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European Association of Development Agencies

ROLE OF CLUSTERS IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION IN THE EU COUNTRIES

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I. Basic facts about Europe

- Europe = multi governance system
- European Union = 27 Member States:
 - 21 centralised states
 - 3 federal states (AT/DE/BE) + Scotland (UK)
 - Madeira and Acores Islands (PT)
 - 3 states with strong regional authorities (ES/IT/FR)NB: 7 small micro states < 4 mio. (EE/SI/MT/LU/CY/LT/LV)
- 271 regions (NUTS 2*): administrative regions having a population between 800 000 and 3 million inhabitants
- 120 380 municipalities

* Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics



Who is doing what ?

Field of competence for entrepreneurship, innovation and research

EU	Research	Innovation	Enterprise
National level	✓	✓	✓
Regional level	✓	✓	✓
Large cities		✓	✓
Smaller municipal entities			✓



II. Clusters in EU member states: some statistics

Experts estimate the number of clusters in Europe at ± 2000 (Porter Model)

Eurada has a database of ± 600 organised clusters; for instance:

- Czech Republic.: 6
- Sweden: 12
- Austria 13
- Belgium: 16
- Finland: 18
- Spain: 24
- Switzerland: 24
- Hungary: 29
- UK: 45
- Germany: 110
- Italy: 129
- France: 173



Cluster typology: trends

- Spontaneous and bottom-up
- Top-down
- Political wishes
- Transnational
- Cross-sectorial vs mono-sectorial



III. Challenges for EU clusters

- World payers = critical mass + internationalisation + competitiveness
- Enhancing the transformation of ideas and research results into products and services
- Strengthening the value chain
- Fostering cross-sector technologies
 - e.g.:
 - ICT – car industry
 - bio plastics
 - wellness



What are the main barriers for cluster-to-cluster cooperation ?

- Culture – language
- Source of funding if regional or national = money often needs to be spent locally
- Foreigners are perceived as competitors (enterprises) or as a threat for relocation (public sector)



IV. What could be achieved through EU – Japan cluster cooperation?

1. Internationalisation

2. Cooperation



Internationalisation

Internationalisation means

a) For the region

- FDI attraction
- Growth attraction

b) For enterprises

- Export (sale, joint-ventures)
- Outsourcing (import)
- Knowledge acquisition (technology transfer)
- Access to talent (recruitment, exchange)

c) For staff of regional organisations including cluster managers

- Networking
- Capacity building
- Best practice benchmarking
- Institutional benchmarking



Cooperation

Matrix of business functions and international services

Business functions	International services
Research	Joint research Access to equipment + expertise Establishment of research facilities (FDI)
Innovation	Joint development Proof of technological concept Proof of economic concept Licensing and transfer of intellectual property
Production	Establishment of production facilities (FDI) Subcontracting Outsourcing/Offshoring
Marketing	Market testing/Economic intelligence
Distribution	International outreach

Source : EURADA



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 - www.labaulewic.org
 - 4 events:
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 - 2nd Transatlantic Green Platform: « Fostering transatlantic cooperations for cleantech »
 - 1st Brainpower Forum: « Training, attracting and retaining talent for innovation and added value »
- **InterCluster 2010 (Brussels, Belgium?)**
 - www.intercluster.eu
 - 3rd conference
 - Speed presentation of clusters
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Thank you for your attention and
contributions!

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