

## Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

Conference University of Fribourg (Switzerland) March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### *Clusters as drivers of Competitiveness: strategies and policy issues*

The aim of the conference is to explore the role of clusters as drivers of firms, regions and nations competitiveness. Clusters are comprised as geographic concentrations of interconnected companies, specialized suppliers, services provides, firms in related industries, and association institutions in particular fields that compete but also cooperate (Michael Porter, On Competition, 2009, pp. 213-214). A large body of research points to the fact that clusters matter for both innovation and economic prosperity of regions and firms. And, despite market globalization, innovative clusters are becoming more and more important to firms and regions.

The conference will be structured around keynote speaker sessions as well as around invited-speakers sessions. These sessions will be supplemented by an interactive session under the format of a poster session. All papers submitted within this call of papers and accepted will be presented at this interactive session. This interactive session will take place during the lunch break in the same area where the lunch will be served. This will allow discussion with a maximum number of interested people.

We particularly welcome contributions proposing new ideas on the role of clusters for competitiveness, the impact of clusters, the management of cluster initiatives, the role of domestic firms and of multinational firms in cluster development, the cluster-mapping methodology, etc.

**Conference webpage:** [www.pst-fr.ch/cluster2011](http://www.pst-fr.ch/cluster2011)

**Registration (will be open soon):**

**Registration fee:**

- 300 CHF before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 (for MOC member 250 CHF)
- 350 CHF after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 (for MOC member 300 CHF)
- Cancellation: no refund after February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## **Paper Submission :**

Abstracts (500 word limit) should include the following: Objectives, Data/Methods, Results/Expected Results.

Please submit your abstract to [michael.keller@unifr.ch](mailto:michael.keller@unifr.ch) by no later **than December 1st, 2010**.

## **Important Dates:**

- Submission December 1st, 2010
- Notification of December 20th, 2010
- Final registration deadline to be registered in the program: February 27th, 2011
- Conference dates: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Once the paper accepted, you will get the following message:

Dear...

We are pleased to announce that your paper entitled "....." has been accepted on the program of the International Conference on Clusters and Competitiveness to be held in Fribourg (Switzerland) , 25th March 2011.

Your paper will be presented at the session scheduled on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (12.30-14.00h)

At least one Author must be registered to the conference prior to February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 or face being removed from the program.

We look forward to welcome you to our Conference.

With our best regards,