



e-Cluster is a project co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) in the framework of the Innovative Actions Programme 2000-2006

Venue

Nh Laguna Palace
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www.nh-hotels.com/

Languages

The languages of the conference
are English and Italian.
Simultaneous translation
will be provided in these two languages.

Registration,

The conference is **free of charge**
but registration is strongly recommended
as places are limited.

To register: conference.ecluster.it
Questions can be sent to
eventi@venetoinnovazione.it

The conference is organized in collaboration with:



International Cluster Conference

VENICE, 18 - 19 JANUARY 2007

Patterns of clusters evolution:

**models, practices,
technologies
and policies**

conference.ecluster.it

The conference is organised in the framework of the
VENETO NET GOAL 2006 - ACTION 7.1 e-Cluster
INNOVATIVE ACTIONS ERDF 2000-2006 INFORMATION SOCIETY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Patterns of clusters evolution

models, practices, technologies and policies

The conference will focus on the future of clusters: how to structure the suitable organisational models, how to foster networking and transnational cooperation, which inputs can give technologies and policies for cluster development.

There will not be one unique path for clusters evolution; the conference will then bring together policy makers, EU experts, academics, district managers and practitioners coming from about 20 European regions, who will compare their different experiences in order to compose a multifaceted but comprehensive framework and pave the way to **innovative clusters for European Competitiveness**.

The conference is expected to

- compare different regional/national approaches to clusters development;
- exchange experiences and best practices on the role of regional/national authorities;
- better understand how to support successfully cluster evolution stimulating knowledge and innovation;
- prepare the ground for possible partnerships in future common cluster initiatives.

Clusters and business networks are hot-spots for innovation and are widely recognized as a valuable tool to promote economic development. National and regional governments have established a wide range of programmes to support clusters, although the globalization and the potentiality of ICT have added more complexity on the clustering process.

The Veneto Region has started a process of improvement of cluster support policies taking into account the evolution of the Region's industrial policy strategies and using an experimental approach.

The e-Cluster project launched under the Innovative Actions programme, has the objective to develop new organizational models and innovative approaches for the definition of regional support policies for business networks. The legacy of know how and good practices that accrue from e-Cluster experiments will constitute a resource for replication in similar contexts and may offer interesting inputs in the search for potential lines of clusters development.

**Thu 18 Jan
2007
PM**



Session One Cluster Networking

Cluster models are constantly evolving into immaterial networks in which added value is located more in the knowledge and relationship asset than in physical contiguity, moving beyond regional borders towards transnational cluster networks.

This session will introduce some relevant experiences of collaborative organisational models showing, from different points of view, how to build a common vision, integrate processes, share languages and standards among the actors inside the cluster, how to “brand” the cluster at an international level and how to build international linkages with other clusters.

**Thu 18 Jan
2007
PM**



Session Two Cluster Management

Although clusters are often spontaneous phenomena, a crucial role is played by enablers.

They could be institutions, local agencies, entrepreneurial associations, district managers and they act in the cluster as an “orchestrator” to translate strategic requirements into operational action for companies, coordinating the activities and processes, animating the network and guaranteeing the efficient and accurate transfer of information and know how.

The aim of this session is to present some models of cluster management describing the roles played by the different actors involved.

Fri 19 Jan
2007
AM



Session Three Clusters and Technologies

Technologies for collaboration and networking alone are not the “solution” to increase companies competitiveness. Nevertheless they contribute to foster the reorganisation of processes, spread and valorise the cluster knowledge and enhance the relations system among companies.

In fact they can reduce the costs of information and business processes management and constitute the infrastructures to support connectivity, virtual interaction and remote communication and they could represent a good opportunity to manage complex and distributed relations among many actors.

This session will compare different cluster cases: technology clusters and traditional ones. In the first case technologies are the main subject/topic while in the other experiences technologies act as drivers.

Fri 19 Jan
2007
AM



Session Four Cluster Supporting Policies

Cluster policies are initiatives developed by public actors with the aim to produce benefits in the social-economic system in order to:

- accelerate the development of existing clusters;
- create the favourable conditions to the development of new clusters;
- foster the evolution of existing clusters toward new models, more suitable to the change of the economic conditions.

In this session various political approaches are presented to compare different cases, experiences and models at European level in order to identify some possible patterns for cluster evolution.