

# Call for Papers

The INNOV Centre for Innovation Strategy (HEC-Management School of the University of Liege), in collaboration with the DULBEA-CERT Centre of Regional Economics and Technology (Department of Applied Economics of the Free University of Brussels)

Organize an International Conference on

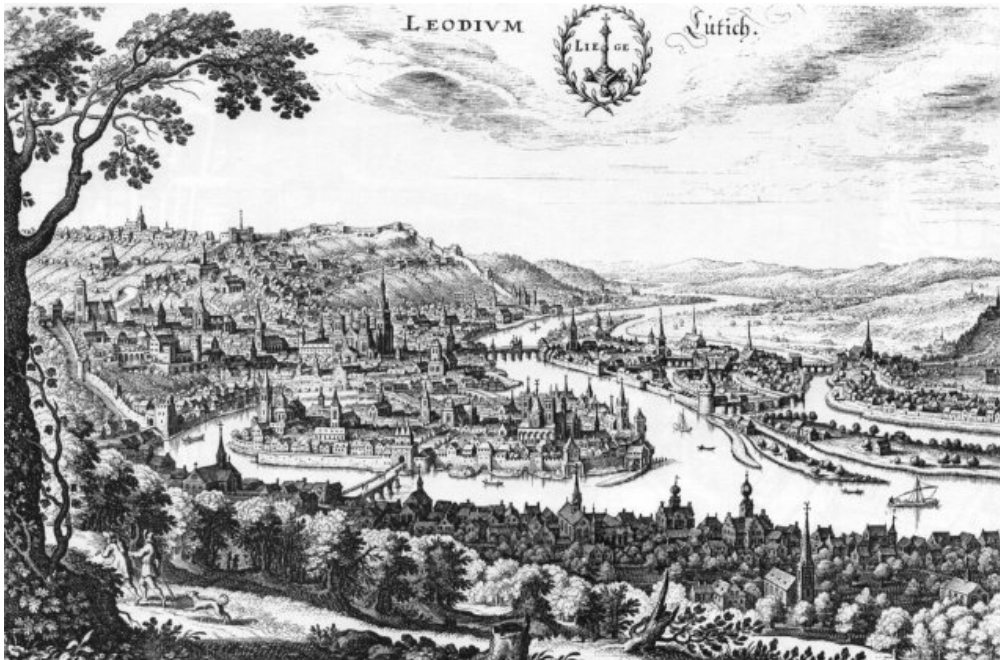
## Regional Competitiveness Clusters and Economic Development

27 – 31 January 2009

At the University of Liege

Campus Sart Tilman

Liege, Belgium



## General presentation

Competitiveness clusters bring together companies, research units and training centres. At present they are, in Europe and in other parts of the world, the object of core regional policies, aiming to develop regional economies and innovation.

Researchers and actors involved in the Clusters are concerned with several important issues:

- How are investors, industry players, employers, trainers and researchers stimulated and supported by regional policies in order to participate in Competitiveness Clusters?
- How do these networks improve economic development and enterprise competitiveness? Which Best Practices should be put forward in terms of actor mobilisation, especially with respect to SMEs, the creation of sustainable competitive advantage and value, innovation, structuring of sectors, market leadership, and/or liaising competencies of the authorities ?
- Which effects are generated by these networks on the economic development of regions which have implemented such policies ? How does one monitor and appraise the effectiveness of the mechanisms which support them, and their outputs?
- Which are the potential problems due to the implementation of the Competitiveness Clusters, for instance for SME's that are not part of a cluster? Does one have to consider compensatory measures?

In order to facilitate a debate providing answers to those issues, the Walloon Region of Belgium supports the organization of an International Conference on **Regional Competitiveness Clusters and Economic Development** (Liege, 27-31 January 2009). Internationally recognized personalities from the Industry, the Research Community and the Public sector are invited to participate in this Conference.

The two organising Research Centres - the INNOV Centre for Innovation Strategy (HEC-Management School of the University of Liege), and the DULBEA-CERT Centre of Regional Economics and Technology (Department of Applied Economics of the University of Brussels) – invite the International Scientific Community to submit papers in relation to the four groups of topics.

The scientific committee in charge of this call for papers is directed by professors of the three Academies of the French-speaking Community of Belgium : Allard Van Riel (ULg), Henri Capron (ULB) and Alain Schoon (FUCAM). Scientific experts and Members of the Industry will also join the Committee. Selected papers could be developed into a publication in the Journal of European Planning Studies.

Scholars and members of the industry recognised for their particular expertise in networking policies, and more particularly Competitiveness Clusters, will edit a book presenting experiences in numerous industrialised countries. This book will be made available to all Conference participants.

The purpose of the Conference will be to synthesize research, analyses, evaluations and experiences with respect to Competitiveness clusters in various industrialised countries and to confront scholars in the field of regional development and innovation with policy makers and the actors of the Competitiveness Clusters. Workshops will offer researchers opportunities for exchanging ideas and discussion. The Conference will be organised in several parallel thematic sessions of 1.30 hour, according to eligible agendas:

- Presentation of research, fieldwork, evaluations,
- Presentation of achievements, testimonies, exchange of best practices.

In order to facilitate networking among participants, the conference will be followed by a European Competitiveness Clusters Exhibition: One entire day, Clusters, Firms, Research centres, managers and researchers will be offered opportunities to meet. This event will help the clusters to reach a larger audience, particularly European firms interested in diversifying their industrial partnerships.

Finally, the development of a clustering policy depends on the availability of human resources capable of developing projects of their partners. While skills are a major factor in the development of the Competitiveness clusters, the various educational profiles needed are often underestimated. For those reasons, an Employment Fair will be organised in association with the conference and the exhibition. It will provide recruitment opportunities to recent graduates, and present career opportunities. It will also be a means for the Competitiveness Clusters and participating firms to identify new skills and competence profiles as well as to provide students, employees and public authorities with information about specific needs.

## Call for Papers

We invite submission of papers both from researchers and members of the industrial community. Papers describing recent advances in competitiveness cluster management and policy issues are especially welcome. The areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Operating inside a Competitiveness Cluster (Pôle de Compétitivité)
- Setting up and Organizing a Competitiveness Cluster
- Effectiveness and Efficiency of Public Policies Regarding Competitiveness Clusters
- Competitiveness Cluster Governance
- Competitiveness Cluster Evaluation Criteria, Mechanisms and Tools
- Comparative Studies of Competitiveness Clusters in Different Geographic Areas
- Knowledge Sharing and Trust in Competitiveness Clusters
- Innovation Strategy and Competitiveness Clusters
- Competitiveness Clusters Covering Several Industries and Sectors
- Competitiveness Clustering and SMEs
- Competitiveness Clusters and Supply Chain or Value Chain Issues
- Influence of Regional Economic Development Policies on Competitiveness Clusters
- Case Studies of Competitiveness Clusters

Authors are invited to submit original, unpublished papers that are not being considered for publication in any other forum.

A one page abstract (French or English) is due September 15<sup>th</sup>. We suggest that you make use of a structured abstract, see for example:

<http://info.emeraldinsight.com/authors/guides/abstracts.htm>.

Abstracts should be mailed to:

Professor Allard VAN RIEL  
HEC Management School of the University of Liege  
E-mail: [a.vanriel@ulg.ac.be](mailto:a.vanriel@ulg.ac.be)

Or

Professor Henri Capron  
Department of Applied Economics of the Free University of Brussels  
[hcapron@ulb.ac.be](mailto:hcapron@ulb.ac.be)

Abstracts can be submitted in French and in English. One author per paper is required to register and attend the conference to present the paper if it is accepted. An abstract in English should be available.

Authors of selected papers will be asked to expand their papers for publication in one of the special issues of: *European Planning Studies*, published by Taylor and Francis (ISI 2006: 0.513).

## **Important Deadlines:**

**September 15, 2008**

Submission of Abstracts

**October 30, 2008**

Notification of acceptance

**Contributions are required in electronic format (pdf, doc or docx is suggested).**

## About the Conference

- Conference Dates: 27-31 January 2009
- Program
  - 27 January, Workshops for PHD candidates (11.00-16.00), Registration (from 17.00),
  - 28 January, Plenary Opening Session (9.00-10.30), Coffee Break (10.30-11.00) Parallel Sessions (11.00-12.30) Lunch (12.30-13.30) Parallel Sessions (13.30-17.00)
  - 29 January, Parallel Sessions (8.30-10.30), Coffee Break (10.30-11.00) Parallel Sessions (11.00-12.30) Lunch (12.30-13.30) Parallel Sessions (13.30-17.00), Plenary Closure (17.00-18.30), Conference Ball (20.00-23.00)
  - 30 January (9.30-12.30), Industry and Clusters Visit, (14.00-17.00), Networking activity among Clusters, Companies, Research Centers, (9.30-17.00), Competitiveness Clusters Fair: exhibition of the success stories of the competitiveness clusters.
  - 31 January: Employment Meeting.
- Conference Attendance Fee (Including Coffee, 3 Lunches and 1 Dinner)

Profile	By day	For 3 days
PhD students (proof of inscription required)	125 €	250 €
Regular attendees	300 €	600 €
Presenters of an accepted paper	150 €	300 €

- Scientific Committee
  - Prof. Dr. Henri Capron (ULB)
  - Prof. Dr. Allard van Riel (Ulg)
  - Prof. Dr. Alain Schoon (FUCAM)
- Conference Proceedings
  - Accepted papers will be published in CD ROM format

### Location of the Event:

University of Liege at Sart Tilman (Liege, Belgium)  
Amphithéâtres de l'Europe, Building B4  
Parkings P11 and P14  
Boulevard du rectorat,  
B 4000 Liege

Links to Maps: <http://www.ulg.ac.be/acces/plans/STplangen.html>  
<http://www.ulg.ac.be/acces/plans/zoneEurope.html>