

## Regional Ecosystems of Innovation to foster food system transformation toward SDGs

**12 October 2023  
11:30-13:00 (CEST time)  
Fiera di Roma**

### Background

Addressing sustainability challenges in the agrifood systems of the Mediterranean region Food systems impact positively or negatively on all of the SDG goals of the global Agenda 2030. Hence, if a food systems approach, aligned with the SDGs is adopted in their governance, food systems can be transformed from a major societal challenge into a lever of change for achieving a global shift towards sustainability and food security.

The EU has committed to Agenda 2030 implementing *principles of directionality* toward SDGs into all of its internal and external strategies and policies, with an ambition of achieving a tangible progress through a “whole-of-government” approach. The European Green Deal is the main European answer to deliver on the SDG ambition with the *EU R&I innovation policy a cornerstone for achieving its objectives*. In this context, policy makers need to provide R&I policy mixes that can steer *innovations at system* level toward the EU Green Deal objectives in line with the quadruple helix model of collaboration between governments, industry, academia and society.

To this end regional innovation ecosystems represent the fundamental territorial dimension which should be steered toward implementing multi-level food system governance that effectively translates the SDGs into place-based challenges and systemic solutions. Hence, there is a need for conceiving and pilot-testing innovative governance models to create the desired capacities of the regional innovation systems.

### THE SFS-MED INITIATIVE

The event is organized in the framework of the multi-stakeholder initiative for Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean, as an affiliated project of the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Program. The SFS-MED Initiative is coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). It aims at promoting dialogue and collaboration among Mediterranean countries and stakeholders while they implement national and local efforts for a transformation to more sustainable food systems.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

#### Awareness

Raise awareness about the importance of establishing appropriate forms of regional innovation eco-systems for steering the food systems toward the SDGs.

#### Knowledge

Share experiences from EU and Italy in innovation approaches to food system transformation

#### Systems approach

Create a common base for piloting and demonstrating the system approach for food system transformation.

## **Expected outcomes**

The event is expected to raise awareness about the importance of establishing appropriate forms of regional innovation eco-systems for steering the food systems toward the SDGs. From a long-term perspective, the event is expected to create shared understanding and a base for piloting and demonstrating the system approach for food system transformation. More specifically the event aims to address the key questions of:

- What are the characteristics of potential regional test-beds from the Italian landscape of regional ecosystems of innovation, on the base of which the systems approach can be successfully demonstrated in the context of innovative multi-level governance models?
- How can Italian regional innovation ecosystem pilots be established in relation to the funding instruments available at National and EU level?

## **Organising Committee**

ENEA: Massimo Iannetta ([massimo.iannetta@enea.it](mailto:massimo.iannetta@enea.it)), Milena Stefanova ([milena.stefanova@enea.it](mailto:milena.stefanova@enea.it))  
CIHEAM: Roberto Capone ([capone@iamb.it](mailto:capone@iamb.it)), Biagio Di Terlizzi ([diterlizzi@iamb.it](mailto:diterlizzi@iamb.it))

## **Technical Secretariat**

Milena Stefanova – ENEA

## AGENDA

11:30-11:40	<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<b>Massimo Iannetta</b> , Head of the Biotechnologies and Agroindustry division of ENEA; <b>Biagio Di Terlizzi</b> , Adjunct Director CIHEAM-Bari
11:40-11:50	<b>Sustainable and productive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean Region</b>	<b>Fabio Fava</b> , University of Bologna, BLUEMED and BLUEMISSIONMED
11:50-12:00	<b>Strategic Research and Innovation directions for Food System Transformation in the Euro-Med Region: fostering synergies with the Blue Economy</b>	<b>Maroun El Moujabber</b> , CIHEAM-Bari, Presidente comitato scientifico-PRIMA
12:00-12:40	<b>Round table discussion</b> <i>Stakeholder perspectives: quadruple helix model for innovation</i>	Moderator: <b>Davide Marino</b> , University of Molise and Italian Network for Local Food Policy  Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Sara Tedesco</b>, Senior Program Manager, Cluster BIG</li><li>- <b>Cinzia Pollio</b>, Senior Project Manager, Cittadinanzattiva</li><li>- <b>Massimo Zuccaro</b>, Scientific Administrator, CIHEAM-Bari</li><li>- <b>Elisabetta Luzzi</b>, FUSILLI project coordinator for Risorse di Roma SpA</li><li>- <b>Fabio Bonanno</b>, Head Agriculture and Food Policy - Assessorato Agricoltura, Ambiente e Ciclo dei rifiuti, Municipality of Rome (tbc)</li><li>- <b>Maira Rotondo</b>, Head Department of European Policy and Territorial Cooperation, ANCI - Association of the Italian Municipalities</li></ul>
12:40-12:50	<b>R&amp;I Policies and funding instruments</b>	<b>Serena Borgna</b> , Head of Department for the Institution activities, APRE
12:50-13:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Massimo Iannetta</b> , ENEA <b>Biagio Di Terlizzi</b> , CIHEAM -Bari

