Cluster development is now a mainstream approach for regional economic development globally. This practical reference guide is based on two decades of hands-on cluster development experience, covering six continents and exposure to over a thousand clusters.

This 240 page handbook is available as an e-book, pdf and in hard copy. For this 2nd edition, the handbook has been comprehensively revised, updated and extended.

Sixty-four cluster experts, from twenty-eight countries, have contributed Invited Forewords to specific chapters. Most are TCI Network members.

Over 300 quotations are used, identifying further information sources. The book was launched at TCI’s 2016 Annual Global Conference in Eindhoven, Netherlands.
The handbook provides practical guidance, using examples from around the world.

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**Book Structure**

The first part of the handbook explores ‘The What?’ and ‘The Why?’ of cluster development. It opens with an external look at the natural phenomena of clusters, introducing many from around the world. It then takes an inside exploration, identifying common aspects of successful clusters. Alternative approaches to regional economic development are explored, with cluster development highlighted as a Centre Stage strategy.

Challenges in cluster development are identified and the key role of cluster managers explored. The Invited Forewords to that chapter has contributions from eleven cluster managers in ten countries, including the four who have been acknowledged as the ‘European Cluster Manager of the Year’. Advice for cluster managers is presented.

‘Triple Helix in Action’ reviews three key dimensions in cluster development: businesses firmly in the lead, public agencies in support and academic underpinning.

The second part of the handbook, ‘Cluster Development in Twelve Steps’, identifies in detail ‘The How?’ of cluster development. These steps include cluster identification, cluster analysis, the cluster’s governance board and measurement & evaluation. The contents are of relevance for kick-starting a new clustering initiative and for revitalising an exiting initiative.

This comprehensive handbook is 240 pages, A4 size.
About the author

Ifor Ffowcs-Williams is the CEO, Cluster Navigators Limited, Nelson, New Zealand.

Since establishing Cluster Navigators in 1997, Ifor’s focus has been on the practicalities of cluster development. He leads strategy workshops around the world with economic development agencies, cluster groups and support organisations. Ifor is a frequent speaker on competitiveness, clusters and innovation.

Ifor has led training workshops on the Twelve Step cluster development process in over fifty countries. He has been described as 'one of the most influential cluster practitioners in the world'. Clients include The World Bank, UNDP, international aid agencies and national & regional economic development agencies on six continents.

Ifor is a Founder and Past President of TCI Network, the leading global network for practitioners, policy makers and business leaders addressing regional competitiveness.
CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK

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