



# BIGINN stakeholder management

COS-CLUSTER PROJECT N° 101037928 – BIGINN  
Deliverable D2.6 Accreditation and labelling awarded to clusters

Public

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## Version control

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes/Status
01	2022-11-26	LITEK	First draft
02	2022-11-27	INEUSTAR	Revision
02	2002-11-27	DTI	Review and final version

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Executive summary

This deliverable report is related to the WP2 (Cluster Capacity Building) Task 2.6: Accreditation and labelling of clusters in the consortium. The task was performed in collaboration with a relevant international accreditation organisation as sub-contractor.

## 1.2 Introduction and objectives

BIGINN marks a new beginning for business and Big Science Innovation. The project has the overarching objective of exploiting the potential for innovation and international collaboration from the Big Science market by tapping into the huge investments in state-of-the-art technologies in this field. The consortium partners from Denmark, Spain and Lithuania have joined forces for the ClusterXchange programme to address the specific challenges of the sector, namely:

- Strengthen and professionalise the cluster management skills in the new area of Big Science clusters.
- Employ cluster mobility schemes to implement cross-fertilization of innovation opportunities at the different clusters.
- Improve SME global competitiveness by establishing international relations and collaborations.

## 1.3 Legal notice

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**Table 1: BIGINN partnership**

Participant Organization Name	Short Name	Country
TEKNOLOGISK INSTITUT	DTI	Denmark
ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE LA INDUSTRIA DE LA CIENCIA	INEUSTAR	Spain
VIESOJI ISTAIGA FIZIKOS INSTITUTO MOKSLO IR TECHNOLOGIJU PARKAS	LITEK	Lithuania

## 2. CLUSTER MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

"Cluster Management Excellence" refers to the best practices, strategies, and capabilities involved in effectively managing and overseeing clusters of resources or systems within an environment. It helps organizations achieve better performance, reliability, and efficiency in managing their computing resources.

Since 2011, the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) has been offering a cluster benchmarking methodology to management organisations of regional networks, innovation networks, and cluster initiatives.

A cluster-management-quality-labelling-approach featuring the three quality labels BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD was implemented as a service for cluster management organisations striving for cluster management excellence. The operation of ESCA is supported by a broad network of in the meantime nearly 200 specifically trained experts from all over Europe and worldwide conducting activities on-site at the premises of the cluster organisations.



The European Cluster Excellence Initiative has become a clear success story with the labelling scheme being extensively used in numerous countries. As of today, nearly 1,300 cluster organisations from 45 countries have been awarded a BRONZE label, about 180 a SILVER label and nearly 140 a GOLD label, respectively. Today, cluster managers and policy makers alike recognise the three ECEI quality labels as a credible "European standard for cluster management".

### *Benchmarking*

In contrast to evaluations and economic impact assessments, benchmarking is an efficient and effective way to identify the potential of a cluster and to develop strategic recommendations for its further development within a short time frame.

Benchmarking is a comparative analysis of structures, processes, products and services. It compares an entity to peers in the same field of activity and/or to best practices from entities in other areas. The objective of benchmarking is to learn from better performing peers or other entities in order to improve own structures, processes, products and services.

## 3. BENCHMARKING OF CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS

One of BIGINN Partnership's activity pillars is dedicated towards cluster excellence capacity-building activities. In order to enhance cluster manager's skills, assessment of the cluster organisations through benchmarking was initiated.

### *Background*

At the beginning of the project two clusters of the consortium – BigScience.dk and INEUSTAR – were not labelled. During the project their goal was to build cluster management skills and aim for at least Bronze Cluster Management Excellence label.

LITEK cluster was bronze labelled twice. The last active label ended 2023-May. In order to maintain and show the cluster management excellence, it was decided to apply for a silver label or renew the bronze label. During the cluster excellence activities and benchmarking process LITEK cluster examined its internal structure and decided that it was unlikely that the cluster was able to achieve the Silver Label by the end of the project. Every effort was and will be made to acquire the necessary competences and to be ready for such a step in the near future.

## Evaluation process

All three partners participated at joint ECEI Cluster Management Benchmarking workshop (10.th of October 2023) organised by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) of VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH. The Workshop was organised online (MS Teams). The Workshop was led by Helmut Kergel (Director, European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA)).

Cluster	Comparative portfolio
BigScience.dk	Aviation and space
INEUSTAR	Aviation and space
LITEK – Laser & Engineering Technologies Cluster	Micro, nano and optical technologies

## Results

After the participation in the ECEI Cluster Management Benchmarking workshop organised by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) of VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH, all three clusters submitted the required questionnaires for evaluation. After assessment, BigScience.DK, INEUSTAR and LITEK were all awarded with the "Cluster Management Excellence Label BRONZE – Striving for Cluster Excellence".

Name	Comparative portfolio	Country	Label valid until
<a href="#">BigScience.dk</a>	Aviation and space	Denmark	2025/11/25
<a href="#">INEUSTAR</a>	Aviation and space	Spain	2025/11/30
<a href="#">LITEK – Laser &amp; Engineering Technologies Cluster</a>	Micro, nano and optical technologies	Lithuania	2026/05/31

# BIGINN

A new beginning for business and Big Science innovation

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Strengthening the European economy through collaboration