S3 Community of Practice

Expression of Interest for Sponsorship of the S3 Community of Practice Conference 2024

Table of Contents

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Introduction

The objective of this Expression of Interest is to invite regions or Member States to support the S3CoP in the preparation of the **S3 Conference 2024** by sponsoring the event. The S3 Conference 2024 is to be held in late Autumn this year as a presential event, and open to the S3 Community as a whole. The event offers stakeholders the opportunity to network and share experiences, challenges, and lessons learned. For the host, it represents an opportunity to **give visibility to local S3, its stakeholders and its achievements.**

Description of the event

The S3 Conference aims to discuss Smart Specialisation and its role in driving local economic development and promoting EU priorities. By bringing together different European stakeholders of the S3 sphere, the Conference embodies the mission of the S3 CoP: create and mobilise a community of practitioners to address key challenges and share best practices, thus encouraging S3 partnerships and cooperation across EU Member States.

The S3 Conference offers a pivotal **sharing and networking moment** for the community of policymakers involved in Smart Specialisation and is the most important event for the S3 Community for 2024. This year is particularly crucial as the future of Cohesion policy is taking shape for the post 2027 programming period. The S3 Conference will thus hold a strategic role as it will offer the possibility to reflect on the current programming period, as well as envision its future direction.

The event will last **one day and a half**. The first day will open with a plenary in which high level speakers and representatives from the hosting regions will discuss the latest developments in S3 and future directions. A series of breakout sessions will follow the plenary, the topics of which will be defined in the coming weeks following the European Commission's strategic direction.

In the second half day, there will be a set of parallel activities, namely:

- **Steering Committee** – meetings to exchange and share experiences among thematic smart specialization partnerships (TSSPs)

- **Working Groups** – to exchange experience and good practices on innovation diffusion, interregional cooperation and industrial transition
- Potential **side events** organized by the host

Sponsorship request

Through this call, we are inviting national and regional authorities to express their interest in sponsoring the event, as well as support the organization of the side events.

The sponsor should support the S3 Conference 2024 with the following:

1. A venue with a plenary capacity for 400 spaces and rooms for 4-6 breakout sessions, preferably with the necessary equipment (chairs, screens, projectors).
2. A dedicated area for the side events.
3. **Logistical and organizational support** of the venue and its side events
4. **Willingness of the region** to take part in regular calls with the S3 CoP Secretariat for planning purposes and liaising with the European Commission when necessary.

In selecting the venue, one of the key criteria will be **accessibility to international travelers** and ensuring that it is easy to reach by public transport.

How to apply

If you would be interested in hosting the S3 Conference in your region/country, we would welcome your expression of interest by **15th of March 2024**. You can do so via the following survey link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ExpressionofInterestS3CoP

The selected host will be asked to sign a formal letter of commitment to the European Commission.

Contact information

If you have any questions, feel free to send a message to contact@S3-cop.eu.