

AHFES

A QUADRUPLE HELIX ATLANTIC AREA HEALTHY FOOD ECOSYSTEM FOR GROWTH OF SMES

D7.4 Recommendations for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area

AHFES | A quadruple helix Atlantic Area healthy food Ecosystem for growth of SMEs
 D7.4 Recommendations for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area

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Executive summary

The objective of the AHFES project and for this its last report is to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the Atlantic Area, enhance environmentally sustainable food production practices in SMEs and engage positive effects of directly involving local actors, namely when it comes to sustainable food systems.

The following report aim to produce a set of recommendations oriented to policy makers on how they can facilitate and further support the introduction of environmentally sustainable practices and the green transition, as a key component for SME innovation, competitiveness, and growth.

This report has been elaborated through a deep analysis of the current situation of the Atlantic Area Regions. Funding tools, regulations, policies and supporting instruments have been mapped trough the Atlantic Area to detect gaps and uncovered needs. Other regions outside the Atlantic Area have been taken into account as good practices examples.

The insights gained in this study has been crossed with the needs and gaps detected on the previous AHFES work with the SMEs from the healthy and food & lifestyles sector in the Atlantic Area.

After the deep analysis made for this report, it can be concluded that the main challenges for the food industry in terms of applying sustainability measures in their entities belong to the need of knowledge, resources and external support.

Governments can contribute more to help setting these measures at private level and to promote the quadruple helix collaboration to increase the impact of the actions taken. A set of 10 recommendations have been produced divided per target including Industry, Educational and R&D institutions and citizens/consumers putting specific focus on children and young people. A diagram of the interconnections and synergies of these target groups is shown in Figure 1.

We, as AHFES project, propose to the regional and national governments to reinforce green innovation ecosystems and promote and support sustainable practices in the food industry by putting the focus on the following items (see full details in section 3.2):

For the Industry players:

1. Deep Institutional support to green transition
2. Legislation for sustainability
3. Efficient and effective financial instruments
4. Smooth Communication & Information
5. Protection by controlling bad practices.

For the Educational and R&D institutions:

6. Promote cooperation and Stakeholder approach.
7. Provide financial instrument for open innovation.
8. Promote knowledge transfer practices and business oriented technical support services.

For Consumers:

9. Restrict marketing for non-sustainable food and reduced taxes for eco-products.
10. Educate and motivate. Special focus on young and children.

1 Scope

The present document summarises the main results of the study performed by EIT FOOD within the activities for Task 7.3 within the Work Package 7 of the AHFES (Atlantic Area Healthy Food Eco-System) project, funded by the Atlantic Area programme, these activities are the following:

- A- **Identification and mapping of the strategies**, policies and financial programs supporting sustainability in the food industry (excluding the primary sector) in the Atlantic regions of Spain, France, Portugal, United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland (see ANNEX 1). Targeted regions are listed below:
- **Spain:** Canarias, Cantabria, Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Cádiz, Galicia, Huelva, País Vasco, Principado de Asturias, Sevilla.
 - **France:** Aquitaine, Basse-Normandie, Bretagne, Haute-Normandie, Pays de la Loire, Poitou-Charentes.
 - **Portugal:** Alentejo, Algarve, Centro, Norte, Região Autónoma da Madeira, Região Autónoma dos Açores, Área Metropolitana de Lisboa.
 - **United Kingdom (UK):** Cheshire, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Cumbria, Devon, Dorset and Somerset, East Wales, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area, Greater Manchester, Highlands and Islands, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northern Ireland, Southern Scotland, West Central Scotland, West Wales and The Valleys.
 - **Ireland:** Eastern and Midland, Northern and Western, Southern.
- B- **Design of a set of recommendations** for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area. Cross check of supporting instruments (T7.3 A) with gaps and needs detected in previous tasks for WP7 (T 7.1, T 7.2) and good practices from other countries outside the Atlantic Area (See ANNEX 2); to deliver insightful recommendations.

2 Activity A - Identification and mapping of the European, national and regional strategies

2.1 Methodology for activity A – Identification and mapping of the strategies.

The study has been conducted by researching available databases and webpages at three different levels: European, national and regional.

At regional level, administrative divisions have been used. In some cases, they do not match exactly the Atlantic Regions classification.

The results have been compiled in an excel file offering key data on each of the individual schemes: Country, Region, Scheme, Institution responsible, Year, Area, Title, Description, Relevance for sustainability in the food sector, Budget and Reference. (See ANNEX 1)

The identified schemes have been classified into the following categories and thematic areas:

- **Scheme category:** Strategy, Financial instrument, Loan, Grant, Tax incentive, Best Practices/ Certifications, Service.
- **Thematic area:** General (not specifically focused on sustainability but can be used to support sustainability measures), Energy efficiency/renewables, GHG reduction, Rural development, Food waste/food loss, Circular economy, Logistics, Water, Waste management, Other areas promoting sustainability (e.g., ecological production).

2.2 Results per region/country

The main results at EU, national and regional level are summarised below.

2.2.1 EUROPEAN UNION

The EU sets the strategies, policies and financial instruments supporting sustainability measures in the food industry. These strategies, policies and financial instruments are managed by national and regional authorities in the Member States.

The key EU strategies with an impact on the sustainability of the food industry are the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), both main components of the European Green Deal (EGD), a package of policy initiatives, which aims to set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. We can mention too here the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change¹.

At the moment, the main sources of funding supporting national and regional programs in the area of sustainability, relevant to this study, are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Just Transition Fund (JTF) and NEXTGENERATION EU funds.

Additionally, some best practices and certification schemes (e.g., EMAS or Eco-label) are proposed at EU level to support the transition to a more sustainable EU industry.

The following table presents as summary of the types of schemes that have been found:

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/ip_21_663

Table 1 – EU types of support

EU	Total
Strategy	2
Financial instrument	3
Best Practices/ Certifications	3
Total	8

2.2.2 SPAIN

Spain contains 9 Atlantic regions distributed in 7 administrative divisions. Andalucía is a NUTS2 region and administrative division (Comunidad Autónoma) of Spain that includes Huelva, Sevilla and Cádiz.

The following table presents a summary of the types of schemes that have been found:

Table 2 – Spain types of support

Spain	National	Regional	Total
Strategy	1	4	5
Grant	1	19	20
Best Practices/ Certifications	1	1	2
Service	0	4	4
Total			31

In Spain, although there are several national policies and financial instruments, these benefits are mainly distributed at a regional level. It is important to remark that the region with most grants available is by far País Vasco, with almost 40% of the regional grants found, followed by Navarra and Andalucía.

The table below presents a summary of the thematic areas that have been found for the different schemes:

Table 3 – Spain thematic areas for support

Spain	National	Regional	Total
General	3	21	24
Energy efficiency/renewables	0	4	4
Rural development	0	1	1
Other	0	2	2
Total			31

Although there are some schemes that specifically mention energy efficiency and rural development, most of them are **focused on improving sustainability in general** (e.g., sustainable food chain, R&I projects to improve sustainability in food industry, technology developments) and food industry is usually within the scope of priorities along with other sectorial activities or included as “industry” general concept.

Although food producers are not in the scope of this work, it is important to remark that most grants at national and regional level are targeted to improve sustainability of food producers (e.g., landowners, livestock, fishing), especially regarding EU Funding (ERDF). Although several incentives are restricted only to SMEs, in general most incentives are targeted to both Large Companies and SMEs. About tax benefits, although Tax Deductions for investment in equipment

for protection of the environment were active until 2014, these financial instruments are not available anymore and they are now focused on R&D&i activities with no specific mention to the environment. For these reasons, Tax Benefits are not included in this work.

2.2.3 FRANCE

As stated in the methodology, in the case of some countries, the regions defined in the Interreg Atlantic Area 2014-2020 do not correspond to the administrative regions of the country.

This is the case of France, which has 6 Atlantic regions distributed in 4 NUTS1 territorial regions (Basse and Haute Normandie belongs both to NORMANDIE; Aquitaine and Poitou-Charentes belong both to NOUVELLE – AQUITAINE).

The distribution of the schemes found in this first round is summarised in the table below:

Table 4 – France types of support

France	National	Regional	Total
Strategy	3	9	12
Financial instrument	0	7	7
Loan	0	1	1
Total			20

The distribution of the thematic areas of each of the found schemes is summarised in the table below:

Table 5 – France thematic areas for support

France	National	Regional	Total
General	2	10	12
GHG reduction	0	6	6
Rural development	0	1	1
Logistics	1	0	1
Total			20

In general, there is no policy or funding instrument specifically directed to improve environmental sustainability of food transformation processes in SMEs'. However, both at national and regional level some developed instruments can be applied to food transformation SMEs. Most policies and financial instruments are distributed at a regional level. Except from Bretagne, all the French Atlantic regions are quite advanced in terms of food related strategies and instruments. Most schemes are focused on sustainability and industrial development.

This is the case of bioeconomy, circular economy, food waste or industrial strategies, where there is a common statement to improve sustainability and efficiency of the process and reduce waste. Related national strategies are mainly supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and they are focused on the agriculture and food industry in general, including food processing industries. At regional level, the different smart specialisation strategies usually include points related to sustainable resources and food. Circular economy is also in the scope of several strategies, as well of energy and ecological transition.

In the case of the financial instruments and loans, some are directed to improve environmental performance of companies, but just a few are specially directed to the agri-food industry. Half of

them give priority to SMEs, and all are related to hot topics such as energy efficiency, food waste reduction and circular economy.

The industry of the French Atlantic regions is traditionally based on agriculture and food processing, The importance of this industry is reflected in the development of strategies and plans by local governments. The case of Pays de la Loire stands out, with 4 strategies published since 2017 focused on boosting general regional industry, the circular bioeconomy, and the agri-food industry. Regional information regarding funding options is well organised in the websites of the regional governments. Financial aids can be consulted through the web search engines:

- Nouvelle – Aquitaine: <https://les-aides.nouvelle-aquitaine.fr/>
- Normandie: <https://www.normandie.fr/aides-regionales>
- Bretagne: <https://www.bretagne.bzh/aides/>
- Pays de la Loire: <https://www.paysdelaloire.fr/les-aides>
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2.2.4 PORTUGAL

Portugal has 7 Atlantic Regions that correspond to Portugal administrative divisions.

The distribution of the found schemes is summarised in the table below:

Table 6 – Portugal types of support

Portugal	National	Regional	Total
Strategy	4	0	4
Financial instrument	5	0	5
Best Practices/ Certifications	1	0	1
Grant	7	1	8
Total			18

Most schemes, including financial instruments and grants are managed at national level. We have only found one specific grant targeting the transition to renewable energies in Região Autónoma dos Açores.

The main areas targeted by the identified schemes are listed in the table below:

Table 7 – Portugal thematic areas for support

Portugal	National	Regional	Total
General	10	0	10
Energy efficiency/ renewables	3	1	4
GHG reduction	2	0	2
Food waste/food loss	1	0	1
Circular economy	1	0	1
Total			18

Most schemes, including strategies, grants and best practices, have a general focus, encompassing different areas within sustainability (GHG reduction, circular economy, use of renewables, waste reduction). When targeting specific areas, they are mostly focused on the promotion of energy efficiency and renewables, as well as on the reduction of GHG emissions. Other areas tackled by the found schemes include food waste and food loss and circular economy. Only three schemes have a clear focus on the food industry.

All the found schemes are managed by the central government (Republica de Portugal).

2.2.5 UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of the United Kingdom, the 16 Atlantic regions are distributed within 5 main NUTS1 territorial regions. Thus, the policy and funding schemes of the regions are subjected to the territorial distribution:

- NORTHWEST ENGLAND: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- SOUTHWEST ENGLAND: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset and Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area.
- WALES: East Wales and West Wales and The Valleys.
- SCOTLAND: Southern Scotland, West Central Scotland and Highlands and Islands.
- NORTHERN IRELAND: Northern Ireland

The distribution of the schemes found is summarised in the table below:

Table 8 – UK types of support

United Kingdom	National	Regional	Total
Strategy	3	9	12
Loan	2	5	7
Grant	3	8	11
Service	0	2	2
Total			32

The distribution of the areas of each of the found schemes is summarised in the table below:

Table 9 – UK thematic areas for support

United Kingdom	National	Regional	Total
General	3	9	12
Energy efficiency/renewables	2	3	5
GHG reduction	3	5	8
Rural development	0	1	1
Food waste/food loss	0	3	3
Logistics	0	1	1
Waste management	0	1	1
Other	0	1	1
Total			32

In general, there is no policy or funding instrument specifically directed to ‘improve environmental sustainability of food transformation processes in SMEs, with the exception of a grant found in East Wales named *Sustainable Production & Supply of Food Challenge* ([link](#)), aimed to support projects to develop innovative solutions which can significantly improve the sustainable production and supply of food in Cardiff. However, both at national and regional level, some developed schemes can be applied to food transformation SMEs. All UK Atlantic regions are similarly developed in terms of strategies and financial instruments.

Related national strategies are supported by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. This is the case of bioeconomy, waste prevention strategies, where there exists a common statement to improve

sustainability and efficiency of the process and reduce waste. At regional level, the strategies focus also on the general industry, the biotechnology industry, waste prevention and management, and energy.

Related to financial instruments and loans, most of them come from public bodies. Also, the British Business Bank and the HSBC UK Bank have schemes for several regions. The majority of incentives encourages sustainability through reduction of GHG emissions and use of renewable energies. More than a half of the instruments found are specifically focused on SMEs, even if other type of organisations can apply.

2.2.6 IRELAND

Ireland comprises **3 Atlantic regions**: Eastern and Midland Region, Northern and Western and Southern.

The following table presents a summary of the types of schemes that have been found:

Table 10 – Ireland types of support

Ireland	National	Regional	Total
Strategy	3	2	5
Grant	14	0	14
Tax incentive	1	0	1
Service	5	0	5
Total			25

The following table presents a summary of the areas that have been found:

Table 11 – Ireland thematic areas for support

Ireland	National	Regional	Total
General	17	3	20
Energy efficiency/renewables	3	1	4
Water	1	0	1
Total			25

In Ireland most analysed schemes are focused on the national level. We found 14 financial instruments available for SMEs but all at a national level and most grants analysed come from the Green Transition Fund launched by the European Commission. It is important to remark that several services at no cost are promoted by the government of Ireland to help SMEs to improve sustainability across all sectors at a national level. Most found schemes mention sustainability in general, although energy efficiency is specifically mentioned in two schemes and water in one scheme. We found one Tax Benefit Launched by the Government of Ireland to improve energy efficiency open to all kind of sectors and company size. Five sustainability strategies were found, 3 at a national level, and 2 at a regional level: one for Eastern and Midland region and one for the Northwest. No strategy was found for the Southern region.

2.2.7 Conclusions activity A

The main conclusions of this first activity are listed below:

- The following table compares the number and type of schemes found per country:

Table 12 – Countries type of support comparison

Scheme	Spain	France	Portugal	UK	Ireland	Total
Strategy	5	12	4	12	5	38
Financial instrument	0	7	5	0	0	12
Loan	0	1	0	7	0	8
Grant	20	0	8	11	14	53
Tax incentive	0	0	0	0	1	1
Best Practices/ Certifications	2	0	1	0	0	3
Service	4	0	0	2	5	11
Total	31	20	18	32	25	126

The number of found food processing SMEs related schemes ranges between 18 in Portugal and 32 in UK. UK and Spain are the countries where most related schemes have been found, with 32 and 31 respectively. Taking into account the population differences among countries, the number of schemes applicable to food processing **SMEs seems balanced, probably due to the direct influence of EU policies and strategies.**

- In terms of the type of schemes, **all the countries have specific strategies in place** which are applicable to the promotion of the sustainability of the food industry. In addition, **all the countries offer financial support** to food processing SMEs in the form of different financial instruments, including loans, grants or tax incentives; being the most common type of schemes in all countries but France. However, there are **few financial instruments specifically focused on the sustainability of the food industry**. Most available financial support is focused on increasing the competitiveness of businesses (including the possibility of improving their environmental performance). **When focusing on sustainability, they mostly target sustainability in general, the increase in energy efficiency or the implementation of renewable energies.**
- Most national and regional financial instruments applicable to increasing the sustainability of food industries are (or have been, in the case of UK where EU funding is no longer available since Brexit) funded totally or partially with EU funds, mainly from ERDF which is currently supported by NEXTGENERATION EU funds. Depending on the countries, **financial instruments are managed mostly at national (Portugal, Ireland) or regional (Spain, France, UK) level**. In general (excluding UK since Brexit), national and regional strategies and policies are transpositions of the EU strategies and policies.
- In general, **information** about relevant strategies and financial opportunities might be **difficult to find for food processing SMEs** without specialised personnel or external support since it is dispersed in different webpages and portals depending on the region and managing institution. In addition, access to information on the available funding schemes varies greatly among countries, being more accessible in countries like France, Spain or Ireland and more difficult in other countries such as Portugal or UK. The centralisation of the information in national level search engines could have a very positive impact in the access of food processing SMEs to these financial opportunities.
- Entities with a close relationship with the business community can offer services related to environmental legislation vigilance to facilitate access to information and enable SMEs to anticipate new regulatory changes, making the food sector more resilient. This would link to one of the services to be included in the catalogue (D7.2). Besides, funding instruments could be developed to support organisations or companies to implement their own environmental monitoring system.

3 Activity B – Design of a set of recommendations

For this activity the methodology has been to analyse the conclusions of the previous activity A and the conclusions of the initial tasks of WP7 – 7.1 and 7.2, where the gaps and needs of the SMEs of the sector were collected. Besides, an analysis of potential good practices from third regions outside the Atlantic Area has been done (see ANNEX 2) to detect good examples to be followed. With this information a set of recommendations for the public bodies and stakeholders in the Food & Drinks sector of the Atlantic Area have been produced and are shown below to engage on more support to the industry in the transition to more sustainable practices in the food production. This set of recommendations have been constructed as a one-pager easy to communicate document with a number of 10 advices.

3.1 Gaps between industry challenges and public support detected from activity A and tasks 7.1 and 7.2

3.1.1 Industry needs

When asking the companies which is the biggest challenge they are facing in the field of sustainability, the majority of them responded that the **lack of an internal sustainability transversal strategic plan**. To have such a plan will permit them to follow-up and measure the progress based on sustainability indicators on a transversal way affecting the whole company. The main reason of not having such a plan is the incapacity to perform it, not having the right structure, tools, the internal commitment, and any external support. The lack of skilled workers is a barrier too, as environmental and sustainability expertise is not always in the team; as well as the needed tools/knowledge to monitor the environmental footprint. There is a broad map of different international standards to be followed in terms of sustainability that confuses the companies, together with the required big technological investments for this transition. Summing up the lack of specialised staff in these terms, the prioritisation of the investments is sometimes made without the needed knowledge and reflection.

Another concern relies on the need of maintaining profitability while increasing sustainability measures, which is related with the economic limitation of a company. This is in line with the consumer's demand and the consumer's willingness to pay more for a more sustainable and healthier product. In some countries the market/consumer profile is more mature in this term and in others there is still reluctance to more expensive products even being more sustainable.

From a technological point of view, the challenges would rely on reducing the energy consumption, improving the recyclability of the packaging, improving the water cycle, and reducing food waste and the use of raw materials, which is one of the main costs for a food producing company.

All this information has been acquired in task 7.1 of AHFES project and it is fully available in the Deliverable 7.1. Taking this into account the services catalogue has been designed (D7.2) and a pilot has been implemented (D7.3). Together with this insight, the main conclusions about the desired support by the companies would be:

- 1) The facilitation on knowledge sharing and collaboration opportunities between companies, researchers and technological providers maximising **industry symbiosis** and matchmaking with external experts;

- 2) Information and advice, including on resilient business models, funding and **investment opportunities**;
- 3) Training on funding opportunities, **policies/legislation/regulations/standards**, tools for monitoring and evaluating companies' advancements;
- 4) Contributing to disseminate companies' achievements and **good practices**

3.1.2 Public support

Most of the national and regional financial instruments applicable to increasing the sustainability of food industries are (or have been, in the case of UK where EU funding is no longer available since Brexit) funded totally or partially with EU funds, mainly from ERDF which is currently supported by NEXTGENERATION EU funds. It is known that these funds are strongly committed to promote sustainable practices in all the sectors all over Europe. Some countries such as Finland have applied even more ambitious objectives in their way to zero emissions and sustainable industries.

There are few financial instruments at national level specifically focused on the sustainability of the food industry, when it is known that food production is one of the sector that most contribute to carbon emissions. Specific actions taken by the EC such as the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Soils Mission are evidencing the challenge of the sustainability in the sector but are more focused on the primary sector than in the food producers that are at the end of the chain.

When focusing on sustainability, financial support or tax incentives are mostly targeting sustainability in general, the increase in energy efficiency or the implementation of renewable energies, but do not apply to specific actions to improve the whole sustainability of the value chain and specially the production sector where actions for circular economy principles would be central. For that, global references for sustainability strategies in the food industry are lacking and could represent an incentive.

All the countries offer financial support to food processing SMEs in the form of different financial instruments, including loans, grants or tax incentives.

Information about relevant strategies and financial opportunities might be difficult to find for food processing SMEs without specialised personnel or external support since it is dispersed in different webpages and portals depending on the region and managing institution.

The centralisation of the information in national level search engines could have a very positive impact in the access of food processing SMEs to these financial opportunities and facilitating access to nodes made up of knowledge agents where the companies can find the appropriate key players to provide them with support for application grants or specific training for it, as well as establishing alliances to build up consortia.

Involving citizens is a needed strategy, but not putting the weight of the sustainability in their shoulders (i.e. plastic packaging, local products). We are seeing more and more involved citizens switching to sustainable choices in their food, not only on vegetarian/vegan diets but also choosing eco product, plastic free packaging, local products, zero waste options, etc: public authorities can reinforce this: stronger recycling policies, rewarding schemes, support to companies. The consumers want to make better choices in their purchases but sometimes it is just not possible.

D7.4 Recommendations for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area

As an example of good practices we can see the performance of Canada. To improve the environmental performance, Canadian processing industry is focused on process efficiency: pollution reduction, energy efficiency, resource minimization (including water) in plant operations, recycling. All these aspects are important, but ultimately a limited approach as it does not fully involve the ingredients and the labour, typically the biggest expenses in food processing².

² Current state of sustainable food in Canada ([link](#))

3.2 One-pager recommendations

How can governments support sustainable and healthy food preferences? Food systems are interconnected networks of producers, industry and institutions, but in the centre is the individual, the consumer. **Policies can affect all parts of the network influencing a cultural shift towards healthier and more sustainable food preferences.**

After analysing all the information gathered in the different activities performed and mainly from the requests obtained from the SMEs involved in the interviews, a set of recommendations have been produced. The recommendations have been divided by categories depending on the target group they are applying to, which are Industry, Higher Education and other public bodies such as local governments; and citizens/consumers which includes a specific target for young and children. Also, as AHFES project is devoted to reinforcing the innovation ecosystem of the food sector through the implementation and performance of the quadruple helix, this has also applied here for the development of the recommendations that are shown below. Interconnections and synergies of this quadruple helix on a graphical view is shown in the Figure 1 below:

A - Actions with and for industry

1. **Deep Institutional Support:** Mentoring and acceleration programmes for green transition, guidance, rewards, incentives to companies with good practices, as well as promotion of them: Sustainability certification to promote the company effort. Training companies on how to reduce emissions or waste free practices, sustainable choices, promotion of green staff, creation of eco-parks for the promotion of industrial symbiosis (as an example see Kalundborg Symbiosis, an eco-industrial park in Denmark³)
2. **Legislation for sustainability:** Recyclability, Food Waste, Raw material prices, taxing non sustainable food, energy efficiency, water cycle, reduce taxes for eco product (reduced green tax), etc.
3. **Financial instruments** at regional and national level, clearly communicated and implemented with follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Increase budget for specific support to sustainable practices. Promote and invest in the creation of new green business models (start-ups) sustainably oriented. Create oriented support instrument for local, small farmers, producers.
4. **Smooth communication and information:** proximity to industry at regional and local level. Whole value chain committed – agriculture, logistics, retail.
5. **Protection by controlling bad practices.** Fin to contaminants and pollution. More control on eco-labels. Control marketing for non-sustainable products, control of greenwashing practices, etc

B - Actions with and for Educational and R&D institutions.

6. **Stakeholder approach** – Involve all the actors of the value chain,
7. **Financial instruments** at regional and national level: promote collaboration and open innovation in the quadruple helix.
8. **Promote knowledge transfer & technical support** to industry as well as mentoring and staff training activities publicly funded.

³ <https://www.symbiosis.dk/en/>

C - Activities with and for citizens/consumers

9. **Restrict marketing** for non-sustainable food and reduce taxes for eco-products facilitating the purchase
10. **Educate and motivate** the consumer at local level involving cities – actions at cities level will permit more adherence to sustainable choices. It is proved that towns with public initiatives on sustainability are more sustainable. Make special focus on children and young people.

D7.4 Recommendations for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area

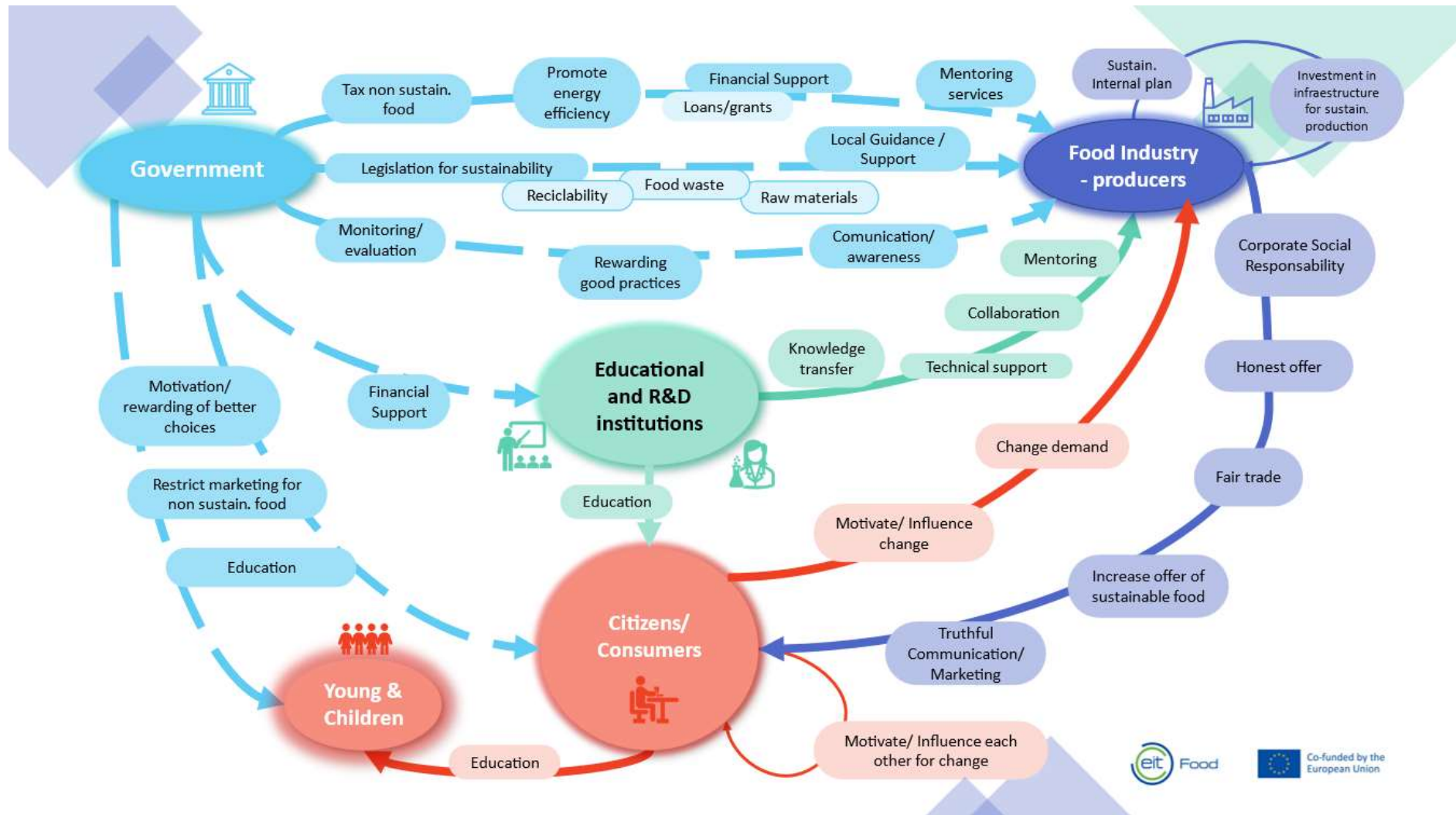


Figure 1 – Quadruple Helix Interconnections for the improvement of green practices in Agrifood ecosystems – Influences and synergies

ANNEX 1 – MAPPING OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE ATLANTIC AREA FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOOD SECTOR FOR IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY

EUROPE:

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
European Regional Development Fund	<p>The ERDF finances programmes in shared responsibility between the European Commission and national and regional authorities in Member States. The Member States' administrations choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management. The ERDF finances programmes in shared responsibility between the European Commission and national and regional authorities in Member States. The Member States' administrations choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management. In 2021-2027, the fund will enable investments to make Europe and its regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More competitive and smarter, through innovation and support to small and medium-sized businesses, as well as digitisation and digital connectivity -Greener, low-carbon and resilient -More connected by enhancing mobility -More social, supporting effective and inclusive employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare, as well as enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism -Closer to citizens, supporting locally-led development and sustainable urban development across the EU 	The ERDF funds many of the local regional programmes targeting SMEs.
Just Transition Fund	<p>The aim of the JTF is to alleviate the socio-economic costs triggered by the transition towards climate-neutrality, supporting the economic diversification and reconversion of the most-affected territories and helping people to adapt in a changing labour market. Support can be provided to: productive investments in small and medium-sized enterprises; the creation of new firms; environmental rehabilitation; investments in clean energy; upskilling and reskilling of workers; job-search assistance; active inclusion of jobseekers programmes; the transformation of existing carbon-intensive installations, when these investments lead to substantial emission cuts and job protection. As with other Cohesion Policy funds, the JTF is governed under shared management. The Commission and each Member State must adopt a Partnership Agreement and one or several programmes for the 2021-2027 period. As part of their Cohesion Policy programmes, Member States must also prepare strategic Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTPs). Once the programmes including the TJTPs are adopted, national or regional authorities are responsible for selecting the projects to be funded. Specific questions on application procedures may be addressed directly to the managing authorities.</p>	The JTF supports the transition to climate neutrality, funding actions that alleviate its socio-economic costs..
NEXTGENERATION EU	<p>NextGenerationEU is a more than €800 billion temporary recovery instrument to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Post-COVID-19 Europe will be greener, more digital, more resilient and better fit for the current and forthcoming challenges. The centrepiece of NextGenerationEU is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) – an instrument for providing grants and loans to support reforms and investments in the EU Member States at a total value of €723.8 billion. To receive funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Member States need to prepare Recovery and Resilience Plans outlining how they are going to invest the funds. Moreover, they need to fulfil the relevant milestones and targets, and before any disbursements under the RRF can flow, the Commission assesses the satisfactory fulfilment of each milestone and target.</p>	NextGenerationEU funds a range of actions to alleviate the damage caused by the COVID-19 including those related to increased sustainability in the industry.
FARM TO FORK	<p>The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. The strategy sets out both regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives, with the common agricultural and fisheries policies as key tools to support a just transition.</p>	F2F is the main EU strategy supporting the sustainability of our food systems. It translates in multiple initiatives including

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		policies and financial instruments.
Circular economy action plan	The EU's Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) is a set of interrelated initiatives which aim to reduce pressure on natural resources by transforming the design, production and consumption of products so that no waste is produced. These initiatives target many different materials and commodities such as packaging, technology, vehicles and textiles. It introduces legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value.	CEAP is another key strategy focusing on increasing the sustainability of the EU economy.
EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices	The EU Code of Conduct is a voluntary industry initiative, launched by the European Commission under the EU Farm to Fork Strategy. It aims to improve the sustainability performance mainly of the food processing, food service and distribution industry. The Code sets out principles, objectives and actions that both (EU) associations and individual companies can undertake. Food SMEs are strongly encouraged to sign the Code and become part of the community leading the sustainability transition in the agri-food ecosystem. They can benefit from the sharing of best practices, joint projects and support services provided by the Commission.	The EU Code of Conduct supports the implementation of more sustainable practices in the food industry.
EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)	The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a premium management instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance. EMAS is open to every type of organisation eager to improve its environmental performance. It spans all economic and service sectors and is applicable worldwide. EMAS helps organisations optimise their internal processes, achieve legal compliance, reduce environmental impacts, and use resources more efficiently. All kinds of organisations – public and private, large multi-national companies as well as small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with few financial resources and limited in-house environmental management expertise – can enjoy the benefits.	The EMAS aims to improve the environmental performance of EU companies and organisations.
Eco-label	The EU Ecolabel is the official European Union voluntary label for environmental excellence. Established in 1992 and recognised across Europe and worldwide, the EU Ecolabel certifies products with a guaranteed, independently-verified low environmental impact. To be awarded the EU Ecolabel, goods and services should meet high environmental standards throughout their entire life cycle: from raw material extraction through production and distribution to disposal. The label also encourages companies to develop innovative products that are durable, easy to repair and recyclable.	The EU-Ecolabel supports the improvement of the environmental performance of products.

SPAIN:

REGION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
ALL	PROGRAMA MISIONES CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN- MISIONES PYMES	Support for large strategic initiatives, intensive in R&D and developed in public-private collaboration, that incorporate the most recent scientific-technical trends and challenges to identify and resolve the challenges of critical productive sectors for the Spanish economy. The five missions identified in this call are: - Safe, efficient and clean energy for the 21st century. - Sustainable and intelligent mobility. - Promote a large sustainable and healthy agro-food sector. - Promote Spanish industry in the industrial revolution of the 21st century. - Provide a sustainable response to diseases and needs arising from ageing.	One of the missions is to "Promote a large sustainable and healthy agro-food sector", including actors from the whole food chain.
ALL	Guía práctica para el cumplimiento de los ODS en Pymes agroalimentarias	This Best Practices document highlights the SDGs applied to the production and marketing of food and that guides what needs to be done to comply with them. Is about an instrument that will serve the entire sector, especially the SMEs, to work in the same direction.	Improve sustainability of SMEs working on the food chain is the objective of this Best Practices guide.
ALL	Estrategia de Desarrollo Sostenible 2030	Development Strategy Sustainable 2030 as the framework of projected commitments for the coming years, in order to accelerate the social transition and ecological, as well as to guarantee a recovery aligned with the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda,	Sustainable food industry is in the scope of priorities.

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Asturias	Buenas prácticas empresariales y organizativas	Best practices to implement social responsibility and the SDGs as elements of transformation of their policies and strategies, attending transparently to the needs of its stakeholders and contributing with their actions to achieve a more sustainable future for Asturias.	Improve sustainability of food sector according to 2030 Agenda is included within the scope of this publication.
Asturias	Subvención a pymes para la modernización del comercio rural	Obtain subsidies, on a competitive basis, aimed at financially supporting actions to modernize small and medium-sized businesses in rural areas, encouraging their development and sustainability.	Improve sustainability of rural development is within the scope. Food production (food transformation and commercialisation could be part of this rural development).
País Vasco	PYME CIRCULAR	Promote the Euskadi 2030 circular economy plan through the application of market tools and recognized methodologies aimed at improving sustainable competitive value, facilitating the transition of SMEs to more circular business models. The development of projects that respond to a specific instrument of the Basque Green Deal environmental policy is financed, combining individual work and group learning, led by intermediate agents. The projects may address the identification of circular opportunities, the application of the life cycle approach and differentiation in the market, the anticipation of new circular regulations, the reputational improvement and sustainability of the value chain, or the application of new circular strategies in products and services.	This funding call aims to develop circular economy strategies in the Basque Country SMEs in all sectors (including the food sector).
País Vasco	LEHIATU BERRIA. Ayudas a la transformación y comercialización de productos agrarios, alimentarios y los derivados de la pesca y la acuicultura	Beneficiaries of this funding call include those who are making investments in the transformation, development and marketing of organic food in the agricultural and food industries. SMEs in the fishery and aquaculture product processing sector within the following subsectors: canned, semi-preserved, purifying, salted, precooked, by-product processing, fish-based product manufacturing.	Processing companies of organic food are main beneficiaries of this funding instrument, so sustainability is the main target of this instrument.
País Vasco	OCM Inversión. Ayudas a la inversión del programa de apoyo al sector vitivinícola.	Improving the overall performance of companies in the wine sector and their adaptation to market demands, as well as increasing their competitiveness. Provide financial support for tangible or intangible investments in wine processing facilities and infrastructure, as well as marketing structures and instruments, including for the purpose of improving energy savings, overall energy efficiency and sustainable processes.	Energy efficiency and sustainable processes of wine industry are on the scope of this financial instrument.
País Vasco	COOPERACIÓN.	Promote forms of cooperation, between at least two entities, to contribute to the following cross-cutting objectives of the PDR. The following lines of cooperation are supported: - Creation and operation of Operational Groups of the European Innovation Association (AEI) in the field of agricultural productivity and sustainability. - Development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors. - Organization of work processes in common and sharing facilities and resources, as well as for the development or marketing of tourist services. - Marketing and promotion of products, by starting up or developing short marketing channels and local markets. - Development of joint actions carried out to mitigate or adapt to climate change. - Sustainable supply of biomass for food processing and energy production and industrial processes.	Improve sustainability of SMEs across the food chain is on scope of the cross cutting priorities of this funding call.

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		- Diversification of activities related to health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture, and education on the environment and food.	
País Vasco	LEHIATU BERRIA	Support investments in different sectors / projects: - Investments intended for the transformation, commercialization or development of products originating agricultural. - Investments destined to the transformation and commercialization of products of forest origin. - Investments destined to the transformation and commercialization of fishing and aquaculture products. - Investments in the agricultural and food industries of the Autonomous Community of Euskadi, which do not have match the above points. - Investments in the transformation and marketing of organic products.	Investments in the transformation and marketing of organic products are in the scope of this financial instrument. Organic products improve sustainability.
País Vasco	HANDITU	Help large investments in different sectors / projects: - Large investments aimed at the transformation, marketing or development of products of agricultural origin. - Large destined to the transformation and commercialization of products with forest origin. - Investments in the agricultural and food industries of the Autonomous Community of Euskadi, which do not fit into the previous points. Within the eligible activities, there is the following: "Investments linked to environmental improvements. Any investment aimed at minimizing the environmental impact of productive activity such as decanters, treatment plants, water treatments, gas filtration, etc. In these cases, The investment may be shared by two or more companies through a collaboration agreement, one of them having to act as responsible for the investment and beneficiary of the aid.	Improve sustainability of food transforming companies (including SMEs) is on the scope of this financial instrument.
País Vasco	BIOECONOMÍA	Encourage the implementation of innovation projects in the field of bioeconomy , through two lines: - Line 1, support to develop pilot projects. - Line 2, funding for the development of demonstration projects. Beneficiaries: Individuals and legal entities (SMEs and non-SMEs) and groups of individuals, legal entities and communities of goods from the food and wood value chain .	SMEs from the whole value chain with the aim to develop projects on bioeconomy are included within the scope of this financial instrument.
Cádiz	Transformación, comercialización o desarrollo de productos agrícolas Inversión Territorial Integrada Provincia de Cádiz	This funding call is applicable to the processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products , except for products from fishing and the olive grove sector. It includes different concepts as eligible actions (among others, technological improvement or rationalization of handling, transformation, marketing procedures; improvement in the use of by-products; innovation; development of new products ; implementation of certifications, quality management systems, traceability; energy efficiency; reduction of environmental impact , concentration of supply, etc.).	Sustainability improvements (energy efficiency, reduction of environmental impact among others) of the food processing chain are within the scope of this funding call.
Cádiz	Reconocimiento a 16 empresas por su compromiso con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Programa Dipuactiva 2022.	Recognition of companies committed to sustainability.	Agri-food sector included within the scope of this award.
Cádiz	Fundación Centro Europeo de Empresas e Innovación (CEEI)	Consulting Department of CEEI Bahía de Cádiz, is positioned as a specialized entity, supporting companies and institutions that are willing and have an interest in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.	No size or sectorial restrictions of companies eligible for this service.
Cádiz	Autodiagnóstico PYME Sostenible	Free self-assessment tool to measure your degree of ESG sustainability maturity.	No size or sectorial restrictions of companies

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			elegible for this service.
Canarias	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.
Canarias	Proyecto de Decreto por el que se crea y regula el Consejo Canario de Responsabilidad Social empresarial y sostenibilidad	Regulatory initiative that aims to promote the policies of corporate social responsibility and sustainability of the Government of the Canary Islands, creating a participation body with advisory powers in policy programming, and in promotion and evaluation. Likewise, it seeks to establish a Canarian distinctive of social responsibility and sustainability as recognition of the entities that develop this type of action.	Initiative to improve regional sustainability in general, no sectorial restrictions.
Canarias	Aula virtual de la Viceconsejería de Lucha contra el Cambio Climático del Gobierno de Canarias	Instrument at the service of sustainability in the Canary Islands, which aims to transfer to society the information and knowledge necessary to enable citizens to be able to intervene in the improvement of our environment and move towards a more coherent and sustainable model of society.	Initiative to improve regional sustainability in general, no sectorial restrictions.
Canarias	Estrategia Ecolocal	Ecolocal was born with the aim of integrating the necessary actions to consciously produce organic , healthy, well-prepared food of local origin. It is proposed as a vector of economic and social transformation of great importance, to the extent that it promotes economic activity, green employment and inclusion, while promoting health, gastronomic and environmental culture.	Sustainable transformation of the whole food chain is within the scope of this strategy.
Cantabria	Subvenciones para el desarrollo de proyectos innovadores en relación a la Asociación Europea de Innovación de agricultura productiva y sostenible para el año 2022.	Create high added value through a closer relationship between research and agricultural practices, promoting greater use of available knowledge. Promote a faster and implemented practical application of innovative solutions.	Target projects for this call aim to improve sustainability in the whole food chain (including food products transformers).
Cantabria	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.
Galicia	Convocatoria para 2022 de ayudas destinadas a la realización de inversiones para pymes del sector transformador de los productos de la pesca y acuicultura	The purpose of the funding will be to make investments that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to saving energy or reducing the impact on the environment, including waste treatment. - Improve safety, hygiene, health and working conditions. - Help transform catches of commercial fish that cannot be used for human consumption. - Refer to the transformation of by-products obtained from the main transformation activities. - Refer to the processing of organic aquaculture products under Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007. - Give rise to new and better products, new or better processes, or new or better management and organization systems. 	Improve sustainability of transformers from fishing products.
Galicia	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.

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Huelva	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.
Navarra	Convocatoria 2022 de la subvención Ayudas a la inversión en industrias agroalimentarias	Subsidy Funding for investment in agri-food industries. Improvement of structures in productive agri-food plants according to the following descriptors: - Energy saving. - Product commercialization. - Employment creation. - Food industry. - Environmental Protection.	SMEs from the food industry with the aim to increase energy savings can apply for this funding.
Navarra	Agrolnnovarse	Agrolnnovarse is a specialization of the InnovaRSE family of methodologies, a model of the Government of Navarra designed to accompany companies in the process of integrating the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility , and which has been in operation for more than a decade. The Labor Service, with the participation of the different agents, is developing this new specific methodology for the Agrifood Sector that will be applicable both to the agricultural production sector (agricultural and livestock farms, including those that carry out transformation), and to the transforming sector (the agri-food industry). Both the primary sector, the Agrifood Cluster and the Department consider it essential to build a sustainable territory together, so that the balance between the different aspects of sustainability is maintained: economic, social and environmental.	Regional strategy to improve sustainability include specific methodology for the agrifood sector thus involving actors from the whole food supply chain.
Navarra	ESTRATEGIA DE ESPECIALIZACIÓN INTELIGENTE DE NAVARRA	The ultimate goal of the S4 strategy is the transition towards a model of sustainable and inclusive growth , that is, promoting economic growth, environmental protection , and social and territorial cohesion. To this end, the smart specialization strategy seeks to transform the economy towards future challenges based on scientific-technological and business strengths, focusing its resources on some priority economic areas and selecting the most promising lines of work. The lines of work include: -Promotion of business R&D&i with measures such as “initiation to innovation” for SMEs and fostering innovative public procurement. -Promotion of the generation and consolidation of Technology-Based Companies (NTBEs) and the collaboration of large companies and startups. - Recovery of by-products and waste for the generation of new products, be it the final product or ingredients. - Promotion of ecological production and its industrialization in agri-food companies . - Promote the consumption and exploitation of local products, with high added value, closely linked to the territory. - Commitment of the sector to natural resources: less water consumption , reduction of fertilizers, phytosanitary products. - Extend the shelf life of food to avoid food waste .	Key priorities for improving sustainability on the food supply chain (food waste, ecological production, recovery of by-products) are within the scope of this strategy. Especial attention is paid to SMEs.
Navarra	PLAN COMPLEMENTARIO DE AGROALIMENTACIÓN NAVARRA	Navarra, in charge of leading and coordinating this Plan, is present in the seven lines in which this essential instrument for co-governance, coordination and co-financing between the State and the autonomous communities of R&D&i policies is structured. The different lines in which the program is divided have to do with: sustainable primary production and ecological transition ; the supply of healthy, safe, sustainable and accessible food; the digital transition of the agri-food sector ; the promotion of the circular economy; the drive for transformation through innovation and transfer; the reinforcement of infrastructures and resources to improve the competitiveness of R&D&i entities and the promotion of market transfer, and, finally, coordination, dissemination and training through different actions.	Key aspect for improving sustainability on the food supply chain (digital transition of agri-food, sustainable production) are within the scope of this strategy.
Navarra	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.

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Sevilla	Programa de Sostenibilidad para Pymes	Grants for actions related to energy efficiency, measurement of the carbon footprint, the circular economy and the 2030 Agenda	Grant restricted to SMEs only. Agri-food sector is included without the scope of this grant.
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FRANCE:

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2018-2022	The policy for internationalisation of agricultural and agrifood enterprises is aimed at promoting and showcasing the French offering of products and equipment as well as its know-how in terms of expertise and training, doing so fully consistently with the other French and European policies.	'Agriculture, the agrifood industry, forestry and fisheries must be at the heart of the European project' is one of the strategic markers
PROGRAMME NATIONAL POUR L'ALIMENTATION (PNA) 2019 - 2023	This programme is fully in line with the international recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Addressing practically all dimensions of food, whether health, nutrition, food aid, education, waste, territorial anchoring, circular economy, environmental protection and biodiversity, the NAP proposes a cross-cutting and integrative approach aimed at a wide range of target audiences (children, adults, local authorities, food chain professionals, associations, etc.). It is also part of the agro-ecological project carried out by the MAA.	Waste, circular economy and environmental protection and biodiversity, are in the scope of the programme
National Strategy for Biomass Mobilisation	This document defines the French strategy inspired by the French law on energy transition for a green growth (LTECV), which aims at developing positive externalities related to the mobilisation and therefore the increased use of biomass, notably to mitigate climate change. This means valorisation of biomass as a substitution to fossil energies, mobilisation of biomass (more particularly wood) for the increase of carbon capture, improvement of energy independence, and development of competitive and rewarding sectors related to the agriculture and forest sectors. This strategy also aims at meeting the demand of these sectors in terms of volume and quality, at preventing usage conflicts, and at optimising benefits and preventing potentially negative economic, social and environmental impacts.	Agricultural biomass and biomass from waste in the scope of the action plan included
"Circular Initiatives" program	Initiatives Circulaires is aimed at holders of ideas or projects who wish to support or develop an economic activity in Brittany and is designed around the following themes: Ecodesign including end of use; Economy of cooperation and functionality (change of business model); New value chains; Extension of the duration of use: reuse, repair, reuse; Bio-waste management of economic agents; Development of low-tech and bio-inspired approaches	Circular economy in the scope of the instrument
Stratégie régionale de développement économique, d'innovation et d'internationalisation	The regional strategy focuses its actions around 4 major ambitions: a renewed and competitive productive economy; the creation of value through the energy and ecological transition; development that values and relies on all skills and energies; shared, responsive and efficient governance of the economy, geared towards business. It focuses its priorities for regional development, organized around two complementary logics: 11 economic sectors on the one hand, covering the main structuring or emerging sectors in Brittany, and 7 areas of strategic innovation on the other hand, highlighting our technological assets, our strengths in terms of research and innovation.	Food processing industry in the scope of the strategy
STRATÉGIE POUR UNE ÉCONOMIE CIRCULAIRE EN NORMANDIE	The Normandy strategy aims to create economic (cooperation and territorial development) and social (jobs, lifestyles and consumption) value while (cooperation and territorial development) and social value (jobs, lifestyles and consumption) while reducing the impact of activities on the environment (resources, pollution and waste).	Food waste in the scope of the strategy

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Call for Initiatives NECI 2021, for a circular economy in Normandy	The NECI 2021 CALL FOR INITIATIVES, for a circular economy in Normandy, is a support system deployed by the Regional Circular Economy Committee (CREC), bringing together the Region, the State and ADEME, intended to identify and guide promoters of Norman projects towards the aid to which they are entitled. The projects must contribute to the achievement of the regional objectives set in the Strategy for a circular economy in Normandy:	Food waste in the scope of the instrument
Environment impulse	The mobilization of the environment impulse is not intended to finance recurring investments, it aims to support companies in their ecological and energy transition, in particular in the following areas: 1. Investment grants allowing companies to go beyond EU/FR environmental protection standards or to increase the level of environmental protection in the absence of EU/FR standards. 2. Investment aid for early adaptation to future EU/FR standards. 3. Investment aid for energy efficiency and energy saving measures. 4. Investment aid for high-efficiency cogeneration. 5. Investment aid for the production of renewable energy. 6. Aid for investment in favor of recycling, the reuse of waste and the saving of raw materials. 7. Aid for investment in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 8. Aid for preparatory audits for the aforementioned investments or for non-regulatory environmental studies.	Promoting environmental sustainability in business; Priority to SMEs and ETIs
Stratégie de spécialisation intelligente de la Normandie 2021-2027	Based on these observations, the Normandy Regional Council wishes to contribute to these transitions and build tomorrow's solutions, on its own scale, in accordance with the characteristics of its territory, its specificities and its assets in terms of innovation. Its 2021-2027 smart specialisation strategy has been oriented in this sense around three issues: sustaining and developing industrial activity in Normandy, making a success of the ecological and energy transition, improving the well-being of citizens and the resilience of the territory	"Secure, healthy and sustainable resources and food" is one of the key priorities of its Smart Specialisation Strategy.
ALTER'NA	The Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region is developing a new tool to promote access to credit in the agricultural, agri-food and forestry sectors. Together with Europe, it has thus created a public guarantee called "ALTER'NA".	Agri-food enterprises in the scope of the instrument
Sustainable development and quality approaches in the food industry	Support entities that voluntarily undertake social responsibility initiatives in accordance with ISO 26000 guidelines or with a view to obtaining quality or environmental certifications. Support entities that voluntarily undertake social responsibility initiatives in accordance with ISO 26000 guidelines or with a view to obtaining quality or environmental certifications.	Priority to SMEs and ETIs
Support for Productive Investments in the Food Industry	Strengthen the competitiveness and innovation of agri-food companies in New Aquitaine by creating, extending and modernizing production units with the aim of consolidating and developing food sectors by supporting the most structuring projects.	Priority to SMEs and ETIs
Support for Innovation and R&D in the food industry	Encourage and strengthen innovation in agri-food companies in Nouvelle-Aquitaine	Priority to SMEs and ETIs
Neo Terra - Roadmap for an energy and ecological transition	A regional roadmap dedicated to the energy and ecological transition that sets out 11 ambitions, accompanied by quantified commitments and concrete actions with the objective of supporting the transition effort in terms of energy, ecology and agriculture by 2030.	Mentions the following ambitions: 'Business transition', 'New energy mix', 'Zero waste', 'Preservation of water resources'
PO FEDER FSE Aquitaine 2014-2020 adopté	The ERDF-ESF programme for Aquitaine aims to stimulate economic growth and contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth: developing the digital economy to support growth, increasing the capacity for innovation and the development and competitiveness of SMEs, pursuing the energy transition while preserving the natural heritage, improving the employability of the population and ensuring the integrated development of disadvantaged urban areas.	To increase the innovation capacity of the Aquitaine economy by strengthening its ecosystem of innovation, development and competitiveness of companies' as one of the priority axes
AMI l'industrie du futur	In March 2017, the Region approved a Plan for the industry of the future, around the following issues: improve the competitiveness of SMIs in the Loire region, increase the lead of Pays de la Loire in industry, consolidate and relocate productive activities in the region, promote job creation and investments in the territory. The initiatives presented will relate to actions to modernize a production tool/process, and in particular: automation: robotics/cobotics,	All industries included; regarding agri-food, supply chain and process efficiency are in the scope

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	<p>“intelligent” lines, industrial organization: flow and supply chain management, quality, traceability, optimization of consumption of materials and fluids, including energy, advanced production processes: additive manufacturing, machining and assembly technologies, advanced surface and thermal treatments, non-destructive testing, implementation of composite materials, online metrology, digitization: immersive technologies (virtual and augmented reality), 3D digitization, data management (block chain, big data), artificial intelligence, Internet of things, product quality: process/product safety, reliability, reproducibility, increased functionality, the operator of the future: adaptation of skills, work environment and ergonomics, reduction of hardship.</p>	
Plan de l'industrie du futur	<p>In March 2017, the Region approved a Plan for the industry of the future, around the following issues: improve the competitiveness of SMIs in the Loire region, increase the lead of Pays de la Loire in industry, consolidate and relocate productive activities in the region, promote job creation and investments in the territory.</p>	<p>All industries included; regarding agri-food, supply chain and process efficiency are in the scope</p>
PAYS DE LA LOIRE BIO-BASED CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN	<p>The regional stakeholders group for the BIOREGIO project has defined the following Actions for the Pays de la Loire Bio-Based Circular Economy Action Plan: 1. Foster and support bio-based circular economy initiatives among civil society and private sector through example-based information and awareness raising. 2. Foster the bio-based circular economy component in the Circular Economy Regional Call for Projects. 3. Strengthen, through supervision and training, the coherence of public policies around biomass management in the territories. 4. Experiment the construction of “bio-based circular economy territories” based on new solutions resulting from research and innovation.</p>	<p>Agri-food sector and food waste included in the scope of the strategy</p>
Supporting the region's food industry	<p>The strategy is designed to be immediately actionable and to help the region's agriculture and agri-food sector become more competitive and move upmarket by adding value. The common priorities among all sectors are: - Boost economic performance and profitability - Manage workload (quantity and quality) - Achieve adequate return on investment - Attract new people into the industry - Make it easier to access land - Improve environmental performance without impacting competitiveness</p>	<p>Food processing industry in the scope of the strategy</p>
Livre blanc de la stratégie régionale partagée agri-alimentaire	<p>The strategy is designed to be immediately actionable and to help the region's agriculture and agri-food sector become more competitive and move upmarket by adding value. The common priorities among all sectors are: - Boost economic performance and profitability - Manage workload (quantity and quality) - Achieve adequate return on investment - Attract new people into the industry - Make it easier to access land - Improve environmental performance without impacting competitiveness</p>	<p>Food processing industry in the scope of the strategy</p>

PORTUGAL

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
Investimento TC-C13-i03 – Eficiência Energética em Edifícios de Serviços	<p>Grants to support the implementation of renewable energy and/or energy efficiency measures in businesses.</p>	<p>Applicable to all SMEs</p>
PO SEUR - Programa Operacional Sustentabilidade e Eficiência no Uso de Recursos	<p>The Program is a key financial instrument for Portugal to address the challenges of the energy and climate transition and achieve carbon neutrality in 2050. Framed in the Strategic and Policy Objectives of the European Union: A greener Europe, which implements the Paris Agreement and invests in energy transition, renewable energy and the fight against climate change and 'A more connected Europe', integrating the main investments for the development of a sustainable Trans-European Transport Network. This Programme covers several specific objectives and targets, with the priorities of : adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and disaster resilience (with an estimated investment of € 276,000,000.00); the transition to a circular economy (with an estimated investment of € 20,000,000.00); sustainable urban mobility (with an estimated</p>	<p>The programme, currently under consultation will involve specific actions to adapt to climate change and transition to a circular economy, impacting SMEs in the food industry.</p>

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	investment of € 1,312,020,000.00); rail transport networks (with an estimated investment of € 1,394,687,052.00).	
PRR - C11: DESCARBONIZAÇÃO DA INDÚSTRIA	This component aims at the decarbonization of the industrial and business sector and the promotion of paradigm shift in the use of resources by implementing measures of the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC), constituting a central strategic objective in the PRR, in the sense that it contributes to accelerate the transition to a carbon-neutral economy and, at the same time, to promote the competitiveness of industry and business by decarbonising it, reducing energy consumption and promoting endogenous energy sources. This component aims at the decarbonization of the industrial and business sector and the promotion of paradigm shift in the use of resources by implementing measures of the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC), constituting a central strategic objective in the PRR, in the sense that it contributes to accelerate the transition to a carbon-neutral economy and, at the same time, to promote the competitiveness of industry and business by decarbonising it, reducing energy consumption and promoting endogenous energy sources.	The component will involve specific actions to adapt to climate change and transition to a circular economy, impacting SMEs in the food industry.
Plano Nacional para a Alimentação Equilibrada e Sustentável (PNAES)	This Plan is born within the Framework of the Terra Futura Innovation Agenda and responds to the promotion of the Mediterranean diet and a balanced, diversified and sustainable diet, also taking into account the National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security (ESANP).	The Plan involves specific actions to increase the sustainability in the food industry.
Agenda temática Transição Climática e Sustentabilidade dos Recursos	The main objective of this agenda is to promote efficient use of resources, valuing the dimension of sustainability and enhancing all the opportunities associated with them in terms of generating economic value and improving environmental performance, in particular in terms of climate transition.	The agenda is relevant to all industries.
Roteiro para a Neutralidade Carbonica	Portugal has committed internationally to the objective of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions so that the balance between emissions and removals from the atmosphere (e.g. by forest) is nil in 2050. This objective was called "carbon neutrality". The main objective of the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality 2050 is the identification and analysis of the implications associated with alternative trajectories, technically feasible, economically viable and socially accepted, and that allow achieving the objective of carbon neutrality of the Portuguese economy in 2050.	The Roadmap is relevant for all the society, including the industry.
Plano de Ação para a Economia Circular	The Plan includes 7 actions that consolidate ongoing initiatives by the Government (e.g. National Strategy to Combat Food Waste, ministry of agriculture) but also introduce complementary initiatives (e.g. make by-product classification methodologies more expeditious, reduce primary consumption of disposable plastic from fossil sources, extraction and regeneration of materials with added value from waste streams).	The Plan involves actions to reduce food waste and loss as well as plastic waste, of key relevance for the food industry.
Estratégia Nacional e Plano de Ação de Combate ao Desperdício Alimentar	The National Strategy aims to "combat food waste, a shared responsibility of the producer to the consumer" and integrates 3 strategic objectives - Prevent, Reduce and Monitor.	The food industry plays a central role in the reduction of food waste and food loss.
Linha de Crédito Descarbonização e Economia Circular,	Main beneficiaries of this loan are SMEs working on industry and tourism sector.	Food processing industry in within the scope of this loan.
Fundo de Inovação/Innovation Fund	It aims to provide financial support to projects covering innovative technologies in renewable energy, energy storage, geological CO2 capture and storage (CCS), CO2 capture and utilization (CCU) and innovative low carbon technologies and processes in intensive industries. in energy (eg iron and steel, cement, glass, paper, chemical), including substitution by products of lower carbon intensity.	Food industry not excluded
Small Grants Scheme #3 - Projects to strengthen climate change adaptation at local level	The projects selected within the scope of this call will contribute to promote the good environmental state of the ecosystems and reducing the adverse effects of pollution and other human activities.	Food industry not excluded from this funding call
Alimentar Boas Práticas: da Produção ao Consumo Sustentável 2020	Best practices in Portugal on sustainable food sector.	Best practices for sustainable food industry
Caixa Invest Green Land	Line of credit to support the transformation and adaptation of your business, in respect of environmental sustainability and with positive effects on the environment.	Food industry not excluded from this funding call

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Crédito Agrícola	Financing of investment projects for the production, commercialization or use of renewable energies	Food industry not excluded. Food processing processes are high energy consuming and can be included within the scope of this grant.
Descarbonização da Indústria	Eligible projects are within the following categories: - Low carbon processes and technologies in the industry; - Adoption of energy efficiency measures in the industry; - Incorporation of energy from renewable sources and energy storage.	Food industry (as industry) is not excluded from this call
Projetos ID+I – Adaptação às alterações climáticas	Eligible project should meet the following criteria: - Promote more efficient management of soil and water resources. - Implement actions at different levels that contribute to safeguarding the sustainability of the agricultural sector and resources, for the provision of multiple ecosystem goods and services. - Reduction of vulnerability to climate change.	SMEs from food processing industry are in the scope of the eligibility criteria
Desenvolvimento de Projetos no âmbito das Agendas Mobilizadoras para a Inovação Empresarial	Eligible projects for this call should meet the following criteria: - Contribute to changing the specialization profile of the Portuguese economy, encouraging higher value-added and knowledge-intensive activities, oriented towards international markets and towards the creation of qualified jobs. - Increase exports of goods and services and contribute to European technological sovereignty, - Increase investment in R&D; - Reduce CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030.	Food industry not excluded from this funding call
Investimento C14-i03-RAA- Transição Energética nos Açores	Grants to support the implementation of solar panels in Açores.	Applicable to all SMEs

UNITED KINGDOM

REGION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
ALL	Start Up Loan	A Start Up Loan is a government-backed personal loan available to individuals looking to start or grow a business in the UK. In addition to finance, successful applicants receive 12 months of free mentoring and exclusive business offers to help them succeed. The loan is unsecured, so there's no need to put forward any assets or guarantors to support an application. All owners or partners in a business can individually apply for up to £25,000 each, with a maximum of £100,000 available per business. Fixed interest rate of 6% p.a. 1 – 5 year loan repayment term	An accessible way to fund sustainability initiatives in food industry SMEs
ALL	Government food strategy	Our objectives for this strategy are to deliver: • a prosperous agri-food and seafood sector that ensures a secure food supply in an unpredictable world and contributes to the levelling up agenda through good quality jobs around the country • a sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products that support healthier and home-grown diets for all • trade that provides export opportunities and consumer choice through imports, without compromising our regulatory standards for food, whether produced domestically or imported.	Priorities include: - Ensuring security and sustainability of food supply in an unpredictable world. - Driving more sustainable food production.
ALL	Growing the Bioeconomy	This strategy is a collective approach from government, industry and the research community to transform the UK economy through the power of bioscience and biotechnology.	Food systems in the scope of the strategy.
ALL	The Naturesave Trust	The Naturesave Trust was set up to promote the adoption of sustainable development. It obtains 100% of its funding from the premiums generated by Naturesave Insurance. The latest funding window is focused on the circular economy, with focus repairing, restoring, mending, sharing and repurposing. The principal areas of funding are: - Environmental and Conservation Projects: Working with communities and organisations to protect wildlife and improve biodiversity, - Social Enterprise Projects: Working with charities and voluntary organisations to support vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, - Community Renewable Energy Grants: Providing startup 'seed corn' grants for community renewable energy projects, -	It includes Environmental Performance Reviews: The Trust also funds independent reviews for commercial customers of Naturesave

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		Environmental Performance Reviews: The Trust also funds independent reviews for commercial customers of Naturesave Insurance. This free advice is designed to help their SME businesses customers to become more sustainable and reduce costs.	Insurance. This free advice is designed to help their SME businesses customers to become more sustainable and reduce costs.
ALL	Farming Futures R&D Fund:	Sustainable Farm-based Protein Feasibility and Industrial Research Competitions :UK registered organisations can apply for grants to fund feasibility projects and industrial research studies developing solutions for reducing farm emissions.	Funding solutions to reduce GHG emissions in food industry
ALL	HSBC Green Lending	A range of green finance initiatives are being provided to UK businesses of all sizes to strengthen their environmental sustainability.	Open to SMEs to improve sustainability performance
ALL	Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF)	A fund to support businesses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with high energy use to cut their bills and emissions through increased energy efficiency and transition to a low carbon future through the use of lower carbon energy and processes.	Open to SMEs and focus on low carbon energy and processes (GHG reduction)
ALL	British energy security strategy	The strategy focuses on expanding domestic UK energy supply alongside commitments to completely remove Russian oil and coal imports by the end of 2022, and Russian gas “as soon as possible thereafter”. The policies include plans to develop four new carbon capture, utilisation, and storage clusters by 2030, increased targets for low-carbon power generation	All industries considered in the strategy.
England	Resources and waste strategy for England	This strategy sets out how to preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.	All industries considered in the strategy.
England	Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF)	Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) supports low-carbon technologies like heat pumps, solar and geothermal energy. The scheme is supporting the rollout of the next generation of heat networks, enabling more towns and cities to take up this established technology from 2022. The scheme will incentivise new and existing heat networks in England to move away from high-carbon sources, as well as exploiting waste-heat opportunities while bringing down costs for consumers. Applications will only be supported if they include low-carbon heat-generating technologies, such as heat pumps, waste heat and energy from geothermal sources.	Open to all SMEs
England	Adding Value grant	Grants available to farmers and producers in England for projects which add value to eligible agricultural products after they are harvested or reared. Grants are available for buildings, machinery or equipment so that producers can add value to eligible agricultural products after they are harvested or reared. Priority will be given to projects that: Increase, improve or introduce new processing capabilities. Grow the business to improve business resilience. Process products for the first time. Shorten supply chains. Encourage collaboration and partnerships. Improve environmental sustainability.	Can be used to increase sustainability of food production for businesses processing agricultural or horticultural products which is at least 50% owned by agricultural or horticultural producers.
England	Government food strategy for England	Independent review of England’s food chain from field to fork.	Priorities include: - Ensuring security and sustainability of food supply in an unpredictable world. - Driving more sustainable food production.
England	Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative Recycled	Loan fund for SMEs in the manufacturing supply chain who are looking for investment to grow and support job creation.	Open to SMEs in the manufacturing sector including food

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	Fund - England		
England - Chesire	The North West Evergreen Fund	The Evergreen Fund is a bolt on that will provide a flexible funding resource for delivering targeted investment to unlock potential within the Cheshire and Warrington region. The initiative is expected to help bring forward development sites that have stalled due to lack of finance. It will also be used to provide funding to either retrofit buildings with new low carbon technologies or for low carbon technologies to be installed on new builds. It excludes residential property and retail. Investments will be broadly targeted in three areas: £8m low carbon to fund energy efficiency property developments or retro fit existing property developments, including installation of solar panels, additional insulation, LED lighting etc £7m research and innovation for new labs and technical spaces £5m business support – for SMEs to grow and develop	Open to all SMEs
England - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Fund (CIOSIF)	The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Fund (CIOSIF), supported by the European Regional Development Fund, is an initiative launched by the government-owned British Business Bank. CIOSIF's funding will support new and growing SMEs, create jobs and encourage and attract additional private-sector investment. As part of the British Business Bank, CIOSIF also aims to drive sustainable growth and prosperity across the UK, and to enable the transition to a net zero economy, by supporting access to finance for smaller businesses. CIOSIF funding is drawn from several sources including the UK Government and the European Regional Development Fund, including an allocation from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (CIOS LEP).	Open to all SMEs
England - Dorset and Sommers et	Low Carbon Dorset	Free support to help businesses in Dorset reduce their carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and aid the development of new low carbon products. Grants for up to 40% of project costs funded by England European Regional Development Fund.	Open to all SMEs
England - North West, Yorkshire , the Humber and Tees Valley	Investment Fund - North of England	Investment to boost small and medium business (SME) growth in the North of England.	Open to all SMEs
England - West Midlands , including Gloucestershire	BCRS Business Loans	Loans to help small and medium-sized businesses develop and grow.	Open to all SMEs
England and Wales	Waste Management Plan for England	The Plan sets a specific focus on food and plastic waste, which are key for the food industry.	Specially relevant to food industry.
Northern Ireland	Sustainability Reports	Sustainability Reports give businesses an understanding of their environmental performance across a number of areas, such as raw materials, energy, carbon, packaging, biodiversity and waste. Sustainability Reports give a holistic assessment and understanding of environmental performance across areas, such as raw materials, energy, carbon, packaging, biodiversity and waste. This support will enable your business to measure, monitor and report on your environmental impacts, demonstrating transparency and accountability, which often leads to consumer confidence and brand loyalty.	The service help to monitor the carbon footprint and thus to reduce them
Northern Ireland	Green Economy Support Programme	This programme aims to support micro and small businesses to reduce their carbon footprint through one-to-one mentoring and a range of webinars.	The service help to monitor the environmental impacts and thus to reduce them
Northern Ireland	Waste Prevention Programme 2019 'Stopping	Aimed at maintaining a downward trend in waste arisings, which in turn will have a significant impact on meeting EU landfill diversion targets. The programme is also aimed at supporting and promoting resource efficiency and the sustainable use of resources in Northern Ireland, whilst ensuring a shift towards a more circular economy.	Food waste and waste reduction in the scope of the strategy

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	Waste in its Tracks'		
Northern Ireland	Energy Management Strategy and Action Plan to 2030 (for Northern Ireland Central Government)	The Energy Management Strategy and Action Plan for NI Central Government (EMS), aims to support and significantly accelerate actions to maximise exploitation of energy efficiency opportunities in both current and future assets and work towards improved governance, accountability, strategic management and reporting arrangements for sustained longer-term success.	All industries considered in the strategy.
Scotland	City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals	Regional Growth Deals, like the City Region Deals, are agreements between the Scottish Government, the UK Government and local government designed to bring about long-term strategic approaches to improving regional economies. Growth deals are delivered by regional partnerships led by authorities working with the private sector, education and skills providers, and our enterprise and skills agencies. The aim of these collaborations is to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth.	Open to SMEs and focus on sustainable growth
Scotland	Circular Economy Investment Fund	Through the Circular Economy Investment Fund (CEIF), Zero Waste Scotland has invested £12.5m in over 60 projects with small and medium-sized enterprises to accelerate the transition to a more circular economy. Will present a new programme for 2023.	Accelerate the transition to a more circular economy (improving sustainability of processing processes) of SMEs and medium-size enterprises
Scotland	Business Energy Scotland - SME Loan Fund	The SME Loan provides unsecured, interest free loans from for the installation of energy efficient measures such as lighting and heating upgrades, double glazing and insulation. The loan can be used to pay for: - heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades: from single improvements to controls to complete system replacement, - lighting systems: fitting and controls, - building fabric: including insulation, draft-proofing, double and secondary glazing, - water saving: be it installing a grey water system, harvesting rain water or sampling installing water efficient taps, - waste reduction: installation of equipment to improve handling and reduce waste at source.	Increasing the energy efficiency and substituting carbon fossil fuels means improving the sustainability in the process
Scotland	National Plan for Industrial Biotechnology	The National Plan for Industrial Biotechnology (IB) set out to transform the competitiveness and sustainability of multiple sectors in Scotland by: • Industrial Engagement - Increasing awareness of biotechnology as a transformation tool • Biorefining - Increasing industry adoption of biotechnology to generate increased turnover • Skills – Delivering the skilled workforce needed to meet the needs of this emerging technology • Innovation - Facilitating collaborations, partnerships and investment to drive innovation	Process efficiency, food processing by-products and wastes in the scope of the strategy
Wales	Food for Wales, Food from Wales 2010 2020	The Strategy outlines a clear direction for the Welsh food industry to grow in a sustainable and profitable manner.	Reducing the energy inputs needed by (and the greenhouse gases resulting from) the production, processing and transportation of food as part of its Key Strategic Drivers
Wales	Towards Zero Waste	Towards Zero Waste provides us with the opportunity to confirm that the outcomes that we are aiming to achieve are: • A sustainable environment, where the impact of waste in Wales is reduced to within our environmental limits by 2050. This means that waste production and management will only be at 'One Planet' levels. • A prosperous society, with a sustainable, resource efficient economy. • A fair and just society, in which all citizens can achieve their full human potential and contribute to the wellbeing of Wales through actions on waste prevention, reuse and recycling.	Food waste and processing in the scope of the strategy

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Wales	Beyond Recycling	It aims to support the green recovery by taking actions which support a zero waste, net zero carbon Wales that uses its fair share of resources.	Food waste and processing in the scope of the strategy
Wales	Focus Futures Green Goal Award	A scheme to help businesses in Wales make green improvements to their business with a chance of receiving a financial award.	Open to SMEs and rewards green transition
Wales - East Wales	Sustainable Production & Supply of Food Challenge	Funding available to support projects to develop innovative solutions which can significantly improve the sustainable production and supply of food in Cardiff. Cardiff Council in collaboration with Monmouthshire County Council are seeking to identify and support projects to develop innovative solutions which can significantly improve the sustainable production and supply of food. The Challenge looks for applicants to harness the potential of land, technology and people to increase the sustainable production and supply of locally grown food in the Cardiff Capital Region. This £2.1m challenge aims to improve local food production and supply, which will provide positive economic, social, and environmental impacts to the region. Funding is intended to support projects that will significantly increase the sustainable production and supply of locally grown food in the Cardiff Capital Region.	Focused on food industry

IRELAND

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR
Food Vision 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy was developed with this context in mind, and aims to balance economic, social and environmental sustainability under a holistic Food Systems approach. The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	Improve sustainability of food and drik processing is include in scope of this strategy.
National Development Plan 2021-2030	The Government’s €70m Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products will help farmers and those working in food production to diversify their offering, to attract new markets and customers, making their business more resilient and sustainable into the long-term . The fund will be administered by Enterprise Ireland.	Improve sustainability of the whole food industry actor is within the scope of this plan.
The European Union budget for Ireland	Around €142 million from the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) will enable the adaptation of the Irish fishing and aquaculture sectors to the present challenges. The funding will support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the growth of a sustainable blue economy and healthy, safe and sustainably management of seas and oceans. Investments in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors will also contribute to the green transition in Ireland, by promoting development of small-scale coastal fisheries through community-led local development.	Sustainable blue economy would result in improvements in sustainability for several key actors from the whole food chain.
Green Transition Fund: Climate planning fund for business Climate action voucher	Consultancy support to develop an initial sustainability/ decarbonisation/circular economy strategy and action plan.	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Climate planning fund for business . GreenStart	Consultancy grant to support companies to introduce environmental best practice systems and structures, achieve cost and resource reduction targets and lay a foundation for future environmental improvement projects	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Climate planning fund for business . GreenPlus	Support for training projects to develop a high level of environmental management capability, drive environmental efficiencies and achieve improved sustainability.	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Climate planning fund for business Strategic Consultancy	Consultancy grant to assist large energy users develop a carbon reduction roadmap	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.

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Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund. Capital investment for Energy Monitoring & Tracking (EM & T) Systems	Supporting companies to put in place monitoring and targeting systems to begin accounting for the carbon footprint of their activities	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund . Capital investment for decarbonisation processes	Supporting investment in carbon reducing technologies in manufacturing combustion processes	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund . Innovation Vouchers	Providing assistance to SMEs to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund . Exploring Innovation	Grant to support planning of research, development or innovation projects in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund . Research & Development	Supporting the development of new or substantially improved products, services or processes, in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Green Transition Fund: Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund. Agile Innovation	Supporting the development of new or substantially improved products, services or processes, in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation	Food chain is included in scope of this grant.
Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products	The Government's €70m Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products will help farmers and those working in food production to diversify their offering, to attract new markets and customers, making their business more resilient and sustainable into the long-term . The fund will be administered by Enterprise Ireland.	Objective to make business more sustainable across the whole food chain.
Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products	Up to €30 million is available under this second call, which is being administered by Enterprise Ireland. It is open to large, medium and small enterprises, engaged in the processing and marketing of primary meat and dairy products. The Scheme will enable food processing companies become more operationally resilient through the pursuit of product/market diversification strategies which complement the ambition set out in Food Vision 2030, Ireland's 10-year plan for the agri-food sector. A more competitive meat and dairy processing sector will help to support the economic, environmental and social sustainability of farmers as our primary producers.	Objective to make business more sustainable across the whole food chain.
Organic Processing Investment Grant Scheme	Help to ensure the adoption of "best practice" within the organic production/processing are between project aims.	Objective to make business more sustainable across the whole food chain.
Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA)	The ACA scheme allows a sole trader, farmer or company that pays corporation tax or income tax on trading or professional income in Ireland to deduct the full cost of the equipment from their profits in the year of purchase. As a result, the business's taxable profits are reduced by the value of qualifying capital expenditure. By contrast, the Wear and Tear Allowance provides for the same tax reduction, but this is spread evenly over an eight-year period.	Incentive for energy efficiency. Food production is included in the scope of this tax benefits scheme.
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat can help your business adopt renewable heating systems by providing a grant for: -Air source heat pumps. -Ground source heat pumps. -Water source heat pumps. The scheme is open to commercial, industrial , agricultural, district heating, public sector and other non-domestic heat users.	Food chain business can benefit from this grant to be more sustainable by using renewable heat.
Climate Ready	Skillnet Ireland has launched Climate Ready, a 5-year national climate initiative. Programmes are fully-funded or offered at a subsidised cost for Irish businesses and employees in the private sector.	Food chain business can benefit from this service.

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	The Climate Ready Academy offers specialised training for businesses in: -Climate action -Sustainability -Corporate social responsibility	
Water Conservation for Business	The Water Conservation for Business hub also includes practical advice for specific sectors, including:-Hospitality- Agriculture-Manufacturing-Pharmaceutical	Food chain actors are included in the scope of this service.
SEAI Energy Academy	The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) offers an e-learning service called Energy Academy to: -Advise organisations how to meet energy efficiency goals -Show how energy efficiency practices can help reduce energy waste and lower your carbon footprint -Upskill staff on energy efficiency	This service is applicable to any sector.
Regional Technology Cluster Fund (RTCF)	Under Project Ireland 2040 Government identified an ambition to build sectoral clusters of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at regional level. The objectives of the Educational Outreach Managers are to support: 1. IoTs / TUs to increase their engagement and connectivity with SMEs in particular, and industry generally, in line with their research and educational remit, thereby strengthening enterprise productivity. 2. The development of enterprise clustering in identified sectors/thematic areas, that consequently: - Fosters increased SME productivity; - Drives SME competitiveness; and - Supports internationalisation activity.	AgriTech Cluster (funded by RTCF) mission is to Accelerate the sustainable growth and international reach of Ireland's AgriTech Industry
Project Ireland 2040 . Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region	Key priorities include: Climate Action - The need to enhance climate resilience and to accelerate a transition to a low carbon society recognising the role of natural capital and ecosystem services in achieving this.Current trends indicate that implementation of existing national policies alone will not be sufficient to meet climate targets therefore additional measures are required. The preferred scenario combines this with complementary approaches including the development of a regional Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services approach together with site-based alternatives for adaptation/mitigation of impacts in strategic development locations.	Sustainable food production is in the scope of the strategy.
Sustainability training and mentoring: Green for Micro	Free training programme for small businesses with 10 (or fewer) employees. Training is provided in two stages:-A webinar, covering examples of green initiatives and their benefits-Two days of mentoring with a 'green consultant' or trainer, including specific recommendations for your business. Expected benefits from this programme: -Increased cost savings-Improved resource efficiency (for example: using less energy, water and materials)- Reduced environmental footprint and greenhouse gas emissions- Opportunities for higher and additional value on products and services-Increased access to customers, improved corporate image-Increased resilience to climate change impacts	Target is SMEs, any sector is excluded
Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024	Strategic objectives to reach by 2024: - Strategic Objective 1: Harness the potential of micro, small and medium indigenous businesses in the North-West Region through encouraging entrepreneurship and scaling of existing businesses. - Strategic Objective 2: Ensure that the North-West capitalises on the enterprise opportunities posed by the advancement of the wind industry (onshore/offshore wind) and the continued growth of the ocean economy. - Strategic Objective 3: Support the offering of the North-West Region as a place to work and invest high value jobs in - Strategic Objective 4: Support the North-West's enterprise to mainstream climate action and transition to a low carbon future in their business planning - Strategic Objective 5: Recognising the North-West's strategic border location, encourage the ongoing development of cross-border relationships and Shared Island initiatives to further the enterprise agenda in the North-West - Strategic Objective 6: By harnessing the partnerships available to the REP's steering committee, assist the Regional Skills Forum and other agencies in addressing the skills issue encountered by enterprises in the North-West	Strategic Objective 4: Support the North-West's enterprise to mainstream climate action and transition to a low carbon future in their business planning

ANNEX 2 - POLICIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY OUTSIDE OF THE INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA – EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES.

In the present Annex, an overview of the present status of strategies and financial support to sustainability initiatives in the food industry in other EU and non-EU countries is provided. The selected countries have a strong commitment to sustainability and are presented as global references for sustainability strategies in the food industry.

EU countries outside the Interreg Atlantic Area

FINLAND

Finland has its own Food Research and Innovation Strategy for Finland 2021-2035 ([link](#)) with the following core goals:

- All Finnish citizens can follow a healthy, safe and sustainable diet.
- The Finnish food system is based on sustainable, flexible, and competitive food and feed production.
- The food system is resource efficient and waste-free.
- Finland is a pioneer and runs pilots on research, innovations and new operating methods that aim for a sustainable food system.

This strategy pursues its own sustainable goals for Finland by 2030 related to Food industry:

- Halve the food waste by 2030.
- Carbon-neutral Finland by 2035.
- 16% less GHG emissions compared to 2005 level.
- Carbon footprint targets to reach 2.5 tCO₂.

The main EU financial instruments supporting Finnish SMEs within the food industry are the same as in other EU countries:

- Structural Fund Programmes: European Regional Development Fund and European Social Funds.
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Regional and Local (Leader) funding opportunities.

[Business Finland](#) provides support to Finnish SMEs in general.

In addition, Finland has specific regional strategies for food industry and regional financial instruments. More information is available [here](#).

ITALY

Italy has a range of policy initiatives that target specific SME groups or issues. Examples include legislation for innovative start-ups and SMEs, which provides a system of periodic monitoring, and the "Transition 4.0" Plan for the digitalisation of enterprises ([link](#)).

It seems like Italy has a good scheme for entrepreneurs and SMEs in general, not really focused on sustainability of food industry although there are some financial instruments that match these categories. More information of available financial instruments [here](#).

GERMANY

As part of the Corona Shield, a package of measures for start-ups and SMEs have also made an important contribution to stabilising the market for equity capital in Germany. This package of

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measures is available in addition to the existing equity and venture capital financing instruments from the ERP Special Fund.

ERP Special Fund and EIF have been cooperating very successfully in the field of equity and mezzanine financing for over 15 years. This makes an important contribution to ensuring that innovative start-ups in Germany have access to capital. The financing instruments include the ERP/EIF Venture Capital Fund of Funds with a total fund volume of EUR 3.7 billion (including the European Angels Fund Germany with a volume of EUR 400 million); the ERP/EIF/Länder Mezzanine Fund of Funds with a total fund volume of EUR 600 million; and the co-financing of the GFF-EIF Growth Facility (total volume of up to EUR 3.5 billion)⁴.

Non-EU countries

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica, together with Switzerland and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), is a co-lead of the United Nations (UN) One Planet Network's Global Sustainable Food Systems Programme. The country has a National Policy on Sustainable Production and Consumption 2018-2030 ([link](#)) and the former Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2011-2021 ([link](#)), as sustainability ambitions are also deeply rooted in Costa Rica's policy environment.

Although the country has demonstrated improvements in its environmental performance, mostly in protection of biodiversity, there is room for further progress, particularly in the areas of sustainable management of wastewater, the preservation of key ecosystems and nitrogen management. A large number of commitments, laws, policies and institutions, which have played a key role in the transformation to date, can potentially guide the transition towards a sustainable Costa Rican food system, but these need to be complemented with resources, both financial and human⁵.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is focused on developing opportunities to improve the health, environmental, social, and economic outcomes of its food system⁶. The Ministry for Primary Industry in New Zealand has recently published the MPI Strategic Plan 2022-2023 to boost the economic and environmental performance of New Zealand's food and fibre sector ([link](#)), and updated its New Zealand Food Safety Strategy Refresh 2022-2024 ([link](#)). MPI offers grants and co-investment funding to primary industry businesses that want to export, increase sustainability, improve productivity ([link](#))⁷. The country is also investing in life cycle assessment research to generate data on the environmental performance of diverse food production and processing.

CANADA

A range of instruments related to Food Policy are used by the government to advance their agenda ([link](#)). One specifically related to sustainability issues is a grant (contribution agreement) on a cost-shared basis to farmers and farm organizations to effect certain food safety and environmental initiatives.

⁴ 16. Germany. Government policy response ([link](#))

⁵ Costa Rica's journey towards sustainable food systems ([link](#))

⁶ New Zealand's Food System Pathway ([link](#))

⁷ MPI's strategy New Zealand ([link](#))

D7.4 Recommendations for strengthening environmental sustainability in the ecosystem for innovation in healthy food & lifestyles in the Atlantic Area

To improve the environmental performance, Canadian processing industry is focused on process efficiency: pollution reduction, energy efficiency, resource minimization (including water) in plant operations, recycling. All these aspects are important, but ultimately a limited approach as it does not fully involve the ingredients and the labour, typically the biggest expenses in food processing⁸.

In Canada, the Canadian Agri-Food Sustainability Initiative (CASI)⁹ is building leadership and co-operation for supply chain sustainability data, programs, tools, and collaboration opportunities, to improve economic, environmental, and social outcomes across the agri-food system of the country.

CONCLUSIONS

Compared to the EU Atlantic regions analysed in this study, global references from non-Atlantic EU countries and outside the EU have similar approaches, with wide strategies and financial instruments supporting sustainability in the food industry in general (including primary and processing industry) and not focusing specifically on food processing SMEs. In addition, they have schemes targeting the development of SMEs that can be leveraged to support sustainable initiatives.

In the EU, national and regional initiatives promoting sustainability in the food industry are mainly supported by EU level strategies (e.g., Farm to Fork) and funds (e.g., ERDF) and thus, seem to have a similar outreach across the studied EU countries and regions.

Finland is a special case, with national sustainability strategies that in some cases (e.g., making Finland carbon neutral by 2035) exceed the EU targets, and the Food Research and Innovation Strategy for Finland 2021-2035, a food industry-focused strategy.

⁸ Current state of sustainable food in Canada ([link](#))

⁹ Canadian Agri-Food Sustainability Initiative ([link](#))