**COOPERATE Call for Champions open!**

The COOPERATE project invites emerging Research and Innovation (R&I) ecosystems to participate in its Call for Champions, offering an opportunity to advance your ecosystem toward becoming a ERA-Hub. Through the Call for Champions, the COOPERATE project will support two ecosystems in enhancing collaboration, knowledge exchange and maturity as part of the European Research Area (ERA).

The two ecosystems, which will be selected based on a series of criteria, will benefit from:

* **Support and guidance provided by the COOPERATE consortium in their progress as ecosystem**: this includes the support in the assessment of the maturity of the ecosystem and the identification of actions that can help the ecosystem make progress taking into consideration the needs of the actors involved. Through this process, the ecosystems will have the opportunity to better define their orientation and mission as well as concrete next steps for further development.
* **Direct involvement in the reflections to define and apply the ERA-Hubs concept in future EU policy**.
* **Networking opportunities within their regions as well as with other EU ecosystems** and R&I stakeholders through the co-creation sessions.
* **Increased visibility at European level and within the ERA community.**

This call is open to universities or organisations closely linked to them, active in the field of knowledge valorisation, such as a Knowledge Transfer Organisation (KTO), Technology Transfer Office (TTO), a university-based incubator or other academia-based intermediaries.

The required documentation must be submitted by **30 October 2024 at 29:59 (Brussels time)** via email cooperate.era@gmail.com, with the following email object: “Application Call for Champions”

For more information on the Call for Champions, the Eligibility & Evaluation criteria and the Application, Evaluation and Selection process, please refer to the full Call for Champions text which can be downloaded and accessed through <https://www.cooperate-project.eu/call-for-champions/>.