

ABC Network: Strengthening the European agro-biotech sector

The ABC Network aims to enhance the work of agro-biotech clusters (ABCs) across the EU, drawing on expert help to increase cooperation between participants through analysis of best practice and the identification of barriers to networking and innovation. Surveys of participant clusters provide detailed knowledge of the context, key players, mapping of resources, and level and characteristics of clustering. The project is undertaking a benchmarking effort at EU and international levels, and developing a methodology and tools for cluster management. The goal is to facilitate and promote joint strategies for formulating policy recommendations targeted primarily at regional policy makers.

Network ambitions

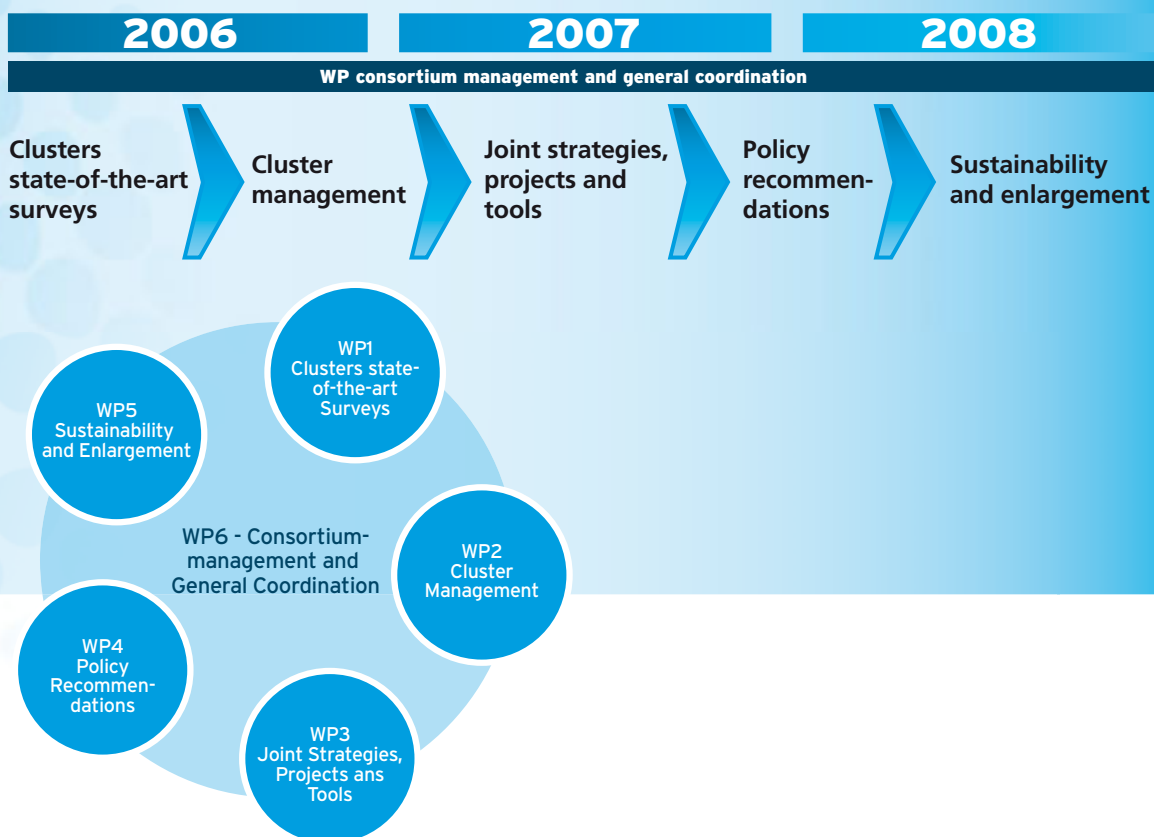
- Adopt an approach that will **improve entrepreneurial innovation and competitiveness** at the EU level of the European agro-biotech sector.
- **Strengthen links and networking for clusters** and potential clusters focusing on animal and vegetal biotechnologies applied to the agro-food sector.

Specific objectives

- **Build a comprehensive state-of-the-art clustering process** in each region.
- **Identify potential complementary actions** to develop between participant clusters.
- **Improve cluster management.**
- **Develop joint projects and strategies** through collaboration, focusing in particular on the participation of industry/SMEs in FP6 and FP7 projects.
- **Develop joint strategies and tools** to foster the creation of start-ups and spin-offs as well as business projects developed by researchers, in particular through an "ABC Business Mentoring Scheme" and an "ABC Equity Finance network".
- **Create a common tool** of strategic and competitive intelligence.
- **Formulate policy recommendations.**
- **Create a sustainable network** that will continue beyond the close of the project and enlarge on its work.



ABC Network approach



Partners and contact details

- Parco Tecnologico Padano, **Italy**
- Oslo Teknopol IKS, **Norway**
- South Great Plain Regional Development Agency, **Hungary**
- Agrobiopole Wallon, **Belgium**
- Syndicat Mixte du Technopole Alimentec, **France**
- Lacave Allemand & Associates, **France**
- Agropolis, **France**
- Finlombarda LTD, **Italy**

**Parco Tecnologico Padano srl
(coordinator):**

Gianluca Careno
Phone: +39 037 1466 2215
gianluca.carenzo@tecnoparco.org

European Commission

Thomas Heinemeier
entr-europe-innova@ec.europa.eu



ABC-Network is supported by the European Commission under the Europe INNOVA initiative