



EURAM 2009 Round Table The Benefits and Costs of Business Clustering

Organisers

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During the past decade, interest in the benefits and costs of business clustering has increased dramatically. Scholars, managers, and policy-makers have noted the achievement of above average productivity and innovation by companies at certain locations. They have also noted the high cost associated with these locations: high wages and rents, congestion and failing infrastructure. This round table welcomes theoretical and empirical papers that advance our understanding of these benefits and costs. Research questions of interest include:

- Why do certain companies benefit disproportionately from cluster membership?
- What are the relative influences of positive cluster externalities and idiosyncratic firm factors in contributing to competitive advantage?
- What are the links between clusters and international business?
- Compared to national companies, do multinational companies achieve different benefits from cluster membership? Do they incur different costs?
- Do benefits and costs vary by cluster type or sector or dominant technology?
- Which benefits facilitate superior productivity and which facilitate superior innovation?
- Why is face-to-face contact so important in clusters?
- How do clusters evolve?
- What is the relationship between clusters and entrepreneurship?
- What is the role of spin-off companies in cluster evolution?
- What can policy-makers do to mitigate the costs of clustering?
- Can policy-makers create clusters?

We encourage submissions from management scholars, economists, economic geographers and sociologists.