

TAB 2 – Reporting on the learning process (core phase)

01C0239 - RobinFood PR2

Building an Innovative and Sustainable Regional Agrifood Sector

Reporting period 01/09/2023 to 29/02/2024

	Organisation	Country	Current report
PP02	Development Agency of Asturias	ES	17,664.58 €
PI02	Asturias S3 (1.1 Innovation in products and processes in the Agrifood chain)		

A. Insight into the learning process (core phase)

Please list the main activities organised in your region contributing to the individual and organisational learning (e.g., stakeholder group meetings, activities within your own organisation) during this period. Who are the main stakeholders involved?

The involvement of stakeholders in the policy learning process has been ensured with the organisation of the 2nd stakeholders meeting in Oviedo. The 3rd stakeholder meeting was organised in Llanera in March (30 participants) to prepare the 3rd interregional learning meeting that will take place in Dubrovnik (HR).

PP2 shared with the different departments of the agency the economic feasibility study carried out to evaluate food manufacturing's potential in the region.

Please describe more specifically the involvement of the **associated policy authority** during this period.

The Regional Ministry of Industry and Employment (APA) participated in the 2nd Stakeholders group meeting.

Please summarise how your region contributed to the content of the interregional activities and benefited from it during this period.

The main contribution of the region to the project has been the identification and sharing of 3 regional good practices related to the topic "supporting programmes for the agrifood sector".

In addition, representatives of 3 stakeholders participated in the interregional meeting in South Ostrobothnia (FI): the Ministry, the Asturias Food Cluster and the University of Oviedo. The cluster and university presented 2 good practices: "Agri-food circular systems" and "Master's degree in food biotechnology".

B. Achievements

Organisations with increased capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation (PR8)

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PP02	Development Agency of Asturias	ES	17,664.58 €
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A. Insight into the learning process (core phase)

Please list the main activities organised in your region contributing to the individual and organisational learning (e.g., stakeholder group meetings, activities within your own organisation) during this period. Who are the main stakeholders involved?

The involvement of stakeholders in the policy learning process has been ensured with the organisation of the 2nd stakeholders meeting in Oviedo (ES) at the end of October (25 participants) to prepare the 2nd interregional learning meeting in South Ostrobothnia (FI). Based on the reflection of the first meeting in the previous semester, more time was reserved for interactive and open discussions. Ms. Palacio, manager of the Asturias Food Cluster shared the current and future challenges related to prioritising food for the region, food waste and smart food. ~~The 3rd stakeholder meeting was organised in Llanera (ES) in March (30 participants) to prepare the 3rd interregional learning meeting that will take place in Dubrovnik (HR).~~

During its annual assembly on 15 January, PP2 shared with the different departments of the agency the economic feasibility study carried out to evaluate food manufacturing's potential in the region. The study predicts that in less than 10 years, food manufacturing could contribute an additional 2,000 jobs and 1,2 MEUR boost to the turnover.

Please describe more specifically the involvement of the **associated policy authority** during this period.

The Regional Ministry of Industry and Employment (APA) participated in the 2nd Stakeholders group meeting. It was represented by Mr Fernandez, General Director of Innovation who mentioned that "The food and agriculture industry is of great capital importance in Asturian industrial activity, constituting the third branch of activity along with metal and extractive industries, energy, and water". As mentioned below, Mr Fernandez also joined the Asturian delegation for the 2nd interregional meeting in South Ostrobothnia. He was able to meet there the director of the economic development department of the Regional Council.

Please summarise how you region contributed to the content of the interregional activities and benefited from it during this period.

The main contribution of the region to the project has been the identification and sharing of 3 regional good practices related to the topic "supporting programmes for the agrifood sector". In particular, PP2 presented the good practice "Smart Food Initiative" which was selected by the project partners during the interregional event. In addition, representatives of 3 stakeholders participated in the interregional meeting in South Ostrobothnia (FI), the Ministry, the Asturias Food Cluster and the University of Oviedo. The cluster and university presented 2 good practices: "Agri-food circular systems" and "Master's degree in food biotechnology".

This semester, we were particularly interested in a good practice presented by the Irish partner (Carlow County Council). This practice is related to the direct involvement of their agro-food cluster in the definition of support measures prepared by the Council for the food sector. We are investigating whether a similar approach can be developed in Asturias. The visit to the Food Lab Incubator raised also the interest of the Oviedo university. Another benefit of this semester was the consolidation of the stakeholder's group, with 35 stakeholders, representing various actors of the Asturias's food sector (Companies, research centers, University of Oviedo, consumer associations). The objective is to investigate how the region could seek economic opportunities thanks to the cooperation with stakeholders from the other participating regions in the project.

B. Achievements

Organisations with increased capacity due to their participation in interregional cooperation (PR8)

TAB 3 - Involvement in the Policy Learning Platform

During the reporting period, did you contribute to any of the Policy Learning Platform activities (for example contribution to policy briefs/ stories, speaker in an event, peer in a matchmaking/ peer review). **NO**

During the reporting period, did you use any services of the Policy Learning Platform? **YES**

Please indicate which services you used: *(multiple choice)*

[Find policy solutions](#) (for example use of the good practices database, policy briefs, stories, learnings from events):

Please specify which tool / publication you used: [Policy brief "Supporting the agrifood sector"](#)

Meet the community (for example participation in thematic workshops/ webinars/online discussions, finding contacts through the community)

Please specify: [Webinar on "How to edit your project website" \(Jan 2023\)](#)

[Get policy advice](#) (through hosting a peer review/matchmaking session or using the policy helpdesk)

Please specify which policy advice support you used _____

If relevant, please indicate what benefits you gained from using these services: *(multiple choice)*

- Increased professional capacity
- Cooperation with new organisations / projects
- Other

Please further explain the benefit gained

n/a

Do you have any suggestions on the Platform activities (e.g., topics to be covered, services to be offered)

n/a

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During the reporting period, did you contribute to any of the Policy Learning Platform activities (for example contribution to policy briefs/ stories, speaker in an event, peer in a matchmaking/ peer review). **NO**

During the reporting period, did you use any services of the Policy Learning Platform? **YES**

Please indicate which services you used: *(multiple choice)*

[Find policy solutions](#) (for example use of the good practices database, policy briefs, stories, learnings from events):

Please specify which tool / publication you used: [Policy brief “Supporting the agrifood sector”](#), [GP database](#)

Meet the community (for example participation in thematic workshops/ webinars/online discussions, finding contacts through the community)

Please specify: ~~[Webinar on “How to edit your project website” \(Jan 2023\)](#)~~

[Get policy advice](#) (through hosting a peer review/matchmaking session or using the policy helpdesk)

Please specify which policy advice support you used:

If relevant, please indicate what benefits you gained from using these services: *(multiple choice)*

- Increased professional capacity.
- Cooperation with new organisations / projects
- Other

Please further explain the benefit gained (if any)

We have used inspiring examples from the policy brief during their stakeholders' meetings to facilitate the selection of the regional good practices. In addition, the following 2 good practices from the PLP database raised the interest of our stakeholders in Asturias: Tipperary Food Producers Network from Ireland (SUPER) and Support for investment in agrifood industries from Spain (SME Organics)

Do you have any suggestions on the Platform activities (e.g., topics to be covered, services to be offered)

As some partners are involved in more than one project, it would be great if the dates of the PLP events are communicated as earlier as possible (thematic workshop, webinars). This will allow to plan the project meetings to avoid overlapping with the PLP events.