EUROPEAN CLUSTER CONFERENCE 2022

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European Commission

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

#EUClusterConference

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EU2022.CZ

Clusters

A Cluster is a concentration of economic activities in related industries in a specific location

Kew features:
- The spatial concentration of firms (**agglomeration**)
- A web of relations between firms belonging to the same production chain (**specialization**)
- A web of relations between firms and local institutions (**embeddedness**)

Clusters

Clusters are key to industrial competitiveness and innovation

Cluster policy should be at the core of industrial and regional policy

However:
Cluster policy needs changing to sustain the digital and green transitions and cope with the challenges brought about by environmental and social sustainability

The new cluster policy

Clusters should become a tool to facilitate regional **structural change** and **innovation** within the **smart specialisation strategy** (RIS3)

Changing models of innovation

From **learning by doing and learning by interacting within the production chain** (which are the main innovation mechanisms in clusters)

→ **User-driven innovation,** addressing the new societal and environmental challenges

From **incremental innovations**

→ **Radical innovations** which involve not only technology but changes in the competences, organization and business models

Cluster policy in RIS3: relatedness

Clusters should be considered as part of the **regional innovation ecosystem**

Cluster policy should look not only at the internal organization of clusters but also at the **relations with other clusters**

Cluster policy should exploit the **variety of clusters** at regional level and the **cross-fertilization** potential between them

Moreover, cluster policy should be aimed at promoting the **relations between clusters and research institutions** (universities)

Cluster policy in RIS3: transformation

RIS3 is aimed at promoting a transformative logic: it relies on present strengths to promote innovation and diversification

A way to sustain established clusters while promoting transformation is to look at clusters not in terms of their final output (NACE) but in terms of **organizational and technological competences**

The aim of RIS3 it to leverage on the **variety of competences** and their potential relations to promote **innovation and industrial diversification**

Cluster policy in RIS3: (inter-regional) connectivity

Clusters could be the main tools to implement the **outward looking approach in RIS3**; i.e. leveraging on competences and relations outside the regional boundaries

Cluster policy should not only linking up the main players in the regional ecosystem, but also help **overcoming regional silos**, pooling resources and exploiting complementarities with other EU regions

Cluster policy in RIS3: cluster governance

Clusters are characterized by the presence of SMEs which lack the financial and human resources to invest in R&D and interact in effective ways with research institutions.

Cluster governance may help SMEs to elaborate long-term visions for their innovative activity and **pool resources** to promote **collaborations with research institutions** and with other clusters at regional and inter-regional level.

Thank you