

SmartEIZ – H2020-TWINN-2015

Training Workshop on Cluster Evolution – A Summary

The Fourth SmartEIZ Training Workshop on “Cluster Evolution” was held from 6th to 8th September, 2017 at ICRIOS, Department of Management and Technology, Bocconi University.

The workshop lasted 3 days and saw the participation of researchers. During the three days, EIZ researchers had the opportunity to listen to and interact with international experts discussing the topic of cluster evolution from different perspectives – industrial cluster demography and performance, cultural clusters, role of clusters in fostering SMEs performance, methods and policies for cluster evaluation. Furthermore, they also had the chance to present their own work. Finally, they also had the chance to visit RSE, an energy-oriented research centre that belongs to the Lombardy Energy CleanTech Cluster, and to listen to a very comprehensive presentation by the Director of the Cluster.

On September 6th, four presentations were given. First, Francesco Lamperti, from FEEM Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies discussed the role of science and technology parks in fostering firms’ economic and innovative performance. Second, Dario Musolino, from CERTET (Bocconi University) presented a work on the Industrial Districts and the challenge from globalization. In the afternoon, Lucia Cusmano from OECD talked about the importance of clusters for SMEs performance across OECD countries. Then Marek Tiits, from the Institute of Baltic Studies, presented his view on cluster evolution and smart specialization strategy.

On September 7th, Massimiliano Nuccio from the University of Turin opened the workshop with a talk on cultural clusters and smart cities, followed by Carlo Pietrobelli from Roma 3 University, who discussed the impact evaluation of cluster development programs, in terms of methods and clusters. The morning session was closed by Andrea Morrison, who presented a study on the evolution of an industrial cluster from a historical perspective. In the afternoon, Salvatore Monni from Roma 3 University provided insights on a specific H2020 project concerning Energy, Cluster and Social Innovation. The last two presentations were given by two EIZ researchers – Ivana Rašić-Bakarić and Damir Anić – who presented their own work on the development of the wood cluster in Croatia and on the performance of Cluster Initiatives in Croatia.

The third day has been dedicated to learn the structure, evolution and performance of the Lombardy Energy CleanTech Cluster. Researchers went to visit RSE (Research on Energy System), a research centre which is part of the Cluster. After a short meeting with people from RSE, the Director of the Cluster Carmen Disanto gave a detailed presentation of the

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cluster, focusing on its organisational structure, participation to international projects and activities for cluster members. Researchers were finally taken to visit to research laboratories.

In summary, the TW has been very useful and intense. It allowed participants to get to know the state of the art in relation to cluster evolution and the most relevant emerging issues on the topic. Furthermore, EIZ researchers had the chance to present their own research in front of experts in the field and received useful comments and suggestions on how to bring forward their research in order to write papers that could be published in international journals. Finally, TW was not only an opportunity to establish academic relationships, but also to interact with practitioners and to exchange views on the best practices associated to clusters management, which is extremely important from a policy perspective.