Workshop

“Emerging Clusters. Theoretical, Empirical and Political Aspects of the First Stage of Cluster Evolution”

Max Planck Institute of Economics
Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy Group

June 26th - 28th, 2008

Scope of the Workshop
In recent years a lot of theoretical and empirical work has been carried out to enlarge the understanding of growth processes and the functioning of local clusters. Many valuable insights into the relevant factors and processes have been gained. Contrary to this, the actual genesis of clusters has been less scrutinized. But the few existing contributions strongly emphasise the essential difference between the factors leading to this genesis and those guaranteeing the functioning of the clusters. Therefore special consideration is required on the actual phase of emergence to gain a deeper insight into the process of cluster evolution.

The intention of the workshop is to gather theoretical and empirical contributions from different fields explicitly focussing on the phase of cluster emergence and to address, e.g. the following questions:

- On which regional, technological or market bases do clusters emerge?
- How do opportunities and crises influence cluster emergence?
- Is cluster emergence purely random or can it be planned?
- Which processes take place during the emergence of clusters?
- When and how do first cluster specific externalities develop in emerging clusters?
- Can policy support cluster emergence? And if it can do so, how?
- How can emerging clusters be identified and how can their growth patterns be measured?

The workshop will be divided into successive sessions with two or three presentations each and plenty of time for discussion.

Participation
Around 20 researchers have been invited to submit a paper for presentation at the workshop which taking place in the Max Planck Institute of Economics in Jena (Germany). Nevertheless, we also want to encourage other researchers in this area to submit ideas that focus on the workshop subject. Therefore, feel free to circulate this call for papers. A complete paper or an extended abstract with at least 1,000 words has to be sent by email to

Dirk Fornahl
Fornahl@econ.mpg.de
The abstract / paper must be delivered by December 23rd 2007. Decisions on acceptance for the workshop will be emailed by January 15th 2008. The final paper must be delivered until June 1st 2008.

Participation without presenting a paper is also welcome. Due to limited space capacities, however, registration is necessary (contact Madeleine Schmidt, e-mail: schmidt@econ.mpg.de, tel: +49 3641 686-701, or fax: +49 3641 686-710).

**Costs and fees**
There are no participation fees. Lodging and meals will be free for paper presenters and they will be reimbursed as to travel costs. These should not exceed 400 Euro for participants from Europe and 500 Euro (East coast) or 600 Euro (West coast) for participants from the USA.

**Publication**
It is intended to publish all contributions of the workshop in an edited volume or probably in a special issue of a journal. The final decision about the publication will be made at the workshop. Everyone submitting a paper should be willing and able to deliver it before August 31st 2008 in order to support a joint publication.

**Local organizers**
Dirk Fornahl  
Sebastian Henn  
Max-Peter Menzel  
David Audretsch