

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Title: Synergy of NEXT FOOD and LOC-FOOD

By Daphne Kapsala, Project Coordinator of ACRCM and Professor Maria Papageorgiou of IHU

### Memorandum of cooperation of the Agronutritional Cooperation Region of Central Macedonia with International Hellenic University through their partnership in NEXTFOOD project.

A memorandum of cooperation was signed by Mr. Konstantinos Kiltidis, President of the Agronutritional Cooperation Region of Central Macedonia (ACRCM) and Professor Petros Samaras, member of the Department of Food Science and Technology and Dean of the School of Geosciences at International Hellenic University (IHU).

The aim of this collaboration is to identify agri-food products whose quality and interesting characteristics make them suitable candidates for certification under the European Union's quality scheme as Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), or Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG). This action forms part of the international project 'Local Development and Cross Border Cooperation in the area of Agricultural Products and Traditional Food' (acronym: LOC-FOOD), funded by the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020, part of the EU's Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation Programme.



Greece, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine are participating in the project, with the basic objective of developing and modernising the trade between these countries and of recognising new products as PDO, PGI and TSG in the eligible regions of the partner countries. The eligible region in Greece consists of the Region of Central Macedonia and the Region of East Macedonia and Thrace.



The overall coordinator of the project is the Department of Co-funded Regional Development Programmes of the Ministry of the Interior (Sector Macedonia and Thrace). The coordinator at IHU is Professor Maria Papageorgiou of the Department of Food Science and Technology. ACRCM is contributing to the LOC-FOOD project through its role as informal partner to IHU.

LOC-FOOD and NEXT FOOD project explored ways in which the two projects can collaborate to promote regional foods and to help support the agri-food economy of the region and 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.

Useful Links:

[\*\*LOC FOOD project\*\*](#)

[\*\*Food Science and Technology Department of the International Hellenic University of Thessaloniki, Greece\*\*](#)

[\*\*Agronutritional Cooperation Region Central Macedonia\*\*](#)

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