

# TECH.FOOD

SOLUTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS FOR THE TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER AND  
THE INNOVATION OF THE AGRO-FOOD SECTOR IN SOUTH EAST REGIONS



The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme is an initiative financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The TECH.FOOD project aims at building the R&TD and innovation capacity of the agro-food sector and at providing networks and tools to foster technical innovation in food quality production. Accordingly, the project foresees the establishment of a transnational horizontal network among 7 regional “Technological Transfer Nodes”, linking local institutions, researchers and enterprises.

## Origin

The aim of the project is to set up a transnational network for building links among enterprises and research bodies of a wide area. TECH.FOOD represents a transnational added value and a clear opportunity to improve the partner’s institutional capacity to be effective in promoting innovation.

Direct involvement of enterprises will represent an additional added value of transnationality, concurring to create innovation and internationalization opportunities to local productive systems.

IPA countries will benefit from the transnational network by capitalizing partners’ experiences in the enlargement process.

# TECH.FOOD

*Promotion R&TD And Innovation In The Agro-Food Sector*

## Project background

TECH.FOOD project tackles the innovation in the agro-food sector, one of the main components of the SEE economies, in terms of turnover, added value, number of operators and person employed. The agro-food sector is strongly concerned by two processes: on one hand, the globalization of the productions and markets; on the other hand, the increasing societal awareness of the possibilities to improve the quality of life through healthy eating and of the contribution given by sustainable agriculture production to improve the overall environment.

Consumers' needs for quality, convenience, diversity, safety and sustainable food production serve to highlight the opportunities for innovation, stimulating enterprises in adopting new productive solutions. In this scenario, the project arises from the necessity of common strategies, tools, and possibilities to promote research and innovation in the agro-food sector, according to development targets shared with the stakeholders.

## Objectives of the project

The project's main objective is building R&TD and innovation capacity of the agro-food sector in SEE Regions, by strengthening the links among research bodies, institutions and food enterprises composing the so called "triangle of knowledge".

The project's objective are:

- ◇ to strengthen collaborations and relationships among research bodies, institutions and food enterprises at local level, also helping to establish supply chains;
- ◇ to reinforce existing transnational cooperation networks and to establish new ones, through a "transnational horizontal network" among the involved SEE regions and opened to other EU areas, in order to set up mechanisms that allow sharing of key technologies, skills, experiences and knowledge;
- ◇ to improve innovation performances of food enterprises, institutions and research bodies, through the definition and application of analytical and intervention tools, oriented to manage know-how for achieving an effective and more intensive application of R&TD and innovation;
- ◇ to launch new concrete projects for building technology and innovation capacity as well as improved products and processes in food sector, by converging SMEs needs, skills of research bodies and institutional support, obtaining the critical mass able to participate more effectively in R&TD EU Programmes;
- ◇ to renew public confidence in food quality and safety by promoting the adoption of environmental and healthy friendly innovative solutions

## Capitalization of the results

The project builds on previous experiences and research results in the field of innovation, carried out by the partners and co-funded within FP6, Interreg III and national funds.

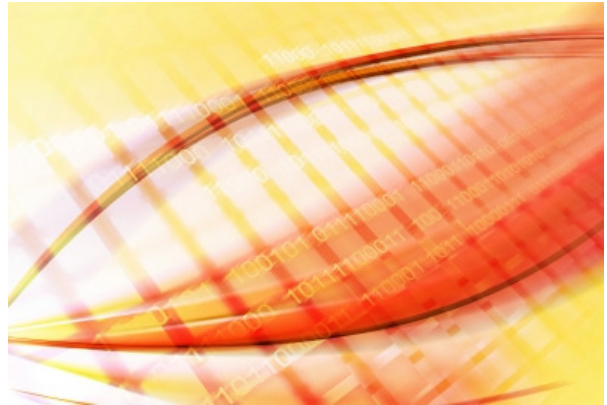


### Expected results and durability

Main expected result consists in the establishment of a permanent capacity to foster R&TD and innovation among enterprises, in representative SEE regions, by applying a multi-level approach directly involving enterprises, research bodies and institutions composing the “triangle of knowledge”.

After project end, the following results are expected:

- ◇ a common knowledge concerning the state of the art of the SEE agro-food enterprises’ innovation, aptitudes, and needs, giving a clear picture of potentials to be strengthened;
- ◇ permanent and long-lasting relations among enterprises, research bodies and institutions through the implementation of local and transnational partnerships;
- ◇ the direct and concrete improvement of R&TD and innovation performances of SEE enterprises, as a consequence of the application of analytical tools (evaluation of policies effectiveness and enterprises’ needs), and intervention tools tailored to research bodies and enterprises;
- ◇ a direct participation of target groups in EU funded R&TD and innovation projects both at national and transnational level;
- ◇ an increased trust and a better opinion of end consumers on agro-food products of the SEE space.

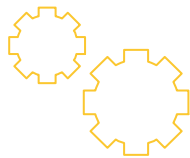


The participative and multi-level approach applied throughout the project will ensure the ownership of results by target groups, since results will fit their needs and constraints.

Financial sustainability of project results has been addressed already from its preparation. Permanent structures, as internal Technological Transfer Nodes and the Technological Horizontal Network, will be supported by PPs, which will continue to cooperate after project end.

Policy and institutional sustainability lies in the inclusion of project strategies and tools in PPs’ government tasks, due to the “innovation perspective” given by TECH.FOOD to partners’ politic choices.

Transferability of project results will be provided by the participation of PPs to European networks.



### Target groups / stakeholders involvement

TECH.FOOD addresses to all public and private actors of agro-food sector. First target group is agrofood enterprises, especially SMEs, in order to reinforce their competitiveness through the diffusion of improved food productions. TECH.FOOD specifically aims at reaching food enterprises, which are also end user of project results, by targeted involvement activities and providing enterprises oriented tools.

The project is targeted also to SEE public Institutions for the management agro-food sector, as the main responsible for assuring a favourable context for food sector innovation. Lastly, project concerns research bodies because of their crucial role in offering technical support and R&TD results to food enterprises. For Institutions & research bodies, TECH.FOOD sets up tools and strategies to strengthen their role towards an enterprises oriented manner. Stakeholders are general public and food consumers, as final beneficiaries of improved food products & EU Networks on food issues.

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Promotion R&TD And Innovation In The Agro-Food Sector



## EU Partners



Province Of Modena, **Italy**

Aster—Emilia-Romagna Science & Technology Association, **Italy**



The Bucharest Academy Of Economic Studies, **Romania**



Ministry Of Agriculture And Rural Development, **Romania**



Hungarian Meat Research Institute, **Hungary**



Corvinus University Of Budapest, Faculty Of Food Science, **Hungary**



Regional Administration, Stara Zagora, **Bulgaria**



Trakia University, **Bulgaria**



National Hellenic Research Foundation, **Greece**



Athens Chamber Of Commerce And Industry, **Greece**

## Non EU Partners



Agency for Rural Development of Istria Ltd Pazin, **Croatia**

Institute Of Agricultural Economics Belgrade, **Serbia**

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Website: <http://www.techfoodproject.eu/>

