



Block.IS



Block.IS Cluster Missions Call Announcement & Information Pack



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1 Introduction & Context

This document provides a full set of information regarding to the Block.IS Cluster Mission open call for clusters and SMEs to participate in one of the Block.IS Cluster Missions.

The vision of the Blockchain Innovation Spaces (**Block.IS**) project is to build an open and collaborative cross-border, cross-sectoral innovation ecosystem that fosters the use of this cutting-edge technology in three vital sectors for the European economy: **agrifood**, **logistics** and **finance**.

The Block.IS Cluster Missions is a supporting tool/methodology to engage and connect clusters from the above-mentioned sectors (with different levels of development). The Missions allow the participants to **understand and 'feel' the hosting cluster ecosystem**, learn the processes required to boost innovation, find out about the available resources, build relationships and expand their networks and capacity to support their SMEs' growth. Moreover, they will present and represent their own clusters in the Block.IS clusters community, as well as they will have the opportunity to bring **one** of their **star SMEs** (selected by Block.IS team) to share a success story or valuable innovation use case. It would be ensured that participants are exposed in order to share insights about their home clusters and, most importantly, they would be given enough opportunity to build personal relationships with other clusters and local networks.

In order to attract a large number of SMEs participations in the open calls, after each Mission, participants are encouraged to report back to their home cluster network relevant information on Block.IS through a particular meeting, event and/or article (this information shall be shared with the Block.IS consortium). This will also allow a broad audience to learn about the hosting clusters, lessons learned, expanded network and possible synergies, as well as the value of Block.IS Cluster Missions.

2 Objectives and Approach

Clusters are crucial for the Block.IS ecosystem. We want to empower clusters to serve as multipliers of a comprehensive support our accelerator is offering to innovators. This is why we invite clusters and their most active members working around or willing to utilize potentials of blockchain technologies to join Block.IS Cluster Missions - a roadshow of short-term brainstorming sessions organized by clusters and for clusters across Europe. Missions aim to bring clusters together, to inspire them to learn more about the Block.IS ecosystem and to understand better how their members can benefit from the funding, business and technical support Block.IS is offering. The roadshow of cluster missions will foster cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration between clusters in Europe.

Block.IS Cluster Missions represent a systematic approach to push and stimulate collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experience among clusters to foster innovation and the creation of new industrial value chains and emerging industries. Block.IS has planned specific measures and actions in order external consortium clusters and SMEs/innovators to get engaged in this activity (e.g. encouraging participation via training sessions/workshops, info days, conferences and B2B events).

The main objective of the open calls for Block.IS Cluster Missions is to attract and engage European wide clusters representatives and their top SMEs (success stories and use cases). The aim is to engage clusters to participate in exchange activities and missions with the goal to learn about local cluster ecosystem and tools, meet relevant representatives and establish practical bonds. Their participation will enable the sharing of best practices, success stories and will stimulate and develop cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship across different regions and value chains.

Cluster Missions will take place in 5 waves (i.e. total 15 of them):

Table 1: Waves of Cluster Missions

Year	March-April-May	September-October-November
2019	-	M01 M02 M03
2020	M04 M05 M06	M07 M08 M09
2021	M10 M11 M12	M13 M14 M15

Table 2: Preliminary information on Cluster Missions

Mission	Timeframe / Location	Comments
M01	27 th -28 th September 2019 Novi Sad (Serbia)	Business Incubator Novi Sad (Serbia) in collocation with the Startup Weekend Novi Sad
M02	October/November 2019 Valencia (Spain)	
M03	26 th -28 th November 2019 Vilnius (Lithuania)	
M06	27 th -28 th May 2020 Regensburg (Germany)	
M11	April 2021 Rotterdam (Netherlands)	

Please follow regularly <https://blockis.eu/applynow/cluster-missions/> for updated information on missions' locations and dates.

A call will be issued for each mission so that both cluster representatives and SMEs apply for the missions. The best applicants according to the Block.IS criteria will be invited to participate in the mission.

2.1 Agenda Example

Hosting clusters will be responsible for setting up the agenda and ensuring its successful implementation. They will also be responsible for the direct communication with the Mission participants. Based on the participants' profiles and expectations the agenda will be adapted and whenever possible and requested, brokerage services will be provided. For more details please look at the provisional example for the first cluster mission: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is.mission01>.

When possible, the cluster missions shall be connected with local events that enable valuable networking activities.

Table 3: Cluster Mission Agenda Description

Day	Goal	Type of Activities
Day 1	Share innovation experiences	Seminar / workshop to share innovation experiences between participants.
Day 2	Showcase innovation experiences	Visits to key facilities/entities, meetings with local SMEs and introduction to successful innovative projects supported by clusters.
Day 3	Participate in local events (optional)	When possible, missions will be collocated with innovation events preferably in the domains of Blockchain, agrifood, logistics or finance.

The agenda of Cluster Missions will be elaborated with more details and the proposed activities upon the confirmation of the relevant cluster organization to host the event. In other words, the activities suggested for each of the Cluster Missions are subject to change.

3 Eligibility of applicants and Selection Criteria

3.1 Eligibility of applicants

Applicants must be legal entities and be either a cluster organization or a business network organization. Additional value for the applicant organization is if it is registered on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP). Additionally, eligible applicants are SME entities developing blockchain-based solutions.

The applicant organization is a legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member States or in an H2020 Associated country as defined in the H2020 rules for participation¹.

Each applicant may be selected to participate at only one (1) Block.IS Cluster Mission.

Applying entities will be informed soon after the application deadline about the results of the selection (approximately one week after each mission's application deadline) and an official confirmation on the business trip and details will follow.

3.2 Selection of participants

Evaluation is made by 3 evaluators: (i) representatives of the Block.IS consortium - a member of coordinator's team, (ii) a hosting cluster representative and (iii) a representative of another cluster partner in the consortium.

The Block.IS team will assess the applications of clusters for each cluster mission by following the 4 main criteria presented below (in brackets weighting factors for each criterion are given). Each (sub)criterion is given a mark from 1 (worst) to 5 (best). The final mark of each evaluator is the sum of the weighted single attributes. The final mark for an application is the arithmetic mean of the 3 assessments given by each evaluator.

Table 4: Balance Scorecard

Part of Evaluation	Weight
Pitch presentation	0.35
Capacity to generate impact	0.25
Blockchain innovation generation potential	0.25
Geographical coverage	0.15
Total	1.00

SME applicants for cluster missions will be assessed based on their pitch presentations, with each jury member giving a grade from 1 (worst) to 5 (best) and the final mark will be the arithmetic mean of assessments given by each jury member.

¹ Association to Horizon 2020 is governed by Article 7 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation. The list of associated countries is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

Table 5: Detailed Evaluation Criteria

Part of Evaluation	Weight	Value	Description
Cluster/SME Pitch (Based on pitch presentation) 0.35	0.35	1 point	The cluster domain is not related with Block.IS targeted sectors
		2 points	Little evidence of potential involvement in Block.IS dissemination activities and applicant cluster does not collaborate with the hosting cluster
		3 points	Little evidence of potential involvement in Block.IS dissemination activities and applicant cluster already collaborate with the hosting cluster
		4 points	Strong evidence of potential involvement in Block.IS dissemination activities and applicant does not collaborate with hosting cluster
		5 points	Strong evidence of potential involvement in Block.IS dissemination activities and applicant already collaborate with hosting cluster
Capacity to generate impact 0.25	0.20	Number of SME cluster members	
		1 point	1–9
		2 points	10–19
		3 points	20–29
		4 points	30–39
	5 points	40+	
	0.05	Geographic coverage of cluster networks a cluster is member of	
		1 point	Local
		2 points	National
		3 points	Cross-border
4 points		European	
5 points	Global		
Blockchain innovation generation potentials 0.25	0.05	Number of SME members that have already generated some blockchain solutions	
		1 point	1–2
		2 points	3–5
		3 points	6–10
		4 points	10–15
5 points	15+		

	0.20	Number of blockchain related project a cluster participates at	
		1 point	The cluster is not involved in blockchain activities
		2 points	The cluster is considering starting blockchain activities
		3 points	Some of the SMEs of the cluster are working in blockchain
		4 points	The cluster roadmap includes blockchain related activities
		5 points	The cluster participates in blockchain related projects
Geographical Coverage 0.15	0.15	Where are your members coming from	
		1 point	Local level
		2 points	National level
		3 points	Cross-border level
		4 points	European level
		5 points	Global level

4 Cost and Financial Support

As a way to further strengthen the bonds between clusters and stimulate all this exchange, Block.IS will provide a travel voucher for each participant (minimum of 5 Clusters and 3 SMEs per mission). Whenever there is the capacity to host additional clusters, these can participate but without financial support.

NOTE: Considering the €60,000 limit of funding given by the Block.IS accelerator to each selected SME it shall be noted that, an SME that received a voucher to attend a mission shall not be excluded from participating in an open call, but the maximum amount received in total (Open Call and voucher received) is limited to the maximum of €60,000.

Table 6: Financial Support Breakdown

Financial Support	
0–99 km	€0
100–499 km	€150
500–999 km	€300
1,000+ km	€450

€300 for cost of stay
 (if the participant's residence is in place of mission hosting no costs of stay are given)

Information on the different mission locations, as well as the accommodation info pack in the different cities will be provided by the organization team. Each participant is responsible to take care of his or her own bookings according to these indications. Expenses will be reimbursed under the conditions specified above, where actively participating up at the event is considered as a trigger for travel reimbursement. In addition, the Block.IS team will ask for signed travel claim document (template will be provided).

5 Application Procedure

Applicants are invited to submit their expression of interest (each mission has its important dates visible at the Block.IS website) to: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

The expression of interest should encompass:

- a filled in application form (Annex 1: *Block.IS Cluster Missions Application Form*) on the cluster or network organization with proof/evidence of the legal entity;
- a short presentation of the cluster organization in English language, using PowerPoint (maximum 10 slides, Annex 2: *Block.IS Cluster Missions Application Pitch Template*).

Applicants are expected to provide complete, accurate data and contact details.

5.1 Announcement of Block.IS Cluster Missions call of financial support

Action acronym: Block.IS

Action grant agreement number: 824509

Action full name: Blockchain Innovation Spaces

The action Block.IS, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824509, foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties, as a means to achieve its own objectives.

Deadline: To be defined for each cluster mission.

Maximum amount of financial support for each third party: 750€

Call identifier: Block.IS Cluster Mission Call #1

Language in which the proposal shall be submitted: English

Web address for further information (full call text): <https://blockis.eu/apply-now/cluster-missions/>

The submission will take place via the F6S Platform: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

6 Additional Information

6.1 Block.IS Cluster Missions Call – Additional Material

Open Call supported material:

- *Block.IS Cluster Missions Call Announcement & Information Pack (docx)* - this document
- *Block.IS Cluster Missions Application Form (docx)*
- *Block.IS Cluster Missions Application Pitch Template (pptx)*
- *Frequently Asked Questions & answers* published at the community feed
<https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

6.2 Points of Contact

The Block.IS consortium will provide information to the applicants only via the F6S blog, so that the information (question and answer), will be visible to all participants. No binding information will be provided via any other means (e.g. telephone or email).

More information at: <https://blockis.eu/apply-now/cluster-missions/>

Blog and application via: <https://www.f6s.com/block.is>

F6S Support Team: support@f6s.com