



## **D4.4 - THE EACP-EUROSME PROJECT ACHIEVES IMPORTANT RESULTS FOR SMEs UNDER A COMMON SMART SPECIALIZATION AEROSPACE STRATEGY AND PRIORITY AREAS**

### **Press Article at Mid Term**

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## TYPE DELIVERABLE

Codes	Description	Check as appropriate
R	Document, report	X
DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	
DEC	Websites, patent fillings	
OTHER	Other	

## DISSEMINATION LEVEL

Codes	Description	Check as appropriate
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (incl. Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (incl. Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (incl. Commission Services)	

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## Glossary

Abbreviation / acronym	Description
EACP	European Aerospace Cluster Partnership
DAC	Distretto Aerospaziale della Campania (Campania Aerospace District)
HAv	Hamburg Aviation
MAC	Moravian Aerospace Cluster
TeRN	Tecnologie per le Osservazioni della Terra ed i Rischi Naturali
AV	Aerospace Valley
NWAA	North West Aerospace Alliance
ESCP-S3	European Strategic Cluster Partnerships for Smart Specialisation Investments

## Abstract

The EACP-EUROSME project has been officially launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 while the formal project kick-off meeting was held in Naples, Italy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2018. Few days after, two project team representatives participated in the launching events organised by EASME in Brussels.

This document represents the deliverable D4.4 and is the Press Release prepared on the occasion of the project progress and achievements at the General Assembly of EACP in Turin on 27-28 October 2019.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Purpose of this document

The purpose of the document is to disseminate among the specialized as well as general press the information about the official start of the activities of the EACP-EUROSME project.

## 2 TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE

### THE EACP-EUROSME PROJECT ACHIEVES IMPORTANT RESULTS FOR SMEs UNDER A COMMON SMART SPECIALIZATION AEROSPACE STRATEGY AND PRIORITY AREAS

The project **EACP-EUROSME** “aErospace inter-clUster smaRt specialization actiOns for SMEs competitiveness in the circular economy approach” is achieving important results along the European Commission’s policies of clustering and inter-regional smart specialization correlations to favour SMEs development. Midterm achievements have been presented at the General Assembly of the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership in Turin on 27-28 November, where managers of more than 40 clusters from 18 countries met.

The project is **funded by the European Union’s COSME Programme** and is running under the coordination of the Aerospace Campania District, DAC. Other participating clusters are Hamburg Aviation (Germany), Moravian Aerospace Cluster (Czech Republic), Technologies for Earth Observation and Natural Risks (Italy), Aerospace Valley (France), North West Aerospace Alliance (United Kingdom).

The ultimate objective of EACP-EUROSME is to achieve at least 4 technological innovation projects for an overall value of 20 million euros, ready to be financed by public

funding or private investment, thereby contributing to the European Commission's objectives to boost growth, jobs and investment in Europe, as expressed in the partnership's ESCP-S3 Charter.

Midterm achievements can be summarized as identification of aerospace inter-cluster smart specialization priority areas and SMEs business innovation assessment, with the involvement of about 345 SMEs, 46 clusters, 6 regions, 25 stakeholders in meetings, workshops and related events.

The RIS3 of the six represented European regions have been compared identifying 10 higher-ranked topics based on the analysis of strengths and weaknesses of each cluster. The further cross-investigation of strength and innovation potential, that constitute the plan of the opportunities (Opportunity Map), let four major topics to emerge: "Aircraft of the future", "Industry 4.0", "Observation Technologies", "UAV". Those four topics constitute the core of the common smart specialization aerospace strategy as formalized in a dedicated Partnership Agreement, pursuing in addition the development of the Circular Economy principles within the aviation sector value chain.

The EACP-EUROSME partnering clusters represents 938 SMEs, 105 of which have been assessed in terms of their business innovation characteristics and capabilities. For each of them a specific action plan has been then prepared and proposed to foster identified potentialities.

In the present phase of the EACP-EUROSME innovation project scouting within the RIS3 common strategy, 52 potential SME projects have been identified across the four abovementioned priority areas. An engagement methodology has been fixed that represents a framework to provide a pipeline of potential SME projects for partnerships. We are now building upon innovation project scouting data to identify potential SMEs partners, by running dedicated webinars. The first four webinars, one for each of the identified top common areas, were executed on 15 October during the Matchmaking Event held in Preston (UK) in which EACP-EUROSME was presented within the UK NATEP (National Aerospace Technology Programme) Showcase & Networking.

This methodology has been illustrated to the General Assembly of EACP with the aim to widen it to the entire partnership and to take long term benefit from the European public funds allocated to the EACP-EUROSME project.

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