

More sustainable, resilient, and competitive food systems through the development of intermediate food value chains



PRACTICE ABSTRACT No: 56

How to collaborate with European Projects

Collaboration with other ongoing European projects can significantly improve the results and reach of all parties involved. Here are some strategies and good practices to promote collaboration:

1. Identify Potential Partners : i) *Map Related Projects:* create a landscape analysis to identify other projects that share similar objectives, themes, or target audiences. Utilize platforms such as the European Commission's Cordis database or networks like Eureka and Horizon Europe; ii) *Network Events:* Attend conferences, workshops, and networking events to engage with other project teams.

2. Establish Clear Communication Channels: i) *Schedule regular Meetings* (virtual or in-person) to discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration; ii) *Use Shared Platforms* and online collaboration tools (e.g., Slack, Microsoft Teams, or Trello) to facilitate seamless communication and document sharing.

3. Define Collaborative Goals : i) *Establish Joint Objectives and clear collaborative goals* that benefit all parties, such as co-organizing events, sharing resources, or common research outcomes; ii) *Ensure Mutual Benefits:* The collaboration should offer tangible benefits for all projects involved, such as enhanced visibility, shared knowledge, and combined expertise.

4. Leverage Resources and Expertise : i) *Share Resources:* Collaborate on resource sharing, including research materials, databases, funding opportunities, and technical expertise; ii) *Facilitate knowledge exchange* through workshops, training sessions, or webinars.

5. Innovative Joint Activities: i) *Organize co-host Events* (joint conferences, webinars, or workshops) to promote findings and disseminate knowledge broadly; ii) *Engage in joint research initiatives or publications* to combine findings and methodologies.

6. Cross-Promote Activities : i) *Define co-marketing Initiatives:* Use newsletters, social media, and websites to promote each other's activities, thus leveraging each partner's audience; ii) *Develop co-branded materials* to enhance visibility and recognition among stakeholders.

7. Maintain an Agile Approach : i) *Define Flexible Collaboration Models:* Be open to evolving the collaboration as projects progress. Adapt goals and activities based on the changing landscape or emerging insights; ii) *Establish Mechanisms to give and receive feedback* on collaborative efforts, allowing for continuous improvement.

8. Document Collaboration: i) *Keep Records:* Document all collaborative activities, decisions, and outcomes to foster transparency and accountability; ii) *Develop metrics* to assess the effectiveness and impact of collaborative efforts.

9. Engage Stakeholders: i) *Broaden the Network:* Involve stakeholders such as local communities, industry partners, and policymakers to enhance the impact of collaboration; ii) *Consult Stakeholders:* Seek input from diverse stakeholders to align collaborative activities with broader societal needs.

10. Explore Funding Opportunities : i) *Joint Funding Applications:* Investigate opportunities for joint funding applications to bolster financial resources for collaborative initiatives; ii) *Define Resource Allocation Models:* Discuss and agree on how to allocate resources effectively among collaborating projects.

Through effective networking, clear communication, shared goals, and innovative activities, ongoing European projects can foster meaningful collaborations that enhance impact and contribute to common objectives.

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End Users

Farmer & Cooperative, Industry & Retail, Policy maker, Technology provider, other

Country

European countries



FAIRCHAIN project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000723.

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ABOUT FAIRCHAIN

The FAIRCHAIN project launched in 2020 and coordinated by INRAE, is developing intermediate food value chains in the fruits and vegetable and dairy sectors. Through technological, organizational and social innovations and by developing business models FAIRCHAIN will enable small and mid-size stakeholders to scale up to supply fresh, sustainable and high-quality food products to consumers at a regional level.

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