



The partnership

Lead Beneficiary – Gemeente Groningen / Municipality of Groningen

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Geographically and historically, the city of Groningen is the centre of the metropolitan area in the north of the Netherlands. The region is characterized by a valuable and diverse landscape. It is the green long, but also the barn and the pantry of the city. We actively work towards realisation of the sustainability triple bottom line of people, planet and profit: health, welfare and an inspiring living area in a social strong community, a growing awareness of environment, energy transition and recycling, and high quality healthy environment.

In 2011 Groningen was capital of food. We can offer to our partners our food policy, the first draft of which was written already after 2007, by Carolyne Steel, the author of 'Hungry City: How Food Shapes our Lives', after her visit in Groningen. As a local authority we decided to support initiatives in the area of food, to deliver knowledge input on the issue, to connect people, projects and initiatives and to give ourselves the good example.

In doing so, we can demonstrate a major change and improvement in working practice. We support and strengthen community initiatives instead of telling stakeholders what to do. We stimulate self organisation capacity of public and private stakeholders and actively facilitate cooperation initiatives. Within the REFRAME project we aim to further develop and describe this bottom up approach as an example of a responsible and participating society. To this end, we have stimulated a cooperative approach and we actively take part in local and regional multi stakeholder cooperatives of private and public partners.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

Participating in the REFRAME project will help us to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable regional food system. We can keep learning to coordinate and support regional food initiatives and support our citizens who make an informed choice. In particular, from our Scandinavian partners we want to learn about regional food chain branding. The German partnership will contribute to our understanding of responsible large scale customership and food related crafts and skills, and from the Belgian partners we will learn about taste, valorisation tracks and new marketing techniques.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

Groningen cooperated and participated in several EU funded projects, as a project partner as well as a lead partner, for instance in the projects Smart Cities, Opening Up, DANS etc. In the Creative City Challenge (CCC under the Interreg 4B programme, we organized the final meet-up with a successful congress. In the SEEDS project we participated with the region and worked closely with the University of Copenhagen. Especially in Interreg B, Groningen has an excellent track record in coproduction, mainstreaming results, financial management of EU subsidies, procurement according to EU-requirements organization of transnational events, organization of transnational workshops etc.

Groningen also participates in the Fair Trade Towns campaign, which is the result of a grass-roots citizens movement that started in the UK in 2001 and became a European wide program called "Fair Trade Towns In Europe", partly funded by the European Commission. Groningen was the first Dutch city to become a Fairtrade municipality in 2009. We have successfully continued this title every year. This success was due to a close cooperation with business owners and social institutions.

Gebiedscoöperatie (Regional Cooperative) Westerkwartier (RC)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

The Regional Cooperative (RC) is a multi stakeholder cooperative (MSC) for small and middle sized food related entrepreneurs working on the rural-urban axis. We represent about 450 rural entrepreneurs, organised in diverse regional rural entrepreneurs' associations. In addition, our members are vocational schools and universities of applied sciences, the cooperative (H)Eerlijk Groningen, an association for urban food processors and consumers, and HANNN, the Healthy Ageing Network North NL, amongst other subjects dealing with healthy food & nutrition. We have an excellent and fine meshed regional network of food supply businesses, rural NGO's and regional public bodies. Our contribution to the REFRAME project is our multi stakeholder approach, which sets us apart from traditional cooperatives. We address systemic problems of economic development, landscape and environmental stewardship and social cohesion. We aim to set a community development template for addressing various social, economic and ecological needs within an inclusive and enduring democratic organisation. Through a range of actors involved in decision-making we are able to meet shared regional objectives, as regards new services as well as regional economic

revitalisation. As to the steps in the REFRAME roadmap we can offer to our project partners a feasible rural mapping approach through cooperation with students and teachers.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

Diverse aspects for the RC are essential to achieve through participation in REFRAME. We want our regional food entrepreneurs to gain new skills and specialisations to make sure they can keep running their businesses. We will benefit in particular from the smart specialisation trainings, the cooperative supply proposition and the urban intentions. Our regional food related SMEs need a substantial and aggregated demand from urban consumers, who until now did not declare their preference for regional supplies, nor did they organise their demand in a cooperative manner. We understand that we need to extend our cooperative approach on the rural-urban axis and share this ambition with our REFRAME partners. None of us is fully experienced in this matter. In a joint effort, we expect to realise substantial progress.

We also want to implement life long learning arrangements within our region, in order to provide courses and trainings on the job, during the project, but also after de project's lifetime. We are glad to cooperate with knowledge institutions in the partner regions to commonly develop training courses and workshops with transnational focus groups. As an organisation, we are working lean and meaningful: avoiding excess of overhead and hosting as much as possible tasks and responsibilities at our members' organisations. Thus our members are expected to benefit from participating in the project rather than the RC itself.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

The RC was founded in December of 2013. Hence, the time to manage or to participate in European cooperation projects is fairly short. As stated above, the RC as an organisation aims to limit the overhead and organisation costs and pass on responsibilities to the regional members, many of which have experiences in international cooperation. In particular, our vocational education and training colleges and the universities of applied sciences are used to run international cooperation projects.

Economische Raad voor Oost-Vlaanderen / Economic Council of East Flanders (EROV)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

EROV has a large experience in promoting regional products under the label "Lekker Oost-Vlaams" and leads a network of 200 local food companies. In 2002 a promotional centre for East Flemish regional products, the Butchers' Hall, was opened in the centre of Ghent. 50 producers of regional products participate in this centre in a unique public-private collaboration. In april 2015 a new cooperative organization was installed called Vlapas, 17 producers of the Flemish Ardennes work together.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

The REFRAME project wants to develop effective measures to support SME innovation in food related businesses on regional scale. To that end, it stimulates exchange of experience between European partners and implements innovative ways of processing and distribution for regional products, with focus on the sector food&beverage. This case brings a solution to a very important gap in the province of East Flanders. Moreover, the project will raise awareness and create a methodology for supply, distribution and greater use of local foods on all levels. This is one of our regional spearheads.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

EROV has an extensive experience in the participation and leading of European projects (Interreg, EFRD, ESF, LEADER, PDPO) mostly in collaboration with the University of Ghent. Some of our projects are: Proef het Vlakke Land (INTERREG 2003-2006), Smaakklassen (INTERREG 2010-2013), GROEIKans (INTERREG 2010-2013), Smaakbeleving als hefboom voor marktinnovatie (PDPO 2014-2015), Hoeve- en streekproducten Vlaamse Ardennen, sterk potentieel (Leader Vlaamse Ardennen 2014-2015).

Katholieke Hogeschool Vives Zuid / Vives University College (Vives)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

The Business Management Centre (EC BM) of excellence of Vives University College offers supporting services to centres of excellence of the same institution, SME's and larger companies. EC BM is highly experienced in supporting and coaching researchers and practitioners in setting the goals of valorisation track. When applying marketing techniques, various phases need to be completed. EC BM coordinates, concretises and monitors all phases from preparing research to applying in practice.

Furthermore, the Information Technology research group together with the EC BM has expertise in building complex IT- solutions for both industrial partners and social profit organisations. The research group has experience in the field of artificial intelligence, (combinatorial) optimisation, automated negotiation, data mining and machine learning

and corresponding solutions for the logistics domain. Our Agro and Biotechnology Centre is expert in food technology. In research there is a close collaboration with regional SME's.

VIVES is also active in the field of VET. We offer a broad range of post educational trainings and seminars for people in the work field, in particularly those in the health care sector, the food industry and public kitchens. Basic principle of our trainings is closing the gap between education and the demands of the industry.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

By participating in the project, the researchers and teaching staff are able to enhance their knowledge and skills which results in high quality courses that are relevant for the field and that prepare students for performing their future jobs. Furthermore, working on real practice projects, in collaboration with SMEs and larger companies, motivates students to obtain better results and ensures that their studies are an excellent preparation towards the labour market.

This project will provide Vives with a solid network of regional communities, practitioners, entrepreneurs, industry and authorities, transnationally as well as regionally.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

The Business Management gained experience in "Play Europe", a KCSE EU-PROJECT". Dealing with EU-citizenship, competences and skills. The Agro and Biotechnology Unit gained experience during diverse EFRO-projects. It also is the coordinator in an Erasmus+, Leonardo Da Vinci project, called Eldernutr.

Provinciaal Proefcentrum voor de Groenteteelt Oost-Vlaanderen / Vegetable Research Centre (PCG)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

PCG is a non-profit organization for applied horticultural research founded in 1977. It is an institution financed by the Flemish government referred to as 'centre of practice'. Our tasks are to execute practically-oriented research, to translate research into applicable information and techniques for SMEs and to disseminate information through field trial visits, demonstration events, plenary sessions, courses, etc. All with the objective to supporting the Flemish food sector is our overall aim.

We can offer our REFRAME partners an extensive network in the food industry: producers, processors, distributors, traders. In addition, we have fine expertise in vegetable culture. Moreover, we are involved in creating and exploiting diverse networks, including between producers and restaurants and other companies. Finally, we are specialised in sensory and consumer research so we have experience in studying consumer behaviour and field enquiries.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

At PCG we have experience in bringing consumers, private producers and producers collectives together and in realising partnerships between producers, processors and consumers, all with focus on vegetables. We miss knowledge in smart logistics. Working together in this project will give us this knowledge and extend our networks substantially. We also want to learn from other European networks within the NSR, how they proceed, what problems they are confronted with and what their solutions are.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

PCG has an extensive experience in participating and coordinating European projects, mainly in the previous programmes of Interreg and LEADER. A list of running and finished projects you can find on our website (www.pcgroenteteelt.be, menu 'projecten, Europa' for the Interreg and EFRO projects, or menu 'projecten, Leader' for the Leader projects).

Centrum voor onderzoek en advies in de land- en tuinbouw in West-Vlaanderen / Centre for research and advice in agriculture and horticulture in West Flanders (Inagro)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Inagro is the knowledge partner of agricultural and horticultural businesses in the areas of innovation and sustainability. Within our professional research infrastructure, Inagro's professional teams develop innovation techniques ready for practical use. Our partners are universities, university colleges and businesses.

With their state to the art new know-how, our advisers guide rural entrepreneurs in practical implementation and support them with professional communication tools.

We also represent expertise in rural diversification. We have substantial experience in promoting and supporting regional products under the label "100% West-Vlaams". Inagro leads a network of 85 farmshops. Together with these

entrepreneurs we are looking for new channels of short chain supply, product innovation and high quality standards. For us, these are the main objectives to learn through the REFRAME partner cooperation.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

By participating in the project, we will support rural entrepreneurs in developing new business opportunities and sales channels, in creating new connections with customers and entrepreneurs. Important spearheads for us are new skills and specialisations and answers to logistic gaps. We want to gain knowledge and experiences with the B2B-market and communicate the opportunities and challenges for the benefit of our regional entrepreneurs. In the region of West Flanders, innovations in logistics and distribution of regional produce is a serious problem which we want to solve in cooperation with our REFRAME partners in the NSR. Moreover, through the project we expect to raise awareness and create a methodology for supply, distribution and greater use of local foods on all levels.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

Inagro has an extensive experience in the participation and leading of European projects (Interreg, LEADER, PDPO). Examples are: Eduferm (INTERREG 2012-2014), Accueil à la ferme (INTERREG 2010-2013), GROEIKans (INTERREG 2010-2013), 100% West-Vlaams, Hoeve- en streekproducten (PDPO 2012-2015), Landtoer (Leader Tielts Plateau 2012-2014)

Diakonisches Werk der Ev.-Luth. Kirche Oldenburg e.V. / Diaconate Charity of Ev.-Luth. Church of Oldenburg (DWO)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

DWO's approach to economic and social activities is directed by a value system formed by human and Christian guidelines. We have a substantial market impact in Germany. However, our influence will always be focused towards inclusion, sustainability and improvement of working, living and production conditions. DWO represents a large-scale consumer provided with long-lasting requirements in regional food, logistics and waste management for several institutions, own facilities and a wide market influence.

We underpin corporate social, environmental and economic responsibility. As one of the largest employers and commissioners in the region, we are working towards regional food in the kitchens of our numerous regional institutions. We want the products consumed and produced in our kitchens to be produced under fair conditions. Also the reduction of CO₂ emissions and procurement based on environmental and social criteria belongs to our spearheads. Within the REFRAME project, we can set an example for large scale consumers how to introduce and expand regional food in cooking, recipes, menus and corporate identity.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

Approach, frame and contents of the REFRAME project comply with DWO's agenda as to responsible economic activities and will boost our activities in this direction. Short food supply chains meet our needs and ambitions as our low carbon logistic ambitions. A regional food agent and regional food contracts meet our ambitions towards long-term agreements providing food security with respect to sustainable regional and seasonal food deliveries and correspond with our ethical and ecologic maxims as to food. Building a REFRAME Lab as an experience and experimental laboratory will provide us a focal spot for the project towards understanding and handling the rural-urban food-change. We also can guide knowledge transfer and exchange for all people with regards to regional cooking, taste and recipes. We can extend the circle of stakeholders and help private and public practitioners to understand the values and benefits of regional food for economic and social prosperity in the region.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

DWO has fundamental experience in working on EU framework-settings for free welfare organizations within the EU-Harmonization-Committee in Brussels. In addition, DWO has relevant experience in managing, executing and accounting of many EU ESF projects.

Genossenschaft Berne 2020 / Berne 2020 Cooperative (B2020)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Our cooperative was founded by citizens (entrepreneurs, employees and retired people), whose shared aim is to contribute on a non-profit basis to the future of our region. We provide a diverse range of professional experience to improve the quality of rural life.

In the REFRAME project, we can offer to our partners a broad regional network in the field of rural development and innovation. On the basis of this network, within the project we aim to develop an interactive and smart "REFRAME Food Lab". Set in a modern scenario, youths, students, residents, SMEs and researchers on a local, regional, national and transnational level can join for experiences, discussions and workshops, directed towards understanding regional changes and innovations.

Sustainable living, green footprint, smart & healthy food, climate change adaptation, demographic change – these are interconnected challenges, which we can't tackle all and at once. With a focus on regional food, we want to realise a space for experience, experiments and knowledge transfer. We have planned 4 modules to work with. The 1st for displaying scenarios of rural entrepreneurship, the 2nd for illustrating urban-rural relationships with short supply chains and their value-adding potential, the 3rd for sharing experience and transferring knowledge in a virtual forum, and the 4th for learning by doing as to regional products, taste and recipes. The equipment costs in our budget are labelled to buy hardware for these modules.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

Our main benefit will be to build capacity and to establish a sustainable transnational knowledge and learning network for added value in our regional food chains. The regional prosperity up to a large extent is based on well skilled and specialised entrepreneurs, in particular in the food related sectors. We want to prepare a smart development and innovation strategy to provide a support network for our current and future members in particular, but also for the rural entrepreneurs in the greater region. We expect the REFRAME project to represent an excellent learning opportunity for this purpose.

We also will need the help of our transnational partners for developing the content of our REFRAME Food Lab. We would be glad to tap into the state of the art knowledge provided by the experts in our partners' regional networks. With their support, contents and looks of our modules and working stations can be elevated to a higher level. In our view, through this cooperation we all together will be able to deliver a set of demonstration and knowledge centres with a genuinely transnational added value.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

We have as a partner submitted a ERASMUS+ application under the KA2 – Strategic Partnership programme 2015. In general, our cooperative is not highly experienced as a partner or coordinator of EU financed projects. Therefore, we are happy to have the opportunity of participating in the REFRAME project while the project is coordinated by the Diakonie.

Berufsbildende Schulen für den Landkreis Wesermarsch / Vocational Schools for the district of Wesermarsch (BBS)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Currently, about 2.600 students are learning for their future jobs at BBS Wesermarsch, 900 in fulltime and 1.700 extra-occupational in dual system. Lots of their school subjects and learning fields correspond to the project's topics, f.i. (rural) economy, warehousing, dietetics, catering and bakery. Within the REFRAME project we will contribute our teachers' and students' knowledge. We will also integrate project issues into the lessons and provide syllabi.

According to our mission and interest in the development of future-proved jobs we are able to participate in the practical innovation towards new sustainable professional skills, specialisations and job profiles.

Corresponding to our mission statement, we aim to take part in the initiation of learning networks and connect school practice to real life learning. In addition, we support the project's principles by embedding the lifelong learning system into the project and thus providing a training-on-the-job environment.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

We want to gain knowledge which is relevant for our educational courses: topics for instruction and study which extend the knowledge of the vocational scholars in usual circumstances. Participating in REFRAME, we provide our teachers and students with additional value in the form of practical experience for professional and maybe private life. The participation of the students and teachers allows them learning new approaches to current rural development questions related to regional food supply and food guarantee regarding, also in its reference to climate & demographic changes.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

BBS Wesermarsch participated in an European online project with a school in Scotland. We are also actively forming a partnership with a secondary school in Argentina which should lead to a regular exchange of students. Through the Chamber of Crafts we have been part of an exchange with Norway for apprentices.

Grünlandzentrum Niedersachsen/Bremen / (Grassland Centre Lower Saxony/Bremen (GLZ))

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

We are the central contact and active networking place for regional stakeholders in the fields of food, trade, rural research and administration. At the centre, we are pooling new approaches, ideas, research & project results and make facts and figures available for all. As a central communication platform and interface for knowledge we transfer research into practice. One of our strengths is the analysis of bottlenecks and development of innovative solutions in

multidisciplinary approaches. Currently, we are working to build innovation partnerships between research & practice in the grassland area. This is a so-called EIP, which improves cooperation between rural entrepreneurs, industry and researchers and helps to integrate intelligent innovations quicker in rural working practice. It provides a platform for our REFRAME partners and findings to be presented and multiplied.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

By participating in our project REFRAME we aim to find fellow campaigner for our objectives: strengthen the coastal grassland region in their economic and ecological functions and secure the incomes of regional businesses. Better utilization of the enormous potential of our grassland landscape will ensure an environmentally sustainable, ecologically compatible smart growth. We want to find alternative ideas for value creation in regional economy. Adapting to climate change, at the same time reducing emissions and protecting nature, soil and water resources will contribute to value chain creation in the food industry. For our purposes we especially expect benefits through data creation and sharing, the practical research towards new skills and professions, change of working methods, means and tools, goods and services; Appreciation if reanimation of ancient or alternative methods, seeds and cattle is reasonable in wet areas.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

GLZ is experienced in managing of numerous national financed projects. REFRAME will be our first European cooperation project.

Smagen af Danmark / Taste of Denmark (ToD)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Taste of Denmark (ToD) is the association of food networks in Denmark. Its members are food producers as well as customers and tourism oriented companies. Food networks in Denmark actually are regional food frames. The objectives of ToD are to develop cooperation among members of the food networks to gain quantum rebate on processing and logistics, collective impact in marketing as well as to affect politically the conditions of growth of small innovative companies in the food landscape to stimulate that more of these pass the threshold of success. Activities of ToD are associated with the use of food production and development in supporting sustainability of rural districts. ToD has activities of R&D as well as training in various aspects of food production and rural development. Members of the board of the ToD have extensive research experience and experience in project management, nationally and internationally. ToD recently conducted an analysis of the conditions for cooperation in Denmark and developed a strategy for stimulation of development in the Danish food landscape.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

The Danish REFRAME pilot will be prepared, elaborated and realised on the basis of thorough experience available in ToD. In addition, we will analyse the significant and relevant parameters for the performance of food networks (regional food frames). The REFRAME project is a great opportunity to demonstrate and further improve the performance of the model developed by ToD. With the information gained from the project, ToD will develop a knowledge platform and, hence, stronger authority in discussing with food networks and authorities, affecting the conditions of operating regional food frames.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

The chairman of the ToD board and lead contact of the Danish partnership in REFRAME has participated in several EU-projects, NKJ projects and a Danida project in the role of coordinator, national coordinator or partner. Amongst others, these projects took place in the EU FP7 programme ('A multi-pathogen pre-screening tool for safer pork products'); under NKJ 130 ('Reducing the risk of food-borne virus in the Nordic countries'); in FP6 ('Global Roadmap for improving the tools to control Foot-and-Mouth disease in endemic settings').

ToD has ties to Skärgårdarnas Riksforbund and in a collaboration developed a Scandinavian position paper on EU Island Farming and the Labelling of its Products. Finally, we have strong ties of collaboration with Eldrimner in Sweden.

Småøernes Fødevarer-netværk / Small Islands Food Network (SIFN)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

The Small Islands Food Network (SIFN) is organising producers of food specialties on the small islands of Denmark. The SIFN has been working on branding of food products and has developed the registered trademark of Island Specialty® based on terroir-qualities. The SIFN has a long tradition for working with culinary tourism on the islands and documentation as well as storytelling of the unique qualities imbedded in the products produced on the islands. The SIFN is working on various aspects of logistics and collaboration with retailers.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

The registered trademark of Island Specialty® in addition to terroir qualities also has references to “fair trade” with vulnerable island communities. For the benefit of producers on the small islands, the SIFN wants to make the brand stronger by the inclusion of larger islands in Denmark and in Scandinavia (and possibly in Europe) to be given permission to use the brand. The ambition is to build a genuine protected geographical designation based on unique qualities reflecting the natural condition of the island(s) where they are produced.

The learning lessons from REFRAME will have a strong impact on organising regional food frames in the most vulnerable communities in Denmark – in particular in gaining political back-up when the benefits are documented in REFRAME.

If applicable, describe the organisation’s experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

The SIFN has a comprehensive track record on project management, and members of the board also have experience as partners and managers of EU-financed projects. They concern research and position papers, rather than practice based cooperation projects. We are glad to engage in the REFRAME project as a co-beneficiary, as we expect to benefit from applying the project’s roadmap.

Agroväst Livsmedel AB / Agrowest Food (Agroväst)

Which are the organisation’s thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Agroväst is experienced in project management and is well known among organizations and enterprises within the agricultural and food sector in Sweden, especially West Sweden. Since 1992 Agroväst has been a driving force within Swedish rural business as to uniting research, society and business. Our mission is to contribute to a profitable and sustainable farming in West Sweden based on high technical standards and good consumer relations. This we do by facilitating an effective dialogue between farmers, food industry and the academy, and by creating possibilities for farmers, industry and the academy to form and attract funding for needs based projects.

Agroväst is working in the field of dairy, meat production, precision farming, soil conservation and bioenergy. Within each programme we are running a set of development projects. We have a broad network of partners, especially in Scandinavia. In Sweden we work closely with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, SP Food and bioscience, Region Västra Götaland, Federation of Swedish farmers and several companies within the food industry, among others.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

Our task for the next years is to broaden the range of activities. We want to strengthen our work procedures and methods to gain a higher impact from our projects and develop our role as a venue for companies and support organisations within the green sector in west Sweden. The REFRAME project will help us to move in this direction by sharing experiences and working methods in other countries.

A well developed regional food network and market are essential for the sustainable development in our region. It will strengthen the possibilities for small food producers to be profitable. We expect new job opportunities to be created. Regional based food production will preserve the landscape which has important values for culture and recreation. Shorter food chains will also have positive effects on the environment.

If applicable, describe the organisation’s experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

Agroväst is highly experienced in project management. Since 2008, we have taken part in seven Interreg-projects, both as a lead partner and a partner. These projects have handled different topics within rural development such as sustainable production, precision farming and biogas production. Partners have been mainly from northern Europe but in some cases also from southern Europe.

Lokalproducerat i Väst AB / Locally produced in West (LPIV)

Which are the organisation’s thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

LPIV is a resource centre for small-scale food producers in Region Västra Götaland. The organization offers consulting and coaching for producers in areas such as business-development, finance, entrepreneurship, product development, sales, marketing, brand management, environment, efficiency and logistics etc. LPIV also provides networking and is supporting events, professional development, external analysis and the brand “Smaka på Västsverige” (“a taste of West Sweden”).

LPIV gives support in coordinating the producer’s skill needs and canalizes them to organizations that provides education. LPIV also cooperates with other organizations, both for advice that can be offered to producers and to support and drive a positive development in the industry. Our activities are governed by a clear bottom-up approach: fast, non-bureaucratic and effectively working with the producers in the network to create growth and jobs in the region.

Since we since many years work to build up a large network of SMEs and a large network of other organizations for collaboration, we have large experience to contribute to the project. The counselling is primarily focused on business development and sales and to reach their market. Hence we have insight and knowledge of all the steps that this project will affect.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

We have huge interest in participating in this project and thereby receiving the opportunity to benefit from other countries' experiences and knowledge on the subject. Exchange of experience with other regions is in the top priority for developing our business and to obtain new perspectives for the future. Also the possibility to learn more about the other partners' systems and setup is both motivating and inspiring.

The project also gives opportunities to develop new project ideas and our business at a practical as well as a theoretical level. LPIV also sees this project as an opportunity to show and tell the other partner regions more about our business and hope in this way to inspire and contribute to the other regions work as well.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

We have little experience of EU financed projects. We have participated in one EU financed project related to environmental issues. Our operations managers have experience of the EU and EU supported funds gained in previous jobs. Nevertheless, we are glad within the framework of the INTerREG programme to join the REFRAME project as a co-beneficiary in a local partnership.

Naturbruksförvaltningen Västra Götalandsregionen / Natural resource management (VGR)

Which are the organisation's thematic competences and experiences relevant for the project?

Naturbruksförvaltningen at Region Västra Götaland is responsible authority for six natural resource schools in the region at a secondary level and one at higher vocational education level. The number of staff is about 350 and the annual student enrolment is about 1 200 full-time students. The schools also act as competence centres for natural resources and rural entrepreneurship and runs full scale organic dairy, meat productions and biogas plants. All together with high consciousness of sustainable environmental work. The centres also have a commission from the region to strengthen rural development by being a learning and test environment.

Naturbruksförvaltningen is the chairman of a regional based project together with the local council Skaraborgs Kommunalförbund that aims to bring entrepreneurs and education closer within the field of rural development and natural resources. The competence centres work closely with the industry in order to develop a curriculum that is up to date and keep up with modern technology. The staff are used to cooperate with business in the green sector regionally as well as with colleagues abroad.

What is the benefit for the organisation from participating in the project?

The project will support our process to develop a model and learning environment for primary food production, information and sales to public institutes in nearby cities and urban areas. We are keen to learn about new business relations and skills within entrepreneurship among participants in the project. The competence centre will develop, host and expose a model for learning in sustainable food production and short food chains that favours rural development, interaction between rural and urban areas and sustainable food production. The centre will become a learning environment for work methods in regionally ecologically produced food, short food chains and procurement with focus on sustainable short food chains and the relationship between city and countryside. The environment will bring together producers and costumers to create knowledge and lifelong learning within the topic.

The pilot will develop a logistic chain that has been used before but make it now applicable for SMEs to benefit from. The pilot will develop this further by developing a food chain with the hospitals in the region.. Take back waste to the centre and use the manure on the fields and the produced gas as fuel in the vehicles used in the transport chain.

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

The Competence Centres and the schools have been involved in EU-financed projects and cooperation's before. However, the participating school in particular is not experienced in Interreg projects. As there is a substantial reorganization going on, the school is glad to join the projects as a co-beneficiary in a local partnership.