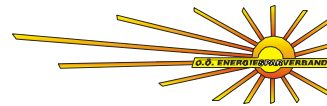


Project details:

- Budget: approx. k€ 894 .
- Duration: 32 months (oct.05 – apr.08)
- Consortium: 11 partners, covering 8 countries
- Sponsor: EU Commission DG Enterprise

- **The CENCE network and Objectives**
- **Workplan**
- **Results**
- **Beyond Cence**
- **Questions**

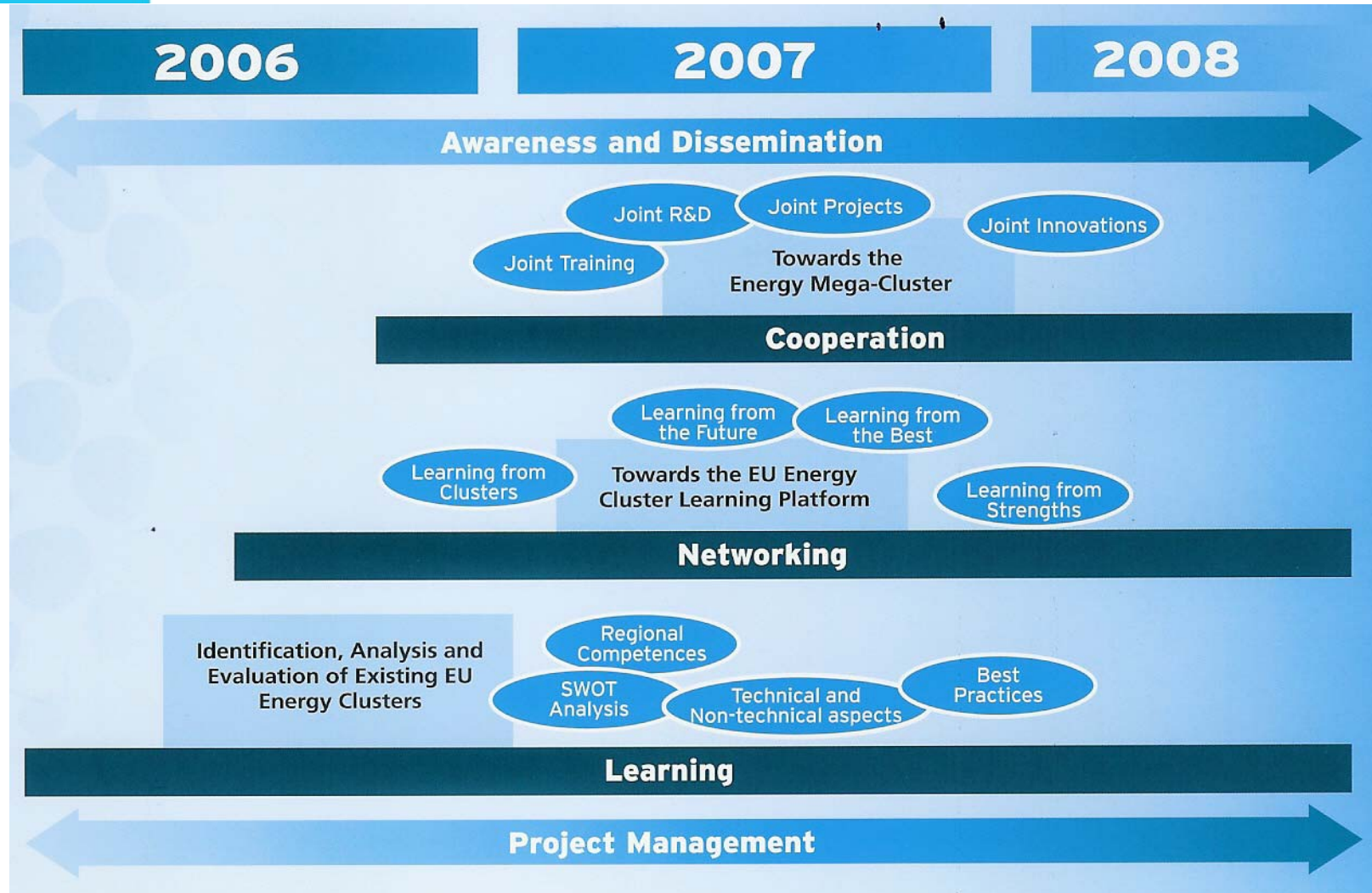
11 partners representing clusters focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources. In total, > 2,000 companies in 7 countries

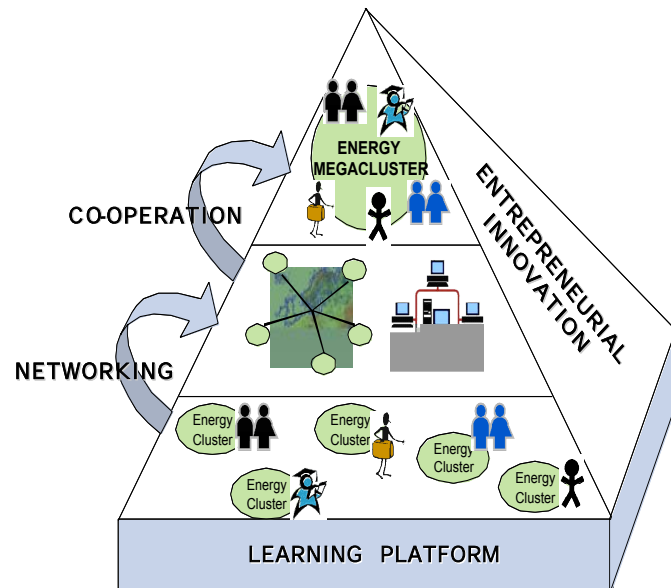


To stimulate and establish cooperation of mutual interest among the partners, and with other European Energy Clusters, on the basis of successful experiences.

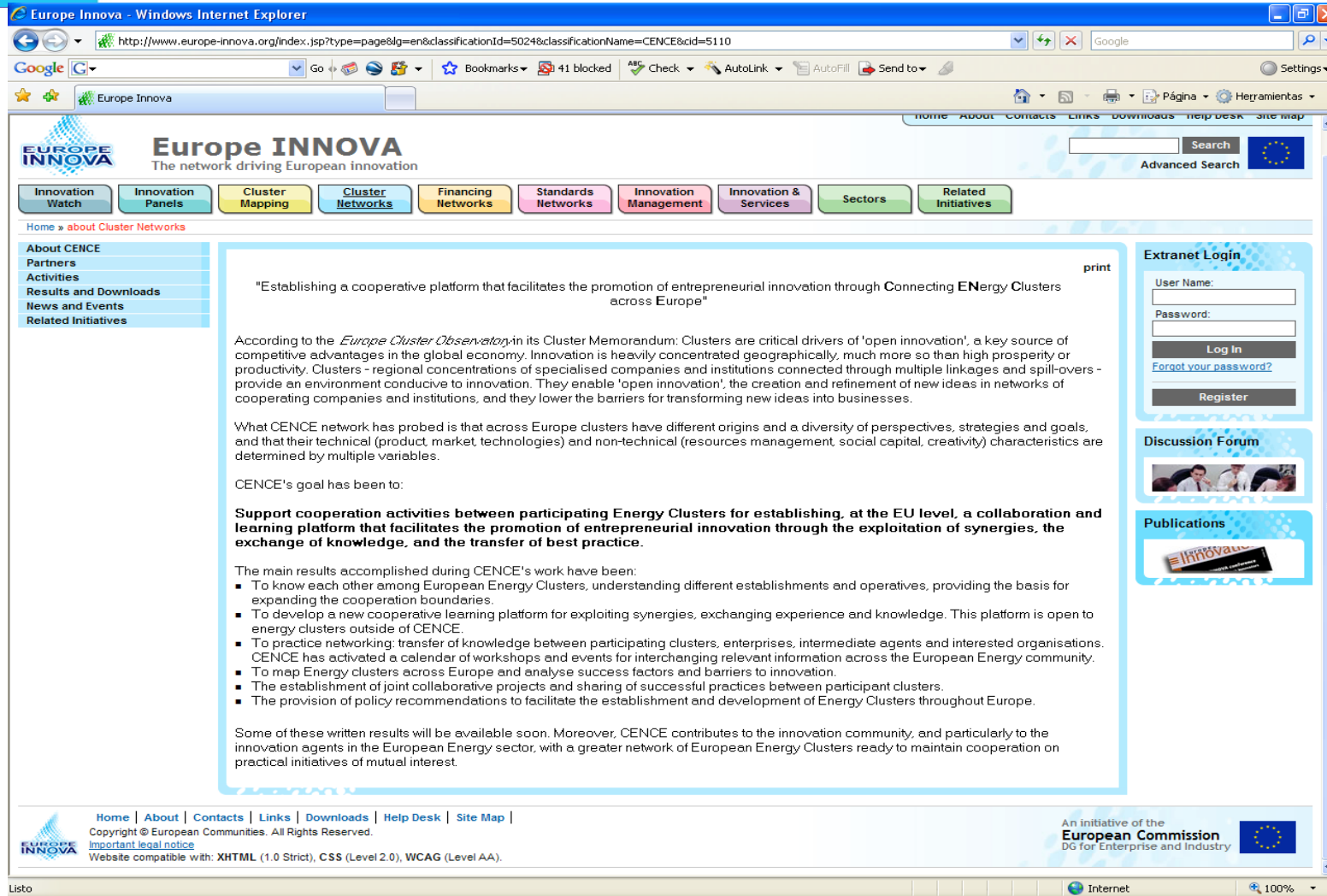
Define and consolidate common working areas within the EU “megacluster” in the new energy scenario.

Promote new “clusterización” processes, i.e.: East Europe





- European Energy Clusters and indicators
- Clustering Process assessment: tech. & non-tech. characteristics
- Regional Competences Map
- SWOT analysis of EU Energy Clusters cooperation potential
- 16 EU Energy Clusters Best Practices
- News, events, communications and newsletters
- Spider Diagram for EU Energy Clusters & associated companies
- Set of new specific indicators for EU energy clusters
- CIS, competitive Intelligence Service
- Manual with key factors to create a Cluster
- Policy Recommendations to transfer clustering processes to NMS
- 10 Study Tour experiences
- Energy Clusters Learning Platform: e-learning modules
- Pilot project: Energy Cluster establishment in Hungary
- 24 Cooperation Workshops



Europe INNOVA - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.europe-innova.org/index.jsp?type=page&lg=en&classificationId=5024&classificationName=CENCE&cid=5110

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The network driving European innovation

Innovation Watch | Innovation Panels | Cluster Mapping | Cluster Networks | Financing Networks | Standards Networks | Innovation Management | Innovation & Services | Sectors | Related Initiatives

Home » about Cluster Networks

About CENCE
Partners
Activities
Results and Downloads
News and Events
Related Initiatives

"Establishing a cooperative platform that facilitates the promotion of entrepreneurial innovation through Connecting ENergy Clusters across Europe"

According to the *Europe Cluster Observatory*, in its Cluster Memorandum: Clusters are critical drivers of 'open innovation', a key source of competitive advantages in the global economy. Innovation is heavily concentrated geographically, much more so than high prosperity or productivity. Clusters - regional concentrations of specialised companies and institutions connected through multiple linkages and spill-overs - provide an environment conducive to innovation. They enable 'open innovation', the creation and refinement of new ideas in networks of cooperating companies and institutions, and they lower the barriers for transforming new ideas into businesses.

What CENCE network has probed is that across Europe clusters have different origins and a diversity of perspectives, strategies and goals, and that their technical (product, market, technologies) and non-technical (resources management, social capital, creativity) characteristics are determined by multiple variables.

CENCE's goal has been to:

Support cooperation activities between participating Energy Clusters for establishing, at the EU level, a collaboration and learning platform that facilitates the promotion of entrepreneurial innovation through the exploitation of synergies, the exchange of knowledge, and the transfer of best practice.

The main results accomplished during CENCE's work have been:

- To know each other among European Energy Clusters, understanding different establishments and operatives, providing the basis for expanding the cooperation boundaries.
- To develop a new cooperative learning platform for exploiting synergies, exchanging experience and knowledge. This platform is open to energy clusters outside of CENCE.
- To practice networking: transfer of knowledge between participating clusters, enterprises, intermediate agents and interested organisations. CENCE has activated a calendar of workshops and events for interchanging relevant information across the European Energy community.
- To map Energy clusters across Europe and analyse success factors and barriers to innovation.
- The establishment of joint collaborative projects and sharing of successful practices between participant clusters.
- The provision of policy recommendations to facilitate the establishment and development of Energy Clusters throughout Europe.

Some of these written results will be available soon. Moreover, CENCE contributes to the innovation community, and particularly to the innovation agents in the European Energy sector, with a greater network of European Energy Clusters ready to maintain cooperation on practical initiatives of mutual interest.

Extranet Login
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Password:
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Register

Discussion Forum
Publications

Home | About | Contacts | Links | Downloads | Help Desk | Site Map |
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[important legal notice](#)
Website compatible with: XHTML (1.0 Strict), CSS (Level 2.0), WCAG (Level AA).

An initiative of the European Commission
DG for Enterprise and Industry

The Europe INNOVA **portal and extranet hold the CENCE learning platform:**

- It was established for facilitating the mutual learning process of the EU energy clusters.
- The platform is aimed at existing and emerging energy clusters in all EU member States.
- The concept learning refers to the exchange of good practice, knowledge and experiences.
- It is a repository of information on clustering in energy. Several modules are offered to the user:
 - “Energy Mega Cluster” holds information material on each cluster.
 - “Guidance”
 - “Introduction”: describes an energy cluster and cluster management
 - “Getting Started”: is a guidance manual providing information on setting up an energy cluster and provides indicators which can be used to assess management practice
 - “Improving Performance”: shows best practices for replication
 - “Continual Improvement”: hold summaries of learning circles on cluster management and a repository of e-learning modules
 - “Services”: competitive intelligence and a market development
 - “The CENCE project” – info-material on the CENCE project.
- The access to the extranet is described on www.europe-innova.org/CENCE. The whole platform is not fully completed yet...



New Energy clusters committed to collaborate:

Renertec	It	www.renertec.bz.it
ArchEnergie	Hu	www.archenerg.hu
Cluster Alsace Énergivie	FR	www.energivie.fr
Kompetenznetzwerk Kassel	Ge	www.deenet.org
Udviklingsforum Odense	Dk	www.odense.dk

Many other Energy clusters and regional agents have expressed interest...

Cluster Associated Companies

The internationalization of Cluster provides expanded:

- access to relevant information
- joint R&D
- access to public & private funding/financing
- "lobby function" & general awareness about the sector
- more commercial & technical cooperation channels
- Networking with other SMEs

Cluster Managing Organisation

- diversity in structures but agreement on objectives & success factors
- opportunities to learn from other experiences, management practices... and adapt !!
- opportunities to share training, R&D cooperation, information on regulation, entrepreneurship, energy policies, etc.
- helps to improve the cluster services
- learning phase & support to emerging clusters
- stable link between interests of cluster members & European objectives

Policy makers

- most Cence Clusters have strong support from **Regional** /National Governments
- need for a better understanding on Energy sector SMEs' needs in Innovation and the impact of policies
- interest of regional agencies in benchmarking successful regional programs in Europe
- Opportunity to use Cence network to design and implement "European updated" tools and methodologies

- an informal network of sustainable energy clusters (more a platform than a "Megacluster")
 - a **common voice** for certain issues in Europe
 - continued exchange of experience to **improve cluster services**
 - creating **opportunities for our cluster members**, in joint R&D, joint market penetration, information exchange...
 - being a bridge between European policies and interests of cluster partners
- sustainable energy companies and their clusters have an important role in the energy systems in transition (Distributed Generation, RREE)
- CENCE partners have become an united network of innovation agents capable to promote multiregional initiatives towards more competitive, and sustainable EU companies and energy solutions



Next Actions

- Regular meetings among Cluster Managers and stakeholders to discuss common areas of interest. Involve our Regional Agencies and EEN partner
- Use a common online platform to share information
- Create thematic groups within the platform; Low carbon, Renewables,...
- Procedure to involve and commit new Energy Clusters to the platform.
- Develop mechanism to support the creation of new Clusters
- Antenna for following up EU Commission initiatives in innovation & energy



More Info at:

www.europe-innova.org/CENCE

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