

FRiDGE project seeks to increase food industry SME competitiveness by providing relevant actors with information about productivity, market reach and capacity building.

Dear reader,

We are happy to present you the 1st FRiDGE project newsletter and welcome you to follow our project activities for the next three and a half years. In this newsletter we have gathered news about the project progress during the 1st semester. We hope You enjoy the reading!

1. What FRiDGE project is about?

FRiDGE project aims at enhancing competitiveness of food and drink industry SMEs with interregional policy learning, promotion of good practices and exchange of experience. There are three key topics the project will focus on. The topics are: better market reach, improved productivity and capacity enhancement.



The Fridge lead partner and project manager Balázs Kiss explains the project idea in 55 seconds.

› [Watch the video on FRiDGE YouTube channel.](#)

2. Meet the FRiDGE partners

The FRiDGE partnership consists of six partners from six European countries (Hungary, Romania, Germany, Finland, Greece and Belgium). On the project website you can read partner presentations from each partner region where partners tell more about their region, its food sector and their goals with the project.

Partner number 1 & Lead partner:

› [Tolna County Development Agency, Hungary](#)

Partner number 2:

› [Harghita County Council, Romania](#)

Partner number 3:

› [Kern – Competence Center of Nutrition, Germany](#)

Partner number 4:

› [Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia, Finland](#)

Partner number 5:

› [University of Western Macedonia, Greece](#)

Partner number 6:

› [Economic Council of East-Flanders, Belgium](#)



3. FRiDGE Kick-Off Meeting in Hungary

The project Kick-Off Meeting was organised in Szeszárd, Hungary in the beginning of September 2019. In the meeting the project partners set the path for the next six months co-operation and discussed in workshops the challenges and possible solutions for the competitiveness of food industry SMEs. On the second day three Hungarian good practices were presented.



› [Read more](#)

4. Next partner meeting in East-Flanders

The next partner meeting will take place in the region of East-Flanders, Belgium in late February 2020 hosted by Economic Council of East-Flanders. The two-and-a-half-day meeting will include project meetings and interesting site visits to local food and drink industry SMEs and RDI institutions in the region of East-Flanders.



› [Read more](#)

5. Wrap up of first semester and next steps

During the first semester the partners have been busy with setting up regional stakeholder groups and analysing relevant national and regional policies guiding the development of food and drink industries in their regions. In the second semester the partners will deepen their knowledge of the challenges regarding productivity, market reach and innovation within the partner regions' SMEs and start evaluating the most important development challenges that the regions want to tackle with the regional action plans. These evaluations will be done in close co-operation with the regional stakeholders in each region.

You can follow the project activities on FRiDGE website and social media.

6. European Food and Drink Industry – Data and Trends 2019

FoodDrinkEurope announced the latest Data & Trends 2019 report in late November. The report provides you with comprehensive statistics and insights on the EU food and drink industry. The report shows that the industry employs 4.72 million people in Europe, generating a turnover of 1.2 trillion euros and 235 billion euros of value added. There are 294 000 companies in the industry of which 99,1 % are SMEs.

› [Read more](#)



More on project websites
www.interregurope.eu/fridge

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Project partners

