

# Clusters and Competitiveness: Building Resilience in Knowledge-based Regions

**Hybrid conference with annual meeting of the European Chapter of the  
Microeconomics of Competitiveness Affiliate Network**

Bochum (Germany) and online, 23-24 September 2021

## Outline

After three decades of academic discourse on, and practical/political experience with clusters and competitiveness, crises and rising challenges pose new questions to scholars and policy-makers alike. Are clusters and cluster policies still relevant to maintain and build more resilient regions? How did they adapt to new challenges, how do they need to transform in the future?

This conference brings academics, policy-makers and practitioners in the field of regional economic development, clusters and competitiveness together to discuss these issues.

## Organisers

Ruhr-University Bochum  
Centre for Regional and Innovation Economics, University of Bremen & Friedrich Schiller University, Jena  
Bochum Economic Development  
Duisburg Business & Innovation (DBI)

## Venue

G DATA Campus, Königsallee 178, 44799 Bochum, Germany

## Conference Languages

English

## Conference Fee

Participation is free of charge. Travel and accommodation will be provided for invited speakers.

## Programme Overview (subject to change, all times CEST)

### Thursday, 23 September 2021

09:00 – 12:30	Invited keynote presentations and policy panel
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 16:00	Keynote and breakout sessions
16:00 – 16:30	Interactive Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Panel of session chairs, wrap-up and outlook
17:30 – 18:00	Closing discussion
18:00 – 21:00	Offline conference dinner

### Friday, 24 September 2021

09:00 – 13:00	Cluster field visits in the Ruhr Bochum: cybersecurity and healthcare Duisburg: hydrogen technology and logistics
14:00 – 17:00	EMOC network meeting (members only)

## Day 1 23. September 2021

### Invited Keynote Presentation & Panel (09:00 – 12:30 CEST)

09:00 – 09:20	Welcome Words & Opening <i>Thomas Eiskirch, Lord Mayor of the City of Bochum</i> <i>Sören Link, Lord Mayor of the City of Duisburg (tbc)</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Setting the Scene: Welcome & Introduction by the Organisers
09:30 – 09:55	Clusters and Ecosystems – Old and New Strategies for Countries, Regions and Cities <i>Dr. Christian Ketels, Harvard Business School</i>
09:55 – 10:20	European Green Deal and Regional Competitiveness <i>Dr. Ulla Engelmann, Acting Director Networks &amp; Governance, European Commission</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:10	Is Germany's Technology Profile Future-proof? <i>Prof. Dr. Tom Broekel, UiS Business School Stavanger</i>
11:10 – 11:35	Long-term Regional Strategy for Inclusive Competitiveness: The Basque Country Case <i>Dr. James R. Wilson, Orkestra Basque Institute for Competitiveness</i>
11:35 – 12:00	20 Years of Cluster Policies in German Regions: A Comparative Review and the Way Forward <i>Dr. Rasmus C. Beck, Duisburg Business &amp; Innovation (DBI)</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Panel of Keynote Speakers: Key Policy Issues
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break

## Day 1 – Afternoon Programme

13:30 – 14:00	<p>Keynote: Innovation Policy in North Rhine-Westphalia</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Minister of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia</i></p>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 1 “<i>Crises, Resilience, Regional Development and Policies</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Merete Daniel Nielsen (TCI Network) &amp; Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Noll (Stiftung Zollverein)</i></p>
	<p>Session 2 “<i>Regional Innovation in Transition: the new role of Universities</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Prof. Dr. Rolf G. Heinze (Ruhr-University Bochum) &amp; Prof. Dr. Manfred Wannöffel (Ruhr-University Bochum)</i></p>
	<p>Session 3 “<i>Smart Specialisation – Learnings and Challenges</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Dr. Rasmus C. Beck (DBI) &amp; Prof. Dr. Matthias Kiese (Ruhr-University Bochum)</i></p>
	<p>Session 4 “<i>Clusters &amp; Cluster Policies Revisited</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Prof. Dr. Dirk Fornahl (CRIE) &amp; Prof. Dr. Daniel Buhr (University of Tübingen)</i></p>
	<p>Session 5 “<i>Mission-oriented innovation policies: Future perspectives of regional collaboration for preventive green transition</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Dr. Stefan Gärtner &amp; Dr. Judith Terstriep (IAT)</i></p>
	<p>Session 6 “<i>Resilience and Change Management for cities and corporates</i>”</p> <p><i>Chairs: Prof. Dr. Kai Rommel (International School of Management) &amp; Dr. Michael Anz (City of Dresden)</i></p>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 17.30	Panel of session chairs, wrap-up and outlook
17.30 – 18.00	Closing discussion on the role of clusters in mission-oriented business & innovation policies
18.00 – 21.00	Offline conference dinner at G DATA

## Day 2 24 September 2021 (09:00 – 17:00 CEST)

09:00 – 13:00	Offline Field Visits in Bochum und Duisburg by bus Bochum: cybersecurity and healthcare Duisburg: hydrogen technology and logistics
14:00 – 17:00	EMOC network meeting at RUB (members only)
17:00	End of Conference

### Registration

Please register via <https://public.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/anmeldung-clusters21> until **01 September 2021** stating your name, organisation, and if you are planning to attend in presence or online only. If you plan to attend in presence, please also indicate in which field trip you would like to participate.

### Call for Abstracts

For the breakout sessions, we invite presentations from practitioners, policy-makers and academics alike. If you would like to **present**, please [upload a file](#) containing your name, presentation title and an **abstract of up to 100 words** until **10 August 2021**, stating your name, organisation, the session you would like to present in, and if you are planning to present online or in Bochum. Notification of acceptance will follow shortly after the deadline.

### Conference Proceedings: Book and Special Journal Issue

After the conference, we invite all contributions to be submitted for an edited book, and selected contributions in English for a special issue of the renowned international journal [Competitiveness Review](#). The deadline for the submission of manuscripts to both will be 31 March 2022.

### Information

For enquiries and further information, please contact Simon Rohde at [simon.rohde@rub.de](mailto:simon.rohde@rub.de).