



## Call for Papers – Abstracts

### CLUSTERS AS A DEVELOPMENT FACTOR IN THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPE (SEE) COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** Clusters are recognized as an important development factor of the regional economies. Cluster mapping and selection of the appropriate policy measures is an important part of economic policy in many countries. The objectives of this paper are: a) to compare entrepreneurship strength in cluster sector in 5 countries (Bulgaria, Italy, Slovakia, Romania and Serbia<sup>5</sup>) and b) to compare entrepreneurship strength in specific cluster categories that can be marked as drivers of innovation in these countries. Methodology that will be used is based on data from European Cluster Observatory cluster mapping. Authors will analyse correlation between the strength of entrepreneurship in cluster sector in the regions (measured by companies' location quotient in the cluster sector) and GDPpc as an indicator of regions productivity. Furthermore, in order to determine the importance of specific cluster categories as drivers of regional innovation, authors will analyse correlation between strength of entrepreneurship in two cluster categories. The first category is knowledge intensive business services and the second one is education and knowledge creation in the regions. Results of this analysis should show how important is strength of entrepreneurship as an indicator of cluster sector strength for the regional productivity and development, especially in South East Europe.

**Key words:** competitiveness, clusters, innovation, productivity, regional development

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<sup>5</sup> Originally, Hungary and Greece were selected for these analysis, but data for those countries were not updated. Therefore, authors replaced them with Slovakia and Italy.