

Development Plan for Quadra Helix Network Activities

List of potential activities for networking

- Trainings about the novel food, alternative proteins, tastes
- Trainings about the product development
- Food forum
- Benchmarking visits to KISMET partners
- Facilitate regular stakeholder meetings
- Support the Bioregion initiative as a coordination platform
- Strengthen Latvian Food and Bioeconomy Cluster
- Shared food warehouses (hubs)
- Food council
- Shared infrastructure (sharing economy)
- Cooperation
- Promotion of the Slow Food Network

The main focus was on fostering collaboration between four key sectors: academia, industry (business sector), government, and civil society. This approach leverages the unique strengths and resources of each group to drive innovation, economic growth, and community well-being. The plan outlines activities and initiatives designed to address shared challenges, promote sustainable practices, and create value for all parties involved.

Users

Primary: Business sector
Secondary: Quadra helix



Challenge

While developing a plan for such activities, we encountered the challenge of engaging all stakeholders, as not every food system player may immediately recognize their importance or see the benefits. Resistance can stem from a lack of awareness about how local food systems impact environmental sustainability, public health, and the local economy. Additionally, competing interests and priorities among producers, suppliers, policymakers, and consumers can make alignment difficult.

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Quadra Helix Network Activity: Networking of Local Producers

Participants

- Food producers
- Processors, research institutes
- Municipalities
- Educational institutes

Venue

Slow Food Earth Market in
Straupe, Vidzeme



Food and beverage production is one of the focus areas in the Vidzeme Planning Region's Smart Specialisation Strategy, and the development and strengthening of these businesses are crucial to the region's economic growth. It was concluded that collaboration is the greatest strength, capable of fostering not only business growth but also community strengthening and increased local food consumption. Participants admitted that they often lack the courage to approach other entrepreneurs or form partnerships.

Challenge

During the event, participants called for organizing initiatives that promote the creation of cooperatives. Local farmers and food producers are eager to collaborate and understand the role and opportunities of cooperation but lack practical knowledge on how to drive this process forward. These expressed needs will be considered in developing future projects and activities and addressed as much as possible through project initiatives.



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