



LIVE

THE FOOD INNOVATION LABORATORY

CONTENTS

- Partners of the Innovation Laboratory
- EEIG European Projects
- ECOTROPHELIA over the years
- National Selections 2021

ECOTROPHELIA EUROPE 2021

- July 2021
- 13 Competing Countries
- Partners

DEVELOP



UNDERTAKE



DARE



CREATE



INNOVATE



October
2021

08





FEEDtheMIND

Food-related European Education in the Digital era to Motivate Innovative New-product Development

FEEDtheMIND is an European project initiative funded by Erasmus+ to promote the development of knowledge and skills using digital tools and the exchange of good practices in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). With a network of six HEIs from five countries and the engagement of their national food federations, this project envisions to bring together the education system and the agri-food sector to better prepare students for the labour market. The end of the first semester of 2021 is marked by the end of Output 2, dedicated to the development of the FEEDtheMIND digital learning platform, and the launch of Output 3, aimed to create a transnational ECOTROPHELIA team competing in ECOTROPHELIA Greece 2020.

The needs assessment in terms of skills and knowledge acquisition

Output 1 of the FEEDtheMIND project led to the definition of the skills and competences that shall be addressed at a European-level and were consequently the basis for the development of the digital pedagogical tool.

The aims of this output were to identify:

- how the problematic of food innovation is addressed in the different HEIs partner organisations.
- the competences and expectations of food companies for the future professionals and employees.
- the key competences perceived as underdeveloped and considered as necessary for both the higher education system and the labour market.

Development of the digital learning platform

Based on the work realized during Output 1, the FEEDtheMIND learning platform was developed over the course of the last year and tested among students from all participating universities.

Upon analysis of the results achieved in Output 1, and taking into consideration the insights from students, pedagogical staff and representatives from the food industry, the consortium decided on four modules to be developed: business model, creativity, eco-design, and project valorisation. As the Moodle platform was being developed, the partners also prepared the modules' materials, i.e., presentations and quizzes, that were adapted and translated into 5 languages. The Moodle platform allow the students to select the language they want to study in and benefit from multiple case studies. The platform also allows students to test their knowledge and skills acquisition through quizzes available for each module.



DIGIFOOD

Digital transformation of project-based learning guidance in agri-food Higher Education Institutions

Since 2000, ECOTROPHELIA has been fostering creativity and entrepreneurship European-wide by promoting the national and European competitions that bring together HEIs and the agri-food sector to rethink the future of food. This initiative has led HEIs to adapt their curriculum to include new product development projects (from raw materials to market launch) promoting the application of the acquired scientific and technical competences, and the development of soft skills and project management.

In 2020, the national and European competitions had to reinvent themselves to continue to provide students and HEIs a platform to showcase their talents. While the students participating were motivated and coached to develop their eco-innovative food products, the educators who guided their project-based learning were faced with new challenges to do so virtually.

The impacts of the pandemic on education

The pandemic brought a significant impact on the delivery of education and training, and HEIs and educators perceived an acceleration of the digital transformation. Although, HE systems were rapidly mobilised to continue to provide high-quality education, the resources available and the digital pedagogical competences of educators were limited. It is to be noted that the agri-food education heavily relies on practical work (labs, pilot plants), so the challenges faced by the HEIs were particularly complicated. The pressure to adapt led to the implementation of several practices, some kept until the end of the school year and even for posterity, others, not so successful, will serve as emergency learning experiences.



ECOTROPHELIA

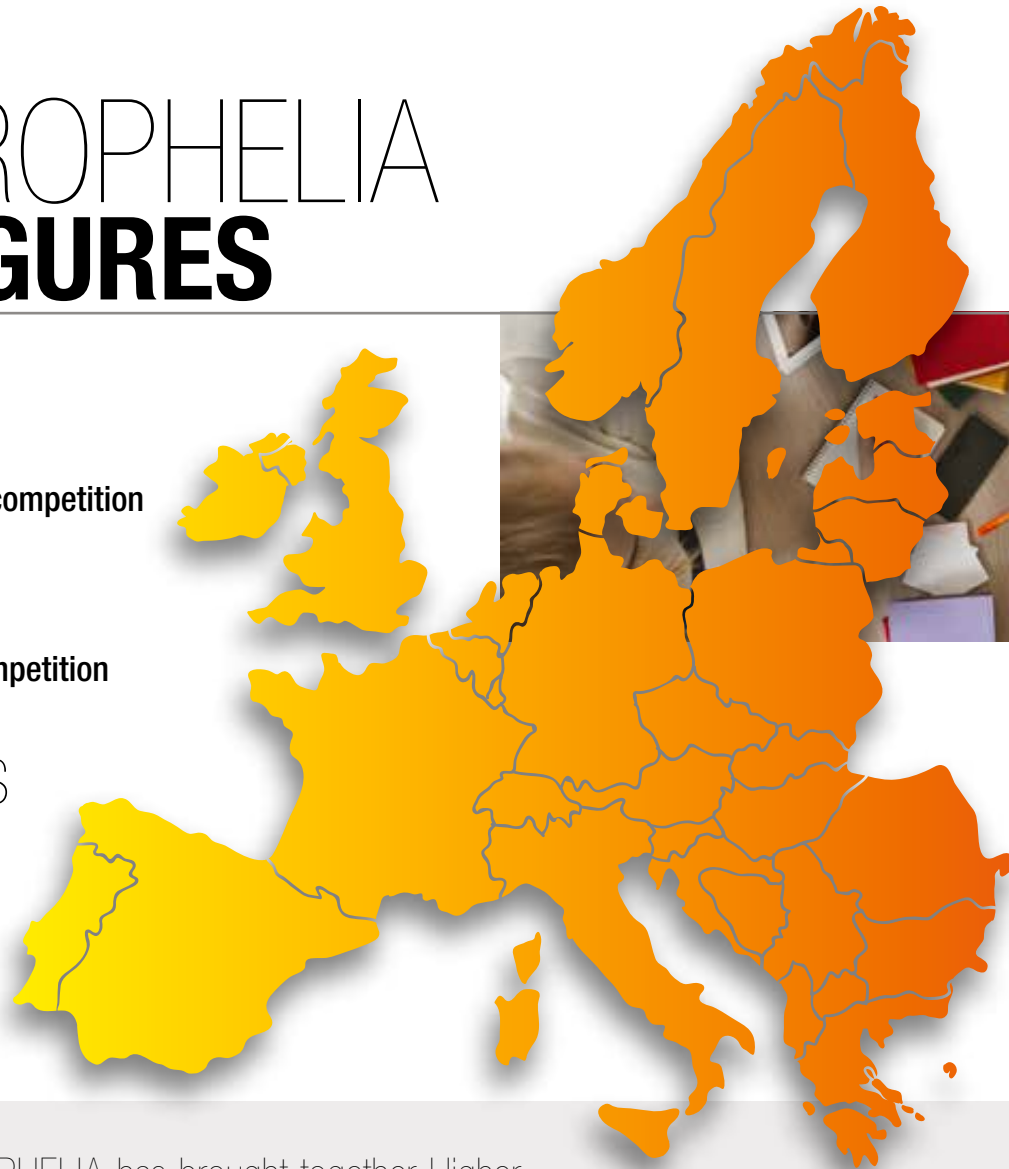
KEY FIGURES

22 years
of ECOTROPHELIA competition

More than
2800 Students
have participated in the competition

22 Countries

More than 1000 Food
innovative products



For over 20 years, ECOTROPHELIA has brought together Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the agri-food sector to rethink the future of food. Created in France, as a competition for HE students for the development of eco-innovative food products, the ECOTROPHELIA competition is now organised in about 20 countries culminating in a European competition, the champions league of food innovation with the winners of the national competitions. HEIs European-wide foster participation in ECOTROPHELIA by promoting project-based learning approaches, outside the classroom but also importantly integrating them as part of the curriculum, promoting the application of the acquired scientific and technical competences, and the development of soft skills, entrepreneurial mindset and project management, alongside knowledge acquisition. Thus, ECOTROPHELIA has been a laboratory of food innovation fostering the future talents of the agri-food sector.



