

**FOODPathS Festival**  
📅 20-22 May 2025, Brussels

**Building tomorrow's  
Sustainable Food Systems  
together**

Connecting R&I, Policy, Education and Society

**Pre-register  
now!**

Register to the FOODPathS Festival [clicking here!](#)

## Draft agenda

Version 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

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# 1. Overview

The FOODPathS Festival programme is designed to inspire and stimulate the discussion with participants on **how** to make food systems sustainable through the collaboration among different stakeholders, working together (*in partnership*) on Research & Innovation, science for Policy and Education (RIPE).

On **the first day**, participants will discover more about **how FOODPathS envisage the multi-actor collaboration on food systems sustainability, launching its “prototype” for a partnership**. After that, they will be inspired by talks focusing on the context, spanning from policy to society.

**The second day is dedicated to the discussion of the elements of the prototype:** having in mind inputs received on the first day, participants will provide their feedback on the proposed solution, sharing suggestions for their improvement and possible scenarios for their adoption.

**On the last and final day, the discussion will focus on the uptake of the partnership prototype and on the FOODPathS future work.** Stakeholders of the food systems will dialogue around the if and how the solutions proposed can improve their collaborative work to transform food systems, complemented by a final session to discuss the future steps and the role that FOODPathS can have in this process.

During the whole event, participants will interact, network and have the possibility to learn and share about ongoing initiatives and future opportunities on the food systems challenges.

# 2. Draft Agenda

**DAY 1 – 20.05.2025 (14.00-19.00)**

*Celebrating the Sustainable Food Systems Partnership prototype*

**Registration of participants: 13.30-14.00**

**A Sustainable Food Systems Partnership: the FOODPathS' way**

*Plenary session, live streaming – 14.00-15.30*

*How can we ensure that food systems transformation reflects all voices from farm to fork? How can a partnership be orchestrated to overcome challenges and drive sustainability? And what key elements must come together to create meaningful change? The Festival will open trying to address these questions through the launch of the SFS Partnership prototype: FOODPathS will present a proposal for a body that can support the food systems transformation in Europe, based on the opinions and ideas collected from stakeholders through different initiatives (interviews, surveys, workshops, etc.) in the last three years. The partnership prototype will be presented starting from its constituting “pieces”, the RIPE (Research & Innovation & science to Policy & Education) elements; then, it will be showed how they can be composed into a puzzle and work together to contribute to food systems transition. During the session, that will set the stage for the discussion of the following days, the audience will interact with speakers.*

**Welcome and opening – 14.00-14.10**

**Hugo De Vries, INRAE, FOODPathS Coordinator**

**The Partnership “puzzle pieces”: short presentation of the “RIPE” elements – 14.10-14.40**

- *SRIA & Observatory for the SFS Partnership – Niels Halberg, Aarhus University*
- *A funding mechanism and strategies for impactful food systems R&I – Nikola Hassan, Research Center Juelich*
- *The Knowledge Hub: Empowering Food Systems for sustainable innovation– Ariane Voyatzakis, ANIA, Lorenza Liroso, FoodDrinkEurope*
- *Creating the food systems sustainability knowledge through education – Gabriela Versteeg, EFFoST*
- *Local to global and back again: including everyone in food systems transition – Anna Bruen, ICLEI*

- *The role of communication to ease the food systems actors' collaboration* – **Camila Massri**, EUFIC

**Putting all pieces together: how to make the Prototype SFS Partnership puzzle – 14.40-15.00**  
**Hugo De Vries**, INRAE, FOODPathS Coordinator

**Your questions on feedback on the Prototype SFS Partnership – 15.00-15.30**  
*Interactive discussion between the audience – onsite and online – and the speakers.*

**Coffee break & networking – 15.30-16.00**

**The framework around: the SFS Partnership Prototype into a context**  
**Plenary session, live streaming – 16.00-17.30**

*Let's zoom out now: what's happening around? How is the context changing or can change in the next years? What shall we bear in mind when trying to change the current food systems? What are the provocative questions we must answer to ensure that our work is relevant for the many? This plenary session invites you to think about these questions through a fresh view, inspiring and inviting you to reflect. Prepare yourself to be energized by powerful voices delivering thought-provoking speeches that challenge conventional thinking. Through these perspectives, we'll rethink what sustainability, partnership, and change mean in the context of food systems transformation. It's a chance to step back and reimagine our collective journey toward a sustainable future.*

**Speakers:**

- *A context for the food systems partnership in Europe's possible new narratives*
- *The potential role of Partnerships in Europe: a fragile relationship*
- *Science-Policy interphase: How to ensure relevance, impact and scientific integrity*
- *Playing with food systems "puzzle pieces" at global level*
- *Beyond public funding: the role of philanthropy in shaping the future of food systems*
- *A drop becoming ocean: how the society can change food systems*

**Networking cocktail – 17.30-19.00**

**DAY 2 – 21.05.2025 (9.00-17.30)**

**Landing the SFS Partnership prototype into the reality**

**Registration of participants: 8.30-9.00**

**Discussing the Partnership's puzzle pieces - Introduction**  
**Plenary session – 9.00-9.15**

*The scope of the second day of the conference is to dive into each puzzle piece composing the FOODPathS proposed prototype and discuss them. After a short introduction, participants will join parallel sessions where they can discuss aspects related to education, observatory system for a partnership, funding mechanism, inclusion of stakeholders, etc. In each session, they can share their views, experience, best practices and learn from each other; moreover, participants can provide feedback on if and how they intend to adopt and use FOODPathS' results and suggestions for working in partnership at local, national and global levels.*

**Expectations and introduction – 9.00-9.15**  
**Hugo De Vries**, INRAE, FOODpathS Coordinator

**From the prototype to the reality**  
**Parallel sessions – 9.15-10.45**

*Participants can choose from the following sessions*

**Session 1.1 – A "Manual" for a Partnership**

During this session, the final version of the Manual of the Prototype Partnership will be presented, providing an overview on its main elements (governance, modus operandi, food system approaches, RIPE concept) and on the key Activity Areas identified (such as Funding Strategies, Observatories, Knowledge Hub of FS Labs, Network of University-driven Ecosystems, Mirror Groups and Engagement Strategies). Participants will provide feedback on the missing “pieces of puzzle”, on clarification and further elaboration needed.

### **Session 1.2 - The funding perspective towards food systems R&I**

Deep dive into the programming and funding cycle. How to plan, design, evaluate, fund and perform R&I to transform food systems?

### **Session 1.3 - Enhancing collaboration through the Knowledge Hub**

The Knowledge Hub of Food System Labs connects R&I, Science-to-Policy, and Education to drive sustainable food system solutions. Through interactive discussions, participants will identify best practices for strengthening collaboration, aligning priorities, and maximizing the impact of the Knowledge Hub in bridging these sectors effectively.

### **Coffee break & networking – 10.45-11.15**

### **From the prototype to the reality**

#### **Parallel sessions – 11.15-12.45**

Participants can choose from the following sessions

#### **Session 2.1- Portfolio management, science advice and education: what is the link?**

Presentation and discussion of the conceptual framework 'RIPE' with a focus on portfolio management in light of needs in "science to policy interphase" and education and the important role of monitoring the evolution of FS contributing to sustainability, via an Observatory

#### **Session 2.2 – Inclusive Partnerships in real-life: a major challenge**

This session will discuss the way different Food System actors are really engaged, their views are mirrored, their voices are listened to, their actions combined, and their interactions with external parties transformed into co-benefits, collectively tackle our global & local challenges.

### **Lunch break – 12.45-14.15**

### **Bringing all the puzzle pieces together**

#### **Plenary session, live streaming – 14.15-15.30**

The session will start with the presentation of the main insights coming from each parallel sessions, followed by a panel discussion in which food systems' actors will comment and discuss around the morning sessions.

#### **Reports from parallel sessions – 14.15-14.45**

Short pitches from rapporteurs of each session

#### **Composing the puzzle: how can it work in the real world? – 14.45-15.30**

- **Anna Bruen**, ICLEI, FoodPathS
- **Claude Yven**, ANR, FutureFoodS Coordinator
- **Tbd**, European Commission
- **Katalin Thot**, Joint Research Centre
- **Simone Maccaferri**, Circular Bioeconomy Europe Joint Undertaking

### **Discovering, sharing and learning: examples of partnerships in the real word**

#### **Study visits and workshops – From 15.30**

Participants have the opportunity to interact with examples of partnerships that are already working in the practice. Study visits will be announced soon.

## **DAY 3 – 22.05.2025 (9.00-12.30)**

### **What's next?**

**Registration of participants: 8.30-9.00**

**Playing like an orchestra**

**Plenary session, live streaming – 9.00-10.30**

*In this section, starting from different perspectives and interests, food systems actors will discuss on if and how they can work together, providing their feedback on the FOODPathS partnership prototype, debating if and how proposed solutions on different RIPE elements can be used in practice, and highlighting challenges that need to be still solved. They will also interact on with whom they should/would collaborate the most and what are the barriers that should be still overcome. During the session, the audience will interact with speakers.*

**Panel discussion**

**Moderator: journalist (tbc) and Gabriela Versteeg**

- **Geert Maesmans**, European Technology Platform Food for Life, Director Research and Development for Cargill Food
- **tbc**, Local government representative
- **tbc**, IPES-Food
- **Rasa Pakeltiene**, Association for European Life Science Universities
- **Ali Rhouma**, PRIMA Initiative

**Coffee break & networking – 10.30-11.00**

**Beyond the horizon: the FOODPathS legacy for Horizon Europe partnerships**

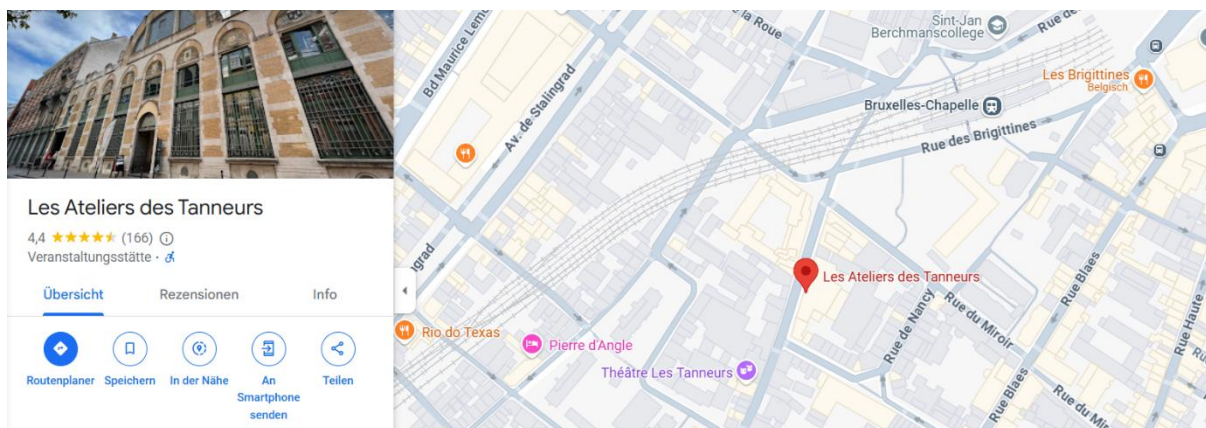
**Plenary session, live streaming – 11.30-12.30**

*In the final session of the event, representatives of European institutions will discuss around the elements of the FOODPathS partnership prototype and what are the European Commission's expectation and needs from partnerships in the next future. Moreover, participants will discuss what could be role and support that FOODPathS can provide to stakeholders and how it can help them to bringing forward food systems research projects during the next years. During the session, the audience will interact with speakers.*

*Panelists will be announced soon.*

## FOOPathS Festival venue

The FOODPathS Festival on 20-22 May 2025 will take place at the **Ateliers des Tanneurs (Rue des Tanneurs, 60A), Brussels Belgium.**



### 3. Contacts

You can **register to the FOODPathS Festival** by [clicking here](#).

For information and clarification about the FOODPathS Festival, please contact:

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More information about the FOODPathS project is available on our website [www.foodpaths.eu](http://www.foodpaths.eu), where you can also register to our database and receive information about results and updates.

Follow our activities also searching for #FOODPathS on [LinkedIn](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#) and on [the Sustainable Food Systems Network!](#)