



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 3rd FRIDGE project newsletter. In this newsletter we have gathered news about the project progress during the past six months. We hope You enjoy the reading!

1. Past events



Since the release of the last newsletter in October of 2020 several online meetings have been organised between the partners and stakeholders focusing on the exchange of experiences process and action plan development.

Joint Workshop with focus on market reach

The online workshop was organised on the 18th of November and hosted by our German partner, KErn (Competence Centre for Nutrition). In the workshop partners heard interesting presentations both from Bavaria and other regions related to Good Practices improving the market reach of food sector SMEs. In addition, the results of a study carried out in partner regions among food industry SMEs were presented. More information about the results of the meeting can be read on our websites.

Read the article:

[Small food industry SMEs face similar challenges](#)

Joint Workshop with focus on productivity and investments

The online workshop focusing on productivity and investments was held on the 26th of April and hosted by Harghita County Council. In the meeting the participants took part in a virtual tour during which three food sector SMEs from Harghita County were presented. After the virtual tour good practices from other partner regions were presented. More information about the results of the meeting can be read on our websites.

Read the article:

[Results of the 4th FRIDGE Joint Workshop](#)

Action Plan Workshops in February

During the past six months the partners have taken their first steps in the action plan creation process. In late February the partners had two online meetings where the action planning process was discussed with the partners. During the meetings the partners heard inspiring presentations of Action Planning from experts and other Interreg Europe projects. In the second meeting the partners exchanged their ideas and plans for action plan processes. More info about the results of the workshops can be read on our websites.

Read the article:

[Heading towards Action Plan development](#)

2. Upcoming events and activities in the interregional level

Towards the summer the FRIDGE project is slowly approaching the end of its second year of existence. Before the holidays the partners will be interviewing local SMEs in order to clarify their activities related to productivity and investments.



The next interregional partner meeting and study visit will take place in the Fall and be hosted by University of Western Macedonia. The partners are still hopeful that the Covid-19 pandemic would ease up and allow partners to physically visit the region of

Western Macedonia in Greece. But as many other things in this world at the moment, this remains to be seen and more info will be provided later.

3. Greetings and news from partner regions



After the 3rd Semester that ended in the end of January this year, the partners shared news from their region's food sectors. These news were gathered in two wrap-up articles. First of them covers food sector news from Tolna, Harghita and Upper-Franconia. The second one covers news from South Ostrobothnia, West Macedonia and East-Flanders.

Read the wrap-up articles:

[Wrapping up the 3rd semester, article 1.](#)

[Wrapping up the 3rd semester, article 2.](#)

4. Get familiar with FRIDGE Good Practices



During the past months FRIDGE partners have been active to submit their selected Good Practices on the Good Practice platform. So far, thirteen (13) practices have been submitted, five of which have been selected for the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

and Good Practice database. You can get familiar with the Good Practices on our project websites.

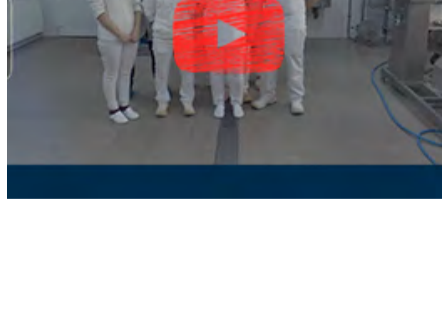
Project good practices on [FRIDGE websites](#).

5. Impact of the EU protection of origin labels

The EU protection of origin labels have received a lot of interest among the FRIDGE partners. Studying their economic impacts is however easier said than done. Our partners from Germany, KErn - the Competence Centre for Nutrition were involved in a study where the economic impacts of three protected product types from Bavaria were examined. The study revealed many interesting insights how to study the importance and impacts of the EU labels on different types of products.

Read more about the study and its results on [FRIDGE websites](#).

6. Videos presenting Food Sector SMEs in Harghita County



As part of the Joint Workshop organised in April 2021 the partners from Harghita County Council produced three videos where food sector SMEs from the region are presented. The videos can be watched on FRIDGE Youtube and Facebook pages as well as from your websites.

Watch the videos on [FRIDGE website](#).

More on project [websites](#).

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Contact

Lead partner and project manager: **Balázs Kiss**
balazs.kiss@tolnamegye.hu

Communication manager: **Hanna Meriläinen**
hanna.merilainen@etela-pohjanmaa.fi