



Potential to Network Innovative Clusters in the Baltic Metropolises Regions – Present State and Perspectives

Frank Lerch

Institute of Management, Freie Universität Berlin

Agenda

1. Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances
2. Methodology
3. Empirical findings of cluster development in the BSR
4. Perspectives on networking clusters in the Baltic Metropolises Regions
5. Summary and discussion

1 Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances

Why cluster alliances?

- Origin (empirical findings, political initiatives, networks of clusters)
- Lack of research
- “Inter-cluster alliances contribute to what is called a “transnationalisation of clusters [that] permits to **preserve a local system** of embedded ties, while favouring their **international openness** through a parallel system of arm’s lengths and embedded ties with foreign organizations belonging to other local clusters. In such a multiple embeddedness frame **innovation is favoured**, **home structure and culture** of firms are subject to **renewal**, and the risks of **lock-in** and district sterilization are **reduced**” (Zucchella 2006: 32)

1 Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances

Benefits of cluster alliances:

- Access and renew of knowledge and resources;
- Joint learning exchange of best practice;
- Networks in cluster (s) alliances
- Inter-regional integration and efficient utilization of resources;

Shortfalls of cluster alliances:

- Alliance boundaries are unclear
- Costs of managing cluster alliances

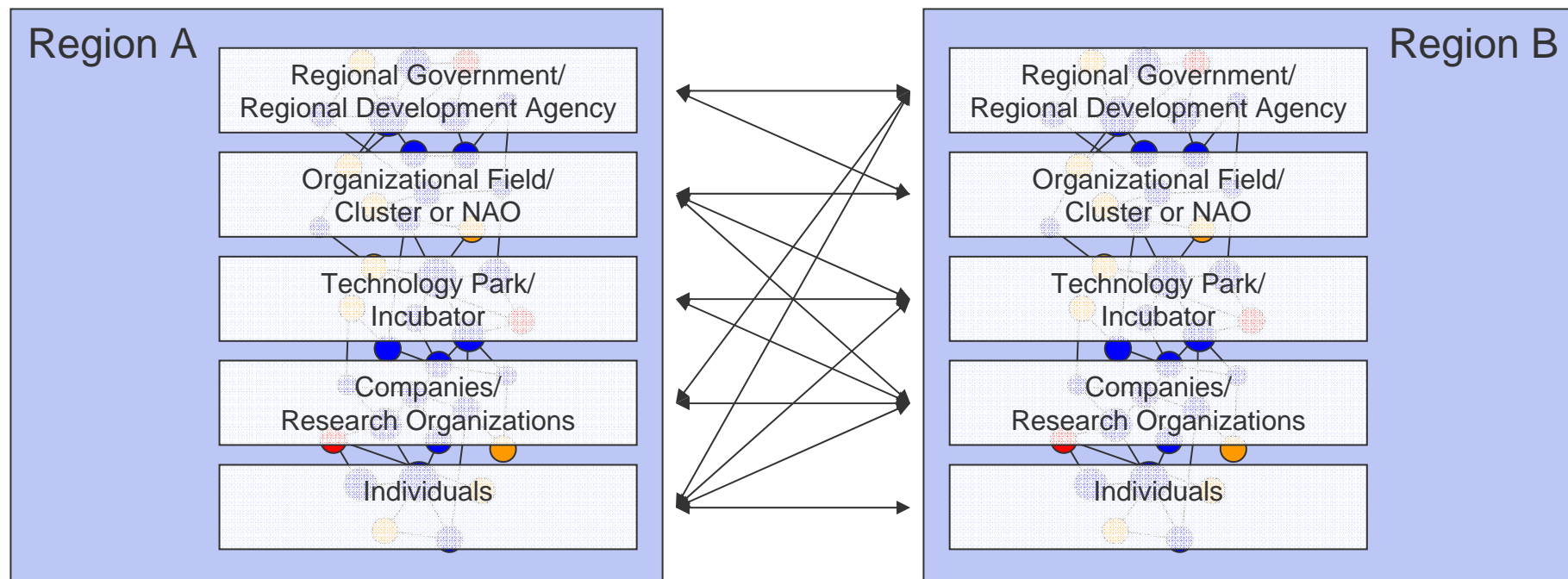
1 Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances

Dimensions of cluster alliances

- Geographic scope
- Time horizon
- Number of partners
- Cluster stage
- Alliance management structure
- Cluster interrelatedness
- Types of resource linkages

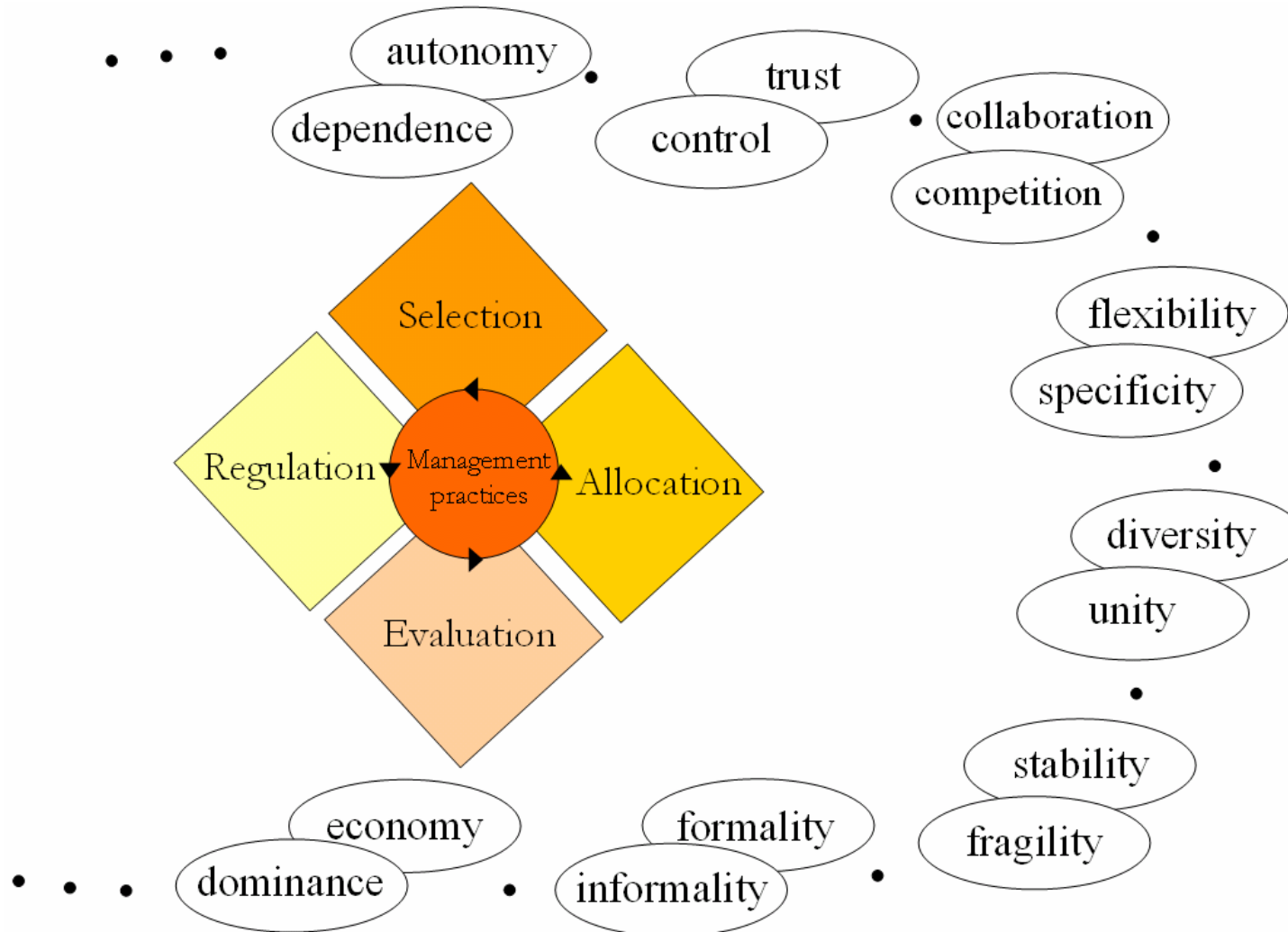
1 Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances

Levels of cluster collaboration and interaction



1 Conceptual thoughts on cluster alliances









































































The management of cluster alliances



2 Methodology

1. General overview of the innovation contexts and general characterization of clusters in the Baltic Metropolises Regions (Summer 2005) → Selection of fields for further analysis
 - biotechnology and medical technologies;
 - information and communication technologies and media;
 - optics, micro systems and nanotechnologies were selected
2. SWOT analysis of clusters in these technological fields in the Baltic Metropolises Regions (Fall 2005)
3. Benchmark of Science and Technology Parks (2006)
4. Detailed analysis of cluster development and activities (Summer 2007)
5. Writing the report and deriving networking potential

3 Empirical findings of cluster development in the BSR

	Competence	Profile	Influence upon others	Inter-connectivity	Existing structures	Level of maturity
Berlin	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 high	 high	OpTecBB Laserverbund ZEMI	high
	 Information and Communication Technology		 high	 middle	Metrology	middle
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 high	 low	BioTop TSBmedici	low
Øresund	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 medium	 strong	NKT Photonics	adolescence
	 Information and Communication Technology		 high	 strong	Øresund IT Academy	mature
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 high	 middle	Madison Valley Alliance	mature
Helsinki	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 strong	 middle	CoE-AMM	adolescence
	 Information and Communication Technology		 strong	 strong	CoE-SPB, CoE-DM	adolescence
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 medium	 strong	CoE-GT, Invitro Diagnostics, Pharmaceutical, Biomaterial, Bioinformatics/BioSystems, CoE-MWT	adolescence
Stockholm	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 high	 middle	Acreo AB FMOF	infancy
	 Information and Communication Technology		 high	 strong	Kista Science City Electrum AB	mature
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 high	 strong	Stockholm Bio Region Karolinska Institutet	adolescence
Riga	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 low	 low	none	very low
	 Information and Communication Technology		 medium	 middle	Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (LITTA)	emerging
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 high	 strong	None	emerging
Tallinn	 Optics & Photonics/ Microsystems-/ Nanotechnology		 low	 low	none	very low
	 Information and Communication Technology		 medium	 middle	ITL EITF	emerging
	 Biotechnology & medical technology		 medium	 middle	Estonian Biotechnology Association (EBio)	emerging

4 Perspectives on networking clusters in the Baltic Metropolises Regions

Level of Regional Government/Regional Development Agency

- Meeting of the Mayors
- Council of City officials
- Exchange of innovation and cluster strategies
- ...

Level of the Organizational Field/Cluster or NAO

- Exchange of knowledge about the competencies in each region
- Provision of social space (opportunities to meet)
- Project networks
- Educational Sector Networking (summer schools)
- ...

4 Perspectives on networking clusters in the Baltic Metropolises Regions

Level of Technology Park/Incubator

- Connecting Science Parks
- Soft Landing Services
- Visiting, Meeting and Matchmaking
- Marketing Assistance at Conference and Expositions

Level of Companies/Research Organizations

- Educational Sector Networking (exchange of researchers)
- Product development networks
- ...

5 Summary and discussion

Different regions follow their specific innovation and cluster strategies. Clusters are found at different developmental stages.

There are many possible means of fostering and developing cluster alliances at different levels in the Baltic Metropolises Regions.

The development of clusters and cluster alliances requires time and sustainable commitment.

Where do you see further potential to connect neighbors in the BSR?

Where do you see barriers for cluster alliances?