



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# Enhancing Global Cooperation

**Internationalisation of German Leading-Edge Clusters,  
Forward-Looking Projects and Comparable Networks**





## Foreword

When people from different backgrounds and countries work together, they deliver something new. Leading-Edge Clusters and networks make systematic use of this winning formula to achieve innovation and economic success. Small, medium-sized and large enterprises, creative start-ups, research institutions, universities and civil society cooperate across disciplinary, sectoral and technological boundaries to develop new and promising technologies and business ideas.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports outstanding clusters and networks in Germany under the High-Tech Strategy, thus enabling them to expand their cooperation with innovation regions worldwide. Small and medium-sized enterprises in particular benefit from joint research and development with national and new international partners. We want to pool the innovative capacities of science and industry through cooperation across borders. This contributes to increasing the innovation potential and competitiveness on both sides, that is, to a win-win situation for German and international innovation regions.

In the hope that we have aroused your curiosity, I look forward to your work with outstanding German clusters and networks to exploit the innovation potential of international cooperation.

Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka

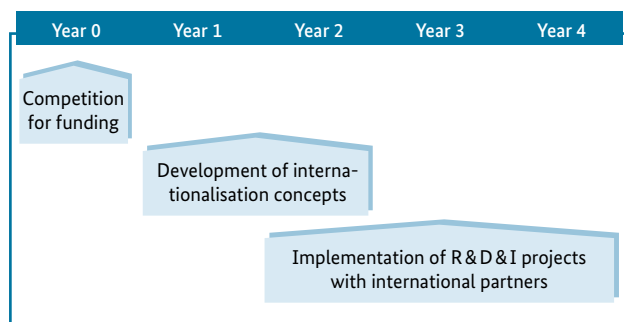
Federal Minister of Education and Research

# Aims & Objectives

Based on excellent experience with the German “Spitzencluster-Wettbewerb” (“Leading-Edge Cluster Competition”), the funding measure “Internationalisation of Leading-Edge Clusters, Forward-Looking Projects, and Comparable Networks” by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports German clusters and networks in advancing their cooperation with international partners in the field of Research and Development and Innovation (R & D & I).

## Facts & Figures

- Three rounds of funding: 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- Selection of about 10 promising German clusters and networks in each round.
- Funding per cluster or network: up to 4 million Euros, split in two phases:
  - Concept development phase (up to 2 years): Funded clusters and networks develop internationalisation concepts, get in contact with international partner innovation regions (with complementary competences) and mutually work out project ideas in a bottom-up process.
  - Implementation phase (up to 3 years): Collaborative R & D & I projects with international partners from the partner innovation regions are conducted (international partners need to bring in their own project funding).



Proposed schedule for selected German networks and clusters.



### Whom do we address?

Clusters and networks in leading innovation regions around the globe which

- cooperate on an equal footing with the funded German partners, in terms of funding, know-how, division of work (usually requiring a dedicated management organisation),
- can bring in complementary competences to the ones of the German partner clusters or networks,
- are willing to agree on mutually beneficial rules of cooperation, e. g. with regard to Intellectual Property Rights.

### What can you expect?

- Cooperation with leading German clusters and networks with a variety of thematic areas and fields of technology – a gateway to new partners in R&D&I.
- Mutually beneficial collaboration on promising new technologies, ideas and solutions.
- Transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral projects with industry, especially with the “German Mittelstand”, research institutes and universities from leading German clusters and networks.
- Professional cluster managements, dedicated to internationalisation and sustainable, reliable partnerships.
- Exchange of experience with other funded clusters and networks, supported by a related research project.

More Information about participating German clusters and networks on **[www.cluster-networks-international.de](http://www.cluster-networks-international.de)**.

## The German Cluster Landscape at a Glance

The different clusters and networks (co-funded by the German federal government, the federal states or the private sector) cover a wide range of industrial branches, thematic areas and fields of technology, e.g. automotive, aviation, biotechnology, lightweight construction, organic electronics, photonics, power electronics and renewable energies. Interested cooperation partners from clusters and networks in international innovation regions, and especially small and medium-sized enterprises, are invited to visit **[www.clusterplattform.de](http://www.clusterplattform.de)**.

This lively online platform gives an overview of the German and European cluster landscape. With its on-site search function you can easily navigate to detailed information about various leading clusters in Germany. The platform already provides information on about 500 clusters and networks, including the 15 “Spitzencluster” (Leading-Edge Clusters), news from the cluster management organisations, information about projects, conferences and funding opportunities.



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