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Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

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FoodSHIFT2030 project:

ZALF contributing to new EU project on sustainable transformation of our food system

A new project on transforming the European food system towards a low carbon circular future applies a groundbreaking mechanism for maturing, combining, upscaling and multiplying sustainable food system innovations. The project has received EUR 7.5 million from the EU Horizon 2020 programme.

Starting in January 2020, the FoodSHIFT2030 project will launch an ambitious citizen-driven transition of the European food system towards a low carbon circular future. The transition includes a shift to less meat and more plant based diets, while improving food and nutrition security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and revitalizing urban-rural linkages. Christian Bugge Henriksen, who is leading the Research Group on Climate and Food Security at the University of Copenhagen, coordinates the project. The project features a strong multiactor consortium with 31 partners composed of local governments, SMEs, NGOs, universities, research institutions and network partners, including THF Vision. "By supporting the transformative power of citizens already engaged in developing sustainable and innovative food system solutions in European city-regions, FoodSHIFT2030 aims to increase food sector jobs, boost small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), empower citizens and facilitate urban-rural cohesion. By doing so we aim to have a lasting positive impact on food system sustainability that will continue beyond the project lifetime," says Christian Bugge Henriksen.

Boosting innovation in FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs

The fast citizen-driven food system transition will be initiated in FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs in nine front-runner city-regions: Greater Athens, Avignon, Barcelona, Bari, Brasov, Berlin, Greater Copenhagen, Oostende and Wroclaw.

Subsequently knowledge will be transferred to FoodSHIFT Enabler Labs in twenty-seven follower city-regions. Each lab will work on maturing, combining and upscaling existing food system innovations within a specific innovation focus. The benefits of the food system innovations on the environment, the economy and the society will be determined by assessing their effects on a set of FoodSHIFT Indicators. Strategies and advisory plans for citizen-driven food system governance will be co-created to support food system transition and foster market uptake in the participating city-regions. The Lab in Berlin will focus on establishing a food hub prototype (Ernährungshof) in the former airport building Tempelhof as a lighthouse project for the food system transition in Berlin/Brandenburg, providing space for food production, trade/sharing, preparation, consumption, education and research. All interested food system stakeholders will be invited to join and collaborate on accelerating relevant food system innovations for developing “The FoodLifeCentre”.

The ZALF working group “Land Use Decisions in the Spatial and System Context” (DESCO) will carry out research on modelling and assessing benefits of food system innovations, e.g. towards carbon neutral production and distribution systems that meet to cover large parts of the metropolitan food demand from the surrounding regions. ZALFs research will put a specific focus on “Governing the transition” of the urban food system, by co-create strategies and support institutional learning in Accelerator Labs in Case studies and Follower cities across Europe.

The Berlin Lab will be led by the Berlin Food Policy Council, hosted by THF Vision and supported by ZALF and agrathaer. For more information about the FoodSHIFT2030 project check out: www.foodshift2030.eu



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**About the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) in
Muencheberg, one of the institutes of the Leibniz Association:**

Mission of ZALF is to deliver solutions for an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture –together with society.

As a contribution to overcoming global challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation and resource scarcity, we develop and design crop systems, integrated in their landscape contexts that combine food security with sustainability. Therefore we process complex landscape data with a unique set of experimental methods, new technologies and models as well as socio-economic approaches.

ZALF research is integrated systems research: starting from processes in soils and plants to causal relationships on the field and landscape level up to global impacts and complex interactions between landscapes, society and economy. www.zalf.de