

# EIT Food Priorities & the Greek Ecosystem: Challenges and Opportunities

by EIT Food Country Representatives Greece

BEYOND Expo 2026 | Hall 3, Athens, Greece

18 June 2026

15:00-15:05

## Opening Remarks

**Maria Michalopoulou**, Professor at Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH), Coordinator of EIT Food Country Representative Greece

15:05-15:45

## EIT Food in Greece: Building the Future of Food Innovation

An introduction to EIT Food's presence in Greece and presentation of the 2026 Action Plan, highlighting its role in fostering innovation across the agrifood sector and connecting local stakeholders to European opportunities.

This session will also provide an overview of funding and entrepreneurship calls, including the open and upcoming calls for startups and idea holders in the agrifood sector.

Participants will gain insights into the EIT Food's education initiatives, including online courses and masters and doctoral programmes, while learning more about the role of DUTH and Mantis Beyond Innovation as EIT Food Country Representatives in Greece for the 2026-2028 period.

### Education and Learning Opportunities

- **Maria Pappas**, Member of the EIT Food Country Representative Greece, Professor at Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)

### Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startup Support

- **Christos Nikoloudis**, Founder & CEO at Mantis Beyond Innovation

15:45-16:00

## Opportunities in Research

Research and innovation are driving the transformation of the agrifood sector and creating new opportunities for sustainable growth. This panel will bring together representatives of academic and research institutions, active in areas aligned with EIT Food priorities to showcase their work. This discussion will also highlight the importance of collaboration between academia, research organisations and industry in bringing innovation closer to the market.

### Panelists

- **Dr. Panagiotis Milonas**, Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI)
- **Dr. Anastasia Tsagakarakou**, ELGO-DIMITRA
- **Prof. Ioannis Kourkoutas**, Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)

*Moderator:* **Maria Pappas**, Member of the EIT Food Country Representative Greece, Professor at Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)

16:00-16:25

## Opportunities in Entrepreneurship

Innovation in the agrifood sector is being driven by a new generation of startups and innovative SMEs developing solutions that address challenges across the food value chain. This panel will bring together representatives of the innovation ecosystem, active in areas aligned with EIT Food priorities to showcase their work, share their innovation journeys and discuss emerging trends shaping the future of the agrifood sector.

### OFELIA EU project: Funding and Business Support Opportunities

- **Grigoris Chatzikostas**, reframe.food

*Moderator:* **Stefania Athanasiou**, Open Innovation Programmes Manager, Mantis Beyond Innovation

### Panelists

- **Vasilis Stenos**, Solmeya
- **Manos Lekakis**, Agroapps
- **Zisis Tsiropoulos**, Agenso
- **Dr. Dimitris Voloudakis**, New Agriculture New Generation

16:25- 16:30

## Closing Remarks