

# WORLD CLUSTERS



## PROJECT

Although identified and labelled the world over, clusters are a cross between sector-specific and spatial realities, hence their complex and multifaceted nature. Clustering was a fashionable concept when competitiveness hubs were being structured in the Paris region, leading the Regional Council to try and understand hub-related challenges and success factors. Indeed, the success of certain clusters drew attention to the external benefits that may accrue from the concentration of knowledge and the local environment, thus stimulating the competitiveness of regional economies such as Silicon Valley, the Catalan clusters or the German *Kompetenznetze*. Yet their success is specific to the local cultural environment, legal framework or social context in each country or region.

## METHOD

The project produced an exploratory study of clusters seen from different angles, namely: an analysis of theoretical contributions; identification of clusters through the relevant policies implemented across the world; and mapping of identified clusters worldwide. A series of three round-table sessions was held with the project partners.

## RESULTS

The one-to-one meetings and round-table sessions helped improve networking between French innovation stakeholders. The study report informed the competitiveness clusters in the making and fuelled the regional economic development plan (SRDE).

## PRODUCTS

A study entitled: *Clusters mondiaux, regards croisés sur la théorie et la réalité des clusters, identification et cartographie des principaux clusters internationaux* («World clusters, cross views on the theory and reality of clusters, identifying and mapping the main international clusters»), 2007, 181 p.; summary notes in French and in English. A cycle of three round-table sessions held at the IAU on innovation: linkage between campus and economic development, innovation culture, SMEs and innovation. Summaries and PowerPoint documents.

## MAIN POINTS

<b>Beneficiaries</b> Regional Council	<b>Donors</b> Regional Council
<b>Implementation period</b> 2006-2007	<b>Duration of the study</b> 24 months
<b>Total cost of project</b> 130,000 euros	<b>IAU's share</b> 130,000 euros
<b>Partners</b> IAU	<b>Mobilisation of experts</b> 6 person-days x month

## Main experts

**IAU**  
Odile Soulard, economist  
Sylvie Lartigue, economist  
Arnaud Larguier, student intern

## Basic project data

250 world clusters identified in the study  
9 competitiveness clusters in the Paris Region