

Report

Clustering Implementation Strategy in the Kosice-Presov-Zilina Regions

Date:	10.06.2014
Time:	10:00 – 13:00
Place:	Košice, Košice, Slovak Republic
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Work Package 3

Action 3.1	Establish a Policy Dialogue at national level
Output	 3.1.6: 4th round of National Policy Dialogue (pilot implementation, policy recommendations, action plan)
Level of the event	 Regional level event
Country	Slovak Republic
Region (if applicable)	Košice, Prešov, Žilina



Objective of the event:

Main objective of the event was to inform and discuss with regional stakeholders from Kosice, Presov and Zilina regions (Slovakia) on the progress of the CluStrat project and to discuss the Strategy elaboration (WP5) and Pilot Actions implementation (WP6).

Participants:

In total more than 25 stakeholders from 3 Slovak regions participated. Participants were regional policy makers, cluster managers, researchers and academicians, representatives of firms and chambers of commerce and industry.

Topics discussed:

In the beginning, Mr. Jaromír Jezný, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cluster AT+R informed about current activities of Cluster. He also informed about current clustering initiatives in Slovakia and about position of Clusters in government approved Smart Specialization Strategy of the Slovak Republic (RIS3). Prof. Čop, Executive Director of Cluster AT+R and Vladimír Benč, Project Manager of the Cluster AT+R informed participants about the current activities of CluStrat project, esp. on the progress of the 5 Pilot Actions in which Cluster AT+R participates: PA on human-machine systems, on advance materials, on light-weight materials, on ambient assisted living and on zero energy buildings. Prof. Čop also informed and presented draft Strategy elaborated by Italians (WP5). He also explained methodology and schedule of activities, esp. TPD in Ljubljana, where the discussion on the Strategy should be held.

Then, experts of Cluster AT+R for each Pilot Action (PA) had 5-10 minutes to present activities implemented within each PA and planned activities to finalize the PA.

Representatives of regional administration of Presov and Kosice regions informed about current elaboration of Regional Innovation Strategies for 2014-2020 (RIUS) and welcomed first results of the CluStrat Strategy and Pilot actions. They expressed their willingness to include conclusions and recommendations from the PAs and Strategy to the RIUS.

Main ideas generated in the discussion:

There was general agreement on the integration of the CluStrat outputs for the RIUS and participants also welcomed that Slovak RIS3 includes also elements for supporting the clusters. Participants expressed need for higher support of new innovative tools that supports clustering activities. They welcomed that CluStrat Strategy is trying to foster new models of clustering in EU, however they also made a concern that Slovakia lacks basic tools for support of clustering, so first steps of the Government should go for establishing basic tools and to include clustering activities for the new Operational Programs for period of 2014-2020.

When speaking about the policy instruments proposed in the Strategy, most of participants expressed their main interest to continue in implementing strategic partnerships, cross clustering, networking, technology mapping, elaboration of feasibility studies and training programs in PAs. One of the participants also informed about new cluster that was established in the area of energy efficiency in Presov region and expressed the willingness to use the outcomes of the pilot project on ZEB in their everyday work.

Main conclusions:

Generally, there is huge interest of participating stakeholders for continuing in participation at the pilot actions within CluStrat and they welcomed results already achieved. Most of the stakeholders are in favor for international networking and testing new cluster initiatives, which will foster transfer of know-how in emerging sectors. The top rated PAs were on advanced materials, since there is a big chance to create new and the first cluster on advanced materials in Slovakia and also PA on human-machine system. Also, the topic on ZEB is very relevant esp. for public institutions since in the new programming period there will be a big budget on topics related to support energy efficiency.

Also, participants welcomed the draft of the Strategy and for the Ljubljana TPD asked representatives of Cluster AT+R to speak about higher incorporation of PAs results into the Strategy.

Participants also agreed to make joint pressure on relevant ministries in Slovakia for support of incorporation of CluStrat outcomes (esp. those supporting transfer of know-how, clustering etc.) into the national strategies and programs.