



**PACT FOR
SKILLS** *Leader*



An initiative of the European Commission

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**AGRIFOOD
SKILLS**

Newsletter

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Overview

Welcome to the first edition of the **AgriFoodSkills Newsletter**! In this issue, we share key highlights from the first six months of the project, including the official launch, insights into the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Observatory, and a glimpse into our vision for 2050. You'll also find updates from recent events and a message from our project coordinator. Stay tuned as we begin shaping the future of skills in the agri-food sector!

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Welcome Note from the Coordinator

Dear colleagues and partners,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first edition of our project newsletter.

This initiative marks a key step in our shared commitment to advancing skills development in the agri-food sector. As coordinator, I am proud to work with such a dedicated and diverse group of partners, united by the goal of supporting the sector's transition towards a more sustainable, digital, and resilient future.



At the core of our work is the **Observatory**, structured around active working groups, which will enhance skills intelligence, coordinate targeted training efforts, and serve as a backbone for the Agri-food Pact for Skills. Our approach includes the development of micro-credentials across EQF levels, innovative teaching methods, and work-based learning programs tailored to real-world needs.

A commitment to training and sustainability

Looking ahead, the **Policy Forum 2050** will play a vital strategic role. As a high-level platform, it will help guide the direction and resources of the working groups, providing critical input and recommendations to ensure their alignment with broader EU objectives. With contributions from European Commission Directorates-General and international experts, the Forum 2050 is uniquely positioned to respond to global challenges and shape forward-looking policy solutions.

Together, we are building not only a project, but a lasting community of practice that will support the sector well beyond today's goals.

Warm regards,

Prof. Remigio Berruto

Project Coordinator – University of Turin
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Launch of the AgriFoodSkills Project

On **23 and 24 January 2025**, the historic **Palazzo della Valle** in Rome hosted the official launch of the European project **AgriFoodSkills**, co-funded by the **Erasmus+** programme. The event was organised by **Confagricoltura** in collaboration with the **University of Turin**.

Over the course of two days, the **27 partners** of this new European consortium gathered at Confagricoltura's headquarters to kick off a four-year collaborative journey. Their shared mission: to **strengthen the skills of workers** in the agri-food, animal production and veterinary sectors, with a particular focus on advanced technologies and innovation.



This Observatory will be supported by **interdisciplinary working groups**, promoting **data sharing and best practices** across projects and sectors, thus fostering a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food system.

During the launch event, **Bertrand Collignon** from **DG AGRI** expressed strong interest in the project and in ensuring the **continuation of the Observatory** beyond the project's duration.

*Did you know that the **Sala Serpieri**, where the event took place, is adorned with **16th-century frescoes** recently restored, depicting the history of Italian agriculture? A truly inspiring setting to shape the future of European farming.*

Follow AgriFoodSkills – more news, training opportunities, and collaboration updates will be shared soon with all stakeholders in the European agri-food system.

AgriFoodSkills builds upon the groundwork laid by the **FIELDS Project** (concluded in 2024 but available at <https://www.erasmus-fields.eu/>) and the ongoing **I-RESTART Project** (<https://www.erasmus-i-restart.eu>), and contributes to the European Pact for Skills in the agri-food sector.

The project will promote:

- **Skills needs identification** and tailored training in key areas;
- **Micro-credentialing** and **mentor support**;
- The creation of a **strategic community of practice** among Pact members;
- The development of a **Virtual Observatory** to map current and future skills in the agri-food sector.

A symbolic setting for a fresh start

6 questions about the agri-food Pact for Skills Observatory



What is the Observatory?

The Observatory is a virtual unit established under the Erasmus+ **AgrifoodSkills** (AFS) project. It brings together eight expert working groups that collaborate to advance the project’s goals and strengthen links with the **Agri-food Pact for Skills** (AF P4S) community.



What are the aims of the Observatory?

The Observatory supports the AF P4S and fosters a sustainable and skilled agri-food workforce by:

- Establishing a strong Community of Practice among AF P4S members
- Providing insights and resources on skill needs, trends, and best practices
- Supporting workforce development through research, training, and collaboration



Who is involved in the Observatory?

Led by **Confagricoltura** and the **University of Torino**, the Observatory includes 27 partners from across Europe, including leading universities, research institutes, business associations, and industry stakeholders.



What working groups are there?

The Observatory is comprised of eight working groups that are tasked with Monitoring, Skills Intelligence, Communication and Dissemination, Roadmap Business Model and Long-Term Action Plan, Quality and Certification, Microcredential Learning Design and Training Content Repository.



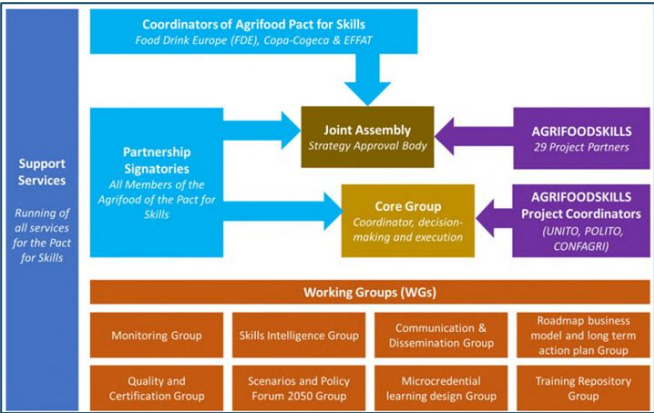
What is the long-term vision for the Observatory?

The Observatory is designed for a 12-year lifecycle. Initially guided by the AFS project, it will later be sustained by a dedicated business model, ensuring long-term impact and service delivery to the community.



How can I benefit?

The most direct way to benefit is by joining the **Agri-food Pact for Skills**. You gain access to tailored insights, training, tools, and networking opportunities. Members benefit from shared resources, funding guidance, and continuous learning support across the agri-food ecosystem.



The structure of the Agri-food Pact for Skills Observatory

Policy Forum 2050: Guiding Ideas for the future of the agri-food sector

The *Policy Forum 2050* was launched as a new space for big-picture thinking and practical advice on shaping the future in the frame of AgriFoodSkills project. Within the Observatory, the Forum is designed to guide the work of expert groups, offering fresh ideas and constructive feedback along the way. With input from European Commission departments and international experts, it is set to become a key space for addressing today's global challenges and helping shape smarter policies for tomorrow. The Forum meets twice a year, with one of those meetings always held in person.

The first session of the Policy Forum 2050 took place on **January 23, 2025**, at **Confagricoltura's historic Sala Serpieri in Palazzo Della Valle, Rome**. The event brought together high-level experts, EU Commission representatives, and international voices to discuss how to guide the future of agri-food policy in a world that's changing fast.

During this first meeting, participants explored a wide range of topics from strengthening business culture and improving training for small and mid-sized companies, to exploring future scenarios for 2030, 2040, and 2050. Discussions also focused on changing lifestyles and consumption patterns, responding to food crises, and the role of innovation in shaping stronger EU policies.

The Forum 2050 has officially begun its journey creating a platform where ideas, experience, and shared goals come together to shape the future, one step at a time. The conversation has only just begun. **Stay tuned for the next Policy Forum 2050 to be held on September 30, save the date in your agendas!**



AgriFoodSkills at the Agri-food Pact for Skills yearly event

The **Agri-food Pact for Skills** is a key initiative of the European Commission, bringing together industry, social partners, education providers, and public authorities to promote upskilling and reskilling for the agri-food professionals across Europe. The Agri-food Pact is led by two AgriFoodSkills partners: **Copa-Cogeca** and **FoodDrinkEurope**.

During 13-14 May 2025, the pact organised its yearly meeting at the ACE EVENTS facilities in Brussels (Belgium). Under the theme “Building the Skills for Tomorrow: Empowering the Agri-food Workforce”, the event featured oral presentations, panel discussions, and interactive workshops with the participation of European Commission officials, agri-food sector representatives, educators, and EU-funded projects.



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AgriFoodSkills directly supports the Agri-food Pact through the establishment of a central Observatory, offering open-access data, knowledge, training resources and other services. A highlight of the event was the AgriFoodSkills project workshop titled “Designing the Observatory”. During the session, project partners presented the vision, structure, and business model approach of the Observatory. The workshop concluded with a lively discussion on strategy, governance, and the implementation roadmap.

The session generated valuable insights that will inform the ongoing development of the Observatory. We look forward to continuing our contributions and returning to next year’s event with further progress!

Follow us on social media!



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