A report presenting best practise "Smart specialization strategies from SMEs" Datum: 2017-02-03



House of Food | Factory for the future

The food industry is an important economic activity of West-Flanders. 925 food processing enterprises are situated in West-Flanders, of which 90 percent SME's. Although the food industry offers 16 000 job opportunities in West-Flanders, it is facing a number of challenges:

- Finding motivated and well-educated employees
- Critical availability of natural resources such as water and energy
- Continuous product and process innovation
- Increasing the low entrepreneurs ratio
- Increasing the working space for entrepreneurship
- Improving the image of the food industry
- Improving collaboration to increase the speed of innovation and growth

Innovation measures are therefore more important than ever.

The 'House of Food' is situated in Roeselare, the heart of the West-Flemish food industry, and is the operating base of the 'Factory for the Future' (FfF). FfF is a unique partnership between government, private companies and knowledge institutions that encourages growth of the West-Flemish industry. One of its objectives is to support SME's, stimulate and prepare them to switch from traditional to future-oriented and innovation-driven enterprises. To do this, they offer services such as:

- start-up facilities: meeting facilities & co-working space for 2 to 250 persons,
- a cooking lab for educational packages, workshops and product presentations,
- a sensoric lab for sensory research,
- a joblab for kids to experience jobs in the food industry and
- a foodlab where companies, students and start-ups can use analytical devices for their product innovation.



Meeting facilities & coworking space







Cooking lab:











Foodlab:









Do you want to learn more?

Consult the (Flemish) website: http://www.fabriekenvoordetoekomst.be/fabriek-voor-de-toekomst-voeding

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