



Dear ICT-AGRI-FOOD community,

ICT-AGRI-FOOD has been running for just over 2 years and will be active for another 3 years until October 2024. We are looking forward to continuing this important work that can promote the use of smart digital technology to make European food systems more sustainable, resilient and secure. In the first quarter of 2022, we will organise a Young Researchers' Workshop, detailed information on how to apply will be published at the end of 2021. Moreover, we will animate ICT-AGRI-FOOD's Knowledge Incubator Programme and will organise a series of lively and inspiring events and workshops. Already today we provide an [online platform](#), to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and ideas to inspire peers and to develop innovative ideas together. We look forward to engaging all interested parties to join us on this journey, and ultimately to make a real impact. Read more about the latest developments and planned activities in our newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Johannes Pfeifer, Member of ICT-AGRI-FOOD's Coordination Team

First Call

Transnational, collaborative, inter-/transdisciplinary research projects on ICT-enabled AGRI-FOOD systems

From the 2019 co-funded call, [19 projects](#) have been selected and they have already started. The Research Project Kick-off Seminar of the “Call for transnational, collaborative, inter-transdisciplinary research projects on ICT-enabled AGRI-FOOD systems” took place online on **17-18 March 2021**. The main purpose of the meeting was to learn about the selected projects and discuss the state of the art in the field of ICT-enabled agri-food systems. Presentations and videos of the seminar can be found [on the website of ICT-AGRI-FOOD](#).

In December, we will send out a newsletter entirely dedicated to the progress made by the 19 co-funded projects during their first year, stay tuned!



2021 Joint call

Circularity in mixed crops and livestock farming systems with emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation

The four ERA-NETs SusAn (Sustainable Animal Production Systems), FACCE ERA-GAS (Monitoring and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases from Agriculture and Silviculture), ICT-AGRI-FOOD and SusCrop (Sustainable Crop Production) have coordinated and aligned efforts in areas of mutual interest and established a joint transnational funding initiative.

The Call funded by 29 institutions from 22 countries (16 EU Member States, 3 EU-Associated Countries and 3 non EU/Associated Countries) and the [Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases](#) is now concluded.

After peer review and ranking of the 39 eligible full proposals by the International Evaluation Committee, the funders recommended [9 projects](#) for funding within the limits of available national/regional funding.

ESA Call on "Responsible Agritech"

Since ICT-AGRI 2 there have been fruitful contacts with the European Space Agency ESA. In ICT-AGRI-FOOD, Niels Gøtke (DASHE) and Xenofon Tsilimparis (GRNET) maintain this collaboration, as they have a dedicated task (Task 6.1). We have supported [two calls of the European Space Agency](#), with advice and promotion. The call on "Responsible Agritech" aims to stimulate the development of space-enabled agritech value chain applications to tackle in a responsible manner the agricultural challenges of the 21st century. Three key objectives are defined, in line with the new Common Agricultural Policy:

- Sustainability: agritech applications mitigating impacts on the climate and the environment, landscapes, biodiversity and producing safe and healthy food.
- Fairness: Ensuring decent revenues for farmers (especially those with more difficulties), rebalancing power in food chain, promoting rural areas and attracting young farmers.
- Competitiveness: develop the agritech sector through innovation, digitalization, new technologies, rural development and infrastructure, efficient advisory systems and continuous training.

Here you find the result of ESA's evaluation of the [nine awarded Kick-Start Activities studies](#).

Further calls and other activities

Expert Advisory Group

On October 11 2021, we have consulted our 18 Expert Advisory Group members in a half-day Workshop and asked them for their advice with regard to the scope of the 2nd call. It was a very exciting and fruitful exchange that helps us to formulate a scope for the call that tackles the most promising and urgent Research Development & Innovation topics in our domain.

Working with ERA Planet in designing the next partnership Agriculture of Data

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) the new European framework programme for R&I which was launched this summer with a mission to bring changes and to work smarter together. Among the new things in Horizon Europe is a new approach to partnering and designing European partnerships. Compared to FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020 partnerships this time in Horizon Europe will be bigger (have larger budgets), be more linked to policy needs and involve more stakeholders.

One of the partnerships that will start in the next Horizon Europe, Cluster 6 work programme 2023-2024 is Agriculture of Data. The focus in this partnership will be about how data can form a key determinant of the effectiveness of digital technologies in combination with environmental and earth observations, to increase the sustainability performance of agriculture and to the development of efficient tools for policy monitoring and evaluation. From the very beginning ICT-AGRI-Food have been following the process planning the Agriculture of Data partnership. For the preparation of the new partnership, a core group has been created with representatives from member states. As chair of the core group Nicola Pirrone has been appointed, who is also the coordinator of ERA-PLANET. This core group has several members from the ICT-AGRI-FOOD ERA-NET represented and ICT-AGRI-FOOD itself has together with ERA-PLANET been asked to participate in the preparation process. To exchange ideas and initiate the discussion about scope and vision, the two ERA-NETs have made a common paper, which Niels Gøtke presented for the core group and the Commission in a meeting 18 October. The joint paper was very well received, and after the meeting the Agriculture of Data core group has been invited to reflect on the paper and send comments. The plan is to start working on partnership document / draft proposal and present this for the Commission by the end of this year or early 2022. The partnership should start in 2023 / 2024. At the same time a process to draft the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Partnership will also be initiated. The SRIA should be finalised in December next year, however we will probably see more drafts during the process to assure the relevance and quality of the SRIA. ICT-AGRI-FOOD (Niels Gøtke)

will be involved in that process and we hope to be able to activate you and our network in the process. As ICT-AGRI-FOOD is obliged to update its existing strategy by the end of the ERA-NET cofund, there seems to be a potential for having synergies in working together with the Agriculture of Data consortium.

Second ICT-AGRI-FOOD call

Currently, we are preparing the second "pure" ICT AGRI-FOOD call. It will be launched in early 2022 and will most likely be centred on transparency for all stakeholders along the agri-food value chain.

Upcoming Events

2018 Joint call Mid-term & 2021 Joint call kick-off meeting on 1 December 2021

We would like to invite you to our online event showcasing the 2018 Joint Call projects on "Novel technologies, solutions and systems to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of animal production systems".

As the European Union transitions towards climate-neutrality by 2050, innovative solutions, systems and practices will be needed within the livestock sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon removals. This event will look at promising approaches being developed by these projects to achieve this goal, including those harnessing the power of ICT, robotics and advanced data analysis.

During the seminar, the results of the first half of the projects will be presented and discussed, and a look ahead will be taken at what is in the pipeline for the rest of the project and the expected impact for farming, policy and regulation. We will also introduce you to the nine projects in the 2021 Joint Call for transnational research on "Circularity in mixed crops and livestock farming systems with emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation".



[Agenda](#)

[Register](#)

Upcoming activities in 2022

In the first quarter of 2022, we will organise a Young Researchers' Workshop, detailed information on how to apply will be published at the end of 2021.

Moreover, we will animate ICT-AGRI-FOOD's [Knowledge Incubator Programme](#) and will organise a series of sprightly and inspiring events and workshops and provides already today an online platform, to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and ideas to inspire peers to develop innovative ideas together.

All of these actions are on our ambitious agenda until the end of the projects' lifetime, and we look forward to doing our best to offer attractive activities and contributions, to engage all interested parties to join us on this journey, and ultimately to make a real impact.

Meet the ICT-AGRI-FOOD partners



Fundación Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía (CTA)

Fundación Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía ([CTA](#)) is a regional public-private partnership (PPP) that was created in 2005 as joint effort of Andalusia regional government and a group of key companies, to trigger innovation activities performed by the Andalusian private sector, and to connect these activities with academia and society, supporting public bodies innovation policy implementation and promoting world-class research and innovation in a transition region. Currently, CTA is owned by more than 150 companies, 70% of them SMEs, in seven main European industrial priority sectors: ICT, aerospace and productive processes, agri-food, biotechnology, building and civil engineering, energy and environment, and leisure and tourism <https://www.corporaciontecnologica.com/en/index.html>.

CTA's main activity during these years has been advising, mentoring, and funding (with own funds) innovation projects led by companies and with a clear and measurable market application in the short and medium term, being therefore deeply embedded in the productive system. For the past 15 years, more than 700 projects have been supported with a total investment of some €170 million, having a leverage effect to mobilise additional private investment of ca. 515 M€. CTA is a unique organisation, acting as a multi-sectorial innovation cluster and, far from just funding, developing a holistic approach to innovation that paves the way for project results to be swiftly introduced to the market. CTA also acts as a catalyst of collaboration, disseminating results, creating partnerships between its members and research groups, both local and international, and supporting the creation of joint research projects. In addition, CTA organises technology awareness events and training for companies on key emerging areas. Regarding the connection with public bodies, CTA is a policy advocacy body, providing strategic advice on innovation and technology to governments, from regional to international frameworks.

How are they involved in ICT-AGRI-FOOD?

CTA has been involved in an ERA-NET since 2014 as a partner of ICT AGRI 2. CTA is funding the joint call of ICT-AGRI-FOOD. It contributes to all transversal activities of the project, especially to the follow-up and monitoring of the projects resulting from the co-funded call activity (WP4) and the network development using multi-actor approach activity (WP7).

Who is involved: María García, Nathalie Chavrier



Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture (AM)

The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture ([AM](#)) is responsible for—among others—the Government’s agricultural and environmental protection policy. Under this responsibility, the Ministry regularly analyzes and evaluates the economical regulatory instruments of environmental protection; makes proposals for their development; monitors and encourages the development and use of equipment, devices, methods and procedures, the introduction of technologies that are eco-friendly, material-, energy- and water- efficient. AM evaluates the effects that different materials, products and technologies have on the environment and nature, helps the development of programs raising environmental awareness; harmonizes the measuring, monitoring and evaluating information systems applied in environmental protection. Among its responsibilities we find also the duties of developing the bioeconomy strategy of Hungary, and taking an essential and active part in the work of BIOEAST the Central-Eastern Initiative of 11 countries for agriculture, aquaculture and forestry in the bioeconomy.

How are they involved in ICT-AGRI-FOOD?

AM is involved in WP 5: Communication, Exploitation and dissemination of the results. Under the leadership of EV-ILVO and the contribution of DASHE, BLE and AM this work package includes the preparation of the project’s communication and dissemination strategy, the implementation of activities and the organisation of events and workshops during the lifetime of the project. AM is leader of this latter task, that is, the organisation of three major events: the kick-off meeting, the mid-term and end-term events for the research projects supported by ICT-AGRI-FOOD.

Who is involved: Vanda Riedel-Füzesi, Ákos Kristóf



Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

[UEFISCDI](#), a public institution subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Research, ensures both the realization of studies that substantiate the process of distribution of funds allocated from the state budget for universities, and the coordination, from an administrative point of view, of programs and subprograms in the Plan. National Research, Development, Innovation. As a research funding agency, similar to prestigious international agencies, it organizes competitions and subsequently monitors the implementation of projects accepted for funding. Through the coordinated programs of PNCDI III, it manages approximately 22% of the public funds allocated to research, development and innovation.

In addition to its responsibilities for funding higher education and research, UEFISCDI is recognized, nationally and internationally, as the organization that uses methods and techniques of structured analysis and consultation brought together in the concept of foresight for institutional and system development projects. to higher education, research, development and innovation that it develops.

Over time, in the strategic projects implemented, platforms have been developed such as ERRIS , Study in Romania , Brainmap , Integrated Educational Register (REI), which contributes to the internationalization of Romanian higher education and research, real tils of scientific and cultural diplomacy.

How are they involved in ICT-AGRI-FOOD?

UEFISCDI is involved in WP4, Follow-up and monitoring of the projects resulting from the co-funded call. And is involved in WP6, Additional joint calls without EC co-funding. Currently, we are preparing the second "pure" ICT-AGRI-FOOD call, building on the SRIA, and building on the experiences of the first co-funded call.

Who is involved: Cristina Cotet, Domnica Cotet

ICT-AGRI-FOOD network activities

GEN4OLIVE project

[CTA is a member of the GEN4OLIVE consortium](#), a project funded by H2020 related to the promotion of olive genetic resource use. The [first GEN4OLIVE call](#) for proposals has been launched on the 1st of September. IT solution development projects to support olive ore-breeding activities, can be granted through this call.



GEN4 OLIVE

**1st GEN4OLIVE SMEs
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Opening: September 1st, 2021
750.000€ BUDGET

ACTIVITIES:

- OLIVE PRE-BREEDING ACTIVITIES
- DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BREEDING TECHNOLOGIES

TYPE OF PROJECTS:

- INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS : 50K€/PROJECT
- COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS: 100K€/PROJECT

DIVA project

H2020 DIVA project related to digitalisation of agrifood, forestry and environmental sectors has ended. An overview of obtained results has been published in the online [editorial Open Access government](#).



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This newsletter will be sent regularly (at least twice per year). It is sent automatically to everyone who has registered for the newsletter under <http://www.ict-agri.eu/> or on www.ictagrifood.eu.



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