

# Hand out Summary

## ECO-READY Introduction

The ECO-READY project will develop a real-time surveillance system, an Observatory offered as an e-platform and as a mobile application. This will function as the necessary singular source of information, provide real-time assessments for the food system, and update forecasts frequently and consistently. The Observatory will be available to society, policymakers, the scientific community, and the agri-food industry, and integrated with a network of at least 10 Living Labs, supported through the third party funding process, covering all bio-climatic regions in Europe, forming the ECO-READY project knowledge infrastructure. ECO-READY will produce knowledge-based resilience strategies, and develop tools that will be embedded on the Observatory. The underlying principle behind the ECO-READY approach is, resilient dynamism, or tackling immediate problems and long-term challenges at the same time. The Living Labs network will facilitate 'concept to action' through the co-creation of scenarios addressing their regional needs, the development of policy recommendations, contingency plans, and resilience strategies, and embed them on the Observatory. Furthermore, ECO-READY will develop an early warning system and decision support tools using innovative Artificial Intelligence based on holistic prediction models and Life Cycle Assessment results. ECO-READY will ensure that European farmers and society's interests be reflected in future policy-making and monitoring, through early-stage active engagement incorporating bottom-up recommendations, facilitated by the increased usership of the digital tools developed, and resulting in increased awareness for climate-adaptive and mitigating agri-food products. Furthermore, the Observatory smart application will include tools that will empower the citizens to actively engage in policy making, and interact directly with the scientific community, farmers, and industry and policy makers, thus driving change in consumption habits.

## ECO-READY Open Call

The ECO-READY Open Call will provide a significant opportunity to engage agri-food stakeholders interested in taking action to combat food insecurity and climate change in Europe. Through this network of Living Labs, ECO-READY will:

- Provide short- and long-term local case studies for resilience building strategies across a broad geographical distribution;
- Connect different types of LLs (geographical, climatic, thematic) to share knowledge and tackle interdisciplinary problems related to food security and resilience;
- Form a lasting partnership between the network of Living Labs and the observatory for easier data collection and exchange.



The ECO-READY Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network aims to attract scientific, community and commercial agri-food stakeholders including **EU ministries and agencies for education, agriculture, environment, farmers, farm advisor organizations, industry, retail and consumer representatives, research and innovation collaboration networks, academia and civil society organizations.**

The LLs must be composed of 2-5 partners, with at least 1 scientific or technical or commercial, and at least 1 community of users.

Partners in the LLs should be specialized in one or more of the following sectors:

- food security,
- biodiversity,
- climate change.

The Living Labs will:

- Investigate product types (food products & crops) and create model-based scenarios.
- Test the scenarios relevant to climate-related challenges, such as: exposure to climate shocks, management of water and land resources etc.
- Contribute to the development of contingency plans for selected food products for ensuring food supply & security.
- Provide input to data-driven policy recommendations.
- Co design/ deploy awareness raising plans.
- Form a lasting partnership with the Observatory for easier data collection and exchange.

The sub-projects performed by the selected Living Labs will last for 24 months and will be divided into 3 phases:

- Design- Deliver an activity plan (May 2024-October 2024)
- Development- Implement the activities/ Demonstrate the results and outcomes (November 2024-September 2025)
- Impact- Finalize activities and draft a sustainability plan (October 2025-April 2026).

The Open Call for establishing a Living Labs Network will be published on **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023** and proposal submissions will be accepted till **September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**. It is planned to finance at least 10 Living Labs projects. The total sum for the Open Call is 4.000.000,00 €, and each Living Lab may ask for up to **400.000,00 €**. Each partner will have a budget between **60.000 -200.000 €**.