Interregional partnership for Smart Specialisation on SMART SENSORS 4 AGRI-FOOD

Leaders
Led by Flanders (BE) and Wallonia (BE), the partnership engages the participation of 12 REGIONS

The objective of the partnership is to prepare all agri-food companies to take the leap towards Industry 4.0. We will facilitate the digitalisation of the sector by stimulating the implementation of smart sensors in the agri-food processes and value chain, enabling the generation of digital data.

Reference topics
Based on the lessons learned from previous projects and cross-sectorial collaborations, a 5-step model was developed. Our partnership will focus on these identified steps to reach our goals.

Key factors
1. Matching demand and offer: We work in a demand driven way and match the needs of agri-food companies with what the technology providers can offer. Via platform enabled activities, the different stakeholders will meet.
2. Network of living labs: Open access living labs provide a 'safe' environment to test and demonstrate new technologies. We will set up a network of living labs which allow co-creation, validation, demonstration and facilitate implementation on a broader scale.
3. Data management: Gathering reliable data in a systematic way, analysing it and using this information in the best way possible, is key. Collaboration with organisations specialised in data management, analysis, algorithms and blockchains is needed.
4. Training programmes and vocational trainings: Employees of the agri-food companies will need to be refocused and educated. Relevant education and training programmes will be elaborated and provided.

Step 1: Creating awareness
Step 2: Building the trust zone
Step 3: Evaluation and validation of new technologies and solutions
Step 4: Implementation of new technologies and solutions
Step 5: Leverage