

Nitra, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

## Cluster matchmaking event - “Identification of the V4 Clusters”

After the opening event in Győr in November 2013, the second cluster matchmaking event within the V4Clusters project will be organized by the Slovak partner – The Union of Slovak Clusters. It will take place in Nitra, Slovakia on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the Hotel River.

The V4Clusters project consists of the following phases: i) identification, ii) networking, iii) informatisation of cluster organizations existing in Visegrad Group countries. **One of the main aims of the networking phase is to establish collaborative cluster networks represented by the V4 Leading clusters prepared for the V4 globalisation.** The project is co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund and will be implemented in the period of October 2013 to December 2014.

Since Slovakia belongs to the most forested countries in Europe with forests covering 41% of its territory, the main objective of the Nitra meeting will be to create links between the main stakeholders in the area of forestry, wood, furniture, and potentially also bioenergy sector. The invited participants will have the opportunity to discuss the topics of their concern and to address the main challenges they are facing together. Cluster managers, representatives of universities, forest centres and institutes and other experts in the forestry sector will jointly reveal the potential for cooperation and will thus contribute to the preparation of the cooperation action plan.

The early afternoon will be devoted to the short introduction of the project Pavla Břusková, the President of the National Cluster Association in the Czech Republic. The session will continue with the presentation of Daniel Ács of the hosting organisation who will focus on the possibility of establishing operational groups within the European Innovation Partnership in the programming period of 2014 – 2020. In addition, Jiří Čištecký from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic will present the potential of the V4 countries cooperation.

The next part of the event will be split into two sessions. One session will be dedicated to the forestry issue, so that the Slovak Leading cluster and V4 related clusters can take part. The topic will include the INMEIN project funded by the Operational Programme 'Hungary - Slovak Republic'. The second session will invite the representatives of all the other cluster sectors for networking.

During the whole event participants can raise questions to speakers and discuss their ideas and future cooperation opportunities.

### More information is available:

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