

2nd European Food Systems Science Conference

Mobilizing food systems transformation: Enhancing capabilities in Research, Education and Practice

**2nd Call: abstracts for paper and poster
presentations**

Submission guidelines



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2nd Call: submission guidelines

The 2nd European Food Systems Science conference will take place in Lund, 9-11 June 2026. The theme of the Conference is ***Mobilizing food systems transformation: Enhancing capabilities in Research, Education and Practice.***

Organised by the [FoSSNet project \(https://fossnet.eu/\)](https://fossnet.eu/), this event aims to provide a space for discussion, exchanging experiences and mobilizing action to transform food systems.

The conference invites participants to share novel research, advancements in education of food systems and best practices in applying food system perspectives in industry and society. The format allows for participation in different forms, including paper and poster presentations.

This document provides the guidelines for the submission of abstracts for paper and poster presentations. Researchers and professionals at all career stages (including early-career), educators, industry practitioners, NGO representatives, policymakers and anyone who is engaged in or wishes to contribute to food systems transformation, are very welcome to submit abstracts.

Important: before submitting an abstract, please read the following sections carefully:

1. Practical information

2. About the conference streams & sessions

- Stream 1) Food systems science for food systems transformation
- Stream 2) Transformative actions – learning from best and worst practices
- Stream 3) Advancing food systems literacy

3. Submission of abstracts

4. Review and communication of decisions

5. FoSSNet Young Talents Award

1. Practical information

Registration fees

Conference participation is free of charge (no registration fees). However, accommodation and travel expenses are the responsibility of participants, including those with accepted contributions.

2. About the conference streams & sessions

The Conference programme is organised under **three main streams**. Abstract submissions for paper and poster presentations must be aligned with one of these streams.

Within each stream, several parallel sessions are organised, some of which (described below) are open for additional contributions. If selected for a **paper presentation**, the contribution will be presented as a short pitch within the session most closely aligned with the paper's topic. If selected for a **poster presentation**, the contribution will be included in a dedicated poster session. Detailed presentation guidelines will be provided to authors through an official acceptance communication.

Please see below the stream descriptions and list of sessions.

Stream 1) Food systems science for food systems transformation

This stream explores innovative food systems science approaches, frameworks, conceptualizations, theories and tools that enable a shift toward more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. Sessions will highlight cutting-edge research, practical methodologies, and participatory research designs that drive systemic change, from production and distribution to consumption and policy.

Contributions aligned with this stream are welcome, including but not limited to topics such as 1) participatory visual methods; 2) agroecological practices; 3) economic tools (e.g., True Cost Accounting); 4) transition simulations; 5) science-policy-society interface processes supporting food systems transformation.

Stream 2) Transformative actions – learning from best and worst practices

This stream examines real-world examples of transformative actions in food systems, showcasing both successful initiatives and lessons learned from efforts that fell short,

as well as methods for aggregation and amplification of local/case-based experiences and monitoring for systemic change.

Session 2.1: Beyond Intensive Livestock: Agroecological Pathways and Territorial Governance for Sustainable Animal Production

Livestock systems are at the centre of major sustainability debates (climate, biodiversity, soil and water, animal welfare, public health), yet many discussions remain polarised between “livestock vs. no livestock” or reduced to technical efficiency fixes. This session invites contributions showcasing **practical, place-based alternatives to intensive livestock production**, and the **governance levers** that can enable their scaling and long-term viability. It also invites contributions that highlight the difficulties of a just transition to reduce the impact of intensive production systems, as well as any work that aims to account for such a shift, such as system-level frameworks for assessing transformative innovations applied to livestock.

We welcome **papers and posters presenting best practices and lessons learned from diverse contexts**, including (but not limited to): pastoralism and transhumance, extensive and managed grazing, mixed crop–livestock systems, silvopastoral/agroforestry approaches, low-input systems and cooperative and territorial models, and innovations in supply chains, procurement, and advisory services. We are particularly interested in how municipalities, regions and multi-actor coalitions can shape food environments and territorial resilience through policy, land management, market infrastructure, and public services.

The session aims to connect empirical case studies with actionable insights for moving away from intensive models while strengthening **food security, rural livelihoods, and socio-ecological resilience**.

Session 2.2: Do we have all the necessary elements for transformation through innovation?

The workshop will provide an opportunity to share approaches for transforming the knowledge and innovation system in the agriculture and food realm and discuss factors of success and missing components. A theoretical background for the approaches can help grasp and manage the multitude of proposed actions that stakeholders often find confusing. In our workshop we will present a practical framework of innovation elements that allows identifying elements of success to achieve a transformation by innovation: directionality, experimentation, demand articulation, and policy learning and coordination in actors, networks, and institutions.

Contributing participants (five to eight) are asked to present papers and posters dedicated to **transformation projects at any scale (local to transnational)** and **identify existing or missing innovation elements**. All workshop participants (presenting and non-presenting) will then have the opportunity to discuss individual projects and

suggest improvements or relate to other projects in break-out groups. Contributing presenters will report back to the workshop plenary.

Stream 3) Advancing food systems literacy

This stream highlights skills and competences for enabling the transition to more sustainable, resilient, and just food systems. Sessions will present innovative curricula, participatory teaching approaches, and cross-disciplinary collaborations that connect classrooms, research, and practice. The stream will also engage in discussions of pathways to enable education as a driver of food systems transformation.

Session 3.1: *Methods to build Food System literacy into schools*

School children can be considered the foundation for behavioural change within our food systems. They are also at the stage when critical life-long eating behaviours can become entrenched and the preference for fast food, unhealthy eating and fake news are characteristics that define much of their gastronomic culture. Children are the main agents of long-term transformative change. The session aims to develop a framework for exploring, discussing and consolidating a set of concepts and methodologies for a community of practice in support of actions to stimulate participatory actions for enhancing food system literacy.

Enhancing childrens' understanding of the food system as a whole will help them make more informed choices related to health, economic and environmental food system outcomes. To this end, a variety of classroom and field trip initiatives have already been delivered but there is little coordination across Europe and hence derivation of best practice. The session will review a range of such initiatives and aim to propose ways forward to improve coordination of food system literacy in schools.

The session encourages contributions in the following areas, but is not limited to:

- Children's food culture and behaviour in urban and rural systems
- Gamification for knowledge production and transfer
- Food literature and arts for kids, families, and communities
- School children as food system living labs

The session will open with a 15-minute overview of the topic, then have four pitches of 8 mins each to present examples of practice or pedagogy theory. It will close with a workshop-style format to harvest ideas on how to move forward.

Session 3.2: *Networking food systems literacy across Higher Education Institutions*

This workshop explores how higher education can become a more intentional driver of food systems transformation by advancing food systems literacy and transformative competencies. Starting from a set of short practice-based inputs from different

European universities, we will map how programmes currently foster systems thinking, interdisciplinarity, critical reflection, and engagement with real-world food system challenges.

The session focuses on skills and competences needed for sustainable, resilient and just food systems; showcases innovative curricula and participatory teaching approaches; and uses an interactive format to explore pathways for education to act as a driver of food systems transformation, not just as a site of knowledge transmission. We seek to build durable collaborations beyond project lifetimes among higher education institutions committed to food systems literacy and to education as a lever for transformation. A central objective of the session is therefore to co-design the initial priorities and core functions of a European Higher Education Network on Food System Transformation, including ideas for shared modules, joint student projects, and staff development activities.

The session will open with a 15-minute overview of the topic, then have 3–4 8-minute pitches from different European universities and/or EU projects presenting of practice or pedagogy theory. It will close with a workshop-style format to harvest ideas on how to move forward.

The session encourages contributions in the following areas from Lecturers and course coordinators involved in food, sustainability, health and agriculture-related programmes; Programme directors and curriculum designers; Work package leaders and team members responsible for education/training in EU-funded projects; Students and early-career researchers interested in transformative food systems education; Practitioners and policy actors collaborating with higher education on food system initiatives:

- Transdisciplinary or community-engaged courses on food systems
- Interdisciplinary MSc or BSc programmes focusing on food systems literacy
- Online or blended learning initiatives connecting students with practice partners
- Cross-university collaborations or networks piloting joint teaching on food systems

Session 3.3: *Methods to build Food System literacy and practice amongst professionals beyond academia*

In addition to the many young professionals working in businesses large and small actively engaged in food system activities, many more are working in various levels of government and a wide array of NGOs and civil society organisations. This cohort has a tremendous opportunity to design, develop and implement innovative and effective interventions to transform food system outcomes, but individuals are often poorly equipped and supported to navigate food system complexity either alone or in collaboration with their peers. It is therefore important that academic advances in food system concepts and methods for enhancing food system literacy spread beyond the

academic realm to empower young professionals to work more effectively and thereby to enhance job satisfaction and effect change.

The session will start with a short keynote on the need for food system literacy, practice and community in the workplace, and then have 2-3 8-minute pitches on different approaches. It will then break into groups to (i) identify the knowledge practice and network competency needs/gaps of young professionals working across the food system, and (ii) propose delivery methods to address these needs/gaps. The session will establish an informal, innovative community of practice on enhancing food system capability across the food sector.

The session encourages contributions from employability teams, community of practice researchers, pedagogy researchers interested in working with non-academics; people involved in designing and delivering Continuing Professional Development; human resource and recruitment specialists in a range of business, government and civil society organisations.

3. Submission of abstracts

All abstracts must be submitted in **English**.

Each participant may be listed as an author (or co-author) on up to **two abstracts** (paper and/or poster).

Abstracts must not exceed **2000 characters (with no spaces)**.

To submit your abstract(s), please complete the [submission form](https://forms.office.com/e/tPubifHrbG) (<https://forms.office.com/e/tPubifHrbG>) by **22 February 2026 [final deadline]**.

The information provided will be reviewed by the Conference Organising Committee. The email address indicated in the submission form will be used for all communication related to the submission.

Only submissions including all the following information will be considered:

- Presentation option: paper (pitch) or poster presentation
- Abstract title
- Author(s) information
- Presenting author (if different from the submitting author)
- Abstract text (max 2000 characters, excluding spaces)
- Conflict of interest and/or funding source (if applicable)
- Keywords
- Additional considerations or remarks (optional)
- Interest in being considered for the 'FoSSNet Young Talents Award' (optional; **applicable only to early-career** researchers or professionals submitting abstracts – please see section 5)

4. Review and communication of decisions

Proposals will be reviewed and decisions will be made by the Conference Organising Committee and session convenors. Please note that, depending on the number of abstracts received, acceptance as a paper presentation may not be guaranteed. The Conference Committee may propose a poster presentation as an alternative, subject to the author's agreement.

Decisions will be communicated via email during the last week of February and the first week of March. Accepted abstracts will be included in the Conference Book of Abstracts.

5. FoSSNet Young Talents Award

If you are an **early-career researcher or practitioner*** submitting an abstract, you may apply for the '**FoSSNet Young Talents Award**'. To do so, please indicate during abstract submission that you wish to be considered for the award and provide a description of **a)** your personal aims and motivations behind the research and/or initiative that form the basis of the submission (200 words), **b)** your role and approach to collaboration (200 words), and **c)** how this award would support your trajectory (200 words). **Your application will be assessed on the basis of your abstract and this description through blind-review by a committee within the FoSSNet project.**

Participants may apply as individuals or as a group of early-career researchers/practitioners. Contributions may also be developed together with senior colleagues (such as through co-authorship), but only early-careers will be considered for the award. If the submission involves multiple contributors, the accompanying description should outline and reflect the division of roles within the team behind the submission.

**Early-career researchers or practitioners are defined as individuals having up to seven years of relevant professional or academic experience, accounting for career breaks (e.g., caring, health, displacement, or precarity), as well as practitioners or community researchers without traditional academic credentials.*

Award

The winners will be announced during the conference and granted an award certificate. Furthermore, they can choose between the following prizes:

1. Mentoring by a FoSSNet expert. A pool of experts will be listed with a short description of their expertise. The winners will be matched with an expert based

on their needs and wishes. Mentorship will be organised with a defined number of meetings to be arranged or as a shared workshop with other winners.

2. A seat at upcoming FoSSNet events (hackathons, Summer School or Brussels Conference).

If you have any questions about the conference or the submission process, please contact us at info@fossnet.eu.