



INTERREG EUROPE – QUALIFY

2nd Stakeholders meeting

First QUALIFY Strategic Committee meeting

Barcelona, 2 July 2020

The second stakeholder's meeting was held on July 2 at the headquarters of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food in Barcelona. A total of 63 professionals from the agri-food sector attended in person and also online. The Stakeholders group was named as a Strategic Committee of the QUALIFY project.

Among the attendees, there were experts from different fields (Administration, Industry, Research and Civil Society).

The **Strategic Committee**, which has been set up within the framework of the QUALIFY project and which currently has a total of 77 professionals in the sector, is a consultative, participatory and living body, which will be active throughout the project and to which they may join. all those people and organizations that have an interest. It is expected that this Committee will have the functions of identifying the needs of agri-food SMEs to be more competitive in terms of self-control of food quality, authenticity and the fight against fraud, and also to identify the actions that should make up the plan. project action. Finally, the Committee contributes to the dissemination of the project among the stakeholders.



This first meeting consolidates a network of professionals to work in a coordinated manner over the coming years and achieve the development of a complete and effective Action Plan.

During the meeting, the **Interreg Europe QUALIFY project**, its characteristics and objectives were presented and the details of the results obtained during the first period were presented too, introducing the results and conclusions of the surveys carried out on agri-food SMEs in Catalonia.

Therefore, the **funding aspects** were presented too, including the relationship between the project and the management of financial and non-financial instruments and the opportunities that may benefit agri-food SMEs in benefiting from carrying out actions related to the objectives of QUALIFY.

Presentation of the **SWOT** exercise identified on the situation of food fraud prevention in the agri-food sector in Catalonia. Presentation of the **Good Practices** identified in the field of food fraud prevention in the framework of the QUALIFY project.

Then, **3 working groups** were organized with the attendees of the session.

- Objective: To make a diagnosis of the prevention and food fraud control in Catalonia, to identify good practices and possibilities for improvement and to detect the needs or limitations of the agri-food system to achieve them.
- Methodology: Discussion in working groups made up of a facilitator and representatives of the 4 areas of work (administration, industry, research and civil society) and subsequent exchange of the results of the different groups.

A debate activity was generated among the attendees on aspects of interest related to the current situation regarding agri-food fraud and the perspective of the situation from each institution and field of work. Other aspects related to the QUALIFY objectives were also discussed, such as those related to the field of agri-food quality, quality own-checks, other quality systems, certifications and tools to ensure quality and prevent fraud.

Finally, all the conclusions obtained in each discussion group were shared with all the members of the Strategic Committee and a global conclusion of the session was obtained.

