# Introduction to the call for applications for the European Strategic Cluster Partnership of the Year 2019 for Going International (ESCP-4i)

The European Commission’s [Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs](https://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. There are nearly 1000 cluster organisations registered at the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, which are effective springboards and "transformation and growth accelerators" for accelerating SMEs internationalisation.

Strategic partnerships of cluster organisations are particularly important for connecting ecosystems and putting a partnering process in place for strategic collaboration through which enterprises, notably SMEs, together with other innovation actors, can be supported in finding partners with complementary competences and accessing cross-European and global value chains.

This award for the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships of the Year for Going International (ESCP-4i) 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 proposals is published.

Please note that the call for applications is only open to projects funded under the COSME programme with the label of "European Strategic Cluster Partnership for Going International".

This Award provides an opportunity for your European Strategic Cluster Partnerships to showcase your efforts and for the European Union to reward the most successful collaboration between clusters across Europe.

The 2019 European Strategic Cluster Partnership for Going International will be announced at the European Cluster Conference at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest, taking place 14 to 16 May. An expert jury will designate the winning partnership and the award will be handed over during the cluster award ceremony in the evening of the 14th of May.

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

# General information

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Identification of the ESCP-4i** | |
| **Name of ESCP-4i partnership:** |  |
| **Strand of the ESCP-4i:** | Strand 1  Strand 2 |
| **Contact person last name:** |  |
| **Contact person first name** |  |
| **Name of organisation of contact person** |  |
| **Email address:** |  |
| **Number of clusters collaborating under the partnership:** |  |
| **When was the cluster partnership created?:** |  |
| **Number of SMEs connected through the partnership:** |  |

* **What media do you use to showcase your activities?** 
  + Facebook
  + Twitter
  + LinkedIn
  + ECCP
  + Other  (please specify):
  + None of the above ☐
* **Has your partnership signed any cooperation agreement/International Cooperation Agreements (ICA)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?**
  1. Yes
  2. No

**If yes, which one(s*)?*** *(Open question)*

* **In which field(s) lies the primary focus of the cluster partnership? (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 |

# PRESENTATION OF SUCCESS STORY

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

The success story should provide evidence on how your cluster partnership has fostered joint internationalisation strategies to support SME internationalisation towards third countries beyond the EU and to strengthen the competitiveness of the cluster’s companies. You should include progress or successful experiences in any of the following categories. Please indicate any kind of challenges you may have experienced and how you successfully addressed them.

* **Cluster to cluster cooperation and knowledge exchange within the partnership and beyond:** Efforts to set up a clear strategy and joint activities to strengthen the interregional cooperation and knowledge exchange between the different clusters of the partnership and with other clusters/partnerships in European and beyond to sustain networking and build up a strategic and long-term interregional partnership for future business relations.

*Examples should cover successful activities to foster complementarities, synergies and international cooperation of the cluster partners with respect to SME internationalisation and the development of innovative products or services.*

* **SME internationalisation and business to business collaboration:**Efforts and joint activities to foster SME internationalisation towards third countries and to open international markets for them.

*Examples should provide an insight into the strategy to secure SME engagement and joint activities to boost SMEs’ access to targeted third markets and to identify suitable partners and access to knowledge for them (e.g. the number of SMEs that have benefitted/will benefit from your partnership, number of business missions, cooperation agreements, gateway services, export consortia, how many business partnership agreements have been mobilised or are planned).*

* **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 supported by the cluster partnership, with respect to the development of new or improved products or services for SMEs around new value chains or sector priorities. This can cover joint activities with technology centres, digital innovation hubs, KETs infrastructures and digital innovation hubs should also be mentioned.*

## YOUR SUCCESS STORY

|  |
| --- |
| *Please add the description of your success story here* |
|  |

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|  |

* **Please describe, in a few lines, what was the most significant activity of your partnership that you have communicated about and what was the reach-out and/or engagement result of the communication?**
* **Please add any additional information or future activity of the partnership 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 presenting your partnership 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 the European Cluster Conference in Bucharest on the evening of 14 May 2019 to represent the partnership in case my partnership is shortlisted/selected by the jury.** 
  + 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**