EU FOOD PACT



Aligning Skills, Systems, and Sustainability Across the Food Chain

NEWSLETTER

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EU FOODPACT is setting out to support a more sustainable, resilient and future-ready agri-food sector by putting the needs of businesses and people at the centre of the transition. In these first months, the partnership has begun building the foundations for this journey: connecting with agri-food MSMEs, exploring existing skills and practices, identifying gaps and bringing together the actors who will form the Community Food Education Hubs. This first newsletter captures these early steps and offers a glimpse of what is ahead as ideas, knowledge and collaboration gradually turn into action.

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Welcome to the first EU FOODPACT Newsletter!

Europe's agri-food sector is changing — and the businesses at its heart need the right skills, tools and support to change with it.

EU FOODPACT brings together partners from across Europe with a common goal: to help agri-food MSMEs navigate the green, digital and social transition and turn sustainability challenges into opportunities for resilience, innovation and growth.

And the work has already begun. Partners are reaching out to businesses, mapping skills and needs, identifying inspiring practices and laying the foundations for the **Community Food Education Hubs** that will connect businesses, educators and other key actors across the food system.

In this first issue, we invite you to discover **who we are, what we are building and how the EU FOODPACT journey is taking shape**.

The transition starts by understanding where we are today.

Let's get started!

> "turn sustainability challenges into opportunities for resilience, innovation and growth



EU FOODPACT at a Glance

EU FOODPACT – Accelerating Sustainability in the Agri-Food Sector through Community Food Education Hubs is an Erasmus+ Forward-Looking project supporting the green, digital and social transition of Europe's agri-food sector.

The project brings together businesses, education and training providers, business-support organisations and other food-system actors to identify real skills needs and turn them into practical solutions. Through **Community Food Education Hubs**, training and mentoring, skills intelligence and tools such as the **Self-Assessment Tool**, EU FOODPACT will help agri-food MSMEs and their people build the competences they need to become more sustainable, resilient and future-ready.

become more sustainable, resilient and future-ready









The Journey Begins

EU FOODPACT officially set its work in motion with its **Kick-off Meeting in Reus, Spain**, bringing the 10 partner organisations together to turn the project's ambitions into a shared plan for action.

Over two days, partners moved beyond introductions and focused on what comes next: aligning responsibilities, setting the foundations for the **Community Food Education Hubs**, and planning the first activities that will bring the project closer to agri-food businesses and their real needs. Particular attention was given to the initial research and mapping activities, which will help identify existing skills, gaps, good practices and opportunities across the sector.

The meeting also gave partners the opportunity to establish a common understanding of how EU FOODPACT's different strands connect — from research and skills development to collaboration with MSMEs, training and the wider green, digital and social transition.

From Reus, the journey officially began

with a common direction and plenty of work ahead.

> identify existing skills, gaps, good practices and opportunities across the sector



Meet the Community Food Education Hubs

At the heart of EU FOODPACT are the Community Food Education **Hubs**— collaborative spaces designed to bring the right people around the same table.

The Hubs will connect **agri-food MSMEs, education and training providers, Chambers of Commerce, certification bodies, policymakers and community organisations**. Together, they will identify local challenges, exchange knowledge and good practices, and co-create practical solutions that respond to the real needs of the agri-food sector.

Each Hub will build its own network and respond to its local context, while remaining connected to the wider European EU FOODPACT community. This will allow experiences and solutions developed in one country to inspire learning and action elsewhere.

Through this approach, the Hubs will help **bridge the gap between businesses, education and policy**, turning collaboration into concrete action for a greener, more resilient and future-ready food system.

Local challenges. Shared knowledge.

European solutions.

> identify local challenges, exchange knowledge and good practices, and co-create practical solutions



Listening to the Agri-food Sector

Before designing solutions, we first need to understand the reality on the ground.

Across the partner countries, EU FOODPACT has begun reaching out to **agri-food MSMEs and other key actors** to explore how businesses are responding to the green, digital and social transition. Through surveys, case studies and desk research, partners are mapping existing competences, identifying skills gaps and collecting practices that are already making a difference.

The research also looks beyond businesses themselves, examining **existing education and training opportunities** to understand where current provision meets the sector's needs — and where important gaps remain.

These findings will provide the evidence base for the next stages of EU FOODPACT, helping ensure that the tools, training and support developed by the project respond to **real needs rather than assumptions**.

First we listen.

Then we build.

> we first need to understand the reality on the ground



Our partnership consists of 10 organisations from 8 European countries: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, Sweden, Iceland, Romania, Greece.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF REUS
Spain

CYPRUS CERTIFICATION COMPANY
Cyprus

APS POLYGONAL
Italy

SAMBAND SVEITARFÉLAGA Á SUÐURNESJUM
Iceland

EDENSOL
Spain

ITALIENSKA HANDELSKAMMAREN I SVERIGE
Sweden

UNIVERSITY OF AVEIRO
Portugal

BUCOVINA INSTITUTE
Romania

EUROSUCCESS CONSULTING
Cyprus

EMVIO
Greece



What's Next?

The foundations are being laid — and the next phase will start turning research into action.

In the coming months, partners will:

- **complete the mapping of skills, needs and existing practices** across the agri-food sector;
- continue developing the **Community Food Education Hubs** and their local networks;
- begin translating identified needs into **practical learning and support solutions** for agri-food MSMEs and professionals;

The next steps will bring businesses, educators and other stakeholders even closer to the project — because the solutions that follow will be built around the people who will ultimately use them.

> "the solutions that follow will be built around the people who will ultimately use them



EU FOODPACT is just getting started.

Follow the project as we build the Community Food Education Hubs, uncover inspiring practices, develop new tools and learning opportunities, and work with agri-food businesses across Europe.

Visit our website

eufoodpact.eu

Follow EU FOODPACT

Stay tuned for the next newsletter

Be part of the journey towards a greener, smarter and more resilient European food system.

Aligning Skills, Systems, and Sustainability
Across the Food Chain

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