

enterprise europe

Best Practice Awards 2013

Sector Groups



Business Support on Your Doorstep

Clusters Clustered

For the Sector Group Micro and Nanotechnologies (MNT), working with clusters is part of its DNA. Each cluster represents a whole ecosystem of individual companies, institutes and universities, which may open several cooperation opportunities.

Good practice outline

On the occasion of the 2012 edition of the international microtechnology trade fair "Micronora", Sector Group MNT brought together 11 clusters, with which Sector Group members had already been working for some years. A dedicated programme was prepared, including an international inter-cluster workshop. During this formal meeting, four clusters decided to formalise their future cooperation with the launch of a new initiative called "Microtechnics Alliance". This initiative

is a significant step towards the development and structuring of inter-clusters collaboration, on the short-term, and the creation of meta-clusters, on the long term. In both cases, the Network is strongly involved.

To achieve such an excellent result, Sector Group MNT started by mapping clusters to identify relevant cooperation possibilities. Then, it invited those clusters to join Sector Group activities and finally it organised the international inter-cluster workshop to address trans-regional cluster collaboration. Thus, the Sector Group played an important role in the creation of the "Microtechnics Alliance" as it managed to bring all relevant clusters together.

Results and benefits

The EU is pushing to reduce the fragmentation of clusters. With this respect, and as pin

pointed by the Network's Working Group, Sector Groups can play a pivotal role by working together with clusters in their business area(s) and by facilitating cross-border collaboration.

Key success factors

To get clusters discuss defragmentation and join forces, it is important to develop strategic relations. The Sector Group MNT's approach is a winning method, as members are directly involved in relevant cluster projects and initiatives in their own region.

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