

Newsletter No. 3 September 2017

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Partnership:

- ✓ Regional Development Agency of West Region Romania (RO) - Lead Partner
- ✓ Donegal County Council (IE)
- ✓ Derry and Strabane District Council (UK)
- ✓ Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (FI)
- ✓ Tartu Science Park (EE)
- ✓ Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (PL)
- ✓ Region of Crete (GR)

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NICHE – an EU funded project with 7 EU Regions has successfully started

The food sector worldwide is faced with major challenges that arise from changes in the sector's economic and non-economic environments. The availability of safe, sustainable and healthy food has taken a new and pressing dimension in the light of an ever-growing global population and increasing environmental and sustainability concerns. Based on that vision, 7 EU partner Regions have established a common international project called NICHE. It commenced on April 1st, 2016 and its lead partner is the Regional Development Agency of West Region Romania.

By working together the NICHE partnership aims, by 2019 and through the improvement of existing policies, achieve an average 15 % increase in the adoption of research and innovation solutions by food sector companies in their regions to give response to the demand of this sector identified as high-potential sector for their smart growth.

The project will establish ecosystems that will last beyond the NICHE's lifecycle and where involved stakeholders will benefit of a more effective and productive way of collaboration.

Season of the Staff Exchanges:

3rd semester of the NICHE project was dedicated mostly for Staff Exchanges:

- April - Tartu (Estonia)
- May – Timisoara (Romania)
- June – Seinäjoki (Finland)
- September – Toruń (Poland)

All of mentioned events were a great opportunity for project partners and regional stakeholders to know better food industry in regions and to make a successful cooperation in future.

More about the fruitful Staff Exchanges:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/952/the-niche-project-staff-exchange-in-tartu-estonia/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/events/event/836/niche-staff-exchange-in-west-region-romania/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/1652/staff-exchange-in-seinaeioiki/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/1651/staff-exchange-in-kujawsko-pomorskie/>

NICHE as an example of the international cooperation:

On 6th of April in headquarter of the Marshal's Office of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship, NICHE project was presented as an good example of the international cooperation during the local info day.

More information about event:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/891/local-info-day-in-torun/>



Visit in Estonia



Visit in Romania



Visit in Finland



Visit in Poland



Food Network – new initiative for strong legacy of food sector:

Derry City and Strabane District Council's plans to establish a Food Network as part of the legacy of NI Year of Food success and NICHE food innovation project.

This group will bring forward new ideas and initiatives to further support the region as a leading foodie destination.

Read more about Food Network:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/1158/local-chef-endorsement-for-niche-food-network/>

<http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Food/Food-Network>

Evaluation of innovation management summed up:

IMP³rove – European Innovation Management Academy, external partner of NICHE consortium, has completed an evaluation of the innovation management of 140 companies in the food sector in NICHE regions.



Read more about evaluation:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/1468/food-businesses-evaluate-their-innovation-management/>

3rd partners meeting behind us:

The 3rd project meeting of NICHE project was held between 31st of August and 1st of September in the region of South Ostrobothnia, Finland. Meeting was located outside regions capital in the small city of Kauhajoki.

Read more about PM:

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/news/news-article/1629/3rd-project-meeting-of-niche-project/>



