## Two Decades of Cluster Policy Efforts in Europe: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

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> Clusters in Europe IV Budapest, Hungary 30 November 2017

## The Changing Face of Cluster Policy

Mid-1990s to mid 2000s: Cluster policy entrepreneurs Mid 2000s to early 2010s:
Cluster policy moving into the policy mainstream

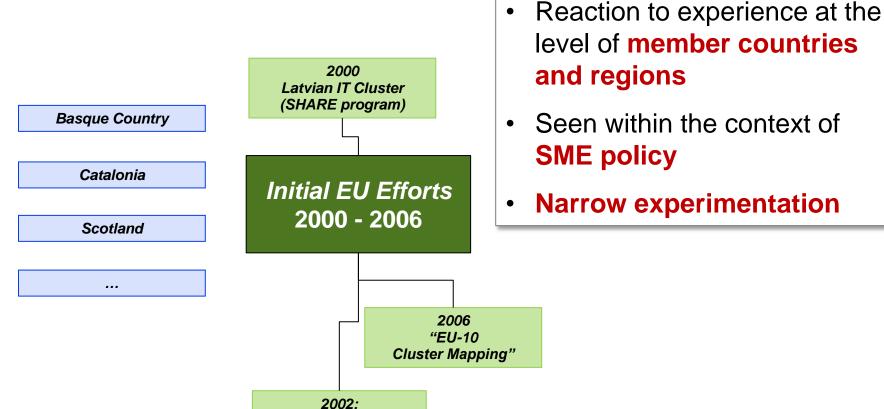
2010 onwards: Clusters becoming a tool of regional, industrial, and innovation policy

Early 1990s:
Pioneer
countries
and regions

Concerns about distortions

Concerns about impact

#### The Emergence of Cluster Policy in Europe Timeline



SME Observatory Report on Clusters

# The Evolution of Cluster-Driven Economic Policy <u>Basque Country, Spain</u>

Institutions (1980s)

Efficiency (1990s)



Innovation (2000s-)

Machine Tools AFM, 1992

Appliances ACEDE, 1992

Automotive ACICAE, 1993

Port Logistics UNIPORT BILBAO, 1994

Environmental Services ACLIMA, 1995

Electronics, Computing and Telecom GAIA, 1996

Energy CLUSTER ENERGIA, 1996 Aeronautics HEGAN, 1997

Maritime Industry ORO MARÍTIMO VASCO, 1997

Paper CLUSTER PAPEL1998

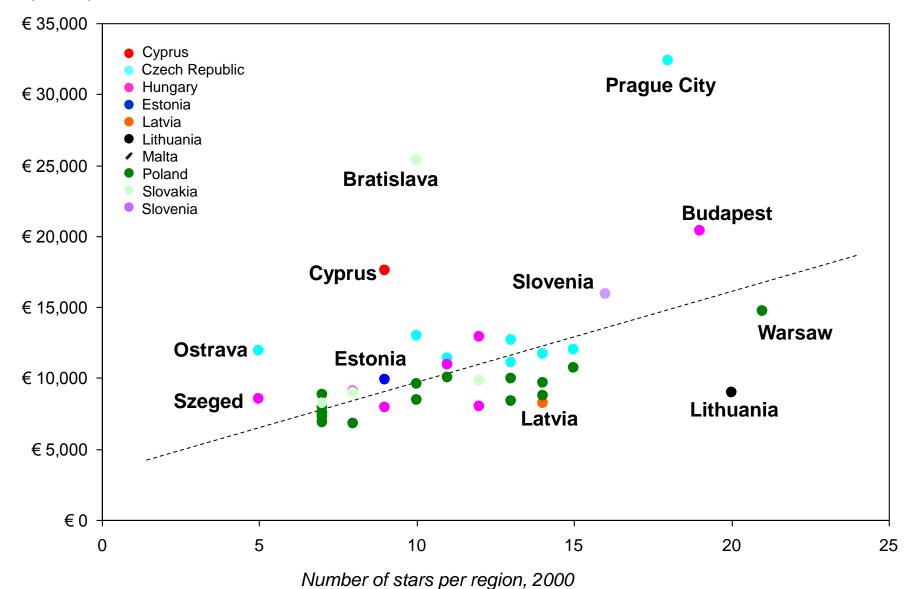
BioBasque, 2002

Audiovisual EIKEN, 2004

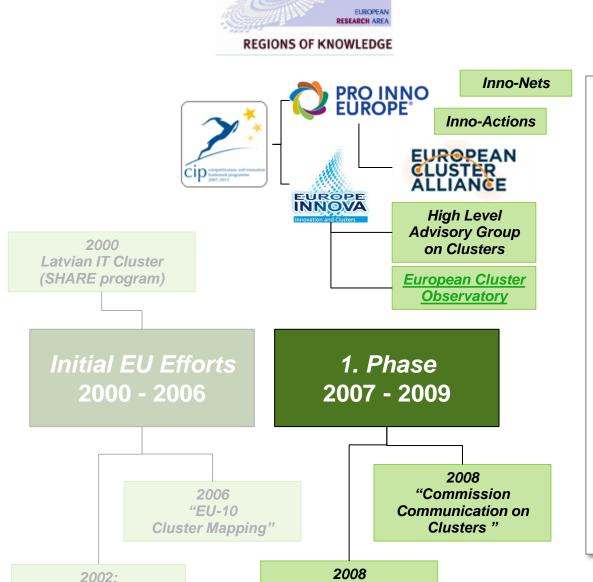
Transport and Logistics CLUSTERTIL, 2005

## **EU-10 Cluster Analysis (2003)**

#### GDP per Capita, 2002



## Cluster Policy in Europe: EU Activities <u>Timeline</u>



"European Cluster

Memorandum"

SME Observatory

Report on Clusters

- Introduce a consistent idea of cluster efforts
- Provide data on the presence and role of clusters
- Create support for use of cluster efforts
- Broad experimentation with support for many networks

#### The European Cluster Observatory

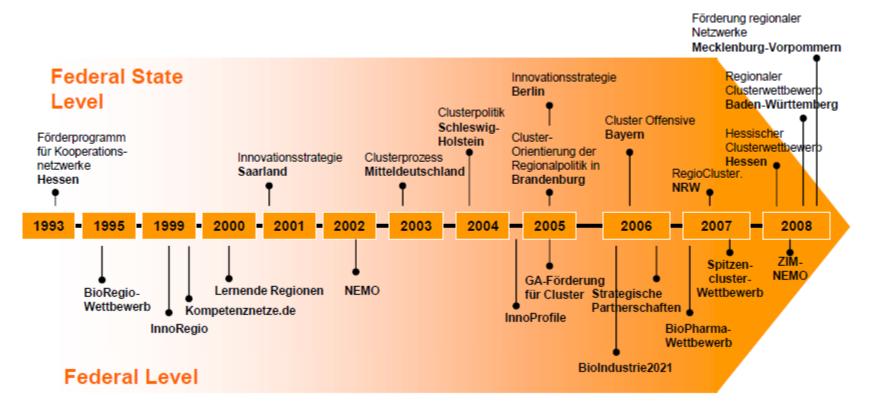


# The Evolution of National Cluster Programs France

- Launched in 2004
- 67 cluster efforts, including 17 globally competitive, identified in 2005
- 1.6bn Euro public cofunding over the first three years (90% for R&D)
- Major review in 2008;
   13 efforts put on notice for funding to be terminated



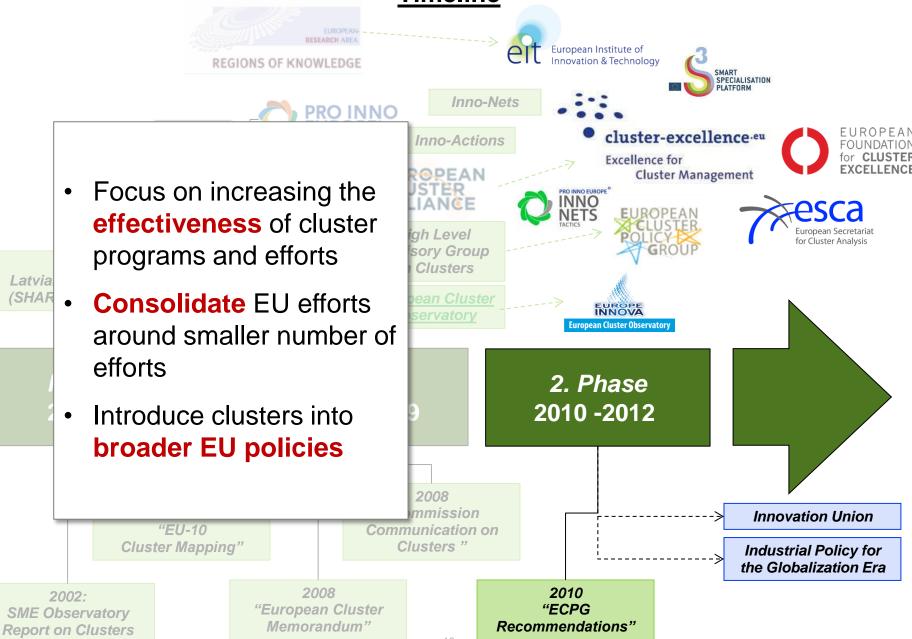
## The Evolution of National Cluster Policies <u>Germany</u>



- Reorganization of innovation and SME policies
- Reorganization of the role of regional government
- Wide use of competitions

Cluster Policy in Europe: EU Activities

<u>Timeline</u>



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#### Clusters, Business Environments, and New Sectors



# Differentiation of Cluster Policy Support Programs <u>Norway</u>



GCE (2014-):

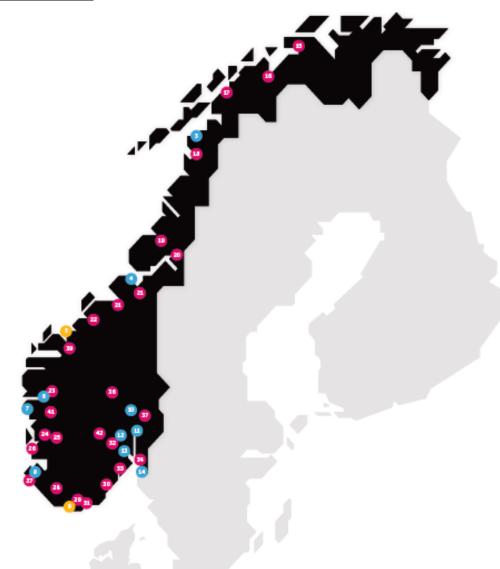
Mature, Global position

NCE (2006-):

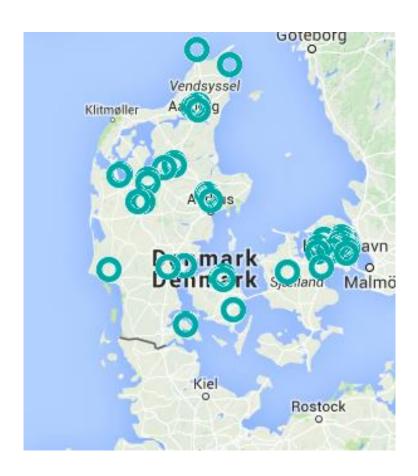
Mature, National positon

**ARENA (2002-):** 

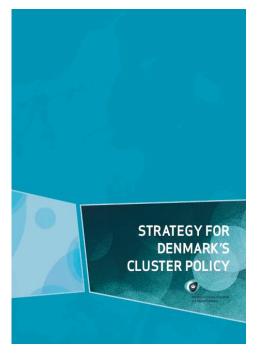
Immature, Emerging position



# Regional Clusters and National Industries <u>Denmark</u>







**Cluster Policy in Europe: EU Activities** 

 Concentration on emerging industries and clusters

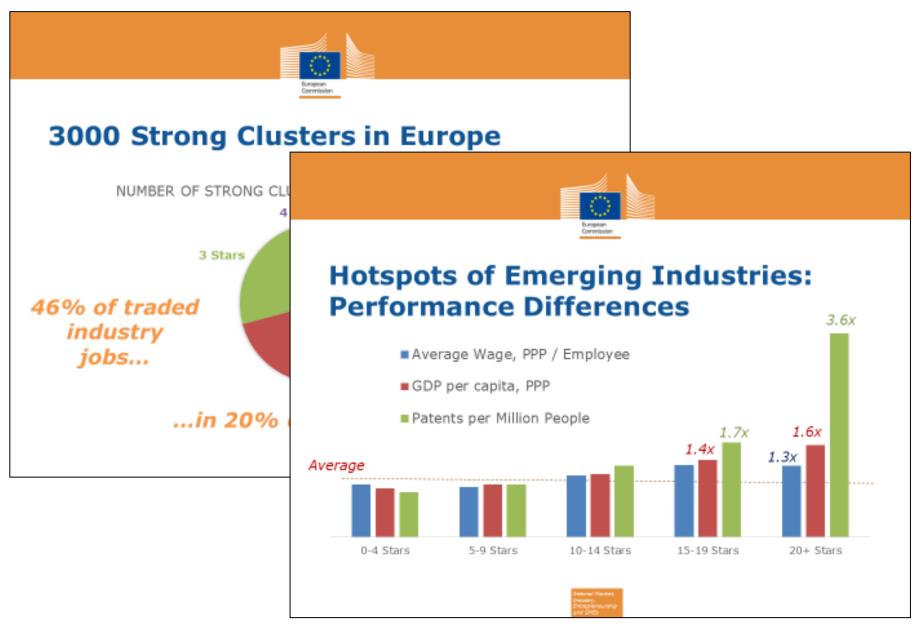
- Internationalization through cluster organizations and matchmaking
- Continued dialogue on the role of clusters in EU regional policy and industrial change
- Support for national and regional cluster policies

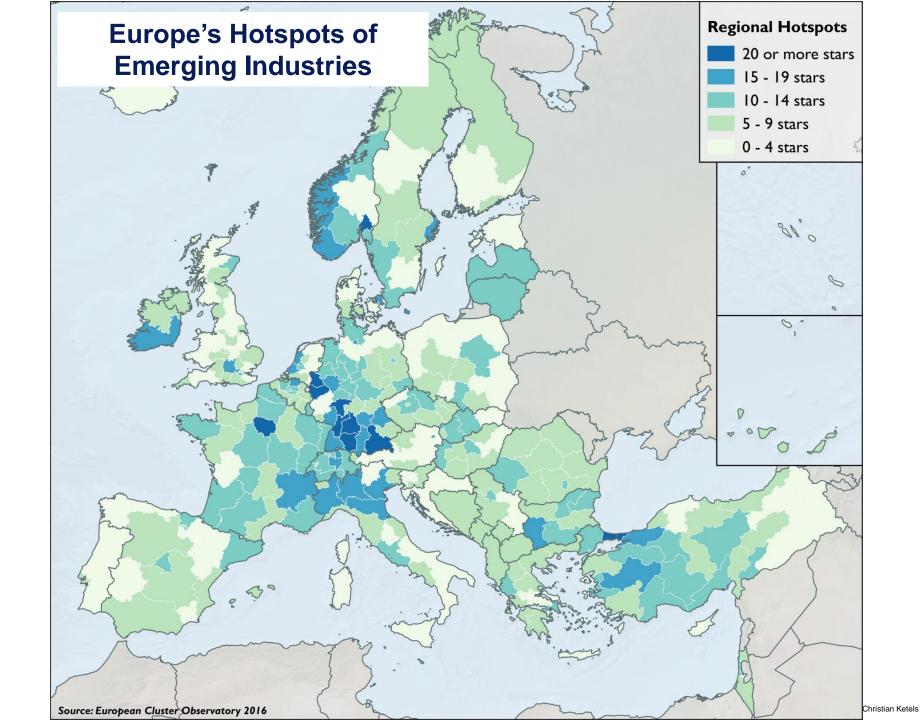


2008
"European Cluster
Memorandum"

2010 "ECPG Recommendations"

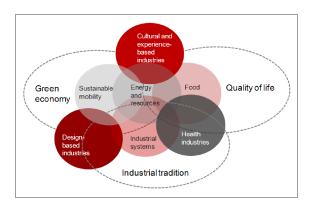
#### **EU Cluster Portal and European Cluster Panorama**





#### **Clusters and Smart Specialization**







In the research and innovation ecosystem, who is the most

important actor?

Clusters	44%
Research centres	8%
HEI	2%
Technology transfer organisation	12%
Venture capital	6%
Business association	0%
Incubators / accelerators	24%
Student associations	4%











## The Role of the European Commission <u>A Few Reflections</u>

#### **WHAT**

- Data
- Platform for learning
- Linkages
- Energy
- Credibility
- Challenges
- NOT: European cluster program

#### HOW

- Benchmarking when one size doesn't fit all
- Pilots when roll-out is far from automatic
- Analysis when the answer is not what you want
- Policy advice when the solutions do not yet exist
- Providing leadership when you are not the expert

#### **Looking Forward**

- From policy for clusters to policy through clusters
- From strengthening strengths to building new capabilities
- From benchmarking to context-aligned policies and organizations
- From local clusters to regional strategies, embedded in national policies