

6TH FOOD CLUSTER INITIATIVE

In its Europe 2020 new long term strategy, the European Commission aims to tackle the challenges of the reshaped social market economy and turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. By stimulating smart growth through innovation and knowledge building, an 'Innovation Union' with more competitive and innovative regions will arise. Strengthening partnerships between research, business and policy is one of the key innovation pathways to achieve this.



The Food Cluster Initiative conference held on December 8-10, in 2010 Ghent - Belgium was focused on improving the links with industry in the triple helix when building regional clusters and on how to spot relevant support sources to ensure a sustainable concept. We have opportunity to hear relevant stakeholders from the European triple helix, among which participants from the European Commission, regional authorities, regional clusters, companies, RTD performers and also notably academics from all over Europe.



The following topics were addressed:

- key experiences in cluster building (success stories, bottlenecks and success factors);
- the role of the different stakeholders (policy, research and industry) in building successful clusters;
- the impact of food clustering;
- funding schemes to further support the capacity building efforts of regional clusters;
- the future strategy of the Food Cluster Initiative



Furthermore, a series of interactive workshops were organized in order to

- define future funding needs and ways to address them;
- improve cluster cooperation;
- evaluate the performance of clusters

Presentations are available at www.foodclusterinitiative.eu