



Call for Papers – Abstracts

„BioCon Valley – A Small Life Science Cluster with High Impact in Northern Germany“

Dr. Heinrich Cuypers* & Robert Sington, BioCon Valley GmbH Greifswald

Abstract

Health economy is one of the key priorities of the regional government of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV), Germany. BioCon Valley (BCV) serves as the central cluster management for life sciences and health in MV. As one of the German BioRegions BCV supports the commercial use of modern life sciences and bio- and medical technologies. It's tasks are networking, managing life science startup centers, project management and coordination, and marketing. It initiated 2001 the cooperation with the life science clusters at the Baltic Sea Region (www.scanbalt.org).

Since 1996 the number of Life Science companies in the region increased four times to 120 and the number of employees rose five times to 4.000. In 2014 BioCon Valley was again awarded with Bronze Label of European Cluster Management Excellence.

Highlights from BioCon Valley's cluster activities, e.g.:

- Bluesweet lupine (*Lupinus angustifolius*) is a new variety bred in MV. The GM-free seed is an alternative for animal protein and soybean. To make protein and fiber from the seeds available for food, ten companies and four research institutions in MV initiated 2006 the project „PlantsProFood“ managed by BCV. A spin off company was founded in 2010. German President Joachim Gauck awarded the “Deutscher Zukunftspreis 2014” the German President's Award for Innovation in Science and Technology to the project "Food Additives from Lupins - Contributing to a Balanced Diet and Enhanced Protein Supply".
- The project „HICARE - Health Region Baltic Sea Coast“ was selected in 2011 as one of the 5 national model projects “Gesundheitsregionen der Zukunft” as a regional concerted approach to develop effective, standardized, and transferrable intervention measures to efficiently battle the spread of multi-resistant bacteria. HICARE covers the region around the university hospitals in Greifswald and Rostock. Since 2011 the project was expanded on international scale as „Baltic Amber – Baltic alliance against multi-resistant bacteria”.