

THE QUADRUPLE HELIX APPROACH IN THE FOOD CLUSTER HAMBURG

A successful cluster actively brings together the following four players to develop a joint innovation agenda, to drive research and development, to promote

technology transfer, to support entrepreneurship and to strengthen regional competitiveness in the food sector in Hamburg and its metropolitan region.

The Quadruple Helix approach is an innovation model designed to foster collaboration between the four key players—industry, science, civil society, and government author-

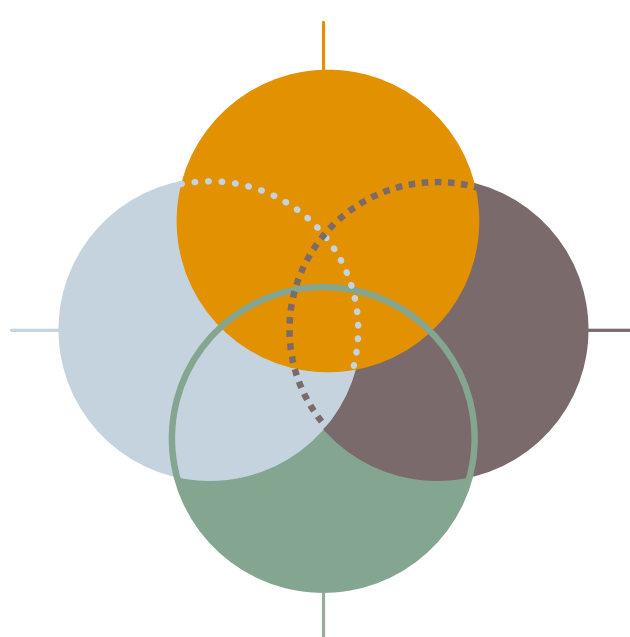
ities – to jointly develop innovative solutions. In the context of the Food Cluster Hamburg, this process typically looks like the following:

SCIENCE

Research institutions and universities play a key role in providing scientific expertise and technological innovation to the food industry. They carry out research and development projects, offer training and further education and promote technology transfer between science and industry.

INDUSTRY

Companies in the food sector are key stakeholders in the Food Cluster Hamburg. They contribute expertise, resources, and financial support to develop innovative products and services. Through their participation in cluster networks, they can also benefit from synergy effects and shared resources.



CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society includes organizations such as consumer groups, NGOs, and local communities with an interest in the food sector. By involving these stakeholders, the Food Cluster Hamburg ensures that the public's needs and concerns are integrated into the innovation process and that social responsibility is considered in the development of solutions.

POLITICS / AUTHORITIES

Public authorities play a crucial role in creating a supportive policy environment for the development of the Food Cluster Hamburg. This includes providing funding, facilitating approval procedures and creating incentives for innovation.

Establishing a Quadruple Helix approach for the new Food Cluster Hamburg requires careful planning and coordination of all actors involved.

Here are detailed practical steps to implement a Quadruple Helix approach:

1) Identify the stakeholders: Identify the relevant stakeholders from industry, science, civil society and politics/authorities who should be involved in the development of the Food Cluster Hamburg.

2) Establish a governance structure: Establish a governance structure that facilitates decision-making and coordination between the various stakeholders. This may include the establishment of a steering committee or a cluster council consisting of representatives from all four Helix areas and being responsible for the strategic direction of the cluster.

3) Promote collaboration: Create mechanisms and platforms that promote collaboration and exchange between the different helix areas. This can include organising networking events, workshops, working groups and joint research projects to promote knowledge sharing and innovation.

4) Involve civil society: Ensure that the voices of civil society are heard and included in the decision-making process of the Food Cluster Hamburg. This can be achieved through the establishment of an advisory board or through regular consultations and dialogues with relevant stakeholders.

5) Promote business participation: Encourage companies from the food sector to actively participate in the Food Cluster Hamburg by incentivising innovation, collaboration and investment. This can include the provision of financial support, access to research infrastructure and the promotion of business networks.

6) Create an innovation ecosystem: Create a supportive innovation ecosystem that encourages the development and implementation of new ideas and technologies in the food sector. This can include the establishment of incubators, accelerators, test labs and joint research facilities to strengthen the innovative power of cluster members.

7) Continuous monitoring and adjustment: Monitor the progress and effectiveness of the Quadruple Helix approach continuously and adjust as necessary. This may include conducting evaluations, feedback loops and regular reviews of the strategy and governance structure to ensure that the cluster achieves its objectives and meets the needs of all stakeholders involved.