



# Continuing education for food professionals

*Developing continuing education together with the industry*

The FoodNexus project ‘Programme for continuing education for food professionals’ will launch multidisciplinary, innovative, flexible education modules for food professionals of the future. The modules, which are tailored to the needs of the food industry, are based on state-of-the-art competences at Europe’s top universities and developed together with industry. The education modules will cover a variety of topics including nutrition; food production & sustainability; entrepreneurship & innovation; sensory sciences; consumer engagement; food safety. The courses will ensure that both SMEs and large companies are highly competitive in the global food system and that they can contribute to solving global challenges.

## FUTURE-ORIENTED LEARNING ACTIVITY

In a fast-moving environment with high pressure on the food system to contribute to solutions to common, societal challenges, an immense responsibility rests on the food system to continuously upgrade its human capital. FoodNexus is working to address this, and more specifically:

- Attracting and developing young talent with the right education and entrepreneurial mindset.

- Tackling the lack of sufficient talent and business initiative, which is a major barrier to transformation of the EU food sector.
- Highlighting the current gap between the proposed education by universities and the problems experienced in the industry.

The FoodNexus Ready-to-go project is addressing the issues by taking an integrative approach, in which industry is co-defining the learning activities based on the problems identified in the industry.

The partners involved in the project have developed a three-stage learning model for education (see Figure 1), and working groups within the project have suggested developing six tentative course descriptions within six fields of interest.

While modules within the matrix will be built to shape new talents with multi- and cross-disciplinary capabilities, others provide solutions for specialised lifelong learning, at individual and collective levels. The model provides solutions using technologies for ‘Massive Online Open Courses’ (MOOCs) as well as on-site education.

The matrix-approach of the project provides a suggestion for FoodNexus education, which covers all three of FoodNexus’ strategic areas (‘Food security and sustainability’, ‘Food for health and wellbeing’ and ‘Food quality and safety’).

## FoodNexus modular education

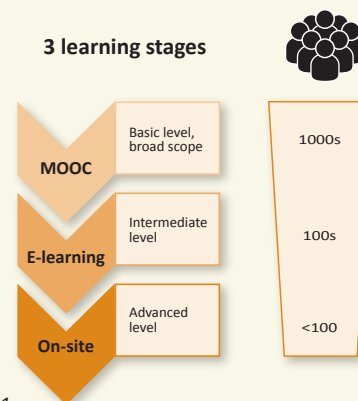


Figure 1



**READY-TO-GO PROJECT #4**

**FOODNEXUS PARTNERS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT:**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| AgroParisTech                       | University of Copenhagen                                  |
| Chalmers University of Technology   | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna |
| FU Berlin                           | Wageningen University and Research                        |
| Lund University                     | Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences     |
| Technical University of Denmark     |   |
| University of Bologna               |   |
| Universitat Politècnica de València |   |

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INNOVATIVE**

The aim of this project is to launch new multidisciplinary, innovative and flexible education modules for food professionals of the future, tailored to industry needs and leveraging on the state-of-the-art competences at Europe's top universities.

Building on existing competencies in new combinations and involving technological tools, the engaged FoodNexus partners can be firstmovers within this area and provide learning activities that create an impact on both SMEs and large companies.

**THREE-STAGE LEARNING**

The partners involved in the project have developed a three-stage learning model for education (see Figure 1).

The stages are MOOCs, e-learning and on-site learning. The two first provide an opportunity to reach out to many, whereas the on-site module is tailor-made for the organisation in question.

Working groups within the project have developed six tentative course descriptions within the six fields of interest. These six areas, which are to be further developed in workshops, are:

- Nutrition
- Food production & sustainability

- Entrepreneurship & innovation in the food system
- Sensory sciences
- Consumer engagement
- Food safety.

Some on-site courses already exist, while MOOCs and most e-learning courses are still to be developed further.

**FUNDING AND NEXT STEPS**

There is readiness among university partners to develop and provide the courses, when funding is available. Companies have declared their tentative interest in the course topics. The next step is to adapt course descriptions to fit company needs.

At the end of March 2017, the project obtained seed funding from FoodNexus, and has applied for additional external funding. The FoodNexus Ready-to-go project on Education also seeks to leverage through engagement with the existing technology platforms.

**LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE:**

The FoodNexus partnership is open to collaboration with relevant organisations and individuals sharing our vision and mission. Project activity is updated on the FoodNexus website, where you can also read more about the FoodNexus partnership, as well as follow news and activity. For more information about this particular project you are welcome to get in touch with the contact person.

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