



# CONNECTING EUROPEAN FOOD CLUSTERS

**European morning Program  
Food Valley conference 8 October 2009**

**Cinemec Ede, The Netherlands**



*Meet more than 200 European participants  
from food companies, clusters and research institutes  
discussing European cooperation,  
project development and funding for innovation  
and cluster development.*



**Program  
Thursday October 8, 2009  
Morning combined program  
FOOD CLUSTER initiative  
EUREKA - EuroAgriFoodChain  
[Location: Ede, Cinemec]**

- 8.45**            **Opening and introduction to the program**  
Roger van Hoesel    **Managing director Food Valley**  
Kees de Gooijer    **Director Food and Nutrition Delta**  
Robert-Jan Smits    **Director ERA Research Programmes and Capacity,  
European Commission**
- 9:00**            **1st round of parallel sessions:**
- 0 European Funding tools for research and innovation**
  - 0 Interaction: International, National and Regional Food initiatives.**
  - 0 How to cook up a project? A taste of project development.**
  - 0 What makes food clusters work? An exchange of recipes.**
  - 0 SME participation in the European research area.**
  - 0 Research potential of Convergence Regions: development of research capability**
- 10:00**            **Coffee/Tea & Matchmaking**
- 11:00**            **2nd round of parallel sessions**
- 0 European funding tools for research and innovation**
  - 0 Interaction: International, National and Regional Food initiatives.**
  - 0 How to cook up a project? A taste of project development.**
  - 0 What makes food clusters work; A quick exchange of recipes.**
  - 0 SME participation in the European research area.**
  - 0 Research potential of Convergence Regions: development of research capability**
- 12:00**            **End of morning program**



## Parallel sessions (morning 8<sup>th</sup> of October)

### **European Funding tools for research and innovation**

The jungle of European funding tools for research and innovation looks overwhelming and difficult to access. Important questions are which tool does best fit your needs and how to successfully utilize this tool? Companies and research institutes have to define their own strategy to invest in projects and proposals. This session helps to distinguish the different tools relevant for you and helps you to make the first steps to access them.

### **Interaction: International, National and Regional Food initiatives.**

Policies and programmes supporting food industry and research are developed on several different governmental levels: at the European Commission, at national governments and at regional governments. How do these policies and programmes interact? Is there a division of labor? Where do they interact, overlap or where should they be aligned? A discussion from different viewpoints.

### **How to cook up a project? A taste of project development**

Development of a transnational research and innovation project is often seen as a major expedition, only suited for the tough and experienced with enough budget. Therefore most do not even think about starting. How do I find the right partner? How can I assess their capacity and trustworthiness? What investment is expected from me? On the other hand: you would like to connect with the best partners in Europe, and be 'on top of the wave' developing the latest knowledge, technology and products and access new ways of funding your innovation. So how do other organisations play this game?

### **What makes food clusters work? An exchange of recipes**

The number of clusters in Europe grows very fast, being the latest trend in town. The cluster sticker is put on many different projects, cooperations and new organisations. Getting back to basics: we zoom into detail to get some more information on some working clusters in food. What are they doing, what do they bring? Is there a way to start or to build? Is there a recipe?

### **SME participation in the European research area**

Half of the production within the European Food and drink industry is produced by SMEs. How to stimulate further investments in research and innovation in the food sector and in SMEs in particular. Multiple policies, instruments and projects are aiming at increasing the innovation level within this group of companies. What has been learned so far? What kind of support and activities from the government and research institutes are most useful? What direction is needed in the future?

### **Research potential of Convergence Regions: development of research capability**

Research Potential is the FP7 program supporting capacity building of research institutes in convergence and outermost regions. In this session the current impact of 8 Food Cluster projects within this program is shared. The experience gained is presented and approaches to increasing the impact are exchanged. Also the current open calls within Research Potential are presented, one is oriented towards convergence and outermost regions, and one specifically to the Western Balkans.



## Logistics

### Register for the meeting

When you are registered for the Food Valley conference the admittance is free. You do not have to register separately.

### Information on the program

For information on the program contact [maaike.lugtenaar@oostnv.nl](mailto:maaike.lugtenaar@oostnv.nl).

### Conference location

CineMec Ede, Laan der Verenigde Naties 150, Ede

On the internet: [http://www.cinemec.nl/00/cinemec/1\\_2/nieuws/442/General\\_info.html](http://www.cinemec.nl/00/cinemec/1_2/nieuws/442/General_info.html)

### Organisation

This morning program is organized by the Development Agency East Netherlands (OOST NV) and Food Valley within the scope of the Food Cluster Initiative in cooperation with the Eureka EuroAgriFoodChain event "Food Fast Forward", organized by SenterNovem, Food & Nutrition Delta, CDTI Spain and the EUREKA network.



**The Food Cluster initiative is supported by the European Commission within the scope of the 7th framework programme 'Regions of Knowledge' and 'Research potential of Convergence Regions'**



Ministry of Economic Affairs

Food & Nutrition Delta

