



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

The overall objective of **Agri Renaissance** is to improve regional development policies and programs under the Investments for growth and employment goal, in order to increase R&I resources and capacities of the agri-food sector, stimulate collaboration and foster its hybridization. Five European regions participate in the project: **La Rioja (Spain) – Leader, Calabria Region (Italy), Mazovia (Poland), Centro Region (Portugal) and Lithuania.**

Project length

1.07.2018

-

31.05.2022

1 & 2 year: Regional Action Plan elaboration

4 years

3 & 4 year: Regional Action Plan implementation

Project budget

1.1 million €

The project is co-financed from the **Interreg Europe program**.

Project stakeholders are all participants of the agri-food sector at the regional, national and EU level:

- R&I organizations in agri-food, ICT, health, biotech and environment / circular economy areas;
- Industrial and service companies in the agri-food, ICT, health, biotech and the environment / circular economy;
- Public authorities, non-governmental organizations and consumers in general.

Objectives:

- Diagnosing the agri-food sector and evaluation of support measures and policies in the areas of: R & I infrastructure and capacities, R & I public-private cooperation and hybridization the agri-food sector with other sectors within and across regions;
- Mobilization of stakeholders in the region;
- Exchange of information and experiences;
- Creation of a Regional Action Plan - document describes the policy objectives in the region and presents the analysis.

The main results of the project:

- **Agri Renaissance Method Guide** - a methodology for regional diagnosis, evaluation of existing support measures, policies and legal regulations in the indicated three thematic areas: R & I infrastructure and capacities, R & I public-private cooperation and hybridization the agri-food sector with other sectors within and across regions;
- **Regional diagnosis** of the agri-food sector (obligatory for each region);
- **Good Practice Guide** - a collection of supports measures that are also currently available for the agri-food sector;
- **Public Policy Road Map** - a collection of recommendations and conclusions from regional diagnosis, stakeholder engagement, and interregional exchange;
- **Regional Policy Briefs** - a list of identified support measures to strengthen research and innovation in the agri-food sector;
- Regional Action Plan - a list of policies needed to strengthen research and innovation in the agri-food sector, targeted at inclusion in RIS3.

LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES

LEADER PARTNER 1



Government of La Rioja – Spain

<https://www.larioja.org/es>

The Government of La Rioja manage Executive Power and the Public Administration of the Autonomous Community of La Rioja. La Rioja Government, as Managing Authority of the ERDF ROP will be in charge of implementing, coordinating and monitoring the Regional Action Plan designed as a result of its participation in the AgriRenaissance Project. The Government, as responsible of the RIS3 and

all Governmental Plans deriving from to it, will include the relevant measures of the Regional Action Plan in the related Government Plans.

The Region of La Rioja is located in the north of the Iberian Peninsula in the Ebro Valley, its pride being the wine industry. Wine production in this region is carried out by producers associated in cooperatives. An important element of the La Rioja agri-food sector is the production of mushrooms, such as mushroom, which is mainly sold as a preserved product. The importance of mushroom growing in the regional economy may be emphasized by the fact that the Region Government of La Rioja was established in 2003 as a research center named Center for Research Technology of Mushrooms (CTICH).

PARTNER 2



Ctic Cita – Spain
<http://ctic-cita.es/>

This is a technology center, placed in La Rioja (Spain), devoted to attend the technical and research requirements of the food industry. Its main objective is to provide solutions for companies of the sector promoting research and technological development, innovation, increase of competitiveness, safety of its processes, training of its employees and adaptation to the current legislation. For these purposes, the Centre provides the required assistance to those companies that require specialized external support, supplying a wide range of services offered by a highly-qualified team which works in modern facilities equipped with the latest technology.

Its facilities have:

- three pilot plants,
- industrial kitchen,
- tasting room,
- physic-chemical lab,
- microbiology lab,
- auditorium and rooms.

Its main research lines focus on the quality and safety of the productive processes, the development of new products, the study and redesign of process engineering, the testing of new processing and preservation techniques, and the reduction of the environmental impact of the agri-food sector.

PARTNER 3



National Paying Agency (NPA) – Lithuania
<https://www.nma.lt/>

The National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania was established on 11 November 1999.

The Agency is only accredited institution managing the measures of support for agriculture, rural development and fisheries. The main tasks of the Agency are as follows:

- to manage state and European Union (EU) support for agriculture, rural development and fisheries as well as ensure the control of their us;
- to implement agricultural, rural development and fisheries support measures,
- to ensure the development of a system for the management of EU support for agriculture, rural development and fisheries,
- to participate in the implementation of an integrated management and control system,
- to participate in the introduction and implementation of a system for the management of EU Common Agricultural Policy measures.

The clients of the National Paying Agency (NPA) are the major food processing companies, cooperatives, enterprises and other entities involved in the agri-food sector. The NPA on a regular basis is closely cooperating with the ICT companies research / technological centers with the aim of constant development of the respective information systems. In general, the NPA is closely involved in the agri-food and ICT / innovation and research sectors.

PARTNER 4



Mazovia Development Agency Plc (MDA) – Poland
<http://www.armsa.pl/>

The Agency's mission is to create and support the socio-economic development of the Mazovia Region.

The economic promotion of the region, training activities as well as the financing and preparation of investment project are among main tasks of the Mazovia. MDA Plc acted also as a part of the Urban Development Fund (in the consortium with The State Development Bank of Poland) and was co-responsible for implementation of the JESSICA Initiative in the Mazovia Region. MDA maintains close collaboration with main regional industrial clusters based. MDA also supports several initiatives aimed at building platform for meaningful interactions between scientific fraternity and entrepreneurs, technology transfers, collaborations in R&D, launching of technology driven innovative products and concepts. The MDA has experience in participation in Interreg projects and project co-financed from Competitiveness and Innovation Programmer.

PARTNER 5



Mazowieckie Voivodeship/Office of the Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw, Department of Regional Development and European Funds - Poland
<https://www.mazovia.pl/>

This Department is responsible for Regional Innovation Strategy for Mazovia implementation and monitoring and smart specialization entrepreneurial discovery process. Unit of Innovation and Development cooperates with scientific institutions and clusters to improve the use of research infrastructure and the results of scientific research in economy. The Department is the coordinator of smart specialization Working Groups, which are responsible for identifying and developing the priority research agendas for smart specialization. Working groups consist of representatives of entrepreneurs and scientific/research institutions. The main source of funding the priority research agendas for smart specialization is Regional Operational Program for Mazowieckie Voivodship. Department of Regional Development and European Funds is experienced with EU co-financed projects aimed at networking, promotion of innovation and regional innovation system development.

The Mazovian Region is one of the key regions specializing in the production of foodstuffs and food processing in Poland. Agri-food processing is one of main branches in the region. Food processing in the region can play an important role not only as an element of economic revival of multifunctional rural areas, but also as a factor contributing the improvement of the condition of urban centers located in these areas.

PARTNER 6



REGIONE CALABRIA

The National and Community Planning Department of the Calabria Region Italy
<http://portale.regione.calabria.it/website>

The National and Community Planning Department is tasked with implementing policy, addressing and monitoring the actions developed by the various RIS3 bodies and overseeing activities for updating and revising the S3. The Department has gained significant experience in managing partnering and

business discovery processes for S3 development, managed 8 workstations with over 1000 participants and 300 structured contributions.

At European level, since 1994 it follows the European Territorial Cooperation activities and through the EU Special Programs and Euro-Mediterranean Policies, actively promoting and participating in numerous CTE initiatives and projects aimed at developing supranational partnerships in several sectors by sharing good practices to be included in the local and regional development policies and development processes. More than 60 projects have been implemented by the first 1994-1999 programming period to date from the Calabria Region, of which 20 are managed as Leaders.

PARTNER 7



Animaforum – Association for the Development of Agro – industry, Centro Region – Portugal

<https://agrocluster.pt>

ANIMAFORUM is the most important player in the agri-food sector of the Centro Region. Presently we have more than 130 members (Companies, Universities and R&D centers) which are currently implementing over 70 R&D&I projects with a total investment over 100M euros. ANIMAFORUM has broad experience in the development and implementation of pilot and innovative projects at national and international level in the agrifood sector. ANIMAFORUM works for the introduction of new technologies in the Centro agri-food sector, supporting the creation of closer links between companies, educational institutions and R&D. The Cluster also works as a Technological Observatory, supports companies in accessing foreign markets and organizes training activities for its members and other actors in the Centro region. ANIMAFORUM is recognized by the Portuguese Government as a member of the Portuguese Agrofood Cluster and we also have the European Cluster Excellence Label Certificate.

LAST ACTIVITES IN PROJECT

KICK-OFF MEETING/FIRST STUDY VISIT



The Agri Renaissance partners met at the kick-off meeting held in **Logroño, Spain** on the 4–6of September. **The Government of La Rioja** - Lead Partner of the project organized the meeting and study visit to the Region of La Rioja. The three-day- meeting were dedicated to the project management and implementation issues, best practices exchange as well as the networking and discussions.

Day 1 in La Rioja

Presentations of the:

- Overview of project: objectives and set-up;
- Communications Strategy;
- Presentations of the preliminary results of the regional diagnosis (all partners);
- Next steps in project.

Day 2 in La Rioja

Visit to:

- Technological Centre of Mushrooms;
- CTIC – CITA Technological Centre;
- Institute of Grapevine and Wine Sciences.

Day 3 La Rioja

Presentations of the:

- La Rioja Government. Regional Governance System;
- Economic Development agency for La Rioja (ADER);
- Federation of Entrepreneurs of La Rioja and Innovative Business Association of the ICT sector in La Rioja (AERTIC);
- Cluster Food+i.

Discussion and recommendations from reviewer regions.
Peer review workshop



1st REGIONAL DISSEMINATION EVENT - La Rioja



The first workshop with stakeholders took place on 31/10/2018 at the La Technology Center Rioja (La Fombera, Avda. de Zaragoza, 21). This workshop aimed at disseminating the objectives of this Interreg Europe-financed Project, which seeks improving regional policies and development programs in order to increase and optimize R&D&I sector' s resources and capacities, promoting collaboration and encouraging the implementation of strategic technologies such as ICT or Biotechnology.

1ST REGIONAL DISSEMINATION EVENT - Mazovia



The regional dissemination event in Płońsk (Mazovia Region, Poland) took place November 30th, 2018 in the premises of Mazovia Science and Technological Park in Płońsk. The event consisted of two parts: presentations and a workshop.

During the first part Ms Agata Sosińska, President of the Mazovia Science and Technological Park put the participants in the picture of the cooperation opportunities offered by the sectoral cooperation platforms as well as the offer of the Park.

As an example of good practices in the field of innovation corresponding with agri-food sector a Warsaw University spin-off BACTrem has been presented. The company develops new biotechnologies using helpful types of bacteria for decomposition of hazardous substances and waste (biodegradation), among others liquidation of petroleum contamination and deactivation of heavy metals (bioremediation).

Representatives of the Marshal Office of Mazowieckie Voivodeship together with ARMSA presented the Agri Renaissance project, made the participants familiar with the current situation of the agri-food sector in La Rioja Region (on the basis of the kick-off meeting and the peer review report) and, last but not least, moderated a workshop aiming to elaborate the challenges that the agri-food sector in the Mazovia Region is currently facing. The results of this discussion will contribute to develop the Regional Diagnosis Report of the sector.

2nd STUDY VISIT - Lithuania



On 20 - 21/03/2018, the **National Paying Agency** organized the second study visit in **Lithuania**. During the meeting, the partners and stakeholders learned about the development of the Lithuanian innovation reform, about the Lithuanian agri-food science and research institutions and their modern research centres/laboratories, about the Lithuanian innovative enterprises and their production facilities equipped with scientifically grounded technology lines

Day 1 in Vilnius

Presentations of the:

- Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics;
- Lithuanian Innovation Center;
- Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology / Latest Innovation policy reform in Lithuania / Innovations in agribusiness;
- Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry / The goals of the Lithuanian RDP EIP projects;
- Aleksandras Stulginskis University activities;
- Lithuanian Agriculture Advisory Service / The attitude of Lithuanian farmers towards innovations;
- AUGA GROUP - the biggest company in organic agriculture sector, which developed its own organic production line.

Day 2 in Kaunas

Visit to:

- Pienas LT - the biggest project, financed under Lithuanian Rural Development Program 2007-2013. The company's product line includes the latest and most effective milk protein products manufactured in the EU by applying the most innovative dairy processing solutions. High value added dairy products are produced exceptionally for the global market;
- UAB Mėlynė - the company, which with the help of scientists and special EU grant, given for creation of the innovative technologies, developed the technology for natural painting of different goods while using the different berries;
- Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry - it is a state research institute, which conducts R&D in the fields of agronomy, forestry, as well as related fields of ecology and environmental sciences, biology, biophysics, botany and zoology.

Presentation of the Regional diagnosis carried by NPA.
Discussion and recommendations from reviewer regions.
Peer review workshop.



2nd MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDER – La Rioja



The meeting took place on 5/04/2019 in La Rioja. The Government of La Rioja and CTIC-CITA reviewed the main monitoring indicators and presented the planning for next year's activities. The main results of the regional diagnosis and the lines of work obtained from the SWOT were presented, which will serve as inputs for the design of future action plans. Within the process of interregional learning, the main results of the last visit to Lithuania held in March were presented.

3rd STUDY VISIT – Calabria Region



On 14-16/05/2019 a third study visit of the partners and stakeholders of the Agri Renaissance project "Innovation for the renaissance of the European agri-food sector" took place. This time we visited the picturesque **Calabria Region**, where the cultivations of olives and citrus are spreading on the horizon. Regional authorities in various examples have presented the development of innovation in the agri-food sector. Participants had the opportunity to visit many public and private enterprises that actively participate in the innovation process in this region.

Day 1 in Catanzaro, Lamezia Terme

Steering Group Meeting:

Presentation of the:

- First semester results (expenditure, indicators);
- Review of communication activities;
- 3rd Semester Schedule;
- Final version Regional diagnosis.

Visit to:

- Interregional Center for Food Safety and Health by the University of Catanzaro Magna Graecia Catanzaro;
- STATTI 1784 - organic and sustainable farm.

Day 2 in Calabria Region

Visit to:

- Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria;
- "Consortium Bergamotto" Capua 1880 tradition;
- Laboratories: TECHNOLOGY Innovation Progressive; QUALITY REVIEW laboratories complex warehouse management system; NatProFile® TECHNOLOGIES and SEPARATIVE TECH;
- Barone G.R. Macri Farmhouse

Day 3 in Cosenza

Visit to:

- Cosenza UNICAL University, Laboratories Department of Pharmacy and Science of Health;
- Research Centre for Olive Growing and the Oil Industry (OLI);
- Minisci Group and Magisa Group;
- Ferrocinto Group: Terre di Cosenza DOP il mondo magliocco.

Discussion and recommendations from reviewer regions.
Peer review workshop.



NEXT STEPS – WORK PLAN IN THE THIRD SEMESTER

- ✓ Development of the **Regional Action Plans**;
- ✓ Each partner will submit at least four good practices in the region;
- ✓ **Study visit in Mazovia/Poland**;
- ✓ 5 Regional stakeholders seminars;
- ✓ Starting work on the publication of **Agri Renaissance Method Guide**;
- ✓ Press release of study visit in Calabria and Mazovia;
- ✓ Update of social Media Profiles and website.

CONTACT

Project website

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/agrirenaissance>

Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/AgriRenaissanceEU>

<https://twitter.com/AgriRenaissanc1>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/agrirenaissance>