



Developing Smart Specialization Strategies for Cluster Improvement

Perspectives from South East Europe:

Highlights of the ClusterPoliSEE Project <http://clusterpolisee.eu>

Smart Specialization Strategies: Implementing European Partnerships Conference
Committee of the Regions, 18 June 2014, Brussels

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Six thematic priorities for policy improvement:

1. Innovation, R&D driven Cluster Development

- Strengthen 'triple helix' mechanisms and and coordination across different cluster initiatives and R&D activities
- Clarify institutional lines of responsibilities and command regarding regional cluster development
- Reinforce mechanisms for enhancing cluster stakeholder involvement
- Increase visibility and awareness of clusters and their concrete impact

2. Sustainability through Cluster Development

- Introduce measures raising awareness of sustainability and eco-innovation
- Introduce drivers for mainstreaming eco-innovation through regulation, prices and access to materials, and networks
- Introduce an eco-industry supportive environment through coordinated environmental policy and fiscal schemes supporting entrepreneurship
- Introduce education and training programs on sustainability through cluster development

3. International Cluster Cooperation and networking

- Some good regional progress but still uncoordinated initiatives and unexploited potential of clusters
- Increase networking opportunities with the clusters in neighbouring countries, e.g., at SEE/Danube/Black Sea level
- Pilot of “export hubs” and “investment-attraction hubs” within strong clusters

4. Financial Framework Improvement

- Establish a stable medium-term/multi-annual commitment/framework to financially support cluster initiatives
- Simplify funding regulations and reduce administrative burdens on clusters
- Develop new innovative financial tools to support and consolidate more integrated and systematic interactions between science and industry

5. Clusters and Regional Specialization

- Establish coordination mechanisms to address fragmentation and increase focus on RIS3 strategy development
- Introduce cluster mapping with emphasis on assessment of existing regional specializations and potential emerging specializations
- Increase regional stakeholder engagement with RIS3 strategy implementation along with PPPs
- Establish monitoring mechanisms and KPIs

6. New skills and Jobs creation

- Improve cluster management skills: involve clusters in cluster member training and the development of educational and vocational programs
- Position clusters as key 'hubs' better aligning skills with needs of the labour market
- Strengthen cooperation and integration between relevant public employment services and private employment agencies and accreditation systems
- Address the growing problem of brain-drain



Thank You

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