



## **D2.1 | Virtual forum for agri-food digital innovation and acceleration ecosystems**



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| Abstract   |
|--|
| <p>The purpose of this document is to introduce the virtual forum for agri-food digital innovation and acceleration ecosystems. The virtual platform transfers the information on the regional innovation and acceleration ecosystems as gathered in acceleration ecosystem mapping (D1.1) into an online and easy accessible format. This website tool contains information about the different digital innovation and acceleration ecosystems, including the identified key actors, programme, structures, services, financial resources, etc.</p> |



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# 1 Virtual platform – phase 1

After the completion of the mapping of the acceleration ecosystems (D1.1) and the analysis across regional innovation and acceleration ecosystems (D1.3) the information gathered in these reports has been transferred to a website tool.

Food-scalEU has chosen to use the already existing platform [Foodleap](#) that is hosted by consortium partner FoodValley NL. The main benefits of using this existing platform is that the technology behind it has been thoroughly tested and that – next to the data from Food-scalEU mapping and analysis – the platform is already populated with innovation and acceleration programmes and actors on a global level. With Foodleap Food-scalEU will have a targeted and increased outreach in comparison to new platforms and other existing platforms without a specific focus on agri-food.

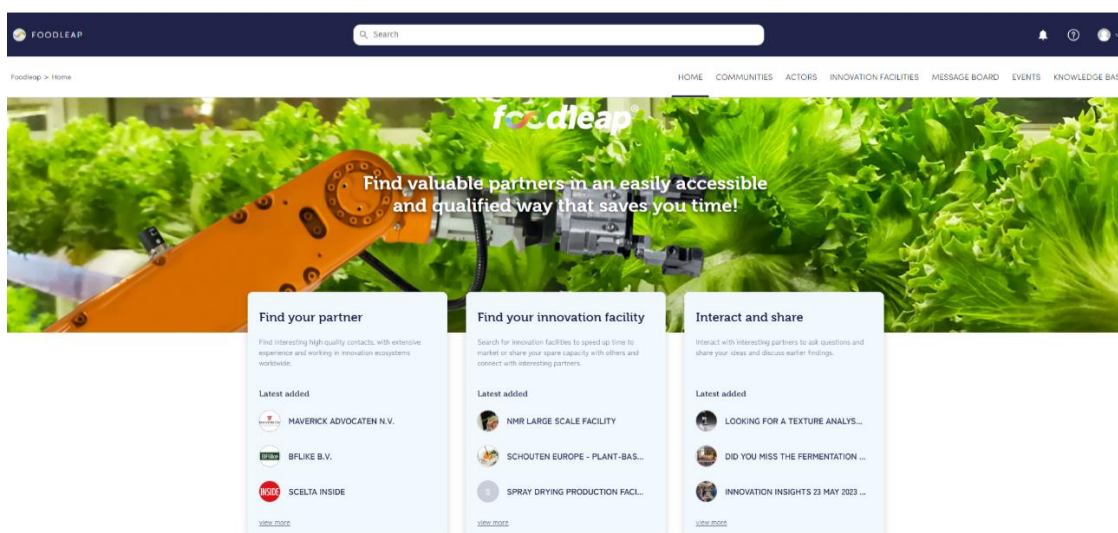


Figure 1 Foodleap - Homepage

In the current set-up of the platform innovation facilities can either be found via search or on a map. A search can be filtered on different categories:

1. Type of facility (e.g. demonstration facility, development facility, digital facility, ...)
2. Arable farming and controlled environment agriculture capabilities (e.g. (new) crop trails, fertilizer trials, growth management trials, ...)
3. Cultivation systems (e.g. aeroponics, aquaponics, aquatic farming, ...)
4. Insect farming / rearing capabilities (e.g. equipped climate room(s), ...)
5. Food / feed / agri processing capabilities (e.g. (cold) pressing, (IQF) freezing, (ingredient) cleaning, ...)
6. Packaging capabilities (e.g. bulk packaging (B2B), foodservice packaging, R&D packaging, ...)
7. Research & analysis capabilities (e.g. chemistry & physics, consumer & sensory research, microbiology, ...)
8. Potential presence of allergens (e.g. celery, eggs, fish, ...)
9. Quality features (e.g. 100% plant-based, BRC, EKO / bio SKAL, ...)
10. Innovation domains (e.g. alternative proteins, animal feed, arable farming, ...)

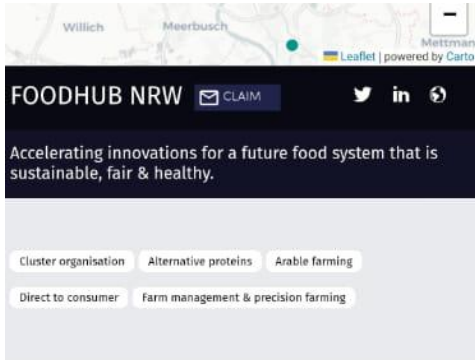


For actors it is also possible to conduct a filtered search in the current platform. Different categories here are:

- a. Category (e.g. academia & educational institute, association, cluster association, ...)
- b. Innovation domains (e.g. agricultural marketplace, alternative proteins, animal feed, ...)
- c. Role in the value chain (e.g. agricultural input, co-packer / co-manufacturer, consumer tools & services, ...)
- d. Agritech (e.g. aeroponics, aquaponics, hydroponics, ...)
- e. Biotechnology (e.g. biometrics, biorefining, enzyme tech, ...)
- f. Other technologies (e.g. food waste technology, laser / optics technology, nano technology, ...)
- g. Processing (e.g. air classification, electrostatic separation, encapsulation, ...)
- h. Smart & digital (e.g. 3D printing, 3D technology, artificial intelligence, ...)
- i. Stage (e.g. established, exit, scale-up, ...)
- j. Maturity (e.g. acquired, deaf, formation, ...)
- k. Ingredients & Products (algae, almonds, amino acids, ...)

For each identified actor a profile is made with basic background information. Figures 2 and 3 contain examples of these profiles as published on the platform.

At this stage the information of the mapping of the acceleration ecosystems (D1.1) and the analysis across regional innovation and acceleration ecosystems (D1.3) has been transferred to the platform. However, to make the platform better usable in the next phase some extra information layers will be added to the profiles on the platform.



CONTACT DETAILS

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SEND US AN EMAIL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>STAGE:</b><br>Startup                      | <b>MATURITY:</b><br>validation            |
| <b>FOUNDING DATE:</b><br>Not defined          | <b>LAST FUNDING ROUND:</b><br>Not defined |
| <b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:</b><br>5              |   |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED:</b><br>Not defined |   |

**ABOUT FOODHUB NRW**

Foodhub NRW is an innovation platform and community. It connects players in the agricultural and food industry from the field to the shelf in order to jointly develop future-oriented solutions for the industries.

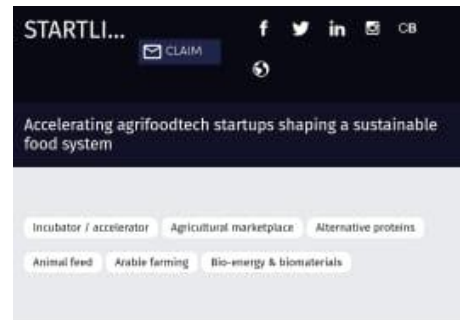
Let's develop solutions for the necessary "Food System Change" together here in NRW! Whether regenerative or precision agriculture, alternative proteins from the bio-reactor or the revival of domestic legumes, whether sourced regionally or transparently globally: we are convinced that the solution also lies in a variety of ideas.

In order to achieve these goals, the Foodhub NRW monitors trends and technologies along the entire value chain and brings innovation actors together to think about and pilot new ideas in close exchange: start-ups, science, farmers, SMEs, corporations, technology companies and political actors.

Our online platform and event formats provide food for ideas on innovation topics and trends, create transparency and provide opportunities for networking.

With our individual consulting offers, we provide impulses, we accompany entrepreneurial innovation processes and bring partners together.

Figure 2 Example profile Foodhub NRW



CONTACT DETAILS

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LET'S CHAT!

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>STAGE:</b><br>Scale-up                     | <b>MATURITY:</b><br>growth                |
| <b>FOUNDING DATE:</b><br>2010-01-01           | <b>LAST FUNDING ROUND:</b><br>Not defined |
| <b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:</b><br>45             |   |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED:</b><br>Not defined |   |

**ABOUT STARTLIFE**

StartLife is Europe's longest-running and leading agrifood tech accelerator, co-founded by Wageningen University & Research. Since 2010, it has supported over 400 startups that develop technological innovations in the domains of foodtech and agtech. Its mission is to accelerate agrifood tech startups shaping a sustainable food system.



Figure 3 Example profile Startlife



## 2 Virtual platform – phase 2

From June to September the virtual platform on [Foodleap](#) has been expanded.

The first step was to add an extra layer or label to be able to filter on actors and innovation facilities related to Food-scalEU and the mapping.

A second step was to expand the information level for the actors and acceleration programs. In order to make programs searchable on modules they offer for start-ups and scale-ups first a clear taxonomy including definitions had to be described. Being able to search on module level instead of program level makes it possible to create better tailor made programs. De modules can be seen as ingredients and the tailor made programs as recipes tailor made for its consumer. After defining the taxonomy and definitions in June the extra layer of information was added to the platform before September 2023.

From October 2023 onwards the platform will support the improvement and development of acceleration programs for start-ups and scale-ups within the Food-scalEU project.



### 3 Virtual platform – phase 3

When the first FoodScalEU partners joined the platform and tested its capabilities in in August and September, the iterative processes of trial and error of functionalities started. Based on the feedback given by the partners the decision was made to switch from a ‘community page’ to a ‘focus area’ structure, which is better capable of highlighting the customised taxonomy.

To ensure easy access, workshops are hosted for partners to enroll, give feedback on the process, and test new options in November. The following figures show screenshots from an registration guide and information filled in by partners.

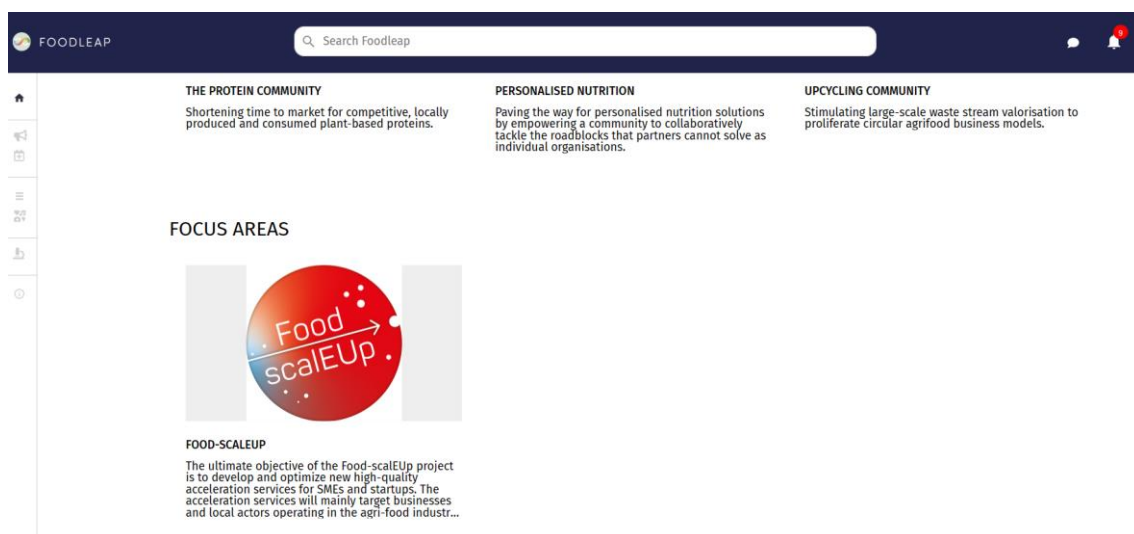


Figure 4. Food-scalEU 'focus area' homepage 1

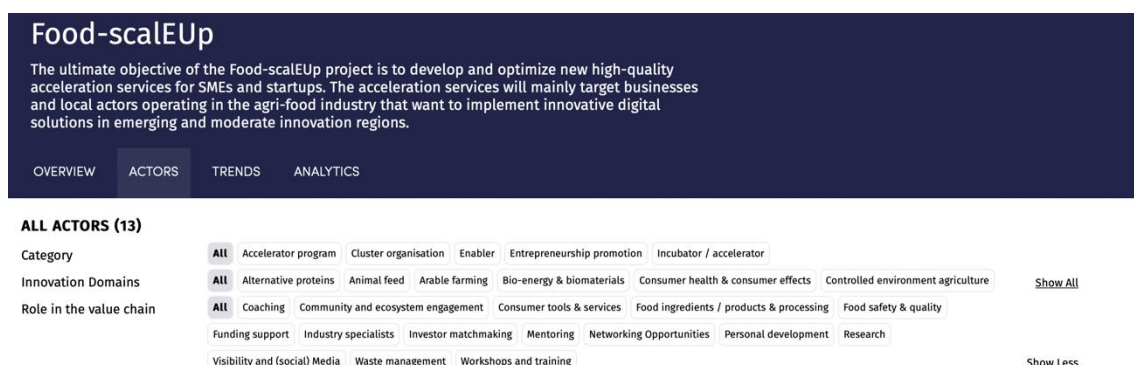


Figure 5 Food-scalEU 'focus area' homepage 2





Figure 6 Food-scalEUp main information page

Figure 7 Food-scalEUp actor overview

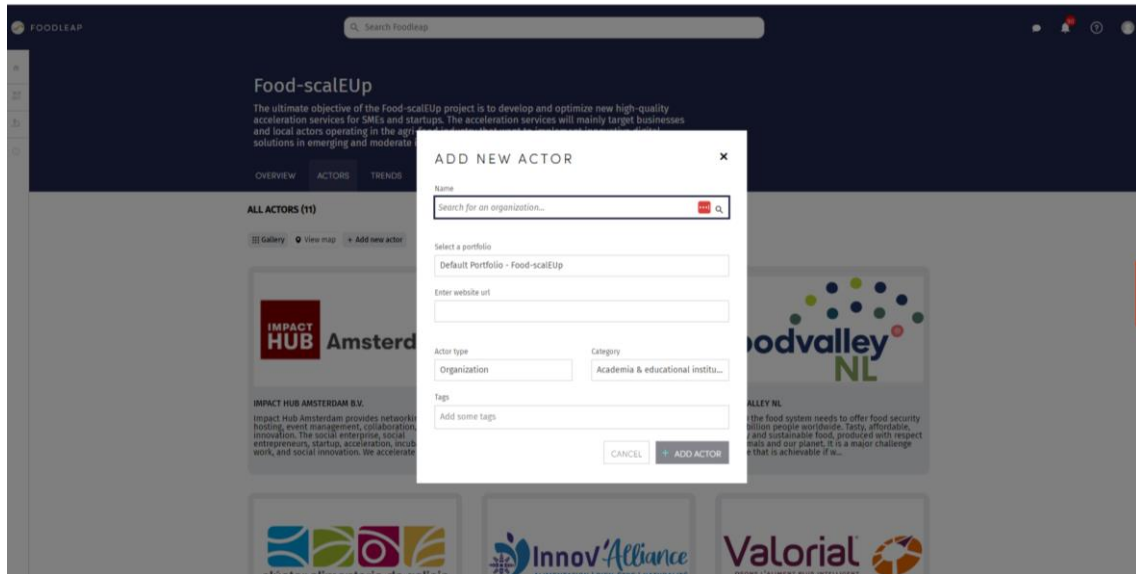


Figure 8 Food-scalEU add actor pop-up

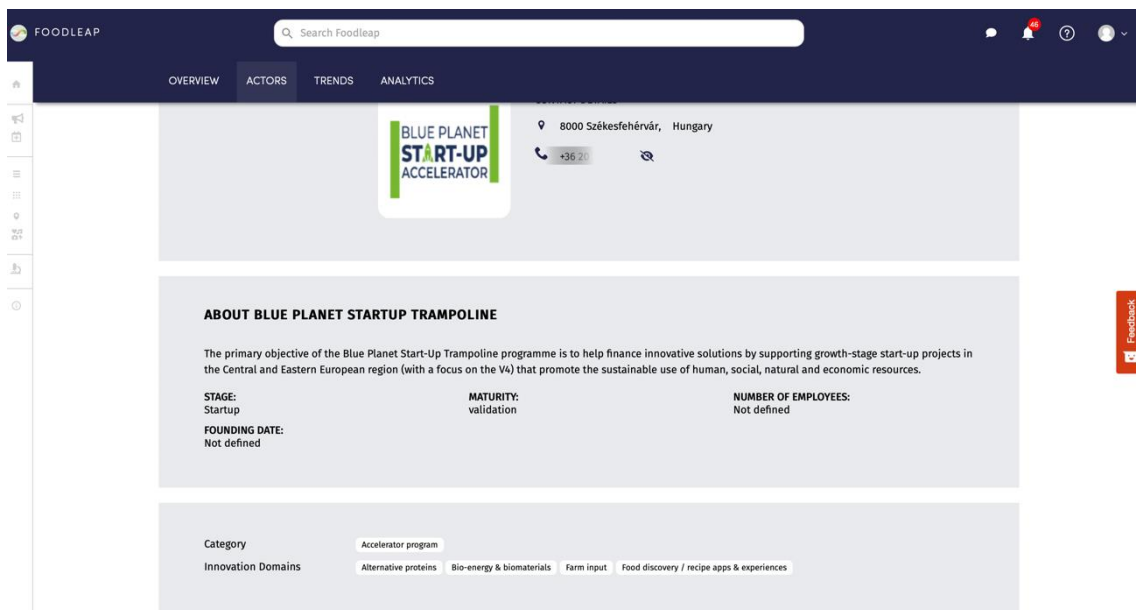


Figure 9 Actor overview page



**Food-ScalEU**  
 The ultimate objective of the Food-ScalEU project is to develop and optimize new high-quality acceleration services for SMEs and startups. The acceleration services will mainly target businesses and local actors operating in the agri-food industry that want to implement innovative digital solutions in emerging and moderate innovation regions.

OVERVIEW ACTORS TRENDS ANALYTICS

**FOODVALLEY NL** EDIT REMOVE FROM SPOTTING AREA

CONTACT DETAILS  
 Bronland 10, 6708 WH Wageningen, Netherlands

LET'S CHAT! SEND US AN EMAIL

**EDIT: FOODVALLEY NL** complete 27%

Activities

Business type  
 B2B  B2C  Not-for-profit

Role in the value chain  
 Role in the value chain

Innovation Domains

- Agricultural marketplace
- Alternative proteins
  - Cellular agriculture
  - Plant-based
  - Protein fermentation
- Animal feed
  - Animal health & nutrition
- Arable farming
  - Agroforestry
  - High nutrient crop
  - Mixed and strip cultivation
  - Regenerative farming
- Bio-energy & biomaterials
  - Bio-energy
  - Biofuels
  - Biomaterials & biochemicals
- Carbon sequestration
- Consumer health & consumer effects
  - Cognitive health & mood management
  - Sensory & consumer research
- Controlled environment agriculture

Figure 10 Actor edit information page