GENERAL OUTLINE

- Partners are aware of their responsibility in accelerating the technological change in the regions, and, in concrete, in the framework of the agri-food value chain, with the goal to make it more sustainable, circular and resilient.
- Partners consider that the Project has addressed a very relevant topic which is now high in the green-digital EU agenda. In that sense, digital technologies for the agri-food, as advanced as they may be, are just a tool and regions need to work in delivering good policies and public goods to European citizens, farmers and companies.
- In that sense, the seven partner regions of the Interreg Project Regions 4Food consider that the shift of the EU innovation policy towards societal challenges should call for a strengthened role of S3 interregional cooperation processes in the search of technological and innovative solutions for that purpose.
- The interregional Agri-Food Smart Specialisation Partnerships, such as the Smart Specialisation Thematic Partnership of Traceability and Big Data in the agri-food value chain, are appropriate ecosystems to advance towards sustainable and inclusive EU food systems.
- Partners consider that Clusters & DIHs are key tools to support industrial innovation on the ground and to provide services to SMEs and companies in general; and for that reason, the collaboration among these innovation networks and the S3 interregional innovation ecosystems should be reinforced.
- Policy making is preceded by evidence base: partners have confirmed the importance of the identification of good practices in this field to promote mutual learning and open innovation among different regions and agri-food stakeholders across Europe.
- Collaboration, mutual exchanges and integration of solutions remain at the centre of interregional working in that field, and needs therefore to be maintained beyond specific projects.

ABOUT CHALLENGES

- For the digital agri-food transition to be fully successful, we will need to create the right frameworks to ensure trustworthy technology and to give businesses the confidence, competences and means to digitalise.
- A better coordination and combination of EU funds and support mechanisms is necessary.
- The availability of public resources for the innovation in agri-food must need complemented with complementary sources of private funding.
- Partners identify as social challenges for the resilience of the agri-food value chain the engagement of young people in the farming activities, on the one hand; and the need to capture senior farmers' wisdom and know-how on the other hand.
- Wide public communication and training activities supporting a shift in mindset is also needed to raise awareness and motivate farmers to use technologies in the agri-food sector.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES

- Maintaining agri-food innovation ecosystems at the regional and interregional level is necessary and all the ways to involve stakeholders are valid: working groups, discussion groups, technical offices, *whatsapp* groups…: creativity is needed to maintain stakeholders' engagement.
- Public funding can act as a key catalyst to attract more support for innovation and digitalisation in the agri-food sector.
- Reducing the environmental impact of agriculture can be a good driver to involve young people and new agri-tech academic profiles in the agri-food sector.

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROJECT TO THE REGIONS

- Shared vision
- Alignment with EU priorities
- Common roadmap
- Connections
- Mutual learning
- Discoveries
- New answer revealed for local challenges
- Raising awareness among farmers
- New projects emerging
- More interactions among the 4ple. helix in regional ecosystems due to the Project.
- New eligibility criteria under regional ERDF's programs.
- New areas to be financed and supported by Clusters revealed.
- New maps of relational capital in regions
- New food strategies inspired by the Project.
- New quadruple helix cooperation schemes.
- Evolution of regional ecosystems

NEXT STEPS
To be continued.