

Experiences with the Funding Measure of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) “Internationalisation of Leading-Edge Clusters, Forward-Looking Projects and Comparable Networks”

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A short review: Cluster-oriented Innovation Policy within the German High-tech Strategy

- › **Spitzencluster-Wettbewerb (Leading-Edge Cluster Competition):**
 - › Nationwide contest in three rounds
 - › **15 cluster initiatives** were selected and provided with **funds of up to 40 million €** for R&D&I to be matched by private financing of the same level
 - › More **than 2,000 partners** in ca. 1,300 funded projects
 - › Overall BMBF-funding: **~ 600 Mio. €**
 - › Overall target: sustainable **mobilisation of regional economic potentials** in technological fields where Germany belongs to the top



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



Source: © Hans-Christian Plambeck (2015) / BMBF (2015)

Internationalisation as a future focus of clusters and networks

› Status Quo:

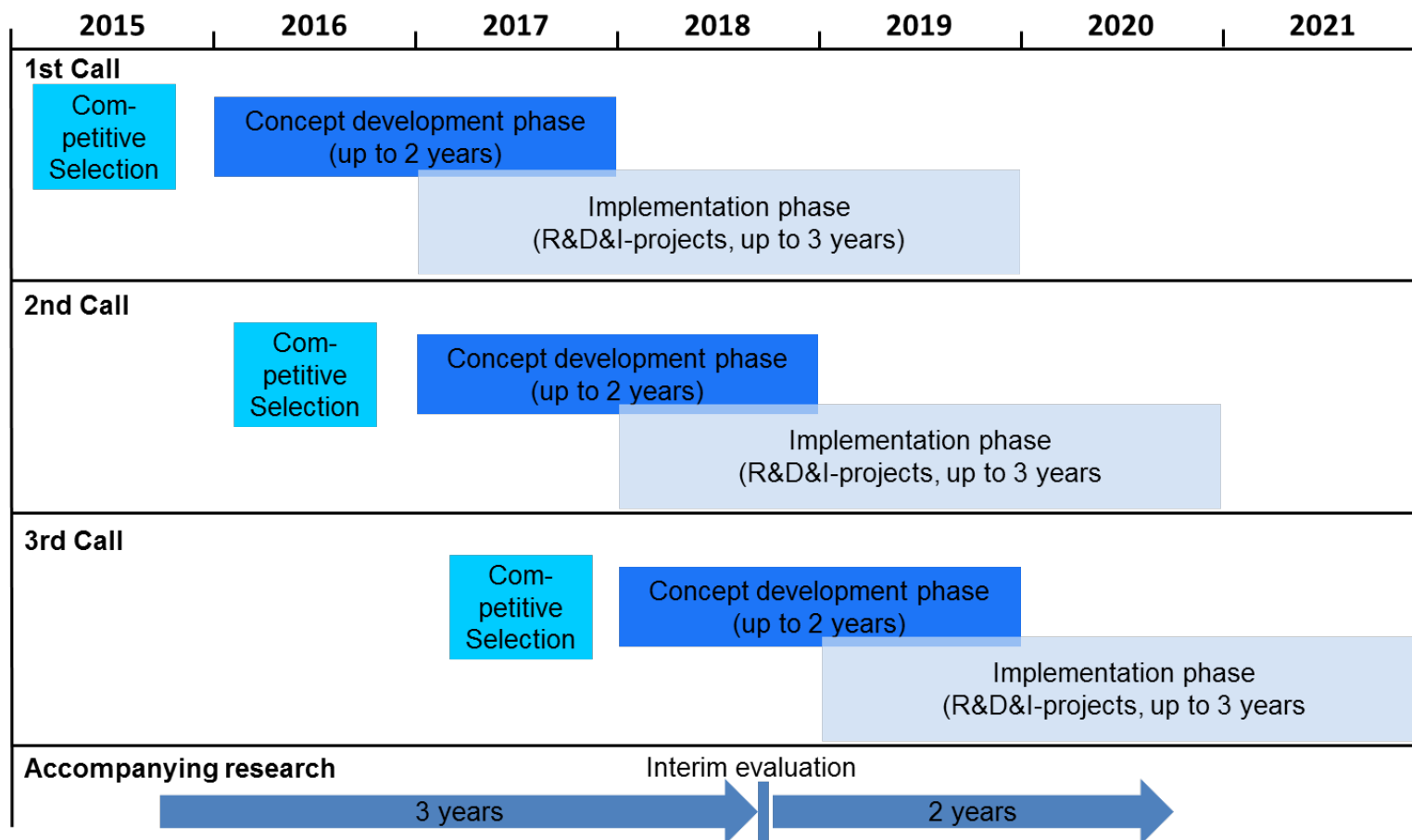
- › Complex **global challenges** and issues must be increasingly **tackled by a division of labour** with international partners from science and economy
- › Leading-Edge Clusters, Forward-Looking Projects and Comparable Networks have pooled their innovation competences and **are internationally renown**

› Objectives:

- › Linking local dynamics with complementary competences of leading international innovation regions by **creating joint strategies** within a bottom-up process (**concept development phase**)
- › Establishing a reliable and sustainable cooperation by realizing joint **R&D&I projects (implementation phase)**



Roadmap of the funding measure



Target audience in Germany

- › **Leading clusters and networks with:**
 - › **Sustainable management structures** and strong intercultural competences
 - › A successfully implemented **innovation strategy**
 - › **First reliable contacts** to other global innovation regions
 - › A **leading position** in their area of competence

- › **Funding for leading German clusters and networks:**
 - › **Concept development phase:** a maximum of € 1 million for a project term of up to two years
 - › **Implementation phase:** a maximum of € 3 million for a project term of up to three years

Potential international cooperation partners

- › **Leading international clusters, networks and innovation regions with:**
 - › **Complementary competences** compared to the German partner cluster or network
 - › Their own **management** organisation; alternatively, they are structured as managed network
 - › The ability to realise the **cooperation on an equal footing** (funding, know-how, division of labour, etc.)
 - › The objective to design **joint rules of cooperation** (cooperation treaty, IP-regulations etc.)

Winners of the 1st and 2nd round of competition

2015

- › Biotechnologie-Cluster Rhein-Neckar (BioRN)
- › Cluster industrielle Biotechnologie (CLIB2021)
- › Cluster Leistungselektronik
- › Hamburg Aviation
- › Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung Aachen
- › Kunststoff-Institut Lüdenscheid
- › Medical Valley EMN
- › MERGE – Technologies for Multifunctional Lightweight Structures
- › OptoNet - Photoniknetzwerk Thüringen
- › Organic Electronics Saxony
- › Software-Cluster

2016

- › BioEconomy Cluster
- › Elektromobilität Süd-West
- › Cool Silicon
- › Forum Organic Electronics
- › Leichtbau BW
- › MedicalMountains
- › Munich Biotech Cluster
- › Sport-Innovations-Netzwerk (SINN)
- › MAI Carbon
- › Wachstumskern WIGRATEC
- › Wetzlar Network – Optics, Electronics & Mechanics

Target regions/countries in funded projects (1st and 2nd round of competition)

Target region	Multiple indication	Single indication
Europe	Belgium, Czech Republic* , Finland, France, Great Britain, Poland, The Netherlands	Austria, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain
Asia	China, Japan, South Korea	Singapore
North America	USA, Canada	
South America	Brazil	

- › ***German clusters and networks cooperating with Czech partners** (or planning to do so):
 - › 1) MERGE – Technologies for Multifunctional Lightweight Structures
 - › 2) Wetzlar Network – Optics, Electronics & Mechanics

Central accompanying research project „InterSpiN“

› Consortium and international experts:

- › University Bremen, Centre for Regional and Innovation Economics (CRIE)
- › Institute for the World Economy (IfW) at the University of Kiel
- › Technopolis Germany GmbH
- › Prof. Phil Cooke, PhD, Bergen University College, Centre of Innovation
- › Prof. Martin Kenney, PhD, University of California, Davis Community and Regional Development

› Tasks:

- › Monitoring
- › Extending the knowledge concerning internationalisation of clusters and networks
- › Support in knowledge transfer and strategy development

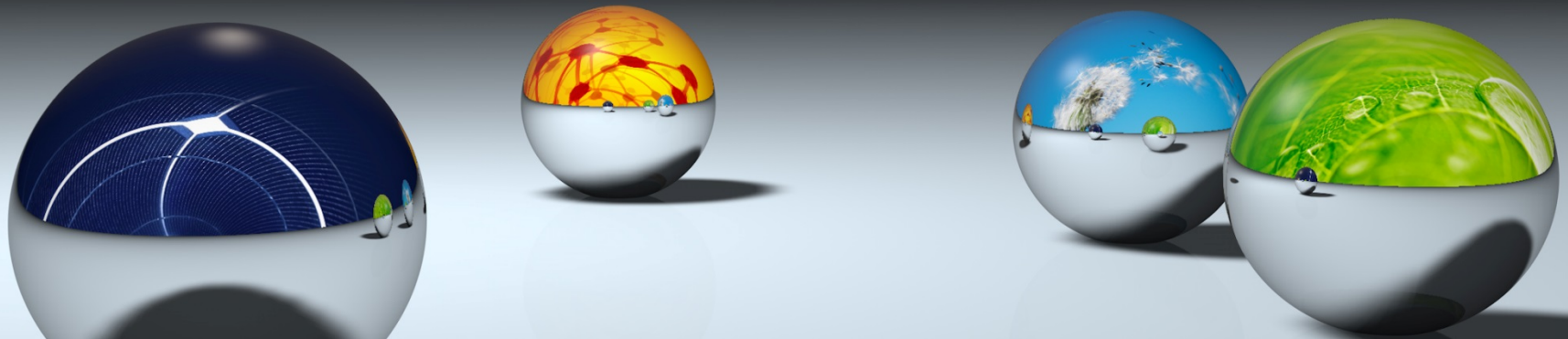




First experiences from the funding measure

- › German leading-edge clusters benefit within the funding measure from previously **initiated strategy development processes** (e.g. specific cluster or internationalisation strategies) → bottom-up processes are strongly supported
- › Identification of **international partners** that intend to cooperate **on equal footing** (in terms of project volume, competencies and project IPR) as a challenging task → need for concept development phase is confirmed
- › **Positive international feedback** on the funding programme, e.g. Canada and Australia set up comparable programmes

Thank you very much for your attention



For further information please visit:

- › <https://www.bmbf.de/en/internationalisation-of-leading-edge-clusters-forward-looking-projects-and-comparable-1416.html>
- › <http://interspin.de/en/start/>