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# Preconditions evaluation in Maritime Clustering research

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#### Abstract

This paper identifies and codifies the main European Maritime clustering preconditions and obstacles according to their significant features, associated with increase of Productivity, Innovations and Competitiveness. The work systematizes features of preconditions specific to Maritime clustering. These features are combined into constructive groups of preconditions in accordance with the impact of preconditions on the increase of Productivity, Innovations and Competitiveness. The obstacles of Maritime clustering are indicated as barriers on the increase of Productivity, Innovations and Competitiveness.

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## 1. Introduction

Most of the clustering process research is actually associated with a cluster analysis of the results. For example, in 2006 the European Commission (Gallup Europe, 2006) conducted a study which sought to examine the importance of clusters in the European Union and the added value of the EU countries with a virtual business system and in individual business entity, comparing cluster-companies with non-cluster ones. According to the survey results, the cluster operating companies are innovative and constantly develop renewing proposed products or services (63% cluster-companies and 57% non-cluster companies). It was noticed a cluster operating company focuses on continuous market research significance (53% cluster-companies and 33% non-cluster companies), record of innovation patents (29% cluster-companies and 12% non-cluster companies), introduces more innovative products (78% cluster-companies and 74% non-cluster companies) tend to co-operate and collaborate with

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universities, research laboratories and innovation in advancing and implementing institutes (41% cluster-companies and 20% non-cluster companies). About 71% of businesses in the cluster functioning welcomes the dependence of cluster system as an opportunity to expand, improve and develop their primary activity, progress in other aspects.

However, in practice the lack of research, which preconditions lead companies to merge in clusters structures, how companies evaluate clustering preconditions in order of priority, what are their main motives for clustering, what can be clustering obstacles, as far as how much obstacles factors are important and significant in decision making, are the organizations stakeholders analyzing clustering preconditions and obstacles at all, etc.

Recently the scientific literature (Jucevicius, 2009; Stalgiene, 2010; Porter, 1998; Rosenfeld, 2002; Roelandt and Hertog, 1999; Simmie and Sennett, 2001; Kamarulzaman and Mariati, 2008, et al.) have been widely analyzed in the world taking place in clustering processes, their measures to promote, discussions about these business systems created benefit to the individual members of the group as well as to the whole Europe region, where the clusters mostly are create on the "bottom-up" approach. Clustering initiatives "bottom-up" still do not receive the proper attention of poolicymakers as well as scientists (Lorenzen, 2005).

Various competitive assessment challenges were analyzed and evaluation methodologies were suggested by Porter (2000a; 2000b; 2003), Andersson and Napier (2007), Andersson et al. (2004) and others. However, there is a lack of research in which Maritime industry clustering is analyzed as productivity, innovation and competitiveness appraisal.

The purpose of the research - to systemize and evaluate European Maritime clustering preconditions.

*Methods of research:* systemic and comparative analysis and synthesis of scientific literature, strategic documents and legislation; statistical analysis of secondary data; empirical research - expert evaluation.

This paper considers the "precondition" as the initial reasoned argument based on predictions with regard to reasoned evidence of similar facts. This paper analyses the relations of Productivity, Innovations and Competitiveness in frames of clustering preconditions also obstacles and explains meaningful relations between.

### 2. Methodology

European maritime sector organizations tend to clustering has certain reasons that this work identifies preconditions. These preconditions are not related to the individual interests of the company, but the broader maritime sector needs and opportunities to be clustered. European marine sector clustering preconditions are specific: they are focused on the regional and global maritime sector linkages, relating to the maritime sectors' available resources, needs, policy and opportunities. European marine sector clustering preconditions and obstacle analysis is optimal by using qualitative and quantitative research methods.

During qualitative research European maritime sector clustering preconditions and obstacles detailed listed options were submitted on separate sheets for each person who participates in Expert-research; experts evaluated each precondition and obstacle by following its the importance while using Likert scale instrument. After collecting the data necessary for the investigation, the preconditions and obstacles correlation analysis is made, the preconditions and obstacle weighted estimates are based on, preconditions and obstacle ranked by following the priority order of importance.

Qualitative methods of use, according to scientists (Czamanski and Ablas (1979), Day and Bobeva (2005), Giovannini (2005) et al.), is a priority if the researcher focuses on individual social object identity, the whole event video or the case, the objective and subjective a factor of unity and interaction study as it is the analysis of European maritime industry clustering preconditions. The qualitative study also allows for consideration of new phenomena or processes. This expert assessment survey type was selected for the qualitative research results validity and reliability. Qualitative research is selected also because it does not require large material costs, allows for consideration of the issue in a broader context, lets get comprehensive information contributes to the theory of creation, when it is not developed, helping to create a new hypothesis explaining the unique facts and exhibits them. The disadvantages of this qualitative research: Analysis of data processing complexity, a lot of uncertainty in the results of generalization problem, huge time and intellectual expenses, lack of control, replay challenges.

European maritime sector clustering preconditions and obstacles are necessary to verify by the statistical estimates. Preconditions and obstacles importance and compatibility check is performed by correlation analysis to verify how many variables and preconditions of obstacle statistically dependent on each other. Correlation is used to perform statistical data processing program SPSS (v.21.0).

The claims, which serve to justify conclusions called reasoning statements or preconditions. There are certain

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