



FOOD-cluster initiative

DG RTD-B.4 - Regions of Knowledge and Research Potential

FINE
(FP 6)

FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK EUROPE



In the Food Innovation Network Europe (FINE), European food clusters are combining their efforts to make the European food sector more competitive through innovation and cooperation.

The aim of the FINE network is to enhance the investment in Research and Technological Development (RTD) and to strengthen the cooperation within and between food clusters.

FINE links stakeholders from companies, research institutes, policy makers and several regional networks. All FINE-regions have common regional characteristics: a food sector playing an important role in the regional economy; the presence of a strong agricultural sector and other specialized suppliers of the food industry; a high level of food-related knowledge in the region; the presence of public support for the food industry and local networks linking the different actors together.

Concrete results of FINE are:

1. A structured methodology and experience in activating regional stakeholders to define regional strategies for stimulating food innovation and food research based on a structured analysis of the strategic orientation and specialisation of the region and knowledge about the potential role of clusters
2. A network for project development and partnering. Clustering the local, regional, national and EU players in the field of food-related RTD, by providing a platform for long-term collaboration.
3. An Action Programme for Europe's hotspots in the field of food RTD and innovation with 14 interregional cooperation projects based on 46 ideas for projects and >100 involved stakeholders in areas such as infrastructure, health, incubators etc.

A long-term collaboration between the actors is an important outcome of the project, and continual involvement of new regions is equally desirable. FINE is extending its network and is inviting other food clusters to participate.

further information:

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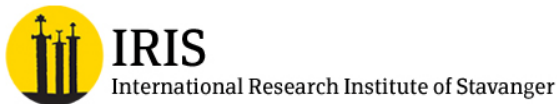
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