



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Country factsheet

Morocco

An initiative of the European Union





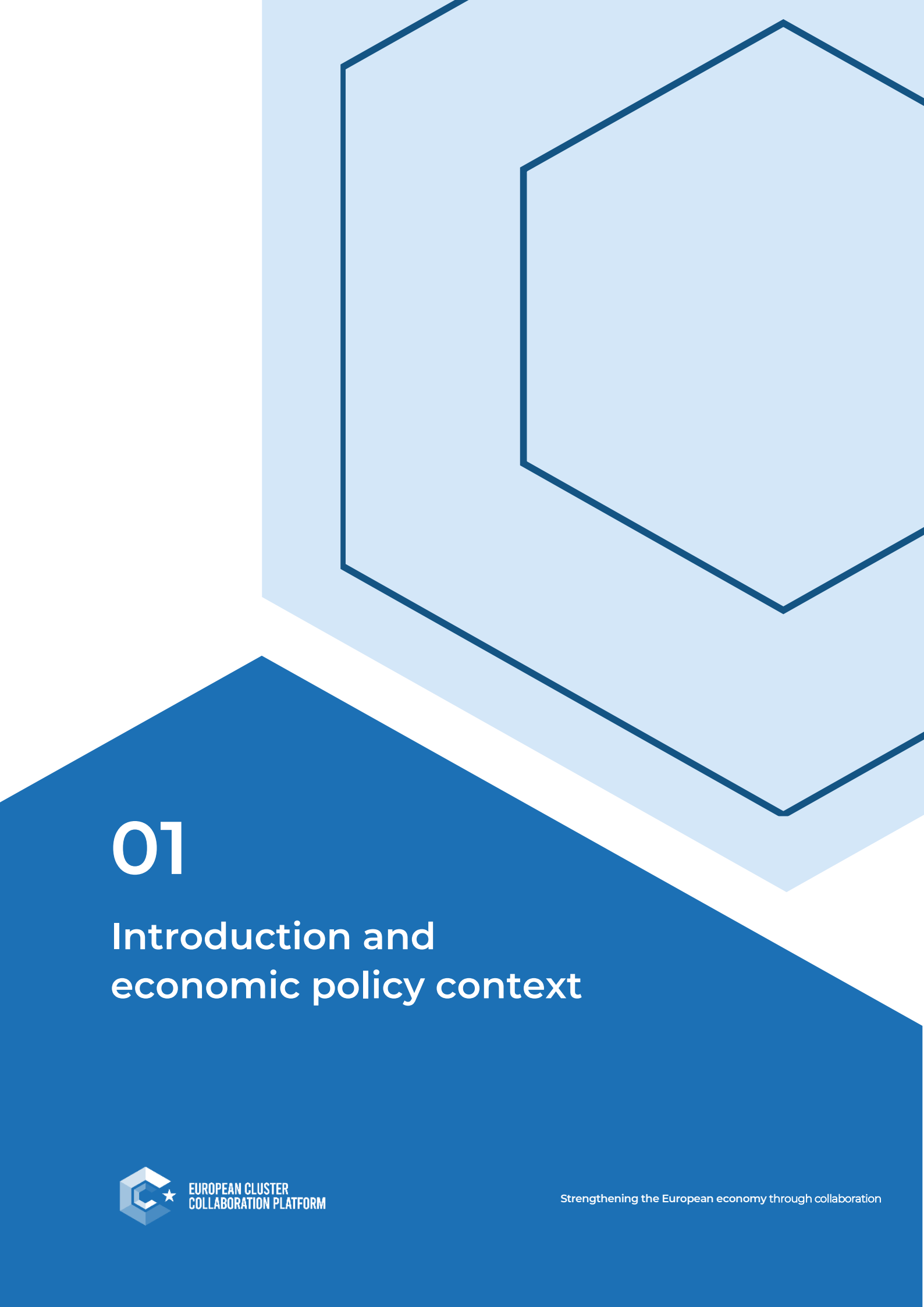
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01

Introduction and economic policy context



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1. Introduction and economic policy context



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Morocco. Given its importance to contextualise the cluster policies (and related) analysed in the factsheets, a comprehensive outlook of the country in socioeconomic terms can be consulted in the [World Bank's Economic Monitor Summary 2024 report](#).

Cluster policy today takes place in the context of major geopolitical and transformation challenges. Over the last couple of years only, companies, industrial ecosystems and policymakers had to deal with the fallout of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the ensuing energy crisis, and rising tensions between the USA and China. At the same time, the economies around the world have to master the green, digital and demographic transitions and keep up in the global competition for the key technologies and leading industries of the future. In all these instances, clusters play a crucial role in organising the cooperation of key actors in industrial innovation ecosystems at home and across borders.

In the following, a succinct overview of the cluster policy in Morocco will be provided. The structure of this factsheet generally encompasses:

- 1) an overview of the national cluster policy and an insight into the regional cluster policy,
- 2) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

02

National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives



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2. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives

In this section we provide an overview of the Industrial Strategy of Morocco. While no cluster specific initiative or strategy is existing on the national level, the Industrial Acceleration Plan 2021 – 2025 aims at strengthening industrial actors in the country and integrating the regions into the transformation process. The breakdown is presented in the form of a table, with the first column showcasing information on the aspects which constitute the policy (beginning with ‘Policy Objectives’, following with ‘Policy Focus’, etc.). The second column represents the case of the Moroccan industrial policy, whilst no cluster policy is available in Morocco.

Within the table the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2024), which is applied for the comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights about the industrial policy in Morocco.

Table 1 - Overview of cluster policy in Morocco

Policy type:	Broad policy
Policy name:	2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan
POLICY OBJECTIVES 	Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale up of SMEs Supporting internationalisation activities Fostering R&D activities, technology development and implementation Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems Promoting resilience and sustainable economy and other solidarity-based initiatives Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs The Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) does not explicitly mention the development of clusters, however it strongly emphasizes the reduction of fragmentation and better integration of industry. The aim is the creation of industrial ecosystems of SMEs, including very small businesses and “self-entrepreneurs” (a newly introduced status to reduce informal economic processes), that are grouped around large industrial leaders. In this regard it is dedicated to the reinforcement of value chains, their internationalization and innovation capacity. The key objectives for 2025 are the development of research



Policy type:	Broad policy
Policy name:	2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan
	and innovation by promoting new technologies and putting SMEs at the heart of technological transformation. A special focus is on the development and implementation of partnerships of the different regions.
POLICY FOCUS 	Sectoral focus The Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) builds on the achievements made in the previous Industrial Acceleration Plan from 2014-2020. It focuses exclusively on the development and consolidation of the industrial sector as source of employment and economic growth.
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES 	In charge of drafting In charge of implementation Oversees the implementation The Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) was designed and implemented by the Ministry of Industry and trade. An inter-ministerial committee is monitoring the implementation of the PAI and it oversees the accomplishment of projects.
BENEFICIARIES 	SMEs Research organisations Academic institutions Start-ups Business associations Technology centres Large firms General population

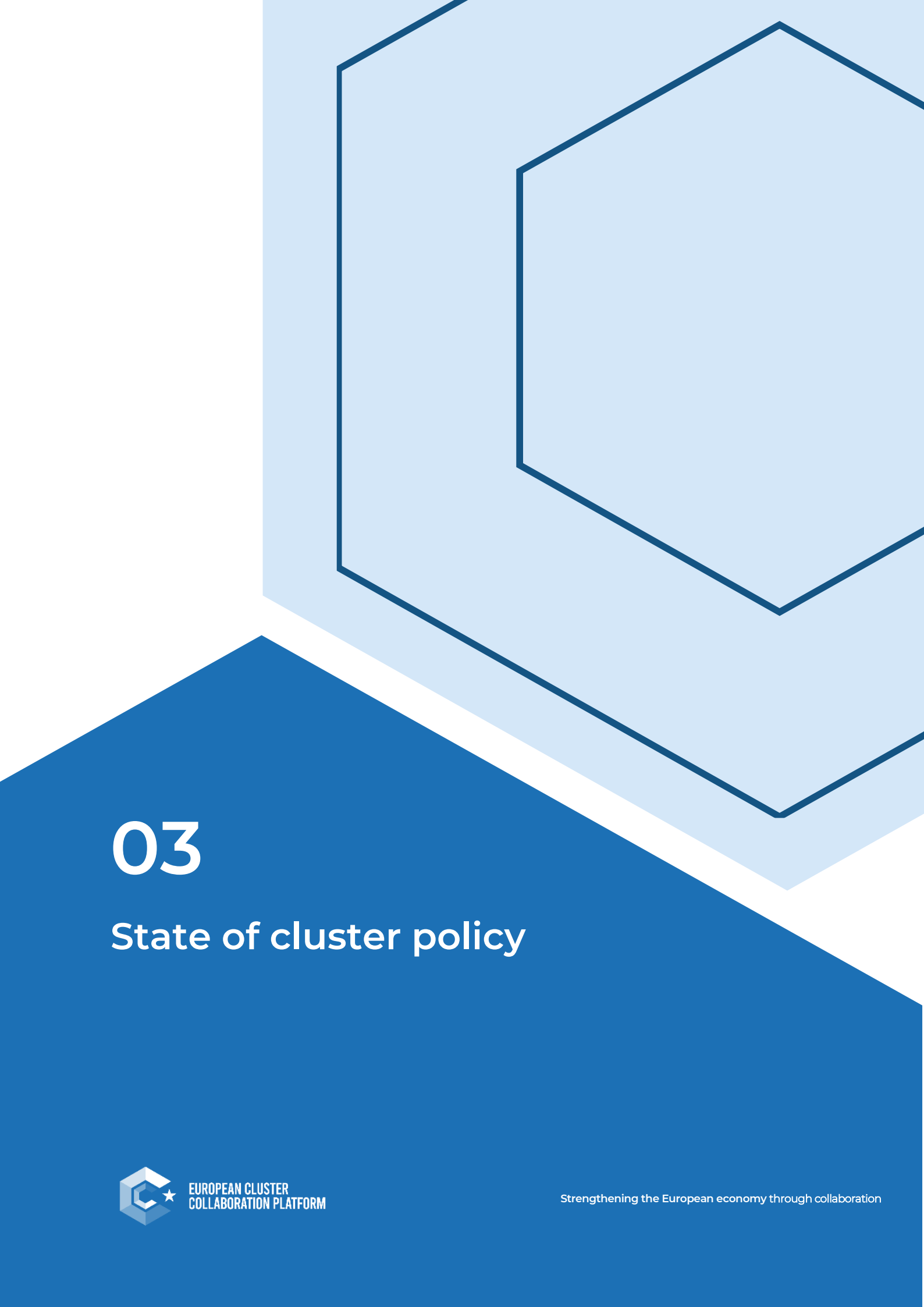


Policy type:		Broad policy
Policy name:		2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan
		SMEs, large companies and professional associations benefit from their strategic alliance through the integration into an enabling ecosystem and from financial support to increase exports. Such economic interest groupings function as centers of increased economic growth, innovation and employment, which is beneficial for the country's overall economy and the general population. A special focus is also on the integration of the regions into the industrial developments.
INSTRUMENTS 	Financial	Funding collaboration initiatives Financing networking events
	Technical assistance	Infrastructure: coworking spaces, offices, incubation and accelerator spaces, research centres, technology parks etc. Support for hard skill development: knowledge transfer, intellectual property , entrepreneurship, export advice, market intelligence Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling Support for networking and partnership building (at national and/or international level)
	Explanation	In terms of funding of collaboration initiatives, the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) implements schemes for direct support for economic interest groupings. Such financial support is foreseen for entrepreneurship trainings, mentoring, personalized coaching, partnership networking events, as well as for basic and advanced computerization. The Plan also facilitates access to finance under a partnership agreement between the state and the banking sector with an integrated and competitive financing offer i.e. competitive rates, support for restructuring and internationalization as well as consultations. Industrial land (1.000 hectares) is made available for industrial rental parks including a one-stop shop, pool of local workers, ad hoc services and a training package.
HISTORY 	Period	Limited period
	Ending year (for policies with limited period)	2025



Policy type:		Broad policy
Policy name:		2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan
	Starting year	2021
	Explanation	The 2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) is implemented during a five year period and is the successor of the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) that was implemented from 2014-2020 period following past efforts of the National Pact for Industrial Emergence 2009-2015.
BUDGET 	Overall	Data unavailable
	Annual	Data unavailable
	Source of funding	Data unavailable
POLICY  EVALUATION	Availability	in-itinere
	Results	The Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) does not mention any form of evaluation. However, an inter-ministerial committee is monitoring the implementation of the PAIPAI and it oversees the accomplishment of projects.
POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU PRIORITIES 		Digitalisation Resilience

Source: ECCP (2025)



03

State of cluster policy



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3. State of cluster policy

This section presents an overview on the state of play of Moroccan cluster policy in the form of a qualitative assessment across four categories of analysis – policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, and the range of cluster support instruments. Please refer to the **Annex** for the detailed overview of the categories. The table below presents an overview of the **state of play of Moroccan cluster policy** for 2024.

Table 2 - State of play

Morocco	State of play
POLICY SCOPE	Absence of cluster policy
	Broad policy
	National and/or regional cluster policy
CONTINUITY	No cluster-specific policy available
	Cluster policy established recently
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago
EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE	No evaluation and / or monitoring available
	Existence of evaluations of past policies
	Existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation
CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation
	No instruments for cluster development
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader policy
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy

Source: ECCP (2025).

The text below provides a qualitative description of the state of play of the cluster policy in Morocco.

Policy scope

The 2021-2025 Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) does not explicitly mention the development of clusters, however it strongly emphasizes the reduction of fragmentation and better integration of industry. The aim is the creation of industrial ecosystems of SMEs, including very small businesses and “self-entrepreneurs” (a newly introduced status to reduce informal economic processes), that are grouped around large industrial leaders. In this regard it is dedicated to the reinforcement of value chains, their internationalization and innovation capacity. The key objectives for 2025 are the development of research and innovation by promoting new technologies and putting SMEs at the heart of technological transformation. A special focus is on the development and implementation of partnerships of the different regions.

Continuity

The current Industrial Acceleration Plan stands in continuity with previous policy efforts to foster cluster development in Morocco. Three industrial strategies have been formative for Morocco's cluster development:

- The **Morocco 2020 Emergence Plan** (2005) was based on the idea to focus on sectors where Morocco already had a comparative advantage (called “World Trades of Morocco”) in sectors like automotive, aeronautics and space, textiles and leather, electronics and food processing. Besides actions to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs, improve the business climate and



training programmes, it also included a programme for a new generation of industrial parks called “Integrated Industrial Platforms” (P2I).

- The **National Pact for Industrial Emergence** (PNEI, 2009-2015) followed the Emergence Plan and focused on the implementation of its promises. Under its aegis, 22 P2Is were created for export-oriented and FDI-intensive industries.
- The **Industrial Acceleration Plan** (PAI, 2014-2020) aimed to reverse an alarming trend of deindustrialisation at the time. With regard to clusters, it built on the existing P2I concept with a more comprehensive idea of developing industrial ecosystems to reduce the fragmentation of the industrial landscape and help SMEs building strategic alliances with larger corporations in so-called economic interest groups.
- The **Industrial Acceleration Plan** (PAI, 2021-2025) continues the main policy axes of its predecessor, seeking to strengthen its implementation and to extend its reach.

Evidence of performance

The Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) does not mention any form of evaluation. However, an inter-ministerial committee is monitoring the implementation of the PAI and it oversees the accomplishment of projects. No official documents are available with regards to the monitoring.

Cluster support instruments

No dedicated cluster support instruments are available in Morocco due to the non-existence of a national cluster policy. In terms of funding of collaboration initiatives, the Industrial Acceleration Plan (PAI) implements schemes for direct support for economic interest groupings. Such financial support is foreseen for entrepreneurship trainings, mentoring, personalized coaching, partnership networking events, as well as for basic and advanced computerization. The Plan also facilitates access to finance under a partnership agreement between the state and the banking sector with an integrated and competitive financing offer i.e. competitive rates, support for restructuring and internationalization as well as consultations.

Cross-regional / international cooperation

No Moroccan clusters were part of the any INNOSUP-1 or ESCP consortium. However, it is important to mention that Morocco takes part in the European Neighbourhood Cooperation Policy, and it is part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

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Annex

Table 3 - Analytical framework for the state of cluster policy

Criterion	Description	Categorical variables
Policy scope	Assessment whether the country has a dedicated cluster policy, or cluster creation and/or development is targeted through broader policies, e.g. foreign trade policies, labour and social policies	absence of cluster policy existence of broader policies existence of targeted cluster policies
Continuity of cluster policies	Assessment of the duration and experience of the country in carrying out cluster policies. This criterion assesses only existence of targeted cluster policies and not broader policies	absence of policies supporting cluster development cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years cluster policy established over 10 years ago
Evidence of performance	Assessment whether there are evaluations of past and ongoing policies and a monitoring system in place. The existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms determines the degree of policy development in the country	no evaluation and / or monitoring available existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation
Cluster Support Instruments	Assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	no instruments for cluster development financial support for cluster development in the broader policy financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy

Source: ECCP (2025).