An interregional cooperation project for improving innovation delivery policies

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Romania**
Regional Development Agency of the West Region Romania (West RDA)

**Ireland**
Donegal County Council

**United Kingdom**
Derry and Strabane District Council

**Finland**
Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia

**Estonia**
Tartu Science Park Foundation

**Poland**
Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship

**Greece**
Region of Crete

**General facts**
Interreg Europe Programme 2014-2020
Priority 1: Research & innovation
Specific objective: 1.2: Improving innovation delivery policies

**Project duration**
April 2016 – March 2020

**Project Budget**
1,330,093.00 Euro

**Lead Partner**
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**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Pioneer an open innovation approach in the food sector bringing together all the relevant stakeholders under a quadruple helix model i.e. research centres, universities, enterprises, policy makers, innovation agencies, final consumers, etc, at both regional and interregional level, to propose actions based on a mutual learning exercise that will improve the regional policies supporting the introduction of innovation into the regional food value changes.

Establish regional open innovation ecosystems to assure the perpetuation of a systemic support to the innovation applied to the food sector.

Exchange and learn from experiences among regions sharing similar challenges, opportunities and areas of smart specialization.

Explore new mechanisms to transfer and apply research and innovation for new food products, services or processes.

*The food sector as a whole is faced with major challenges that arise from changes in the sector’s economic and non-economic environments. The availability of safe, sustainable and healthy food has taken a new and pressing dimension in the light of an ever-growing global population and increasing environmental and sustainability concerns.*

NICHE aims at increasing the adoption of research and innovation solutions by food sector companies through an open innovation approach under a quadruple helix model and of new food products, services or processes.

About 85% of productivity growth in advanced economies is driven by innovation. Because of this, EU Policy concept is setting up to support sustainable growth that is increasingly related to the capacity of regional economies to innovate, transform and adapt.