

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Title:** NEXT FOOD Legacy - Innovative Science & Education for Sustainable Agriculture  
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**Agronutritional Cooperation of the Region Central Macedonia** organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2021 (Thessaloniki, Greece) a conference on dissemination of results of the "NEXTFOOD" project, with great success and participation both live and online, in the framework of the 4th Women Entrepreneurship Week an official forum of the World Small and Medium Business Week.

The scope of the event was to mark the milestone for the Advancement of Rural Women Entrepreneurship as a tool for Women's Economic Empowerment in Europe. 'After all, highlighting actions with the dimension of promoting gender equality is now a priority within Horizon Europe'.

This year the Forum focused on the Restart of the Economy, with topics such as the section entitled Smart Agriculture - Crops - Agri-food, where " Horizon 2020| NEXTFOOD: Transition to more sustainable and competitive agri-food practices" took place. The discussion was opened by the President of ACRCM, Mr. Konstantinos Kiltidis who stressed the need to solve the problems facing Greece in the field of agri-food and support of Greek quality products, while among other things he stressed the need for the central administration to support people in the primary sector and especially women, saying "We live in the dismantling of the countryside."

In a very interesting presentation Mr. Martin Melin, project manager at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), developed the philosophy of NextFood collaborative and action-oriented learning model, which aims to educate future generations of farmers, building a new model diffusion of knowledge, supporting the transition to "student-centered education". Emphasis was placed on the analysis of the professional skills needed by the farmer entrepreneur, as well as on the acquired ability of the farmer entrepreneur of the future, where they were presented in detail in the NextFood project. Finally, he added that the project, which is an initiative of the European Union, consists of 19 partners from 13 countries and 3 continents.

Furthermore, an analysis of the educational strategy and the experiences they have gained from NextFood, made Ms. Lisa Blix Germundsson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), who referred to the case study of Sweden. For their part, Messrs. Anna-Maria Kroupa and Georgia Zafeiriou from the American School of Agriculture presented the implementation of the Next Food approach in Greece. Special attention was given to the Action Learning Set (ALS) methodology that the AFS is currently using for the implementation of the NextFOOD approach.

Then, Mrs. Maria Papageorgiou, professor at the International University of Greece, stressed the need for sustainable economic and social development in rural areas,

with initiatives that include environmental, social and economic dimensions aimed at enhancing regional cooperation through the synergy of NEXTFOOD and LOC-FOOD projects, as in the next post, which belonged to Mrs. Apostolina Tsaltabassi of ACRCM, where she referred to the synergy of NEXTFOOD and SMART FARMING 4.0 ALL (a project that also hosted action in the framework of the 4th Women Entrepreneurship Week).

In addition, through the presentation of Ms. Despina Ioannidou by the Women's Cooperative "Agios Antonios Thessaloniki", the role of women in the agri-food sector was analyzed and how the appropriate skills can be developed for the Agricultural Entrepreneur of the future.

In closing, after the exchange of views of the attendees, but also from the scientifically substantiated opinion of the participants, an optimistic climate was cultivated for the future of the agri-food sector and for how it can reach the desired levels, where at this point everyone agreed that cooperation is required, networking, development strategy and negotiation, which should focus mainly, if not exclusively, on sustainability.

NEXT Food Workshop Greek Translation live video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVjcpMV4w4Y>

NEXT Food Workshop English Translation live video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw9blz-JAhw>

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