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NEWS FROM NEXTFOOD PROJECT

1. Review meeting in Brussels

by *Martin Melin, SLU*



Research Executive Agency

First-class support
for European research
that matters

At January 29 a team from Nextfood went to Brussels to present the progress and preliminary results in the project. At the meeting were present our project officer from the Research Executive Agency and a policy officer from DG Agri. Together with two expert reviewers we got valuable feedback on the deliverables and the accomplishments of tasks, and the fruitful discussions that followed gave us ideas on what can be improved. Overall the project is right on track and the European Commission is satisfied what we have achieved so far.

Present at the meeting (From Nextfood):

RUC: Niels Heine Kristensen, Stine Rosenlund Hansen
NMBU: Geir Leiblein, Tor Arvid Breland
UNIBO: Davide Viaggi, Rubina Sirri
USB: Jan Moudry
LU: Ivanche Dimitrievski
AFS: Filippas Papadopoulos, Krystalidou, Evdokia
SLU: Martin Melin, Christer Borglin

2. WP4 results of task 4.1

by *Rubina Sirri, UNIBO*

The Work Package 4 of the NEXTFOOD project, within the task 4.1 “Diagnostics of existing policies”, aimed to provide an assessment of the existing policies in the agricultural, food and forestry education systems and their role in the EU research and education. The task was based on an online survey addressed to all actors of research and education such as stakeholders, farmers (big and small-medium companies), value chain actors, innovation brokers, bachelor and master degree coordinators, PhD coordinators, teachers, researchers, experts, advisors, local and EU authorities and policymakers. In addition, the invitation to fill the questionnaires was diffused through a network of about ten selected EU projects in which UNIBO is partner and via professional networks on LinkedIn. The survey entitled “Educational Policies on Agrifood and Forestry Systems” was launched at the end of June 2019 with deadline for receiving the answers by the 31 August 2019. The survey was intended to gather judgements and opinions about the effectiveness of the existing policies, their interaction, as well as gaps by considering four different educational policy fields: 1) Pre-university education (High school), 2) University education, 3) Adult learning, vocational education and training, and 4) Training measures in agricultural, food and forestry sectors (e.g. CAP).

The number of respondents who have taken part at the survey was 188. The main findings of the survey highlighted the existence of policy gaps and a scarce coordination among the four policy fields discussed (Figure 1), which are planned mostly on a country level. Furthermore, it was put on evidence the lack of sufficient innovation in education tools and insufficient opportunities for young agrifood and forestry professionals to access adult training and vocational education. Other considerations were the scarce efficiency of policies in providing student-centred learning, interdisciplinarity, internationalisation/mobility, networking, and finally, in providing an efficient sustainability, entrepreneurship and innovation of the field.

For all these reasons, the quality of actual educational policy in the agricultural, food and forestry sector was perceived as poor to support the sustainability transition challenge of the agrifood and forestry sector. The current European agrifood and forestry system is too slow to innovate towards more sustainable agriculture, forestry, food and bio-based value chains. Farmers need to develop their capacities to innovate, to co-create and implement new practices, to adapt to legislative, policy, market and environmental changes, to develop contemporary skills in order to market their products, and to take part in interactive innovation-based networks. In this context the next step of the project under the Task 4.2 "Identification of strategies for improvements" will be focused on the identification and proposal of strategies for improvements, that will permit a shift towards a more sustainable and innovative sector and to face the new challenges of an evolving sector that requires new and different learning approaches, starting from knowledge sharing, education, and training of future professionals.

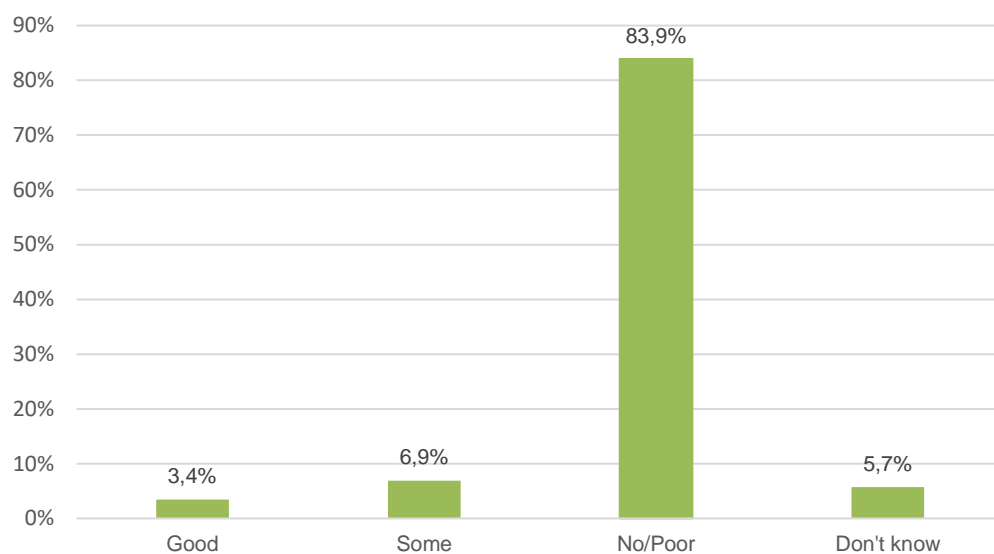


Figure 11: Respondents' opinion about the rate of coordination among the four policy fields.

Good=good coordination; Some= some coordination to be improved; No/Poor= No at all coordination or poor coordination

3. NextFOOD project welcomes a new member

by **Martin Melin**, SLU

It is our pleasure to introduce Nora Pistor as Gender Advisor (Consultant). Nora has profound training & research competencies on gender in development and humanitarian programs, gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, Women, Peace & Security, sexual violence/ gender based violence, strategic planning for gender equality and women's empowerment, gender coaching, organizational advisory on gender. We are sure working with her in NEXTFOOD will be an enriching experience.

Nora Pistor – Bio and role in NEXTFOOD

Nora Pistor is a gender specialist with a background in political and legal sciences from Freiburg University, in Germany. She is working as independent consultant specialized in gender in international development projects with more than 13 years of professional experience. Recent work include advising the Livelihood and Food Security Trust (LIFT) managed by UNOPS in Myanmar, on gender mainstreaming, capacity building, gender research, as well as gender sensitive M&E; supporting UN agencies in Myanmar for the enhancement of gender in institutional policies and practices of selected partners; conducting action research for WFP Haiti for policy recommendations on gender aspects in the nationwide school feeding program; and supporting the integration of gender aspects in the EU funded Ocean Governance program.

All in all, Nora counts on extensive experience on gender in research and practice, working for various government and non-government agencies as well as for research institutes, in projects for both gender equality and women's empowerment in the Global South including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Central America and Western Africa. She is also engaged as technical resource person for several global and local networks on gender, such as the Gender Equality Network (GEN), the largest network of women's organizations in Myanmar, an active member of the board of directors of Mattered Foundation for Women and Health, Germany, as well as various other global technical working groups related to gender and development, i.e. VENRO, AWID, the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the recently founded Society of Gender Professionals (SGP).

Apart from speaking German as her mother tongue, Nora is fluent in English and French, has good command of Italian and Spanish and studied Arab, Vietnamese and Burmese languages while working in the respective areas. In her free time, she loves playing the piano, dancing salsa and running with her husky mix in the woods.





Her role in the NEXTFOOD project is to:

- Support the organizational and procedural integration of gender in the work of the partners as a crosscutting feature, e.g. making sure gender is considered in all project related policies, throughout all processes, guidelines, tools, applied in all practices, and reflected in all outputs, by all partners, i.e. action research, case courses, contents, etc.;
- Develop a gender reference guide for the NEXTFOOD project based on the assessment of gender capacities of partners;
- Providing advisory support to partners for the integration of gender in outputs throughout the project timeline, on a needs and interest base;
- Develop policy recommendations on the nexus of gender and agri-food systems.

NEWS ABOUT EDUCATION & TRAINING

Master in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty

by *Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche*



We are delighted to announce the new Master in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty at Università di Scienze Gastronomiche di Pollenzo which starts on the 28th of September 2020.

The one-year Master program was developed as part of the "NEXTFOOD" H2020 project "Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system" and was the result of 1 and a half years of research.

The program is co-designed with a participatory approach of professors, researchers, students, farmers and food producers, Slow Food & Terra Madre community and is

based on Action and Experiential Learning Approach in the following key-dimensions:

- *Food Sovereignty*
- *Sustainable Agroecosystems*
- *Sustainable Food Systems*

For more info click the below link:

<https://www.unisg.it/en/?s=Master+in+Agroecology+and+Food+Sovereignty>

NEWS ABOUT CONFERENCES/EVENTS/WORKSHOPS

ISEKI Conferences

by Katherine Flynn and Line Friis Lindner, ISEKI FOOD-ASSOCIATION

➤ Final Conference on Sustainable Cereals

Final Conference on Sustainable Cereals. Food-Factory-4-Us. 6 March at 12.30 CET. Free and open to the public!!

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register.../4311266860038528013>

This conference will be interesting for university students of all levels and academic faculty in any food-related programme, cereal industry representatives, and anyone interested in sustainable food production.

The FoodFactory-4-Us Sustainable Supply Chain International Student Competition - organised by the [ISEKI-Food](#) Association in collaboration with the [ICC - International Association for Cereal Science and Technology](#) - as part of the [NextFood](#) project - has been running since November 2019 with student teams from universities worldwide competing in a game based on participatory education and action learning to find the best solutions to how ancient/alternative grains can contribute to improved sustainability in the cereal chain.

To learn more about the student competition, visit

<https://food-sta.eu/foodfactory-4-us>



**2019 FOOD FACTORY-4-US
Final Virtual Conference**

**Sustainable Supply chain
International Student Competition**

6 March 2020 at 12:30-16:00 CET

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Logos at the bottom: FoodFactory-4-Us, Next Food international student competition game, AHDB, European Food-STA, European Commission, Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation, ICC International Association for Cereal Science and Technology.

- **NextFOOD seminar on "Action-learning for Educating the Next Generation of Agrifood Professionals:**



NextFOOD seminar on "Action-learning for Educating the Next Generation of Agrifood Professionals: The NextFOOD Project at its Midterm", Pre-Conference Seminar 7 July 2020 at the 6th International ISEKI-Food Conference, Nikosia, Cyprus.

The seminar is free and open to everyone, but pre-registration is required and attendance is limited. Registrants will be accepted on a come-first served basis.

Read more and register today at:

<https://iseki-food2020.isekiconferences.com/en/2114-nextfood-seminar>

