

Trans Alpine BioCluster Initiative

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Life Sciences refer to those sectors of research which study biological mechanisms to improve them and to derive marketable products from them

What Life Sciences are (LS)

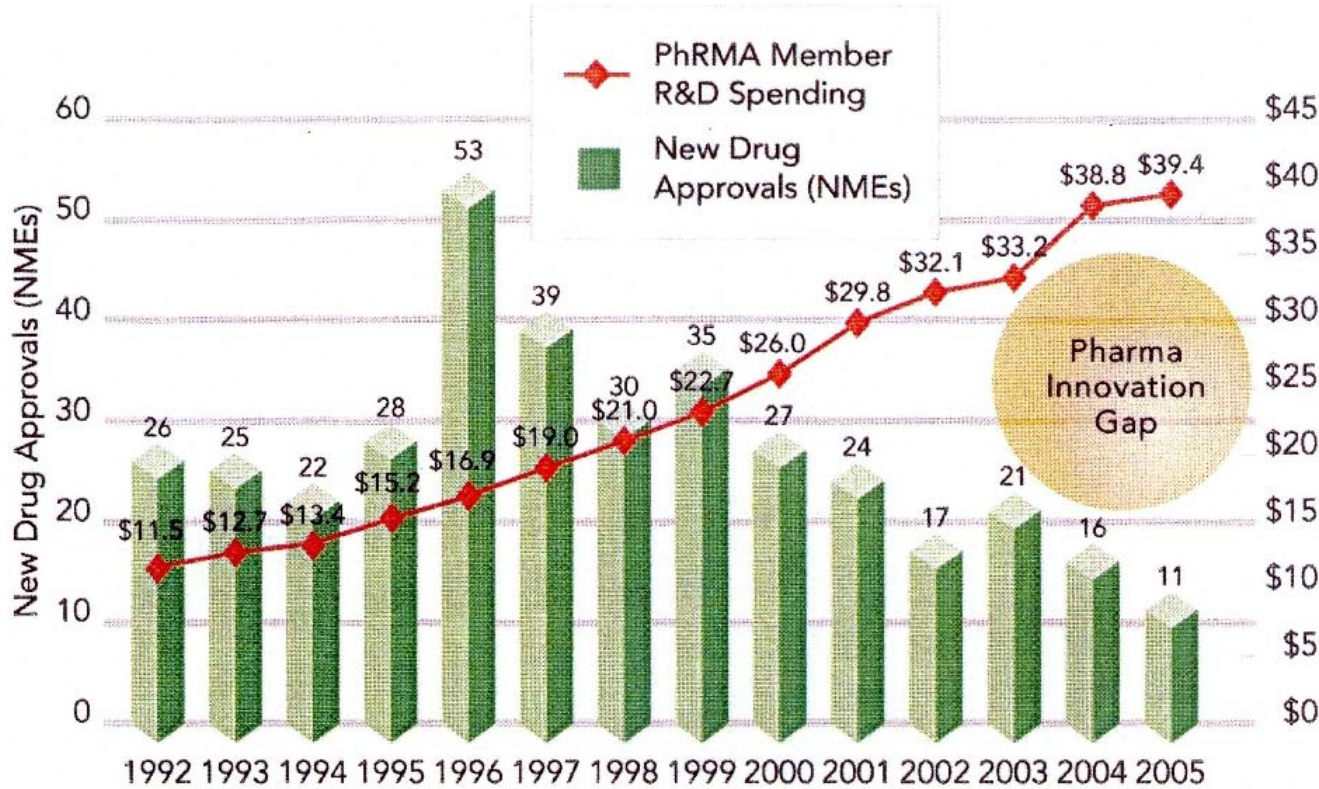
- LS is the grouping of a wide range of research activities whose aim is to study biological mechanisms in order to improve, monitor and create marketable goods from them
- Biotechnology is a fundamental element in Life Sciences

Main Life Sciences applications

Pharmacology and medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Diagnostic Products■ Drugs	Agriculture, veterinary and zootechnics <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Transgenic plants – productive and resistant
Nutrition and Bioindustry <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Vitamins■ Amino acid■ Enzymes■ Food products■ Drinks	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Waste Disposal■ Water purification■ Pollutants detection (earth, air, water)

The “reason why” of biotech

[Figure 3.3]
INNOVATION GAP GETTING WIDER



Source: Burrill & Company

The development of biotech sector

In the biotechnology sector “in spite of the tendency towards broad internationalisation of research, high technological performance tends to be tied to “home-based” [\[1\]](#) research capacity”

[\[1\]](#) Allansdottir A., Bonaccorsi A., Gambardella A., Mariani M., Orsenigo L., Pamolli F., Riccaboni M. “Innovation & competitiveness in European biotechnology”, European Commission, Enterprise Papers No. 7, 2002, p. 2.

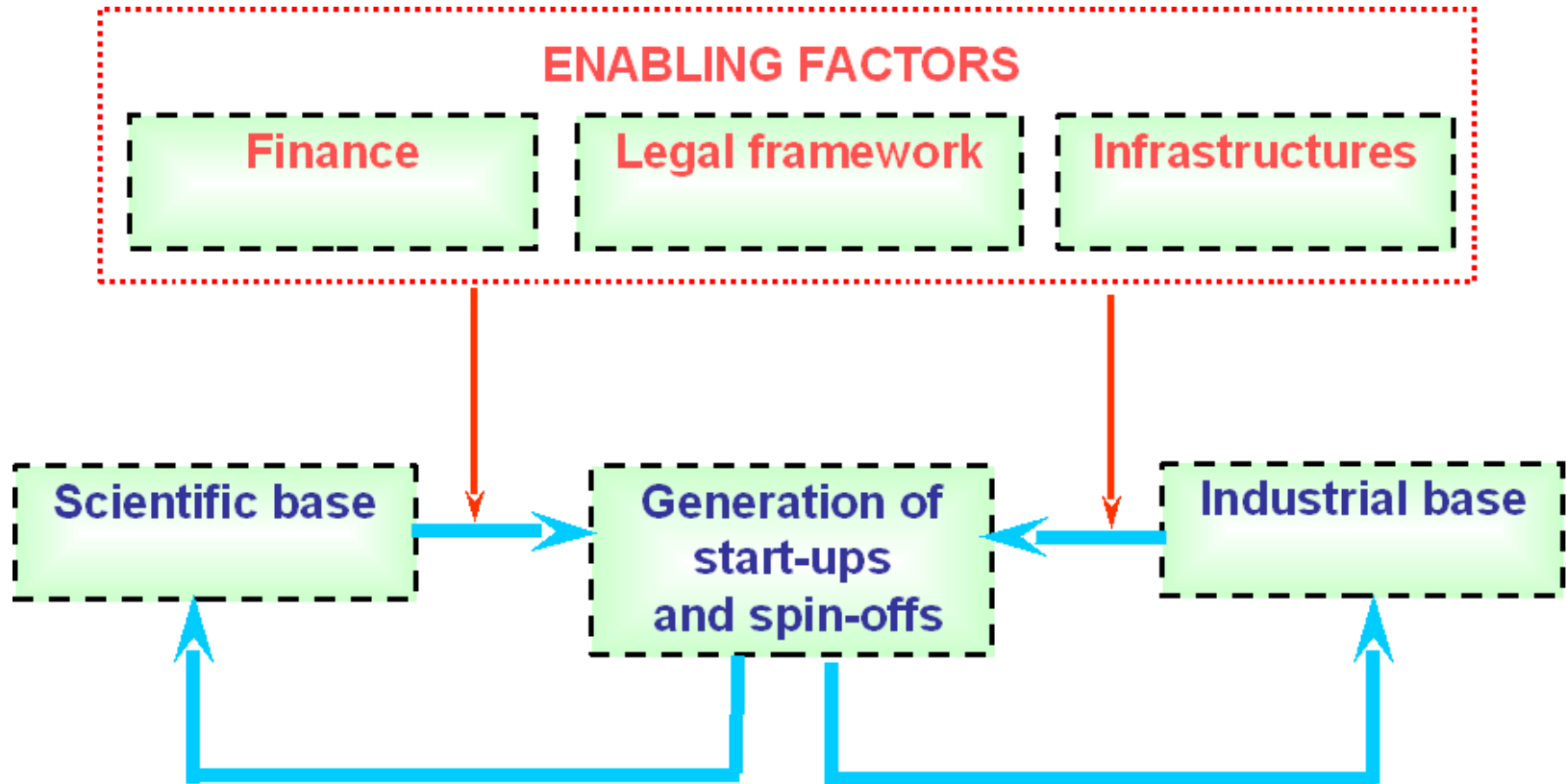
The global world

- In a global world it is necessary to identify solutions to competitiveness problems that at the same time must be based on local assets and have to be global in perspective.
- One of the best ways to do that is through the identification of synergies between complementary territories and regions through a policy of, let's say, alliances.
- The use of synergies that are existing in different territories is at the basis of a network focused on the creation of value for the “final user”.

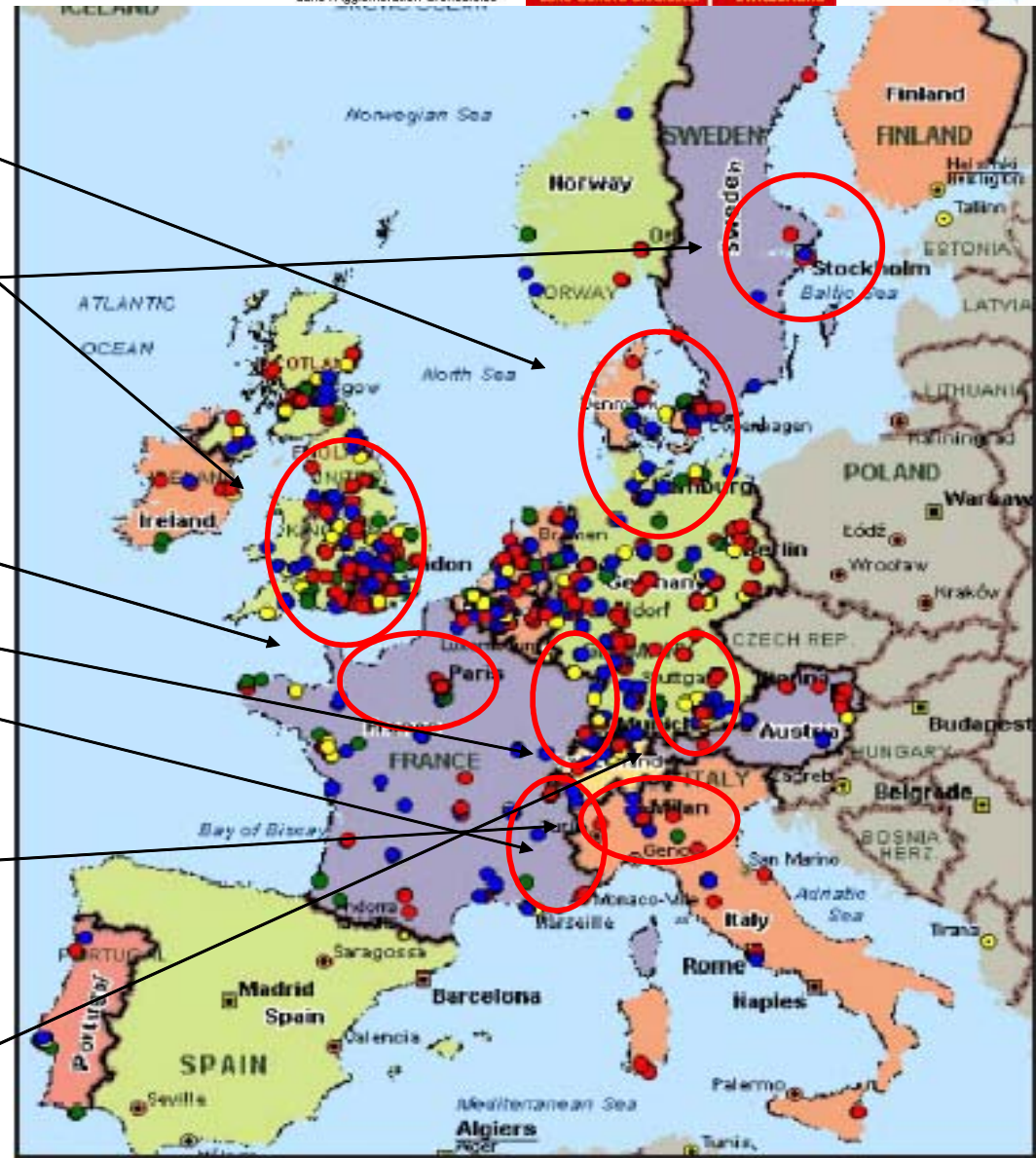
Clustering

- In general clusters are considered particularly positive as far as their impact on innovation related activities is concerned. Most national and local governments draft policies are meant to support clustering whenever innovation is to be fostered.
- Small and/or specialized regional clusters need to be well interconnected with each other in order to achieve the critical mass required to compete at international level.
- Multi regional clusters and Meta-Cluster can be one of the solution to the lack of critical mass of small clusters.

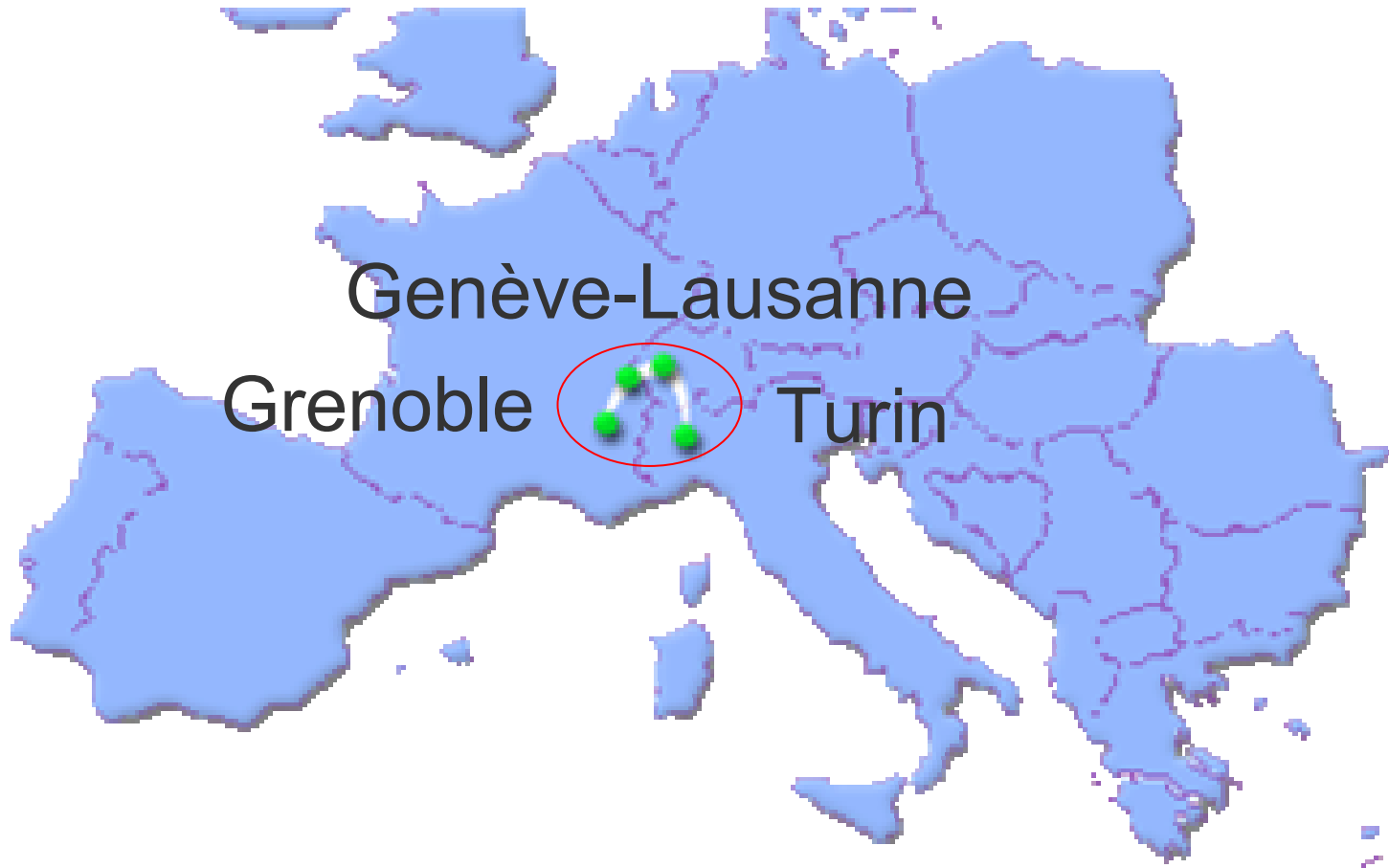
Cluster development



- Medicon Valley*
- OxBridge*
- Uppsala-Stoccolma*
- Clustering in Europa**
- Paris cluster*
- BioValley*
- Lyon-Grenoble-Geneve*
- Milano-Torino*
- Munich*



Source: Critical | Limited



The transalpine territory

- More of 150 companies working directly in the biotech field
- More than 550 companies working in Life sciences in general (including Med-tech)
- Around 40 research institutions, universities and university hospitals devoted to life sciences research
- More of 1.200 research groups working in basic and applied research
- Around 15.000 employees working in life sciences in private companies
- 6 Bio-incubators and 6 Science Parks

Single excellences.....

« BioAlps...The most important biotech research centre of excellence in mainland Europe »
Science Magazine, 2000

“In the yearly ranking of Italian universities, in the Biology research area, Turin University ranks n° 1 with an average impact factor of 16.09.”
CIVR-MIUR, 2005

“Grenoble is one of the major university towns in France: over 60,000 students representing about 15% of the population of the greater Grenoble area.”

NanoBlo Europe 2006

.....that act as an integrated system....

A Partnership agreement that

- creates a zone of transalpine excellence in the sectors of bio- and medical technologies;
- permits to the 3 partners and territories:
 - to build synergies,
 - to exchange best-practices and
 - to facilitate access to resources, scientific expertise and high-tech equipment,

bringing together different participants in this sector, notably those drawn from an industrial or financial background, who can help to support projects.

.....through the partnership of 3 key regional actors...



www.adebag.org



www.bioalps.org



www.bioindustriypark.eu
www.piemontebiosciences.org

This is an innovative and co-operative network which federates universities, research centres, local public institutions and economic actors (young start-ups, SMEs, big companies) to facilitate innovative projects and stimulate the creation of new companies, to support business development and to encourage partnerships at an international level.

Bottom-up approach!!!!

No public financing: each partner is self financing activities

Timeline

- **2003-2004:** EuroBioCluster south initiative discussions
- **2004:** meeting tutored by IRC SOFRAA involving Bioindustry Park and ADEBAG
- **2004:** agreement between Bioindustry Park and ADEBAG
- **2005:** BioAlps entered in the agreement
- **2006:** first BioAlpine convention

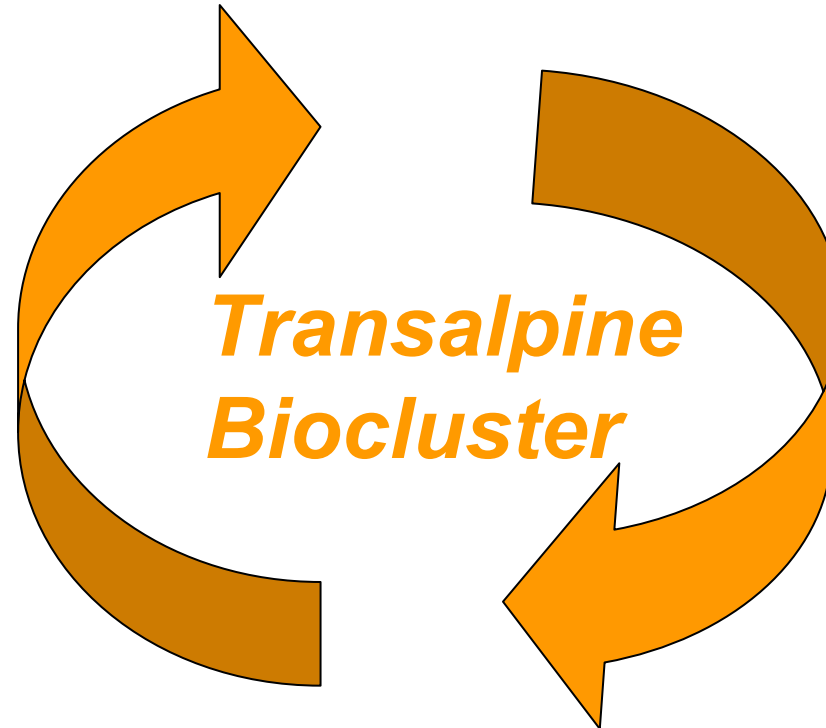
Key success factors

- ***A clear federative vision***
- ***Alliance's structuring objectives***
- ***Identification of a small set of priorities & synergies***
- ***Build reliable common tools & methodologies***
- ***Promote talent development as a pillar of the initiative***
- ***Allocate dedicated resources and involving operational teams***
- ***Use and stimulate networking between actors (companies and Universities)***
- ***Transalpine Biocluster part of Europe!***

Training

Research

Industry



Finance

Tools

- Best practices exchange -> e.g. **Meeting with Business Angels in Grenoble presenting Bioindustry Park Bioincubation model**
- Common participation to events -> e.g. **common booth during EuroBio – Paris, November 2006**
- Support to the development of local companies -> e.g. **participation of Italian start-ups to the Bio- Innovation Day in Geneva**
- Image Building and Common events : e.g. **www.bioalpineconvention.org and Yearly BioAlpine convention**
- Sectorial networks -> e.g. **Neurosciences network**
- Training -> e.g. **Stageurs exchange in Bioindustry Park, international Scientific committee for Phd students courses at University of Grenoble**
- Knowledge sharing: **missions of scientists and entrepreneurs in Grenoble and Bioindustry Park**
-

A partnership that is conceived around a concrete common initiative

European Bio Alpine Convention

Organization of a unique tri national event : **FRANCE / SUISSE / ITALIE**

A territory of a common geographical and economical identity « **ALPINE** »

Foster partnerships and closer cooperation from **RESEARCH to INDUSTRY**

BIOTECHNOLOGY and MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

3 sites alternately every year : **GRENOBLE, GENEVE-LAUSANNE, TURIN**

An innovative model: **involving universities, start-ups, developed companies and technology transfer actors together**

First event

■ Event focusing on one specific field, from research to industry and promoting Alpine Cluster skills

-= NEUROSCIENCES in 2006 =-

Thematics :

- Neuro Imaging**
- Regenerative Neurosciences**
- Functional Neurosciences**
- Neurobiology of development**
- Cognition and Psychiatry**



**ALPS
Innovation
Relay Centre**



**Centre Relais Innovation
Suisse Ouest / France
Rhône-Alpes - Auvergne**

Grenoble, October 6th 2006

www.bioalpineconvention.com

Second event

- Event focusing on one specific field, from research to industry and promoting Alpine Cluster skills

-= Inflammation and AutoImmunity in 2007 =-

Thematics :

- Genetic in autoimmunity
- CNS Autoimmunity: discoveries, problems, progresses and perspectives
- Role of bacteria and virus in autoimmunity
- Targeting cells
- Thinking about vaccine strategies
- Exploration of a new strategy: stem cell transplantation
- How to efficiently diagnose Autoimmune diseases

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Bioindustry Park del Canavese, November 2007



ALPS
Innovation
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Centre Relais Innovation
Suisse Ouest / France
Rhône-Alpes - Auvergne

Perspectives

- The Transalpine Biocluster must **interface also with other meta-regions**: they are not only “competitors” but also potential partners.
- The Transalpine Biocluster must be **open to each partnership that can be at the basis of advantages for their territories**.
- The Transalpine Biocluster must **not be “against others” but has to be “with others”**.
- The Transalpine Biocluster must be **focused on the development of the Biotech sector**
- The Transalpine Biocluster must be **open to collaboration with similar territorial initiatives in other industrial sectors**



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