

# V Food 5th Edition

# FUN&FAN

Five years improving the food  
together in Southern Europe

9th - 10th of October 2023

Gate 22, South Room,  
San Mames Stadium, 48013  
Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

Conversation Starter



# EIT FOOD

EIT Food is Europe's leading food innovation initiative, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted. The initiative is made up of a consortium of key industry players, startups, research centres and universities from across Europe. It is one of nine Innovation Communities established by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT), an independent EU body set up in 2008 to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

EIT Food collaborates closely with consumers to develop new knowledge and technology-based products and services that will ultimately deliver a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle for all European citizens.

## Presenters

9 of October | **Juan I. Zaffora**, Startup Programme Manager South at EIT Food

10 of October | **Lara Rodríguez**, Senior Programme Manager South at EIT Food

# V FUN&FAN

FUN&FAN is EIT Food's annual startup event that aims to provide entrepreneurs with the resources, and all the tips and tricks to become a successful agrifood startup.

This annual event celebrates its 5th edition and will include inspiring talks, a chance to make connections with other key stakeholders and useful information on the transformation of the agrifood field.

EIT Food organises this event as part of its goal of achieving a healthier, more sustainable, and more trusted agrifood sector.

The event is the perfect opportunity to join the EIT Community – no matter what stage of the innovation journey entrepreneurs are on, from start to finish.

## 9 OF OCTOBER

10.00 -  
10.30

### Registration & Coffee

10.30 -  
11.00

### Welcome & Opening Presentation

EIT Food South has been improving and revolutionising the food sector in Southern Europe for five years. Come and learn during the day about the entrepreneurship projects and the challenges that we face across the value chain of the agrifood sector.

- **Begoña Pérez Villarreal**, Director at EIT Food South
- **Raúl Perez Iratxeta**, Quality and Food Industries Director at the Basque Government
- **Olatz Goitia**, General Director at Beaz

11.00 -  
11.30

### Fire-side chat | Cultivating Change: Entrepreneurship's Impact on the agrifood Sector

This dynamic conversation will delve into the topics within the agrifood industry, from the role of entrepreneurship in driving innovation to sustainability and the future of food production.

Get ready for an insightful exploration of the transformative influence of entrepreneurship in reshaping the landscape of the agrifood sector.

- **Laura Cristóbal Gracia**, General Director at Efeagro
- **Damien Jourdan**, Director of Open Innovation and Community Animation at Danone

## Healthier Lives Through Food

11.30 -  
12.00

### Keynote presentation | 2023 and Beyond: Advancing Accessible and Sustainable Nutritious Food Choices

In this thought-provoking session, we will explore the intricate balance between making nutritious food accessible to all while ensuring its production aligns with sustainable practices. Discover the insights into cutting-edge developments, emerging technologies, and transformative strategies aimed at revolutionizing the way we source, produce, and distribute food.

- **Andreas Blüthner**, Founder & CEO at DR. Blüthner & Partner

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12.00 -  
12.30

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## Roundtable "Towards 2050: Scaling Accessible and Sustainable Nutritious Food Choices"

In the present, we confront a global challenge: providing nourishing and sustainable food choices for an increasing population. Focusing on the vital role of cultivating strategies, fostering innovations, and nurturing collaborations to meet global nutritional demands. This dialogue aims to pave the way for accessible, nutritious sustenance while prioritizing the well-being of our planet.

- **Andreas Blüthner**, Founder & CEO at Dr. Blüthner & Partner
- **Alicia Lopez de Orcáriz**, Corporate Medical Director at CINFA GROUP
- **Josune Ayo**, co-Founder & CEO at Gembioma
- **Moderator: Lorena Savani**. Mission Lead (Healthier Lives Through Food) at EIT Food

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12.30 -  
13.00

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## Entrepreneurial Testimonial | The Untold Stories of Entrepreneurship in healthy nutrition

Mary Grace was quite comfortable working for IBM at a prestigious role. But something happened and she founded SpaceCrop. What happened? Which were the reasons and motivations behind it? What was the trigger that made her quit and found a startup? How did she overcome the temptation of going back to a safe salary? These and more questions will be present in this lovely interview! Come and meet her!

- **Mary Grace Gasco**, Founder & CEO at SpaceCrop
- **Moderator: Juan I. Zaffora**, Startup Programme Manager South at EIT Food

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13.00 -  
13.30

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## EFSA and the Food Innovation Community – Dedicated Support to SMEs

Learn how the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) plays a pivotal role in ensuring food safety in the European Union, by providing independent scientific advice and support for European Commission and Member States to approve regulated products, like novel foods and additives, through a rigorous application procedure. EFSA also provides valuable support to applicants, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), offering guidance and expertise to navigate the complex regulatory landscape, facilitating their access to the European market.

- **Sara De Berardis**, Team Leader in the Front-Desk & Workforce Planning (FDP) unit at EFSA
- **Oscar González**, Scientific Coordinator in the Front-Desk & Workplace Planning (FDP) FDP Unit at EFSA

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13.30 -  
14.30

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## Lunch and walk through the FUN&FAN Market

## Carbon Farming

14.30 -  
15.00

### Keynote | Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change and Implementing Carbon Farming Practices in Southern Europe

Explore strategies for safeguarding agriculture in the face of climate change while discovering actionable steps to introduce carbon farming practices in the southern European region.

- **Dra. Ana Iglesias**, Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the UPM
- **Moderator: Juliet Bray**, Accelerator Programme Manager South at EIT Food

15:00 -  
15:45

### Roundtable | Towards Zero Footprint: Exploring the Most effective Strategies for Carbon Footprint Reduction

Thought-provoking roundtable discussion on climate change and the carbon footprint caused by humanity. During this session, experts will exchange ideas and insights on powerful strategies for achieving a carbon-neutral future. Be part of this enlightening conversation as we explore innovative solutions and actionable steps towards reducing our carbon footprint.

- **Javier Teja**, Technician at Kaiku
- **Pablo Lopez**, Co-Founder at Innogando
- **Roberto Ruiz**, Head of Department – Animal Production at Neiker
- **Moderator: Juliet Bray**, Accelerator Programme Manager South at EIT Food

15:45 -  
16:15

### Real Conversation | Game Changers: Shaping the Future through scaling regenerative agriculture

Is it possible to achieve a large-scale farmer-led transformation that responds to today's major climate and environmental problems? Join this session to deep dive into different challenges and opportunities around regenerative agriculture. Exploring the feasibility of achieving a farmer-led transformation at a large scale to address pressing climate and environmental issues. Additionally, an analysis will be made of the roles played by various stakeholders across the agricultural value chain. A perfect opportunity to gain valuable insights into the future of sustainable farming practices.

- **Jose Luis García de Castro**, Director at Poultree
- **Massimiliano Miatton**, Regenerative Agriculture Training Programme Coordinator for Italy at EIT Food (Freelance) & Iside Farm
- **Moderator: Melissa Comellas**, Agriculture Project Manager South at EIT Food

16:15 -  
16:30

### Closure & Wrap Up

- **Begoña Pérez Villarreal**, Director at EIT Food South

## 10 OF OCTOBER

09.30 -  
10.00

### Registration & Coffe

10:00 -  
10:15

### Welcome

- **Begoña Pérez Villarreal**, Director at EIT Food South
- **Andy Zynga**, CEO at EIT Food

10:15 -  
10:45

### Keynote Presentation | From Startup to Sip: Crafting Success in the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by Konvida Kombucha

Discover the secrets behind Konvida Kombucha's journey from inception to becoming a thriving venture in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship. Gain valuable insights, share experiences, and explore the entrepreneurial spirit through the lens of sustainable beverage innovation.

- **Beatriz Magro**, CEO & Co-Founder at Komvida Kombucha

10:45 -  
11:00

### Keynote | Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: A Journey of Collaboration and Success

Discover the remarkable story of empowering women entrepreneurs through innovative initiatives and global partnerships. From opening new supply chain channels to substantial venture capital investments, Begum Mutus will share insights into Yildiz Holding's transformative journey. This session is a must-attend for anyone seeking to drive positive change in the entrepreneurial landscape.

- **Begum Mutus**, General Manager at Yildiz Holding

## Women Entrepreneurs

11:00 -  
11.45

### Unconventional Trailblazers: Women Innovators and the Art of Rewriting the Rules

Explore the remarkable journeys of pioneering women who have defied convention, overcome barriers, and reshaped industries. Discover their stories of innovation, resilience, and the transformative power of rewriting the rules to open the way for future generations.

- **Inês Santos Silva**, co-Initiator & Ops Lead at AthenaDAO
- **Neta Lavon**, co-founder and CTO at Aleph Farms
- **Sabiha Apaydin**, Wine Expert at Root Origin Soil
- **Vanessa Archontidou**, Founder at AWomanCanBe.org , Alpinist, Motivational Speaker | EU Climate Pact Ambassador
- **Moderator: Elvira Domingo**, Impact Portfolio Manager South at EIT Food

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11:45 -  
12:15

### Coffee break and walk through the FUN&FAN Market

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12:15 -  
12:30

### Keynote Speech | Driving Diversity: Empowering Diverse Founders through Angel Investment

Drawing from Anna's extensive experience as an angel investor and syndicate leader, she shares insights into her approach to bringing more diversity into the startup and investment ecosystem. With a focus on empowering underrepresented entrepreneurs building impactful businesses, she shows how to bring the vision of a more diverse and inclusive world to life, one deal at a time. Get ready to be inspired and equipped with practical strategies for unleashing the innovative power of diverse founder teams.

- **Anna Fedulow**, Founder & Managing Director at Croton Capital
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12:35 -  
12:45

### Unveiling the Supernovas: Key Insights from "The Landscape of Women Founded Scaleups and Investors in Europe" Study

EIT programme Supernovas, alongside Dealroom conducted a study on female-funded study that revealed that Women-founded scaleups in Europe have been able to increase their value nearly 6,5x, growing 1.2x faster than the rest of scaleups over the past 5 years.

Amparo De San José, Business Creation Portfolio Manager South Europe, will present the main results of the study, underlining the potential women could bring to the innovation and entrepreneurship sector, but also the difficulties they still face.

- **Amparo de San Jose**, Business Creation Portfolio Manager South at EIT Food
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## Women in VC

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12:45 -  
13:20

### Roundtable | Seeding Innovation and Women power: Exploring VC in the Agrifood Sector

Explore the fascinating convergence of venture capital and the agrifood industry in our discussion on "Seeding Innovation and Women Power: Exploring VC in the Agrifood Sector." This engaging conversation puts the focus on the influential role of women entrepreneurs and leaders, while examining the transformative power of innovation in shaping a sustainable future within this sector.

- **Covadonga García-Valdés**, Investment Manager at KIBO Ventures
- **Eduardo Cotillas**, RDI Senior Manager at Spanish Food and Drink Industries Bebidas (FIAB)
- **Laure Peronnin**, Impact Associate at Astanor Ventures
- **Moderator: Amparo de San Jose**, Business Creation Portfolio Manager South at EIT Food

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13:20 -  
13:50

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### Motivational Speech | Unleashing Potential: Embracing Technology and Empowering Minds

Discover how technology is transforming culinary innovation and empowering creative minds in the gastronomy world. Ramón Perisé will share insights on the intersection of culinary art and cutting-edge technology, promising an enlightening discussion.

- **Ramón Perisé**, R&D Head Chef at Restaurante Mugaritz

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13:50 -  
14:00

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### Motivational Closure & Wrap-up

- **Begoña Pérez Villarreal**, Director at EIT Food South

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13:50 -  
14:00

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### Lunch and walk through the FUN&FAN Market

## EIT Food South

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# SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

## Laura Cristóbal - General Director at Efeagro

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Laura Cristóbal is a journalist with more than 35 years of experience in written and audiovisual media. She is currently general manager of the only Spanish agri-food news agency Efeagro, where she has been working for 16 years. She is an anchorwoman and broadcaster of podcasts, radio, tvnews and events of the company, in addition to numerous moderations and hostess of forums and conferences in the agri-food sector. Her resume includes Cambio16, ABC, OTRPress and La Razón, in terms of written media; Canal+ and corporate communication as press manager for the Spanish Society of Cardiology and the Spanish Heart Foundation, among others responsibility roles.

## Damien Jourdan - Director of Open Innovation and Community Animation at Danone

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Damien works at the intersection of innovation and sustainability. With partners acknowledging the complexity of the food value web, he explores new pathways for the emergence of resilient and sustainable models to deliver healthy food supply locally.

## Andreas Blüthner - Founder & CEO at DR. Blüthner & Partner

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Dr. Blüthner & Partner is the strategy and investment consultancy of founder & CEO Dr. Andreas Blüthner, the Nutrition Program Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from 2020 to 2023. As part of the senior leadership team, Dr. Blüthner's new strategy focused on innovation and partnerships and catalyzed an investment budget of nearly one billion US\$ for food and nutrition security, food systems and agricultural innovation by the Gates family. The implementation partners of these investments include private sector, the UN children's charity UNICEF, the UN World Food Program (WFP), the WFP Innovation Center Munich, the World Health Organization (WHO), the OECD and well-known non governmental organizations and research institutions worldwide, including the Langer Lab at MIT in Boston and Gender Center of Stanford University.

## Alicia Lopez de Orcáriz - Corporate Medical Director at CINFA GROUP

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Alicia Lopez de Orcariz is a distinguished professional with a diverse and accomplished career in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. As of 2022, she holds the position of Corporate Medical Director at CINFA Group, where her expertise and leadership contribute to the company's success. Additionally, Alicia serves as the Chairperson of the Navarre Health Cluster, a role she assumed in 2022 to promote collaboration and innovation in the healthcare field. She also served as the Head of the Phase I Unit at the Center for Research at the University Clinic of Navarre from 1995 to 1997, demonstrating her expertise in clinical research.

## Josune Ayo - Co-Founder & CEO at Genbioma

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Josune is the Co-Founder & CEO at Genbioma Aplicaciones S.L. leading the R&D for the Food and Pharmacy sector. Microbiome Study. Focused on international market. She has a Ph.D. in Food Sci and Tech, MSc Degree on Food Sci. & Tech and BSc Degree on Nutrition and Human Health. She was awarded in 2023 with EIC Woman Leadership 2023, and with Probiota Pioneers 2022. She is Member of EU Technical Committees on Food&Health, Co-author of 30 scientific articles, 4 international patents +50 R&D projects +50 Conferences. h-index: 12

## Mary Grace Gasco - Founder & CEO at SpaceCrop

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Mary Grace Gasco is the Founder and CEO of SpaceCrop Technologies, an agricultural software company that helps farms manage irrigation, with weather forecasting and farm management, using satellite data and artificial intelligence. She is a master's graduate of Environmental Sciences and Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She took her bachelor's in Geography at the University of the Philippines Diliman where Mary Grace's interest in space science and technology applications started. She is a strong advocate of SDGs (2,3,6,11,12) and has been doing partnership engagements with private, academic, and non-government organizations in the EU.

## Oscar González - Scientific Coordinator in the Front-Desk & Workplace Planning (FDP) FDP Unit at EFSA

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After a long career in private and public companies and the academy in Spain, I am currently working in EFSA's Team Advice - FDP Unit. My scientific background is in Veterinary Sciences and Food Science and Technology.

Providing industries (particularly SMEs) with guidance on how to strengthen the applications for regulated products to increase the safety of the EU food chain is an amazing challenge and my current commitment.

## Sara de Berardis - Team Leader in the Front - Desk & Workforce Planning - FDP unit at European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

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Sara De Berardis is Team Leader of EFSA's Team Advice in the FDP Unit, developing support activities to applicants in the different stages of the application procedure for regulated products. In her role she is also coordinating all pre-submission activities at EFSA. She has 9 nine years of professional experience in providing support on the application procedure to SMEs and all companies, and in evaluating the completeness of food and feed applications.

## Ana Iglesias - Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the UPM

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I am a Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the UPM and member of the Center for Agricultural and Environmental Risks of the UPM. My research examines the policy and governance of sustainability and climate neutrality in Europe. I am interested in how and why land and water resources can transition towards sustainability. I have been a contributing author to the IPCC since 1995. Since 2016 I have been a Member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA).

## Javier Teja - Technician at Kaiku

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Javier finished his Bachelor's Degree in "AgriFood and Rural Engineering" in the mention of "Livestock Farms" in February 2017 and in February 2019 the "Master's Degree in Agronomic Engineering".

## Pablo Lopez - Co-Founder at Innogando

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Pablo López is the Chief Operations Officer at Innogando. With a background in Industrial Engineering, specializing in Electronics and Automation.

## Roberto Ruiz - Head of Department – Animal Production at Neiker

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He is personally and professionally committed to the improvement of ecosystems and the living conditions of farmers and animals through the implementation of holistic approaches and agroecology in agriculture and livestock farming systems (particularly in the Basque Country). To do so, he works in livestock farming systems analysis within the framework of systems theory and agroecology to achieve more sustainable local food production and consumption patterns.

## Jose Luis García de Castro - Director at Poultree

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José Luis García de Castro is a dedicated professional who currently holds the position of Director at Poultree, a company that specializes in poultry-related activities. With his extensive experience and expertise in the field, José Luis plays a key role in overseeing and managing the operations of the company. His leadership and strategic vision have contributed significantly to Poultree's success in the poultry industry.

## Massimiliano Miatton - Regenerative Agriculture Training Programme Coordinator for Italy at EIT Food (Freelance) & Iside Farm

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Imagining a "fantasy" world made of a plurality of bioregionally-rooted communities potentially very different from each other yet aligned on the common principles of thriving landscapes, functional ecosystems and carbon-based life. I built my experience in over 10 years of farming, teaching, consulting, project development, programming and network-building, in cross-cultural agroecological projects across the main global climatic zones. Working to make utopias possible. Living in one of them.

## Beatriz Magro - CEO & Co-Founder at Komvida Kombucha

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Beatriz Magro, entrepreneur, CEO, and co-founder of Komvida Kombucha. Her discovery of kombucha during a personal trip in 2017 marked the beginning of Komvida. Since then, Komvida has experienced unstoppable growth, solidifying its position as the leader in kombucha in Spain with a market share of 57%. Beatriz has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the Entrepreneurial Woman Award and the Junior Entrepreneur Award, and her mention in Forbes' list of the top 100 business creatives, among others

## Begum Mutus - General Manager at Yildiz Holding

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Begüm Mutuş works as the General Manager of Global Public Affairs at Yıldız Holding, the parent company of pladis, Godiva and Ülker Group. Most recently assigned as the Ambassador of Yıldız Holding at global scale and responsible to develop Corporate Philanthropy strategy and implementation, leveraging digital communication channels and technology to meet philanthropic communication; community outreach goals. She has been appointed as Ambassador of Yıldız Holding Womens Platform to manage the representation of women in business life, the recruitment of more women in senior management and critical points, and the work on equal opportunities.

## Inês Santos Silva - Co-Initiator & Ops Lead at AthenaDAO

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Inês Santos Silva is the Founding Operations Lead at AthenaDAO, a decentralized community of researchers, funders, and advocates working to advance women's health research, education, and funding. She is a strong diversity and inclusion advocate, serving as Co-founder and Chief Activist at Portuguese Women in Tech, a community focused on increasing the number of women in technology and supporting those already working in the industry. In addition, she is the Founder of Women(dot)Business, a social enterprise that works to create more corporate procurement opportunities for women-owned businesses. Through her efforts, Inês is helping to break down barriers and create more opportunities for underrepresented groups in the tech industry and entrepreneurship.

## Neta Lavon - Co-founder and CTO at Aleph Farms

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My name is Neta Lavon and I'm Co-Founder and CTO of Aleph Farms. Throughout my years of experience as an expert in stem cell applications in biotechnology, I held the position of COO at Kadimastem (KDST) and led a research group at Cedars-Sinai in LA. I have a PhD in Genetics, MSc in Biotechnology and BSc in chemistry and biochemistry of food, all from the Hebrew University. In Aleph Farms I'm combining all my passions: innovation, environment protection and good food. Aleph Farms is the brainchild of the heritage food company, Strauss Group and the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

## Vanessa Archontidou - Founder at AWomanCanBe.org , Alpinist, Motivational Speaker | EU Climate Pact Ambassador

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Performance and numbers oriented professional with over 20 years experience and a proven track record of successful projects from initial concept through completion. Advances visionary change in times of economic uncertainty and demonstrates excellent negotiation skills. Creative but organised leader recognized for innovative tactics and strategies. A clear and dynamic communicator with talent for building and motivating cohesive teams as well as empowering cross-functional personnel, suppliers and Media/PR agencies. Expert in luxury cosmetics with Marketing/Sales background and excellent knowledge of Greek Selective Distribution environment.

## Sabiha Apaydin - Wine Expert at Root Origin Soil

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Having been in the gastronomy scene of Turkey for more than 25 years, Sabiha now continues her leading position as a consultant coordinator and wine educator of Mikla Restaurant with the same enthusiasm she felt in its opening eighteen years ago. She has partnered with the Josep Roca during the filming of their 2015 travelogue 'Turkish Way'. She is currently administrating multiple projects in support of the Anatolian wine culture and actively participating in conferences to highlight Anatolian grapes and wines. She is also the founder and organizer of the annual wine conference 'Root Origin Soil'. She is a certified WSET educator and giving lecture at Culinary Arts Academy in Istanbul. She is also a co-Founder of Heritage Vines of Turkey, and a member of the Slow Wine Coalition and Old Vine Conference in Turkey.

## Anna Fedulow - Founder & Managing Director at Croton Capital

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Lead Angel at Croton Capital, an international business angel syndicate, Anna Fedulow is on a mission to bring more diversity to the start-up and investment ecosystem. With over a decade of experience as a technology investor and strategy advisor, Anna and her co-investors back impactful early-stage businesses with diverse founder teams and provide a unique blend of know-how, networks, and advice to help them accelerate their success. In addition, Anna works as a strategy advisor and business coach for start-ups focusing on investment readiness and fundraising support.

## Laure Peronnin - Impact Associate at Astanor

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Laure started her career in 2013 in London assessing credit and political risks in the insurance sector. In 2018, she completed her masters in sustainability and social innovation at HEC Paris after which she co-founded The Sasi Co., a consultancy supporting companies through Europe in their sustainability journey. During the same period, Laure worked in developing Socially Responsible Investment products for asset managers in Paris. Laure joined Astanor Ventures in 2022, an investment fund focusing on entrepreneurs from the agrifood sector. As impact associate, her role is to support portfolio companies in their ESG and impact journey.

## Eduardo Cotillas - RDI Senior Manager Director at FIAB

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Agrifood Engineer and Msc in Food Science and Technology at Politechnical University of Madrid. Besides, he has got Advanced Studies Doctorate Diploma in the field "Food Science, Technology and Engineering". His track record of more than 25 years in Research, Development and Innovation projects on the Agri Food/FMCG sectors, both in public bodies and private consulting companies. His experience at CDTI (Spanish Innovation Agency) for more than 15 years deserves to be highlighted. Since April 2019, he's developing his role as Research, development and Innovation Senior Manager at SPANISH FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES FEDERATION BEBIDAS (FIAB).

## Covadonga García-Valdés - Investment Manager at KIBO Ventures

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Covadonga is an Investment Manager at Kibo Ventures, an early-stage fund based in Madrid. Prior to joining Kibo, Covadonga was Head of Growth at AGORA, an early stage live commerce startup based in London. Before that, she began her career in M&A in Goldman Sachs in London. Covadonga holds an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Imperial College London.

## Ramón Perisé - R&D Head Chef at Restaurante Mugaritz

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Perisé Moré was born in Tremp in 1978, a small village in Catalunya near the Pirineus. He started studying agricultural engineering but he left the university to begin working in the kitchen as a self-taught. In 2009 he staged for 6 months in Mugaritz and 2 months later he started to work in Mugaritz as a chef de partie. In 2011 he began to work in the Development and Research kitchen in Mugaritz with the creative team. Since then he has been taking more responsibility in that position and he has been developing with the R&D team the proposal that has been vanguard in the world of gastronomy.

## Begoña Pérez Villarreal - Director at EIT Food South

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Begoña Pérez-Villarreal: as EIT Food South Director, she enjoys driving innovation, boosting the entrepreneurial spirit and engaging stakeholders from the Mediterranean area to develop products and services that contribute to a healthy lifestyle and a sustainable circular bioeconomy. Trained as a Pharmacist specialized in food microbiology and in Business Management of Food companies, she has worked for 25 years with food SMEs in innovation related to food safety, product development, traceability, authenticity, and sustainability of food systems.

## Andy Zynga - CEO at EIT Food

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Andy Zynga joined EIT Food as CEO in 2018, where he has put into further practice his business administration education to help the organisation grow exponentially. With expertise in Food System, Innovation, Telecoms and Technology Services, and a Master's degree that combines Business Administration and Mechanical Engineering, Andy Zynga built several profitable businesses around Europe and the USA as company CEO, resulting in three successful exits including one IPO and two trade sales.

## Juan I. Zaffora - Startup Programme Manager South at EIT Food

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He is an Economist (UNS, Argentina) with a postgraduate degree in Social Economy (UAH, Chile) and a Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UB, Spain). In the last 10 years, he has led teams in NGOs, also volunteering in Costa Rica and Panama. He has been a consulting partner at Ematrix Consulting in Chile (B Corp) and managed the Tech4Climate acceleration program at Ship2B in Spain. Currently, he also participates in the board of advisors of 2 startups and teaches entrepreneurship at various universities and programs (U. Pompeu Fabra, Toulouse Business School, GBSB, Learning by Helping).

## Elvira Domingo - Impact Portfolio Manager South at EIT Food

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Following a decade in large multinationals, leading the development of new products, as Regional Impact Portfolio Manager at EIT Food I am dedicated to fostering innovation, promoting the entrepreneurial spirit and involving organizations from all over Europe in the development of products and services that contribute to a healthy lifestyle and a circular and sustainable bioeconomy, creating a significant impact and transforming the innovation ecosystem.

## Lara Rodríguez - Senior Programme Manager South at EIT Food

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Her passion for the food innovation field has been demonstrated by her 10 years' experience in the sector- She started her career in the R&D and product development department at PepsiCo. She has worked also in collaborative innovation projects, food regional ecosystems and clusters. Lara joined EIT Food to design and implement innovation food activities for South of Europe and over the last 4 years to boost female entrepreneurship in the sector. Lara holds a Degree in Nutrition from Valladolid University, a degree in Food science and Technology from Burgos University and a Master in Direction and Project Management from IMF Business School.

## Lorena Savanni - Mission Lead (Healthier Lives Through Food) at EIT Food

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Lorena is the Mission Lead at EIT Food. She has over 20 years of international experience in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods and Horeca sectors in the areas of Innovation, business development and marketing working for various companies such Kraft Foods and Burger King. She has also acted as senior business consultant of large food industry companies on designing and implementing clean label and sustainability product strategy. She studied B.S and M.A. in Food Science and Technology at Università degli Studi di Milano. She received a Master in Nutrition and Dietetic for Health Promotion at Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a PDD Executive Education at IESE Business School.

## Juliet Bray - Accelerator Programme Manager South at EIT Food

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Juliet designs and implements the Accelerator programme for the Bilbao, Southern European hub. She has worked in trade marketing and Corporate Social Responsibility communication roles in the food and drinks industry; Innocent Drinks, Diageo, Barry Callebaut and Valrhona chocolates. Drawn to the sustainability challenges we face in our food production and consumption and with the desire to understand the challenges we face in the sourcing of quality cocoa, she has worked with farming communities in South America and West Africa, connecting them to chocolate-makers and pastry chefs. She is delighted now to support and create inspiring trainings and networks for great startups.

## Melissa Comellas - Agriculture Project Manager at EIT Food

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Melissa is an agricultural engineer specialized in viticulture and oenology. She started her career in France working for organic and biodynamic wineries. After few years dedicated to wine production, she jumped into the innovation arena, supporting start-ups in their product development path towards the market. Working as Agricultural Project Manager at EIT Food she's helping farmers make an alternative choice for them and the generations to come through Regenerative Agriculture. She's also a vine-grower in the Douro valley.

## Amparo de San Jose - Business Creation Portfolio Manager South at EIT Food

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She is currently Business Creation Portfolio Manager at EIT Food, leading the team of six people engaging with the ecosystem of startups, investors and corporates in the South of Europe. Previously she was the Director of the Business Angels Network and Entrepreneurship activities at IESE Business School in Madrid. She likes to engage in research into startup financing, venture capital and entrepreneurship with several papers and articles published. She has a degree in business administration from the University of Oviedo and an MA in European Politics. Earlier in her career Amparo worked at international bodies such as the Inter-American Development Bank. She is a member of the Board of the European Trade Association for Business Angels (EBAN).



[www.eitfood.eu](http://www.eitfood.eu)

With the collaboration of:



**EUSKO JAURLARITZA**  
**GOBIERNO VASCO**

HEZKUNTZA, UNIBERTSITATE  
ETA IKERKETA SAILA

DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN,  
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