# Introduction to the call for applications for the European Strategic Cluster Partnership of the Year 2019 for smart specialisation investments (ESCP-S3)

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 smart specialisation investments (ESCP-S3) 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 smart specialisation investments". 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 smart specialisation investments 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-S3** | |
| **Name of ESCP-S3 partnership:** |  |
| **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?**
  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 strengthened the competitiveness of the cluster’s companies. You should include progress or successful experiences in any of the following five 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:** Efforts to set up a clear strategy and joint activities to strengthen the interregional cooperation and knowledge exchange between the different members of the partnership as well as to sustain networking across the clusters of the partnership 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, including through other fora a such as the thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms.

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

* **Business to business collaboration and SME engagement:**Efforts and joint activities to foster collaboration with enterprises, particularly to engage SMEs.

*Examples should provide an insight into the strategy to secure industry and SME engagement and joint activities to mobilise interregional business collaboration for innovation and investments, the different types of organisations involved; how their number has evolved or is expected to in future years; how many enterprises/SMEs have benefitted/will benefit from your partnership, 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**