

Association of Business Clusters in Bulgaria

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Chairperson**

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First clusters initiatives in Bulgaria

1. GTZ, Sofia: 2001 – 2003

Wood and Furniture Cluster MESTA – South-West part of Bulgaria

Vine and Wine Cluster – North-Central part of Bulgaria

Perfumery and cosmetic cluster – South-Central part of Bulgaria

2. Ministry of Economy: 2004 – 2006

Pilot Clusters Scheme

Introduction of clusters approach and development of clusters strategy for Bulgaria, financed by PHARE

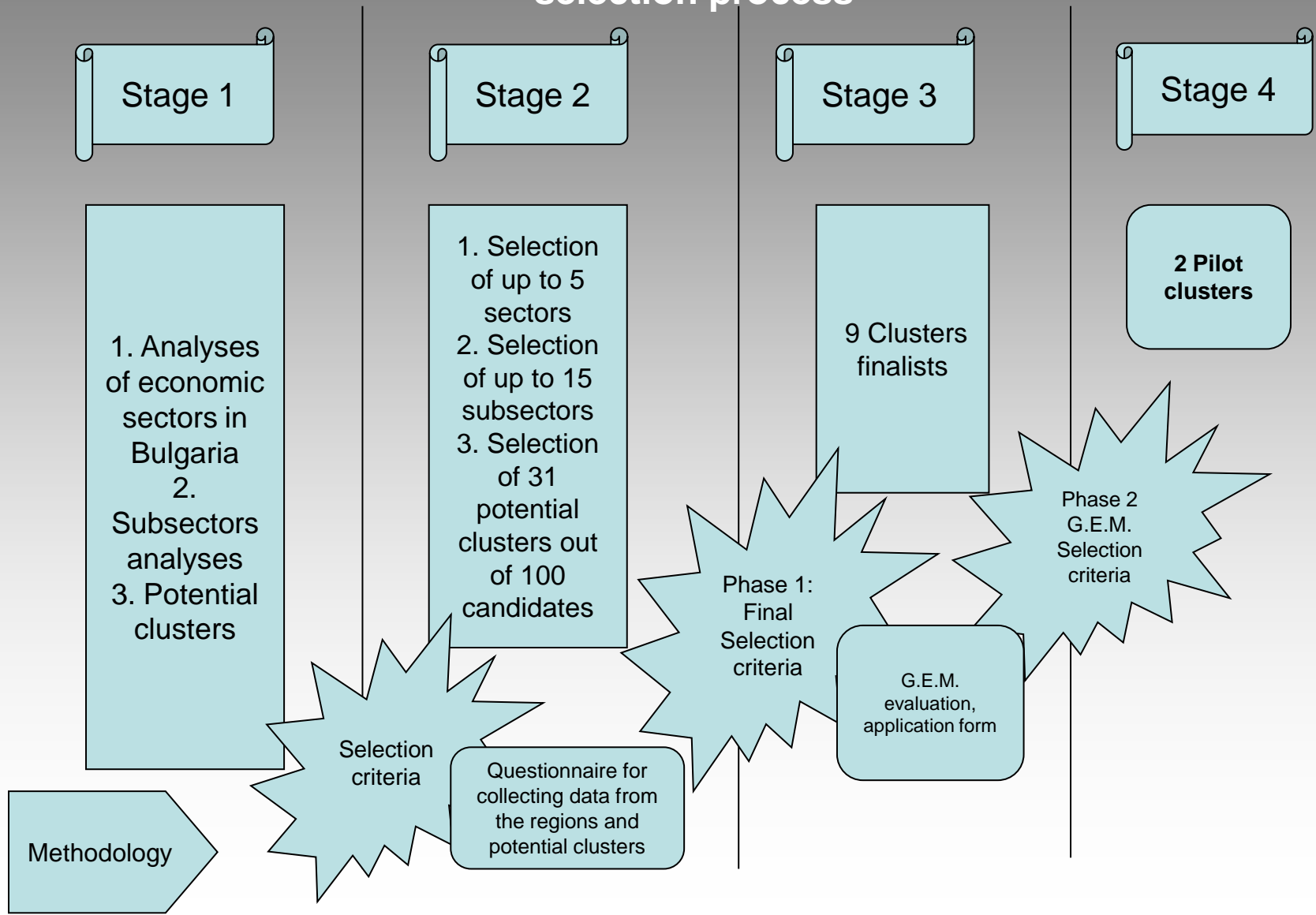
3. Ministry of Economy and Energy: 2007 – 2008

Clusters Grant Scheme

PHARE

Background

Methodology: Pilot Clusters Project Phare, 2004 - 2006 selection process



Background



Grant Winners – 2 scheme

- 1. Mechatronics and Automation cluster - Blagoevgrad**
- 2. ICT Cluster – Sofia**
- 3. Lasers and Optics, Plovdiv**
- 4. Apparel and textile, Blagoevgrad**
- 5. Information resources, Sofia**
- 6. Maritime cluster, Varna**
- 7. Cluster ELEMION, Varna**
- 8. Tourism cluster, Varna**
- 9. Cluster Rodopy Furniture, Velingrad**
- 10. Energy cluster, Plovdiv**



ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS CLUSTERS

What are we?

Who are we?

Why do we exist?

What are we ?

**A self organized independent organization,
established to joint the efforts of the
Bulgarian clusters for their sustainable
development in line with European standards
and Clusters Policy**

Who are we?

10 Full Clusters members + 8 Associate members

Number of companies: 195

Number of employees: 15000 - 17000

**Number of Scientific organizations: 8, from which:
Technical University in Sofia and Varna; Bulgarian
Academy of Science; Maritime University, etc**

Number of BSOs: 12, from which:

**Enterprise Europe Network in Bulgaria, GIS – Transfer
center, BASSCOM, Web Association, Agency for
Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Varna Business Agency,
Association of Young Designers, etc**

Why do we exist ?

1. The need to sustain the existing clusters and to promote the clusters model in Bulgaria
2. The need for an independent representative clusters institution in Bulgaria
3. Avoidance of EU funds dependence
4. Recognition for the real, dynamic and result based clusters in Bulgaria
5. International networking and partnership



Company Name



Clusters for Competitiveness

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