to join as an external partner can be invited into a cluster. Each cluster will be followed up and led by a M4N partner (PP and TP consortia) to ensure the correct development of the process.



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### ***When can a cluster happen?***

The clustering process starts after a specific need of the community is identified and is open for adjustment according to the participants' needs and the given cluster topic. In practice, a cluster can be as short as one day, if the work can be finalised within this period, or as long as the overall length of a project, if the cluster has more stages and/or there is a certain deadline involved.

### ***Why to cluster?***

This activity aims to address concrete needs, boost opportunities and engage motivated people from our CoP. Clusters aim to create the environment we need to work hands-on specific issues that cannot be tackled in big groups.

### ***Do I have to be in a cluster?***

No. It is not mandatory to participate in a cluster. The cluster is a tool for you to use if you see that there is a fitting opportunity and need for you. However, you will be included in a 'geographical networking cluster' which will be a purely networking space for you to meet other people, organisations, and projects which work on your local territory.

### ***How can I find a cluster for me?***

Clusters are a tool to answer a specific need or a question. So, if you have such a need, question, or an interest in collaborating with one or more people, you can reach out directly. A member of the C4N project will always be able to give you instructions on how this works, where you can find information on the relevant clusters already existing, or relevant people from the CoP to start a new cluster with. If you come from a TP, you can contact your assigned partner and express your wish to be in a specific cluster or create a new one. To help this process we will provide certain events and activities to foster clusters to be created, but proactiveness is the key for starting a cluster.



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### ***What kinds of clusters are there?***

Clusters are broadly defined as geographical and thematic. However, they are flexible as the clusters aim to answer to your specific needs. Do you want to work with scientists to exchange experience on a particular solution, tool or methodology? Or maybe you need someone interested or working on mainstreaming environmental governance mechanisms in European and national policies? Do you need people who work on monitoring water bodies? Maybe you just want to know people from the community in your country?

### ***What do I have to do when I want to cluster?***

You need to express your desire to join or create a cluster. You can do so by communicating with any C4N PP and sharing your ideas.

### ***How are cluster activities reported?***

A summary file needs to be filled out, a template for which you can find [here](#). This is done by the organiser of the cluster or a responsible C4N member with the help of all cluster participants.

### ***What can I expect from the cluster I am in?***

You can expect to deliver the goals and objectives set at the beginning of the cluster activity. This is specific to each cluster.

### ***How many clusters can I participate in?***

You can participate in as many clusters as you want. 😊

### ***What do I need to do in the cluster?***

You need to participate proactively to achieve the goals and objectives of the cluster for the benefit of all participants.



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### ***Clusters and public communication - How does it work?***

Feel free to promote the work you have done within the cluster on your communication channels. Don't forget to mention and tag the Natural Heritage Mission in your posts! If you have any questions, you can ask the NHM Communication team for assistance.

### ***What ways of work and channels of coordination can I use?***

Communication is tailor-made for each cluster. You can work and communicate in your cluster in any way that is most convenient and agreed upon by all cluster participants.

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#### **CONTACT US:**

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