









RUR-06-2020 & RUR-07-2020 Projects **Joint Event Sister Projects' Cooperation Experience** Brussels, Thursday, 26th October 2023 10:00 - 12.30 CEST

Summary report

24 November 2023



These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements N°101000852, N° 101000594, N° 101000439, N°101000617 and N°101000723.











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1. Venue

COPA-COGECA Rue de Trèves - 61 1040 Bruxelles - Room A

(online option)

2. List of attendees

Project	Participating person	Institution	Role	ONLINE
RUR-06 (CO-FRESH, PLOUTOS, FAIRCHAIN)	Ivana Oceano	REA	REA Project Officer	
RUR-07 (FOODRUS, LOWINFOOD)	Mihai Pera	REA	REA Project Officer	
ALL SISTER PROJECTS	Ana Patricia López	DG AGRI	Policy Officer	
-	Sam Emerson	COPA-COGECA	Policy Advisor	
	Geneviève Gésan- Guiziou	INRAE	Coordinator	
	Daniele Rossi	CONFAGRICOLTURA	Coop WP Leader	
	Tancredi Marini	CONFAGRICOLTURA	Coop WP contributor	
	Francesca Marino	CONFAGRICOLTURA	Coop WP contributor	ONLINE
RUR-06 FAIRCHAIN	Christophe Cotillon	ACTIA	Policy recommendations	ONLINE
	Katherine M. Flynn	ISEKI-IFA	Com & Dis WP Leader	
	Luminita Ciolacu	ISEKI-IFA	Com & Dis WP	ONLINE
	Ana Ramalho	ISEKI-IFA	Com & Dis WP	ONLINE
RUR-07 LOWINFOOD	Clara Cicatiello	Univ. Tuscia	Coordinator	
	Luca Contrino	AREFLH	Innovation WP contributor	
	Eriselda Canaj	AREFLH	Innovations WP contributor	
	Inés Echeverría Goñi	CNTA	Coordinator	
	Elena Gascón	CNTA	Coordination team	
	Ágnes Major	Kislépték	Policy expert	
RUR-06 CO-FRESH	Edelbis López Dávila	Gent University	Coop WP leader	
	Katarína Blicklingová	BEC	Policy expert	
	Michael Bregler	Univ. Hohenheim	Com &Dis WP	ONLINE
	Jos Bijman	Wageningen Univ.	Agri Business expert	
RUR-06 PLOUTOS	Nikos Marianos	GAIA EPICHEIREIN	Coordinator	
	Deitze Otaduy	Deusto Univ.	Coordination team	
RUR-07 FOODRUS	James Ling	Greenovate Europe	Com & Dis WP leader	ONLINE
	Mónica de Prado	ELIKA	Coop WP	ONLINE

3. Background

The 5 projects funded under RUR-06-2020 and RUR-07-2020 calls, started a close collaboration practically from the beginning of their activities, in November 2020 following the Topic requirement "To maximize impact across Europe and to ensure wide dissemination of the project results, proposals should foresee a dedicated work package for cooperation with other selected projects under topic RUR-06-2020 and earmark appropriate resources. Cooperation with other selected projects under topic RUR-07-2020 is encouraged". For this purpose, and in an agreed and coordinated manner, the 5 projects have established a working system, through the creation of a series of tools (common databases; different working groups, organisation











of rotating meetings...) which have enabled efficient collaboration and the implementation of a set of actions to maximise the impact of our projects.

After 3 years of cooperation, and since some of the projects are nearing completion, the sister projects proposed to organize a joint event to present and debate their cooperation experience with their REA Project Officers and DG Agri Policy Officer.

4. Objectives and expected outcomes

This meeting should allow for a joint analysis of the cooperation experience resulting in the identification of good practices that may be of interest for future cooperation activities between sister projects, aimed at maximising impact, maximising synergies, and avoiding overlaps.

(see annex1: introduction presentation)

5. Agenda

Sister Projects' Cooperation Experience Joint event						
Thursday, 26 th October 2023						
Time	Topic	Presenter				
10:00-10:30	Registration and Networking Coffee					
10:30-11:00	Welcome and introduction:	1. (. 5.h (. /co . 55551)				
	Objectives and expected outcomes from this event Cooperation methodology and Good practices in cooperation	Inés Echeverría (CO-FRESH)				
11:00-11:40	Joining efforts to maximize projects' impact: - Joining efforts in Social Nets and Web Pages - Organization of Joint Dissemination activities: - Joint Innovation Platform - Policy recommendations	Clara Cicatiello (LOWINFOOD) James Ling (FOODRUS) Katherine Flynn (FAIRCHAIN) Daniele Rossi (FAIRCHAIN) & Nikos Marianos (PLOUTOS)				
11:40-12:20	Round Table: Experiences and lessons learnt. - Introduction & Moderation: - Moderator - Round Table participants (1 representative / project) and REA POs	Geneviève Gésan-Guiziou (FAIRCHAIN)				
12:20-12:30	Closing remarks from REA POs	Ivana Oceano and Mihai Pera				
12:30	Event closure					











6. Main outcomes from the event

As a general comment, we would like to highlight the satisfaction of all participants after the event, having the opportunity to discuss and critically review the experience of cooperation of 5 sister projects in these 3 years of work and analysing the collaboration carried out, with its positive and negative aspects. The presentations were followed by aa rich debate around project cooperation, generating ideas and proposals to facilitate future cooperation, aimed at maximising the impact of European projects with an efficient use of resources.

The main outcomes and comments collected during the event have been organised into the following points to facilitate their use:

a. What have been the key aspects for a good cooperation experience?

- An early start of the cooperation and a joint definition of common objectives and agreed procedures to be applied during the Cooperation period, from the very beginning.
- Establishing a rotating leadership of different duties (mainly organizing Cooperation meetings) (Work in co-responsibility)
- In addition to the Cooperation Coordination Group, establishing thematic Working Groups (6) with specific focus, incorporating relevant partners from the 5 projects with activity/expertise corresponding WG field and positive outcomes.
- Use of open documentation sharing tools
- Identifying and defining specific cooperation and dissemination activities, of common interest, to be developed
- Establishing common languages/wording/templates in the definition of activities, methodologies, results, plans and timelines.

b. What have each project gained from working with other sister projects?

- Implementing joint actions to maximize the impact of the 5 projects
- Developing a common Innovation Platform to disseminate the activities of the 5 projects as well as results coming from previous projects, and that will last after these sister projects finish, chaining together funding from other (https://www.sustainablefoodplatform.eu/)
- Disseminating and communicating each other's results (Newsletters, web pages, social media, FLW Hub) maximizing impacts making the effort of each project more profitable.
- Broadening the scope of networking with the CCN (Cooperation & Collaboration Network) on Food Losses and Waste promoted by FOODRUS: transfer knowledge and learning from other projects beyond the 5 sister projects.
- Networking between partners having similar roles in the different projects (e.g. innovators, academics studying the same field of research), which can be exploited for future research activities
- Overpassing physiological limitations on different planning, timing, budgeting. methods, cultures, and more than believed, conviviality and friendships.











c. What have been the obstacles to effective collaboration and how the collaboration could have been even more effective?

- Different cooperation resources available and engagement level from each project, that needed to be harmonized once the projects were already running (not always easy)
- Lack of time to carry all the joint cooperation activities that were proposed, due to other project duties.
- Too many Working Groups, whereas if we had focused on a smaller number, this would have allowed us to better focus our efforts and be more effective.
- The projects have different timelines (e.g. Ploutos ended in September 2023) and methodologies and it took too long to identify any common features. As a result, it was difficult to identify the methodological, technical or scientific aspects on which we could have joined forces to be more effective.
- In the cooperation meetings and co-organized webinars, the focus was on (short) presentations and time for discussion was too short to get familiar with the other projects.
- In Innovation Action projects, the large number of industrial and private partners means that it is not always possible to discuss freely the technical and scientific issues on which the various projects could collaborate collectively.

d. Lessons learnt and best practices adopted from other sister projects.

Our open collaboration has allowed us to "learn" from the good practices of other Sister projects: Some examples:

- Joint Innovation Platform https://www.sustainablefoodplatform.eu/ (all)
- Co-creation methodology (all)
- Collaborative research work (PhD mobility: FoodRus and Lowinfood)
- Policy recommendations (Ploutos and FAIRCHAIN)
- Identification of Barriers and Best practices from other CCN projects (FoodRUs)
- Enhanced cooperation and collaboration and shared facilities with Food Drink Europe, Copa Cogeca, and other EU umbrella organizations (all)

e. Improvement suggestions for future sister projects cooperation:

- Focus on specific activities (Do not disperse efforts trying to do too many things in the Cooperation framework) and define common clear KPIs-
- When planning Cooperation activities in the proposal preparation phase, consider that these activities may require funding from the other sister projects (Plan this budget in the proposal). In the proposal phase, a budget can be set aside for unforeseen cooperation actions. For example, cross-exchanges between pilot cases are always great, but the partner which organizes the events shall foresee some budget, in the proposal phase, to invite people from other sister projects, and to open events to online attendants to facilitate sister projects partners to attend cross exchanges events of other sister projects.
- Small thematic Working Groups with limited and well-defined objectives are more efficient.
- Propose / Identify tools to assist and facilitate the exploitation of results after the end of the European projects. (i.e. Open innovation platform lasting after individual project completion)











- If possible, instead of (or on top of) producing a Policy Brief each project, Sister projects should be coordinated to produce a Joint one. This is difficult due to different project timelines and durations, and typically, Policy briefs are produced at the end of the projects.
- In Innovation Action projects, it is advisable to focus on collaboration in communication and dissemination activities, as it is often difficult to share technical and scientific activities due to the large number of private companies involved.
- Exploit as much as possible the opportunity to go to conferences together and to organize side meetings or events dedicated to the cooperation
- Mostly appropriate in RIA projects, including PhD / post docs exchanges between sister project partners in the same topic could be considered already at the proposal writing phase
- Also consider maximizing impact on the society (not just in the Food Chains stakeholders).

7. Joining efforts to maximize projects' impact:

- Joining efforts in Social Nets and Web Pages to increase the reach of the communication and dissemination (Annex 2)
- Organization of Joint Dissemination activities (Annex 3)
- Joint Innovation Platform (Annex 4)
- Policy recommendations (Annex 5)

8. Some pictures of the event









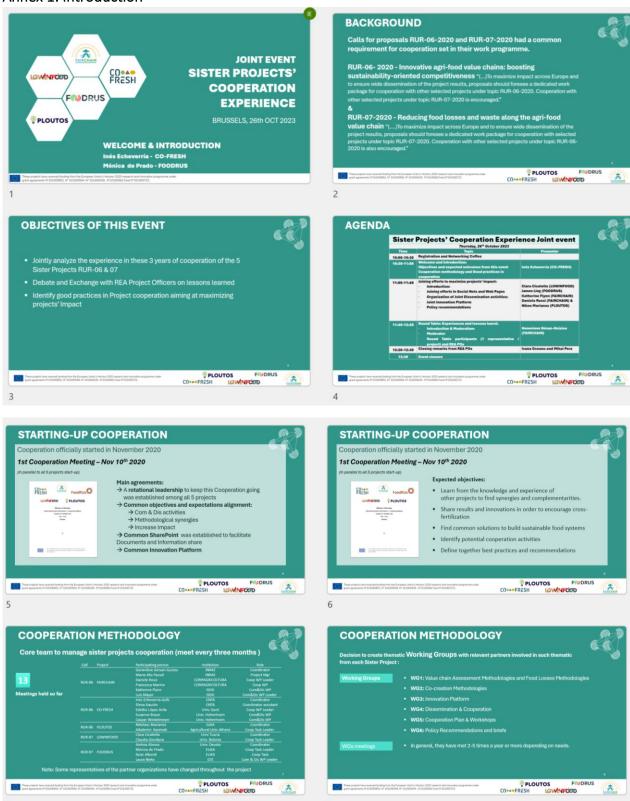






9. Annexes: Presentations

Annex 1: Introduction



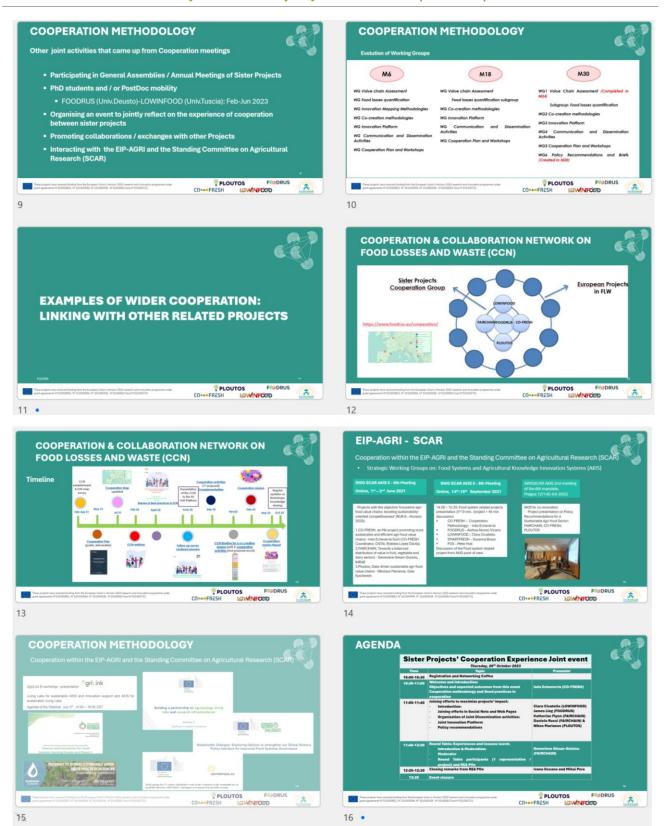














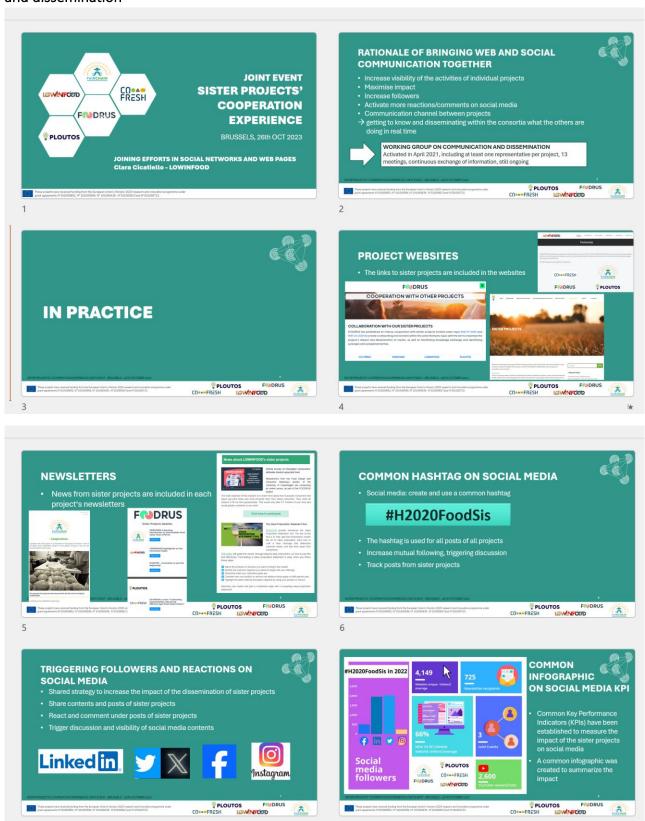








Annex 2: Joining efforts in Social Nets and Web Pages to increase the reach of the communication and dissemination



























Annex 3: Organization of Joint Dissemination activities







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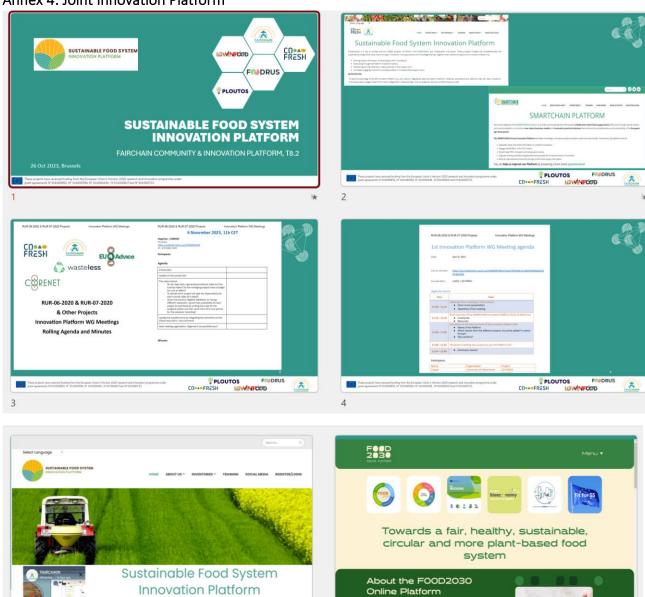






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Annex 4: Joint Innovation Platform







Innovation Platform







Annex 5: Policy recommendations



































