

# From S3 Benchmarking to Cluster-Led Action

## WIDEX & IRM-HUB Workshop on Regional Cooperation

Consejería de Industria, Energía y Minas. Junta de Andalucía.  
C/ Johannes Kepler, 1, 41092, Isla de la Cartuja, Sevilla  
11th March | 12.00 - 15.00 |

## AGENDA

WIDEX (GA 101136796, Widening cooperation for industrial clustering and smart specialisation in raw materials) and IRM-HUB (GA 101091843, Integrated Raw Materials HUB for less developed regions) are two complementary EU initiatives that converge on a shared strategic objective: strengthening innovation, resilience, and investment capacity in Europe's raw materials ecosystems through smarter regional specialisation and more effective interregional cooperation.

While WIDEX focuses on enabling industrial collaboration pathways, through cluster cooperation and reinforced linkages with Smart Specialisation (S3) regions, IRM-HUB develops a robust, evidence-based understanding of how less developed, raw-materials-intensive regions can enhance their policy mix, investment instruments, and innovation ecosystem performance along key segments of the EU raw materials value chain.

Bringing both projects together in a joint workshop leverages their natural complementarity between systematic diagnosis and evidence generation (IRM-HUB) and action-oriented clustering and interregional cooperation mechanisms (WIDEX).

The synergy is particularly relevant as both projects engage similar stakeholder groups (regional authorities, S3 practitioners, cluster organisations, innovation intermediaries and value chain actors) and share the ambition to translate regional analysis into concrete cooperation opportunities.

A joint session avoids duplication of consultations and instead creates a shared "analysis-to-action" interface, enabling regions and clusters to validate priorities, compare profiles, and identify complementarities that justify joint initiatives. This is especially critical for RM-intensive regions, where scaling up innovation requires access to external capabilities, industrial partners, demonstrators/testbeds, market channels and policy alignment beyond regional boundaries.

This workshop is organised within the framework of the S3P Mining Regions General Assembly and the Interregional Exchange of Experiences of Mining Regions promoted by the Interreg EMRIE project.

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# AGENDA

**12.00 Workshop registration. Networking & welcome coffee**

**12.30 Welcome and objectives (CTA & ISMC)**

Brief introduction of both projects. Translate S3 benchmark and SWOT insights into a short list of interregional clustering actions.

**12.35 IRM-HUB framing: S3 benchmark and SWOT logic (CTA)**

High-level overview of the IRM-HUB approach: what the S3 benchmark looks at (policy mix, instruments, ESIF capabilities, socio-economic parameters) and how the SWOT identifies gaps requiring cross-regional cooperation along RM value chains.

**12.40 WIDEX framing: industrial clustering actions concepts (ISMC)**

Synthesize contributions into clustering action concepts, each captured with a theme/value-chain segment, potential partners/regions, expected outcome, and first practical step. Quick reality-check from clusters/intermediaries in the room

**12.45 Working groups**

- Working Group 1. Policy and S3 investment alignment for RM Value Chains (public representatives). IRM-HUB.
- Working Group 2. Sustainability and Stakeholder Clustering synergies on RM Value Chains. WIDEX.

**13.20 Wrap-up and conclusions**

**13:30 Networking Launch**

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