



Newsletter n°9

June 2022

SUSFOOD2 PRIVACY POLICY

Dear user,

Starting from May 25th 2018, the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has become effective; this requires the change of the privacy terms related to our communication channels.

If you are not interested anymore in receiving news, invitations, and updates related to the activities promoted by SUSFOOD2, please click on the [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) link and your contact details in our database will be cancelled.

EDITORIAL



After more than 10 years of strengthening research and innovation on sustainable food systems,

SUSFOOD2 comes to an official end on June 30th 2022. This leaves us with mixed feelings but we are mainly proud of the networks' achievements and will celebrate during our 10 years anniversary event in Brussels (16th and 17th of June). This Editorial of the last official SUSFOOD2 Newsletter is a good opportunity to express our gratitude. First of all thanks to you and all readers for being interested and following our updates. A big thank you also to all the researchers that have applied for funding and to those who were successful, bringing our SUSFOOD objectives to live. We really have highly relevant and interesting research projects. And of course a thank you to all network partners, funders, managers and our External Advisory Board, for the good atmosphere, engagement and constructive collaboration. And last but not least a very special thanks to the SUSFOOD2 Executive Committee for your hard and successful work, SUSFOOD2 was only possible with your contribution and devotion.

For our 10 year anniversary we collected some testimonies, a collection of which you can also find within this newsletter. To close this editorial we would like to share two of our own testimonies:

"My heart beats for making a difference with R&I and for the broad and complex theme of food. Thus, SUSFOOD was, and is, for me a very important action. But it has been much more. I remember my first meeting in 2012 in Paris, when I joined the network supporting a colleague. Taking over the coordination task and preparing the Cofund from 2015 onwards has been a very diverse, interesting and sometimes challenging work. I learned a lot but foremost, I had the huge pleasure to be surrounded by a great bunch of people. I am sure that these relations and friendships and the motivation to work towards sustainable and resilient food systems for our future will continue." (Nikola Hassan)

"The decision that I should act as an intermediary coordinator during Nikolas Baby-timeout came quite suddenly and surprising for me and at first I was a bit afraid to step into so important shoes. But I actually didn't need to worry, because the SUSFOOD2 community is so engaged and enthusiastic and at the same time friendly and helpful that it is a pleasure to work together and experience real teamwork for the important aim of creating sustainable food systems. I am deeply grateful that I had the possibility of being a part of this success story." (Frank Hensgen)

HIGHLIGHT

10 year anniversary and final event



The final conference of SUSFOOD2 "Looking back – moving forward" will take place physically in Brussels, Belgium, on **June 16 and 17**.

The conference theme is **"ERA-NET SUSFOOD: Towards sustainable food systems, 10 years' research for a better future"**.

We are looking forward to keynotes by Dr. Florence Tartanac from FAO on *"Food systems as holistic approach"* and Dr. Daniela L  th from the European Commission/ DG RTD on *"Mid-and longterm goals from F2F and Food2030"*, as well as to hear several inspirational talks about project examples and insights from the last 10 years. Moreover we aim to learn more about SUSFOOD achievements and lessons learned but also about future actions under Horizon Europe: Partnership on Food Systems, FOODPathS CSA and Green ERA-Hub. On both days, we will organise a panel discussion, where we will elaborate on *"Impact of R&I on the transition of food systems, and future needs for R&I"* and *"From ERA-Nets to Partnerships - transition of the cooperation framework and practices"*. This, and much more will be organized on June 16 and 17, check out the [programme](#) for more details.

Follow the event via webstreaming

SUSFOOD2 ACTIVITIES

Survey for the 2013 and 2014 call

The first SUSFOOD network started under FP7 and ran from 2011 to 2014, SUSFOOD2 ERA-Net builds on and accelerates the work of the SCAR Collaborative Working Group established in Denmark in 2010. Major achievements under FP7 were the development of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and a meta-knowledge base that produced the SUSFOOD Country Report, as well as two research calls, in 2013 and in 2014, to fund a total of 15 projects. Taking advantage of the 10th anniversary, SUSFOOD2 approached all partners involved in the projects of the first two calls (2013 and 2014), within the first SUSFOOD network. The aim was to learn more about the long-term effects the projects had.

SUSFOOD CREATED LONG LASTING NETWORKS.

76% of SUSFOOD project partners still work together.

SUSFOOD PROJECTS LED TO REAL LIFE IMPACT.

SUSFOOD projects developed products, methods, services and techniques and also prototypes. 2 projects reported marketable products and 4 projects developed marketable services.

SUSFOOD PROJECTS LED TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

For example in the way of changed policies, changed behaviours, practices and various other solutions. Examples are guidelines for 3-D printing of food, reduced energy consumption in freezing processes and report to national government that contributed to rethinking of policies.

SUSFOOD PROJECTS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FOLLOW UP PROJECTS.

For 72% of the participants the SUSFOOD funded project led to additional funding and new projects after it was finished, up to 3 follow up projects per Partner were reported. In most cases the additional funding was of national sources. This explains why in the majority of follow up projects, no partners of the former projects were involved. The follow ups were mainly research projects, however, in two cases projects were concerned with implementation of research results.

Food system transition needs incentives and policy support



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

RESEARCH YIELDS SOLUTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, BUT FOOD SYSTEM TRANSITION NEEDS INCENTIVES AND POLICY SUPPORT.

This policy brief indicates how research results can support the scientific evidence to enable a transition towards more sustainable food systems. The brief is based on the results of 12 research projects funded under the SUSFOOD2 co-funded call 2017, spanning three thematic areas: resource efficiency and valorization, processing technologies, and consumer behaviour.

MAIN FINDINGS:

1. Food loss and waste can be reduced and re-used for value added products.
2. New technologies are evolving but the risks for early adopters need to be mitigated.
3. Incentives are needed to promote sustainable food practices throughout the food systems.
4. Affordability, consciousness, and responsibility of food system actors are key factors for enabling sustainable food choices.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide clear messages to consumers to increase the trust in food
2. Harmonize the nutritional and sustainability regulations and labels
3. Support the uptake of new technologies and side stream valorization
4. Create a forum to collect the evidence and discuss regulatory aspects for new technologies



1 JAN 2017 - 30 JUNE 2022
ERA-NET COFUND ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD
PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION
THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON 2020
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT N° 727473

JUELICH (GERMANY)
COORDINATOR

Research and innovation yields solutions on sustainable food production and consumption. SUSFOOD2 has produced policy recommendations based on the results of research projects funded under the SUSFOOD2 co-funded call 2017. This policy brief indicates how research results can support the scientific evidence to enable a transition towards more sustainable food systems. The key recommendations for the policy makers and industry are:

1. Provide clear messages to consumers to increase the trust in food
2. Harmonize the nutritional and sustainability regulations and labels
3. Support the uptake of new technologies and side stream valorization
4. Create a forum to collect the evidence and discuss regulatory aspects for new technologies

[Read the SUSFOOD2 Policy Brief here](#)

SUSFOOD-CORE Organic-FOSC project seminar scheduled for autumn 2022

Although SUSFOOD will officially end in June, we will continue to follow-up and support the running projects. Within the framework of the Green Era Hub we will organise a mid-term seminar for the 12 projects of the 2019 Joint Call with [Core Organic](#) combined with a kick-off seminar for the 5 projects of the 2021 Joint Call with [FOSC](#) in autumn 2022.

All the three ERA-NETs are part of the Green ERA Hub (which will start in September) and are represented by their current coordinators/ partners. Within the Green Era Hub the majority of the relevant national funders in Europe in the agri-food and biotechnology sector have joined forces and will therefore provide a fruitful framework for continuation of joint actions.

Factsheet 2021 joint call

The Factsheets on what the five selected projects under the 2021 Joint Call funded by the two ERA-Nets SUSFOOD2 and FOSC, is published!

The 2021 joint call originated from the premise that achieving resilient and sustainable food systems requires a transition from today's linear food production systems, which are vulnerable to systemic shocks, to resilient circular systems that include efficiency, valorisation of side streams and avoidance of food loss and waste, and take into account the interdependencies within the systems and their stakeholders.

The first pages provide a brief overview of the main features and strategies both ERA-NETs and then a short introduction on the purpose and project activities, of each selected project.

[Download the factsheet here](#)

2019 JOINT CALL SUSFOOD2 -FOSC PROJECTS UPDATE

FOODLEVERS



The willingness to consume organic food: A review

Giving the rising interest in naturally grown foods; several studies have contrasted various features of organic and conventionally grown foods in relation to consumer attitudes, perceptions, and preference for organic foods. This paper aims to explore consumers' willingness to consume organic foods; the extent and attributes of consumer knowledge and awareness about organic

food as well as consumer attitudes and preferences for organically grown foods. Articles from different peer review journals were used to develop this paper. The findings of this paper show that human health, food safety, attitudes and perceptions and willingness to pay for a price premium are some of the factors influencing consumers' willingness to consume organic foods. Therefore, there is a need to create more awareness in the food industry relating to the health benefits of consuming organic foods.

[Read more](#)

FOODIVERSE



The project member from the Norwegian team of Foodiverse, Sabina Kuraj received the FIAN Norge "THESIS AWARD 2021" for the master thesis on the links between the local #foodsystem and quality production in Norway. Congratulations!

[More information](#)

POULTRYNSECT



Join poultrynsect during the summer at the 4th International Conference "Insects to Feed the World 2022" that will be held on June 12th to 16th. And in August at the world's poultry congress, that gathers every 4 years in Paris around poultrysector who has major assets to meet the expectation of the world population.

[More information on the project](#)

ALL-IN



A new research article on “Competitiveness for nodule colonization in *Sinorhizobium meliloti*: combined in vitro tagged strain competition and genome-wide association analysis” has been published.

The main objective of this work was to identify a set of candidate genes which may increase the *S. meliloti* competition capabilities performing a genome-wide association (GWA) analysis.

[Check out the article](#)

MEET THE SUSFOOD2 PARTNERS!



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Who are they?

Defra is the UK government department responsible for safeguarding the natural environment, supporting the UK's world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy.

Research and analysis provides evidence for decision-making, ensuring Defra's policies are based on a sound, comprehensive understanding of current evidence. It helps Defra find new policy solutions and identify and tackle future issues. Defra uses the term 'evidence' to encompass material from a variety of disciplines – science research, statistics, economics, social research or operational research, and geographical information and it uses a variety of quality assurance processes to ensure policy making is supported by up-to-date and robust evidence.

How are they involved in SUSFOOD?

Defra has been deeply involved supporting the SUSFOOD since its inception, contributing to shape its direction of travel and objectives and taking active part supporting the UK's research organisations participating in SUSFOOD projects. These include the SUSDIET and Berrypom projects carried out as part of SUSFOOD and Mefproc and Improve projects in SUSFOOD2. Defra continues its engagement with SUSFOOD through participation in the new SUSFOOD-Core Organics Joint Call for transnational research within the area of sustainable food systems.

Who is involved: Victor Aguilera

[More info about DEFRA](#)



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Who are they?

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is a ministry of the Government of Ireland whose mission is to lead the development of a competitive, sustainable and consumer-focused agri-food sector and a vibrant rural economy and society.

Through its Research & Codex Division, DAFM leads in the development of Research & Innovation Policy in Ireland relating to Agri-Food, Agri-Environment & Climate, Forestry, Food Systems and the Bioeconomy. In addition, it operates a 'public good' competitive research funding programme (for agriculture, food and forestry) including the appropriate policy, scientific, technical and financial management. DAFM also supports the emergence of new bioeconomy value chains in the Irish agri-food sector; facilitates Irish participation in relevant parts of the EU framework research and innovation funding programme including transnational co-fund activities (ERA-NETs, JPIs); coordinates policy development of the CAP Agriculture Knowledge & Innovation System and Agri-Digitalisation; and co-ordinates overall Irish involvement in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. DAFM holds the National Delegate and NCP for H2020/Horizon Europe, NCP for BBI-JU, representation for SCAR and is an active member of the SCAR Food Systems Working Group. DAFM is also a member of Global Research Alliance (GRA) and the OECD's Cooperative Research Programme.

How are they involved in SUSFOOD?

DAFM is a partner since 2017 and funder of four Irish Research Performing Organisations who are currently participating in four of the SUSFOOD2 projects awarded following the 2017 Call: BIOCARB-4-FOOD, ImProVE, MEFPROC, and PLATEFORMS.

Who is involved: Noeleen McDonald

[More info about DAFM](#)



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