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Cluster-related foresight planning of skill needs in the grain chain



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Cluster-related foresight planning of skills needs in the grain chain. The project applies foresight planning in the context of long-range skill needs in chains formed by grain production, food industry, grocery and retail industries, in addition to the restaurant and catering sector. This will be implemented by reflecting current skills on the changes emerging in the future labour market, industrial and consumption markets.

Challenges

- Skills acquired through training should match the skill needs of working life
- Working life skill needs are prone to rapid, less foreseeable change
- New methods of foresight planning are needed in order to highlight the match of skills in clusters
- Decisions and measures based on foresight planning call for new, alternative collaboration and skills

Project results in 2009 – 2010

- Description of the future operational environment and needs for co-operation of the grain chain
- Building of a knowledge base needed for an outline of the image of the future for the grain cluster
- Use of foresight methods typical of futures studies (e.g. Future Scanning, innovation workshops, Delphi expert interviews, following and analysing social media discussions, futures tables)
- Long-range skills demand in the grain cluster at national (Finland) and regional (Lahti area) level
- Long-range skills supply supporting the grain cluster (case: Lahti area)

Project results in 2011 – 2012

- New skills required in the grain cluster in the long range, in order to develop future curricula of education and training programmes
- A tool to analyze the match of skills demand and supply in the grain cluster at regional level
- The possibilities of social media environment in foresight planning
- An analysis of the match of skills and the initiation of measures and decisions to improve the skills in the grain cluster via a network of relevant actors (reformation of educational structures, transformation of the role of working life, renewal of the content of education, pedagogical practices and solutions, new forms of cooperation)
- A training programme on foresight planning skills for the management and experts of the network of actors

