European Strategic Cluster Partnerships – Going International (ESCP-4i) Charter

We, the undersigned, have agreed to establish a European Strategic Cluster Partnership – Going International (ESCP-4i) called, EU4SportsClusters Alliance (EU4SPORTSCLUSTERSALL) upon the invitation of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROWTH).

We, hereby, commit to work on a joint cooperation agenda with the aim to support the internationalisation of our SME members towards third countries beyond Europe and thereby, to contribute to the European Commission’s objectives to boost growth, jobs and investment in Europe.

As partners of a European Strategic Cluster Partnership – Going International (ESCP-4i), we confirm that we subscribe to the following partnership’s principles:

Being European, meaning
- composed of partners, all established in EU Member States or countries participating in the COSME programme under Article 6 of the COSME Regulation and in minimum three different countries;

Being Strategic, meaning by
- developing and implementing a joint ‘European’ strategy with common goals and fostering complementarities between partners;
- promoting cooperation across related industries and sectoral boundaries in support of industrial modernisation / emerging industries;

Representing Cluster(s) through
- innovation cluster organisations or equivalent business network organisations that have an own legal entity, are registered on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) with a new complete profile and will post regularly information on the Partnership activities on the ECCP platform;

Forming a Partnership with the aim
- to set-up a partnership agreement engaging the partners to develop common actions and setting out the modalities of cooperation between them;
- to develop a roadmap for implementation with a long-term cooperation agenda to foster the sustainability of the partnership;
- to provide information upon European Commission’s request on the partnership activities and achievements;

Working towards Going International by
- developing and implementing a joint ‘European’ strategy for going international beyond Europe; and
- striving to successfully support the internationalisation of our SME members towards specific third countries, and/or attracting strategic foreign direct investment and cooperation partners and/or securing critical imports, knowledge and technologies with a view to support growth, jobs and investment in Europe.

Other provisions
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This ESCP-4i Charter is not intended to be binding or create any legal rights or financial obligations under EU or national law.

This ESCP-4i Charter may be modified at any time by the Partners in writing and upon acceptance by DG GROWTH. Partners may wish to withdraw from or discontinue the Partnership, endeavouring if doing so to provide prior written notice of 60 days to the other Partners and DG GROWTH.

The ESCP-4i Label, to be awarded upon reception of this signed Charter, will be valid until its possible renewal following the outcome of the next COSME call "Cluster Go International" and/or upon reception of information at DG GROWTH’s request to decide upon its prolongation.

Each Partner intends to bear its own costs and expenditures that might be incurred in the course of implementing this ESCP-4i Charter, besides possible funding made available under the COSME "Cluster Go International" action.

Signatures

Date: 15th February 2016

ESCP-4i Coordinator
Organisation name: ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA Signature: CLÚSTER DE LA INDUSTRIA DE L'ESPORT
Organisation acronym: INDESCAT
Country: SPAIN
Representative name: Joan Porcar Garcia
Representative title: President

ESCP-4i Partner 1
Organisation name: STICHTING SPORTS AND Signature: TECHNOLOGY
Organisation acronym: SportsTechnology
Country: Netherlands
Representative name: R.A.J. Wylen
Representative title: Cluster Manager

ESCP-4i Partner 2
Organisation name: EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR Signature: SPORTS INNOVATION
Organisation acronym: EPSI
Country: BELGIUM
Representative name: ALBERTO BIGHI
Representative title: CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ESCP-4i Partner 3

Organisation name: FLANDERS BIKE VALLEY
Organisation acronym: FBV
Country: Belgium
Representative name: Marc Hufkens
Representative title: Chairman Board of Directors

Signature:

ESCP-4i Partner 4

Organisation name: CLUSTER MONTAGNE
Organisation acronym: ClusterMontagne
Country: France
Representative name: Nathalie SAINT-MARCE
Representative title: Deputy Director

Signature: