

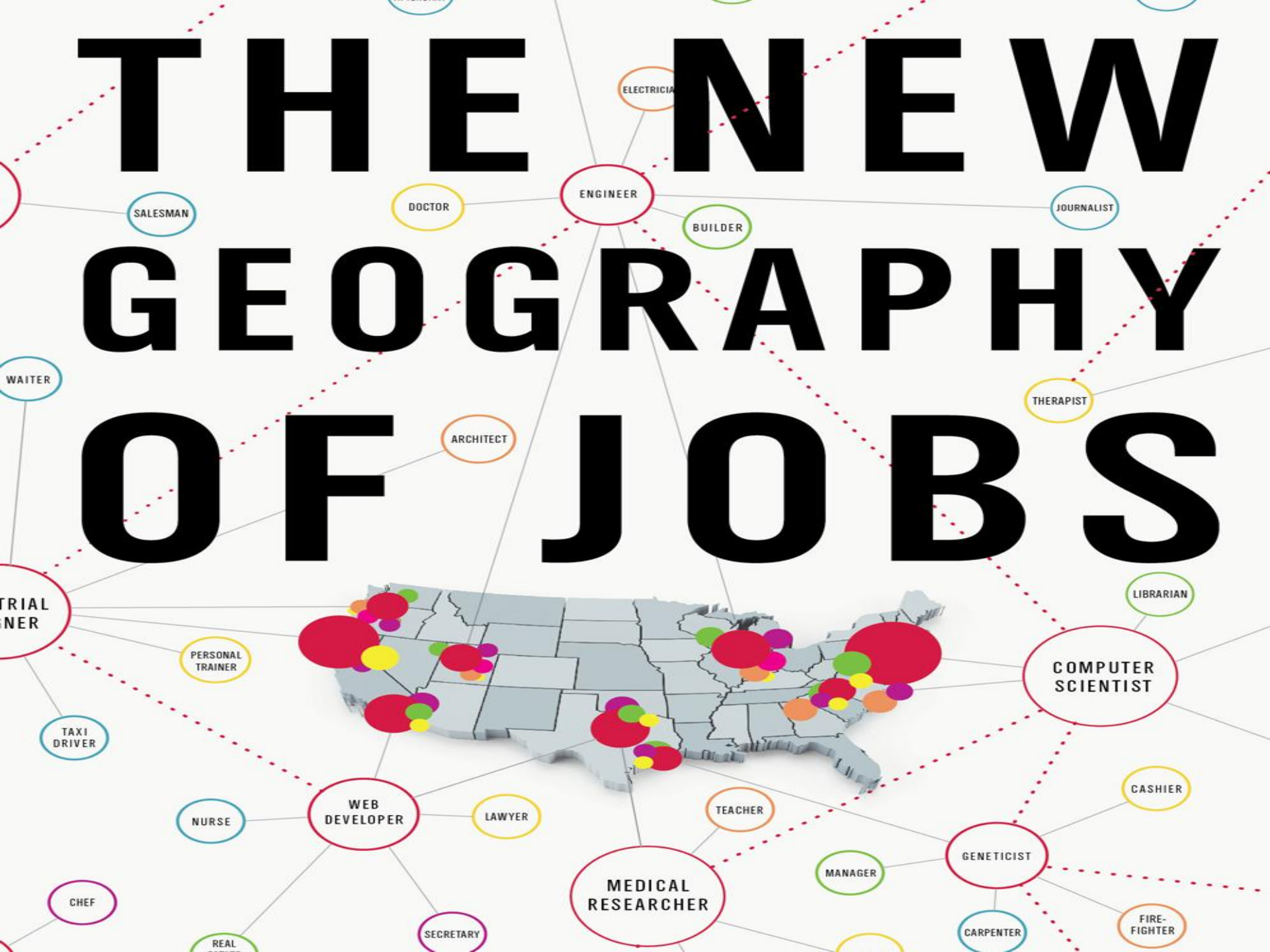
Cities and Regions as the Drivers of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Growth and Jobs

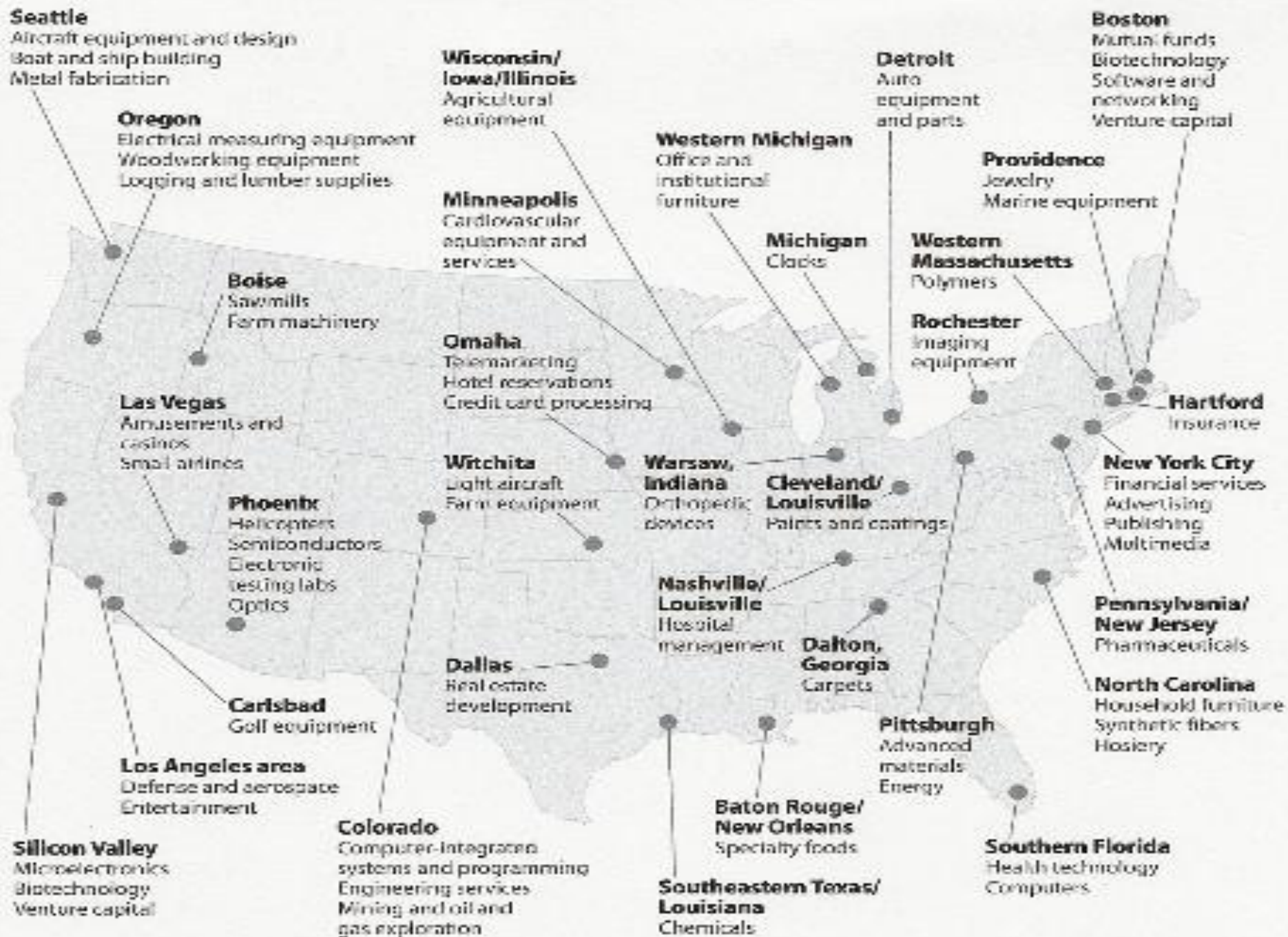
Prof Thomas M. Cooney

College of Business

Dublin Institute of Technology

THE NEW GEOGRAPHY OF JOBS





Ireland's clusters map



Sligo



Dublin

Dublin – Europe's Tech Hub

- <http://youtu.be/gmjBNevETcM>
- EMEA HQ for many of the world's top ICT companies
- Large population – young and well-educated
- 4 universities and 4 Institutes of Technology based locally
- Very good infrastructure
- Excellent networking opportunities
- Strong support systems available

Sligo – Where to From Here?

- Population of 19,452 in 2011, but about 500,000 live in surrounding counties
- Has few large companies
- Local Institute of Technology is relatively small (6,500 students, 300 staff, strong in science)
- Challenges exist regarding its geographical location
- Strength of networks and resource capacity not as strong as other locations
- So how does one build such a location as a driver of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Growth and Jobs



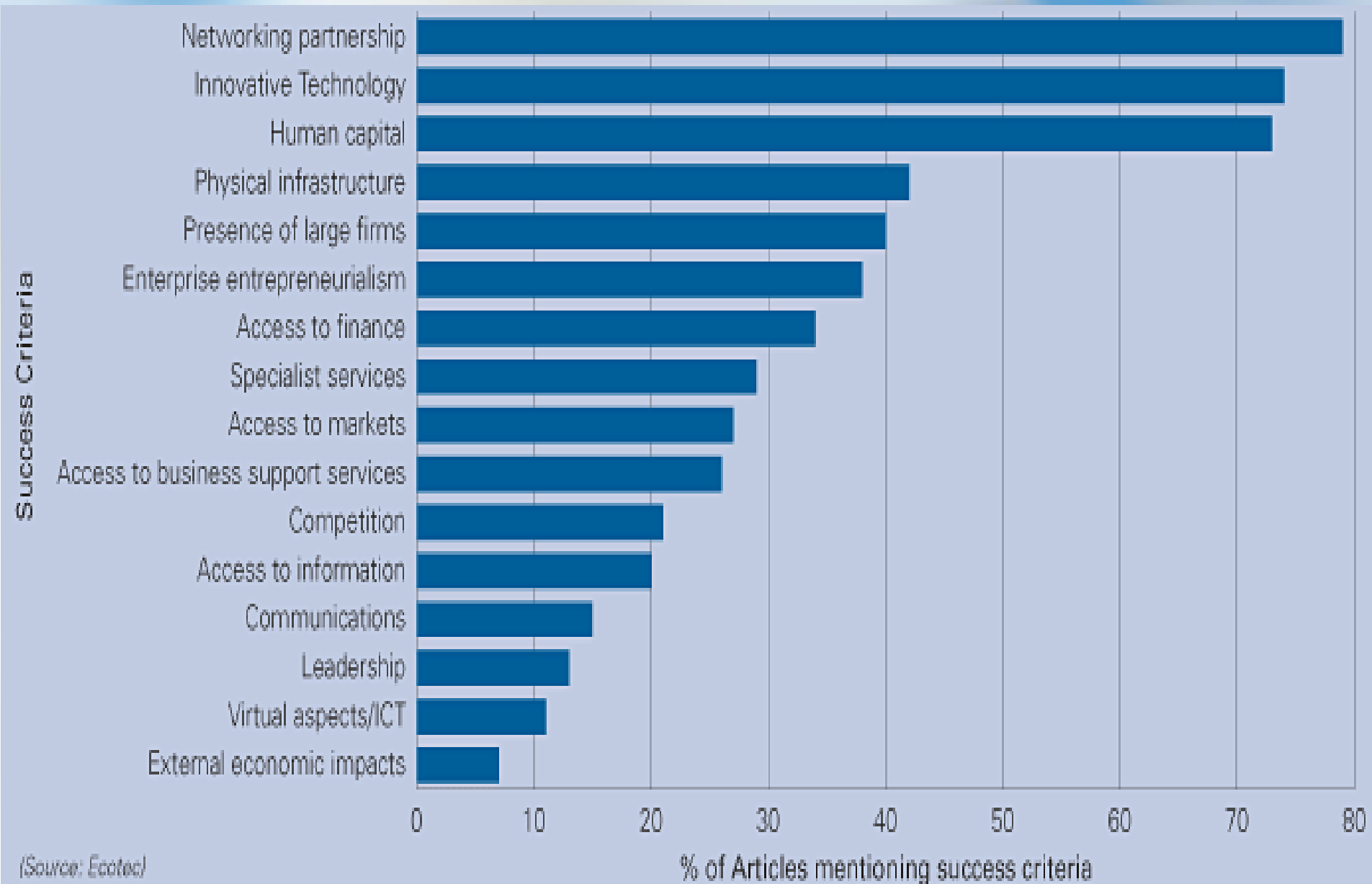
Policy Trends Supporting Clusters

Policy stream	Old approach	New approach	Cluster programme focus
Regional policy	Redistribution from leading to lagging regions.	Building competitive regions by bringing local actors and assets together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Target or often include lagging regions.• Focus on smaller firms as opposed to larger firms, if not explicitly then <i>de facto</i>.• Broad approach to sector and innovation targets.• Emphasis on engagement of actors.
Science and technology policy	Financing of individual, single-sector projects in basic research.	Financing of collaborative research involving networks with industry and links with commercialisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually high-technology focus.• Both take advantage of and reinforce the spatial impacts of R&D investment.• Promote collaborative R&D instruments to support commercialisation.• Include both large and small firms (often spin-off and start-up firms).
Industrial and enterprise policy	Subsidies to firms; national champions.	Supporting common needs of firm groups and technology absorption (especially SMEs).	<p>Programmes often adopt one of the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Target the drivers of national growth.• Support industries undergoing transition and thus shedding jobs.• Help small firms overcome obstacles to technology absorption and growth.• Create competitive advantages to attract inward investment and brand for exports.

Types of Policy Targets



Key Factors According to Academic Literature



(Source: Ecotec)

Success Factors for Clustering

- Critical success factors
 - Networks and partnerships
 - Strong skills base
 - Innovation and R&D capacity
- Contributory success factors
 - The presence of large firms
 - Adequate infrastructure
 - Entrepreneurial spirit
 - Access to finance
- Complementary success factors
 - The role of traditional business support activities
 - The context in which the cluster operates
 - The role of a supportive policy environment

Quote from Laur et al (2012)

- The success and longevity of clusters depend to a large extent on their actors sharing a common vision.
- It is proposed that actors involved in cluster initiatives can be categorized according to a typology consisting of key players, target and support groups.
- Managing cluster initiatives requires striking a balance between well-developed and anchored targeted activities and experimental activities exploring future needs.
- This requires some openness and flexibility within the shared vision.
- Cluster initiatives can therefore be viewed as dream-catchers that rather than control and govern the clusters perform a more subtle role of gathering and visualizing potential opportunities in regional contexts and articulating and realizing them through an entrepreneurial process.

*“Some men see things as they are
and say why -I dream things that
never were and say why not”.*

George Bernard Shaw

Main References

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- I. Laur, M. Klofsen and D. Bienkowska – Catching Regional Development Dreams: A Study of Cluster Initiatives as Intermediaries – European Planning Studies, Vol. 20, No.11, November 2012