



**EU Cluster Portal** 

# Cluster Mapping: Creating the Knowledge Infrastructure for Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship

### Dr. Christian H. M. Ketels Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School President, The TCI Network

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### **Research About Clusters**

#### **Case Studies**

- Show nature of clusters
- Establish types of linkages that exist within clusters
- Identify patterns of cluster dynamics and their drivers
- Develop hypotheses on the impact of clusters on firms and regions

#### Cross-sectoral quantitative Studies

- Systematic comparison of clusters across sectors and locations
- Measurement of the overall importance of clusters
- Tracking cluster evolution
- Empirical tests of the impact of cluster presence on regional and firm-level economic performance

# "Cluster Mapping"

# **The Evolution of Cluster Mapping**



# **Cluster Mapping: The Method**

- 1. Classify industries by their geographic footprint
  - Traded geographically concentrated
  - Local present everywhere

### 2. Group traded industries into cluster categories

- Co-location of employment and establishments
- Similarities in skill use (national)
- Input-Output linkages (national)

### 3. Group clusters

 Data on weaker linkages to track relationships across clusters



- Aggregation of data into indicators by cluster category and location (establishments, employment, wages, patents, skills,...)
- Can be linked to location-specific outcome data

- Reflect fundamentally different competitive dynamics that matter for policy
- Are more informative on actual economic linkages and similarities than traditional groupings by technology, policy priority

 Critical for development paths, while clusters are key for current performance

# **51 Traded Clusters, 16 Local Clusters**

### 51 Traded Clusters







#### 16 Local Clusters



### **Linkages across Cluster Categories**



RI >= 20%

& RI >= 20%

criteria

# **Linkages Across Clusters / Emerging New Clusters**



#### **Digital Industries**

# What data is now available?

### Production Technology Clusters in Europe Relative Employment Specialization



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# Midtjylland (DK) Cluster Portfolio





### **Combining Core Cluster Data with Other Indicators**

- Patents by clusters
- Gazelles by cluster
- Occupational profiles of clusters
- Profile of cluster portfolios in specific types of regions

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# What do we learn from the data?

## **3000 Strong Clusters Across Europe**

### NUMBER OF STRONG CLUSTERS BY PERFORMANCE STARS



# **Cluster Churn**

### Share of clusters keeping/changing performance group, 2008-2014

STRONG CLUSTER



# **Clusters and Economic Performance**



# **Clusters and Entrepreneurship**

• 67 700 gazelles in traded industries in Europe employ 1.9 million workers or 1.6% of all employees



- 25 000 or 38% of all trade industry gazelles are located in strong clusters; gazelles are as concentrated geographically as overall employment
- Gazelles in strong clusters account for 46% of all gazelle employment; they employ 35 employees on average compared to 24 in gazelles elsewhere

# **Profile of Regions by Emerging Industry Strength**



**Putting Clusters into Context** 



# How does it matter for policy?

• Clusters emerge naturally

- Clusters emerge and develop in a context deeply affected by policy choices
- Collaboration within clusters provides benefits but requires purposeful collective action
- Policies for upgrading business environment conditions can be more effective if they are clusterspecific but require information sharing and collective action



• Cluster-based policies enable informed decision making and collective action

# From Cluster Mapping to Cluster-Based Policies

• Cluster mapping data provides **critical intelligence** to guide policy action



- How does industrial composition (what) and performance within specific industries (how) contribute to a location's overall economic performance?
- What clusters can specific policy programs, for example on entrepreneurship, leverage in a given location to enhance impact
- What **opportunities for industrial upgrading do specific locations have** given their unique cluster portfolio and neighboring locations?
- Where are the hotspots of specific industries, clusters, or groups of related clusters that make them **the most suitable locations for cluster-specific programs**?

## **Two Opposing Approaches to Cluster Policy**



# **Types of Government Interventions in Clusters**

- Direct intervention at the firm level
  - Attraction of firms
  - Subsidies, directed credit

- Investments in the clusterspecific business environment
  - Specific to the cluster
  - Benefiting the cluster but part of a general upgrading strategy

High short-term impact/High distortion/low productivity impact

- Intervention into the market
  - Provision of monopoly rights; Entry/trade barriers
  - Demand subsidies

Long-term impact/Low distortion/high productivity impact

- Enable collaboration with and within the cluster
  - Support for cluster initiatives
  - Active engagement with the cluster in setting and implementing policies

### LEVERAGE CLUSTERS!

# **Modes of Cluster Policy**



# **Clusters and Entrepreneurship**

- Encourage upgrading within clusters by introducing new approaches and ideas
- Push the emergence of related new clusters



- Enabling entry, and help start-ups to scale-up
- Critical for new knowledge to turn into innovation and economic value

# Policies for Entrepreneurship and Innovation: What Role for Clusters?

- Cluster data as a key part of the diagnostics to identify locations and fields of economic activities that promise the highest returns for policy action
- Clusters as an organizing principle to bundle traditional entrepreneurship and innovation programs with other complementary policy tools for strengthening firm level performance
- Cluster organizations as key partners in designing and delivering entrepreneurship and innovation programs