



EU CLUSTERING ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITALISATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AGRO-FORESTRY AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

FOCAL European Clustering Event
Zaragoza, Spain
6–8 May 2026

Organized by:



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Speakers

Stylianos Spathariotis, Business Development Manager – MNL Innovations



Dr. Stylianos Spathariotis is a Mining and Metallurgical Engineer with a PhD in Chemistry and Materials Science. He has experience in business development, project management and the exploitation of innovative solutions, supporting the transition of research results into market-ready applications. His work focuses on collaboration with partners, go-to-market strategies and the implementation of innovation in industrial and sustainability-related sectors. MNL Innovations is a research and innovation consultancy specialising in engineering, project management, sustainability assessment and digital modelling, supporting EU projects and contributing to the development of innovative and market-oriented solutions. At the event, she represents the FOCAL project (Horizon Europe), which develops AI- and HPC-based solutions for climate impact assessment, and the IT4EST project (I3 Programme), focused on deploying technologies to improve forest resilience and sustainable innovation across Europe. For more information: <https://mnl.eu> ; <https://www.focal-euproject.eu/> ; <https://it4est.flywheelsites.com/>

Elisa Bertesago, Grant Officer, 3Bee



Accredited biologist working as Grant Officer at 3Bee, where she focuses on identifying and managing European funding opportunities under Horizon Europe. Her work connects science, environmental impact and technology-driven innovation to support biodiversity protection and restoration. 3Bee is an Italian nature tech company dedicated to biodiversity monitoring and regeneration through innovative technologies. Using IoT sensors and AI, it provides data to help organisations measure and improve their environmental impact and develop ESG-driven initiatives. For more information: <https://3bee.com>

Radovan Hilbert, Business Development Director, YMS, a.s.



Senior expert in geospatial technologies and remote sensing, with experience in forestry, climate data and digital solutions. He works on transforming environmental data into practical tools for decision-making and contributes to European projects on climate resilience and digital twins. YMS, a.s. is a Slovak technology company specialised in geospatial solutions and data-driven decision support for forestry, agriculture and environmental management. For more information: www.yms.sk

Raúl Carrillo Beltrán, Chief Research Officer, Ecocastulum



Chief Research Officer at Ecocastulum, leading research and innovation activities focused on sustainability, mining and circular industrial solutions. He has over 18 years of international engineering experience and a strong background in advanced engineering materials. Ecocastulum is a Spanish SME specialised in circular economy, sustainability and industrial innovation, supporting the valorisation of industrial by-products and the optimisation of processes to reduce environmental impact and improve resource efficiency. At the event, he represents the OPTIMINER project (Horizon Europe), which develops innovative solutions to improve mining efficiency, reduce environmental impact and strengthen the supply of critical raw materials for strategic industries. For more information: www.ecocastulum.com

Speakers

Fernanda Pereira, European Project Manager, AICFD-Foundation



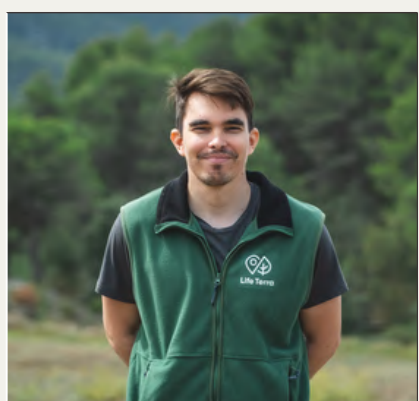
EU Funding & Project Manager working on projects in forestry, biodiversity and climate adaptation. Her work focuses on translating innovation into real impact, supporting implementation with communities and local stakeholders, particularly in sustainable forestry and agriculture. AICFD (International Association for Disruptive and Frontier Science) is an organisation focused on bridging innovation and real-world application, supporting projects in areas such as climate, sustainability and digital transformation. Within this, the Sustainable Forestry and Agriculture area promotes solutions that enhance ecosystem resilience and support rural development. For more information: <https://aicfd.org>

Maria Eleonora Ferrorelli, Project Officer, LOMARTOV SL.



Maria Eleonora Ferrorelli is a Project Officer at LOMARTOV SL, working on EU-funded research and innovation projects. She focuses on communication and dissemination, organising events and creating content to engage stakeholders and promote project results. She also integrates Responsible Research and Innovation, embedding ethics, inclusiveness, and sustainability into Horizon Europe initiatives. She brings prior experience from organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Rescue Committee. LOMARTOV SL is an SME based in Valencia, specialising in environmental engineering and sustainability consultancy. The company supports businesses and EU R&D projects in developing sustainable solutions. Its expertise includes methodologies such as eco-design, Life Cycle Assessment, and Responsible Research and Innovation. LOMARTOV also provides guidance on regulation, standardisation, certification, and market uptake. With experience in over 30 European projects, it works across sectors including energy, materials, transport, construction, and biotechnology. For more information: <https://lomartov.com/>

Tiago de Santana, Technology Manager, LIFE TERRA



Technology Manager with experience in developing digital tools for reforestation and climate action. His work focuses on making tree planting initiatives more transparent, accessible and engaging, connecting citizens with environmental projects. Life Terra Foundation is a European non-profit organisation focused on climate action through reforestation, citizen engagement and environmental education, supported by digital monitoring tools. At the event, he represents the LIFE Terra project (2020–2025), a European initiative under the LIFE programme that has enabled large-scale tree planting and active citizen participation in climate action. For more information: www.lifeterra.eu

Javier Sancho, SARGA, EFHERA project

Javier Sancho, from SARGA, will represent the EFHERA project (Interreg Sudoe). EFHERA focuses on improving post-fire recovery in agroforestry areas affected by large wildfires in Southwest Europe. The project develops a digital hydro-morpho-ecological model to support decision-making, helping identify priority intervention areas and optimise restoration planning in the short and long term. The project contributes to more effective forest management by reducing environmental degrada

Speakers



Nerijus Kupstaitis, CEO of the Forest 4.0 CoE, Vytautas Magnus University

Forestry policy expert and researcher with more than 25 years of experience in forest governance and sustainable forest management. He has held senior positions at the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania and is currently involved in advancing innovation and digital transformation in the forestry sector. Forest 4.0 CoE is a Centre of Excellence established by Vytautas Magnus University to advance smart forestry through the integration of digital technologies, policy and research, supporting data-driven forest management and innovation. At the event, he represents the FOREST 4.0 project (Horizon Europe), which aims to transform forest monitoring and data analysis through the use of artificial intelligence and IoT, establishing a Centre of Excellence for advanced forestry innovation. For more information: <https://vdu.lt>

Javier Sancho, SARGA, COOPTREE

Javier Sancho, from SARGA, will represent the COOPTREE project (Interreg Sudoe). COOPTREE focuses on identifying suitable edaphoclimatic conditions for key forest species, particularly those at risk in their current habitats or with potential for adaptation in other regions. The project combines genetic characterisation, climate modelling and field testing to assess species resilience, including resistance to water stress and adaptation through natural hybridisation. The project contributes to the preservation of forest genetic resources and supports climate adaptation strategies in the SUDOE region. For more information: <https://interreg-sudoe.eu/proyecto-interreg/cooptree/>

Mayte Toscano, Geospatial expert and Project Manager, OGC, BIOCLIMA project

Geospatial expert and Project Manager at OGC Europe, working on data interoperability and environmental information systems. Her work focuses on enabling FAIR and interoperable access to biodiversity and climate data, supporting integrated monitoring and decision-making, as well as stakeholder engagement and capacity building. The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is an international organisation that develops and promotes open standards for geospatial data and services, enabling interoperability and data sharing across platforms to address global challenges in climate, environment and urban development. At the event, she represents the BioClima project (Horizon Europe), which focuses on integrating biodiversity and climate data through interoperable and FAIR-based infrastructures to improve environmental monitoring and support decision-making. For more information: www.ogc.org ; <https://bioclima.net/> .



Francisco José Lacueva Pérez, ITA (Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón), Agridatavalue project

Francisco José Lacueva Pérez, from ITA (Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón), will represent the AgriDataValue project (Horizon Europe). AgriDataValue focuses on developing a secure and interoperable data space for agriculture, enabling the sharing and use of data and services to support advanced analytics and machine learning applications. The project promotes data-driven decision-making in agri-environmental systems, improving efficiency, sustainability and innovation in the sector. The project contributes to the development of European data ecosystems, supporting digital transformation and the adoption of AI-based solutions in agriculture and environmental management. For more information: <https://agridatavalue.eu/>

Speakers

Eleftheria Exarchou, Climate scientist, Mitiga Solutions, CARMINE project

Climate Scientist with experience in climate modelling, including ocean circulation, heat uptake, and climate predictions. Her work focuses on climate risks and hazards, and their impacts on communities and ecosystems. She is currently involved in developing digital twin solutions for heat and wildfire risk. Mitiga Solutions is a climate tech company based in Barcelona that provides climate intelligence to help organisations assess and manage physical climate risks. It combines artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and physics-based models to deliver forward-looking climate insights. At the event, she represents the CARMINE project (Horizon Europe), which develops tools and services to support climate adaptation and mitigation in European metropolitan regions through digital solutions and improved decision-making. For more information: <https://mitigasolutions.com> ; <https://carmine-project.eu/>

Sam Pickard, Researcher, BSC (Barcelona Supercomputing Center)

Researcher working at the interface between scientific modelling and real-world decision-making, with a focus on urban environments. His work centres on generating actionable climate and air quality information and improving how scientific knowledge is translated into practical tools for decision-makers. The Earth System Services (ESS) group at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) conducts interdisciplinary research to enhance the societal value of climate, weather and air quality services, working closely with policymakers and stakeholders to develop user-oriented solutions. At the event, he represents the UrbanAIR and Impetus4Change (Horizon Europe) projects, which focus on improving air quality, climate resilience and the accessibility of climate information to support better decision-making in cities and regions. For more information: <https://www.bsc.es>



Paula Catasús Bertran, Research Technician, Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC); TerraTwin project

Research Technician in marine ecology with experience in environmental monitoring, marine biology and ecosystem restoration. Her work focuses on understanding marine environments and supporting sustainable management and conservation through scientific research. The Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) is a leading marine research institute based in Barcelona and part of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). It focuses on oceanography, marine biology and the sustainable management of marine resources, contributing to scientific knowledge and environmental policy. At the event, she represents the TerraTwin project (Horizon Europe, 2026–2028), which develops a holistic Digital Twin of the Ecosystem to analyse the interaction between climate change, biodiversity and socio-economic factors. For more information: <https://www.icm.csic.es> ; <https://obsea.es/europeanProjects/inf-project.php?id=42>



Speakers

Francisco José Lacueva Pérez, ITA (Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón), TITAN-EOSC project

Francisco José Lacueva Pérez, from ITA (Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón), will represent the TITAN: Trusted environments for confidenTiAl computiNg and secure data sharing project (Horizon Europe). TITAN focuses on enabling secure and trusted environments for confidential computing and data sharing, supporting the development of interoperable data spaces. The project facilitates the use of sensitive data for advanced analytics and machine learning, while ensuring privacy, security and compliance. TITAN contributes to strengthening European data ecosystems by enabling secure collaboration across sectors, supporting data-driven innovation in areas such as agriculture, environment and climate services. For more information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101129822>

Markus Donat, ICREA Research Professor & Group Leader - Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)

Markus Donat is a ICREA Research Professor at BSC specialising in climate extremes and their long-term changes. His work focuses on understanding and predicting extreme climate events over the coming years and decades, supporting improved climate forecasting and risk assessment. The Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) is Spain's national supercomputing facility, leading research in high-performance computing and Earth sciences. It develops advanced climate models and supports research on climate, air quality and their impacts on society. At the event, he represents the EXPECT project (Horizon Europe), which aims to improve regional climate predictions and better understand the drivers of climate extremes using high-resolution models, satellite data and machine learning. For more information: <https://expect-project.eu/>.



Piotr Zaborowski, Senior Director, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Senior Director at OGC and expert in geospatial technologies, IT architecture and Earth Observation ecosystems. His work focuses on data spaces, digital twins and interoperability, supporting the development of integrated geospatial systems for decision-making and innovation. The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is an international, not-for-profit organisation that develops open standards for geospatial data and services, enabling interoperability and seamless data sharing across platforms for global challenges. At the event, he represents the SEADOTs project (Horizon Europe), which contributes to the development of Digital Twins of the Ocean by integrating environmental, socio-economic and technological data to support marine management and decision-making. For more information: <https://seadots-project.eu/>.



Speakers



Alicia Valero Delgadoz, Professor of Mechanical Engineering – University of Zaragoza

Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Zaragoza and Director of the Industrial Ecology group at CIRCE, with over 15 years of experience in resource efficiency and critical raw materials. Her work focuses on applying thermodynamics to assess the Earth's mineral and energy resources, contributing to international research and policy discussions. In her presentation, she will introduce an innovative approach to evaluate agricultural efficiency by integrating soil fertility into the analysis. Using an exergy-based methodology, her work highlights the hidden costs of soil degradation and proposes new ways to measure sustainability in agricultural systems.



Ivan Lütolf, President, AGROTECH ESPAÑA & CEO, ViveroTECH – AgriCoolTECH

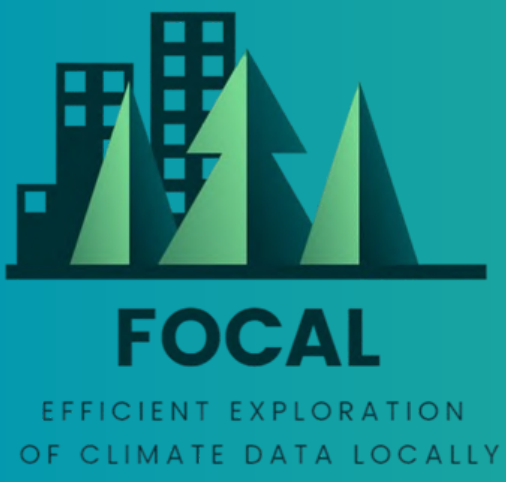
Entrepreneur and digital transformation specialist with over 20 years of experience driving innovation across industries, currently focused on agriculture and rural development. He leads initiatives integrating AI, IoT and data analytics to support more efficient and sustainable agri-food systems. In his presentation, "Reimagining Forests: How AI, Innovation and Digitalisation Are Powering a Greener Future", he will explore how advanced technologies are transforming forestry and agricultural practices, enabling more efficient, resilient and sustainable ecosystems.



Mainer Gómez, Project Manager – CIRCE Technology Centre

Project Manager in the area of Sustainability and Circular Economy at CIRCE Technology Centre, with experience in European projects related to bioeconomy, sustainability and resource efficiency. She contributes to the development and coordination of initiatives that support innovation and collaboration across sectors at European level.

In her presentation, "Funding opportunities in Europe: BIOECONOMY GIANTS project", she will present insights on European funding opportunities and the role of the BIOECONOMY GIANTS project in fostering innovation and collaboration in the bioeconomy sector.



FOCAL EUROPEAN CLUSTERING EVENT

6 - 8 May
2026

FOCAL Consortium

Delivering European Climate Digitalisation through collaboration



FOCAL

EFFICIENT EXPLORATION
OF CLIMATE DATA LOCALLY

Project Coordinator



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