



D4.1 Report on Open Innovation Day

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Silicon Eurocluster

Serving the electronics value chain for maintaining sovereignty in microelectronics, components and systems for a greener, more digital and resilient future Europe.

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1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to briefly present how the Open Innovation Day (OID) was held during the Silicon Saxony Day 2023, organized by Silicon Saxony (SiSax) on the 21st of June 2023.

Originally planned Open Innovation Day's format which brings together a large company providing a business challenge and SMEs-suppliers responding to it with the right solutions has been widely promoted in the first period of the project. Several large chip manufacturers – GlobalFoundries in Dresden, Germany and ST Microelectronics in Grenoble, France which are currently building a joint module in Crolles, France as well as Infineon in Dresden have shown a general interest in taking part in such a format to attract the right suppliers of equipment and services for their factories. But due to a different focus of these companies that at that time was primarily on securing the governmental support and committing the right investments for the expansion of their production lanes triggered by the announcement and further adoption of the EU Chips Act, the plans of reviewing the suppliers were postponed to the time when the actual construction and sourcing for the fabs would start.

Taken into account the above and the timeline planned for organisation of the Open Innovation Day it was agreed by the Consortium that the Open Innovation Day, planned for May 2023 as one-to-many format would be instead co-located with the 17th Silicon Saxony Day on the 21st of June - SiSax's major high-tech conference, exhibition and networking event gathering annually about 300-600 companies and RTOs from all over Europe in Dresden and would be organized as a broad many-to-many matchmaking format bringing together multiple manufactures, equipment and components suppliers, smart systems and software companies from various European countries. Silicon Saxony Day's format offers companies' pitches on three Technology "Islands" (tracks): "Software", "Microelectronics" and "Smart Systems", covering a wide range of topics such as autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, smart digital systems, wireless technologies, sustainability. SiSax has promoted the event widely within the consortium.

To facilitate B2B meetings at the OID, the B2Match Tool was used for both on-site matchmaking at SiSax Day on 21.06.23 and for 2-3 more days after the event to offer virtual matchmaking opportunities to more companies - members of the Silicon Eurocluster clusters.

2. Silicon Saxony Day - International Open Innovation Day

2.1 Silicon Saxony – high tech region

Saxony has a unique concentration of companies and research institutions in the sectors of microelectronics and nanoelectronics, nanotechnology, organic & flexible electronics, energy-efficient systems, next generation communication, and smart systems.

Key figures about the region:

- there are about 80,000 employees active in microelectronics and information and communication technologies (ICT);
- core competencies are development & manufacturing of integrated circuits (ICs), supply of materials and equipment, production and distribution of electronic products, development of software etc.;
- **every third microchip produced in Europe is made in Saxony;**
- big chip manufacturers such as Infineon, GlobalFoundries, Bosch and X-FAB (and soon TSMC) are located in Dresden but also research institutions and SMEs active in that field supplying infrastructure, equipment, components, (automation) software & services are located in the city.

2.2 Silicon Saxony Day

Silicon Saxony Day is the annual Silicon Saxony cluster's own event dedicated to fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange and is the biggest high-tech and networking event in Saxony. It offers cross-industry insights into technologies and solutions in the areas of hardware, software and connectivity. In addition to knowledge and technology transfer, the goal of this networking event is the open exchange between developers, producers and users of information and communication technologies.

A main stage and several theme islands create space for networking, professional exchange and exciting insights into players and technologies in the ICT industry. While the main stage with its high-calibre keynotes and panel discussions reflects the entire spectrum of our network, the theme islands represent a clear technological focus. In short pitches and talks, the islands offer insights into challenges, use cases, lessons learned, best practices and novel business models.

Silicon Saxony Day is all about open, interdisciplinary exchange. This is reflected in its open event and space concept. The keynote speakers and panel discussions take place in the spotlight of the main stage.

There are also theme-specific technology and talent islands, where participants can discover insightful presentations, short impulses and vivid demonstrators. Numerous seating and standing options invite spontaneous exchanges between participants and speakers in a relaxed atmosphere.

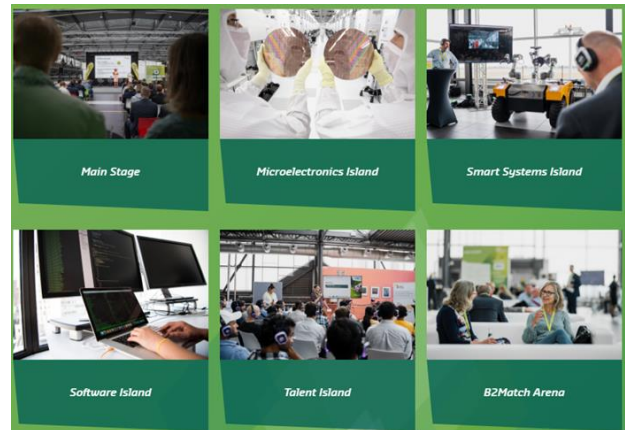
Attending the Silicon Saxony Day offers unique insights into the state-of-the-art technologies and business solutions covering hardware, software and connectivity topics. It gives the chance to get in touch with like-minded leaders, engineers, scientists and business developers and provides an innovative and international platform for sharing ideas and trends for future information and communications technologies.

17th Silicon Saxony Day on 21.06.2023

The 17th Silicon Saxony was held on the 21st June in Dresden Airport. [About » Silicon Saxony Day \(silicon-saxony-day.de\)](https://www.silicon-saxony-day.de). Dresden Airport as a venue had been previously used by Silicon Saxony for a number of advantages and space it can offer to the visitors of the tech events and conferences.

Topics covered at Silicon Saxony Day´ 23 were Autonomous Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Digital Systems, Microelectronics, Sustainability, Environmental Social Governance, presented on **4 Topic “Islands” (parallel tracks)**: Software, Microelectronics, Smart Systems, Talents.

The use of the individual headphones offered at each “Island” gave the visitors an opportunity to seamlessly follow the presentations without being distracted with other speeches on parallel tracks.



Key figures of the 17th Silicon Saxony Day:

Picture 1. Topic Islands at SiSax Day 2023

- 600+ participants, including 500 technology experts from science, research and industry and about 100 international students;
- participants from 20 countries;
- 32 % international guests;
- 80 speakers and demonstrators (33% of them coming from outside Germany);
- 54 exhibitors;
- 23 sponsors;
- 4 Topic Islands with demonstrators, pitches and best practices and one main stage;
- unique insights into future and actual technologies in software, microelectronics, and smart systems;
- various **networking** possibilities and exhibition;
- targeted **B2B-Matchmaking** via **B2Match tool** to support the **Open Innovation Day**
- keynotes on sustainability in microelectronics and ESG;
- panel discussion on future of microelectronics in Europe.

More than 40 companies and research institutes came from the **Silicon Eurocluster** regions, in particular the following delegations from:

- ◆ Austria (10) led by Silicon Alps cluster, which held a centrally located joint Austrian booth;
- ◆ Sweden (11), led by Mobile Heights cluster;
- ◆ France (7) with cluster representatives from SCS and Minalogic and their members;
- ◆ Bulgaria (3) – members of Bulgarian ICT Cluster;
- ◆ Italy (2) – representatives of MESAP cluster;
- ◆ Spain (1) – representative from GAIA cluster;

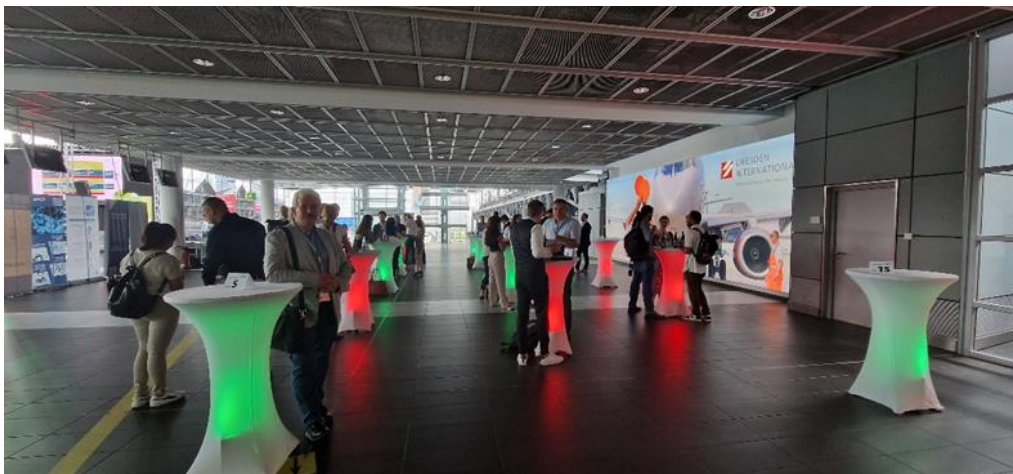
and others from Turkey, Poland, Lithuania, Switzerland, Belgium, etc.



Picture 2. On the main stage: a part of the international delegation, including Silicon Eurocluster members

2.3 B2Match Platform in the core of the Open Innovation Day

During the event B2B meetings took place (pre-organised via B2Match tool) facilitated between participants from various European countries. A special meeting area (B2Match arena) was designated for 1:1 B2B meetings.



Picture 3. B2B arena at Dresden Airport for B2B meetings during Silicon Saxony Day

The matchmaking event was supported by EXCITE ClusterXchange and Silicon Eurocluster projects.

The event page was created on B2Match platform at the beginning of June. The registration was open on 06.06.23 until 23.06.23 17:00 CET, and the invitations were sent per email via the B2Match Platform.

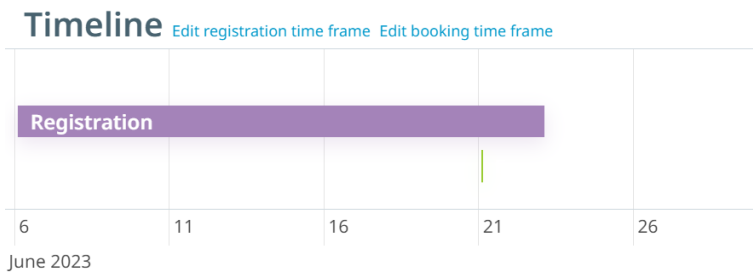


Figure 1. Registration timeframe on B2Match Platform

An extensive communication and promotion of the event was prepared for all the European partners of Silicon Saxony, including partners from the Silicon Europe Alliance, Silicon Eurocluster, EXCITE, Mind4Machines and project partners.

All participants were offered to register on B2Match Platform for on-site and online matchmaking.

In order to facilitate quality discussions and to let the participants represent their services, know-hows and specific competencies in the best possible way and to find the right B2B partners based on the complementarity basis, a wide range of areas of activities were offered to the participants during the registration process of their profiles on B2Match platform: three overarching categories corresponding mainly to the competencies represented on the Topic Islands: Semiconductor Area (Microelectronics), Software and Smart Systems and multiple sub-categories in each category:

Semiconductor Industry	Software	Smart Systems
Facilities	Standard software	Systems design
Materials	Custom / Individual software	Sensors
Process service	Embedded systems	Software development
Components (nano-/microelectronics, electronics, mechanical, databases, programs)	Service	Systems integrations
Equipment	Application	Automation Software
System and IC Design	Software test	Digital Twins
Mask Manufacturing	Cybersecurity	VR / AR / Extended Reality
Chips, Displays; MEMS / MOMS, sensors manufacturing	Artificial Intelligence	5G / 6G
Photonics	Cloud Computing	Radio Communications
Test	Big Data	Other
Packaging / Assembling	Edge Computing	
Systems Integration	Quantum Computing	
Other	Blockchain technology	
	Other	

Table 1. Areas of activities suggested to participants on B2Match platform

In particular the Semiconductor Industry's categories reflected the semiconductor industry's value chain to help the participant find the suitable partner.

Other categories were offered as well to integrate the participants with other key focus areas and competences: “Renewable Energy” (Energy storage, Energy harvesting, solar thermal energy, photovoltaic and other); “Advanced manufacturing” (3D printing, Robotics & Automation, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and other); and “Other areas of activities” (Consulting, Financing, Public Relations /Communications, Logistics, Project Management, Health and other).

In total **153** participants registered for matchmaking via B2Match from **122** organisations representing **17** European countries. Out of 181 originally scheduled meetings via the Platform **150** meetings were accepted and 31 were cancelled. Cancellation reasons in major cases were the re-arrangements of meetings on-site at a more convenient time by the participants.

The below graphs present more data on the number of participants per country and the number of meetings scheduled per country:

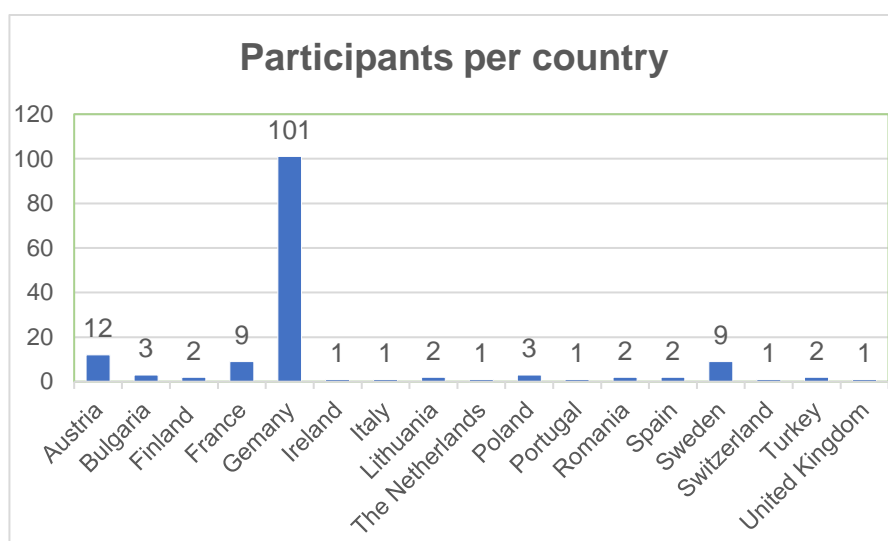


Figure 2. Number of participants per country

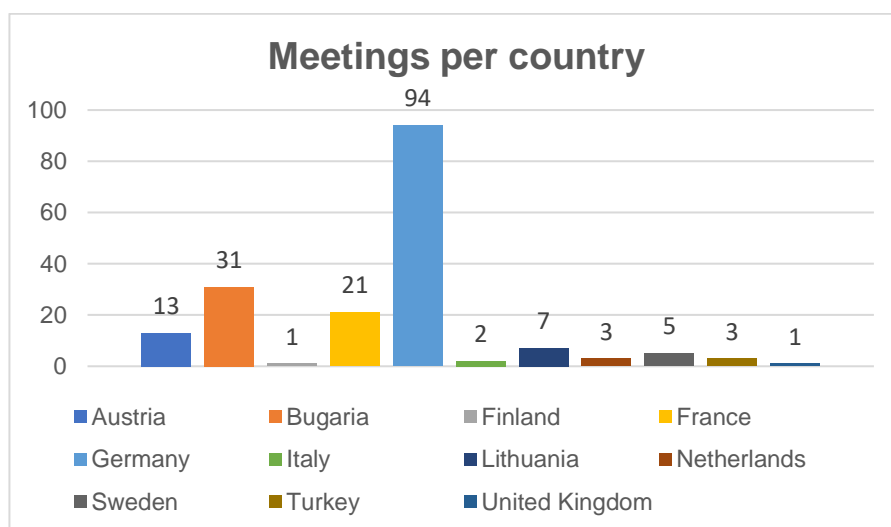


Figure 3. Number of meetings per country

The below statistics displays that the number of transnational meetings held significantly prevailed over the meetings conducted by the participants originating from the same country.

It also shows that the overall preference of the participants was towards the on-site meetings at Silicon Saxony Day rather than online meetings offered virtually for 2 days after the SiSax Day – on the 22nd and 23rd June.

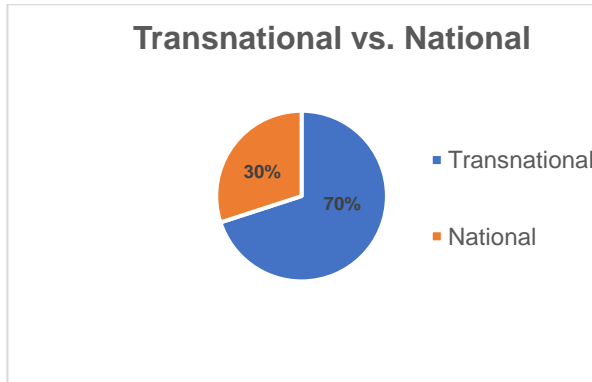


Figure 4. Ratio of transnational vs. national meetings

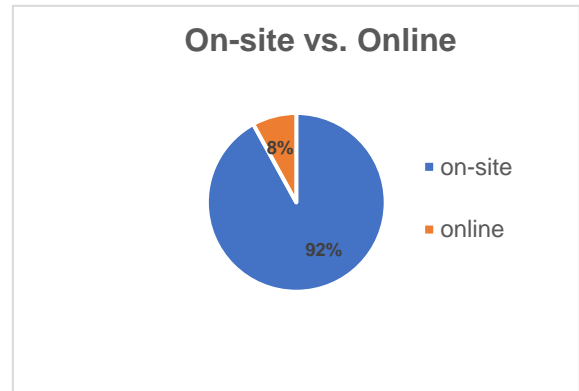


Figure 5. Ratio of on-site vs. online meetings

2.3 Business Mission to Silicon Saxony

In order to provide wider networking opportunities to the international guests, the SiSax Day´ 23 was accompanied by two days extra business programme with company visits to Bosch, Infineon, GlobalFoundries, different Fraunhofer institutes and Fabmatics among others.

Business Mission organised by SiSax one day before (on 20.06.2023) and one day after (22.06.2023) the Silicon Saxony Day (21.06.2023) was offered to the international guests as a discovery mission to explore Silicon Saxony – Europe’s largest high-tech network in Saxony, one of the largest ICT clusters in Germany and the largest microelectronics cluster in Europe.

Business mission was widely promoted not only to the Silicon Eurocluster partners´ members (companies, RTOs, EDIH/DIHs, public bodies), but also to other stakeholders – partners in other European projects (EXCITE and Mind4Machines, and others).

During two full days of visits to companies and RTOs in the Silicon Saxony’s network the participants got an opportunity to deep dive into the Saxonian semiconductor and ICT ecosystem by visiting:

- Smart Systems Hub – IoT lab, which is a part of the EDIH Saxony;
- Fraunhofer research and technology institute (IPMS and FEP);
- Fabs owned by Bosch, Infineon, GlobalFoundries with comprehensive tours to showcase the production of 200 mm and 300 mm wafers;
- Fabmatics - robotics and automation company;
- Transparent factory of Volkswagen to see the production of its electrical ID.3 model.

Visiting these prominent industry and research entities helped unveiling the processes behind cutting-edge microchip production and automation technologies.

Infineon's Window Tour provided an exclusive glimpse into advanced semiconductor fabrication, emphasizing precision, reliability, and scalability. At Fabmatics, participants were captivated by the company's expertise in automated material handling and robotics, witnessing how they optimize production efficiency in cleanroom environments. For a smaller group of researchers and scientist from

companies and research institutes a visit to the GlobalFoundries' cleanroom was offered, where they could experience the captivating world of semiconductor fabrication firsthand.

Silicon Saxony's partner Volkswagen offered a comprehensive tour of its production lane of the ID.3 model.

Pictures below show some of the discussions, and tours held during the visits:



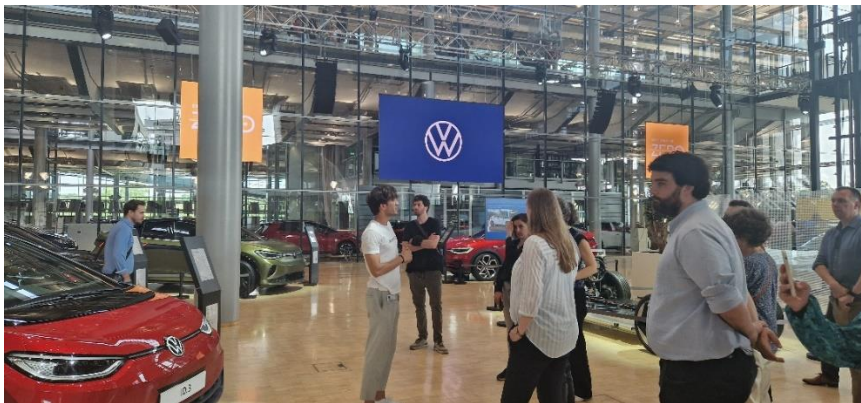
Pictures 4-7. Introductions, presentations (in 2 groups) and networking in Smart Systems Hub



Pictures 8-9. Fraunhofer IPMS & FEP visit, including the visit of the Showroom and presentation of ASCENT+ project



Pictures 10-12. Bosch Fab visit



Pictures 13-14. Visit to Volkswagen's Transparent Factory



Pictures 15-18. Visits to Infineon, Fabmatics and GlobalFoundries (Cleanroom visit by several participants)

From the above large group 16 organisations took a **formal** part in the mission by attending the full 3-days business programme offered by Silicon Saxony through another project that it leads under the ClusterXchange programme – EXCITE. This helped creating useful links and synergies between several EU projects Silicon Saxony is involved in.

3. Collected feedback

A short questionnaire was shared with the participants of the matchmaking via B2Match at SiSax Day in order to measure the effectiveness and general satisfaction of the offered activities.

18 responses were collected so far from 12 SMEs, 5 clusters and 1 Research and technology Institute originating from Germany, France, Sweden, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Below are the answers provided by the respondents of the feedback survey with regards to the conducted meetings and their relevance to their business:

Type of organisation	Country of origin	How many organisations have you met at SiSax Day (including B2Match facilitated meetings)?	How many of them would you consider signing an agreement with (MoU, Contracts, NDA, all kind of partnerships)?	Is there any potential new-to-firm product or service that could emerge thanks to networking and matchmaking activities during Silicon Saxony Day?
RTO	Germany	6	6	1

SME	France	Approx 10	Approx. 5	Not yet defined
SME	Germany	34	24	11
SME	Sweden	4	1	0
SME	Germany	10	5	2
SME	Germany	7-8	5	not yet
Cluster/Association	Türkiye	5	5	0
SME	Austria	15	13	8
SME	France	10	6	3
SME	Germany	5	3	3
Cluster/Association	France	3	1	1
SME	Germany	5	2	1
Cluster/Association	Germany	18	2	2
SME	Bulgaria	45	20	5
Cluster/Association	Austria	Approx. 25 (3 people of our organisation)	Approx. 10	too early for that information at the moment
SME	Germany	45	6	3
SME	France	5	5	3
Cluster/Association	Austria	10	All of them- more than thought	Do not know yet

Table 2. Conducted meetings during iSax Day/ Open Innovation Day by respondents of the feedback survey

The above results show that a substantial number of meetings took place during the SiSax Day both facilitated via the B2Match platform and the event's programme itself, which offered a wide range of presentations, discussions and networking sessions. **This is expected to result in the signing of MoUs and new business agreements across the border and create a potential for new-to-firm product or services.** This statistics reveals only a small part of the total number of meetings carried out during the Silicon Saxony Day /Open Innovation Day based on the feedback collected from 18 participants of the event.

As shown below, the general satisfaction level with networking and matchmaking opportunities offered at Silicon Saxony Day was on average very high based on the feedback provided by the respondents:



Figure 6. General satisfaction with matchmaking and networking by the respondents

Only one company from the ones who provided the feedback was dissatisfied with the matchmaking and networking due to a limited number of relevant contacts established during the event.



4. Conclusions and next steps

Silicon Saxony Day as the Open Innovation Day that brought together more than 600 experts and students from the semiconductor and ICT industries was very highly appraised by the foreign and national guests based on the personal feedback collected during the SiSax Day and immediately after the event, which was complemented by a high satisfaction expressed via the survey that SiSax had shared with the participants of matchmaking via the B2Match platform.

Intensive programme of visits to companies and research institutes, as well as a high-tech conference and networking event – Silicon Saxony Day has become a great platform for the companies to extend their network internationally and build ties with potential business partners across the border.

Participants were able to experience the high organizational level and the diversity of the local ecosystem in terms of technologies, competences and various actors present in the region.

B2match sessions facilitated one-on-one meetings between participants and Saxonian companies, creating a vibrant platform for exploring potential partnerships and collaborations.

Considering the high potential for development of cross-border business agreements between the participants of matchmaking and networking sessions, Silicon Saxony will further monitor the outcomes of these activities to estimate their impact and relevance.

Further dialogue with the representatives of large companies – members of clusters of Silicon Eurocluster will take place to ensure a quick response to the needs in relation to the organization of another Open Innovation Day, which can be conducted upon request in a customized way during and after the lifetime of the Silicon Eurocluster project.