

The Economic Significance of the Lower Austrian Clusters

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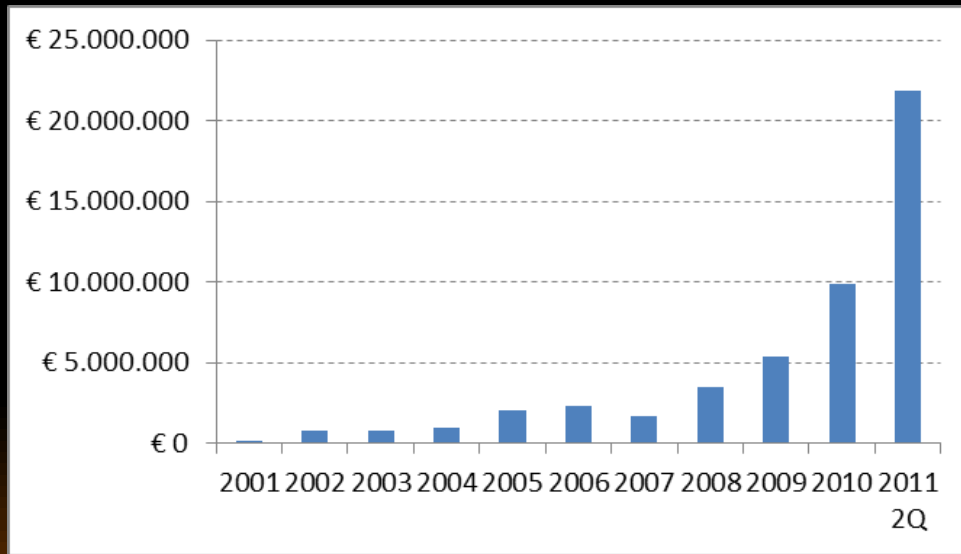
Clusters Aim to Connect and Support the Cluster Members

The Lower Austrian Cluster Initiative focuses not only on innovation, but is based on four pillars:

- Innovation projects (cooperative R&D projects)
- Qualifying measures (certification)
- Cooperative measures to prepare (international) market entry of cluster members
- Sustainability measures (e.g. green building)

Strong Increase of Project Volume

A large increase in the project volume of all projects completed or currently being implemented (per year) in the Lower Austrian clusters occurred. In mid-2011 a project volume equal to € 21,9 million was reached.



Source: Economica

R&D Intensity

- Average R&D intensity of the cluster firms is equal to 3,4% of the turnover.
- 35% of all cluster partners engage in project related cooperation with research partners.
- 18% of all cluster partners engage in a strategic, long-term cooperation with research institutes.

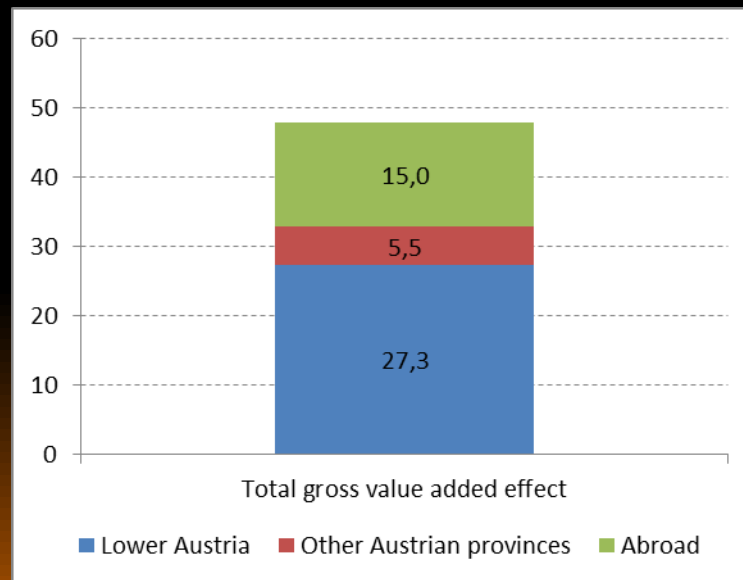
The data depicts results from a survey conducted on behalf of ecoplus on Lower Austrian firms in 2010. The data includes 54 responding firms concerning their R&D intensity.

Source: Economica

Regional Economic Effect

Gross Value Added in Lower Austria

The cluster projects generated € 27,3 million gross value added in Lower Austria and € 20,5 million in the other Austrian federal provinces and abroad.

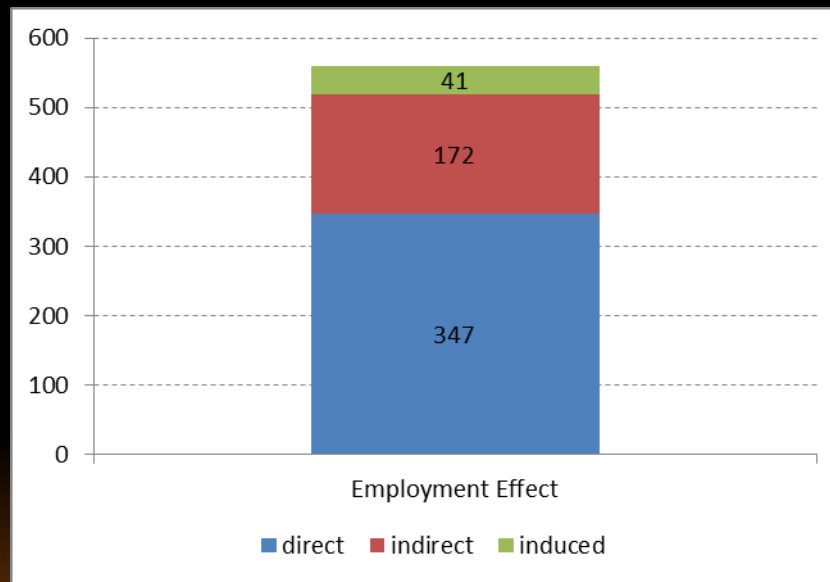


Source: Economica

Regional Economic Effects

Employment in Lower Austria

Cluster projects generated and/or secure 560 jobs in full-time equivalents or 624 person years.



Source: Economica

Employment Multiplier

- The average employment multiplier of the clusters is equal to 1,6.
- The mechatronics and plastics cluster have particularly high employment multipliers (at least 1,8),
 - This is a sign for a particularly strong integration and interdependence of these sectors with the regional economy of Lower Austria.
 - Lower Austria benefits strongly from growth of the mechatronics and plastics sectors.

Source: Economica

What Have the Clusters Achieved?

- Willingness and propensity of firms to cooperate with each other increased,
- Lower Austrian value chains were strengthened,
- More cooperation and contact with research institutes,
- Awareness of availability of R&D funds increased as well as application rates for R&D funds,
- Willingness to modernize firms increased.

Source: Economica

Success and Integration of the Cluster Initiative

- The Lower Austrian Cluster Initiative fulfills its mission:
 - The clusters stimulate cooperative projects and
 - Improve the qualifications of employees of cluster partners
- The Lower Austrian Cluster Initiative is well integrated into the Lower Austrian Business Development Policy and complements the Lower Austrian Technopol Initiative.