

Knowledge Hub

Meet the experts from:

- 1. Riga Territorial Lab and the FoSSNet research task on inclusion**
- 2. Catalan Territorial Lab**
- 3. Polish Territorial Lab**
- 4. Systemic Lab**



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Riga Territorial Lab and the FoSSNet research task on inclusion

Leverage points for an inclusive food-oriented knowledge and innovation (K&I) system



Aziz Omar

Aziz Omar is an independent food systems policy and transformation professional affiliated with Aarhus University, Denmark. He has over 15 years of experience engaging with environmental and agricultural policy, food sovereignty, permaculture, indigenous livelihoods, microfinance, and food security. His work spans Europe and the Caribbean where he has collaborated with local communities, NGOs, and research institutions on context-specific resilience, human rights and development initiatives.



Gabrielle Edwards

Dr. Gabrielle Edwards is a researcher at the Department of Food, Nutrition, and Sport Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Her work focuses on whole school approaches to food education, food citizenship, and exploring how schools can be environments for health promotion. She is passionate about food and environmental education and empowering individuals to be actors of change within their communities.



Jana Kukaine

Jana Kukaine is an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher at Rīga Stradiņš University. Her work focuses on contemporary art research and feminist critique. Within the Knowledge Hub, she will explore how the concept of the food story - through imagination, aesthetics, and affective engagement - mobilises situated knowledge essential for building more inclusive and transformative food systems.



József Slezák

József Slezák is a PhD candidate at the Central European University (CEU) in Vienna and a research affiliate of the CEU Democracy Institute in Budapest. His work within the FoSS Knowledge Hub – as a member of the Leverage Points working group – focuses on the policy-oriented integration of the concept of food citizenship into a conceptual framework for food system transformation pathways in a pan-European context.



Susanne Hollmann

Dr. Susanne Hollmann is a biochemist and managing director of SB Science Management, with broad experience in co-creation and collaborative innovation. She combines scientific expertise with leadership and professional development to support research and ethics in the natural sciences. Through KH activities, she brings expertise, mentorship, and fosters collaboration and co-creation across FoSSNet.

Catalan Territorial Lab

Scalability of agroecological initiatives for Food System Transformation (FST)



Ana Pardo López

Ana Pardo López works on agroecological local development and community action in food systems. Worker-member at Arran de terra SCCL (Catalonia), she supports territorial transitions through participatory processes, policy-oriented research and advocacy. In FoSSNet KH, she seeks collective learning, governance tools and scaling practices.



Cecilia Zagaria

Dr. Cecilia Zagaria is a postdoctoral researcher at the Farming Systems Ecology Group of Wageningen University. Her current research focuses on co-creating a new monitoring and evaluation framework for agroecological practices in Europe alongside a diversity of land system actors, in contribution to the Agroecology-TRANSECT Project. Her research interests are in exploring multi-scalar pathways and impacts of agricultural change by integrating trans-disciplinary approaches and spatial modelling.



Rosa Binimelis

Rosa Binimelis (PhD in Environmental Sciences) works on food systems transformation and scaling agroecological initiatives. As a worker-member of Arran de terra SCCL (Catalonia), she supports territorial transitions by combining practice-based research, applied support and food policy design and implementation.



Tanya Zerbian

Dr. Tanya Zerbian is a postdoctoral researcher specialising in food systems in the Agri-Food Systems and Territorial Development (SADT) research group at the IEGD-CSIC. She adopts a systems approach to analyse the intersections between knowledge, policy, and the actors involved in the socio-ecological transformation of food systems. The Knowledge Hub provides a unique opportunity particularly regarding the role of advisory systems and universities in territorial dynamics in supporting this process.



Verónica Sanchez Martino

Verónica Sanchez Martino is a social anthropologist and agroecologist. She is currently affiliated with the Entretantos Foundation and engaged in agroecology through hands-on practice, social research and activism. Her research is grounded in feminist and participatory approaches. Her experience in applied research, university teaching and agroecology is rooted in the rural territory where she lives.

Polish Territorial Lab

Sustainable food systems in Central-Eastern Europe: exploring the role of intermediaries



Emil Erjavec

Dr. Emil Erjavec is Professor of Agricultural Policy and Economics at the University of Ljubljana. His research focuses on political economy, strategic planning, and EU integration of agricultural policy. Due to his experience in university management, he is interested in how systematic changes to curricula and the research organization can support the transformation of food systems.



Lidija Maurović Koščak

Dr Lidija Maurović Koščak is Head of the Department for Development at the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food. Key areas of her scientific and professional work include sustainable food systems, short food supply chains, and support models for small agri-food producers. She is eager to further develop her expertise and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate within the FoSSNet Knowledge Hub.



Mareike Pampus

Dr. Mareike Pampus is a human geographer at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Her research focuses on socio-ecological transformation from a qualitative social-science perspective. Within FoSSNet, she contributes methodological and interpretive expertise to work on food system transitions in Central-Eastern Europe.



Pete Noy

Dr. Pete Noy is the Director of the Food Systems Institute at the University of Nottingham. The Institute supports interdisciplinary food systems research programmes focused on informing food policy, supporting equitable food system transitions, food innovation pathways and the development of sustainable agricultural systems, taking a multi-stakeholder approach to co-development.



Silvia Scaramuzzi

Dr. Silvia Scaramuzzi is Associate Professor of Agrifood Economics and Territorial Marketing at the University of Florence. Her research focuses on rural development, food quality, supply chains, and agricultural policies using participatory approaches. She has led numerous International, EU and Regional projects, co-leads the FutureFoods SRIA update and is action leader in SCAR Food Systems SWG. She has over 130 publications.

Systemic Lab

Using pricing and rewarding guided by True Cost Accounting to manage hidden social and environmental sustainability impacts in the food system



Alisa Spiegel

Dr. Alisa Spiegel is a researcher at the Coordination Unit Climate, Soil and Biodiversity at the Thünen Institute, working at the interface of agriculture, climate policy, and sustainability. Her research focuses on emissions targets, carbon pricing and other PaMs in agriculture, supporting evidence-based food system transformation in Europe.



Erika De Keyser

Erika De Keyser is a postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven. Her research combines expertise in agricultural economics, business models, environmental impact assessment and valuation, with a strong interest in linking economic performance to social and environmental outcomes. She is excited to contribute to the development of True Cost Accounting and looking forward to exchanging knowledge, learning from interdisciplinary perspectives and translating research insights into practical tools and real-world applications.



Jacky Florencio

Jacky Florencio is a final-year PhD candidate at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She works on the EU FOODCoST project, aiming to harmonise methods to uncover hidden food systems costs. Her research focuses on methods for quantifying and monetising health effects of diets.



Valentina Vasta

Valentina Vasta is a freelance food technologist. In the last thirteen years she supported for food quality, safety and compliance issues more than 40 food companies operating in production, transformation, distribution and retail sectors. She operates as developer for circular economy and sustainability initiatives in the agri-food domain. She has a background in international research in animal science.



Viachaslau Filimonau

Dr Viachaslau Filimonau is a Reader (Associate Professor) in the Business School of the University of Surrey. With interdisciplinary educational background, he studies sustainability transitions of global food systems, especially from the perspective of carbon and water footprint assessment, food waste management and stakeholder (dis)engagement. He contributes to FoSSNet with his expertise in true cost accounting and life cycle assessment as applied to the operational realities of foodservice and public catering provision.