

Competitiveness clusters Policy in France

- Identifying high-potential clusters and focus public aids on them
 - ➔ avoiding scattering of public subsidies
- Strengthening the link between research & industry
 - ➔ promoting industry-driven research programs
 - ➔ developing the “triple helix relationship” between firms, research centres and higher education institutions
- Developing a full ecosystem
 - ➔ Education, private financing (business angels, VC, aso...) IP management, entrepreneurship, international development, ...

French definition of Competitiveness Clusters

- combination, within a **geographic area**, of **firms, higher education centres and research units**,
 - sharing a **common strategy** aimed at generating synergies and leader positions centred on co-operative R&D projects,
 - in order to reach the **critical mass** needed for international competitiveness and visibility in targeted technological fields.
- « Pôles de compétitivité » are
- ➡ **mainly ICT or industry oriented clusters**
 - ➡ **SME centered**
 - ➡ **international and cooperation oriented**

Clusters support measures

	Animation	M€(3 year)
Subsidies for R&D projects	Central Government	720 M€
	Tax incentives	160M€
	Innovation agencies	587 M€
	Total for R&D	1467 M€
Support for the management of the pôles	Central Government	33 M€
Subsidies for others projects or orientations	Central Government	100 M€
Grand Total		1600+ M€

+ local authorities financing
+ research tax credit

What are competitiveness clusters ?

- **A competitiveness cluster is :**
 - ➔ a gathering of firms, research centres & higher education institutions,
 - ➔ working on joint projects (mainly R&D projects)
 - ➔ with a dedicated governance body (non-profit organization), and
 - ➔ with dedicated public oversight bodies
- **All « clusters » are different :**
 - ➔ different strategies
 - ➔ different priorities (outside R&D)
 - ➔ different organisations (1 to 10 dedicated staff)
- **...but they all have to:**
 - ➔ define an **innovation and development strategy**, and
 - ➔ implement a **road-map** to achieve it
 - ➔ favour SMEs development
- **Other priorities, depending on the cluster:**
 - ➔ education
 - ➔ recruitment
 - ➔ international partnerships
 - ➔ service delivery toward SMEs...
 - ➔ growth financing, ...

Priorities must depend on the strategy !

- Involvement of firms (as opposed to involvement of public authorities or to involvement of public research centres)
- Public authorities have to help and support, but not decide
 - ➔ e.g. the cluster strategy must be decided by the cluster governance (i.e. firms)
- Each cluster needs a specific support policy (at local level)
 - ➔ i.e. no « one size fits all » !
- All local innovation services must be cluster-oriented
 - ➔ i.e. it may request changing pre-existing organizations
- The cluster policy must be enforced in the long-term
 - ➔ e.g. time-to-market in R&D projects is a least 2 to 3 years
 - ➔ cluster policy needs 5-10 years to get a strong impact

- **Stress will be made on horizontal actions : education and training, IP, startups and nurseries, private financing**
- **The international cooperation is a strong priority for french clusters and their companies especially within Europe**
- **The french clusters individually and the national policy will be evaluated before July 2008.**
- **No other new cluster will be selected before the end of 2008**
- **The governmental institutional and financial support for the french clusters policy will be extended after 2008**

- **Enhancement of cooperation, innovation efficiency and added value creation, for world class innovative companies towards a global market**
- **Technological cooperation between companies and research centers of clusters from France and foreign countries, based on win/win projects**
- **Foreign companies joining competitiveness clusters to enjoy an international environment that provides efficiency**

**For more information
on french Competitiveness clusters:**

www.competitivite.gouv.fr

Thank you for your attention