

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITIES













INTRODUCTION

The FILA Plus project aimed to strengthen the local innovation ecosystem, promote growth and economic prosperity, and contribute to smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. The activities aligned with the EUSAIR strategy's cross-cutting aspects, focusing on research and development, innovation, SMEs, capacity building, and communication. The project employed the quadruple helix approach, involving civil society in constructing innovative ecosystems.

The interventions supported agro-food enterprises implementing innovative processes to address economic, social, and environmental challenges. The project contributed to a dynamic cross-border framework, fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and collaboration in the agri-food sector.

All partners actively participated in the coordination and organization activities of the initiatives. The common commitment translated into excellent participation of innovation players, policy makers, businesses and researchers. Furthermore, cross-border activity was strengthened through the participation of the delegations (businesses, researchers, pa) of the three countries in common initiatives such as B2B and Incoming mission, guaranteeing exchanges, comparisons, common planning and potential collaborations between the participants.













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ACTIVITIES AND GOALS

B2B EVENT "Open Innovation and Cross-Border Networking" / 15.12.2022 – Valenzano (ITA) / organized by CIHEAM Bari

CONFERENCE "Agriculture driven by innovation" / 30.03.2023 - Niksic (MNE) / organized by Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre - Tehnopolis

INCOMING MISSION "The role and application of project management for technology transfer in Universities and Research Centers" / 17-21 April 2023 - Valenzano (IT) / organized by CIHEAM Bari

WORKSHOP "Incentivizing and supporting business creation and business growth through FILA Lab" / 27 April 2023 - Korca (AL) / organized by Albanian Development Fund - ADF

B2B "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation" / 28 April 2023 – Korca (AL) / organized by Albanian Development Fund - ADF

CONFERENCE "Opportunities and support for new innovative ideas in agriculture and green economy" / 4 April 2023 - Podgorica (MNE) / organized by Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Directorate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development - DDSME

All the initiatives were aimed at fostering collaboration among research centers, enterprises, public authorities, and civil society organizations in the agriculture and innovation sectors (Quadruple Helix). The common goal and activities implemented by the partners have been:

1. B2B Events and Networking:

- bring together stakeholders, including startuppers, trainers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors;
- facilitate discussions and collaborations on topics like urban food system transition, digital and tech transition, and open innovation.

2. Conferences:





- gather a diverse audience, including researchers, enterprises, students, experts, government representatives, business associations, and international organizations
- raise awareness about supporting measures for circular economy, digitalization, marketing activities, internationalization, and mentoring.
- strengthen links between stakeholders, exchange knowledge, and discuss challenges and opportunities.

3. Workshops and Training Sessions:

- provide practical knowledge and support for business development
- enhance participants' skills in innovation processes, project design and management,

4. Knowledge Transfer and Collaboration:

- Emphasize knowledge transfer and collaboration between different sectors and countries to foster the development of innovative solutions in the agri-food sector.
- Encourage business creation and growth.











B2B

"Knowledge Transfer and Innovation"

28 April 2023

Korca (AL)

organized by Albanian Development Fund – ADF













Strengthening And Empowering Of Cross Border Innovation Networks Through Fertilization Innovation Labs In Agro-Food For Improving The Connection Between Research And Smes (EIP Approach)

PLUS

Organisation Of B2B event "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation"

AGENDA

	Organisation Of B2B event "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation"
10:00 - 10:30	Registration of participants
10:30 - 11:15	Opening remarks (Part 1) - Moderation – Ms. Ereandra Taipllari • Presentation of the topic • Presentation of sub-topics Presentation of participants: Project partners: Mr. Ylli Take - Project Manager FILA Plus - Albanian Development Fund Mr. Francesco Notarangelo - CIHEAM Bari -KU Youth & Innovation Ms. Anja Grabovica representative of IEC Tehnopolis Ms. Ivana Popovic - Representative of Ministry of Economy, Directorate for Industry and Entrepreneurship (Online Meeting) Representatives of innovative businesses in agriculture Stackeholders: Ms. Mitea Gegushi– Representative of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Vullnet Gjolla- Representative of The Directorate of Agriculture, Korçë Mr. Emiljano Muharremi - representative of the Agricultural Technology Transfer Center, Korçë
11:15 - 11:45	Coffee break







Ministarstvo ekonomskog razvoja i turizma



Strengthening And Empowering Of Cross Border Innovation Networks Through Fertilization Innovation Labs In Agro-Food For Improving The Connection Between Research And Smes (EIP Approach)

PLUS

Organisation Of B2B event "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation"

AGENDA

11:45 - 13:00	Part 2 Presentation on the topic "Inovation in Farming"
	Presentation of Success models – Inovation Businesses Key speakers: • Expert in the field of "Inovation in Farming" • Project partners
	 Representatives from 10 businesses- successful business owners and managers and new entrepreneurs and start-up representatives Representatives from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	 Stakeholders interested in the knowledge transfer (innovative solutions and research results)
13:00 - 13:30	Conclusions / discussions & Sign of memorandum of agreement
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break and networking



























WORKSHOP

"Incentivizing and supporting business creation and business growth through FILA Lab"

27 April 2023

Korca (AL)

organized by Albanian Development Fund – ADF











Fuqizimi dhe Forcimi i Rrjeteve të Inovacionit Ndërkufitar Nëpërmjet Laboratorëve të Inovacionit të Fertilizimit në Agro-Ushqim Mbi Përmirësimin e Lidhjes Midis Kërkimit dhe SME-ve (Qasja EIP)

dhe

Organizimi i një Workshop-it "Nxitja dhe suporti i krijimit të biznesit dhe rritja e tij përmes FILA Lab"

AXHENDA

Workshop : "Nxitja dhe suporti i krijimit të biznesit dhe rritja e tij përmes FILA Lab"		
10:00 - 10:30	Regjistrimi i pjesmarrësve & morning coffee break	
	Fjalët hyrëse	
	 (Pjesa 1) - Moderimi – Znj. Dhurata Thanasi Prezantimi i temës Prezantimi i nëntemave Prezantimi i Fila Lab 	
10:30 - 11:30	Prezantimi i pjesëmarrësve: Partnerët e projektit: Z.Ylli Take - Menaxher Projekti, Fila Plus- Fondi Shqiptar i Zhvillimit Z.Francesco Notarangelo - CIHEAM Bari -KU Youth & Innovation Znj. Anja Grabovica përfaqësuese e EC Tehnopolis Znj. Ivana Popovic - Përfaqësuese e Ministrisë së Financës, Drejtoria e Industrisë dhe Sipërmarrjes (Takim Online)Z. Thanas Koroveshi- përfaqësues nga Bashkia Korçë Z. Emiljano Muharremi - përfaqësues i Qendrës së Transferimit të Teknologjisë	
11:30 - 12:00	Bujqësore, Korçë Znj. Aldona Minga - Përfaqësuese nga Fakulteti i Bujqësisë , Korçë Coffee break	
12:00 - 13:00	(Pjesa 2) - Brainstorming	
	 Krijimi i 3 tabelave diskutimi me 3 tema kryesore: SME-të në ferme – Modele biznesi për SME-të në farming Inovacioni në Bujqësi – Metodat inovative në bujqësi Krijimi i Grupeve Vendore të Veprimit (GVV) 	
13:00 - 13:30	Konkluzione /Diskutime & Fjalet përmbyllëse	
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break and networking	
15:00 - 16:00	Tur në Qendrën e Inovacionit, Korçë	











Strengthening And Empowering Of Cross Border Innovation Networks Through Fertilization Innovation Labs In Agro- Food For Improving The Connection Between Research And Smes (EIP Approach)

PLUS

Organisation Of Workshop "Incentivizing and supporting business creation and business growth through FILA Lab"

AGENDA

Workshop : "Incentivizing and supporting business creation and business growth through FILA Lab"		
10:00 - 10:30	Registration of participants & morning coffee break	
	Opening remarks (Part 1) - Moderation - Mrs. Dhurata Thanasi	
	 Presentation of the topic Presentation of sub-topics Presentation of Fila Lab 	
10:30 - 11:30	 Presentation of Participants : Project Partners : Mr. Ylli Take - Project Manager FILA Plus - Albanian Development Fund Mr. Francesco Notarangelo - CIHEAM Bari -KU Youth & Innovation Ms. Anja Grabovica representative of IEC Tehnopolis Ms. Ivana Popovic - Representative of Ministry of Economy, Directorate for Industry and Entrepreneurship (Online Meeting) Mr. Thanas Koroveshi- Representative of Municipality of Korça Mr. Emiljano Muharremi - representative of the Agricultural Technology Transfer Center, Korçë Ms. Aldona Minga - Representative of Faculty of Agriculture , Korçë 	
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break	
12:00 - 13:00	 (Part 2) - Brainstorming Creation of 3 discussion tables with 3 key topics: SME In Farming – Business models for SME in farming Inovation in Farming – Innovation methods in agriculture and farming Creation of Local Action Groups 	
13:00 - 13:30	Conclusions and discussions & closing remarks	
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break and networking	
15:00 - 16:00	Walking Tour to Innovation Hub, Korça	























B2B EVENT

"Open Innovation and Cross-Border Networking"

15.12.2022

Valenzano (ITA)

organized by CIHEAM Bari











B2B EVENT

Open Innovation and Cross-Border Networking

Representatives of companies and organizations from Italy, Albania and Montenegro will meet in Bari to plan exchanges, develop synergies, make agreements, start collaborations and discuss new opportunities, new trends and face together the challenges of tomorrow

December 15, 2022

15:30 – 17:00

ROUND TABLES

Topic Tables will be organized on which different issues related to innovation and cooperation between territories, sectors and companies will be discussed. Each table will be facilitated by an expert who will introduce the topic with a keynote of 10 min

17:00 - 18:30

BUSINESS SPEED DATING

Participants will be able to meet in dedicated F2F of 30 minutes to discuss and start direct collaborations

December 16, 2022

10:00 - 13:00

International Conference COOPERATING FOR MEDITERRANEAN INNOVATION IN AGRIFOOD

The Mediterranean entrepreneurial and innovation Agrifood ecosystems are always evolving in the attempt to better responds to the needs of the entrepreneurial communities they are set to serve, with specific focus, to the younger generations. Ecosystem players (Research, Industries, Academia, public authority, innovation support organizations, investors...) need to smartly adapt. New and different collaborations need to take place, new and different approaches and support measures need to be designed, engineered, and deployed to support the current and future innovators and entrepreneurs. This needs to be done efficiently, continuously and sustainably.

13:00 – SOCIAL LUNCH





REPORT B2B EVENT - Open Innovation and Cross-Border Networking

The event of December 15th was organized in order to bring together companies, experts, organizations and researchers from the Agrifood sectors of Albania, Italy and Montenegro to create new synergies, discuss common problems and imagine cross-border collaborations.

Two specific activities have therefore been carried out:

- PHASE 1) thematic discussion tables
- PHASE 2) F2F among participants

The discussion tables were guided and facilitated by some experts on three specific topics:

- Urban Food System Transition Francesca Volpe, CIHEAM Bari
- Digital and Tech Transition Danilo Caivano, UniBa
- Open Innovation & Collaboration Company/Research Francesco D'Onghia, Almacube

The first phase included an introduction on the topic by the speaker, a tour of participants presentation and a discussion based on the theme and the stimuli coming from the participants.

All three tables were brilliantly animated, and the discussion was extensive and fruitful.

Especially:

- with respect to the <u>Urban Food System Transition</u>, there has been a lack of policies on the part of local authorities to protect producers and consumers who pay particular attention to the social, environmental and cultural impact of consumption, production and waste of food in rural and urban areas.
- with respect to the <u>Digital and Tech Transition</u>, it was immediately evident how innovation is fundamental to face the challenges of the future both in the field of environmental sustainability of the territories and in relation to the economic sustainability of companies, highlighting however a distrust and resistance on the part of the class of small entrepreneurs and producers in the agri-food sector that seems very difficult to undermine throughout the Adriatic territory.
- <u>Open Innovation</u> and the applied methodologies appear to be a great opportunity for large companies that have greater relations with the academic world, this relationship and the consequent possibilities it offers are still far from the world of SMEs in the Adriatic territory and can however be experimented and suggested thanks to a greater activation of universities through TT offices and Innovative Hubs.

The second PHASE of the B2B was organized through speed-dating between the participants matched according to the sectors to which they belong. The meetings lasted about 30 minutes. Later a space of free association was left between the participants.

The meeting ended with an aperitif to encourage further exchanges and relationships.









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BOCI 120505 KUSTIM 911

FRANCESCO D'ONGHIA - ALMACUBE

BULAJIC DIORDIE

BELLI ATTAY

BENEKOS Sotinios

PALMIEN Chave &

BALACCO

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INCOMING MISSION

"The role and application of project management for technology transfer in Universities and Research Centers"

17-21 April 2023

Valenzano (IT)

organized by CIHEAM Bari











INCOMING MISSION

"The role and application of project management for technology transfer in Universities and Research Centers"

CIHEAM Bari - Valenzano

AGENDA

17th APRIL

	-	
13:30	Welcome Lunch & Registration	
14:30	14:30 Welcome Speech	
	Maurizio Raeli – Director of CIHEAM Bari	
14:40	Opening Remarks	
	Ivana Zečević	
	DDSME - Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism	
	Ylli Take	
	Albanian Development Fund	
	Milijana Aleksić	
	IPC Tehnopolis	
	Dora Losacco	
	JS Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014- 2020	
	Damiano Petruzzella	
	CIHEAM Bari	
15:00	Seminar – Afternoon Session	
17:30	Transfer to the Hotel	
19:30	Dinner in the Hotel	
	•	

18th APRIL

09:00	Transfer to CIHEAM Bari
09:30	Registration
09:45	Seminar – Morning Session
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Seminar – Afternoon Session
17:00	Transfer to the Hotel and Free Time











19th APRIL

Transfer to CIHEAM Bari	
Registration	
Seminar – Morning Session	
Lunch	
Seminar – Afternoon Session	
Transfer to the Hotel and Free Time	

20th APRIL

09:00	Transfer to CIHEAM Bari
09:30	Registration
09:45	Seminar – Morning Session
13:00	Lunch
14;30	Seminar – Afternoon Session
17:00	Transfer to the Hotel
20:00	Social Dinner in Bari

21st APRIL

Transfer to CIHEAM Bari	
Registration	
Seminar – Morning Session	
Lunch	
Seminar – Afternoon Session	
Transfer to the Airport	











	SEMINAR PROGRAMME		
Date	MORNIG 09:30-13:00	AFTERNOON 14:30-17:00	TOOLS, DOCUMENTS AND METHODOLOGIES
DAY 1		 Understanding projects and value of PCM and the Logical Framework Approach – LFA The analysis stage (focus on problem and objective three and analysis of strategies/alternatives) 	
DAY 2	 The planning stage (the logical framework approach). Presentation of the practical exercise "Preparing a concept note in the frame of a EU call for proposals" The Application Package and templates Team building and organization of working groups 	 Working groups "Preparing a concept note in the frame of a EU call for proposals" (the analysis phase) 	 Application Package Project designing, technical and practical
DAY 3	 Working groups "Preparing a concept note in the frame of a EU call for proposals" (the analysis phase) 	 Focus on the planning stage (the logical framework approach). Working groups on the Logical framework Matrix applied at the specific call for proposal (the planning phase) 	 tips The concept note/application form Gantt Work Plan How to write a project proposal
DAY 4	 Working groups on the Logical framework Matrix applied at the specific call for proposal (the planning phase) 	 To finalize the concept note/application form (for each group) Working groups on: finalising the concept note/application form 	
DAY 5	 Working groups on: finalising the concept note/application form Presentation of the idea project (each group) 	 Presentation of the idea project (each group) Suggestions and tips Conclusions 	











REPORT <u>INCOMING MISSION - "The role and application of project management for</u> <u>technology transfer in Universities and Research Centers"</u>

The event of December 15th was organized in order to bring together companies, experts, From April 17 to 21, 2023, the incoming mission "The role and application of project management for technology transfer in Universities and Research Centers " was held at the CIHEAM Bari campus, located at Via Ceglie, 9 in Valenzano (BA).

The main objective was to foster the increase of participants' skills, representatives of Italian, Albanian, and Montenegrin Universities, innovation centers, national agencies and research centers, public authorities, by providing theoretical content and practical tools with respect to project design and management.

After welcoming the participants and an initial introductory session, the seminar activities were started by providing the first theoretical content that covered understanding projects and value of Project Cycle Management and the Logical Framework Approach. On the second day, the fundamentals of the planning stage (the logical framework approach) and examples of application packages and templates were defined. This was followed by the practical activity: the participants, after being divided into heterogeneous groups according to each one's professional position and skills to ensure a fair starting level for all, dealt with the analysis phase for preparing a concept note in the frame of an EU call for proposals. This phase also continued during the morning of the third day, while in the afternoon and during the morning of the fourth day, a specific focus on the planning phase was followed by the exercise to define the Logical framework matrix applied at the specific EU call for proposal. Also, on the second-to-last day, in the afternoon, theoretical guidance on project writing was first provided, after which the groups worked on defining their own project idea by writing a concept note and completing some application form sections of EU calls. On the last day, participants finalized their project ideas based on the results obtained during the practical exercises, and, in the afternoon, each group made a pitch with respect to their proposal.

The results obtained can be considered decidedly positive: the participants showed a marked increase in skills compared to the first day, and this was demonstrated by the level of the project proposals they presented. These positive results can also be attested to by the feedback from the participants, who filled out a final satisfaction questionnaire: almost all the questionnaires report high ratings.



















CONFERENCE

"Agriculture driven by innovation"

30.03.2023

Niksic (MNE)

organized by Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre – Tehnopolis











MINUTES

Agriculture driven by innovation conference

On March 30th, a project partner within the FILA Plus project, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis organized a conference on *Agriculture driven by innovation*.

The main aim of the conference was to strengthen the link between relevant stakeholders from the agri-food sector by exchanging knowledge about innovative technologies, approaches and challenges in the field of smart agriculture not only in Montenegro but also on the regional level. The conference served as a tool for connecting and fostering the development of innovation in the agri-food sector through best practice examples presentations. Additionally, during the conference, the importance of sustainable agrifood sector and food value chains which is in line with the S3 Smart Specialization Strategy of Montenegro have been underlined.

During the conference, various keynote speeches and panel sessions were organized.

09:00 - 09:30	Registration	
09:30 - 10:00	Opening remarks	
	Mr. Djordjije Malovic Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis, ME	
	Ms. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro, ME	
	Mr. Bojan Vujovic	
	Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, ME	
	Ms. Olivera Vukajlovic Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro, ME	
	Mr. Nemanja Vukovic Municipality of Niksic, ME	
	Mr. Francesco Notarangelo	
	CIHEAM Bari, IT	

AGENDA





	Mr. Ylli Take	
	Albanian Development Fund, AL	
10:00 - 10:45	FILA Project Innovation Ecosystems in the FILA Model: Living Labs and TTOs for stakeholders cooperation Mr. Francesco Notarangelo CIHEAM Bari, IT	
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 11:45	State of the art technologies helping reduce food waste Mr. Ivan Zlatanovic Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade, RS	
11:45 – 12:45	 Smart and sustainable agriculture Mr. Marko Oskar, BioSense Institute, RS Mr. Momir Alvirovic, Agrodron, RS Mr. Vito Di Cagno, CIHEAM Bari, IT Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Martinovic, FoodHub Centre of Excellence, University of Donja Gorica, ME 	
12:45 – 13:15	Coffee break	
13:15 - 13:30	Sustainable agriculture and food value chain as one of the priorities within the S3 Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro Ms. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro, ME	
13:30 – 14:30	 Challenges in the implementation of innovations in agriculture Ms. Milijana Aleksic, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis, ME Ms. Bojana Femic Radosavovic, The Innovation Fund of Montenegro, ME Mr. Nedeljko Latinovic, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Montenegro, ME Mr. Obrad Drakulovic, E&T HEALTHY BEE, ME Mr. Bogdan Maksimovic, Fish Feeder, ME Moderator: Ms. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi, Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro, ME 	
14:30 - 15:30	Lunch break	



	bania - Montenegro
15:30 - 15:45	The benefits of digitalization of agritourism offer as a form of agricultural diversification
	Ms. Andjela Djokic
	FitCamp Montenegro, ME
15:45 - 16:45	 Ms. Aleksandra Kuratko Pani, Croatian Rural Tourism Association, HR Mr. Samir Ibisevic, Balkantina, BA
	Ms. Kristina Tomovic, GuesTool, ME
	Mr. Zeljko Djukic, Sjever.me, ME
	Ms. Gordana Stevovic, Rural holiday, ME
	Moderator: Ms. Andjela Djokic, FitCamp Montenegro, ME
16:45 – 17:30	Closing remarks
17:30 - 18:30	Networking

The conference was opened by Mr. Djordjije Malovic, executive director of IEC Tehnopolis, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the conference in order to connect with relevant institutions in order to exchange knowledge in the field of innovative agriculture and to launch further initiatives in this area, and emphasized the importance of the previously implemented FILA project.

Mrs. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi, Acting General Director for Innovation and Technological Development in the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro, emphasized the role and importance of the line ministry when it comes to the development of innovations and the fact that the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of Montenegro is the coordinating body for S3 Smart Specialization Strategy of Montenegro.

On behalf of the Ministry of European Affairs, Mr. Bojan Vujovic, Acting General Director of the Directorate for European Funds, addressed the audience, where he highlighted the fact that the aforementioned ministry currently coordinates 10 different programs of European territorial cooperation, one of which is the INTERREG IPA cross-border cooperation program Italy-Albania – Montenegro, the current IPA South Adriatic, through which the FILA Plus project was co-financed. He emphasized the importance of the mentioned project, the previously implemented cooperation, as well as the importance of the development of innovations in the field of agricultural production.

Ms. Olivera Vukajlovic, General Director of the Directorate for the Improvement of Competitiveness within the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro as one of the partners in the FILA Plus project, highlighted the role of the mentioned ministry as the policy holder of micro, small and medium enterprises, and the fact that they coordinate the large number of support programs aimed at their further development, among other things, when it comes to the development of innovative and digitized solutions.

Mr. Nemanja Vukovic, President of the Niksic Municipal Assembly, emphasized the importance of implementing the FILA Plus project, and the importance of developing innovations for sustainable agriculture, the importance of finding innovative solutions for the purpose of food production, reducing the negative impact on the environment and providing affordable and healthy food.













Except for representative of the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism of Montenegro, representatives of partner institutions from Italy and Albania also addressed the audience. In front of the leading partner institution on the FILA Plus project, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute from Bari, Mr. Francesco Notarangelo addressed the attendees, while in front of the Development Fund of Albania, Mr. Ylli Take addressed the attendees, emphasizing the importance of the project and the successful cooperation during the implementation of project activities in order to develop innovations in the agricultural and food sector.

After the introductory presentations, the first keynote lecture was held by the representative of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute from Bari, Mr. Francesco Notarangelo. During the lecture, Mr. Notarangelo referred to the FILA project, and the FILA Model, which is an innovative model based on the EIP AGRI approach to strengthen the transfer of knowledge in the agri-food sector in the region of Pula, Albania and Montenegro. Special focus during the lecture was on the presentation of the Living Labs concept, as well as on the importance and role of technology transfer for the development of innovations in the field of agriculture.

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Mr. Ivan Zlatanovic, held a keynote lecture on the topic of using innovative technologies to reduce agricultural waste, highlighting the importance of various technologies, the application of which would enable a significant reduction of agricultural waste and contribute to environmental protection. environment and sustainable management of natural resources.

In the second part of the conference, the first panel session followed, on the topic of Smart and sustainable agriculture. Representatives of various institutions from Montenegro, Serbia and Italy took part in the mentioned panel session, namely:

- Mrs. Aleksandra Martinovic, director of the FoodHub Center of Excellence, as well as dean of the Faculty of Food Technology, Food Safety and Ecology, University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro;
- Mr. Momir Alvirovic, founder of the Agrodron team and the Association for unmanned systems in the economy, Serbia;
- Mr. Oskar Marko, assistant director for innovation and cooperation with the economy within the BioSense Institute, Serbia;
- Mr. Vito di Cagno, Project Manager within the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute from Bari, Italy.

During the panel session, speakers discussed the concept of smart and sustainable agriculture, as well as possibilities and recommendations for further improvement. Mrs. Martinovic specifically referred to the importance of digitization of agriculture, IOT solutions and the like. Mr. Alvirovic emphasized the importance and application of drones in agriculture, with special reference to crop protection, bearing in mind the fact that thanks to the use of drones, the use of pesticides in agriculture has been reduced by as much as 50%. During the panel session, Mr. Marko specifically referred to the importance and use of artificial intelligence in agriculture, as well as the importance of data processing. He also emphasized the importance of the digital platform Agrosens, which was created with the aim of providing support to farmers and agricultural companies in monitoring the condition of crops and planning agricultural activities, and which represents an important step in the digitization of agriculture and increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural producers.

In the continuation of the conference, a keynote lecture was held by Mrs. Marijeta Barjaktarovic Lanzardi related to the S3 Strategy of Smart Specialization of Montenegro, with a special focus on Sustainable Agriculture and the food value chain as one of the four priorities within the Strategy. During the lecture, Mrs. Barjaktarovic





Lanzardi emphasized the importance of sustainable agriculture, the structure of institutions dealing with the implementation of the S3 Strategy, among which is the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis.

The mentioned keynote lecture was an introduction to the second panel session on the topic Challenges in the implementation of innovations in agriculture, in which representatives of relevant institutions from Montenegro took part, as well as representatives of two startup companies from Montenegro that develop innovative solutions in the field of smart agriculture, and that:

- Ms. Milijana Aleksic, manager of Biotechnology Laboratory BioLab Tehnopolis;
- Mrs. Bojana Femic Radosavovic, Executive Director of the Innovation Fund of Montenegro;
- Mr. Nedjeljko Latinovic, full professor in the field of plant protection at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Montenegro and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies at the University of Montenegro;
- Mr. Obrad Drakulovic, founder of the startup company E&T Healthy Bee;
- Mr. Bogdan Maksimovic, founder of the startup company Fish Feeder;

while the panel session was moderated by Mrs. Barjaktarovic Lanzardi.

During the panel session, the participants presented the activities they implement in the field of innovative agriculture, with a special focus on challenges during the implementation of innovations. Mrs. Aleksic presented the support system provided by the Biotechnology Laboratory BioLab Tehnopolis when it comes to innovative processes in agriculture, and some of the key challenges when it comes to their implementation, where the presence of the traditional way of thinking of farmers, and insufficient information about the possibilities offered to them through the application of certain innovations. Mrs. Femic Radosavovic referred to the activities of the Innovation Fund in order to support the development of innovations not only in the agricultural sector, but also in many others. Insufficiently developed communication with different target groups was cited as one of the key external challenges, while insufficient number of employees was cited as one of the internal challenges, considering the scope of support they provide to the interested public. The representative of the academic community, Mr. Latinovic from the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Montenegro, referred to the projects that were implemented in the previous period, with a special focus on the initiatives with the Electrical Engineering Faculty of the University of Montenegro in the form of creating a platform intended for agricultural producers in order to obtain precise forecasts related to for the occurrence of plant diseases. Mr. Latinovic particularly pointed out that the Biotechnical Faculty's previous activities in this area resulted in the application of two patents, one of which is national, while the other is in the registration procedure at the European level.

Representatives of two startup companies, Mr. Drakulovic and Mr. Maksimovic, in addition to presenting their innovative solutions, cited the lack of financial support and insufficient cooperation with scientific institutions as a key challenge when developing solutions.

The key challenges in the implementation of innovations in agriculture are insufficiently developed communication between all involved parties, the lack of activities aimed at building capacities in order to use modern technologies in the best possible way, the lack of sufficient financial support, while one of the key challenges is interdisciplinarity and the need for scientific research as the basis for further development.

During the last part of the conference, a keynote lecture was held on the topic Digitization of agritourism offer as a form of diversification of agriculture by Mrs. Andjela Djokic, the founder of FitCamp Montenegro, as an













introduction to the panel session on the same topic through the presentation of examples of best practices from the area of Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the keynote lecture, Mrs. Djokic referred to the activities of Fitcamp Montenegro, the activities they implement, and the benefits of digitizing their business.

After the presentation of Fitcamp Montenegro, a panel session followed, in which, in addition to Mrs. Djokic, the following took part:

- Mrs. Aleksandra Kuratko Pani, manager of the Croatian Association of Rural Tourism;
- Mr. Samir Ibisevic, executive director of the non-governmental organization Balkantina from Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Mrs. Kristina Tomovic, co-owner and general manager at GuessTool D.O.O.;
- Mr. Zeljko Djukic, president of the NGO Multimedia Montenegro and Sjever.me;
- Mrs. Gordana Stevovic, member of the management board of the Rural.me organization.

During the panel session, the participants presented the activities they implement in the field of rural tourism, as well as the benefits when it comes to digitizing their business. They also talked about the experiences and challenges they encountered during the development of their business. Mrs. Kuratko Pani particularly emphasized the fact that with the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, the development of agritourism in the Republic of Croatia has significantly improved, and emphasized the importance of the successful business of each member within the association. Mr. Samir Ibisevic highlighted the enormous success they achieved by implementing the project, which resulted in the development of a complete database of interested parties for the provision of various services in the field of rural tourism. Mrs. Kristina Tomovic referred to the advantages of the Guestool application, as well as the possibilities that the application provides to all users in the form of finding various contents offered by rural households. During the panel session, Mr. Zeljko Djukic mentioned as one of the key problems the lack of providers of certain services that would greatly facilitate the business of all actors in the field of rural tourism. Mrs. Gordana Stevovic also referred to the key challenges within her business in the form of the form of the fact that Montenegro is mostly a foreign market and that it is necessary to create all the necessary conditions in order to extend the duration of the tourist season throughout the year.

At the end of the conference, all participants agreed that a lot has already been done when it comes to the application of innovative technologies in the agricultural sector, but that there is still a lot of room for improvement. As pointed out, the key factor is the improvement of the cooperation of all actors in this area, that is, the synergistic action of agricultural producers, the business and academic community, and that a multidisciplinary approach is necessary for further development.

When it comes to promotional activities, since the beginning of the conference organization, a detailed plan for its promotion has been created. The promotional plan included publishing the news before, during and after the conference. The news about the conference were shared via project and programme social media channels, as well as via IEC Tehnopolis communication channels. Additionally, different media from Montenegro has published the news about the conference.















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CONFERENCE

"Opportunities and support for new innovative ideas in agriculture and green economy"

4 April 2023

Podgorica (MNE)

organized by Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Directorate for Small and Mediumsized Enterprise Development – DDSME







Ministarstvo ekonomskog razvoja i turizma Crna Gora

Ministarstvo ekonomskog razvoja i turizma Direktorat za unapređenje konkurentnosti



Program for Improving the Competitiveness of the Montenegrin Economy for 2023 "Opportunities and support for new innovative ideas"

04. April 2023. Podgorica, hotel Ramada, Lesendro room

AGENDA

- 08.30 09.00 h Registration
- 09.00 09.30 h Opening remarks

Olivera Vukajović, Ministry of economic development and Toursim

TBC – IPC Tehnopolis Niksic

Ingrida Dasni, Albanian Deveopment Fund

Francesco Notarangelo, CIHEAM Bari (online)

09.30 – 10.00 h Ljiljana Belada, Head of Unit for improvement of business environement

Program line for purchase of higher value equipment Program line for small value equipment Program line for circular economy

10.00 – 10.30 h Anđela Gajević, Head of Unit for cooperation with business comunitty

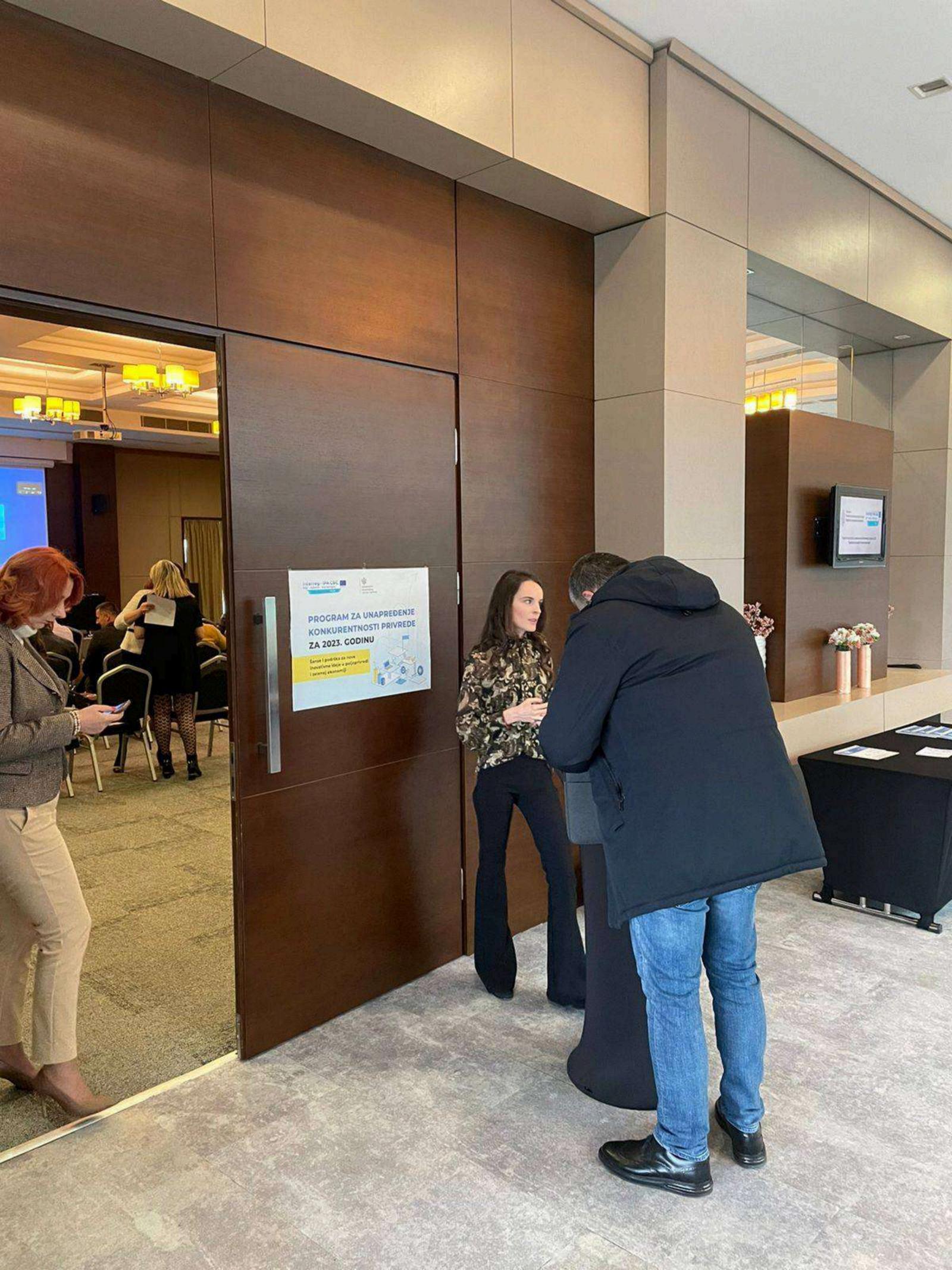
Program line for start up; Program line for mentoring; Program line - Voucher for women and young;

10.30 – 11.00 h Ivana Zečević, Head of Unit for SME Development

Program line for support digitalisation; Program line for support internationalizationi; Program line for support marketing activities;

- 11.00 11.20 h Questions and anwswers
- 11.20- 12.00 h Coffee break
- 12.00 14.00 h Individual consultation with companies Networking
- 14.00 15.30 h Lunch

Moderator: Marina Šaković











GOALS REACHED

At the end of the Capitalization Project we can underline the following conclusions and goal reached by every organization:

✤ CIHEAM IAMB

- B2B Event "Open Innovation and Cross-Border Networking" and International Conference:
 - Conclusion:
 - Successful engagement of 27 participants from various sectors and countries.
 - The event effectively facilitated discussions on urban food system transition, digital and tech transition, and open innovation collaboration.
 - Goals Reached:
 - Strengthened cross-border collaboration among startuppers, researchers, and business entities.
 - Increased awareness and skills in innovation-related fields.
- Incoming Mission "The Role and Application of Project Management for Technology Transfer in Universities and Research Centers":
 - Conclusion:
 - Productive involvement of experts from 9 international organizations.
 - The seminar successfully enhanced participants' skills in project design and management.
 - Goals Reached:
 - Fulfilled the main objective of fostering skill development and collaboration among universities, innovation centers, and public authorities.

* ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND - ADF

- Workshop "Incentivizing and Supporting Business Creation and Growth through FILA Lab":
 - Conclusion:
 - The workshop engaged 40 participants from diverse sectors, promoting FILA Lab for business development.
 - Goals Reached:
 - Strengthened stakeholder engagement and incentivized business creation and growth.
- > B2B Event "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation":
 - Conclusion:
 - Successful organization with 10 guests representing innovative businesses in agriculture.
 - Goals Reached:











• Facilitated knowledge transfer and collaboration within the agriculture sector.

* TEHNOPOLIS - IPC Tehnopolis

- Conference "Innovative Technologies and Approaches in the Field of Smart Agriculture":
 - Conclusion:
 - The conference effectively connected stakeholders, emphasizing sustainable agriculture and smart specialization.
 - Goals Reached:
 - Strengthened the link between relevant stakeholders in the agri-food sector.
 - Promoted innovative technologies and approaches in smart agriculture.
- Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, DDSME
 - Conference "Opportunities and Support for New Innovative Ideas in Agriculture and Green Economy":
 - Conclusion:
 - Successful organization raising awareness among participants about supporting measures.
 - Goals Reached:
 - Increased knowledge about circular economy, digitalization, and other supporting measures.
 - Discussed the benefits of digitalization in agritourism and shared best practice examples.











OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

The common interventions aimed at improving cross-border framework conditions for competitiveness have demonstrated significant achievements in enhancing the innovation ecosystem and fostering cross-border cooperation. The main goals were to strengthen skills and awareness among operators in research centers, enterprises, public authorities (PA), and civil society organizations. Below are the overall conclusions and goals reached for each participating entity:

1. Cross-Border Collaboration:

• Successful initiatives have significantly strengthened cross-border collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including researchers, businesses, and governmental entities.

2. Knowledge Transfer and Skill Enhancement:

• Participants across all activities demonstrated improved awareness and skills, contributing to the enhancement of the innovation ecosystem.

3. Diverse Participation:

• The diversity of participants, including representatives from different sectors and regions, indicates the broad impact of the interventions.

4. Potential for Continued Collaboration:

• The outcomes suggest potential opportunities for continued collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the cross-border context.

5. Stakeholder Engagement:

• Successful engagement of diverse stakeholders, including researchers, businesses, public authorities, and international organizations, demonstrates the interventions' effectiveness.

6. Sustainable Development:

• Emphasis on sustainable agriculture and smart specialization aligns with longterm development goals and strategies.











CONCLUSIONS

FILA's capitalization actions aimed to strengthen the local innovation ecosystem in the territories involved within an international cooperation framework. The project's activities were designed to involve new users, facilitating the transfer of achieved results and amplifying their applicability not only within the Programme area but also in the broader EU area. The overarching objective of the project aligned with the EUSAIR goal of promoting growth and economic prosperity in the region by enhancing attractiveness, competitiveness, and connectivity, creating more opportunities for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

All project activities were perfectly aligned with the cross-cutting aspects of the strategy, particularly in "Strengthening research and development, innovation, and SMEs," as well as "capacity building, communication includes." The methodological approach of the capitalization actions was based on the quadruple helix, with the innovative component of the fourth blade involving civil society in the construction of innovative ecosystems and orienting the analysis of alternative solutions. In addition to the 30 representatives of local, national and international bodies involved, the activities saw the participation of as many as 118 representatives of companies, organizations and research centers, actors in innovation activities in the agrifood sector.

FILA Plus aimed to support the agro-food enterprises of the new generation that took action in implementing innovative processes to address economic, social and environmental challenges. The integrated interventions collectively contributed to a dynamic cross-border framework, fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and collaboration within the agri-food sector. These efforts aligned with the overarching goal of enhancing the innovation ecosystem and promoting cross-border cooperation while building the skills and awareness of operators in the field.

The ongoing commitment to evaluation and adaptation underscored the importance of maintaining a flexible and responsive approach. This flexibility allowed for the strategic adjustment of initiatives, ensuring alignment with the evolving needs and challenges of the agrifood sector in the participating regions. The success achieved so far emphasized the value of continued collaboration and the need for strategic initiatives to further strengthen the innovation ecosystem and cross-border cooperation.

By prioritizing ongoing evaluation and adaptability to changing circumstances, the project aimed to contribute to sustained progress and make a lasting impact on the agri-food sector in the region. In conclusion, the journey towards a more innovative, collaborative, and sustainable agri-food sector required vigilance, learning from experiences, and a commitment to refining strategies based on evidence and outcomes. Documenting success stories and best practices not only served as a testament to achievements but also as a guide for others, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration across borders.

