

2025 PARTNERS CONNECT BILBAO

12TH MAY 2025



Co-funded by the
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2025 PARTNERS CONNECT BILBAO AGENDA

 **BAT TOWER | B ACCELERATOR TOWER**
BILBO, SPAIN

13:45 - 14:00	Registration & Coffee	
14:00 - 14:10	Institutional Welcoming Richard Zaltzman, CEO at EIT Food and Begoña Pérez-Villarreal, EIT Food South Director	
14:10 - 14:30	Keynote Speaker Jessica Sansom, Chief Impact Officer	
14:30 - 15:35	Next Funding Opportunities 2025 and Beyond - Insights and opportunities in Mission funding – Ilario Ingravallo, Mission Lead - Reducing Risk for a Fair & Resilient Food System - Horizon Europe Opportunities for EIT Food partners – Javier Gonzalez, Senior Business Support Manager	
15:35 - 16:15	Coffee & Conversation Time	
16:15 - 18:15	Networking Session - Breakout Rooms	
	Group 1: Food & Health - Overview of EIT Food initiatives in the field – Lorena Savani, Mission Lead - Healthier Lives Through Food Partners pitching: Presentation of pre-selected projects and guided group discussion Group discussion – guided matchmaking and group discussion	Group 2: Circular food systems and waste reduction strategies - Overview of EIT Food initiatives in the field – Vivien Bodereau, Mission Lead - Net Zero Food System Partners pitching: Presentation of pre-selected projects and guided group discussion Group discussion – guided matchmaking and group discussion
18:15 - 18:30	Next steps, following on conversations and closure Begoña Perez-Villarreal, EIT Food South Director	
18:30 - 20:00	Cocktail & Networking in collaboration with EIT Food Corporate Venturing ecosystem	

OFF TO F4F!

CATCH THE TALKS THAT MATTER
FROM 13TH TO 14TH OF MAY 2025



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FOOD4FUTURE 2025 EIT FOOD AGENDA

 **BEC! | BILBAO EXHIBITION CENTER
BILBO, SPAIN**

13TH MAY

10:00 - 11:00

EATENDENCIAS

Experts will delve into evolving consumption patterns, emerging preferences, and the way we produce, choose, and consume food.

Speakers:

- **Marleen Onwezen, Special Professor at Wageningen University & Research (Consumer Observatory)**
- TBC
- TBC



11:00 - 12:00

The future of the food industry: Challenges and opportunities

This session will address the evolving landscape of the food industry, focusing on key challenges and opportunities. Topics include technological innovation, sustainability imperatives, and shifting consumer trends.

Speakers:

- Oscar Vicente, CEO at Angulas Aguinaga
- Joan Mir, General Director at ANECOOP
- Javier Dueñas, CEO at Campofrio
- Isabel Sanchez, CEO at Delaviuda



11:00 - 12:00

New opportunities in fruit and vegetables industry

Discover emerging trends and opportunities in the fruit and vegetable industry. This session delves into advancements in technology, sustainable practices, and market dynamics shaping the future of this vital sector.

Speakers:

- Maria Miranda, Project Manager at Anecoop
- Lluís Puig, CEO & Founder of Freshis
- Irene Gonzalez, Project Manager at CNTA
- Alejandro Fernández, Innovation Project Manager at Grupo Caña



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Corporate Open Innovation Processes a New Relationship With Startups To Grow Together

This session will highlight successful collaboration models, shared innovation strategies, and the benefits of integrating startup agility with corporate resources.

Speakers:

- **Belen Moscoso, Corporate Venturing at EIT Food**
- Chris Aurand, Open Innovation Leader at Foodtech SPACE-F, Thai Union
- Alberto Anglarill, Innovation and Project Development Manager at AECOC

**EIT
FOOD**

15:30 - 16:00

Challenges and opportunities in the alternative protein value chain

Examine the dynamic landscape of the alternative protein value chain, focusing on both challenges and opportunities. This session will cover technological advancements, market trends, and regulatory hurdles. Through case studies, we will showcase innovative solutions and successful strategies. Attendees will gain valuable insights to navigate and capitalize on the evolving alternative protein market.

Speaker:

- Javier Zaratiegui, Cocuus
- Guido Ritter, Professor at FH Münster

**TOP-
NOTCH**

16:30 - 17:30

Food & Well-being

Real-world examples will showcase initiatives that successfully promote healthier lifestyles, providing practical insights for integrating well-being into food products and strategies.

Speakers:

- **Lorena Savani, Mission Lead – Healthier Lives Through Food at EIT Food**
- Suelen Souza, Health & Nutrition Director at Danone and Manager of the General Secretary Specialized Nutrition Spain
- Jose Manuel López Vilariño, R&D Manager at Hijos de Rivera

**EIT
FOOD**

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14th MAY

12:00 - 13:00

How to built up ecosystem by collaboration beyond borders

In an increasingly interconnected world, building robust ecosystems through cross-border collaboration is essential for sustainable growth and innovation. This conference will explore strategies and best practices for fostering international partnerships that drive advancements in the food industry.

Speakers:

- Hirotaka Tanaka, Founder & CEO at UnlocX & Co
- Ibrahim Sani Ozdemir, Chief Senior Researcher at TUBITAK MRC-Tugip
- Amir Zaidman, Chief Business Officer at The Kitchen FoodTech Hub

**TOP-
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13:00 - 14:00

Sustainable food systems partnership for people, planet & climate

Explore the critical partnerships driving sustainable food systems that benefit people, the planet, and the climate. This session will cover collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and communities to create resilient and eco-friendly food networks.

Moderator: Siu Lie Tan, Circular Economy Expert at Delf University of Technology

Speaker: Karen Verstraete, Communication Manager at Food Pilot, ILVO

**TOP-
NOTCH**

15:30 - 16:30

Is hyper-personalization the future of consumer offerings (CMO's debate)

Explore the transformative potential of hyper-personalization in this CMOs debate. We will discuss cutting-edge trends, technologies, and strategies that drive personalized consumer experiences.

Moderator: Jaime Martin, CEO at Lantern

Speaker: Akiko Okada, Insight Specialist at UnlocX & Co.

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14th MAY

15:30 - 16:30

New sources to fill the emerging protein gap

This session will explore innovative sources to address the emerging protein gap in the food industry. With the growing demand for sustainable and nutritious protein alternatives, we'll analyze new ingredients and technologies that are paving the way.

Moderator: Alex Mayers, Managing Director at The Good Food Institute Europe

Speaker: Anna Handschuh, Head of Global Public Affairs & Impact at Gourmey



17:30 - 18:15

Best Technologies to Come To Develop Better Food

Part of the Hub4Food project (Interreg Atlantic Area), this roundtable will bring together clusters and startups focused on marine-based products to explore how innovation and technology can drive sustainability and improve the food system.

Moderator: Javier González, Senior Business Support Manager at EIT Food

Speakers:

- Noelia Dosil Mayán, Coordinator of the Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Entrepreneurship Area at CLUSAGA
- Yago Sierras Peral, CEO at Mediterranean Algae
- Sònia Hurtado Piñol, CEO and Co-founder at Poseidona



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15th MAY

10:00 - 11:00

Sustainability in the food industry: strategies and challenges

This session will analyze the strategies and challenges of implementing sustainability in the food industry. We will discuss innovative practices, regulatory impacts, and the role of technology in promoting sustainability.

Speakers:

- Silvia Canals, Sustainability Director at Danone
- Dusan Ristic, Food Systems Sustainability Research Associate at German Institute of Food Technologies (DIL e.V.)



11:00 - 12:00

The future of plastics in food sector

Explore the evolving role of plastics in the agrofood sector and their impact on sustainability. This session will examine innovative solutions such as biodegradable plastics, circular economy principles, and advanced recycling technologies.

Moderator: Juliet Bray, Regional Programme Manager at EIT Food



13:00 - 14:00

Investment funds, where is the money? How profitable the food sector?

Industry experts will discuss where investment funds are being directed and the factors driving these decisions. Learn about the profitability metrics of various segments within the food industry, including food processing and beverage companies.

Speaker: Andrew Ive, Founder & General Partner at Big Ideas Ventures



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Food safety risks emerging from climate change

Climate change is introducing new challenges to food safety, from increased contamination risks to shifts in pest and pathogen patterns. This session will examine how rising temperatures, changing weather events, and environmental stressors are affecting the safety of our food—and what actions can be taken to adapt and respond.

Speakers:

- Maria José Sanz, Scientific Director at Bilbao Centre for Climate Change (BC3)
- Jean François Berthoumieu, Director at Association Climatologique de la Moyenne-Garonne et du Sud-Ouest (ACMG)
- Ionan Marigomez, Research Centre for Experimental Marine Biology and Biotechnology - PiE UPV/EHU
- Aitor Cevidanes, Postdoctoral Researcher in NEIKER BRTA



OTHER ACTIVITIES



 **14th May** |  **09:00–15:00** |  **BEC!, Bilbao**

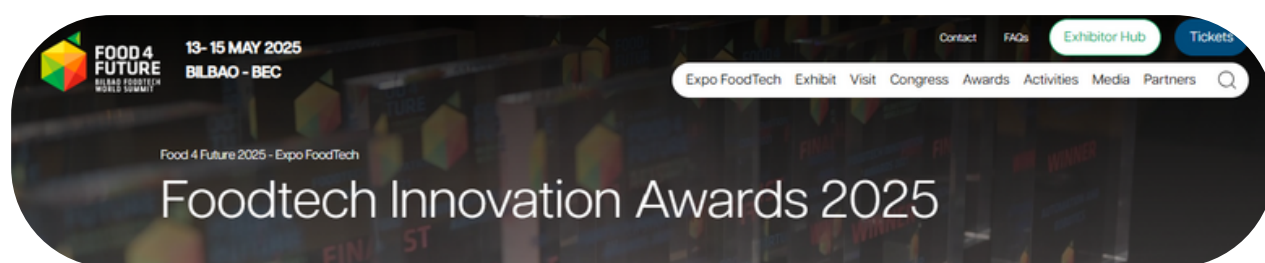
Healthy Ageing Think & Do Tank at **Food4Future**, The consortium comes together for a dynamic in-person session to:

- ◆ Exchange insights
- ◆ Co-create solutions
- ◆ Set priorities for action

Focus areas:

-  Nutrition to prevent age-related diseases
-  Personalised diets across life stages
-  Gut health & biotics to enhance wellbeing

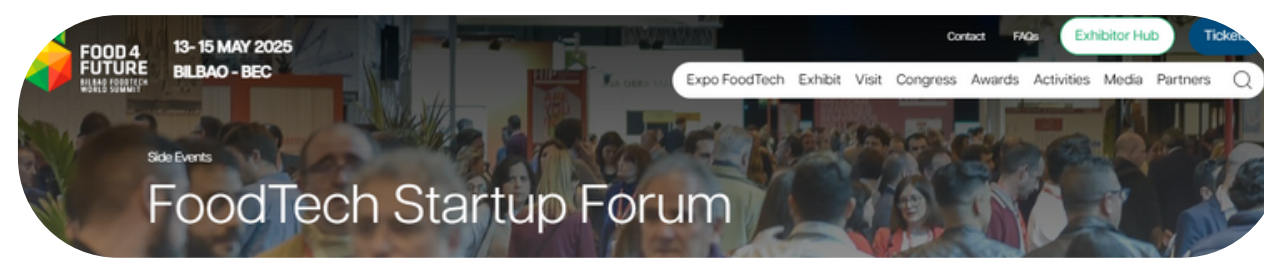
A key moment to build the future of healthy ageing—collaboratively and impactfully.



FoodTech Innovation Awards

Foodtech Innovations Awards recognises the most innovative proposals that offer a disruptive approach to Customer Experience or Management. Innovative business models or technology that can make a change in the food sector.

[More information](#)



FoodTech Startup Forum

Pioneer start-ups are leading the most disruptive innovation offering agile structures and new ways of thinking. Food 4 Future has created the Expo FoodTech Startup Forum looking for these new companies that could impact the FoodTech sectors, such as Livestock, Beverage, Bakery, Sea Food, Ingredientes, Dairy, and Agro.

[More information](#)



WEBSITE



