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## **THE CLUSTER APPROACH AS A SOLUTION TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT SMEs LEVEL: A COMPARISON STUDY**

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to investigate the level of cluster approach adoption to support the environmental management of small and medium enterprises and reduce their environmental impact. The research identifies the main phases of cluster approach methodology and assesses the level of its adoption in 28 international case studies included in 5 different categories of cluster. Our study carried out a comparative analysis between the experiences of each cluster category and the level of implementation of the cluster approach methodology. The analysis shows the “distance” from the full cluster approach implementation and the case studies broken down by category.

*Key words:* cluster approach, companies, environmental management, small and medium enterprises

*Received: July, 2013; Revised final: June, 2014; Accepted: July, 2014*

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