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European Union  
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# Food Forum & Food Team

## Food Innovation Cluster Networks in South Ostrobothnia

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22 September, 2021 □ Partner meeting in Kozani

# Background

**Food Forum & Food Team** are food sector collaboration networks that operate in Seinäjoki region.

Together these networks form the **Food Hub**, that is a **brand** and a **collaboration platform** for the region's food industry actors. (New activity!)

## The aim:

- Enhance innovativeness and information sharing within the food sector actors. Improve RDI activities and internationalisation among food enterprises.

## Build partially with ERDF projects:

- Outputs of a former ERDF development project (**AB Seinäjoki**) and carry out activities developed in that project. The project was carried out between 2016 and 2018.
- At the moment there is another ERDF project, **Food Hub**. In the project some of the new activities have been developed

## **FOOD HUB**

Combining platform

Innovation ecosystem  
and competence building

Collaboration between Food Enterprises  
and RDI organisations

Internationalisation

## **FOOD FORUM**

for RDI organisations

Development of innovation  
activities and community of  
professionals

Visibility of regional  
competence  
on Food

## **FOOD TEAM**

Advisory board  
for companies

Exporting and internationalisation

Testing and piloting platform for  
food innovations.

Food-branding  
improvement

# Food Forum

A close co-operation forum for **RDI organisations** within the food sector.

## Tasks:

- Strengthen the innovation ecosystem and the international knowledge and competence on Food.
- Focus on activities that support food SMEs' RDI development and internationalisation.
- Enhance collaboration of SMEs and RDI actors in the regions.

## Activities:

- Forum meets 3-4 times a year, yearly rotating chairmanship
- Organisation of **Food Business Summit** and **Food Business Challenge**
- Organisation of various smaller events.

**Actors involved:** business life, universities, development and research organisations

# Food Team

An **Advisory Board** including region's largest Food Enterprises.

## Tasks:

- Enhance RDI-collaboration between food enterprises and RDI actors
- Strengthen the food innovation ecosystem
- Focus on exporting and internationalisation
- Improve the food branding of the region

## Activities:

- Food Team -meets 3-4 /year
- Exporting events and trips.
- Activating a testing and piloting platform for new food innovations

**Actors involved:** Food Enterprises, Into Seinäjoki Business Development + RDI organisations (based on the topic)

# Food HUB

A top-brand for the networks and their activities.  
A platform to act and communicate

## **Activities & events:**

- Food Business Summit
- Food Business Challenge
- Hackathons
- Ideaming and commercialisation
- Co-development and co-creation
- Exporting events and activities
- Testing and piloting platforms for new food products

# Transferability

Especially of smaller regions the practice offers a **potential model to be implemented and a starting point for networking and cluster-building** within the food sector.

The organisation of **Food Business Summit and the Food Business Challenge Innovation Competition** are also interesting concepts that could be transferred.

# Remarks

**The model is developing.**

**More info about the Good Practice on the PLP:**

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/4881/food-forum-and-food-team-regional-food-innovation-cluster-networks-in-south-ostrobothnia/>

**Key actor in the development is  
Into Seinäjoki Business Development!**







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# Thank you!

Questions welcome



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