

Xplore innovation mission

BELGIUM

2 - 5 December 2024

Global ● ● ●
ALLIANCE
FOR FOOD

Mission Overview

The **Xplore Belgium International Innovation Mission** is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in Belgium's advanced innovation ecosystem, focusing on cutting-edge developments in **alternative proteins**.

From December 2nd to December 5th, 2024, this mission will bring together industry leaders, researchers, and innovators from across Europe to explore groundbreaking advancements, share knowledge, and forge international collaborations.

Participants will engage in a series of activities:

- **Site Visits** to top research institutions and leading companies specializing in alternative proteins.
- **Networking Events** with key industry players and experts from Belgium and beyond.
- **Exclusive Insights** into emerging trends, technological advancements, and market opportunities in the alternative protein sector.

Who is this mission for?

This mission is designed for a broad range of stakeholders in the food innovation ecosystem. It is ideal for:

- **SMEs and Start-ups** looking to scale and innovate in the food industry.
- **Large Enterprises** seeking to stay at the forefront of food technology and alternative proteins.
- **Technology Centers** focused on developing and implementing advanced food technologies.
- **Universities and Research Institutions** aiming to collaborate internationally and explore new research opportunities.

Whether you are a start-up looking to scale, an established company seeking to innovate, or a research institution aiming to collaborate internationally, Xplore Belgium offers invaluable opportunities to connect, learn, and drive forward the next wave of food technology.



Why Belgium?

Belgium stands out as an ideal destination for our innovation mission focused on the food industry, supported by its prominent position in the global innovation landscape. **Belgium is an Innovation Leader** recognized globally for its pioneering efforts across various sectors, particularly in the realm of technology and research. This reputation is underscored by Belgium's consistent high rankings in international indices measuring innovation prowess, such as the Global Innovation Index (GII). In the latest GI report of 2023, Belgium secured the 23rd position among 132 economies, affirming its status as a formidable force in the global innovation landscape. Belgium's status as an innovation leader not only enhances its economic resilience but also positions it as a key player in shaping the future of global industries. By leveraging its strengths in research, collaboration, and strategic initiatives, Belgium continues to drive sustainable growth, foster technological innovation, and uphold its reputation as a beacon of excellence in global innovation.

Key Pillars of Belgium's Innovation Leadership:

- **Advanced Research and Development:** Belgium is home to world-class research institutions and universities that spearhead groundbreaking research in fields crucial to modern industries, including biotechnology, food technology, and sustainable agriculture. This robust R&D infrastructure serves as a catalyst for innovation-driven growth and technological advancements.
- **Vibrant Ecosystem of Collaboration:** Belgium's innovation ecosystem thrives on collaboration between academia, industry, and government sectors. This collaborative spirit facilitates knowledge exchange, accelerates the pace of innovation, and enhances Belgium's competitiveness on the global stage.
- **Excellence in Specific Industries:** Belgium's expertise extends across various industries, with notable strengths in food technology, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology... In particular, the country's leadership in food technology is exemplified by its contributions to alternative proteins and the development of novel food products.



Agenda

2nd Dec

- 15:00h Arrival at Zaventem International Airport
- 16:30h Welcoming Meeting at Flanders' Food Headquarters
- 17:00h **Presentation of the Belgium Innovation Ecosystem** by Emma Sidgwick, Internationalisation Manager at FF.

3rd Dec

- 08:30 Meeting at the Hotel's Lobby to take the train
- 09:30 Attending to the **Pitch Perfect Event** (opportunities for pitching will be provided)
- **Brokerage event 1:1 meetings** organised by Enterprise Europe Network (+)
- **EIC Program Presentation** by the EC Commission (+)
- 19:00 Delegation Dinner

4th Dec

- 08:00 Meeting at the Hotel's Lobby to take the bus
- 09:30 Visiting **Biobased Europe Pilot Plant**
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 **Scale-Up Training Program**
- 15:00 Co-creation activities organised by Pilots4U by COPILOT
- 16:00 Company Visiting TBD

5th Dec

- 08:00 Meeting at the Hotel's Lobby to take the bus
- 10:00 Visiting the **R&D Paleo Center** (Leuven) (+)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Wrap-up of the mission
- 15:00 Arriving at Zaventem International Airport



Who organizes this Mission?

This mission is organized by four internationally renowned clusters: **Food & Bio Cluster Denmark (DK), Cluster FOOD+i (ES), Vitagora (FR), and FoodValley (NL)**. These clusters are key players in the global food innovation landscape, each contributing unique expertise and resources to drive forward the mission's objectives. The initiative is part of the broader **Global Alliance for Food**, which brings together leading clusters from around the world to foster collaboration and innovation in the food sector.



What is the Global Alliance for Food?

The Global Alliance for Food is an ambitious initiative aimed at **establishing a common framework for collaboration among international food clusters**. Its primary goal is to transform the food sector into a more sustainable and innovative industry. By **fostering global partnerships** and leveraging collective expertise, the Alliance seeks to accelerate advancements in sustainable food practices and technologies, driving the sector toward a more resilient, environmentally conscious and profitable future.





Global 
ALLIANCE
FOR **FOOD**