

## **B1.1.**

### **What place for skill development and ULLL in the French competitiveness clusters?**

Jean-Marie Filloque<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Brest, Brest, France,* <sup>2</sup>*Université Européenne de Bretagne, Bretagne, France*

French government has developed, four year ago, an ambitious public policy to maintain the attractiveness of France and the competitiveness of our territories in order to contribute to the creation of new wealth, and potentially new jobs. More than seventy competitiveness clusters gathering firms, technological networks combining public and private research, as well as public training and research organisations was created or reinforced. They were supported by public funds coming from ministries (Industry, Finance, Territorial development, Higher Education and Research) but also from regional government

The first evaluation of these clusters, three years latter, in 2008, has shown that if good connexions have done between research and firms in most cases, very low attention have been put on skills development and qualification of workers involved, or potentially involved, in the scope of the clusters.

In spite the fact that many university teachers and researchers are involved in these clusters, most of them have not think about the opportunity for their educational institutions to contribute “human resource development” programs. Everybody, and significantly stakeholders in Ministries, consider today that this development is one of the main conditions of success and that this cannot be ignored.

Since one year, the national network of UCE is working with all partners, but mainly ministries at this time, to prepared a proposal for new services that universities can offer to the clusters, all relevant with LLL activities.

The aim of this presentation is to present quickly the context of the French competitiveness clusters and to underline reasons why they have not considered these aspects of higher education missions. We will present short examples of best practices nevertheless found in some cases and we will conclude with a presentation of the action plan we are currently building.