

Who can join the „go-cluster“ programme and how?

Membership in the programme is open to all innovation clusters based in Germany. Applicants must meet a number of quality standards. Once accepted into the programme, members must continue to subscribe to these criteria and participate in the silver label process under the European Cluster Excellence Initiative (ECEI), which comes with regular quality reviews.

You can find the application form and an overview of the quality criteria at:



www.go-cluster.de

Do you have any further questions?

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The programme is implemented by:

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Steinplatz 1
10623 Berlin

Publication details

Published by
Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy
(Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft
und Energie, BMWi)
Public Relations
11019 Berlin
www.bmwi.de

Design
VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH

Last revised
March 2019

Printed by
Mediengruppe Thiel, Ludwigfelde

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy



Excellent networking in the “go-cluster” programme





What exactly is a cluster?

The term 'cluster' in an economic context was first used by Michael E. Porter, who used it to describe "geographic concentrations of interconnected companies, specialized suppliers, service providers, firms in related industries, and associated institutions (e.g., universities, standards agencies, trade associations) in a particular field that compete but also cooperate". This means that clusters bring together stakeholders covering the entire value chain of a given industry.

Cluster initiatives within the meaning of the "go-cluster" programme

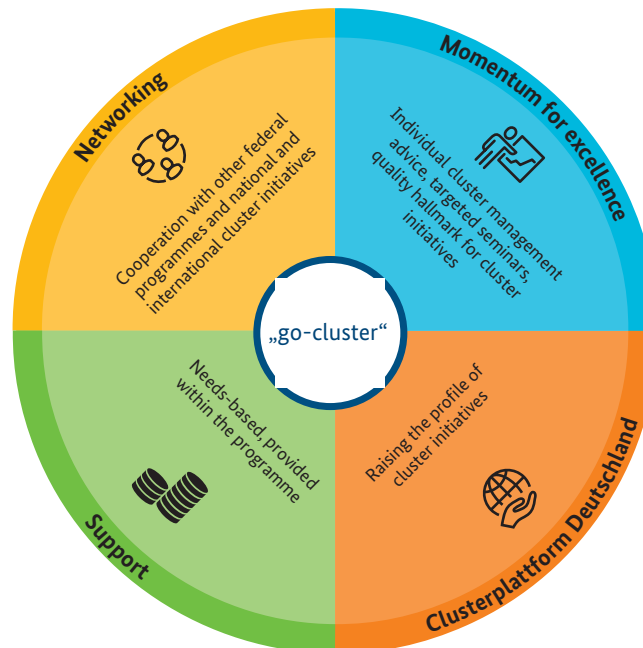
are defined as strategic, systematic networks with a strong focus on innovation, which usually have their own cluster management organisations charged with implementing joint projects. Cluster initiatives lay the basis for cooperation and are usually rooted in regional structural and innovation policy.

Germany already has a large number of excellent innovation clusters. And there are good reasons why! When companies and research institutes enter into cooperation, they can draw on each other's strength and expertise. Each member brings their individual expertise and experience to the cluster. This creates synergies across the value chain, results in a pooling of resources and makes it easier for innovative ideas to be put into practice. All this will only work, however, if the cluster is managed in a competent and professional way. And this is where the „go-cluster“ programme comes in.

Objectives of the „go-cluster“ programme

The „go-cluster“ programme was developed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy to support outstanding innovation clusters in their continuous development. The focus here is on networking and dialogue with other clusters nationally and internationally, on the provision of individual advisory services, and on offering a series of seminars and events tailored to participants' needs. In addition to this, the "go-cluster" programme also engages in extensive PR work to advertise the German cluster landscape. This PR work consists of organising the Clusterplattform Deutschland, a German cluster week, various publications, participation in trade fairs and conferences, etc.

The work conducted as part of the "go-cluster" programme



The members of the "go-cluster" programme

are in fact the strongest innovation clusters from all over Germany. They are pioneers for innovation and reflect the high level of expertise that Germany has in many different sectors and fields of technology. Visit Clusterplattform Deutschland to gain a detailed overview of which clusters are members of the "go-cluster" programme.

The Clusterplattform Deutschland website is a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In addition to information about the programme's members, visitors to the website will also find information about cluster-related activities at federal, state and EU level.

Members of the "go-cluster" programme have access to the Clusterplattform Deutschland website and the "go-cluster" and Clusterplattform Deutschland newsletters for publishing their own information, announcing events organised by them, and highlighting success stories.

