European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change –

Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond

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Background

The European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change (EOCIC)...

- ... is an initiative of the European Commission’s Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Directorate-General
- ... provides a single access point for statistical information, analysis and mapping of clusters and cluster policy in Europe, aimed at European, national, regional and local policy-makers, as well as cluster managers and representatives of SME intermediaries
- ... aims to help Europe's regions and countries design better and more evidence-based cluster policies and initiatives
- ... provides an Europe-wide comparative cluster mapping with sectoral and cross-sectoral statistical analysis of the geographical concentration of economic activities, various services and analyses
Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond in a nutshell...

Cluster policy is an important instrument to support economic development:

• Cluster policies are a crucial instrument of regional, national and international industrial policies
• Many European countries have cluster programmes in place, providing different extent of support
• High importance for regions with € 2.32 billion of envisaged ESIF investments (2014-2020)
• Many non-European countries also use clusters to promote growth, e.g. Canada's industrial superclusters or China’s Torch programme
The analysis provides information for:

- 29 countries in Europe (including 30 national cluster programmes in 20 countries)
- 49 regions in Europe (including 55 cluster programmes in 27 regions)
- national cluster policies in 10 non-European countries (United States of America, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Israel, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan and South Korea)
Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond: Selected results

National cluster policies in Europe

- Cluster policies address various objectives
- Targets: clusters in emerging fields, but also in mature industries
- Cluster policy is strongly related to RTDI support

Relevant types of clusters targeted in national programmes

- Public funding is crucial, but private funds are also important
- Cluster programmes will maintain or increase their importance in the coming years
Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond: Selected results

Regional cluster policies in Europe

• Different approaches to support clusters

• Cluster programmes address several objectives

• Cluster support often targets emerging and existing activities

Benefits for regional enterprises of joining a cluster

• Regional, European, private funds are the most important sources of financing cluster programmes

• Cluster programmes will maintain or increase their importance in the coming years
Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond: Selected results

National cluster policies beyond Europe

• Cluster support mostly through dedicated cluster programmes
• Cluster support often targets emerging and existing activities
• Cluster policy addresses various objectives and is embedded in the specific national setting
• Cluster policies focus on SME support and favourable ecosystems
• Cluster policies mostly target national activities, but some countries also focus on collaboration beyond national borders
• Some countries simultaneously support different types of clusters
Cluster programmes in Europe and beyond: Selected results

Cluster policies: Main lessons learned

• Cluster policies are a crucial instrument of regional, national and international industrial policies
• Cluster policy is an integral element of the policy mix and vehicle to support innovation, R&D, modernisation, favourable framework conditions, thus competitiveness and growth
• Clusters are supported through dedicated programmes and/or in the context of economic promotion, innovation and specialisation, with different extent of support
• Cluster support helps to address strategic development goals

Cluster policies support economic development in European and non-European countries and in European regions
Thank you very much!
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