

Greek SME seeks clusters, R&D and industrial partners for EU agri-food biotech scale-up project on innovative plant-based functional beverages

Summary

Profile type	Company's country	POD reference
Research & Development Request	Greece	RDRGR20260512017
Profile status	Type of partnership	Targeted countries
PUBLISHED	Research and development cooperation agreement	• All countries
Contact Person	Term of validity	Last update
Enrico FRANZIN	12 May 2026 12 May 2027	12 May 2026

General Information

Short summary

A Greek SME active in the functional food sector is preparing a proposal under the EU Single Market Programme call SMP-COSME-2026-BIOAGRIFOOD, focused on scaling up innovative plant-based functional beverages using microbiome-driven processing and climate-resilient raw materials. The company seeks clusters, research organisations, industrial partners, and market actors to support scale-up, validation, dissemination, and commercial deployment across Europe.

Full description

A Greek SME active in the functional food and agri-food innovation sector is preparing a collaborative European proposal under the EU Single Market Programme call SMP-COSME-2026-BIOAGRIFOOD, targeting the scale-up of innovative agri-food biotech solutions.

The proposed project focuses on the development and commercial scale-up of a new generation of non-alcoholic plant-based functional beverages, combining microbiome science, sustainable food biotechnology, and climate-resilient agricultural raw materials.

The SME intends to participate either as consortium coordinator or as a key industrial partner and is currently seeking experienced European partners to strengthen the consortium.

Advantages and innovations

The proposed project introduces several innovative dimensions:

- Development of next-generation plant-based functional beverages beyond conventional dairy probiotic products.
- Integration of microbiome-driven biotechnology in food innovation.
- Commercial valorisation of climate-resilient agricultural raw materials.
- Strong alignment with European sustainability, health, and food resilience priorities.
- Clear industrial scale-up and market deployment orientation.
- High replication potential for SMEs operating in the European agri-food sector.
- Combination of scientific innovation with direct commercial applicability.

Compared to conventional functional beverage solutions, the concept offers improved environmental sustainability, broader consumer accessibility, enhanced nutritional potential, and increased competitiveness for European SMEs.

Technical specification or expertise sought

Partners with expertise in one or more of the following areas are sought:

Food biotechnology
Microbiome science
Fermentation technologies
Functional beverage development
Industrial food processing and scale-up
Pilot production infrastructure
Sensory testing and consumer validation
Food regulatory compliance
Commercialisation and market deployment
Cluster management and SME ecosystem mobilisation
Dissemination and exploitation
Sustainable agri-food value chains

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 2: Zero Hunger**
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**

IPR Status

Secret know-how

IPR Notes

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

Expected Role of Partner

The consortium seeks complementary partners capable of contributing to both technical implementation and commercial deployment.

Expected partners may include:

Clusters / innovation ecosystem organisations

to support SME engagement, dissemination, exploitation, replication, stakeholder mobilisation, and market integration activities.

Research organisations / universities

to contribute scientific expertise in microbiome science, food biotechnology, fermentation optimisation, functional validation, and innovation development.

Industrial SMEs / food manufacturers

to support pilot testing, industrial validation, scale-up, manufacturing optimisation, and product demonstration.

Commercial / market deployment partners

to contribute market intelligence, distribution pathways, business development, route-to-market strategy, and customer validation.

Partners are expected to actively participate in proposal preparation and project implementation.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **University**
- **SME <=10**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **Big company**
- **R&D Institution**
- **SME 11-49**

Call Details

Framework program

Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology

Call title and identifier

SMP-COSME-2026-BIOAGRIFOOD

Submission and evaluation scheme

Anticipated project budget

Coordinator required

No

Deadline for EoI

24 May 2026

Deadline of the call

2 Jun 2026

Project duration in weeks

Web link to the call

Project title and acronym

Dissemination

Technology keywords

Market keywords

- **04007 - Enzymology/Protein Engineering/Fermentation**
- **04010 - Microbiology**

Targeted countries

- **All countries**

Sector groups involved