

Sept 16–17, 2025 – Malmö & Lund, Sweden

Exploring Skåne's Innovation Ecosystem

A delegation of 20 Catalan cluster organizations visited Skåne for a two-day exchange exploring collaboration, innovation, and the green and digital transitions. The visit, hosted by Region Skåne, Invest in Skåne, Clusters of Sweden, OpenTech, and the Twin Transition project, offered valuable insights into one of Europe's most collaborative innovation ecosystems.



About the exchange

The exchange, part of the Twin Transition project, focused on knowledge sharing, best practices, and identifying new opportunities for collaboration and business development between clusters in Skåne and Catalonia. Participants highlighted the relevance and depth of the content and emphasized that the visit strengthened their understanding of innovation systems and cluster policy in both regions.

Through presentations, workshops, and site visits, the delegation explored how cluster initiatives are designed and implemented, gaining insights into the political frameworks that support regional cooperation. Representatives came from a broad range of sectors - from food, energy, and water to technology, education, and wine - reflecting the diversity of ecosystems.

Reflecting upon Skåne's cluster model

The Spanish delegation discovered how Skåne's cluster model fosters openness and cross-sectoral collaboration - a contrast to the more specialized, value-chain focused model common in Catalonia. As Aina Amengual from Catalan Water Partnership noted: "A notable difference between clusters in Catalonia and those in Skåne lies in their structure and focus. In Catalonia, clusters tend to be more thematic and specialized, bringing together the entire value chain of a specific sector. In contrast, Skåne's clusters are usually broader and more cross-sectoral, connecting different industries within the same ecosystem and benefiting from strong regional support. At the same time, inter-cluster collaboration in Catalonia is remarkably strong, which enables diverse clusters to work together and generate synergies that amplify innovation and competitiveness."

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Aina Amengual from
Catalan Water Partnership

Different approaches to collaboration

Participants also reflected on cultural differences in how cooperation takes shape. “People in Northern Europe may be more individualistic,” one delegate observed, “but it was inspiring to see how strong your networking culture is - with so many events and forums bringing people together.”

Alba Vallès from INNOVI, the Catalan wine cluster, underscored another key learning: “It was very interesting to see how strongly you collaborate with universities and research institutions. This close connection creates great opportunities for innovation.”

Several activities - from deep-dive sessions at LINXS, MAX IV, and ESS to informal networking moments - were singled out as particularly valuable. Participants appreciated the opportunity to explore concrete collaboration methods, strengthen international networks, and compare how different regions manage innovation, described as highly applicable to their daily work. The dialogue also surfaced shared challenges, such as engaging SMEs in the twin transitions, and highlighted the importance of identifying transferable good practices.

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Towards cross-regional learning

The visit was made possible thanks to Invest in Skåne’s leadership, in close collaboration with OpenTech and other regional and national partners. As the delegation concluded, participants praised the region’s openness, trust, and collaborative mindset, noting that the visit sparked new ideas and potential partnerships while reinforcing the value of cross-regional learning.

Europe grows stronger when its clusters collaborate. By connecting clusters and industries across borders, Europe can leverage collective expertise to boost innovation, drive sustainable growth, and build a more resilient economy.

The cluster delegation was arranged by OpenTech, Compare, and Bron Innovation as part of the project Twin Transition, which runs in collaboration with regional cluster organisations and with funding from the European Union and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

