# Introduction to the call for applications for the EU Cluster Manager of the Year 2019

The European Commission’s [Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/index_en) (DG GROW) believes that cluster organisations play a key role in boosting the economic growth and competitiveness in Europe.

This EU Cluster Manager of the Year Award is organised by the [European Observatory for Cluster and Industrial Change](https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiatives/european-cluster-observatory) team, in cooperation with the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, where the call for applications is published.

This award provides an opportunity for European Cluster Managers to showcase their excellence and for the European Union to promote the excellence of European cluster initiatives.

The EU Cluster Manager 2019 will be announced at the European Cluster Conference at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest, taking place 14 to 16 May 2019. Three shortlisted Cluster Managers, selected by an expert jury, will be invited to give a pitch and answer some questions during the Cluster Award pitching & networking cocktail on 14 May. The conference participants will then vote for the final winner and the award will be handed over afterwards during the cluster award ceremony. The selected Cluster Manager of the Year 2019 will then be asked to give a short speech in the morning of the 15 May to the conference participants.

We wish you the best of luck and look forward seeing you at the European Cluster Conference in May!

# General information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant information** |  |
| **Last name:** |  |
| **First name:** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Phone:** |  |
| **Postal address:** |  |
|  |
| **Name of your Cluster organisation:** |  |
| **Your Function in the Cluster organisation:** |  |
| **Time holding this position in the Cluster:** |  |
| **Cluster’s Website:** |  |
| **Link to profile on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (if applicable)** |  |
| **Has your cluster won any awards?**  *If yes, please indicate* |  |

**Have you participated in any cluster-related EU initiatives?**

* + Yes
  + No

**If yes, please indicate in which** *(you can tick more than 1):*

* + INNOSUP-1 Cluster Project for new industrial value chains
  + European Strategic Cluster Partnership for going international (ESCP 4i)
  + European Strategic Cluster Partnership for smart specialisation investments (ESCP-S3)
  + Cluster Excellence consortium (ESCP-4x)
  + Other (INTERREG, EIT-KIC etc.), please specify

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## ABOUT YOUR CLUSTER ORGANISATION

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* **When was the cluster organisation created?**
* **In which field(s) lies the primary focus of the cluster initiative? (Please select accordingly a maximum of five):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Field** | |
| Aerospace | Media |
| Agro-Food | Metal Processing/Manufacturing |
| Automotive | Micro- and Nanotechnology |
| Biotechnology | Mining (incl. equipment) |
| Business & Financial Services | Optics and Photonics |
| Chemical | Packaging |
| Construction (incl. equipment) | Plastics |
| Creative | Printing |
| Electronics, Electrical Equipment | Production Technology |
| Energy | Railway |
| Environment/Green Technologies | Security |
| Footwear and Leather | Software |
| Health Care/Medical Devices | Telecommunications |
| ICT | Textile |
| Jewellery | Tourism |
| Logistics | Transport Infrastructure |
| Maritime | Wood, Paper, Furniture |
| Materials and new Materials | Other  (please manually indicate the field): |
| Mechatronics |

**How has the cluster organisation evolved over time?** (Please complete the table below)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Today** | **2 years ago** | **5 years ago (if applicable)** |
| Number of employees in the cluster management team |  |  |  |
| Number of members of the cluster organisation |  |  |  |
| % of Public Funding as a source of financing the cluster management organisation |  |  |  |
| % of Private funding/fees as a source of financing the cluster management organisation |  |  |  |
| % of committed/active members of the cluster : |  |  |  |
| * Industry |  |  |  |
| * Universities/R&D Institutions |  |  |  |
| * Education/training organisations |  |  |  |
| * Government Agencies |  |  |  |
| * Other |  |  |  |
| Number of staff benefitting from training(s) |  |  |  |
| If applicable, which European Cluster Excellence Initiative label (gold, silver or bronze) or other label, standard or national recognition do you have? |  |  |  |

# PRESENTATION OF SUCCESS STORIES

**Give a short description (up to a maximum of 2 pages) of 2 recent success stories you have achieved in your cluster:**

The success stories should provide evidence on how the management of your cluster has strengthened the competitiveness of the cluster’s companies. You should include successful experiences in at least two of the following five categories. Please indicate any kind of challenges you may have experienced and how you successfully addressed them.

* **Management structure:** Efforts undertaken to maintain the framework and the internal organisational requirements.

*Examples should provide an insight into your strategy to secure the financial basis of your cluster organisation, how target-oriented human resources development is achieved (e.g. trainings provided to the staff) and in which way external experts and/or regional policy needs are integrated to your cluster management concept.*

* **Competitiveness of the cluster companies:** Efforts to set up a clear strategy to strengthen the competitiveness of the cluster members. Any participation to cluster mobility schemes and efforts to develop cluster managers’ skills and learning should be included under this dimension. Moreover, any type of training(s) offered to the cluster members should also be highlighted here.

*Describe instruments you have developed or any activities you have participated to, which contributed to the competitiveness of the cluster members.*

* **Active participation of the cluster members:** Efforts to sustain networking and cooperation activities between the members of the cluster / into the cluster ecosystem.

*Examples should cover activities implemented to support cooperation and networking between the members, including on building partnerships with respect to the development of innovative products or services or research and innovation projects.*

* **Cluster to cluster cooperation**: Efforts to sustain networking with other clusters in Europe and beyond (*e.g. twinning, workshops, meetings, learning activities, educational visits, cooperation projects),* which help building up strategic and long-term interregional partnerships for future business relations.

*Examples should cover successful international cooperation between cluster partners with respect to the development of innovative products or services.*

* **Active participation in cross-sectoral collaboration:** Adding value to existing industries and facilitating the development of emerging industries, e.g. through open cross sectoral collaboration along and across different value chains and encouraging the up-take of innovation, advanced technologies and services, resource-efficient solutions and upskilling).

*Examples should cover successful cross-sectoral collaboration between cluster partners supported by the cluster management, with respect to the development of new or improved products or services for SMEs around new value chains or sector priorities.*

## YOUR TWO SUCCESS STORIES

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| --- |
| *Please add the description of your two success stories here* |
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|  |

* **Please describe, in a few lines, what was the most significant activity of your cluster organisation that you have communicated about and what was the reach-out and/or engagement result of the communication?**
* **What media do you use to showcase your activities?** 
  + Facebook
  + Twitter
  + LinkedIn
  + ECCP
  + Other  (please specify):
  + None of the above ☐
* **Please add any additional information or future activity which you find useful for the jury to consider when evaluating your application** **(optional)**

# ETHIC AND PRIVACY STATEMENTS

* **I understand that this application will be reviewed by members of the expert jury and may be used for follow-up questions at the European Cluster Conference.**
  + 1. Yes
    2. No
* **I state and attest that:**
  1. I have reviewed the info provided by my organisation in this application form
     1. Yes
  2. To the best of my knowledge, no untrue statement of material fact is contained in this application and, no omission of a material fact that I am legally permitted to disclose and that affect my organisation's ethical and legal practices has been made. This includes but is not limited to sanctions and ethical breaches.
     1. Yes
* **I confirm that I will be able to attend and present during the European Cluster Conference in Bucharest on the evening of 14 May 2019 in case I am shortlisted by the jury and am willing to give a speech in the morning on 15 May 2019 in case I am selected as EU Cluster Manager of the Year.** 
  + 1. Yes
    2. No
* **I have read and agree with the attached** [**Privacy Statement**](https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/sites/default/files/data-protection-notice_call_for_applications.pdf) **in relation to my application and give my explicit consent for my images recorded or published on communication channels by the organiser of the event.** 
  + 1. Yes

**Please send this document to:** [info@eucluster2019.eu](mailto:info@eucluster2019.eu)

**Closing Deadline for Submissions: 15 April 2019 midnight**