

2023

EIT Food South Activity Report





Making an impact
across the food system 4-5

Message from the EIT
Food South Director 6-7

Meet our team 8-9

Our mission 10-11

2023 in numbers &
5-year impact 12-15

Discover our key
programmes 16-21

Identity 22-31

Visibility 32-39

Talents 40-51

Synergies 52-57

Partnership 58-61

CONTENTS

MAKING AN IMPACT ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM

What is EIT Food? European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Food is a pan-European consortium that focuses on entrepreneurship and innovation in the food sector. The members of the EIT Food community are world-class players in the international food domain: **over 50 partners from leading businesses, research centres and universities across 13 countries.** EIT Food officially started in November 2016.

What is EIT Food South? As one of EIT Food Co-Location Centres, **EIT Food South was established in the second half of 2017 to build bridges among leading businesses, universities, and research centres.** It began its construction with partners from Italy, Israel and Spain reinforced with local innovation hubs in Lisbon, Athens, Bari and Istanbul, and **today has partners in every country from southern Europe**, including Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Turkey. With a consumer-centric approach, our main goal is to deliver a healthier lifestyle for citizens by enhancing high-value-added cooperation and integration to stimulate innovation, talent development and consumer involvement.

1. INNOVATION

EIT Food South targets societal challenges through technology-based products and services with breakthrough potential by organising matchmaking events to **support individual partners and provide them with the appropriate tools** to draft robust proposals.



3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We believe that **we are all responsible** for, and connected to, **the food that we eat.** Our activities are designed to **engage with people so that they can become agents of change in the food system.** In CLC South we believe that together we can deliver an innovative agrifood sector that produces both healthy and sustainable food and is trusted in society.

2. EDUCATION

EIT Food South **supports capacity building by offering workshops, summer schools and online educational programs** such as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and SPOCS (Specialized Private Online Courses) for students, entrepreneurs and food professionals.

4. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EIT Food South works hard to bring entrepreneurs together with Europe's leading agrifood companies, universities and research organisations. We are building a powerful ecosystem to facilitate all the resources and creating a community to support entrepreneurs at all stages of their journey.



MESSAGE

FROM THE *EIT FOOD SOUTH* DIRECTOR



Begoña Pérez Villarreal,
Director of EIT Food South

Dear partners and collaborators,

It is with great pleasure that I present the summary of EIT Food's activity over 2023. This year marked a joyous celebration as we proudly commemorated the 5th anniversary of EIT Food South. The journey has been full of challenges and new horizons, as well as productive and exciting. Notwithstanding, we have always risen against all odds.

Throughout the years, our commitment to continuous evolution remains unwavering, as we persistently seek areas of improvement to find solutions to the true challenges of the agrifood system. We have always believed in innovation and

collaboration to improve the sector and expand our impact on society. Thus, we have continuously remodelled our programmes and created new ones to adjust to the latest trends and needs of the industry.

Exceptional talent has become the norm, as we have continued to reinforce and nurture entrepreneurial minds. We provide unparalleled guidance and support throughout their journey, from its beginning to its maturity through high quality programmes, created with great care and expertise. Furthermore, we have strongly promoted and encouraged female entrepreneurship to offer a safe and prosper future

to women who want to thrive in the agrifood sector.

Furthermore, EIT Food has been dedicated to advancing regenerative agriculture throughout Southern Europe. We have facilitated connections between farmers and relevant companies in the sector, injecting a crucial impetus into sustainable and innovative agriculture. Simultaneously, we have ensured that our message promoting healthy eating and sustainable habits resonates with citizens through inspiring initiatives.

The accomplishments mentioned above could not have been achieved

without the collaboration and effort of an entire team and our partners. Together, we have forged a powerful relationship built on reliability and transparency, united in our mission to transform the agrifood sector through a powerful alliance.

EIT Food South will continue to work tirelessly to drive innovation and sustainability within the industry. We look forward to another 5 years of blooming and improving to build a greener and more resilient agrifood sector.

Sincerely,

Begoña Pérez Villarreal

MEET OUR TEAM



Begoña Pérez Villareal
Director EIT Food South



Aida Cortés
Regional Finance and
Administration Manager



Álvaro Lage
Regional Administrator



Melissa Comellas
Agriculture Programme
Manager



Juan Ignacio Zaffora
Senior Regional Programme
Manager - Startups



Juliet Bray
Regional Project Manager -
Accelerator



Raquel Fernández
Regional Administrator



Laura Ezcurra
Ecosystem Manager



Paula Hafner
Key Account Manager



Belén Moscoso
Corporate Venturing
Manager South



Izaskun Valle
Regional Project Officer -
Startup



Miriam Sastre
Regional Senior Communica-
tions and Events Manager



Carmen Galindo
Key Account Manager



Teresa Aguirre
Ecosystem Manager



Nestor Etxaleku
Business Support Manager



Asier Sannio
Regional Communications
Manager



Alba Molina
Regional Communication
Officer



Irene Mendoza
Regional Communication
Officer



Elvira Domingo
Senior Regional Impact
Portfolio Manager



Lara Rodríguez
Senior Regional
Programme Manager



Iñigo Rodilla
Regional Project Manager



Javier Cuartero de Frías
Regional Project Officer



Lorena Savani
Mission lead-Healthier Lives
through Food



Joanne Mazoyer
Senior Digital Communications
& Campaigns Manager



Amparo de San José
Senior Regional Business
Creation Portfolio Manager



Ana Alcaine
Entrepreneurship Project
Manager



Jose Luis Pita Romero
Regional Project Manager -
Agriculture



Alessia Calderalo
Digital Communications
Officer



Claudia Ciovica
Brand and Content Manager



Narjis Chakir
RisingFoodStars Scaleups
programme Lead

OUR MISSION

Our current food system is a leading cause of some of the biggest challenges the world is currently facing, from climate change, resource depletion and waste, to malnutrition, disease, and obesity

By 2050, we will need to feed and nourish more than 9 billion people in a safe, responsible, and sustainable way. However, our resources for producing food, such as land, water and energy will be put under increasing pressure as our climate changes.

Through our Missions-led approach, we will make a material difference to health adjusted life years by **enabling more consumers to make better choices** through access to healthier products and actionable information.

These are the 3 EIT Food Missions:

1. Healthier lives through food

The food system is influenced by many worldwide challenges and megatrends, such as population growth, globalisation, urbanisation, and climate change. Policy influences the production of types of food, what food reaches which consumers and at what price. **Whilst many factors influence consumers' dietary behaviours.** Real progress to prevent unhealthy diets, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across the lifecycle needs radical food systems transformation so that nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets are available to all people.

2. A net zero food system

The European Union aims to be climate-neutral by 2050, that is, an economy with net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective is at the heart of the European Green Deal and in line with the EU's commitment to global climate action under the Paris Agreement. The food system will play a **key role in realising these sustainability targets**. But what are the root causes, barriers and opportunities?



3. A fully transparent, resilient, and fair food system

The development of global food systems over the past 30 years has markedly altered how food is produced, distributed, and sold. While bringing about many changes for the better, it also greatly increases the risk of disease, contamination, fraud, and abuse of our planet and the many who work in the food system. A radical rethink of the whole agrifood system is needed, from production to consumption, to policy and legislation. To do so, **we need to review the barriers, opportunities and solutions** for a pathway to a fully transparent, resilient and fair food system.



BUSINESS CREATION

99

startups trained

7

startups created

EDUCATION

40,000

trained in South-led education activities (RIS HUBs education activities in Cyprus, Martinique, Turkey, Italy, Greece, and Spain) and Salvacomidas

18

number of innovations launched on the market by South stakeholders and partners

INNOVATION

11

innovations launched achieving a minimum 10 000 euros sales in revenues

2023 IN NUMBERS

PARTNERSHIP

12

strategic partners

25

delivery partners

31

community members

COMMUNICATION

248

journalist in Journalism Awards (Spain/Italy/Portugal)

526

media appearances

11

cross-KIC activities

1,613

participants in events

7

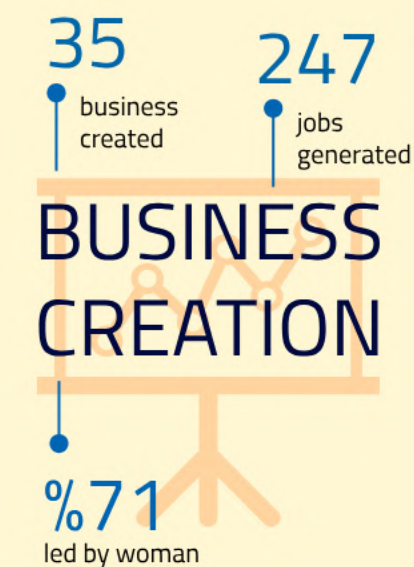
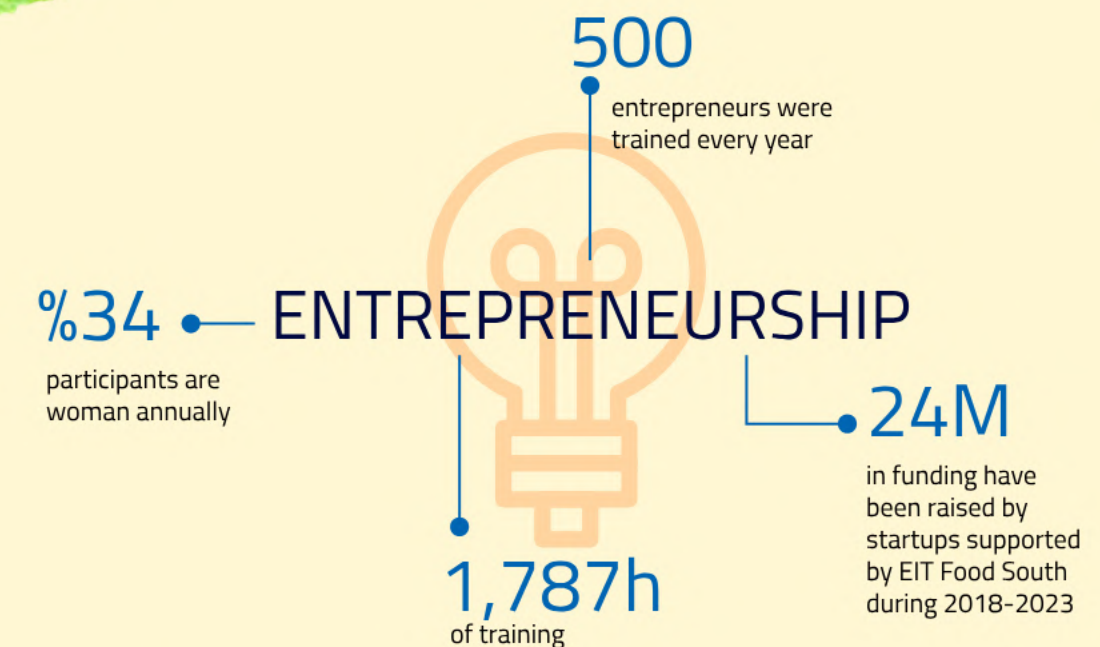
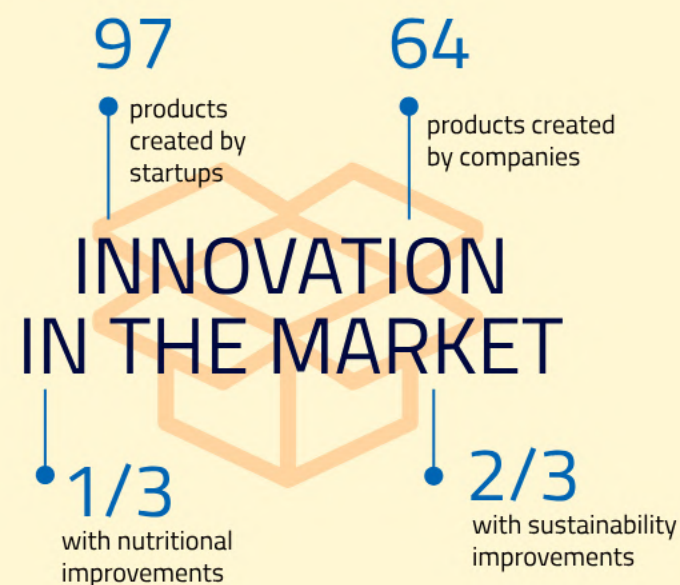
newsletters published

5-year impact (2018-2023)

INVESTING IN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Over the last five years Southern Europe has managed to secure an impressive of €66,4 million in funding from EIT Food. This financial support has been crucial for promoting the innovation activities led by prominent Southern Europe Companies.

DRIVING INNOVATION



DISCOVER *OUR* **KEY PROGRAMMES**

FAN >

The EIT Food Accelerator Network (EIT FAN) connects impactful agrifood startups with industry-leading corporate and research partners to pilot their technology and drive the ultimate goal: a successful market adoption.



< **EWA**

Training, mentoring, business coaching and networking opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the agrifood sector.



< **Test Farms**

Test Farms links agricultural startups with farmers and testing-land. Through enabling these links EIT Food wants to help innovative agritech ideas to validate and test their products and services, showcase their business to customers and investors and finally support the technological transformation in European agriculture.

Journalism Awards >

With the aim of disseminating good habits and healthy initiatives to society, generate collaborative relationships with the media and value the objectives for which EIT was created, EIT Food organises a Journalism Award in Agrifood Innovation and Sustainability at national level.





< Seedbed

The EIT Food Seedbed Incubator Programme is delivered by top EIT Food Partner Universities and Research and Innovation Organisations (Seedbed Hubs), providing their expertise in technology and product commercialisation to help entrepreneurs launch or progress a commercially viable business.

Los Salvacomidas >

Malnutrition is one of the biggest issues of our society and sadly, children are suffering the most. Concerned about the problem, a group of companies and associations have created "Los Salvacomidas", a project that aims to teach and educate children from a very young age, the basic knowledge and skills of nutrition that will shape their years to come. Also, an important highlight of the initiative is that they promote "zero waste" movement.



< Regenerative Agriculture

The Regenerative Agriculture Revolution is a series of activities whose overall aim is to help farmers and agrifood businesses adopt more regenerative farming practices and raise public awareness about the important health, environmental and economic benefits of eating regeneratively produced food.

Supernovas >

Supernovas is a programme that aspires to promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem with more women to shape the available innovations in the market.



TeamUp >

A 6-month programme that finds and matches up brilliant innovators with compatible and complementary profiles. TeamUp provides important tools and support to build your startup including expert guidance, world-class training, mentorship, networking and funding.



< Sales Booster

It is a custom-made programme that supports startups with training, coaching, expert advice, and network to prepare for their development and growth in new markets. It is designed for 2 types of startups: agrifood startups and startups with solutions that can be applied in the agrifood market.

Straight 2 market >

RIS Straight to Market (S2M) is an EIT Food programme developed under the RIS scheme which seeks to help start-ups, small or medium-sized companies across Southern RIS countries to bring to mainstream markets and supermarkets their new or significantly improved healthy/sustainable food products



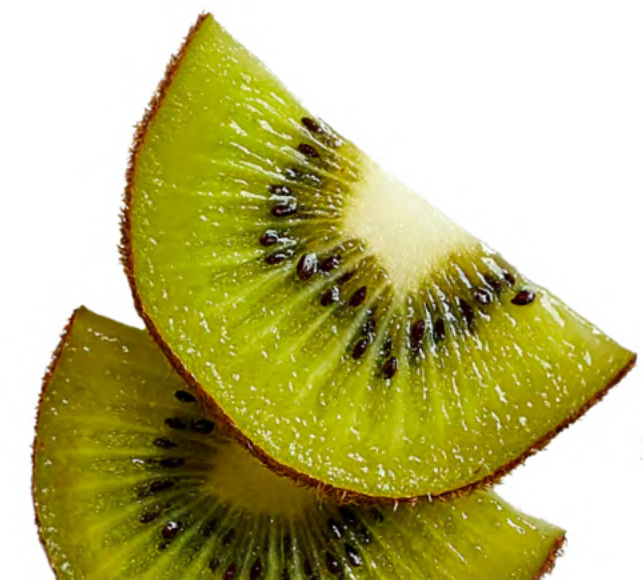
< Agrifood Investment Launchpad

The programme offers a one-day crash course designed for beginners and potential investors in the field. The course will be followed by an Investment Forum featuring a selection of European startups, providing participants with an opportunity to connect with experienced investors with years of practice in startup investment.



< Corporate Venturing

The programme performs matchmaking activities between world-leading industry and impactful agrifood startups to ensure corporate innovation. Corporate Venturing is the ideal space to solve immediate challenges, lower costs, identify new product lines, and drive value creation. Members have access to a community with more than 5,000 startups, where they can collaborate to transform the global food system.





Focus on **identifying and sharing capabilities and interests of EIT Food South partners** related to the EIT Food areas and strategic objectives.

IDENTIFY

INNOVATION FORUM

EIT Food VI Innovation Forum: *"We need to motivate healthy food production and education is the key"*



food and beverage industry - brought together experts from the agrifood industry, researchers and innovation agents at a global level.

The main objective of the VI Innovation Forum was to **encourage full transformation of the agrifood industry**. The event focused on the latest trends and innovations in **changing nutrition aimed at preventing diseases linked to poor nutritional habits and healthy aging**.

Ainara Basurko, Regional Deputy for Economic Promotion of Bizkaia, and Raúl Pérez Iracheta, Director of Food Quality and Industries of the Basque Government, opened the conference by stressing that the event is a good opportunity to learn, innovate and share knowledge.

For the sixth year in a row, the **EIT Food Innovation Forum brought together internationally renowned experts to address the key challenges facing the agrifood sector**. The conference focused on childhood obesity, sustainable diets, and the need to diversify proteins in the diet, among others.

The event, held as part of Food 4 Future (F4F) - the largest European congress on technological innovation in the

Throughout the event, several studies were showcased, for instance, Rubén Moreno Pardo, Secretary General of PRODULCE (Spanish Confectionery Association), **explained that research showed that obesity and overweight are negatively influenced by socio-economic factors**, together with low consumption of fruit and vegetables, and a sedentary lifestyle.

Moreover, Begüm Mutus, from the Sabri Ulker Foundation, showed the results of an interesting programme that was teaching students from 5 to 12 years old how to have a balanced diet for 32 weeks. **The main message the programme aimed to share was: 'you must eat everything, but you must know what they mean'**. In addition, Mutus highlighted the need for 'creating an impact on both sides', on students and teachers, as education was fundamental in all cases.

Antonio Torres, Director of Nutrition and Sustainability at Danone, **advocated education to raise awareness around the environmental impact of food**, as this could reduce Spain's carbon footprint by 70% and reduce the number of deaths, thereafter, **leading to reducing meat consumption**, especially red meat.

Later on, it was time for worldwide leading nutrition experts to address the challenges that the sector is currently facing. Harini Venkatamaran (Lux Reaserch), researcher Barbara Bray, Isabel Medina (CSIC), Ainara Llona (Eroski), Amparo Roca (Al Talantum), Robin De Croon (KU of Leuven) or the firm Porto Muiños, among others, were some of the keynote speakers.



FUN&FAN

More than 150 attendees came together to listen to agrifood experts, leading companies, and startups in the V FUN&FAN

D

uring the 9th and 10th of October, San Mamés Stadium (Bilbao) welcomed the fifth edition of the FUN&FAN to talk about entrepreneurship, innovation and many other topics in the agrifood sector.

For 5 years in a row, EIT Food has been organising **one of the most important events of entrepreneurship and innovation**. This year's event has been held in the football stadium of Bilbao, San Mamés Stadium, during the days of October 9 and 10.

Throughout the **2-days event several agrifood experts and leading entrepreneurs**, like Andreas Blüthner, Founder & CEO at DR. Blüthner & Partner, and Beatriz Magro, CEO and Co-founder at Komvida Kombucha, got the chance to **talk about the biggest challenges of today**, such as malnutrition, climate change, poor soil health, and water scarcity.

'All about agrifood innovation and entrepreneurship'

On early morning October 9, the football stadium opened its gates to warmly receive the first day of the V FUN&FAN. The event officially began with the institutional welcome of Begoña Pérez Villarreal, Director at EIT Food South; Olatz Goitia, General Director at Beaz Bizkaia; and Raúl Perez Iratxeta, Quality and Food Industries Director at the Basque Government.

Laura Cristóbal Gracia, Director at EFE Agro, and Damien Jourdan, Open Innovation Director at Danone, **took the floor to talk about entrepreneurs and their impact in the agrifood sector**. Jourdan pointed out the importance of creating synergies between farmers and manufacturers to support local project.

'One in three produced food is thrown away. There are many opportunities to move forward in sustainable packaging, carbon footprint measurement, or the studies of nutritional values'
– Andreas Blüthner, Founder & CEO at DR. Blüthner & Partner

Next to talk was Andreas Blüthner, Nutrition Exdirector at Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation and now CEO at DR. Blüthner & Partner, who shared inspiring insights on how to create a business to fight food waste. Right after, Alicia López de Orcáriz, Medicine Director at Cinfa Laboratories, and Josune Ayo, CEO and Co-founder at Gembioma, joined the stage to **analyse the accessibility of new nutritional alternatives**, highlighting the use of probiotics, always using them as a supplements and never as a replacement.

security and all the phases a startups must overcome to finally launch their product in the market.

After a refreshing break, it was time for Roberto Ruiz, Head of Animal Production Department at Neiker, Pablo López, Co-founder at Innogando, and Javier Teja, Technician at Kaiku, to restart the event. During the roundtable, Roberto Ruiz presented the keys to reduce animal impact in livestock



The day continued with many agrifood entrepreneurs. The first to interact was Mary Grace Gasco, Founder of ScapeCrop, who has developed an agricultural software to help farms manage irrigation and increase crop resilience through satellite data and AI. She took attendees through all her entrepreneurial story and **gave advice on how to start a startup from scratch**.

Sara de Berandis and Oscar González, both members of EFSA, closed the morning with an explanatory presentation of EFSA's function to **ensure food**

farm; Teja explained Kaiku's **plan to decrease carbon footprint, which is based on farmers and manufacturers alliances**. Finally, Pablo López, showcased RUMI, an app with GPS location created by Innogrande that monitors the state of cattle in real life.

The last session of the day was moderated by Melissa Comellas, Agriculture Project Manager South at EIT Food, who invited Jose Luis García de Castro, Director at Poultree, and Massimiliano Miatton, Regenerative Agriculture Training Programme

Coordinator for Italy at EIT Food, to join the stage to debate about regenerative agriculture and **ways of improving agrifood value chain**.

'Woman entrepreneurship in the 21st century'

The second day of the V FUN&FAN set the light to woman in the agrifood sector. Step by step **we see more successful woman in food industry**, a great example is Beatriz Magro, CEO and Co-founder at Komvida Kombucha, who opened the day with an **inspiring speech about her leading and growing company**.

Begum Mutus, General Director at Yildiz Holding, was another excellent keynote speaker that talked about her consortium, which is one of the main agrifood consortium of Turkey. The second day went also hand in hand with many ground-breaking women, for instance, Inês Santos Silva, Co-Initiator & Ops Lead at AthenaDAO, Neta Lavon, Co-founder and CTO at Aleph Farms, Sabiha Apaydin, Wine Expert at Root Origin Soil, Vanessa Archontidou, Founder at AWomanCanBe.org, and Anna Fedulow, Founder & Managing Director at Croton Capital.

To give a great end to the 5th edition of the event, Ramón Perisé, R&D Head Chef at Restaurante Mugaritz, gave a **motivational speech to encourage entrepreneurs to keep innovating the agrifood industry**.

JOURNALISM AWARDS SPAIN

(Spain, Italy and Portugal)

Informative Breakfast and Journalism awards Spain

In the morning of 18 December 2023 EIT Food celebrated an informative breakfast to present the **'5 years impact' report and honour the 3 winners of the V Journalism Award Spain.**

The event began with a press conference compound by Begoña Pérez Villarreal, EIT Food South Director; Victoria Moreno, Research Professor at CSIC; Maite Muruzábal, Gropu AN Foundation

Director and Alfredo Arbeloa, Managing Directo at Grupo AN, and Angela Magno, Communication and Marketing Director at BIOAZUL.

After seeing the main outcomes of EIT Food throughout the 5 years, speakers took **the chance to discuss about the challenges within the agrifood sector**, as well as future innovative solutions.



The second part of the event was focused on the awards ceremony of the Journalism Awards. In its 5th edition, **the Journalism awards received over 70 applications**, but only 3 made it to the podium. **Carlos G. Cano, Gastro SER Director, won the first prize (€1,500)** followed by **Belén Delgado from EFEAgro (2nd prize being €1,000)** and **Erika Elizari from Teknopolis, a programme at Euskal Telebista (3rd prize being €500).**



JOURNALISM AWARDS ITALY

O

n 22 October, the EIT Food Journalism Awards in Innovation and Sustainability in the Agrifood sector celebrated the 4th edition in Italy, at the Ce+Gusto event in Bologna. In this round, more than 100 entries were received from 57 journalists, marking a 120% increase compared to the previous edition.

On the podium there was **Margherita Fronte**, who received the first prize for her work 'The Call of the Meat', for which she received €1,500. The second and third prizes were awarded to **Paola Pellai** for her piece 'Potatoes, Lettuce and Freedom', and **Anna Fregonara** for her work 'The Milk Farm of the Future', for which they received €1,000 and €500 respectively



JOURNALISM AWARDS PORTUGAL



Lisbon welcomed the 3rd edition of the EIT Food Journalism Award in Food Innovation and Sustainability in Portugal, which was held on the 2nd of November. **João Faiões and João Tuna** earned the first prize (1500€) with a long report about honeybees on national broadcaster SIC named '**SOS Abelhas**'. Then, both, the second (1000€), '**Os Impactos da seca no sul do país**' written by Rui Frias and Gerardo Santos from 'Diário

de Notícias', and the third prize (500€), '**O deserto não está tão longe assim**' created by Ana Tulha and Reinaldo Rodrigues from 'Notícias Magazine', were long-form articles about the impacts of drought and water scarcity in Portugal.

VISIBILITY

Focus on **increasing visibility at regional level**, building links with relevant organizational stakeholders and developing a detailed communication plan.



RAW!: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

EIT Food arranges a series of activities for farmers, agrifood businesses, and consumers to scale regenerative agriculture in Europe. The aim is to spread knowledge and outcomes of our project to build a European regenerative farming community

Together we organise trainings and lead advisory programmes for farmers **to learn to transition from conventional to regenerative agriculture, improve soil health, foster biodiversity, produce more nutritious crops, and eventually make their farms more competitive in the long run.** We offer tools and curricula, which we constantly improve so that the farmer programme can continue to scale up into the future:

- > 2-day training sessions **run by experienced regenerative session**
- > 3-years advisory programme **mentored by experienced regenerative consultants**
- > The Regenerative Agriculture Manuals – specific guidebooks **to help farmers transition to regenerative agriculture**

RAW! Summit 2023

From November 23rd to 24th, farmers, researchers and other representatives of the agrifood system met in Finca Dehesa El Milagro, Toledo, **to talk about the importance of science, technology and innovation to solve the challenges of regenerative agriculture.**

RAW! Summit was different from conventional events. Instead, throughout 2 whole days many activities and experiments **were made to chart the course for the regenerative agrifood ecosystem** on the Iberian Peninsula.

During the first day, 63 participants explored the stories of farmers, aiming to **discover what are the inner qualities needed in times of transformation.**

The focus was on how **these insights could guide decisions**, accelerating the transition toward regenerative management on the Iberian Peninsula.

The second day held a **collective brainstorming, generating 14 practical questions** with which participants could analyse and find solutions to introduce the regenerative agriculture in Spain. The day addressed a number of topics, such as ecosystem services and consumer integration.

By the end of the event, **7 projects were germinated to help farming transformation:**

1. Scientifically **demonstrating the nutritional density of regeneratively farmed produce.**
2. Development of a **new fully functional bovine breed for regenerative systems.**

3. **Lighthouse farms in regenerative agriculture** on the Iberian peninsula.

4. **Creation of an educational farm** for agroforestry and community building.

5. **Agroforestry observatory integrating ecosystem biodiversity.**

6. **Performance measurement framework** for regenerative agriculture.

7. **Network to connect producers with entrepreneurs.**

RAW! Summit 2023 enabled participants **to share valuable knowledge and experiences about regenerative agriculture** and gave the opportunity to transform ideas into action by creating a knowledge network.





LOS SALVACOMIDAS

M

Misión Salvacomidas

Misión Salvacomidas are one-day events for children, teenagers, and/or families that focuses on raising awareness and educating citizens about food waste and its consequences, promoting healthy nutrition, and exploring the agrifood sector. During 2023, Los Salvacomidas organised 2 workshops: Career Day on 18 May 2023 and Misión Salvacomidas Santiago on 27 September 2023



Career day

May, 18th in Bilbao (Spain)

On 18 May, almost 100 students attended the Food 4 Future, the leading FoodTech summit for the food industry, at Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC). Over a whole morning, students engaged with experts, explored career opportunities within the agrifood system, and discovered the latest innovations in the food industry.



Misión Salvacomidas Santiago

September, 27th in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (Spain)

On September 27, over 50 students from Trisquel International School (Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain) came together for the premiere of the new video games of Los Salvacomidas. The enjoyment continued throughout a day full of fun and healthy activities about healthy eating habits and zero waste.



S

School Programme

On 2023 Los Salvacomidas opened the 3rd edition of the School Programme, which educates primary students about healthy eating habits and food waste through dynamic and interactive resources adapted to the competence-based learning curriculum described in the LOMLOE. As well, same as past editions, the programme features a competition with which students win up to 1.000€ in prizes.

Moreover, the third edition brought new features:

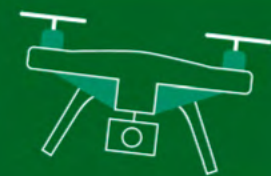
- > 2 video games (The Perfect Menu and The Dragon's Lair).
- > Teaching resources in 5 languages (Spanish, English, Basque, Catalan and Galician).
- > A new participation category, which involved Associations of Leisure Time.

TEST FARMS

Test Farms links agricultural startups & individuals with farmers and testing-land



The new edition
of Test Farms
is here!



Through enabling these links EIT Food wants to help innovative agritech ideas to validate and test their products and services, showcase their business to customers and investors and finally support the technological transformation in European agriculture.

EIT Food is offering Test Farms program to the following applicants:

RIS startups & individuals - incorporated companies from the following countries:

> **EU Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

> **Horizon Europe Associated Countries*:** Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

> **Outermost Regions:** Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

Non-RIS startups & individuals - Innovators registered in one of the following countries:

• Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom.

AGRIFOOD INVESTMENT LAUNCHPAD

More than fifteen investors joined the Agrifood Investment Launchpad held in Turkey

A

programme specially designed for impact investors and entrepreneurs in the field of food and agriculture was featured.

The Agrifood Investment Launchpad, held for the first time in Turkey on the 2nd of November 2023 in collaboration with Foodback and Alethina Impact and with the support of EIT Food, was a food and agriculture investment forum open to anyone who wants to become an angel investor or a food and agriculture entrepreneur, who wants to better see the opportunities in the Turkish agriculture and food industry.

In this event, a programme specially designed for impact investors and entrepreneurs in the field of food and agriculture was featured.

Throughout the conference various topics were discussed, including examples of

startups in the world of food and agriculture, investment trends, angel investment networks, investment preparation recommendations for entrepreneurs, and the investment and post-investment processes of successful entrepreneurs, among other relevant topics.

The platform helped to ensure that investors and entrepreneurs could connect, share knowledge and experiences, and explore opportunities in the food and agriculture sector in Turkey. This cooperation, underscores the significance of this initiative in promoting investment and entrepreneurship in the food and agriculture industry in Turkey.



TALENTS

Focus on **identifying and supporting students, fresh ideas and startups in order to help them develop** and grow within the agrifood sector.



CERES AWARDS

Unveiled the winners of the first edition of the CERES Awards by EIT Food South

O

n October 9th, EIT Food South celebrated the ceremony of the first CERES Awards ever.

The awards prized our community and the success of all the startups that have been supported by EIT Food South and all farmers that have positively impacted the environment since their participation in an EIT Food South programme.

Among all the applications received, the jury selected the following 9 winners:



EIT Food South Programmes, 4 categories and 6 prizes of €3,000:

1. Best Marketed Innovation Award:

remarkable products or services developed during or after participating in an EIT Food South project or programme.

Winner: Microfy.ai

4. Women in Agrifood Award:

a specific award to female entrepreneurs who took part in an EIT Food South project or programme and have. In this category we will grant two different awards.

4.1. Marketed Innovation Award:

innovative products/services created or improved by women entrepreneurs.

Winner: Ekolive

4.2. Female Founder Award:

female-led startups consolidated since their participation in the EWA Programme.

Winner: Farmhood

2. Excellence in Growth Award:

to acknowledge the progress startups have had since their participation in an EIT Food South project or programme. In this category we will grant two different awards:

2.1. Employment Creator Award:

startups that have significantly broadened their workforce.

Winner: Nucaps

2.2. Revenue Generator Awards:

the capacity to highly increase their financial revenues.

Winner: Agricolus

3. Fundraising Startup Award:

startups which have attracted a great amount of funds, whether they come from public or private sources.

Winner: Pydro

Growth Awards for Regenerative Farmers, 3 prizes up to €10,000:

The category honours the most successful projects to reduce carbon footprint and implement innovative technologies to improve farm management.

This category granted 3 prizes up to €10,000:

1. €10,000 Winner: Félix del Villar Igea

2. €7,000 Winner: Mas Casanova - Xevi Quirante

3. €3,000 Winner: Poultree - José Luis García de Castro

EWA: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD

A special masterclass for EWA entrepreneurs in Spain closed up the EIT Food V FUN&FAN

D

uring the masterclass, Mathieu Carenzo from IESE guided the participants on the art of effectively pitching their business ideas to investors and ensuring that their proposals align with audience expectations.

EIT Food's V FUN&FAN event concluded with a complete agenda of thought-provoking discussions, empowering speeches, and memorable moments.

The event, which explored sustainability, resilience, and female entrepreneurship in the food sector, left attendees inspired and motivated to make a positive impact on the industry. Been also a great opportunity where unforgettable moments were shared among EIT Food South partners and startups from the ecosystem.

In parallel, a series of stands allowed the startups currently working with EIT Food South to showcase their businesses. Among them, the 10 participants of the EWA Programme could not be missed.

It is worth noting that the second day of the event put the spotlight on female entrepreneurship in the industry. EWA Entrepreneurs and the rest of the attendees had the opportunity of hearing inspirational speeches from notable women, including Beatriz Magro Nogales, CEO & Co-Founder at Komvida Organic Kombucha, and Begüm Mutus, General Manager at Yildiz Holding.

"My attendance at the EIT FUN&FAN event was enriching, as I had the opportunity to

meet key players in the food industry in Spain and Europe, customers or potential current or future partners. I also met entrepreneurs with whom I can share experiences and support each other from now on".

- Priscila Silva, Co-Founder & CMO at Gundo App

However, the day did not end there. Following the event, EWA Entrepreneurs received a special masterclass.

Mathieu Carenzo, an entrepreneur and Business Angel with experience at companies like Glovo and Trioteca, along with his role as a professor at IESE Business School, shared his invaluable expertise with the aspiring female entrepreneurs.

During the masterclass, Mathieu Carenzo guided the participants on the art of effectively pitching their business ideas to investors and ensuring that their proposals align with audience expectations. The session even included a pitch practice, with Mathieu providing valuable feedback and insights to improve their pitch skills.

"The FUN&FAN event allowed us to showcase the next innovative product we will be launching on the market and we were very happy with the success and positive feedback we received.

In addition, we were able to meet the EIT Food community, our colleagues from EWA and different companies from the agrifood sector with whom we created connections. It was a very positive and enriching meeting for Madari".

- Anaís Diez, Co-Founder & COO at Madari



STARTUPS FROM SEEDBED & FAN PROGRAMMES

New startups growing up and settling down thanks to Seedbed and FAN programmes

FAN

Algaementum

An algae-biotech startup, specialised in microalgae production within the scope of the Circular Bio-Economy (Portugal).

Innogando

Created by RUMI, a livestock GPS location system that monitors the real time state of the animal and gathers all information in a handy App for easy access at any time (Spain).

Meteotrack

It uses advanced technology to accurately forecast weather patterns, allowing farmers to make informed decisions about their crops and operations. This smart technology leads to improved crop yields, cost savings and a more sustainable and profitable agricultural industry (Poland).

MINAGRO

Develops high-quality green products for crop care. Its

greener solutions, based on sustainable raw materials, aim to improve crop protection and nutrition inputs, whilst limiting the crop care industry's impact on the environment (Belgium).

Noelf AND BV

It has a SelfDNA patented technology that limits the growth of any pest- and pathogen population. The products are scalable, affordable and more than safe, ready to roll-out as valuable seed-treatment technology (Netherlands).

Oligofeed

Has developed a scientifically proven supplement that boosts bees' natural immunity (France).

Osiris Agriculture

Helps farmers to save time and money, reducing their environmental impact by automating and optimising the production of European industrial vegetables with a robotic service (France).

Perplant

Democratizes AI in agriculture by supporting sustainable farming with a cost-effective, plug & play and AI-based camera sensor that optimises the usage of pesticides and fertilizer, and increases harvest yield (Denmark).

SpaceCrop Technologies

An agricultural software company that helps farms manage irrigation, with weather forecasting and farm management, using satellite data and artificial intelligence (Hungary).

WeavAir

It offers a digital platform for direct measurements, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions for a more effective ESG investment & energy transition implementation, financing & insurance (Poland).

SEEDBED

ALT-G Protein

Using microalgae to support food manufacturers in creating nutritious and sustainable plant-based meals with minimal ingredients and processing.

BioFynt

A sustainable protein powder that enable food manufacturers to easily incorporate protein, for partial replacement or enrichment, in common tasty food that everybody can enjoy.

BravelyCultured

Developing innovative precision fermentation technology to produce 'animal-free' proteins in an economically viable way and at scale.

Circular Fiber

Regenerating artichoke waste into Karshof - a sustainable and healthy vegetable flour.

FreeShakes

Improving the quality of life of people intolerant to fructose through a new generation of fructose-free fruit products that maintain the integrity and nutritional value of the fruit.

Gova

A solution for companies that struggle to develop a natural sweetener without all the side effects of bloating, calories, long-term health challenges, and more.

PFX Biotech

Utilising precision fermentation and system biology to produce human milk proteins as sustainable alternative proteins of the highest functional and nutritional properties

Preebio

Improving human health and wellness through revolutionary prebiotic delivery systems, offering innovative and sustainable solutions for a healthier lifestyle.

ReBind Food

An affordable, plant-based, allergen-free, functional binder made from a food industry byproduct to replace the risky and pricy binders of today, like sugar, eggs, and other food additives.

The Good Pulse

Helping food companies to develop nutritional plant-based cheeses with reduced ingredients and more sustainable ingredient blends made from pulses.

UBLII

UBLII produces natural sweet proteins, a healthier, eco-friendly alternative to sugar and sweeteners.

Van Sweethoven

Excessive sugar consumption is a massive burden on our wellbeing and healthcare systems. Our product is a sustainable dietary fiber that combines sweet taste and prebiotic properties.



eit Food Funded by the European Union

We will help you develop your idea at **Seedbed Incubator Programme.**

Send us your application and let's change the world!

The graphic features a dark background with a light green circular logo on the right containing a stylized plant and a lightbulb. The text is in white and green, with the Seedbed Incubator Programme name in a larger, bold green font.

SUPERNOVAS: WOMEN2INVEST

Supernovas WIN Investment Forum empowered women in food, manufacturing and urban mobility

A

fter a successful first forum focused on food, Supernovas WIN (Women Investment Network) **geared up for the second, focusing exclusively on female-led startups in the manufacturing sector.**

The event took place online on October 18th and it was open to investors active in the Manufacturing field, either venture capital funds, corporate funds, business angels or other type of investors.

This groundbreaking event offered investors a unique opportunity to access curated investment

prospects, handpicked by EIT Manufacturing, the largest manufacturing-focused Knowledge and Innovation Community within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

Participants **attended an event focused on innovation and technology for the manufacturing sector**, in particular flexible production systems; sustainability, resource optimization and circular economy in manufacturing; digital and collaborative solutions and automation and robotics.



AGRIFOOD FUTURES EXPERT COMMUNITY



T

he EIT Food Agrifood Futures Expert Community **brings together agrifood experts from business, academia, and research backgrounds to share and collaborate around the most pressing agrifood challenges**, such as feeding the growing population and innovating sustainable processes in agrifood.

The project is the go-to expert community platform in the agrifood industry, **providing quick access to the latest industry news**, must-know information, interesting insights, and expert opinions.

Open collaboration between leading agrifood experts across the industry brings new insights and more impactful change to the industry. Project opportunities, mentorship programmes and roles and exclusive content make this the ideal place to stay up to date with everything in agrifood.

CORPORATE VENTURING

W

hile the V Fun&Fan was happening, Corporate Venturing scheduled a workshop on 9 October 2023 for members of the community and a limited number of companies. **The aim of the workshop was to build relationships, foster collaboration and identify touchpoints to achieve innovation within corporates.**

The event was divided into 3 sessions. To begin with, participants learnt all about KPIs, from their implementation to monitoring and reporting. Also, they had some time to **hold a group discussion and share their cases and best practices.**

In the second round, EFSA (European Food Security Agency) took the floor to talk about the 2027 strategy for science, food security and sustainable. Thereupon, a **space was made available for attendees to ask any question related to the topic.**

For the third and last session, there was an open discussion with an inspirational talk testimonial by Damien Jourdan which picked up on one of the hottest topics in the sector: **Achieving Net Zero in the food system.**

The day ended with an **inspirational panel regarding trends in agrifood investment and open innovation.**



SYNERGIES

Focus on fostering synergies to promote innovation by searching thematic and funding complementarities.





WASEABI

The conference 'Get more value from your seafood side-stream', organised by Food & Bio Cluster Denmark, was held on 24 April 2023 in Barcelona. **Around 75 representatives from the fishing industry came to hear about different solutions for a more sustainable and valuable exploitation of seafood side-streams**, as well as to discover inspirational ways to use the side-streams.

All the solutions that were presented in the conference were developed by the 13 organisation behind the EU-funded project **WaSeabi**: EIT Food, Azti, DTU (Technical University of Denmark), Jeka Fish, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark, Pescados Marcelino, Chalmers, Ghent University, Barna, Sweden Pelagic, Nutrition Sciences, Royal Greenland, and Alfa Laval.

These are the topics that were covered during the session:

- > **From side-streams to products**
- > **How to select the best option for valorisation of your side-streams**
- > **What are the environmental impacts of the proposed solutions?**
- > **How do the consumers feel about eating foods that contain ingredients made from seafood side-streams?**



Supporting the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"
across national communities To establish 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses



NATIOONS

NATIOONS is a European project funded under the HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02 programme and coordinated by Aarhus University (Denmark), **which is one of the nine new projects selected to prepare the ground for the transition towards healthy soils** by 2030 by the European Research Executive Agency.

The main objective of NATIOONS is **reaching out to and preparing regional and national stakeholders across Europe** to apply for and implement soil health Living Labs, facilitating the deployment of the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe."

NATIOONS will act as a messenger of the Mission, raising awareness among national and regional stakeholders, providing access to capacity-building materials and information, with the aim of achieving the mobilisation of national groups of stakeholders as potential applicants for regional soil health LLs Open Calls funded by the EU Mission Soil.

The NATIOONS' consortium is formed by 14 partners from EU and AC countries and gathers different types of stakeholders involved in soil and land management. As a partner, EIT Food will contribute with its network, expertise and valued knowledge acquired from the Regenerative Agriculture Programme, where farmers across Southern Europe **are educated about how they can farm more sustainably, how to improve soil health, foster biodiversity, produce more nutritious crops, and make their farms more profitable.**

Among other tasks, EIT Food will participate on the Natioons tailored activities organizing National Engagement Events to **create awareness of the Soil Health Missions in Turkey, Cyprus and Israel.**



NOVAFERT

EIT Food hosted for 2 days Novafert's 3rd General Assembly

EIT Food is collaborating with 8 pan-European partners through Novafert project to **reducing the environmental impact and the external nutrient dependence in agriculture**, fostering the use of alternative fertilisers obtained from secondary raw materials.

EIT Food hosted for 2 days Novafert's 3rd General Assembly at EIT Food's facilities in Zamudio, in which all 9 partners were together presenting previous achievements, as well as sharing and agreeing future steps in their path to streamline the use of alternative fertilisers.

During September 13th to 14th, the progress of the project and the scene implementation **were discussed to enhance and streamline the use of alternative fertilisers across Europe.** Furthermore, EIT Food had the opportunity to visit NEIKER's facilities, located in Arcaute, to learn more about their project SEA2LAND H2020-EU and build synergies between the initiatives.

Both were **great to promote more circular and sustainable food systems**, as Novafert was built to demonstrate the technical, economic, and environmental feasibility, as well as to prove the safe use of a wide portfolio of alternative fertilising products and NEIKER's Sea2Land project aimed to produce advanced bio-based fertilisers from fisheries wastes.

TeamUp

The third edition of the Startup Team Builder programme of EIT Food announced the four innovative agrifood startups that won 2023 year's prizes

On November 6th and 7th, the EIT Food TeamUp programme concluded with the Pitching Days in which 15 teams competed for the prizes of €40,000, €25,000, €15,000, and €10,000.

The competition was judged by a panel comprised of top agrifood experts: Stavros Tsitouras (Head of Research and Development at Foodscale Hub), Marion Bazille (Program Manager at Big Idea Ventures), Giancarlo Addario (Principal at Five Seasons Ventures), Patricia Larráyoiz (Innovation Hub Manager at CNTA) and Felix Schweikardt (Co-Founder & CEO at auvisus GmbH).

The jury had the difficult task of choosing four winners among 15 excellent teams. In the end, the jury awarded the prizes to startups with the most impactful agrifood solutions and the most promising teams.



1st Prize - €40,000 BeadRoots, Italy

Led by Angela Bonato, Marco Laino, Paolo Pezzolla and Valerio De Luca, BeadRoots is a completely **biodegradable and eco-friendly solution to help farmers tackle drought through natural superabsorbent polymers**, helping retain more water in the soil.

2nd Prize - €25,000 Biopols, Turkiye

Develops small microcapsules of **100% natural biopolymer-based food packaging and coating solution that extends the shelf life of products like fruits, vegetables and meat**. The startup, led by Sena Tarim Yalçinkaya and Naci Kahraman, aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the food and beverage industry by reducing waste and offering a greener alternative to current packaging.

3rd Prize - €15,000 BioDairy Labs, Poland

BioDairy Labs is **the future of plant-based fats**. Abdul Keeri and Monika Ledzion manufacture healthy, animal-free fat from plant oil, **offering nutritious fat ingredients to the food industry** without compromising taste and texture, while prioritizing environmental sustainability.

4th Prize - €10,000 Raw edge, Estonia

Marilis Mia Topp, Kristel Vene and Aleš Ogorevc work on blending local, **natural ingredients at the forefront of a new era in health**, while grabbing attention with innovative nutrition and eco-friendly focus. Raw edge pioneers' revolutionary fermentation tech, crafting delicious, low-sugar, gut-friendly eats that redefine wellness and taste.

STRAIGHT2MARKET

Straight2Market supported the market launch of a new vegan Bolognese sauce

The sauce developed by JAKION was launched by EROSKI with the support of EIT Food

EIT Food's Straight2Market programme played a crucial role in supporting the market launch of a revolutionary vegan Bolognese sauce developed by JAKION. EROSKI, a leading retailer, introduced this innovative sauce with the backing of EIT Food.

Crafted from local ingredients, the vegan sauce set itself apart by being free from added sugars and additives, catering to the growing demand for wholesome and clean-label products.

The journey began in October 2022 when JAKION initiated the project by **organizing a co-creation workshop involving consumers**. The collaborative efforts bore fruit, and by the summer of 2023, the delectable vegan Bolognese sauce was ready for market release.

Consumers can now find this innovative product in over 50 EROSKI stores, as well as on the online supermarket platform.



PARTNERSHIP



OUR COMMUNITY



EIT Food South

Calle Serrano Anguita, n° 13
28004 Madrid. Spain.

Parque Tecnológico de Bizkaia
Lekandene. Laida.

Bidea 214. 48170 Zamudio
(Bizkaia) Spain.

Sign up to our newsletter
newsletter | EIT Food (bmvit.es)



EITFood.eu



@EITFood



EIT Food



EIT Food



EIT Food



Food



Co-funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

