



An invitation to join the EU network of future research and innovation actors

Dear recipient,

you are receiving this invitation due to your membership in **ERIAFF network**. The Coordination and Support Action (CSA) **FOODPathS Horizon EU**, which is being executed by a consortium of 17 organisations under the coordination of INRAE, aims to prepare the ground for the future Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems (SFS). This Partnership (with an estimated co-funding by the European Commission of ~175 Mio Euro) will play a crucial role in reaching the sustainability ambitions stated in the Farm-to-Fork Strategy and its overarching Green Deal. It will unite many different actors to jointly make the transition towards SFS a success.

More concretely, the CSA FOODPathS will build the prototype of the future Partnership (including the co-design of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – SRIA, its governance model, *modus operandi*, research-innovation-policy-education interfaces, etc.). As essential part of this, **we want to build a network of interested funders who are willing to shape and prepare the future funding mechanisms in the Partnership**. Together with you we would like to look at the opportunities and limitations, best practices and mechanisms that help to align funding strategies and practices and to create innovative funding approaches. Our aim is to build a framework for future funding that supports high quality research all over Europe and beyond and enables dedicated systems and multi-actor approaches that are inclusive, and impact driven.

All funders are invited to join the network! In the Funders Network we aim to create a place for dialogue, sharing of information (e.g., for improving the SRIA content), practices, needs, visions and concerns. We will offer several events (mainly online) for active exchange (funders forum, starting in autumn/winter '22 and offered ~3-4 times in '23). We will also prepare some recommendations and guidelines regarding funding and programming.

To support the activities of the Funders Network and as a means of communication, we are also developing an illustrative online map. **The Map** will be displayed on the FOODPathS website (to be launched by the end of October) and will give basic information about interested funders for the future Partnership on SFS. Being part of the map is no formal commitment and completely voluntary.

In short:

What is planned?

- A mapping of interested funders who would like to get engaged in the SFS Partnership
- Several funders forum events (mainly online) to start a dialogue
- Working on funding strategies and programming to prepare for the SFS Partnership

What do we offer?

- Info on the Partnership itself and the co-funding instrument, rules etc.
- Open dialogues in the funder's forum
- Opportunities to exchange with other funders and ask questions
- Co-creation of future funding modes and shaping the co-funding landscape in the Partnership SFS (focus on systems and multi-actor approaches)

What do we need from you?

- Your expertise in the field of food systems and your interest to influence the future research and innovation policy in the EU's food ecosystem
- Your willingness to be displayed on the map of funders and convince others to join
- Some information about your organisation (see survey)
- Your time to join the funders forum events
- Your experience and ideas for shaping the funding in the Partnership SFS

Through this short survey, we would like to gauge your interest and willingness to join the Network and to be depicted on the Map of Funders. There are no formal commitments in the survey. Please, answer by the end of October, the link to the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/FOODPathS_Funders

Please contact in case of questions. With best wishes on behalf of the FOODPathS team,

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