

# Do SME Clusters represent Assets to Innovation?



Conference:  
What Science – What Europe?  
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# Contents

What we know about European clusters...  
... and what we do not know  
Innovation policy: Small is beautiful

Industrial clusters are territorially-based networks of firms that operate in the same industrial sector

Typically spontaneous phenomena

Typically involve a series of public or semi-public institutions

There are several kinds of clusters

They are in different evolutionary stadiums

# What we know

Creative environments

Adaptability through time:

Flexibility of SMEs

Knowledge is "sticky"

Transformative capacity

Technology transfer

# The WEID research results

15 clusters in Western and Eastern Europe

Dynamics of relocation and internationalization

Wide set of data

Firms stating their Policy needs

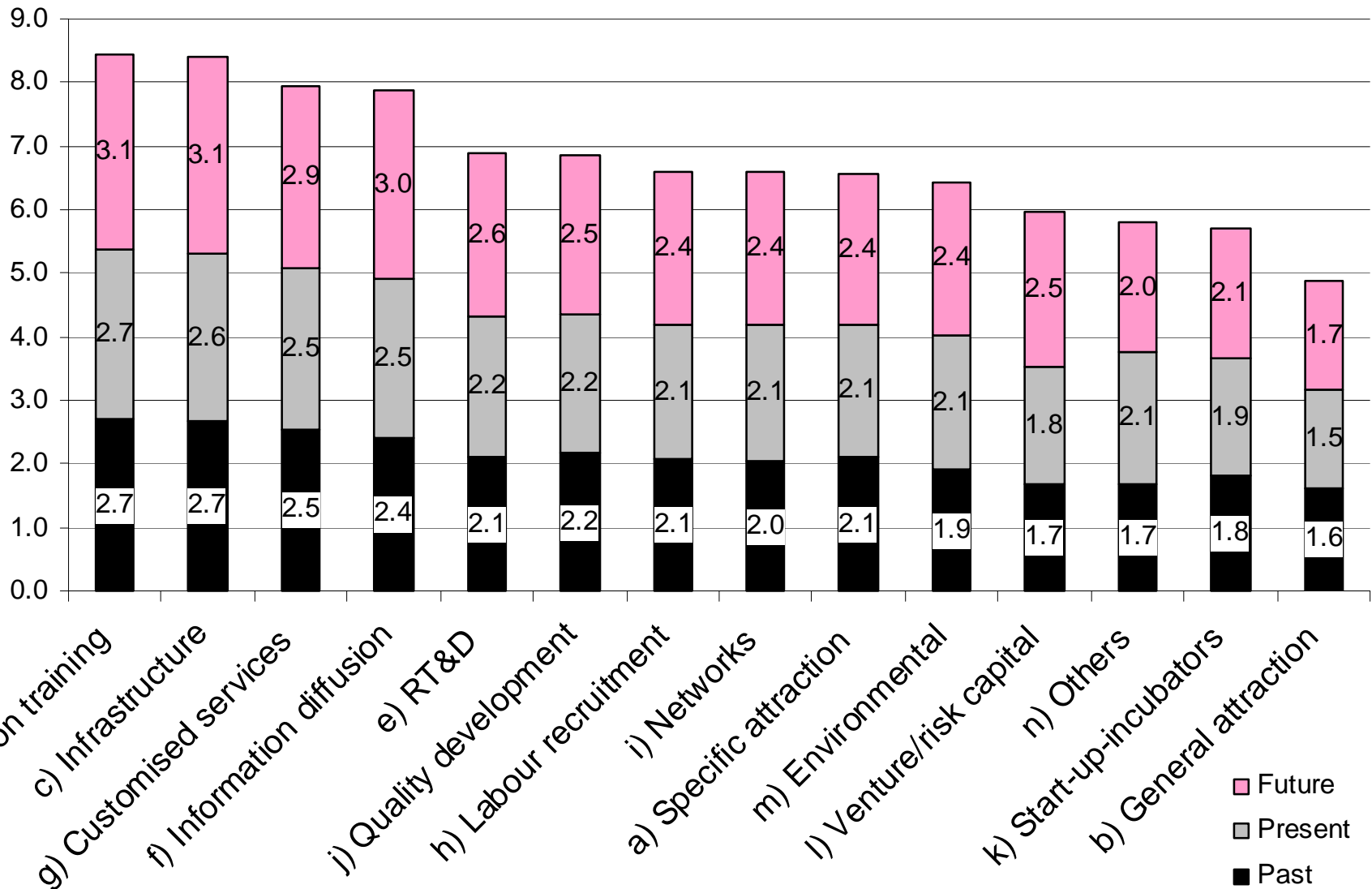
# What are the most relevant local 'institutions' for firms in European clusters?

	CZ	PL	RO	SI	DE	IT	UK
HEIs & Universities		2.00		2.25	2.73		2.14
Chambers of Commerce			2.50			2.02	2.29
Firm Associations		3.71			2.61	2.00	
Other	2.33			3.50			3.63
Service Centres	2.07					2.11	
Certification Laboratories				2.47	2.45		
Consulting Firms		2.81	2.04				

# In particular: Science & Technology Parks

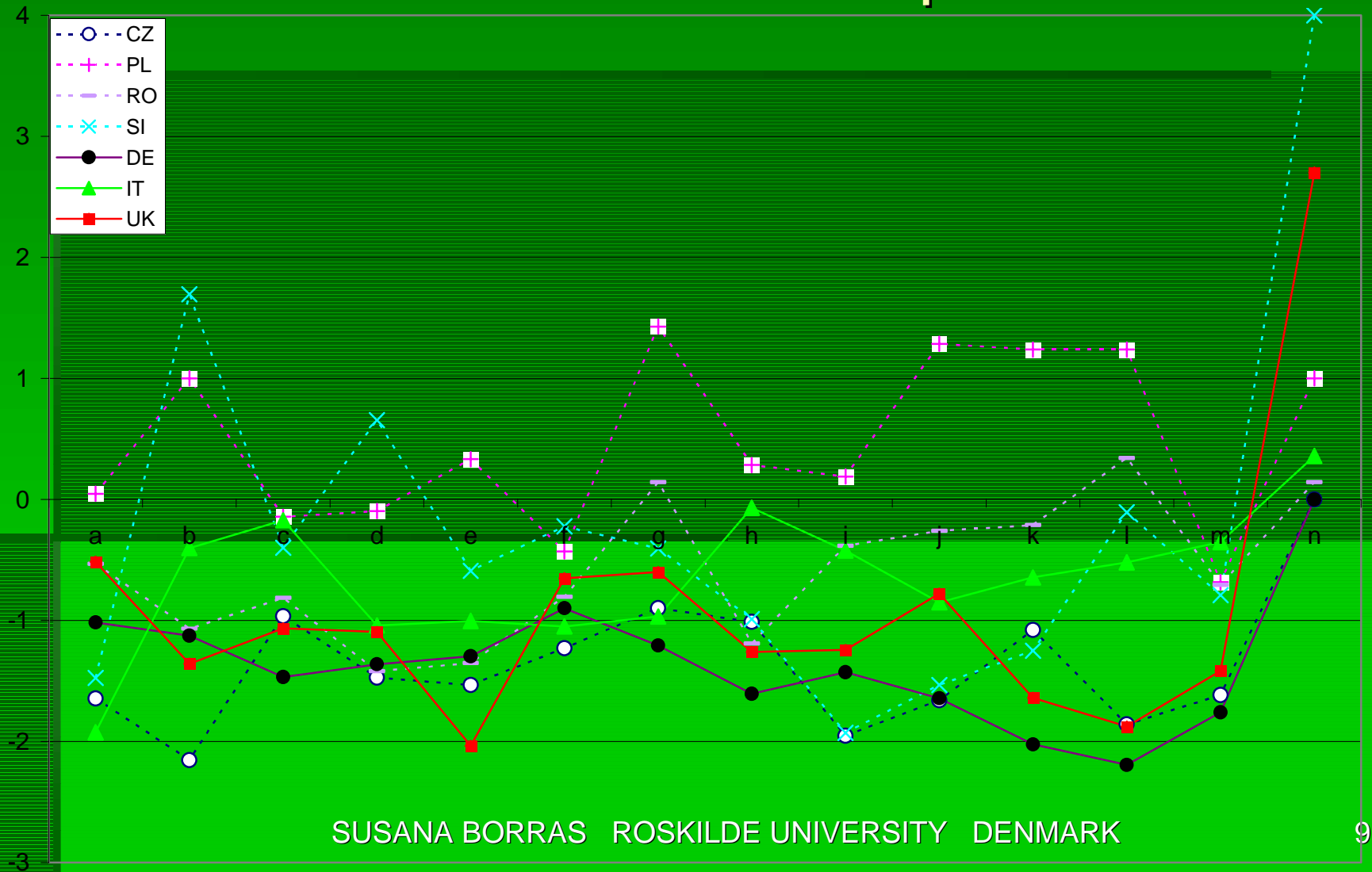


# Policy relevance for cluster firms: past, present & future

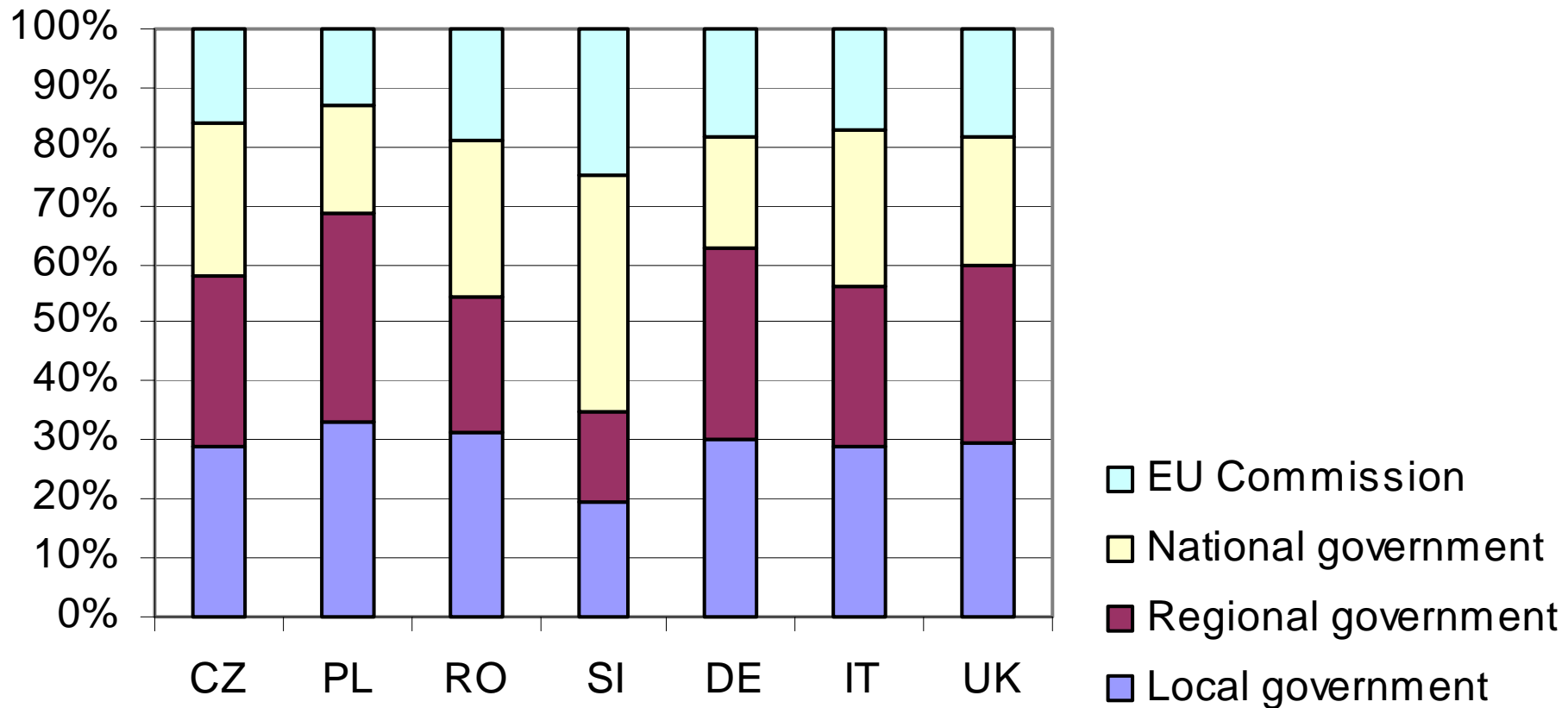




# The policy relevance gap between firms and institutions at present



# What levels of government are the most relevant?



# What we do not know

Network leadership  
Learning processes

# Innovation policy

Small is beautiful

Territorial networks: great potential

FP7 proposals for SMEs and regions are welcomed

Remember:

- Horizontal coordination:
  - Research policy
  - Regional policy
- Vertical coordination: multi-level governance