Conclusions of 1ˢᵗ Meeting of the Thematic Partnership on Traceability and Big Data in the agri-food chain

Seville, 28 & 29 March 2017

A. General outline

1. Innovation as a **relational process**, forces us to establish good channels of communication for setting-up plural and diverse partnerships connected with their peers in other European regions.

2. RIS3 has been a good opportunity for European regions to put agri-food sector as a new TERRITORIAL priority within the smart specialisation strategies making their multiple added-value for regions development more visible. Not only in terms of agri-food production but also in the structuring of regions territory, rural-urban balance, land planning, consumers' health and environment protection.

3. The Thematic Partnership is responsible for **creating synergies and improving links** with other public and private projects with the aim to be more efficient. A short-term objective is to develop H2020 proposals for strategic support of the partnership.

4. The Thematic Partnership is a necessary instrument for co-creation and co-evolution of regions. Eighteen regions and 3 associated clusters have already joined the partnership.

5. The partnership is an **Innovation Support Ecosystem** in the agri-food value chain at a European level and within the regions.

6. Members of the partnership have the **capacity, resources and political will** to address initiatives linked to projects.

7. **Partnership funding** is a challenge along which we must continue to make progress and therefore we should implement actions to make joint projects possible. During this two-day event some funding actions have been explained although prior regions' commitment is necessary to financially support those actions they voluntarily undertake.

8. An **Interreg Europe project idea** was presented with the aim to support the thematic partnership. The proposal will be led by Andalusia and will be submitted within the third Interreg Europe Call which is open until June 30ᵗʰ.

Regions that would like to take part should submit their **expression of interest by April 15th**.

9. The **new H2020 Work Programme (2018-2020)** should include the possibility of supporting the partnership coordination and pilot actions. Regions should send their remarks and suggestions to their national contact points for consideration.

10. Additionally, Operational Programmes and sector-wide financing programmes must be seen as an opportunity for regions in the field of "agriculture and fishing modernisation" and "digital economy". Projects related to Big Data, traceability and agriculture can be included in those planning documents.

11. Presentation of 15 demonstration projects in the display area. See annex 1 for more information about participants and their projects.

12. The parallel Brokerage Event "SMARTFOOD: Traceability & Big Data in agri-food sector value chains" supported by the Enterprise Europe Network brought together 35 participants that hold 77 meetings.

B. Framework for Thematic Partnership's Action (conceptual definitions)

1. Traceability in the agri-food chain must be seen in the broadest sense including a data, a set of data or a process on a case-by-case aim basis.

2. Big data in the agri-food value chain ranges from IoT, data mining and technologies that enable aggregation of contents, to business intelligence or cognitive technologies able to provide predictions and behaviour patterns, etc.

C. Next steps: from learning to connecting

This issue has brought us together in the idea that we are facing a different scenario characterised by multiple sources of knowledge, new ways of working and of relations. And therefore, the partnership should operate within this new collaborative paradigm.

1. The **Thematic Partnership** is moving from the learn phase into a phase of **consolidation** with a focus on Helsinki meeting to be held in June:

a) Emilia-Romagna is proposed as Co-Lead Region of the Thematic Partnership based on their offer and the fact that they meet the availability requirements in all areas to undertake this role.

b) On March 23rd, the draft governance and management framework was sent to partner regions and we expect feedback from them by **1st May.**

c) There will be Co-Lead regions for each topic. Appointment of a coordinator for each Task Group would be very useful.

d) It would be useful to have a Central Europe region for a geographically balanced partnership, since it would bring other kind of contexts and territorial experiences.

e) The Thematic Partnership will take part in the EIP-AGRI seminar 'Digital Innovation Hubs: mainstreaming digital agriculture' to be held in Kilkenny (Ireland) on 1-2 June 2017 considering synergies identified between both initiatives.

2. The Thematic Partnership shall draw up a W**ork Plan** at this stage.

a) A specific scoping note for each topic is considered as a need in order to identify interesting pilot projects for the partnership. With that aim, regions must identify the topic/s they want to work in, and those in which they would like to undertake working commitments. The attached form (annex 2) should be returned duly completed **by April 15th** by partners.

b) Once the information of regions' interests in each topic is collected a work plan will be developed to produce the thematic scoping notes.

c) There is great interest in the four topics but it is necessary to identify common areas for collaboration. It is very interesting to identify projects to create synergies on the basis of previous information. Then, the first task of the partnership is to carry out a mapping of previous experiences/approaches in each region. In Seville, we have made further progress in that regard and have become aware of specific capacities and experiences on which to build the first joint pilot projects.

3. The Thematic Partnership shall provide itself with appropriate mechanisms to support the **flow of information:**

a) To create a map on the relational capital of the platform: relations, links and flows of information within the thematic partnership.

b) To create a Cloud Drive to share documents.

c) To set up a Linkedin Group to promote discussion.

d) Twitter profile to position the thematic partnership as a lead actor in Europe on Big Data, Traceability and Agri-food issues.

Annex 1

Display Area
List of participants & projects
Thematic Partnership on
Traceability and Big Data in the agri-food chain
Seville, 28 & 29 March 2017

PARTICIPANT	PROJECT
Sermicro Group / Bynse	Bynse Big Data and Digital Crop Care
Wageningen Univ. / COEXPHAL	Internet of Food and Farms (IoF20)
TIER 1	Comerzzia. SmartRetail OmnichannelUX
Diputación de Córdoba	FIMART (Innovation Fair)
ETSIAM. University of Cordoba	IrriCrop App
HISPATEC / ANSERLOG / WELLNESS TELECOM	Joint project on Traceability and Big Data in the agri-food value chain
IBM	IBM Watson in agriculture
INVENTIA AGRARICA S.L.	CULTIVAPP
SUBAFRESH SL	Lonja Virtual (Virtual Market)
UTW / Madrid Polytechnic University	OLEO-SENSE
Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Andalusia	Price and Market Observatory
IFAPA - Institute for Research and Training in Agriculture and Fisheries of Andalusia	GIS tools
Regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalusia	REDIAM (Network of Environmental Information of Andalusia)
Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Andalusia	RAIFF (Alert and Phytosanitary Information Network)
WENDU	Temperature control