



The PACA Sea Cluster tells us

“Old Mother Mediterranean...”

Common sense always confirms the old adage: United, we stand! The lesson has been well learned by the PACA Sea competitiveness cluster that signed a partnership agreement with the Regional Economic Development Mission (MDER), and departmental economic development agencies in the region including Provence Promotion, at the end of 2007. The objective was to make international companies familiar with the region and contribute to its economic development. Eve Garry, Project Leader and International Manager for the PACA Sea Cluster, is controlling this new form of "maritime" union.



Eve Garry, Project Leader and International Manager for the PACA Sea Cluster

> International takes off!

“The competitiveness Cluster has set up an international strategy over the last two years. In order to achieve this ambition, it is increasing its actions in the field, in Europe around the Mediterranean basin in the short term, and in America and Asia in the long term. We participate in international conferences regularly to present the know how of companies at the cluster. At the same time and with the assistance of Ubifrance, chambers of commerce, etc., we visit other countries to meet institutions and companies that might participate in our projects or who are interested in our skills.

> A closely knitted team

We met departmental agencies in the region, at the initiative of the Regional Economic Development Mission, including Var Accueil Investisseurs (Var Reception Office for Investors), Provence Promotion for the Bouches-du-Rhône and Team Côte d’Azur for the Alpes-Maritimes. This meeting originated the ambition to pool our resources in the interest of economic development of the region.

> First series of common stopovers

Signature of this agreement at the end of last year opened up the way for the cluster and agencies in the region to set up common actions in 2008. Meetings have already been identified. In particular, the cluster and regional agencies should be able to work alongside at the Oceanology Show in London and the Euronaval Show in Paris. Therefore, this partnership contributes to strengthen the region's image as an area of expertise capable of accommodating new projects and new companies, creating jobs.

The PACA Sea Cluster

The PACA Sea Cluster is centred on an environment (the Sea and the Shore) and brings together 150 companies and 70 research organisations concentrated on two strategic themes, namely Security/Safety and Sustainable Development.

These two themes are broken town into five sub-themes:

- “Maritime security and safety” for surveillance and control over maritime approaches, security of sensitive installations (ports, offshore platform, etc.), the struggle against pollution or prevention of natural risks.
- “Naval and nautical” that cover engineering, design, construction, maintenance and repair of ships (civil, military and pleasure), port logistics and naval facilities.
- “Marine energy resources” that include technologies for exploration, exploitation and maintenance of submarine fossil energy resources (oil and gas) and the development of renewable energy derived from the sea (waves, currents, tides, etc)
- “Marine biological resources” with new molecules derived from marine biodiversity, better use of fishing products, repopulation of fishing and aquaculture.
- “Environment and development of the shoreline” concerning management of water resources in coastal zones (desalination, water tables, control of releases from treatment stations), knowledge, modelling and monitoring of the marine and shore environment, climate change and coastal erosion, port infrastructures, coastline development and integrated management of the coastal zone (GIZC) with the objective of sustainable development.

For further information

The PACA sea cluster site : <http://polemerpaca.tvt.fr/>