



# TCI Newsletter

News from the global practitioners network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation



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### Message from the President

Dear TCI friends,

Welcome to the April edition of the TCI newsletter.

**TCI is a community built around the exchange of knowledge and experience.** This is why we organize **conferences** and offer **services** to our members that facilitate the flow of information. And this is also why we use the **newsletter as a way to share interesting insights and reflections** as well as impressions of activities that our members have been involved in. These short articles are intended to be the start of a conversation, not their end. **We are looking forward to hearing from you with any reactions or comments you might have – and of course also to learn about contributions or suggestions you might have for sharing material this way.**

One of the articles this month comes from [Prof. Dan Breznitz](#), a globally known expert innovation and innovation policies, now teaching at the University of Toronto. Based on an invited article he recently had in *The Economist*, **he makes the case for economic development efforts to see start-ups as the initial step of a process that leads to meaningful economic impact, not as an end goal.** Clusters can be an important contextual condition to help start-ups reach scale. And cluster efforts can be an important complementary strategy for entrepreneurship policies to generate sustained benefits in terms of jobs, wages, and prosperity. How this can be done successfully, is a task that I know many of our member organizations engaged in both cluster and entrepreneurship programs have to worry about every day. At our [global conference in Monterrey](#) we will have Prof. Scott Stern from the MIT entrepreneurship center to deepen this discussion further.

Two other articles take us to **Colombia** to gain insights from two events that our TCI friends in the country have had a central role in. In [Medellin, the 7th Global Urban Forum](#) took a broad look at the role of cities. Over the last few years, there has been an increasing appreciation that urban centers play a critical role in economic growth and innovation. In the academic literature, this has led to a sometimes heated debate about whether clusters or cities are the more appropriate perspective for framing economic development efforts. But is this distinction meaningful for practitioners that operate in a given regional and cluster environment? Again, a question for a network like ours to ponder. In [Bogota, the topic is shared value](#), i.e. company activities that both address social needs and help support firm profitability. This approach that promises a way to overcome the zero-sum or license-to-operate thinking that dominates many traditional corporate social responsibilities efforts, has gained increasing traction among large global companies as well as in economies with serious social challenges. Our [2014 conference in Monterrey](#) will make this one of the three core themes of the program.

In addition, you will find our regular [list of academic articles](#) on issues related to clusters and competitiveness, as well as a short summary of a recent [EU expert group report on innovation partnerships](#). We want to make such summaries of key policy analysis a more constant feature of the TCI news offering: too often, interesting work like this gets buried among the many documents public agencies regularly churn out. If you come across or have worked on such type of report that deserves sharing in the TCI community, let us know.

Finally, have a look at the updates on other events that have been or will be going in the TCI network. There are news about activities in [Australia](#), about the [interest group on impact assessment](#), and much more.

Finally, I am happy to welcome [InovCluster from Portugal](#) as a new organizational member in our network. I had recently the chance to participate via video link in an event in Lisbon looking back at the impact of the Porter-led study on Portuguese competitiveness twenty years ago. A good opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and what has not. I hope we can work with InovCluster to help Portugal learn some of these lessons as it tries to enlist clusters again in its efforts to upgrade the country's competitiveness.

Best wishes from Stockholm,  
Christian Ketels, TCI President

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### TCI Australasian Cluster Conference, Sydney, 30 May: Registrations still open!

The TCI Network Oceania Chapter organizes a one-day cluster conference in collaboration with Regional Development Australia, Brisbane. The event will be held in Sydney on 30 May 2014 on the theme of "How clusters can reinvigorate Australian regions & industry". Cluster practitioners, economic developers, government economic and industry policy makers are invited to share their knowledge and experiences. Registrations are now open. TCI members enjoy a reduced fee.

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### TCI Monterrey 2014: Submit now your abstract for presentations!

TCI has opened registrations for its global conference to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 10-13 November 2014 and launched a Call for presentations both from a practitioners' and from an academic point of view. Themes include: Creating shared value through clusters for a sustainable future; Clusters as a tool for reindustrialization; Differences between clusters in America and the rest of the world.

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### TCI Conference High Tech & Clusters scheduled for June cancelled

We regret to inform that the Conference High Tech & Clusters, scheduled to be held in Bern in June, has been cancelled.

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### Another step ahead in cluster evaluation: meeting of the TCI Working Group

The latest meeting of the TCI Cluster Evaluation Working Group was held on 31st March and 1st April in Belfast, Northern Ireland, hosted by TCI organisational member Invest NI. Madeline Smith, TCI Board member and coordinator of the group, summarises the findings of the meeting.

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### New TCI organizational member from Portugal

This month, we are pleased to welcome a new organizational member from Portugal: InovCluster. We look forward to working with them in the framework of our activities!

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### Michael E. Porter at the Bogota Chamber of Commerce

Harvard Business School Professor and leading authority on strategy and competitiveness, Michael E. Porter, will participate in a forum organized by TCI member Bogota Chamber of Commerce on 6 May, in which the cluster development and shared value programs of this organization will be presented. TCI members are invited to join the event.

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### The partnership approach and innovation ecosystems in Europe

Paweł Swieboda, President of demoseUROPA – Centre for European Strategy, and Sylvie Schwaag Serger, Executive Director International Strategy and Networks at the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) and Adjunct Professor at the School of Economics of the University of Lund summarise the findings of the expert group examining the existing European Innovation Partnerships.

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### Startups!! But where is the growth? Article by Dan Breznitz

Dan Breznitz is the Munk Chair of Innovation Studies and the Co-director of the Innovation Policy Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs in the University of Toronto.

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### 7th WUF: a vote of confidence in the development of Medellin through public-private partnerships

The 7th World Urban Forum was held in Medellin, Colombia, on the past 5-11 April. TCI Board member Jaime Echeverri, Planning and Development Vice-president at Medellin Chamber of Commerce, explains the development of Medellin through public private partnerships.

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### Africa: 6th Annual Conference of the PACF, 23-28 June, Tanzania

The Pan African Competitiveness Forum's 6th Annual Conference will be held on the theme of "Enhancing Africa's socio economic development through cluster based competitiveness as a catalyst for transformation, innovation, entrepreneurship, accelerated regional integration and intra-Africa trade."

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### Australia: Regional Economic Development – Partnerships for performance

Economic Development Australia NSW Chapter organized a conference under the theme of Regional Economic Development – Partnerships for performance, which was held in Caves Beach, Australia on 28 March. TCI Board member Richard Walker attended the event and summarises its main features.

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### Academic articles on clusters - 10

The TCI Network seeks to develop tighter bridges between the practitioners in our network and the academic community working on clusters. As a first step, we will regularly post listings of new academic articles on clusters and competitiveness on our website. A further selection is available [here](#).

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### Cluster agenda for 2014

We are pleased to list cluster related conferences we have identified at a global level. Let us know about the cluster related events in your regions and countries - we will be happy to share them among the global TCI community.

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### Cluster training: a selection of courses

There is an increasing demand for professionals who possess the special qualifications needed for the competent management of clusters. In order to cover this need, various courses are offered around the world. TCI is pleased to present a selection of it.

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## TCI supporting organizations



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