

**MEETING OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY- EIT-FOOD
WITH THE BULGARIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY- PLOVDIV**

22 May 2023

AGENDA

10:00 - Registration

10:00 – 12:30 – Agri-food startups fair /in the foyer in front of Auditorium 2/

11:00 – 12:30 – EIT Food Awareness day: meeting representatives of the Research and Innovation ecosystem in Bulgaria, including entrepreneurs, innovators, SMEs, researchers, academia, industry and startups, students.

/Auditorium 2 of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv/

- Welcome and opening words by **Rector of AUP Prof. Hristina Yancheva and Director EIT Food North and East region Marja-Liisa Meurice**
- “Innovations in the agri-food sector – building synergies for better opportunities” – **Dr. Andy Zynga, EIT Food CEO**
- Promoting synergy and networking among European Universities –The Green European University Alliance UNIGREEN and the Coalition of Willing – **Vice-Rector of AUP Prof. Vladislav Popov**, coordinator EIT-Food Hub Bulgaria
- “EIT-Food agenda and the EIT’s Regional Innovation Scheme” – **Director EIT Food North and East region Marja-Liisa Meurice**
- Opportunities at the European Institute of Innovation and Technology for students, researchers and entrepreneurs in Bulgaria – **AU-Plovdiv and RAPIV-Varna**
- Awarding of the teams from Challenge Labs 2022- **Dr. Andy Zynga and Prof. Vladislav Popov**

12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 – Round table discussion on the Smart Specialization Strategies (3S) in agrifood based on the EIT Food RIS3 Guidebook

/participants of the Bulgarian Research and Innovation Ecosystem and representatives of agencies designing and implementing S3 at the national and/or regional level/

13:30 – 13:50 – presentation of the main findings and messages of the EIT Food RIS3 Guidebook by **Vice-Rector of AUP Prof. Vladislav Popov**

13:50 – 14:20 - presentation on best practices from Bulgaria - **RAPIV-Varna**

14:20 – 15:30 - Q&A session and Discussion

- Experiences and prospects for regional innovation ecosystem in bioeconomy and agri-food systems in Bulgaria and in the region.
- Challenges at the Research and Innovation ecosystem in Bulgaria and in the region.
- Perspectives for building synergies and widening participation in EIT/EIT Food programmes.