Who is EIT Food?
EIT Food is Europe’s leading food innovation initiative, made up of a consortium of over 50 partners from leading businesses, startups, research centres and universities across Europe with the aim of creating a sustainable and future-proof food sector. We form one of six Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) established by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT), an independent EU body set up in 2008 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. EIT Food officially started in November 2016 and is funded until 2024.

What is the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)?
The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT Community’s outreach scheme. It enables the transfer of knowledge and good-practice from the EIT’s unique approach to boosting innovation to support countries and regions in Europe that belong to the group of so-called ‘modest and moderate’ innovators, in their ability to innovate. Countries include Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, and Turkey.

Answering the challenges facing the food system
The need for EIT Food grew out of a collective desire to solve the many complex challenges facing the agri-food system. These challenges include the need to nutritiously feed more than 9 billion people by 2050, while we currently waste almost one third of our food today; the rise in non-communicable diseases related to diet and also tackling low consumer trust in the food sector. We believe that it is only a community of trusted partners working together who will be able to develop and adopt the impactful and disruptive solutions we all so desperately need. Building this community and ecosystem is EIT Food’s mission.

Our grand mission to transform the food system
To deliver our mission we have created our 6 strategic objectives to guide us to 2024:
(1) Overcome low consumer trust: support Europeans in the transition towards a smart food system that is inclusive and trusted;
(2) Create consumer valued food for healthier nutrition: enable individuals to make informed and affordable personal nutrition choices;
(3) Build a consumer-centric connected food system: develop a digital food supply network with consumers and industry as equal partners;
(4) Enhance sustainability: develop solutions to transform the traditional ‘produce-use-dispose’ model into a circular bio-economy;
(5) Educate to engage, innovate and advance: provide ‘food system’ skills for students, entrepreneurs and professionals through advanced training programmes and open online courses
(6) Catalyse food entrepreneurship and innovation: foster innovation at all stages of business creation.
The element that makes EIT Food unique is our relentless focus on consumer empowerment. We place consumers at the centre of the transformation process and empower them to contribute to it.

Our high-impact network of partners
Our network is made up of leading partners across Europe, guided from five regional offices, or co-location centers (CLC) as we call them, in Munich (DE), Warsaw (PL), Madrid (ES), Leuven (BE) and Reading (UK), with Leuven also being our EIT Food headquarters. Our network of partners have been strategically selected to ensure that we have the best expertise across the full food system to create and implement new ideas and innovations. We will continue to evolve our ecosystem with committed and complementary new partners and further develop our geographic footprint.

EIT Food Projects and Activities
Projects carried out by EIT Food and our partners aim to activate consumers in the change process, improve nutrition and make the food system more resource-efficient, secure, transparent and trusted. At the same time, we will deliver initiatives that develop a highly skilled food sector; one which collaborates with consumers to provide products, services and new technologies for healthier lifestyles of EU consumers. We will also work closely with the EU and scientific community to translate research outputs into impactful innovations for society.

With our partners we are currently working on over 50 projects across Europe. For example, to drive new business creation we have developed the EIT Food Accelerator that provides start-ups with access to knowledge, technology and business development support. In the innovation space, we run programmes which target societal challenges through technology-based products and services. This includes the EIT Food Assistant, a tool to empower people to self-monitor their diets. As part of our educational initiatives we train students, entrepreneurs and food professionals via workshops, summer schools and online educational programmes such as MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses) and SPOCS (Specialized Private Online Courses). We will also be starting an MSc in Food Systems with 10 University partners in 2019. In the autumn of 2018 we will launch one of our flagship consumer outreach projects, on the measurement of consumer trust. This is a pan-European initiative that seeks to measure consumer perceptions of the food sector by surveying around 150,000 EU citizens by 2024.

More information on EIT Food can be found at our website: www.eitfood.eu, or email info@eitfood.eu