



THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH NATIONAL CLUSTER ASSOCIATION

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The establishment of the **National Cluster Association (NCA-CZ) in 2008, fully operative since 2010** as a non-profit association of individuals and legal bodies **with the goal to:**

- ◆ ensure coordinated and sustainable development of cluster initiatives in the Czech Republic
- ◆ advocate clusters and their interests towards the government
- ◆ align with the European Commission policies & actions
- ◆ facilitate cluster internationalisation and transfer of the best practices into the Czech Republic
- ◆ represent the Czech cluster community internationally



Mission:

„The National Cluster Association creates a long-term and competent platform for the development of cluster initiatives within the Czech Republic and an active interface for their internationalization.“

HELPING CLUSTERS TO CLUSTER

Members of the NCA in 2016

Cluster organisations

APPLIED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGIES

- ☼ CzechBio
- ☼ MedChemBio
- ☼ NANOPROGRES

ENERGY, MATERIALS, MANUFACTURING

- ☼ ATOMEX Group
- ☼ CREA Hydro&Energy
- ☼ Czech Stone Cluster
- ☼ Czech & Moravian Glass Cluster
- ☼ Cluster of Czech Furniture-Makers
- ☼ Cluster of Precise Machinery Vysočina
- ☼ Cluster Mechatronics
- ☼ ETIK
- ☼ High-Tech Innovation Cluster
- ☼ Moravian-Silesian Automotive Cluster
- ☼ Plastics Cluster

ICT & SAFETY & SECURITY

- ☼ Safety Technology Cluster
- ☼ Hi-tech Innovation Cluster
- ☼ IT Cluster
- ☼ Network Security Monitoring Cluster

SERVICES, AGRICULTURE

- ☼ Agroklastr Vysočina
- ☼ Cluster of Applied Biotechnologies

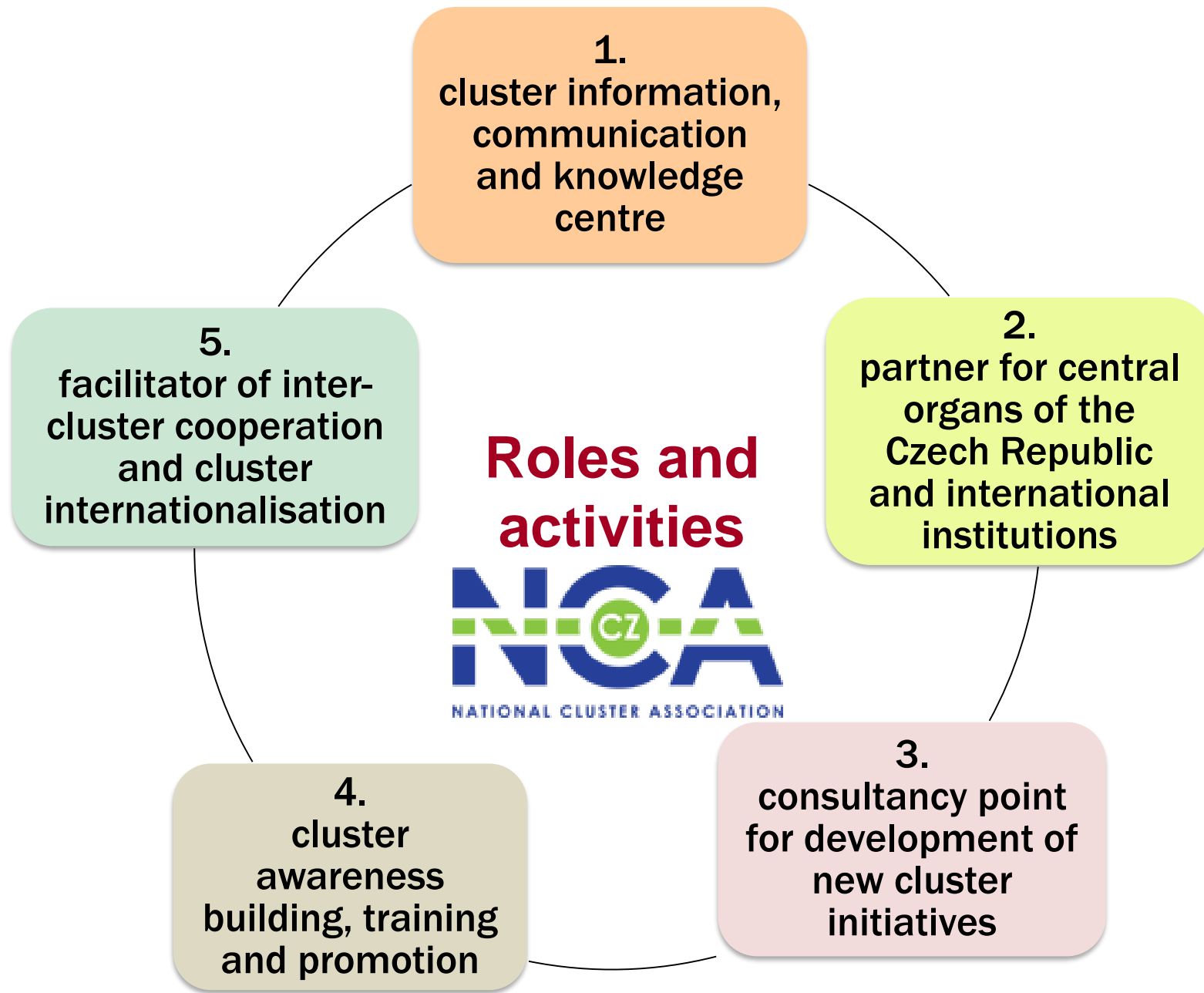
Development, education and innovation infrastructure

- ☼ BlzGarden, Brno
- ☼ HCMline, Pague
- ☼ PRODO-SERVIS, Ostrava
- ☼ Regional Development Agency of the Ústí Region
- ☼ RERA – Regional Development Agency of the South Bohemian Region
- ☼ Palacký University in Olomouc, Science Technology Park and Business Incubator
- ☼ Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Faculty of management and economics
- ☼ Technology Centre, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic



NCA is the member of:

**TCI, ECCP
AMSP, ANNO ČR**



NCA activities on cluster support





- Cluster mapping and feasibility studies to support the involvement of regional governments in developing the strategic specialisation;
- Analysis of identified clusters and facilitation of cluster actors towards coordinated cooperation;
- Assisting the regional policy makers to build the cluster governance system;
- Training courses for cluster initiatives, cluster organisations and general regional/national cluster stakeholders;
- Participation in cluster research of the FaME TBU, own evaluation methodology in viability of cluster organisations;


Golden Cluster 2015

awarded to **CREA Hydro&Energy**

- Promotion of cluster achievements through a road show along Czech regions:
 - ❖ **Day of Clusters in Pardubice Region, 28. 4. 2016**
 - ❖ **Day of Clusters in Central Bohemian Region, 6. 9. 2016**

NCA – the Partner in European Projects

- ◆ **CluStrat** Boosting Innovation through new Cluster Concepts in support of emerging Issues and cross-sectoral Themes (10/2011– 12/2014); Central Europe Programme, strategic project, 18 partners from 8 states (DE, AT, CZ, PL, IT, SL, SK, HU)    

- ◆ **Boosting V4 Cooperation through Strategic Cluster Identification, Networking and Informatisation**, (International Visegrad Fund 2013-2014) 

- ◆ **Gender in Innovation – Innovation in Clusters** (Norway Funds 2015-2016)  

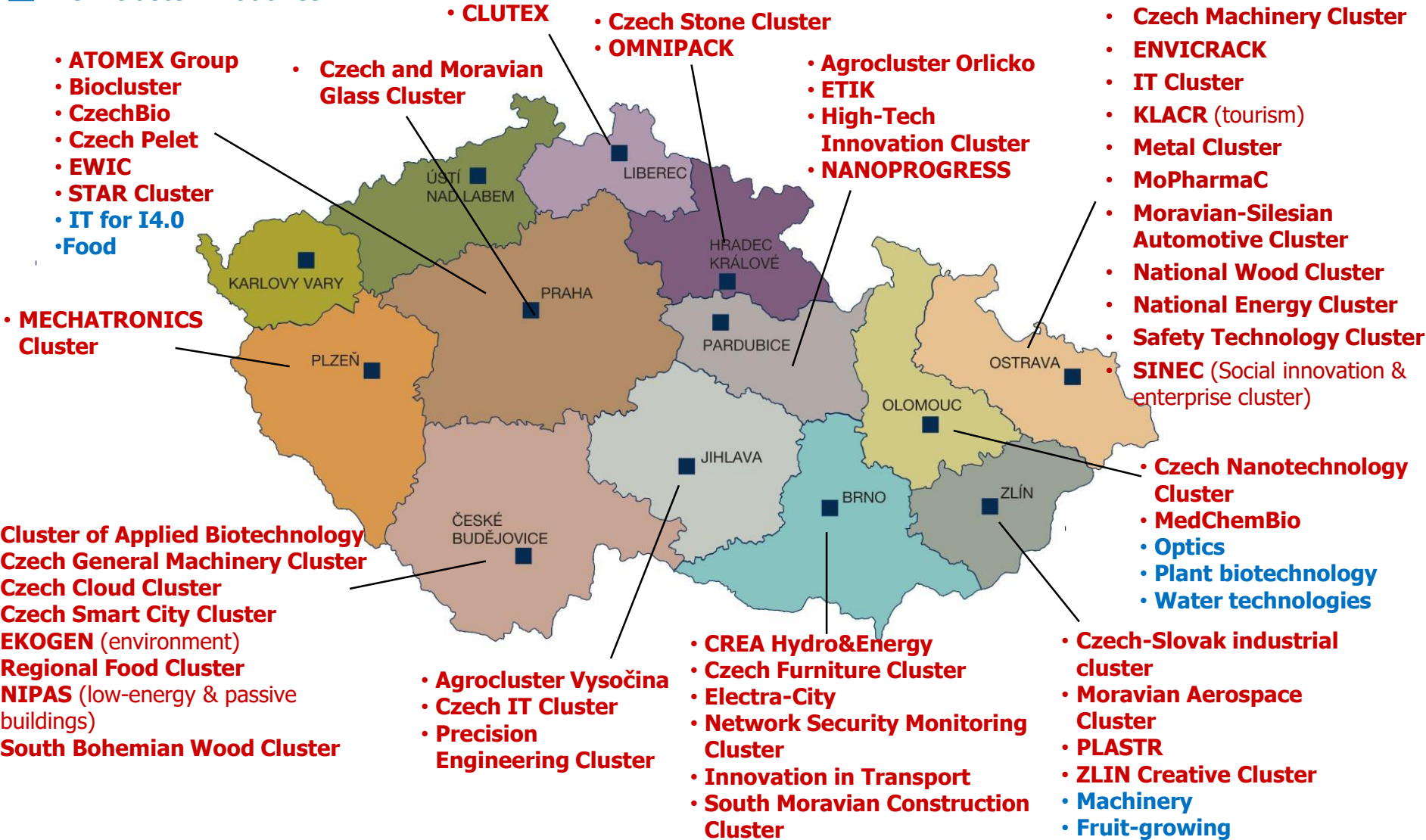
- ◆ **Aid For Trade - Serbia** "The Importance of Clusters for the Trade and SMEs Development" – Cluster House and NCA partnership 

- ◆ **V4 Clusters Go International** - 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2017

- ◆ **DanuBioValNet** - Cross-clustering partnership for boosting eco-innovation by developing a joint bio-based value-added network for the Danube Region 2016 - 2018 

Czech Cluster Organisations 2016

- Cluster organisations
- New cluster initiatives

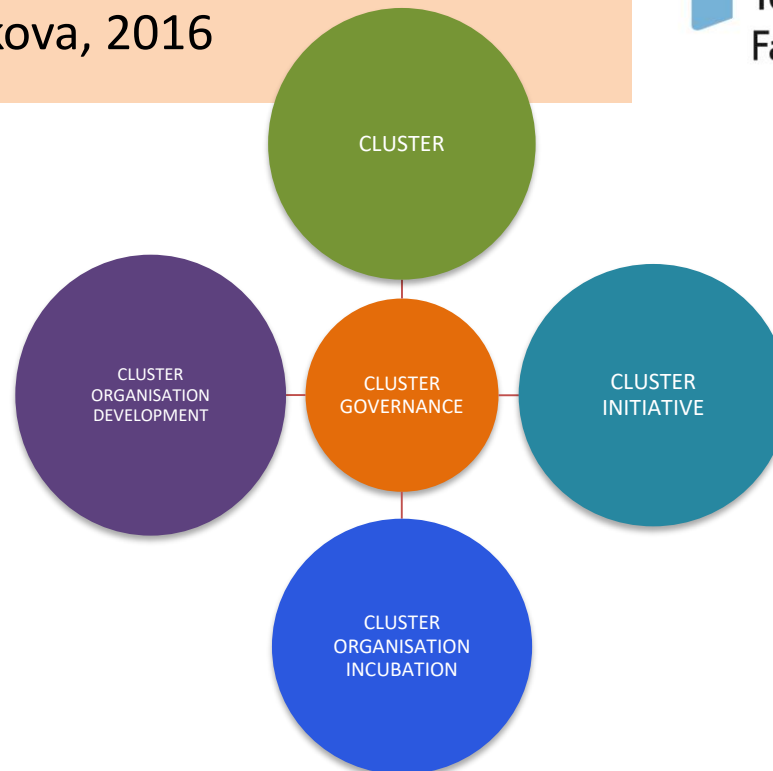


- Additive manufacturing cluster
- Czech beekeeping cluster
- Czech Machinery Cluster
- ENVICRACK
- IT Cluster
- KLACR (tourism)
- Metal Cluster
- MoPharmaC
- Moravian-Silesian Automotive Cluster
- National Wood Cluster
- National Energy Cluster
- Safety Technology Cluster
- SINEC (Social innovation & enterprise cluster)

The efforts in improving cluster policy

- The concept of smart cluster policy based on understanding and satisfaction of needs of the cluster development stages
 - The V4ClusterPol project methodology
Pavla Bruskova, 2016

 Tomas Bata University in Zlín
Faculty of Management and Economics



Smart Cluster Policy categories of indicators

1.	DURABILITY	the length of time span of the document/programme operation (long - medium - short term duration)
2.	AUTONOMY	cluster dedicated document/programme - part of another policy - clusters just mentioned
3.	FUNCTIONALITY	the degree of the document force vertically (decree/strategic document/recommendation) and horizontally (throughout all departments)
4.	VIABILITY	an existing entrusted governance body and public budget allocation
5.	CONTINUITY	permanent part of policy-making tools, regular updates or just recently included/stopped
6.	INTEGRITY	covering all kinds of sectors and industries with no limitations
7.	COMPLEXITY	relevant support for all cluster development stages
8.	CONSISTENCY	provision of additional supportive measures (accreditation, training, awareness building)

Considerations on Public Policy

Three fundamental considerations when talking about clusters:

- ***Build on local differences***: competitive advantage is based on being different. It makes no sense to try to clone two clusters in the same industry and same territory – **the cluster mapping and cluster analysis tools**.
- ***Understand which industries cluster***: not all industries tend to cluster and clustering principles are not useful for each industry. Some industries, such as petrochemicals, do not need to cluster - **the cluster initiative and cluster actors facilitation tool**.
- ***Understand the cluster life cycle***: governments must differentiate actions in line with the cluster life cycle needs – **measures (funding) ensuring the commitment, comprehensiveness and continuity of the cluster policy**.

Three pillars of cluster policy:

- ✓ Creating favourable local conditions and correct market functioning.
- ✓ Fostering dialogue between firms and government through a cluster organisation.
- ✓ The government acts as a careful manager and sophisticated client.

Let's make our cluster policies SMART !



1

Cluster policy be in competence of a supra-departmental government organ – the support open for all sectors and industries encompassing all cluster development stages;

2

Mobilise regional policy-makers to adopt and implement cluster policies – mapping, facilitation and cluster organisation incubation. Capitalise clusters within RIS3;

3

Build awareness, build the capacities, train cluster management teams and promote cluster achievements;

4

Establish the national system of cluster organisation accreditation, measure and monitor their performance and cluster policy impacts;

5

Create a long-term, durable and devoted political environment for clusters, the return of invested capital is worth the efforts!

Let's think cluster-like:

- cooperation
- openness
- fair competition and business
- mutual learning and sharing experience
- searching for synergies and development opportunities
- focus on professional excellence

It pays off to all those concerned✓

Thank you for your attention

Pavla Bruskova

President

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