

# CLUSTERS IN SLOVAKIA – THEIR IMPORTANCE, POSITION, SOURCES OF FINANCING, MAPPING AND CERTIFICATION

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# IMPORTANCE OF CLUSTERS FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY

## WHY CLUSTERS?

**Clusters** are complex and dynamic structures that are subject to continuous change. Strong clusters can promote economic growth through leveraging the innovation and business potential of a region. New employment opportunities, new products and services, new companies, new R&D activities and new patents can be the result of activities within a cluster. A professional cluster management can contribute to such a development through projects and services that tap into the cluster's potential.

**In Slovakia, clusters** are established as associations in accordance with Act no. 40/1964 Coll. as amended.  
**an association concerned of legal entities**

# CLUSTERS IN SLOVAKIA





Area: 50 000 km<sup>2</sup>

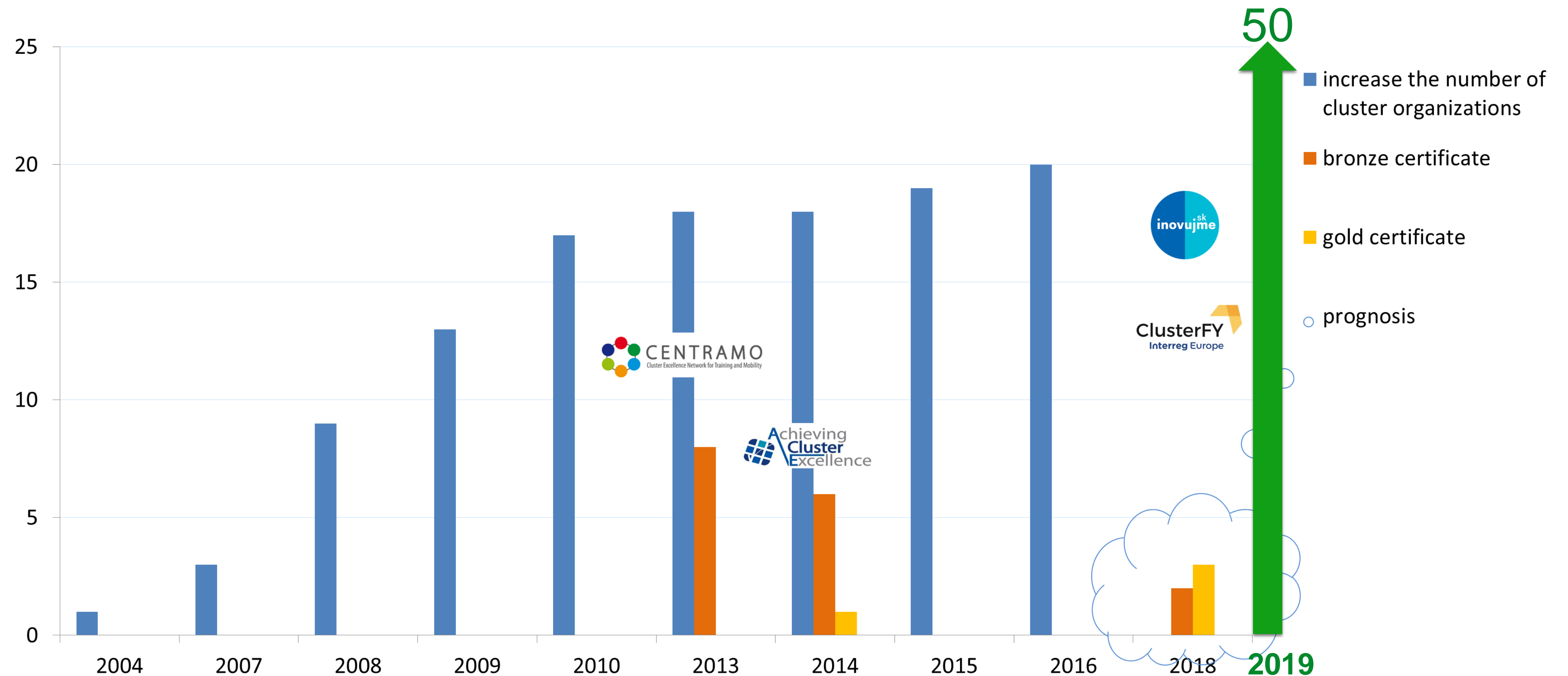
5,5 MIO population  
app. 560 000 SME  
app. 700 large enterprises  
50 clusters



Area: 33 800 km<sup>2</sup>

2,7 MIO population

## CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVAKIA

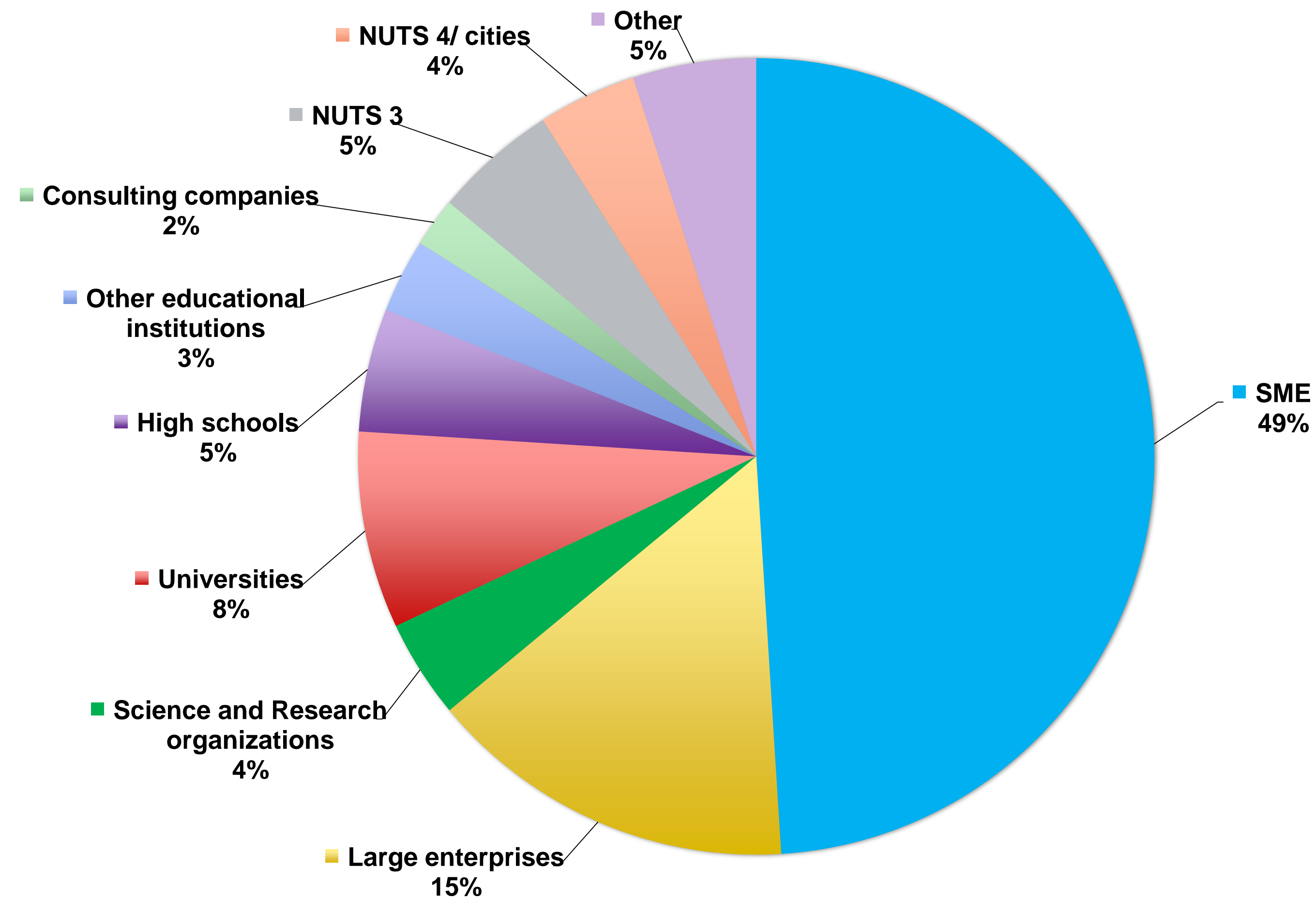


## WHY CLUSTERS?

### Clusters provide some advantages:













- increasing productivity based on better access to specialized suppliers, capabilities and information
- greater emphasis on innovation
- natural spread of the cluster
- increasing the speed of information and technology transfer
- increasing the power and voice of smaller companies
- connection of research and development entities and universities with praxis

## COMPOSITION OF CLUSTERS IN SLOVAKIA





## KEY TECHNOLOGICAL CLUSTERS LINKED TO DOMAIN OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY (RIS3)

Logo	Name	Organisation	www	Field	Domain of RIS 3	ESCA Certificate
	Tomáš Novotný	National Energy Cluster	<a href="http://www.nek.sk/">http://www.nek.sk/</a>	Energy Industry	Industry for the 21st Century	
	Jaromír Jezný	Cluster for Automation Technologies and Robotics	<a href="https://www.clusteratr.sk/">https://www.clusteratr.sk/</a>	Automation and Robotics	Industry for the 21st Century	
	Pavol Mirossay	Košice IT Valley	<a href="http://www.kosiceitvalley.sk/">http://www.kosiceitvalley.sk/</a>	IT Technology	Automotive Industry for the 21st Century Digital Slovakia and the Creative Industry Industry for the 21st Century Healty Food and the Environment Population Health anf health Technologies	
	Ondrej Chrappa	Information and communication technology cluster	<a href="http://www.zaict.sk/">http://www.zaict.sk/</a>	IT Technology	Automotive Industry for the 21st Century Digital Slovakia and the Creative Industry Industry for the 21st Century Healty Food and the Environment Population Health anf health Technologies	
	Oľga Balážová	Slovak Plastic Cluster	<a href="http://www.spklaster.sk">http://www.spklaster.sk</a>	Plastic Industry	Industry for the 21st Century	
	Peter Linhardt	Biterap	<a href="https://biterap.org/">https://biterap.org/</a>	IT technology	Automotive Industry for the 21st Century Digital Slovakia and the Creative Industry Industry for the 21st Century Healty Food and the Environment Population Health anf health Technologies	

# FORMS OF CLUSTER SUPPORT IN SLOVAKIA

## NATIONAL SUPPORT OF CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS

- Since 2011: The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic began support for clusters
- Since 2013: The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic joined to these activities

SIEA has monitored and supported the development of clusters in Slovakia:

- it opened the possibilities for cluster involvement in international projects
- by implementation of state aid for industry clusters through state-aid schemes
- Since 2016: The National Project Increase in Innovation Performance of Slovak Economy
  - ESCA Certification (Bronz, Silver, Gold Label)
- Since 2019: Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
  - New prepared scheme from European Structural and Investment Fund

# CLUSTER INTERNATIONALISATION



SIEA PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

## CENTRAMO

2011 – 2013



European Commission  
Enterprise and Industry



## ClusterCOOP

2011 – 2014



Cluster**COOP**



**CENTRAL  
EUROPE**  
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

## ACE - ACHIEVING CLUSTER EXCELLENCE

2014 – 2016



## CENTRAMO 2011-2013

Goal of the CENTRAMO project (Cluster Excellence Network for TRaining and MObility):

- to improve quality of cluster management in networks in participating countries



→ *Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Croatia, Turkey*

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- *Training of two specialists for cluster benchmarking*
- *Training of one specialist for cluster management*
- *Benchmarking of eight clusters according to the ESCA methodology (The European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis)*
- *To create analysis of the textile industry and fashion design in Europe with partners from Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia*
- *SIEA organized meetings with relevant representatives of the fashion design sector in Bratislava.*



European Commission  
Enterprise and Industry





## ClusterCOOP 2011-2014

Goal of the ClusterCOOP project:

- to improve mutual cluster cooperation in countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- intensifying the use of innovative cluster capacity and enhancing their competitiveness



→ *Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Poland*

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- *Preparation of review of legal and institutional measures and solutions contributing to support of and promoting interregional and transnational cluster cooperation*
- *International stakeholder meetings*
- *Distribution of information between **clusters** and **those interested in clustering***



Cluster**COOP**



**CENTRAL  
EUROPE**  
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

## ACE – ACHIEVING CLUSTER EXCELLENCE 2014-2016



Goal of the ACE project:

- enhancing the level of cluster management through international benchmarking to create an opportunity for the best clusters to obtain a prestigious certificate – recognized throughout the European Union



*Italy, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia*

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- *International benchmarking of six Slovak clusters*
- *Training of one specialist in cluster management area*
- *Certification of one cluster to award „GOLD LABEL“*
- *Organisation of an international conference under the title „Pre-Gold Meeting“ in Brussels*
- *Closer cooperation of clusters within the platform ECCP (European Cluster Collaboration Platform and The European Cluster Observatory)*



## ClusterFY – NEW PROJECT – EXPECTED RESULTS



### INTERREG MUTUAL COOPERATION SHOULD LEAD TO:

- ✓ ClusterFY aims to improve regional and national policy instruments seeking to intensify Key Enabling Technologies (KET's)-related clusterization processes, as well as fostering interregional cooperation between and among clusters and business networks and encourage their integration into innovative value chains. These developments advance the implementation of regional innovation strategies.
- ✓ SIEA together with other agencies and organizations from seven European countries, participates in the international ClusterFY project aimed at promoting the internationalization of industrial clusters.
- ✓ **Project duration: 2017 – 2021.**
- ✓ Web page: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/clusterfy/>.



→ *Lithuania, The Netherlands, Greece, Spain, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden*

## ClusterFY – NEW PROJECT – EXPECTED RESULTS



### INTERREG MUTUAL COOPERATION SHOULD LEAD TO:

- ✓ Interactions between universities, research and scientific organisations.
- ✓ Mutual networking of innovative subjects.
- ✓ Recommendations for cluster support in Slovakia through a national scheme.
- ✓ Cluster assessment for bronze (two) and gold (one) label according to ESCA methodology.



→ *Lithuania, The Netherlands, Greece, Spain, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden*



## ClusterFY – NEW PROJECT – EXPECTED RESULTS

### PROJECT PARTNER MEETING: KOŠICE, 14. – 16. 10. 2019



**1st Day**  
Study Visits

**2nd Day**  
International Conference

**3th Day**  
Partner Meeting in Slovakia



→ *Lithuania, The Netherlands, Greece, Spain, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden*

# CLUSTER CERTIFICATION



## CLUSTER CERTIFICATION

### Benchmarking of Cluster Management Organisations by ESCA

- Focused on the performance of cluster organizations, the direction of their roles, the level of management, the content of the activity, and the sustainability of the results achieved

- Evaluation include:








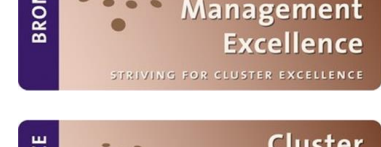

- Structure and Governance of the Cluster
- Financing
- Cluster Strategy
- Cluster Services
- Contacts and Interaction with Relevant Players
- Cluster Dynamics
- Achievements and Recognition










- Besides granting the certificate, also determines the areas of improvement for cluster management and monitors the development of cluster

## CLUSTER CERTIFICATION

### CENTRAMO: 8 BRONZE LABELS

	Slovenský strojársky klaster, Detva
	Klaster AT+R, Prešov
	Automotiv Cluster Slovakia, Trnava
	IT Valley, Košice
	Klaster Liptov, Liptovský Mikuláš
	Klaster Orava, Dolný Kubín
	Národný energetický klaster – NEK, Bratislava
	Slovak Plastic Cluster, Nitra

### ACE: 6 BRONZE + 1 GOLD LABEL

	IT Valley, Košice
	BITTERAP, Košice
	Elektrotechnický klaster – Západné Slovensko, Galanta
	Klaster Horehronie o.o.c.r., Mýto pod Ďumbierom
	In Tech, Žiar nad Hronom
	OOCR Dudince, Dudince
	Z@ict, Žilina

## CLUSTER CERTIFICATION

### ZIVSE The National Project Increase in Innovation Performance of Slovak Economy

**2018: 4 BRONZE + 1 GOLD LABEL**

- AT+R, Prešov
- Košice IT Valley
- NEK, Bratislava
- BITERAP, Košice
- Z@ict, Žilina

**2019: 11 BRONZE LABEL**

- Planned to certificate another 11 clusters





## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLUSTERS BASED ON CERTIFICATION

### **Obtaining the internationally recognized certificate provides:**

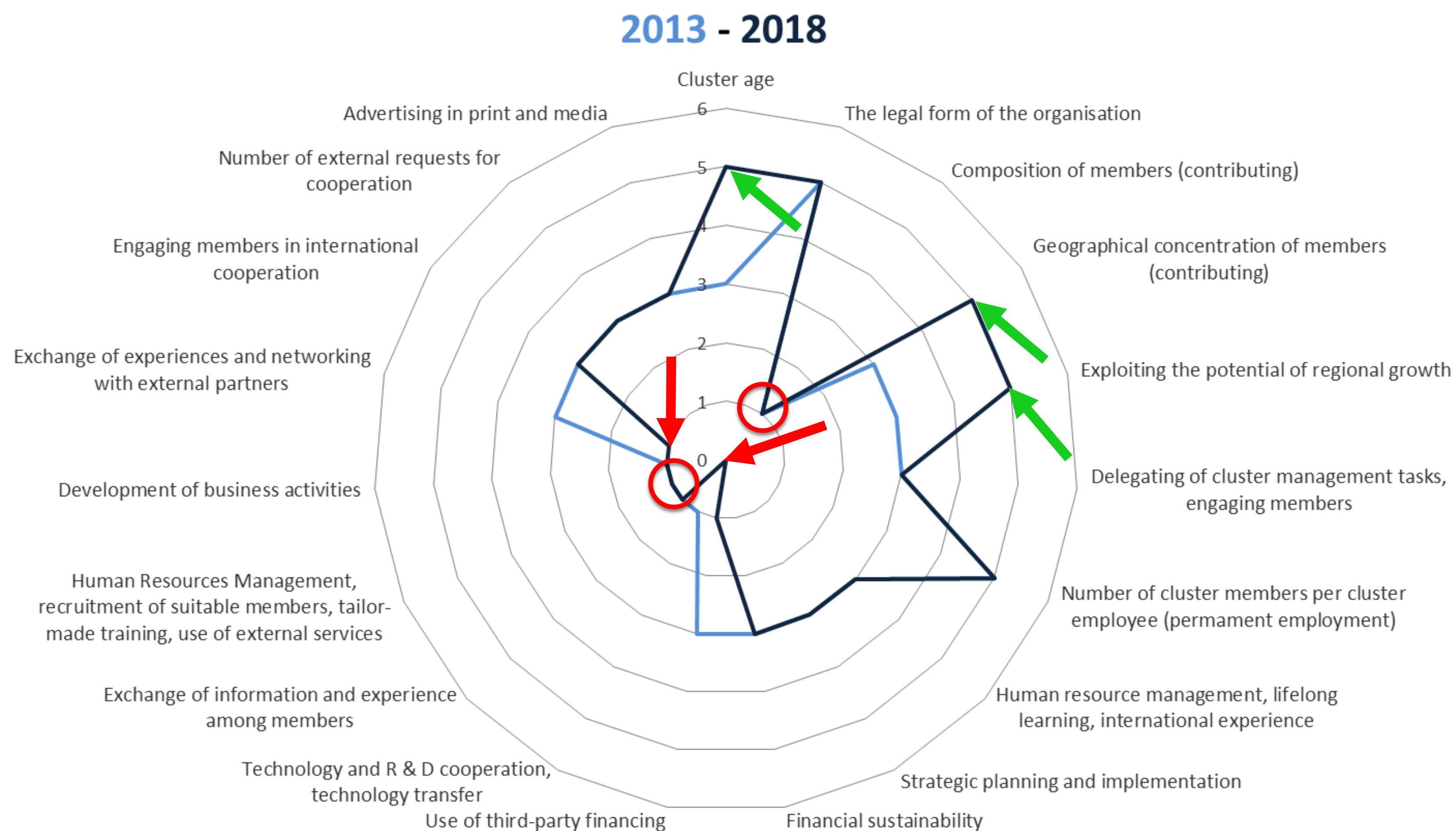
- More opportunities for international cooperation and therefore more chances to obtain resources within the framework of foreign projects
- The opportunity to become more visible at national and international level, participation in international conferences, seminars, B2B actions
- As an internationally recognized brand, it offers the opportunity to engage in political debates on the functioning of clusters, whether at national or international level
- The ability for the best clusters to network & support regional cooperation
- The opportunity to compare themselves on an international scale
- Improving the quality of cluster management & better use of capacity for innovation
- Enhancing the competitiveness of the region & better regional position in the market



# **CERTIFICATIONS – SOURCE FOR CLUSTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SUPPORT MEASURES**

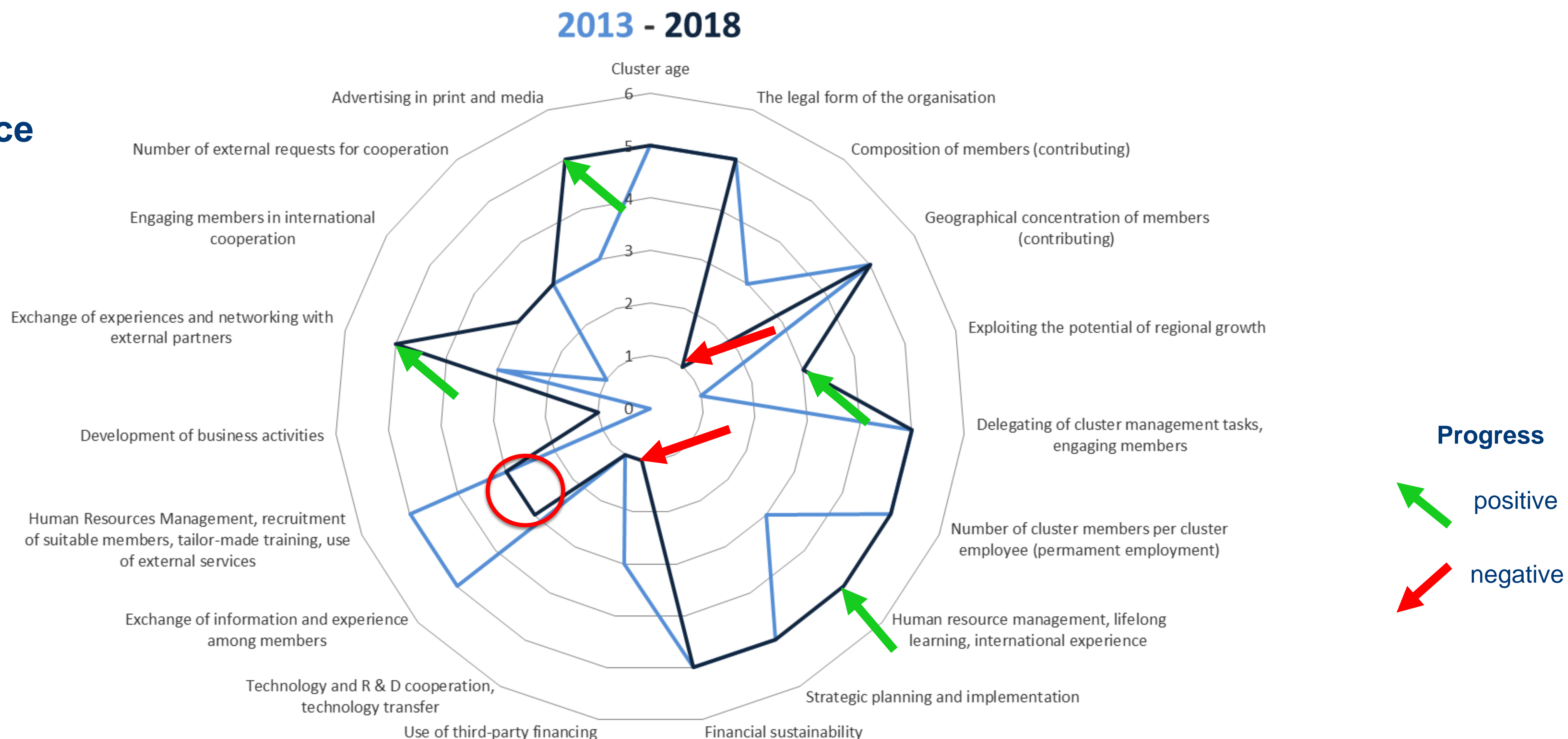
## CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT 2007-2018

**AT+R**  
**2013 – 2018**



## CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT 2007-2018

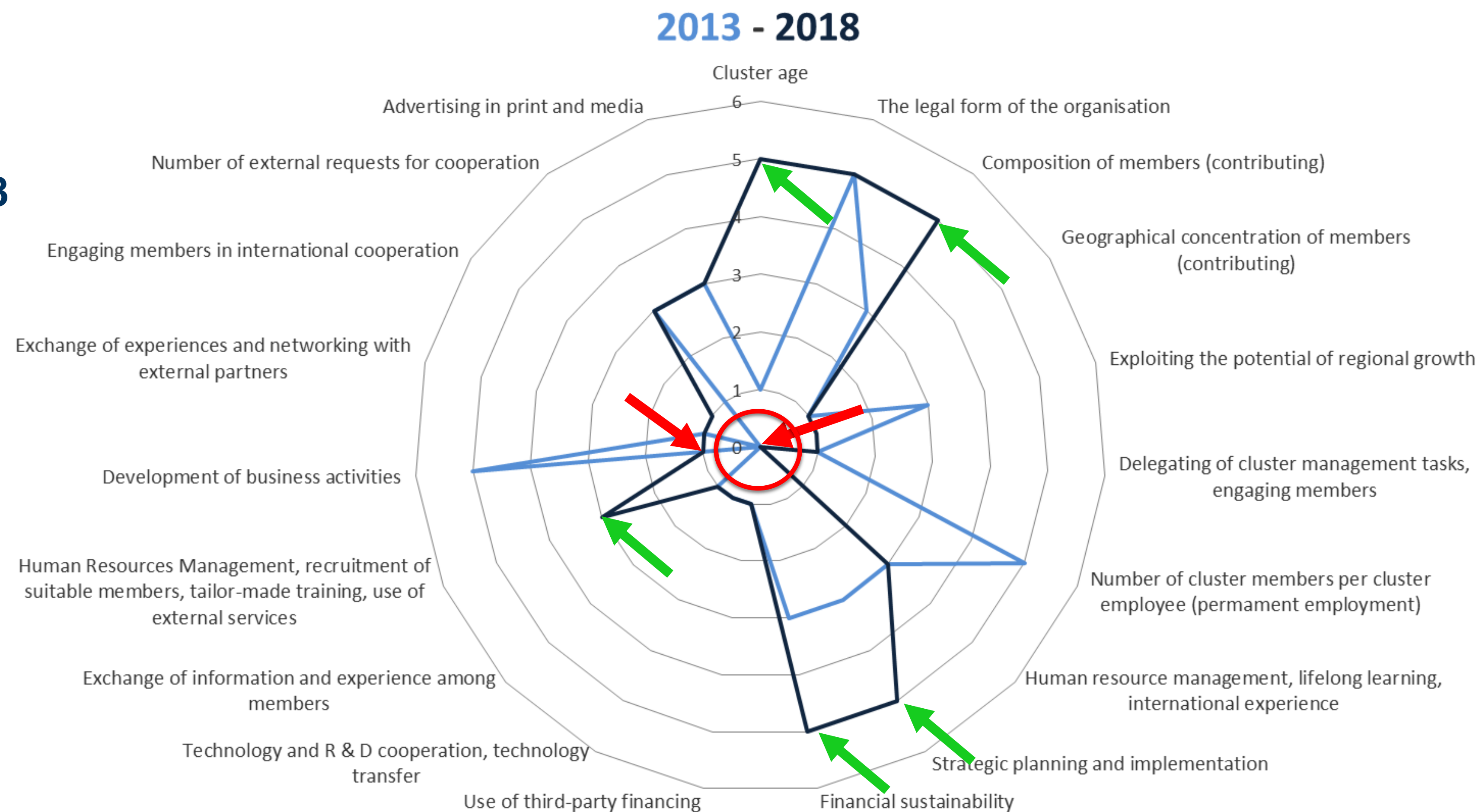
### IT VALLEY Košice 2013 - 2018





## CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT 2007-2018

### NEK 2013 - 2018



#### Progress

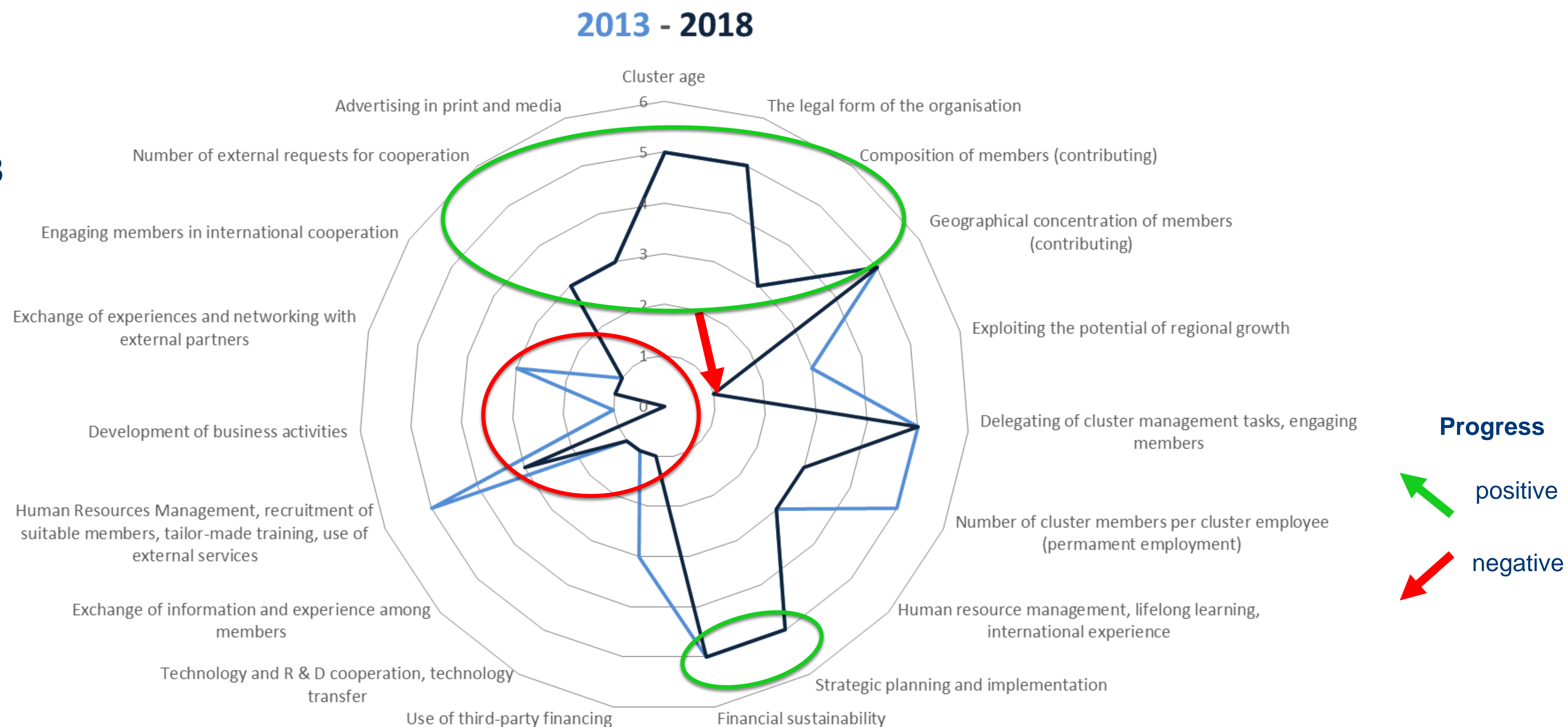
positive

negative



## CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT 2007-2018

**Z@ICT**  
2013 - 2018



## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CLUSTER CERTIFICATION EXAMPLE

### **Cluster should:**

- ✓ **increase the administrative and project capacity of cluster organisations**
- ✓ **start active search for new cluster members, especially with focus on science, research and development**
- ✓ **start to expand membership of innovative enterprises in clusters**
- ✓ **start active search and engage in international projects, international platforms and networks**
- ✓ **support of the putting into practice projects and technological solutions through participation of the cluster organisations in the activities of local state aid support scheme and National Projects**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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