



Twin's International MultiHelix - TIM

Background and justification

TIM is a working name for the joint initiative between four Life Science parks/clusters named LifeTechValley Limburg, Belgium, Sherbrooke Innopole, Canada, Life Science Hub Wales, United Kingdom and Medicon Village AB, Lund, Sweden. These Science and technology parks have joint the vision to create a transregional/transatlantic Life Science "supercluster", addressing and solving societal challenges to improve health and wellbeing. Partners' joint mission is to collaborate internationally to prosper regionally.

In line of the expectations of the twin partner members to intensify collaboration in life science area on one hand and of the support of the European Union and North American policy makers to further advance transregional/transatlantic cluster collaboration on the other hand, this TIM cluster roadmap has been initiated. It will enable to start with the preparatory activities needed for setting up a TIM cluster in Life science i.e. for developing cluster excellence services such as described and recommended also in the recently published European Cluster Observatory REPORT:¹

Rational for collaboration between the four founding twin partners of the TIM cluster in Life science was thus identified as creating a support system for the science and technology park members in order to:

1. Get easier access to new markets & opportunities
2. Ease growth of business and practices
3. Gain access to local expertise/ knowledge of Life Science markets
4. Initiate new collaboration projects for bigger impacts, addressing global issues
5. Strengthen necessary capacities such as skills, funding, use of research infrastructure etc.
6. Share expertise and knowledge
7. Foster Excellency in expertise

¹ According to Cluster Collaboration and Business Support Tools to Facilitate Entrepreneurship, Cross sectorial Collaboration and Growth, European Cluster Observatory REPORT: file:///C:/Users/bowe/Downloads/cluster-collaboration-and-business-support-tools-to-facilitate-entrepreneurship-cross-sectorial-collaboration-and-growth_en.pdf. Excellent cluster services as identified in the report are:

Market Intelligence: Identifying Opportunities in Other Industries

Matchmaking: Finding Partners in Other Industrial Sectors

Project Development: Translating Market Intelligence and Matchmaking into Cross-sectoral Innovation

Technology Transfer: Spreading Capacity and Knowledge - Technology Transfer in Four Stages

Innovation Vouchers: Channeling funding through a Cluster Organisation

All of these activities have been identified as the prime rationale for setting up clusters also in the European Union Cosme, Interreg IV C or Horizon Innosup 2016-17 (cluster facilitated projects) and/or Enterprise Europe Eureka funding programmes targeted for “getting access to global value chains and develop long term strategic partnerships by providing a platform for international study visits, partnering and “matchmaking” missions, facilitating with finding partners outside of their own regions for research and prototyping as well as for bringing products and services to the market”, as stated in the Cosme cluster go international programme.

Stakeholders Involved

Beneficiaries and stakeholders in the TIM Life science transregional/transatlantic cluster are:

1. Industry (small and medium size companies and large industry)
2. Academia
3. Public sector
4. Patients
5. Funding organisations
6. Science and technology parks management organisations

These stakeholders operate in the areas of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, diagnostic as well as e-health, nano-health, functional food and life science business support services such as for example in business administration, regulatory/quality control and funding.

Stakeholders in the participating twin partner science parks have identified some of the common areas of strengths and common interests and opportunities as well as trends in areas such as:

1. Biobanking
2. Big Data
3. Healthy aging
4. Regenerative medicine
5. Prevention of diseases
6. E-health
7. Mobility schemes – student exchange
8. Large scale infrastructure/laboratory equipment for Life Science and R&D purpose

Objectives

For private sector (SME's)

- Stimulate “Pooling/Scaling up”, sharing and easier accessing of resources for LS SME's (funding, capacities/expertise, skills, tools & equipment, space, improved processes for financial and time gains),
- promote internationalization events of LS cluster members and proactive facilitation of internationalization by enabling/supporting participation at the joint conferences, meetings, events for exchanging ideas, knowledge and collaboration
- identify and promote joint market opportunities,

- accelerate business growth by exposing companies to twin partner markets & exchange of good practices of funding systems to be developed by twin partners,
- expand market potentials by exchanging practices on which markets LS products/services are sold & how to access them better through networking & matchmaking events,
- identify support needed to access better international markets & provide adequate support,

For academia and public sector

- Improve use of existing resources & increase pool of resources needed by exchange of good practices,
- Identify areas of knowledge that can be exchanged and good practices to gain time and knowledge,
- Introduce practices of quality systems for improved efficiency,
- Identify barriers within public sector collaboration and foster interactions for targeted actions (i.e. collaboration projects),
- Identify gaps with skills and ensure training of capacities and exchange of practices
- Develop platforms for reducing time needed, build knowledge and personal networks and contacts (mapping skills and personnel),
- Map personal qualified contacts and relationships, build a map of qualified experts bios.

For cluster management

- Exchange and promote twin cluster initiatives to raise an international profile, involve with collaboration projects/initiatives such as joint conferences, joint challenge driven researches, joint communication/external relations plan,
- “Niche” profiling, stress strengths nationally through mapping size and scope of international relations, number of employees and other relevant key impact indicators,
- Creating a super network/cluster, comprising of transregional, transatlantic partners: setting up joint governance & actions,
- Position against the national LS clusters as competitors (cluster partners market positioning),
- International aspects are prioritized by enabling implementation of joint initiatives in targeted areas of collaboration such as joint ventures, project based bids, university collaboration, joint product development teams, supply chain partnering, non-competitive collaboration of industry experts etc.),
- Pool up resources for users to grow internationally,
- Define similarities and differences that act as catalysts for collaboration (Similarities/ differences with managing incubators, technology transfers, practices of managing LS parks infrastructure and lab equipment, funding systems, safety/security, communication and many other aspects).
- Mapping of existing collaboration links and potentials for future collaboration will show potentials of collaborating with the bigger network.