

## Öresund Food Network – Annual report 2006

During 2005/2006 more than 80 companies and organisations have joined Öresund Food Network including all universities in the region with food related activities, small and large companies and various kinds of institutes and organisations. Those members represent a considerable part of all the skilled people involved in the food cluster

The following summarises the present situation "state of the art" for ÖFN at the end of 2006, and how major initiatives during the past year have contributed to regional integration, visibility and growth.

### Workshops & conferences

**Twelve conferences and workshops** were organised during 2006 by ÖFN, some of them in collaboration with other organisations in the region. These events attracted more than 1000 visitors from industry and research. Reports from meetings are available on the ÖFN website

- Workshop on food with short shelf life, Jan 2006
- Structured phospholipids, Jan 2006
- ÖFN General meeting on Good Taste, Febr 2006
- Innovation inom livsmedelsområdet, March 2006
- Unlimited health - Kick-off conference, April 2006
- HealthCat: Sustainable and healthy catering in Norden, April 2006
- Food Innovation Network Europe, June 2006
- Creating value added production systems- ÖFN visionary meeting, sept 2006
- Kick off conference in "Human testing of foods-level of proof, Oct 2006

- The health potential of fermented foods, Oct 2006
- Årsmøde i Dansk Selskab for Adipositas Forskning (DSAF), Nov 2006
- Food innovation - IP management and active Patent strategy, Nov 2006

Öresund Food Network also participated as exhibitor in the fair "Food Processing & Food Pack Öresund" in May (Malmö) as well as in the International Food & Health Innovation Conference in October (Malmö).

### Increased research collaboration across Öresund attracting research funds

Öresund Food Network has so far contributed to increased research collaboration between the two countries. Over the period 2003-2006, ÖFN has invested seed money (~ 580.000 €) to initiate research & innovation projects by Swedish/Danish research groups with participants from universities and industry. As just one outcome, the joint ÖFN research projects have in 2003 – 2006 attracted funds worth 15 million Euros to the region. The research projects can be seen in the table below.

### International delegations

Around 12 delegations from various international organisations were received with the objective to present the region and the food cluster. ÖFN was considered as a suitable gateway for their objectives to know more about one region in two countries. For several of the meetings specific food players in the Öresund region were involved. The regions represented Spain, Italy, Norway, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Holland, Belgium, Germany and India.

*Funds attracted by ÖFN research & innovation project, in € (December 2006)*

<i>Project</i>	<i>ÖFN seed money</i>	<i>Total funding</i>
Better food in large scale	130.000	5.700.000
Loss free flexible food manufacturing processes	130.000	1.300.000
Starch biopolymer	11.000	4.400.000
DNA-markers for healthy plants	130.000	1.700.000
Whole grain foods	130.000	1.600.000
Innovation across the border in Öresund	11.000	14.000
Food in schools	13.000	43.000
Improved fats for nutrition and health	11.000	starting up
<i>New initiatives 2006</i>		
Process stability and final product quality variation as a function of raw material quality attributes	11.000	starting up
Effects of gluten free diet and oat based products on formation of short chain fatty acids and blood	6.000	starting up
<b>Total ÖFN projects</b>	<b>583.000</b>	<b>~15.000.000</b>

**Specific strategic ÖFN projects to stimulate multi-disciplinary initiatives in sub sectors with growth potential**

***FINE (Food Innovation Network Europe)***

ÖFN has together with 7 other strong and complementary European regions started the network FINE (Food Innovation Network Europe) during 2006, with the objective to develop strategies, action program and tools to increase regional investment in food related R&D and innovation. The network is funded by EU. During 2006 stake holders from Universities, agro food companies and regional/governmental organizations were involved in an analysis on the prerequisites for innovation in terms of the assets for food R&D in the region as well as the efficiency in exploring those assets. Policies influencing Food R&D were discussed as well. A comparison was made also between the different regions. The reports can be downloaded from the ÖFN home page. The results with recommendations will be presented for policy makers from the different European regions at a meeting in February -07. During the autumn first initiatives were also taken for a program with inter-regional projects to be elaborated 2007;

- 1) R&D projects focussing on topics like health or functional foods, food ingredients, aquaculture, traditional food and food & tourism.

- 2) Developing new (R&D) infrastructure, like a food incubator network, shared regional facilities for SMEs, and food technology demonstration and/or educational centres.
- 3) Networking and promotion actions to foster dedicated R&D, for example, industry/science relations and technology transfer.

European regions involved besides Öresund are East Netherlands, Flanders Belgium, Rogaland Norway, Castilla Y Leon Spain, Scottish enterprise, Emilia Romagna/Parma Italy and Poznan Poland.

***Unlimited Health (Gränslös sundhet)***

ÖFN has together with Medicon Valley Academy obtained support from Interreg IIIA to start networks in the borderline between Food and Medicine. During 2006 many activities have been organized and here by the end of the year we have established five networks within the project;

- *Obesity.*  
The focus is attracting stakeholders from the whole of the Øresund Region, primarily researchers from Universities, hospitals and relevant companies

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A PART OF THE ØRESUND SCIENCE REGION

(especially pharma) with interest in obesity.

The network is taking an ØFN traditional approach starting up with meeting and conferences aiming at closer collaboration and possible research projects.

- *Probiotics.*

The focus area is attracting stakeholders from the whole of the Øresund Region - researchers from Universities, hospitals and relevant companies with interest in probiotics. Through conferences the focus area will address objectives relevant to the area probiotics and synbiotics (pro- and prebiotics in combination) via presentations from acknowledged and experienced speakers from both the Øresund region and the surrounding world. The activities gave rise to a joint proposal for a Nordic Centre of excellence which unfortunately not was funded. However this proposal will be used in forthcoming opportunities of funding.

- *Prebiotics.*

Within the areas prebiotics and synbiotics (pre- and probiotics in combination) the focus area wishes to give rise to inspiring discussions and future collaboration between the stakeholders, for example through internal seminars and conferences with state-of-the-art presentations using inspiration from acknowledged speakers from both the Øresund region and the surrounding world.

- *Under nutrition.*

There is a great need for exchange of experiences, gathering of knowledge and a targeted effort towards the addressed problem which explains that the focus area under nutrition is attracting stakeholders from the whole Øresund Region, including researchers, medical doctors, dieticians, nurses, chefs, businesses, etc. The first priority identified by the focus area under nutrition is *The Snack Meals* which is an important issue addressing nutritional issues for both poor eaters and undernourished persons. The focus area

has begun working towards developing a concept of snack meals, designed for poor eaters in hospitals and for the public catering sector.

- *Phospholipids (PL).*

The aim of the focus area on PL is to do networking, exchange knowledge and to generate new projects on the determination and utilisation of the healthy and functional properties of different PL. The combination of technology, nutrition and formulation in this focus area could accelerate the innovation process in potential projects. The overall topic for the focus area PL will partly depend on visionary papers on the future written by subgroups within the focus area.

Four subgroups within the focus area are working on different aspects of phospholipids:

1. Structured phospholipids.
2. Milk phospholipids.
3. Glycolipids.
4. Marine phospholipids.

The network has applied for a joint Nordic Centre of excellence. The expression of interest has been asked to submit a full proposal.

### ***Human testing –level of proof***

During 2006 ØFN also got funding from Nordic Innovation Centre for coordinating a quite large project on Health claims on food including substantiation of the claims. The project has 47 participants from the Nordic and Baltic countries. The work is organized in a dialogue forum, with representatives from the research community, consumer organisation, food industry and the national authorities, which aim at formulating a consensus on use of health claims. Since the national authorities are the only ones that can suggest claims to the EU the consensus reached in the dialogue forum will be used as inspiration by the national authorities.

For the substantiation of claims part of the project, four working groups have been

established; intervention studies, biomarkers, animal testing and epidemiology. These working groups will aim at updating PASSCLAIM to make sure the most recent science is included in the list of possible methods and finally formulate a best practice for health substantiation of claims.

### ***The virtual food factory – food + IT***

During 2006 ÖFN has together with Öresund IT Academy received funding to increase interaction between the food and IT clusters. The borderline between Food and IT has considerable growth potentials with respect to optimisation and automation of food manufacturing, logistics and

e-business, quality assurance as well as business intelligence including communication with consumer. An interactive kick-off workshop for the project was hosted by ÖFN in September resulting in a "to do" list. It was agreed to establish network between food and IT in specific thematic groups with the objective to formulate concrete project proposals with short term as well as long term objectives. The importance of identifying user NEEDS in the context of the actual structure and culture of the food industry was underlined. The report can be downloaded from the ÖFN website.

## **Annual Revenue**

The **base funding** covers the general operating cost, information & communication, research project seed money, networking activities and salaries. The base funding was approx. 2.100 MSEK for 2006. This funding origins mainly from the national and regional funding from Denmark and Sweden which is allocated via Öresund Science Region (ÖSR) as well as from member fees and fees from work shops. This funding has remained quite stable over 2005 and 2006. However, the money attracted via the **strategic ÖFN projects** has increases steadily and amounts to approximately 4.000 kSEK.

<b>External funding to strategic ÖFN projects; (EU, NICE) =</b>	4.000
<b>Base Funding: (ÖSR + members)</b>	<u>2.100</u>
	<b>6.100 kSEK</b>

