



**NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS  
RESEARCH INSTITUTION  
(URAK)**

**ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) CLUSTERS & CASE STUDY OF METU  
TECHNOPOLIS ICT CLUSTER**

**By**

**Özlem ŞAHİN**  
**National Competitiveness Research Institution (URAK)**  
E-mail: ozlems@urak.org

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## **CONTENTS**

### **LIST OF FIGURES**

<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 DIAMOND MODEL.....	2
<b>3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ICT CLUSTER.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. THE BEST PRACTICES OF ICT CLUSTERS IN THE EUROPE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 DUBLIN ICT CLUSTER.....	5
4.2 HELSINKI AND STOCKHOLM ICT CLUSTERS.....	8
4.3 AMSTERDAM ICT CLUSTER.....	11
4.4 OULU ICT CLUSTER .....	12
<b>5. CRITICAL FACTORS THAT PLAY ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE ICT CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE METU-TECHNOPOLIS ICT CLUSTER ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1 ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK.....	18
6.2 FACTOR CONDITIONS.....	18
6.3 FIRM STRATEGY, STRUCTURE, AND RIVALRY.....	20
6.4 DEMAND CONDITIONS.....	26
6.5 RELATIONS OF FIRMS WITH RELATED AND SUPPORTING INSTUTIONS.....	27
6.6 GOVERNMENT.....	30
6.7 CHANCE.....	31
<b>7. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>8. CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: Interviews.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: Survey.....</b>	<b>37</b>

**FIGURES**

Figure 2.1 Diamond Model .....2

Figure 4.1 The Irish ICT growth model.....6

Figure 4.2 The Nordic capital growth model.....8

Figure 4.3 The International Service City Growth Model.....11

Figure 4.4 The Peripheral Specialization Growth Model.....13

Figure 6.1 Education profile of the employees in the ICT firms of METU-Technopolis....19

Figure 6.2 Employment areas that will be needed in the near future .....19

Figure 6.3 Capital sources of the firms .....21

Figure 6.4 Services and products that firms provide.....21

Figure 6.5 Rivalry among METU-Technopolis ICT firms.....22

Figure 6.6 Factors that determine the competitive advantage in the ICT sector.....23

Figure 6.7 Distribution of the some factors according to their perceived importance.....23

Figure 6.8 Importance of e-transformation applications.....24

Figure 6.9 The most critical obstacles that negatively affect development of companies....24

Figure 6.10 The importance of having partnerships with other firms in the Technopark ....25

Figure 6.11 Existence of Interfirm relationships at the different levels.....25

Figure 6.12 Sub areas that companies compose solution partnerships.....26

Figure 6.13 Factors that are important in the establishment of relationships among firms...26

Figure 6.14 Demand conditions in the ICT firms in the Technopolis.....27

Figure 6.15 Ranking the importance of collaborative project development with universities and technology development centers.....28

Figure 6.16 Relationship of firms within the governmental institutions.....29

Figure 6.17 Relationship of firms within the nongovernmental institutions.....29

Figure 6.18 Actors and linkages in the METU-Technopolis ICT cluster.....30

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is revolutionizing our societies at a remarkable speed. Individuals, organizations, industrial sectors and governments are confronted with fundamental transformations of the environment in which they operate, interact and generate value. The impact of ICT in every part of our lives is great and will be greater in the near future. The integration of ICT and their innovative power is generating new types of interactions (e.g. e-commerce); determining the competitiveness of economies and corporations; giving rise to new products and services, jobs and livelihoods; and new growth patterns.

Information and Communication Technology is recognized as a major foundation of the knowledge-based economy. The competitiveness of firms and nations depends on the accumulation of knowledge and its rapid and efficient mobilization in the process of the production of goods and services. Enormous and continuing advances of ICT make it possible to store, process and circulate an increasing amount of data rapidly and inexpensively. How countries adopt and master ICT is very critical for their economic performance.

The aim of the study is to analyze the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) cluster formation of METU-Technopolis in Ankara. After the introduction, in the second part of the report, I will explain the methodology of the study. Then in the third part, definition of “cluster” and “ICT cluster” in general will be explored. After that in the fourth section, some of the best ICT cluster practices in the world will be reviewed, with focusing on their growth models, ICT backgrounds, and interactions among the cluster members. After the evaluation of the different ICT cluster examples, in the following section, main factors that affect the success of an ICT cluster will be summarized. In the sixth part of the study, the current situation of the ICT firms in METU Technopolis will be explored, including their relations with different actors in the cluster, existing networks among them, and local factors that influence the ICT cluster formation. Afterwards, the analysis of that cluster will be carried out using diamond model methodology. In the following section, in order to increase competitive advantage of the ICT cluster, I will try to find out how that cluster could be more competitive, and which factors could contribute its development and success. The final section will provide a summary and conclusion.