

# 3rd International Conference on Clusters and Industrial Districts

## **CLUSTERING-2018**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**May 24-25, 2018. Faculty of Economics, University of Valencia**

#### **Introduction**

In the today's globalized world, geographical proximity between people, enterprises and regions is an extremely important factor to understand the intra- and inter-organizational relations. A wide variety of literature from different disciplines has shown the influence that location has on the interaction between economic agents and territories.

Proximity is a key in the discussion of the role that the local context plays in global environments. The distance between two individuals, companies or regions affects the frequency and the type of the interactions. The existence of different types of distance (geographical, institutional, cultural, psychic...) is another relevant issue.

The positive relationship between the agglomeration of agents and several dimensions of performance (economic, innovative, entrepreneurial, survival, etc.) is a clear example of the empirical evidence found regarding the influence that geographical proximity has on relationships and interactions. The variety of forms that the geographical agglomerations can adopt (clusters, industrial districts, technological parks, ecosystems, etc.) is also a sign of the wide scope of these phenomena.

However, along with that institutional and cultural reality of each place (the context), there is another virtual reality that is marked by the irruption of digital technologies, reality that challenges some of the past theoretical assumptions regarding the relevance of physical location. Digital Economy has been the term coined for this. Not only are these technologies changing the way the products are produced and manufactured (Industry 4.0), but they are also creating new ways of organizing the productive and commercial activity. As examples, employees can telework at home, and small ventures can go international easier than in the past and can reach distant foreign markets thanks to telematic tools such as the electronic commerce and online tools to manage the supply chain.

In short, we are witnessing a spatial reconfiguration of resources and capabilities. These facts have inspired the motto for the 2018 conference: **NEW CHALLENGES FOR CLUSTERING: PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL DISTANCE**. It aims to show that, in the today's globalized world, clusters and new technologies are key to explain the observed heterogeneity in both firms' and regions' growth. In addition, we want to encourage research that addresses other cluster realities so we can reach a further understanding of the challenges for clusters behind that dynamics towards virtual reality. In short, the event aims to be a reflection on and a call for the use of methods and theories on clusters that consider these realities' context to a higher extent.

Thus, in line with previous editions, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference CLUSTERING-2018 aims at the international networking of scholars and practitioners working on disciplines related to agglomerations of people, economic activities and firms. This event's goal is to keep on being a wide scope, enriching, and referential academic forum that welcomes discussion about current and emerging topics in this area, from a multidisciplinary approach.

## Proposed topics

The Conference will address all the diverse literature on Clusters and Industrial Districts, although we are particularly interested in research focused on Digital Economy, Multinationals, and Cluster Initiatives and Policies. Some of the non-exclusive topics we welcome are:

- Clusters and Industry 4.0.
- Sectoral cluster initiatives. Tourism.
- Cluster Policies and internationalization of clusters.
- Multinational enterprises and clustering.
- Clusters and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.
- Global value chains and multilocalization.
- Clusters in Emerging Economies.
- Conceptual revision and research lines.
- Marketing externalities and clusters.
- Other challenges of clustering (overlapping clusters, spatial methodologies, geo-strategy).
- Teaching clusters: methods and cases.

## Deadlines and instructions

Scholars interested in participating should send their proposals in the template available on the website. The proposal should include the title, authors and affiliation, abstract (up to 1000 words) or the full-length document in case the authors prefer that. The **deadlines** are:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Deadline to send extended abstracts | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018.  |
| 2. Acceptance notice                   | 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018. |
| 3. Deadline to send the full paper     | 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2018.   |

Both languages, Spanish and English, will be accepted. All communications will go through a double review process. Abstracts and papers must be **submitted exclusively** through <http://www.uv.es/clustering>.

The registration fee is 95 euros. The fee includes the participation in the academic and social activities, certificate of attendance, documentation (USB), lunches, coffee breaks and social dinner.

## Information and contact

For any query, please contact with: [clustering@uv.es](mailto:clustering@uv.es)

Coordinators:

- **Xavier Molina-Morales** (Universitat Jaume I, Castellón).
- **Francisco Puig** (University of Valencia).