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Innovative Science & Education for
Sustainable Agriculture

Entering the next round NextFOOD's first consortium conference



On May 28 – 29, NextFOOD held its first annual consortium conference in Budweis in Czech Republic. Following the format of last year’s kick-off meeting, the conference combined short presentations by each work package with experiential learning in workshops. The rationale for planning the event in such a way is our attempt to build a community of practice through active participation of every consortium member, where we together achieve a higher understanding of the project’s purpose and goals. One intended outcome was for all members to leave the meeting feeling stronger and more equipped to do a good work in the project.

In the initial catching-up session, participants shared their experiences from the past year’s work and engaged in discussions about part-time achievements as well as concerns for the future. After a series of short presentations we were up-to-date with the status in each work package and achieved an improved view of the whole of the project. The richness of the data collected from case studies, focus groups and surveys is already impressive and will help us in our aim to produce high quality research. In the workshops that followed, the participants gave feedback and shared their ideas on different tasks and pressing issues, and thereby contributed to the

collective knowledge of the project. The two days ended by a session where we reflected on what we had achieved and not achieved in relation to the intended outcomes of the conference, and used that as the starting point for looking towards the near future of the project.

The meeting in Budweis demonstrated the great potential of this consortium. But there is still a long and winding road ahead to make Nextfood an established, reputable, and sustainable learning community that can contribute to the transition of higher education and professional training in the agrifood and forestry sector, and influence national and European research and education policies. To obtain this, we need commitment to the original ideas of NextFOOD – an education system for sustainability based on experiential and student-centered learning, as well as endurance and high-quality work from all partners.

I hope you'll enjoy the photos from the conference with a positive and creative atmosphere, as well as the brief up-date on what's going on in each work package.

Martin Melin

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

NextFOOD coordinator

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*Great atmosphere at the NextFOOD consortium
conference 2019.*

*We were happy to welcome **47 participants** at the first annual
consortium meeting in Budweis, Czech Republic.*

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