



# Green & Agri-Food Innovation Spotlight

**13 May**

Athens, Greece  
Eugenides Foundation

side event of



## Green & Agri-Food Innovation Spotlight

Auditorium, Eugenides Foundation  
387, Syggrou Ave. 17564, P. Faliro, Athens, Greece

**10:00-10:10**

### Opening & Context Setting

**Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis**, UNESCO Chairholder on Green Innovation and Circular Economy of NTUA & Vice President and Waste Management BoD Chairman Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water – RAAEY

**10:10-10:30**

### The new era of Open Innovation

An overview of how Green & Agri-Food innovation ecosystems are built and scaled, highlighting the role of intermediaries in transforming ideas into startups and spin-offs. Includes real-world examples and lessons learned from ecosystem development initiatives.

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

**Session 1**

### Funding & Innovation Opportunities in Green & Agri-Food Sectors

**10:30-11:15**

### European Innovation Funding – EIT KICs: Unlocking Opportunities Across Europe

A practical introduction to the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), focusing on available funding instruments, participation pathways, and opportunities for startups, researchers, and organizations.

- **Niki Kousi**, Managing Director of EIT Manufacturing Southeast, **EIT Manufacturing**
- **Georgia Papadopoulou**, Ecosystem Lead, **28DIGITAL**
- **Representative** by EIT RawMaterials
- **Representative** by EIT Health

**11:15-11:40**

### Innovation in Strategic Sectors – Driving Defence & Dual-Use Innovation

Presentation of the role of the Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation (ELKAK) in strengthening innovation in defence and dual-use technologies, including opportunities for startups, researchers, and industry collaboration.

**Panagiotis Papageorgiou**, Executive Board Member, Hellenic Centre for Defence Innovation S.A.

**11:40-11:55**

### **Mapping Public Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Greece**

The survey conducted by diaNEOsis, entitled “What Greeks Believe About Artificial Intelligence,” examines public attitudes, concerns and expectations regarding AI and its impact on different areas of everyday life. It provides a comprehensive overview of how Greek citizens perceive AI, focusing on their level of familiarity with the technology, the emotions it evokes, and the ways in which they use it in practice. The study also investigates the degree of trust people place in AI systems, as well as the reasons why some individuals are reluctant or unwilling to use such technologies, even on an occasional basis.

**Fay Makantasi**, Research Director at diaNEOsis

**11:55-12:30**

### **Unlocking AI Value in Green & Agri-Food Systems**

How is AI reshaping the future of green and agri-food systems? This presentation highlights emerging business & funding opportunities and showcases a real-world application, bridging the gap between innovation potential and practical impact. (Panel discussion)

- **Nikolaos Mavridis**, PhD MIT, Academic and Consultant in Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Robotics
- **Zisis Ioannidis (Phd)**, Advisor to the Minister of Environment & Energy
- **Periklis Terlixidis**, Chief Executive Officer, ahead DIH & Smart Attica EDIH Manager

**Moderator: Myron Flouris**, Member of the Steering Committee and Senior Innovation Officer at AI Catalyst

**12:30-12:45**

**Break**

**Session 2**

### **EIT Food in Greece**

**12:45-13:30**

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

An introduction to EIT Food’s presence and strategy in Greece, highlighting its role in fostering innovation across the agri-food sector and connecting local stakeholders to European opportunities. This session will also provide an overview of funding and entrepreneurship call, including the open and upcoming calls for startups & idea holders in the agritech and foodtech industry, from EIT Food programs and Mantis Beyond Innovation.

A deep dive into education initiatives and opportunities, such as digital courses & master’s programmes, and presentation of the role of DUTH and Mantis Beyond Innovation as the EIT Food Country Representatives in Greece.

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

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

**13:30-14:15**

### **From Research to Innovation and Market**

Opportunities for collaboration and leveraging research and equipment to develop new products and foster innovation in the Green and Agri-Food sectors. (Panel discussion)

**Dimitrios Terzis**, Secretary General for Research and Innovation, Ministry of Development

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

**Panagiotis Milonas**, Director of Benaki Phytopathological Institute

**Spyridon Mamalis**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of ELGO-DIMITRA

**Moderator: Representative** by Mantis Beyond Innovation

**14:15-14:30**

**Agritech/ Foodtech startup & idea holders - Success stories** – in English

A quick presentation from Greek startups in the Agritech/Foodtech industry and a presentation of the E-NICHE Hackathon winning idea.

**Panos Hatzilazaridis**, Founder & CEO Managi

**E-NICHE Hackathon winning idea**

**Moderator:** Christos Raftogiannis, Founder & CEO, CityCrop

**14:30-14:45**

**Break**

**14:45-16:15**

**Aligning Green Innovation with a Sustainable and Inclusive Future**

An overview of Circular Economy and Sustainability Institute of NTUA - CESI's role in supporting green innovation across Europe, focusing on how sustainability, workforce transformation, and policy frameworks must evolve together. The session explores how innovation can drive the green transition while ensuring inclusion, skills development, and long-term societal impact. (Panel discussion)

**Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis**, UNESCO Chairholder on Green Innovation and Circular Economy of NTUA & Vice President and Waste Management BoD Chairman Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water – RAAEY

**Prof. Magda Krokida**, Laboratory of Process Analysis and Design (LPAD)

**Prof. Eirini Koronaki**, Laboratory of Applied Thermodynamics, Cooling Technology and Refrigerated Vehicles

**Prof. Gregory Grigoropoulos**, Laboratory for Ship and Marine Hydrodynamics

**Assoc. Prof. Athanasios Rentizelas**, Laboratory of Operational Research & Logistics

**Prof. Symeon Papavassiliou**, Laboratory of Network Management & Optimal Design in Telematics

**Prof. Alexandros Papagiannis**, Laser Remote Sensing Unit

**Workshop**

**Driving entrepreneurial discovery in Greentech, Agritech & Foodtech with AI Design Thinking**

**16:15-17:00**

How does AI connect with Design Thinking and the identification of business opportunities? In this workshop, participants will explore how AI, combined with Design Thinking, can accelerate the discovery of high-value business opportunities across the fields of Greentech, Agritech and Foodtech.

Participants will gain hands-on experience in transforming market insights into viable value propositions, adopting a startup mindset that emphasizes speed, validation and scalability. By the end of the workshop, each participant will have developed a concept ready to be tested in the market.

**Facilitator: Christos Raftogiannis**, Founder & CEO, CityCrop

*\*Participants will receive a certification of participation*

**17:00**

**Networking**