

# FoodChain4EU

Final Conference, 7th October 2021

Learned lessons by the project:

**Harmonization of regional structural funds:  
the experience in the Emilia-Romagna Region**

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## THE PREMISES AND OUR APPROACH

THE CORE OF THE E-RR AGRI-FOOD POLICY: to develop a production of food with an high level of **quality** and obtained with **sustainable methods**. Thanks to these characters, to be competitive in order to improve the export toward the national and international markets

- ▶ That target requests to assure **innovation** and to optimize the support of the available instruments
- ▶ The aim of our participation in the FoodChains 4 Europe project was to improve the implementation of the regional policies that stimulate the delivery of innovation useful to support sustainable food chains through a better integration between the two most important EU programs: **ERDF-ROP** and **EAFRD-RDP**.

## SOME SPECIFIC CONDITIONS ...

When the Interreg Europe Call was launched:

- ▶ The Structural Funds Programming period was running since 3 years
- ▶ The measures of our Regional **ERDF-OP** useful to support agri-food industry were in advanced progress
- ▶ Under the **EAFRD-RDP** program we were about to allocate huge resources to support **innovation** in agriculture

To give the right answers to the territory needs it was necessary to act promptly to make the funds consistent with the **ERDF-OP**

Using Interreg Europe could have been the best tool to have a strong coordination between the two EU Funds and a better orientation of the **EAFRD-RDP**.

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Using Interreg Europe could have been the best tool to have a strong coordination between the two EU Funds and a better orientation of the **EAFRD-RDP**.

- ▶ To really support innovation in Agri-food system both **EAFRD** and **ERDF** are useful and necessary because they are complementary

# WHAT AGRI-FOOD NEEDS

To act effectively in the agri-food sector it is necessary to operate on the entire supply chain:

For this reason very differentiated investments must be made: some are only eligible with **ERDF** and others are only eligible with **EAFRD**.

## Examples of support:

- ▶ creation of new biodegradable materials for packaging → eligible with **ERDF**
- ▶ use of new biodegradable materials for packaging in the processing chain → eligible with **EAFRD**
- ▶ development of new technologies for agricultural production → eligible with **ERDF**
- ▶ application of new technologies by the farmer → eligible with **EAFRD**

## THE USUAL COORDINATION AMONG THE REGIONAL STRUCTURAL FUNDS ...

The normal instruments of coordination of the EU funds of the **Emilia-Romagna Region**:

- ▶ Adoption of the Strategic Plan, according to the EU rules, concerning all funds of European origin
- ▶ Standing Committee between the Directorates-General concerned (**ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF**)
- ▶ Participation in each Steering Committee also of the representatives of the other Funds
- ▶ When requested, meetings and contacts between the officials of the various concerned Services

## ... AND DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FC4EU

- ▶ Strengthen of the relationships between the Managing Authorities of **ERDF** and **EAFRD** and increasing operational collaboration between the Teams
- ▶ Common analysis of the results reached with the Calls concerning the support to the Agri-food system with the aim to focus the further steps of intervention
- ▶ Convocation and consultation of one specific Committee created inside the **CRU** (the Committee for Research and University collecting all the scientific institution of Emilia-Romagna)
- ▶ Realization (1<sup>st</sup> march 2019) of the first joint conference on the results of the regional innovation policies towards the agri-food sector
- ▶ Launch of a call under the **RDP** regarding packaging for agri-food, as a result of the closer relations between the two Funds

# Learned lessons thanks to FC4EU

The partnership in FoodChains 4 Europe has been very important in order to realize amore effective coordination and harmonization between the EU Funds. Particularly, the experience during the peer review and the study visits allowed to complete our setting:

- ▶ The high effectiveness of Flevoland (NL) in optimize the potential of the different programs
- ▶ The interest of Maramures (RO) toward the importance of the quality products for the rural development
- ▶ the relationship modalities between scientific institutions and producers in Plovdiv/Sofia (BG)
- ▶ The importance diversification of the needs of consumers and citizens in urban areas, as seen in Greater Manchester (UK)



# CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND REMARKS ...

Thanks to the Interreg experience we have the opportunity to better analyze what we can do with the EU instrument without being continuously involved in the operational problems.

We understood that we must enhance some of the characteristics on which our agri-food strategy is based:

- ▶ The importance of innovation and the knowledge system
- ▶ The foundation of sustainable development
- ▶ The respect for consumers' health and safety
- ▶ The enhancement of territories and a local dimension consistent with the European Context

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**