

Key features of cluster initiatives

- Stakeholder consultation -

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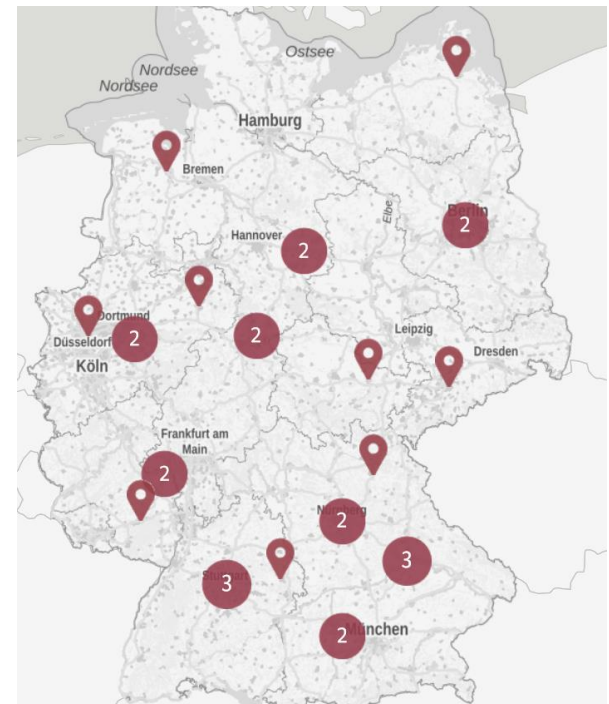
Berlin/Tashkent, February 2022

International experience

In many countries, cluster programmes have been successfully introduced to strengthen competitiveness through active collaboration along regional value chains offering concrete benefits for all actors

- For instance, about 450 regional cluster initiatives are active in Germany with a focus on:
 - Automotive
 - Production and clean technologies
 - Health care / life sciences
- Members of cluster initiatives cooperate, amongst others, in the following areas:
 - Information on market and technological trends
 - Innovation (e.g. collaborative R&D projects)
 - Skills (e.g. jointly developing training or study programmes)
 - Access to markets (e.g. supplier fairs, partnerships with clusters in other countries)

Automotive clusters in Germany



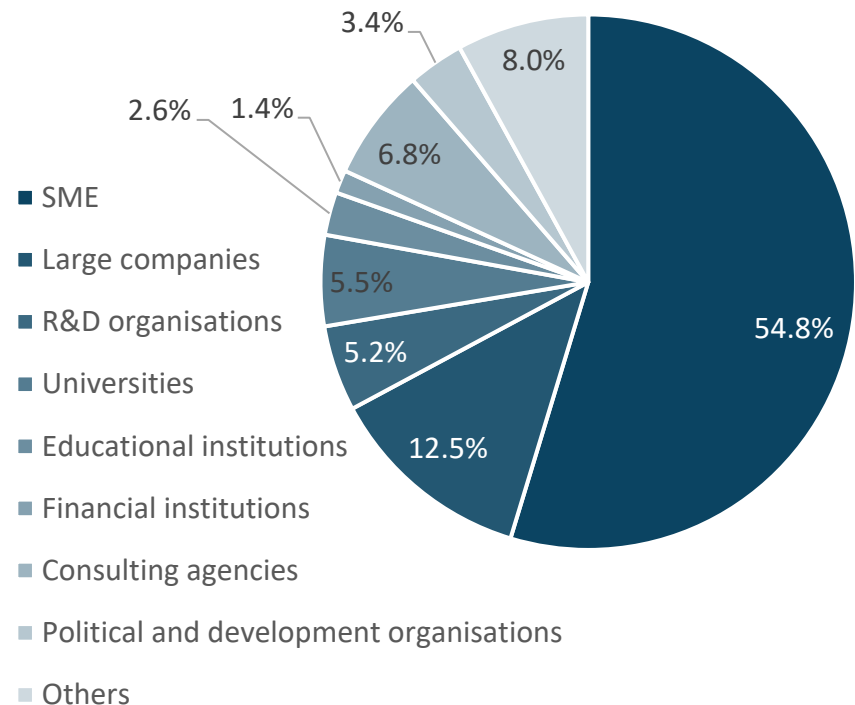
Source: Clusterplattform Deutschland

Preconditions and success factors for cluster development

A balanced mix of SMEs and large anchor companies complemented by specialised service and training providers as well as academic and research institutions in a region provides a sound basis for the development of a cluster

- Clusters need a “critical mass” to generate synergies, offer needs-oriented services and create awareness beyond the region
- The size of cluster initiatives varies between:
 - 25 members in knowledge-intensive areas (e.g. biotech)
 - More than 100 members in more traditional manufacturing areas
- Shared interests of the (potential) cluster members constitute another important precondition

Composition of cluster initiatives in Germany



Source: Institut für Innovation und Technik

Organisational set-up

Regional cluster management organisations facilitating collaborative activities form a central element of cluster programmes

- Typically, cluster initiatives are organised in the form of an association, which is flexible regarding the integration of new members
- The organisational structure commonly comprises the following elements:
 - Cluster board or similar body (with representatives from companies, government and educational / research institutions), which provides strategic guidance
 - Cluster management (with on average 3-5 employees), which is responsible for the day-to-day operations
 - Working groups (e.g. for skills development, internationalisation etc.), which involve cluster members, stimulate cooperation and develop concrete projects and activities
- Often, the cluster management is hosted by an existing organisation

Guiding questions for the discussion

- In what areas do you already cooperate with partners (e.g. other companies, academic institutions) in automotive value chains within the region?
- Are you interested in intensifying this cooperation?
- Would a cluster initiative be helpful to facilitate this cooperation and support the development / upgrading of automotive value chains?
- What services and activities of such an automotive cluster initiative would be most important?
- What should be the geographic focus of the initiative?

About the German Economic Team



Financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the German Economic Team (GET) advises the governments of Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kosovo, Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan on economic policy matters. Berlin Economics has been commissioned with the implementation of the consultancy.

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