

Clusters in V4 countries – a bridge between two worlds? Experience of Poland – main findings and proposed roadmap

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The project **Clusters as platforms for business-research (B2R)/research-business (R2B) relations** is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe. Visegrad Fund project No. 22030333



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INTRODUCTION



INNOVATION -
"THE HOLY GRAIL"
OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



AMPLIFICATION
OF INNOVATION
CAPABILITIES
THROUGH CLUSTERS
(THE HELIX APPROACH)



INCEPTION OF
CLUSTER-LED
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

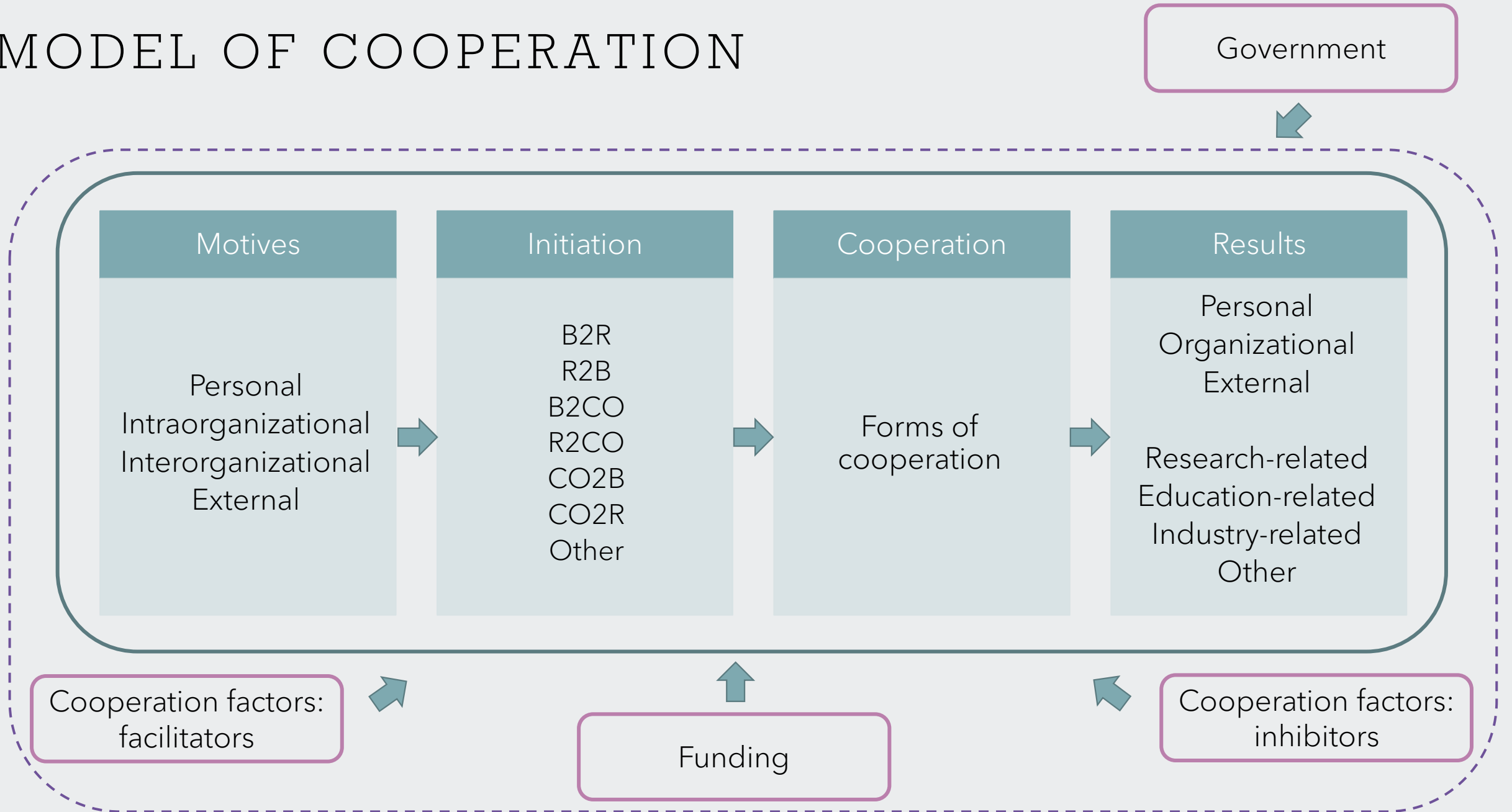


CLUSTER
ORGANIZATIONS -
AGENCY &
PERFORMANCE



ARE CLUSTER
ORGANIZATIONS
FERTILE GROUND FOR
RESEARCH-BUSINESS
COLLABORATION?

MODEL OF COOPERATION



KEY MOTIVES

Narrative of research organizations

- Ability to extend one's network
- Commercialization of research findings
- Receiving non-financial research assistance (e.g., access to data, exchange of knowledge with practitioners)

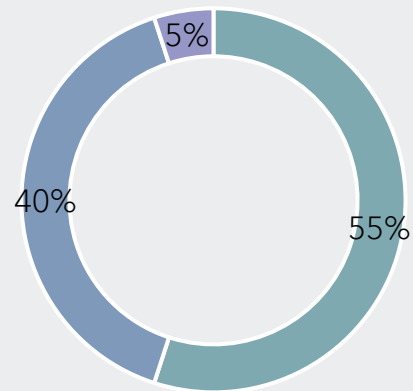
Narrative of cluster organization management

- Access to new knowledge, cutting-edge technology, state-of-the art expertise/research facilities, and know-how
- Human capital development
- Access to research funding

COOPERATION INITIATION

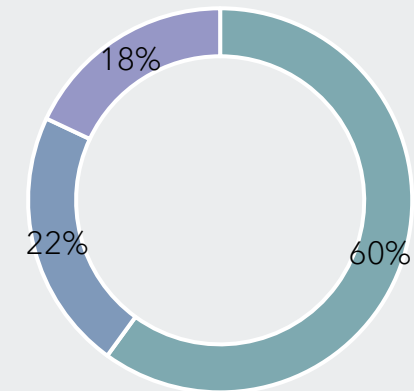
Narrative of research organizations

- CO management
- Research organization
- Other members of CO (excluding firms)



Narrative of cluster organization management

- Firms (CO members)
- Research organizations
- CO management



Results	V4	Poland
Scientific papers/monographs	39%	40%
Other publications	48%	50%
Applications/project proposals	54%	45%
Receiving grants (international)	33%	25%
Receiving grants (domestic)	43%	30%
Trademarks	11%	15%
Patents	15%	20%
Prototypes	22%	15%
Extending one's network	70%	75%
Product innovations	28%	20%
Business innovations	17%	20%
Marketed product or service	17%	20%
Trainings for cluster members	26%	30%
Presentations, panels, etc.	48%	65%
Students' theses	26%	15%



RESULTS OF COOPERATION

KEY COOPERATION INHIBITORS

Capacity constraints of R&D&I in SMEs

Differences in administrative structures (business versus research)

Differences in interests and culture (business versus research)

Cost of collaboration due to administrative overheads

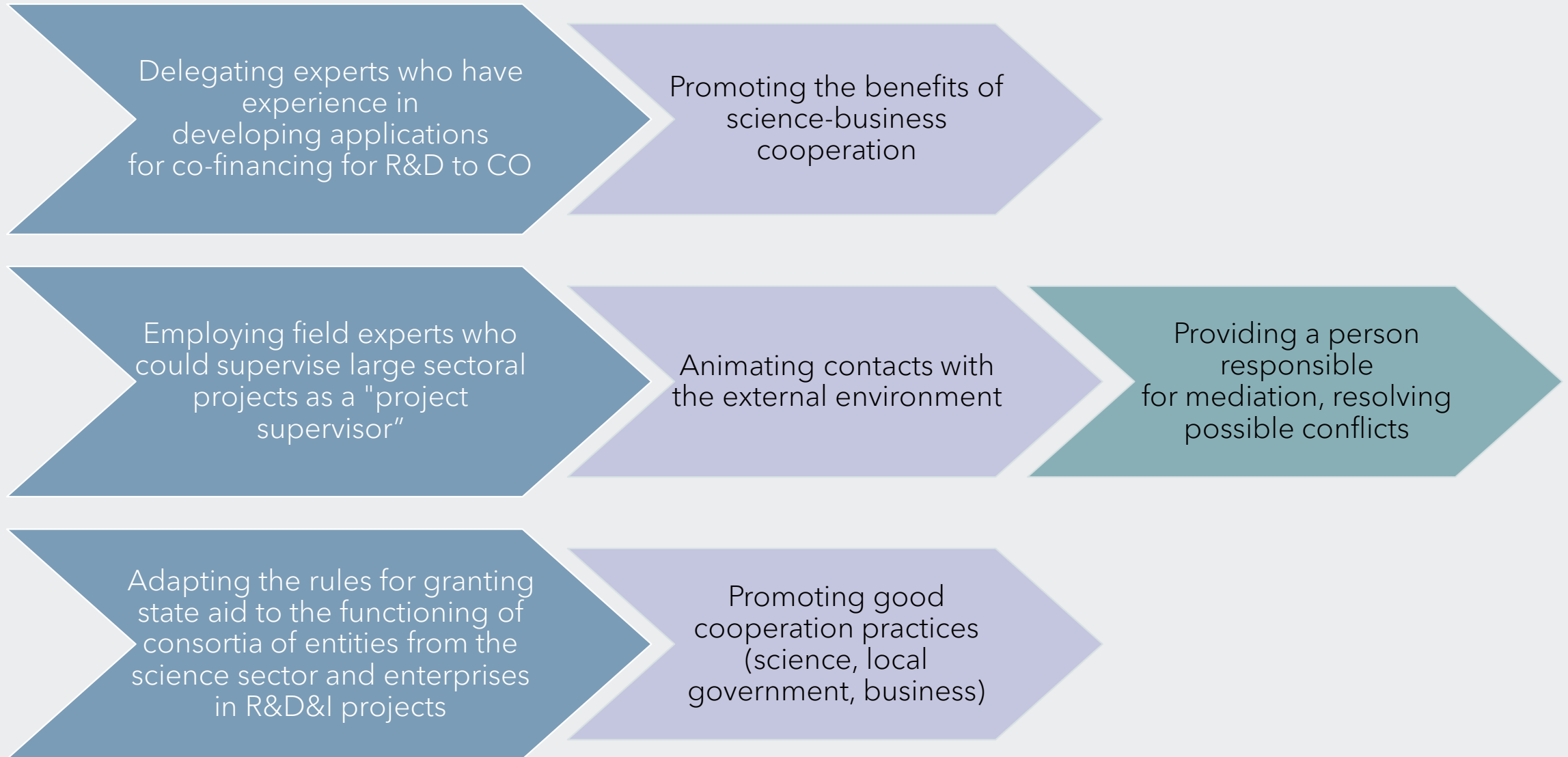
ROADMAP

1. Conditions for cooperation

2. Initiation of cooperation

3. Cooperation and its effects

ROADMAP – PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



ROADMAP – CLUSTER MANAGERS

Preparing a database of experts who could evaluate applications for co-financing according to thematic areas

Directing inquiries about specific technological problems to all cluster members and forming task groups

Preparing agreements that clearly define the principles of cooperation, tasks and benefits for each party

Conducting an information campaign aimed at making a wide range of stakeholders aware of what a cluster organization is

Organizing of science - business networking meetings e.g., brokerage events, innovation days

Setting strategic goals (at the level of each type of entity participating in the cluster cooperation)

Using the sharing economy concept to stimulate science-business cooperation

Building awareness of the sharing economy and inviting cluster members to take advantage of joint investments

Promoting the achievements of cluster companies outside the cluster - building credibility

ROADMAP – SCIENCE SECTOR

Systemic regulation of the possibility of implementing contracts with scientists at universities

Decentralization of decisions made in science sector institutions, e.g., through special purpose vehicles dedicated to cooperation

Establishing self-financing special purpose vehicles managed by people with extensive business experience

Adoption of rules on IPR at universities, providing greater opportunities to protect intellectual property for scientists implementing R&D projects with clusters

Adjusting the indicators of periodic appraisal of employees of science sector institutions to introduce greater motivation to cooperate with business

Finding new ways of commercialization of research findings

Reducing overheads on fixed / administrative costs in projects commissioned by cluster enterprises

Organizing working meetings to build trust

CONCLUSIONS

1. The most important actors by stages:



2. The main motive for RO is the ability to extend one's network and for CO - access to new knowledge => most useful activities: (a) organizing traineeships for scientists in companies; (b) co-financing R&D work undertaken in collaboration between scientific and industrial entities and (c) various promotional activities, conferences, training, etc.

Thank you for your attention

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