

Chain innovation benchmark

Innovation in food chains: a benchmark-study of innovation projects in different European regions

Background

Nowadays inter-organizational cooperation is an important prerequisite for SMEs to make innovation possible, but it also makes the innovation process more complex. Regional authorities (so called innovation brokers) are initiated with the aim to support or facilitate this process. It remains unclear how they operate and what their contribution to inter-organizational innovation projects is.



Main Targets

This sub-project has two main objectives. First, the project aims to obtain profound insight in the success factors for inter-organizational innovation projects. Second, the sub-project aims to find out how different innovation brokers can stimulate the exchange of experience and knowledge by means of cooperation and knowledge networks including knowledge institutions and SMEs. Investigating innovation projects from different European countries should enable interregional comparisons. By comparing the projects, project participants can adapt towards best practices. In addition, the innovation brokers can apply the lessons learned in their future practices, stimulating innovation and economical development in the regions.

Target Groups

The project mainly focuses on SMEs in agri food sectors, ranging from primary producers to enterprises further downstream the chain. In addition, the project focuses on innovation brokers that have the objective to stimulate and facilitate cooperation in innovation processes in the different regions.

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Acronym	Chain innovation benchmark
Title	Innovation in food chains: a benchmark-study of innovation projects in different European regions
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Duration	November 2005 – September 2007
Project approach	<p>The approach will be case study based by using in depth interviews with key-people from SMEs, research institutions and innovation brokers, who are involved in inter-organizational innovation projects. In addition, workshops are organized with people involved in innovation projects. Complementary to this is the systematic assessment of innovation brokers. Finally, obtained results will be verified in expert group meetings in the European regions involved.</p>
Expected results and outputs	<p>Different results and output are expected from this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of critical success factors for inter-organizational innovation projects; 2. Improvement of innovation projects. The innovation projects under study will receive dedicated feedback, so they can adapt towards best practices; 3. Development of a tool including formats/blue prints for innovation management and cooperation between SMEs and other organizations. 4. Recommendations for the innovation brokers. These recommendations will concentrate both on the specific role these kinds of organizations may have, and on best practices. <p>Results will be disseminated through professional press and presented on seminars.</p>