

Feedback from society

Survey (M14, T8.5)

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Building a Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems: your feedback

About FOODPathS & this survey

This survey is run by the FOODPathS project (funded by the European Union through the Horizon Europe Programme), which aims to prepare the ground for the future Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems (Partnership SFS). This Partnership will play a crucial role in reaching the sustainability ambitions stated in the Farm-to-Fork Strategy and its overarching EU Green Deal, through the funding and implementation of research and innovation (R&I) initiatives. Indeed, the Partnership will have a budget and a funding mechanism to select R&I projects through open calls (i.e., Horizon Europe, CBE JU, etc.), based on priorities defined in a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). In the selected R&I projects, the Partnership will unite many different actors at local, regional, national, European and global levels, to jointly make the transition towards SFS a success both locally and EU-wide.

More concretely, FOODPathS is building the prototype of the future Partnership, including the topics on which the Partnership focuses, which activities they support, where these activities can be performed and when. For more information about the project, you can visit the website (www.foodpaths.eu) and read this [short leaflet](#).

The survey

With this survey, we would like to know your opinions about working in partnerships and your ideas on how a European Partnership aiming to transform the food systems should look like, such that it will also be of interest for you to participate. The information gathered will help us to better develop the Partnership SFS and to have a better understanding of how to involve and motivate stakeholders.

General information about your organisation

[Multiple choices, max 1] Which type of actor do you represent?

- Large agrifood industry
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- research centres and universities
- farmers
- NGOs
- Policymakers
- Citizens/civil society
- private investors (i.e., banks, foundations, etc.)
- public investors (i.e., development agencies)
- Other (Specify)

[Multiple choices, max 1] At which level is your organisation mainly acting? **Options** Local/regional, national, EU, international

- If national → which country?

Your experience in working in partnerships

What do we mean by “Partnership”?

A Partnership is “characterized by shared goals, common purpose, mutual respect and willingness to negotiate and cooperate, informed participation, information giving and shared decision making” (Casey, 2008).

Currently, there are several examples of “partnerships” at local/regional, national, European and global level that are working together to transform the food systems. For example, one of these is the [BIOEAST Initiative](#), which gathers policymakers and researchers of Eastern European countries collectively having the goal of developing and sharing a bioeconomy vision with their member states and national strategies. They have collectively set up a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and foster transparent communication on their functioning and actions. Another example, at smaller level, is represented by the [Pole Mer Mediterranee](#), that unites different stakeholder groups in the French Mediterranean Basin: they all share a blue economy vision and join forces in sustainability-oriented projects.

[Yes/No] Having read the description of what we mean by “partnership”, do you think you have ever worked in a partnership?

- If no:
 - **[Open]** Why?
 - **[Yes/No]** Have you ever considered joining a partnership?
 - No
 - Yes
 - If Yes: **[Open]** Why did you not join it at the end?
- If yes
 - **[Multiple choices]** How many partnerships are you involved in?? **Options:** 1; 2-4; 5-10; more
 - **[Open; facultative]** Could you please list some of the partnerships you are involved in? Feel free to add links
 - **[Multiple choices]** Considering all the partnerships you are involved in, what is your main role? **Options:** Initiator of the partnership; s; influencing the decisions/advocating for the stakeholders I represent; selecting activities to be funded; contributing to the partnership budget with my own resources; auditor of the partnership activities; contributing to the definition of the long-term strategy of the partnership; other (specify)
 - **[Multiple choices]** Which other actors are involved in your partnership(s)? large agrifood companies; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs); research centres and universities; farmers; NGOs; Government entities; policymakers; citizens; private investors (i.e., banks, foundations, etc.); public investors (i.e., development agencies). other (specify)
 - **[Multiple choices]** On which level/s is/do the partnership(s) you are involved in operate? **Options:** exclusively local/regional; mainly local/regional; exclusively national; mainly national; exclusively European; mainly European; exclusively international; mainly international; all levels
 - **[Rating]** What is your general satisfaction in participating in partnerships (averaged across the partnerships you are involved in)? 1 (not satisfied) – 5 (completely satisfied)
- **[Yes/No]** Are you aware that the European Commission and Member States are launching a Sustainable Food Systems Partnership (called FutureFoodS)?

Features of the Partnership

In this section of the survey, we are asking your opinion on how a partnership should function.

[Multiple choice, max 3] if you should be asked to set up a Partnership, what elements would you focus on first?

- Funding to support activities of actors external to the partnership governance (i.e., open calls, tenders, etc.)
- A clear and transparent governance (i.e., to the public, to stakeholders, etc.)
- A democratic and inclusive decision process (i.e., possibility of voting and being elected to the governing boards)
- Mechanisms to actively include neglected stakeholders
- A Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA, a document containing the long-term R&I priorities for the Partnership)
- Provide the possibility to contribute to the partnership strategic orientation (i.e., contributing to the SRIA definition)
- Actions to define and address educational needs and skill gaps in the specific sector
- Involvement of both public and private entities (i.e., public administrations, companies, etc.)
- Representation of diverse stakeholder views
- Focusing on multiple/all levels of application (local, national, European, international)
- A mechanism to provide networking opportunities to stakeholders
- Address the existing cultural differences (among stakeholders, countries/regions, etc.)
- Other (please indicate)

[Multiple Choices, max 3] What are the main benefits you expect from joining a partnership?

- Reputation (people's impression of my organisation is more positive thanks to participation in the partnership)
- Visibility (more people know about my organisation)
- Funding
- Networking
- Contributing to have an impact (on society, environment, etc)
- Co-create new solutions with other stakeholders
- Influence strategy/decisions of the partnership
- Increase my organisation's knowledge
- Improve the way my organisation informs citizens
- Being able to achieve outcomes my organisation cannot achieve alone
- Being one of the first to be updated on the main developments in a specific sector
- Other (specify)

SFS Partnership shape

In this section of the survey, we are asking your opinion on how a Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems should look like.

[Multiple choice, Max 2] What is the most urgent research topic which the Partnership should focus on to transform the food system?

- **Change the way we eat** (transition to sustainable, healthy diets)
- **Change the way we process and supply food** (supply-and demand-driven R&I topics reorienting the activities in post-farming and post-fishing to reach sustainable healthy diets)
- **Change the way we connect with food systems** (citizen engagement and consumer trust in reoriented food systems delivering sustainable diets)

- **Change the way we govern food systems** (leverage points for local, national, EU and global transition pathways, public procurement, etc.)

[Open] Considering the topics you saw in the previous question, do you think there is any priority that is missing" → optional

[Multiple choice, max 3] What would motivate you to take an active role in a sustainable food systems Partnership?

- Being regularly consulted on the Partnership's SFS long-term strategy
- Transparent decision making
- The fact that the Partnership takes into account the existing European food cultural diversity
- The possibility of being involved in the Partnership since the very beginning (and not only in a later stage when everything is already set-up and decided)
- The possibility of being democratically elected in its governing bodies
- Working together with other stakeholders for reaching sustainable solutions together
- A balanced representation of all relevant stakeholders
- Funding opportunities for the organisations/stakeholders I represent
- The presence of mechanisms to actively include underrepresented stakeholders
- Receiving enough visibility for my entity
- Networking opportunities
- A commitment to address a societal challenge (i.e., climate change, food waste reduction, etc.)
- Increase the credibility of my entity through the participation in a partnership
- The possibility to influence actions/decisions of other stakeholders (i.e., policymakers, companies, etc.)
- Other opportunities (events, networking, education, etc)
- Other (specify)

[Multiple choice, max 2] What could prevent you from joining a SFS Partnership?

- The active involvement of stakeholders from certain sectors or with certain priorities in the Partnership governance
- Lack of resources in my organisation (i.e., small staff, not enough budget to dedicate to this activity, etc.)
- The feeling of not being concerned to intervene at higher scales (national, EU and international)
- The governance structure (rules, government bodies, etc.)
- The presence of a fee/economic contribution for joining the Partnership, that will be used to guarantee its financial sustainability
- The fact that I could not be involved in the initial establishment of the Partnership (and I do not want to join in a second stage)
- Other (specify)

[Multiple choice, max 2] What kind of stakeholder should have a prominent role in the Partnership SFS?

- Large agrifood industry
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- research centres and universities
- farmers
- NGOs
- Government institutions
- Citizens

- private investors (i.e., banks, foundations, etc.)
- public investors (i.e., development agencies)

[Multiple choices, max 4] In your opinion, what are the best communication channels a SFS Partnership should use to reach the stakeholders you represent?

- Regular online newsletters sent by the Partnership
- Inclusion of news items in my own organisation's newsletter(s)
- Social media campaigns
- Organisation of dedicated meetings/events with my members/entities I represent
- Participation in conferences
- Communication provided from an institutional actor (i.e., the national/regional government)
- Giving visibility to my organisation in the governing board of the Partnership SFS
- Partnership SFS Website
- Participation in large fairs and events
- Publication of articles in specialised/sectorial journals (including the ones I publish for stakeholders I represent)
- Being a guest in podcast episodes
- Launch a Partnership SFS podcast
- Publication of articles/news about the Partnership SFS in my website/social media
- Other (specify)

Your potential involvement in the Partnership SFS

[Yes/No/ I don't know] When the Partnership SFS will be created, would you be interested in having a role/being involved in it?

- If no: **[Open]** Why? → optional
- If yes:
 - **[Open]** Why? → optional
 - **[Multiple choices, max 2]** Which role would you have? **Options:** being consulted (via interviews, open consultations, etc.); being involved in the Partnership governing boards; being considered as a potential member of a Stakeholder Advisory Board (being consulted in a structured and formal way by the Partnership governing boards); providing budget to the Partnership SFS to fund R&I actions; being only informed on the activities of the Partnership SFS

Before submitting...

Thanks very much for having filled in this survey and contributing to shape the European Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems!

If you are interested in FOODPathS, you can follow our activities on our [website](#), on LinkedIn and Twitter (looking for #FOODPathS or on @SciFoodHealth accounts) and on the [Sustainable Food Systems Network](#) community. You can also register to the FOODPathS database and receive information about news, events, publications, opportunities coming from the project.

[Yes/No] Would you like to register to the FOODPathS database? → optional

➔ If yes: please, insert your email

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