

Study to create competitiveness clusters for the circular economy

Clusters as vehicles for the circular economy and for
industrial symbiosis

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Agenda

1. Goal of this session: some practical insights
2. Useful concepts
3. Practical insights
4. Resources





Goal

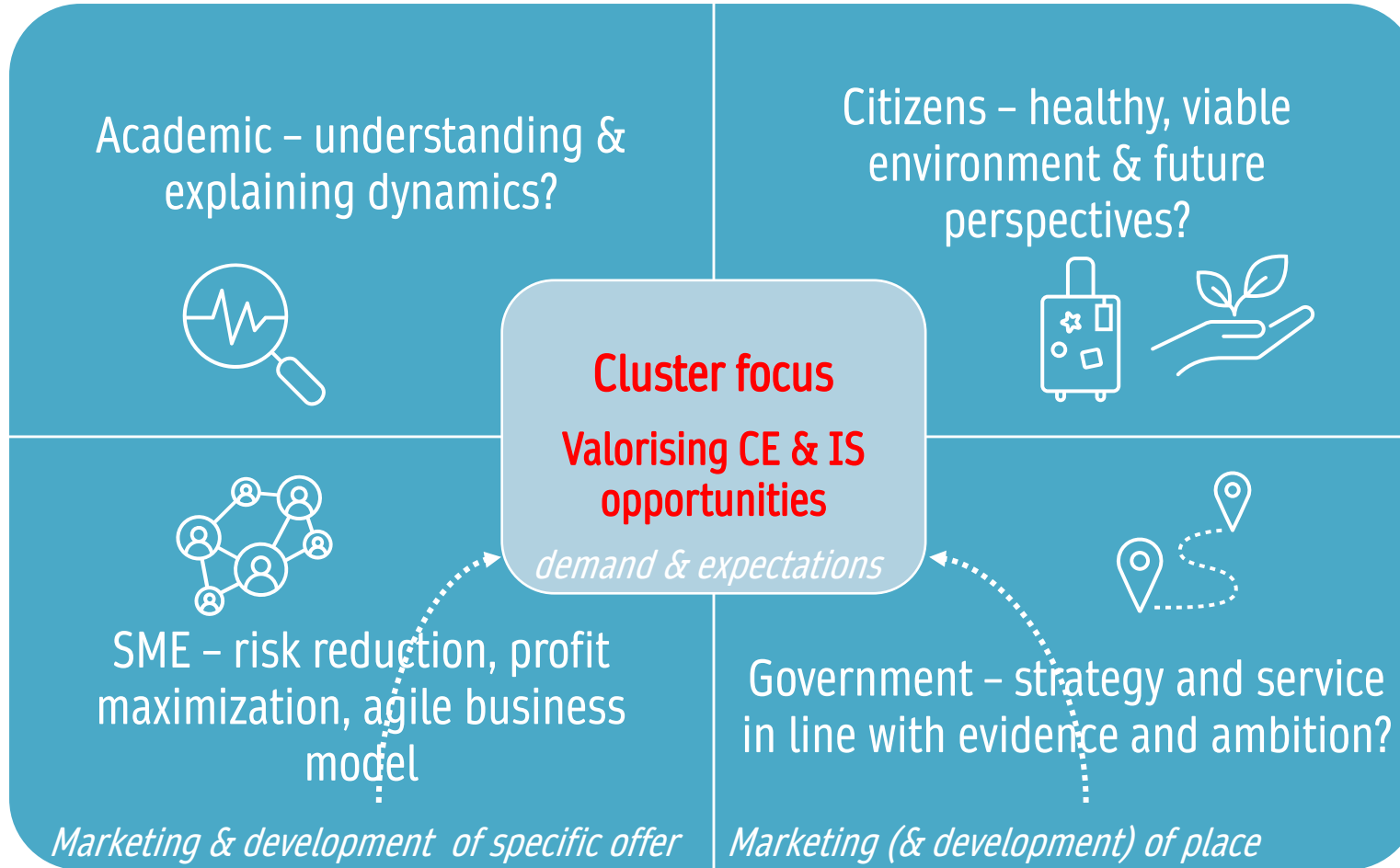
What are the conditions for using clusters to promote circular economy practices and industrial symbiosis applications?

- Insights and lessons learned
- Relevant
- Value added
- Selection

Qualification: Cluster policy is a widely applied regional development policy strategy – mainly for economic reasons, as well as for fostering R&I, technology deployment, but also for stimulating circular economy practices, and industrial symbiosis.



Useful concepts: the quadruple helix





Useful concepts: smart specialisation

- ▶ Valorising what you have – teaming up for what you lack
- ▶ Select a limited number of priority areas for knowledge-based investments
- ▶ Focussing on relative strengths and comparative advantages

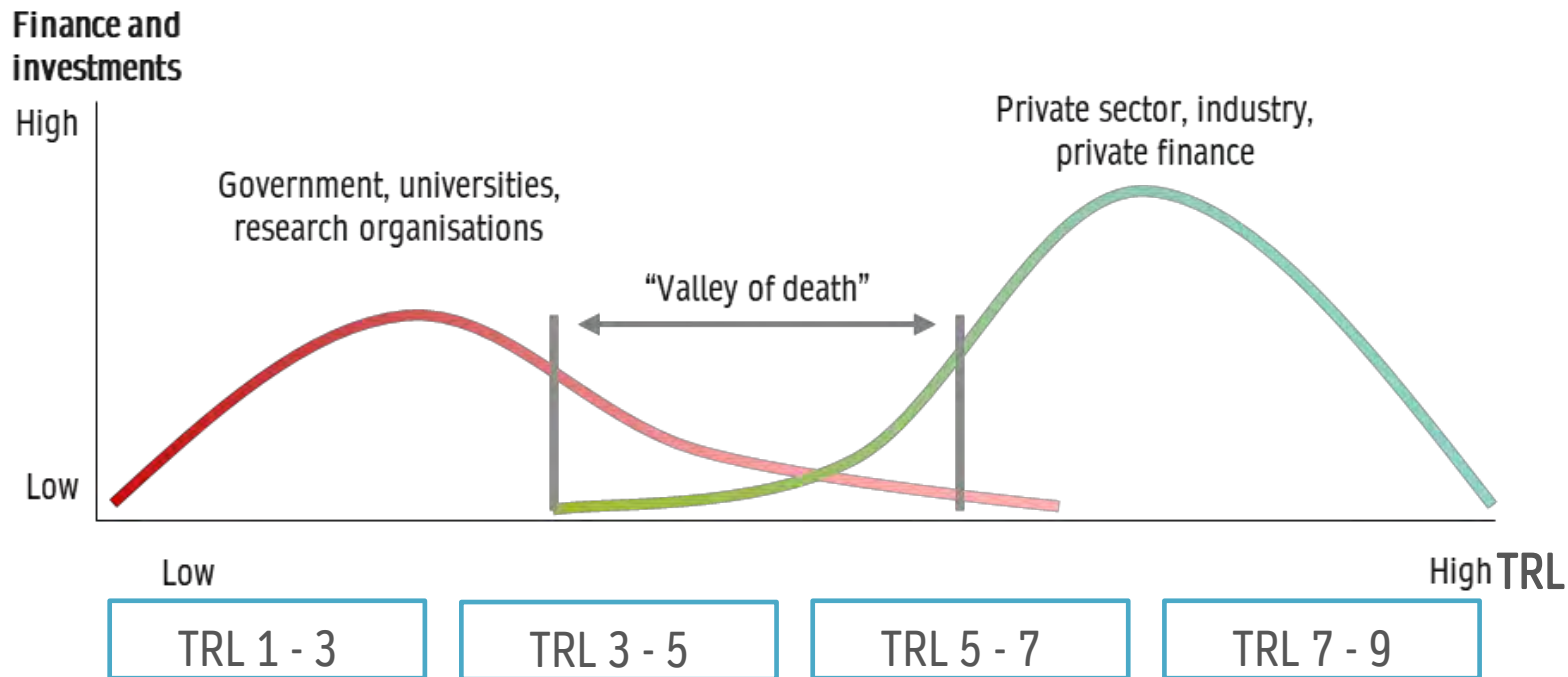
=> Identifying assets, strengths, comparative advantages

=> Identifying needs and opportunities

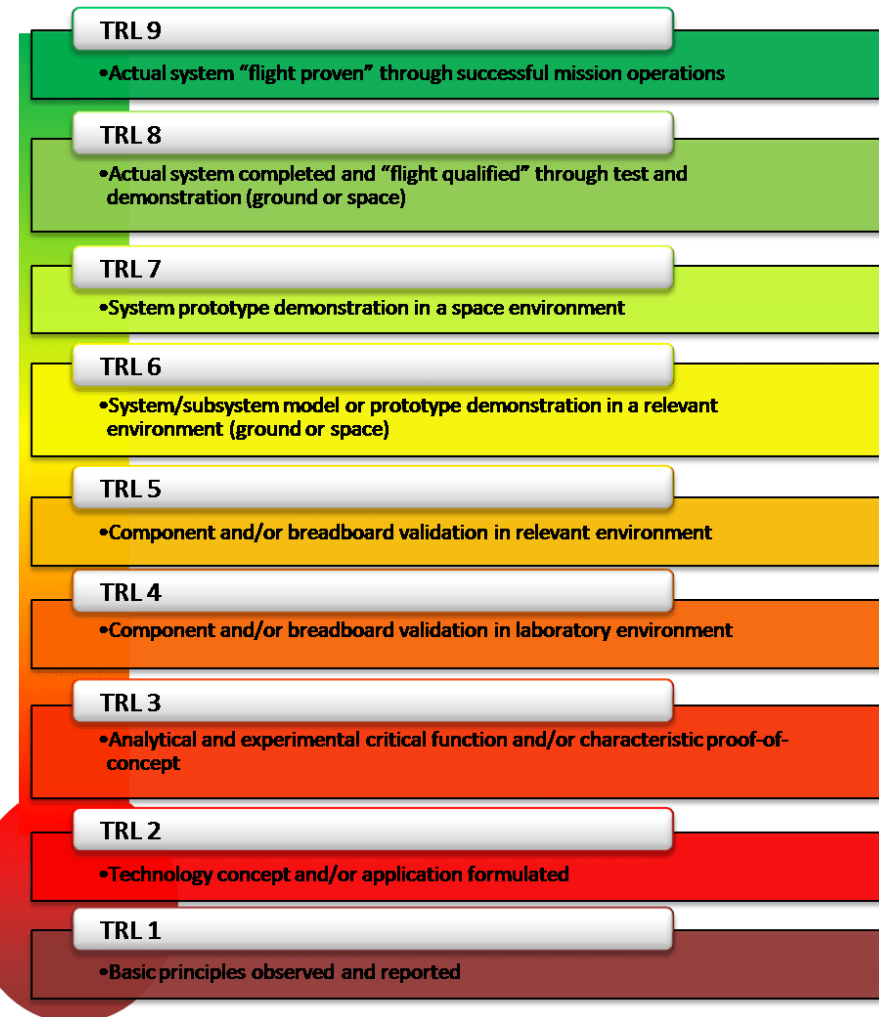
=> Identifying potential partners, network, cooperators



Useful concepts: the “valley of death”



TRL: Technological Readiness Level



Source: NASA (2023) [Technology Readiness Levels - NASA](#)



Practical insights: a few hints

- ▶ Determine the **purpose** – what and why
 - ▷ Expectations: realistic, phased over time, define the expected effects
 - ▷ Determine clear terminology and concepts
- ▶ Find a **common mission** – understand everyone’s incentives/priorities & find common ground
- ▶ Homework: find out who you need and **what already exists** – contact existing initiatives & stakeholders
- ▶ Develop an **action plan** with clear milestones and time frame, risk and mitigation analysis
- ▶ Appoint a **mediator** or **cluster manager** – someone with the skills to get everyone on board
- ▶ Develop a **communication** strategy to convince new stakeholders and **awareness raising** across the value chain
- ▶ Think about your **financing** model and its sustainability in the long-run
- ▶ Allow enough **time** to develop your initiative – but set clear expectations
- ▶ Regular **evaluation**: use a clear intervention logic with clear terms and concepts
 - ▷ Triangulation of information
 - ▷ Assess whether milestones have been reached
- ▶ Keep the action plan **alive** & dynamic



Resources

- ▶ OECD: [Smart specialisation – OECD](#)
- ▶ [S3 Platform - Smart Specialisation Platform \(europa.eu\)](#)
- ▶ [Euroclusters | European Cluster Collaboration Platform](#)
- ▶ [European Cluster Collaboration Platform | European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform \(europa.eu\)](#)
- ▶ [Circular Cities and Regions Initiative | Circular Cities and Regions Initiative \(europa.eu\)](#)

- ▶ [Home | Vanguard Initiative \(s3vanguardinitiative.eu\)](#)



Circular Cities and Regions Initiative

Supporting Europe's circular economy at local and regional level

VANGUARD INITIATIVE



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