

**Speaker 1:** *[00:00:02]* Against a background of many external challenges. 2021 turned out to be a good year for EIT Food. We continue to actively involve consumers and young people in our activities, and we believe that this is vital to accelerate the transformation to a future fit food system. Consumers are at the heart of the food system, and we believe that they are integral to food systems transformation. *[00:00:29][27.1]*

*[00:00:31]* During 2021, we launched our Trust report, which was followed by the Citizens Participation Forum Report later in the year. This important research looks at how much trust European consumers have in the agri-food industry and the integrity of food products. We also commissioned a Gen-Z report and found that young people are demanding radical change from the food sector to tackle healthy and affordable food, as well as an overhaul of the food system to protect the planet. *[00:01:05][33.9]*

*[00:01:07]* This drove us to select ten young Europeans who are passionate about driving change in the food system for their generation and for future generations to come. These future food makers came together in an environment that enabled them to develop a manifesto for change, which was launched at EIT Food. Future of Food Conference in 2021. What's more, in 2021, we launched our first fully open call for innovation to bring innovative technology solutions to the market. Previously, EIT Food had launched a series of innovation funding calls which were open to current members of our community as well as additional non-member organisations with specific skills and competencies. *[00:01:58][51.5]*

*[00:02:00]* This has resulted in a wealth of impactful initiatives and projects that are making a real difference in the agri-food industry. In the process, we learnt that in order to maximise the societal, economic and environmental impact of ideas and consortia that we fund, we needed to open up completely. And this last fully open funding call was the first of many that we are going to support over the last year. We have also seen the impact of our investments from our COVID 19 funding calls, and these have helped to support recovery from the pandemic. Funding provided through the COVID 19 Bridge Fund and through the COVID 19 rapid response for innovation funding has directly supported the growth of 13 innovative agri-food start-ups, and it resulted in the launch of projects and services from eight innovation projects to the market by the end of 2021. *[00:03:06][65.5]*

*[00:03:08]* We also found that food systems are now on the global agenda. 2021 saw the first ever UN Food System Summit, which we were heavily involved in, and for the first time EIT Food participated at COP 26 in Glasgow in order to aid environmentally conscious decision-making with stakeholders across the whole food value chain; we launched our environmental labelling project with Foundation Earth. Other highlights for me have been the development of our Regenerative Agriculture Manual, which is a crop-specific guidebook designed to help Mediterranean farmers transition from conventional or organic production systems to regenerative agriculture and our involvement and the Carbon Plus Farming Coalition, which is working together to decarbonise Europe's food system and which is catalysed by the World Economic Forum's CEO Action Group for the European Green Deal. We have also seen huge growth and increasing engagement in our community over the past year. *[00:04:20][72.0]*

*[00:04:21]* This includes the fantastic work done by our regional offices on the ground across Europe, as well as our work on risk activities across Europe. Our community platform, Food Hive, is a hub of activity and our engagements on our platforms continue to grow rapidly now and looking to the future. And 2022 and 2023, we are going to see the need for food system resilience become much more prominent. The war in Ukraine threatens global food security at many levels, as well as exposing drivers of fragility for the EU. Agri-food sector, such as our dependency on imported fossil fuels, fertilisers and animal feed from the region. Furthermore, the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic has exposed a growing risk of EU over dependency on global supply chains for key goods and technologies produced by third countries. Also, there will be potential disruption of supply chains which can harm EU economy and society. All of this adds to the existing pressure that climate change puts on our food production systems and requires us to continually mitigate and adapt to changes as specified in the communication on food security of the European Commission. The mitigation of the immediate impacts of the crisis must not sacrifice the concrete, long-term commitment to increase the overall resilience of our food system, as food security will ultimately depend on the sustainability of the food system. *[00:06:04][102.9]*

*[00:06:06]* Food systems innovation will continue to play a huge role in the global fight against climate change, and it provides the opportunity for us to have a positive impact on the environment. The COP 27 is already being badged as the food cop and we are working with a range of stakeholders to

ensure the participation of food systems and climate dialogues and emphasising the positive role that food systems can have on the environment. We also continue to see increasing participation from youth within our work, and we have a number of initiatives which are ongoing and will help to embed this more within what we do. We are also committed to opening up our community. We will be launching a new open funding call for innovation. Keep an eye out on our channels to find out more about this. [00:07:01][54.5]

[00:07:03] We have also recently revamped our website to better serve our community and make it easier for people to find content on subjects that they are interested in. We will continue the development of this over the next few months. Importantly, EIT Food is a network of networks. We need to all work together to accelerate innovation. If we are going to build a future fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for all. That is why we focus on inclusive systems innovation, which enables all people and places to participate and benefit as this is essential to a strong food system that is better for everyone. But we could not do any of this without you. And that's why I thank you, thank our entire community, our partners, our supporters and our colleagues. You are all on this journey with us, and I'm excited about the future and what we can all do together to build an innovative and resilient food system that creates a healthier society and planet for everyone. [00:07:03][0.0]

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