



**FINAL CONFERENCE**

# Small-Scale, Big Impact: Innovative Approaches for Local Food Processing

**- LESSONS FROM FOX -**



**PM  
SESSION**

26 September 2023  
Brussels

**WELCOME**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817683



# FOX Coordinators



**Kerstin Pasch**

Head of Office Brussels /  
German Institute of Food Technologies (DIL)



**Ariette Matser**

Senior Scientist Sustainable Processing /  
Wageningen University & Research





## SESSION 1

# Building Resilient Regional Food Systems - Reflect the FOX Project Approach



**Moderator: Kerstin Pasch (Coordinator)**



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# Towards healthier and sustainable food

## SFS-16-2018





# FOX

## Innovative down-scaled FOod processing in a boX



### FOOD

Fruits and vegetables

### PROCESSING

In flexible and mobile processing units to be used in regional food systems, as a basis for innovative small and medium-led business models

### IN A BOX

Mildly processed through innovative, small-scale technologies



# FOX - Objectives

- Develop, build and test the application of **small-scaled and mobile / flexible processing units for fresh fruits and vegetables**
- Research innovative and mild processing technologies
- **Measure and assess the impact** of the FOX approach on environment, business, people and their health
- Validate **potential for new business opportunities** for regional producer and check their robustness against different future scenarios
- **Engage consumer** and investigate **consumer values and attitudes** relevant for food choices
- **Stimulate short supply chains** and **engage interested stakeholder** from producing sector and policy





# Approach: food circles & model regions

## The 4 European regions (Food Circles)



**Food Circle 1**  
**Low oxygen juice extraction and mild preservation**  
 Bodensee, DE



Apples



Spiral filter press and pulsed electric field (PEF)



**Food Circle 2**  
**Low temperature drying**  
 Kuyavian-Pomeranian  
 Volvodeship, PL & Central  
 Bohemian CZ



Apples, strawberries,  
 carrots, mushrooms



Non-thermal  
 pre-treatment methods  
 (PEF, US, and HHP)



**Food Circle 3**  
**Quality analysis and sustainable packaging**  
 Valencia, SP & Provence  
 Alpes Côte d'Azur, FR



Cucumber, apricots,  
 (water)melons, nuts



Compostable bags and thermoformed trays



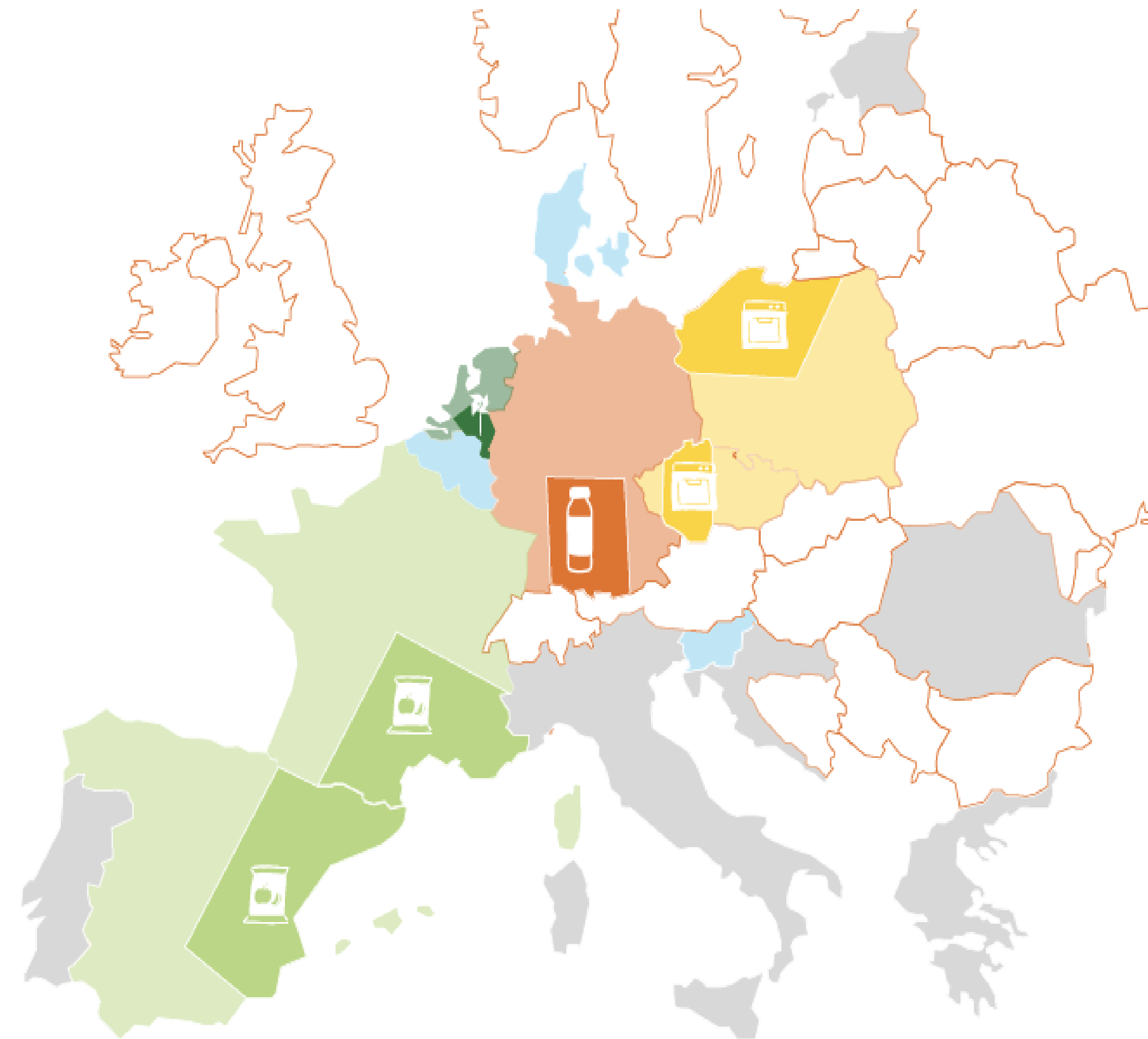
**Food Circle 4**  
**Upscaling plant side streams**  
 Noord-Brabant, NL



Green peas and  
 carrot pomace



Mild processing  
 technologies: high  
 pressure, PEF,  
 supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, mild  
 thermal technologies



Partner regions Associated partner regions





# Approach: technologies and units

What is „in the box“ ....?

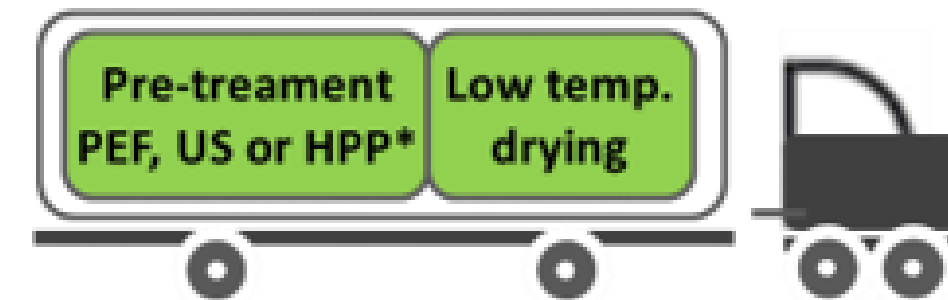
Processing steps

harvesting    Sorting/ selecting    Washing/ dipping    Pre-treatment    Preserving step    Packaging

**Food Circle 1**  
Mild processing



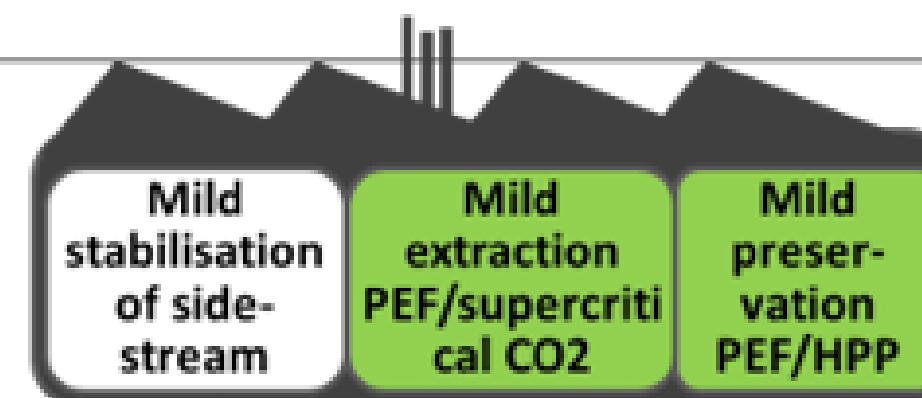
**Food Circle 2**  
Mild drying



**Food Circle 3**  
conditioning and packaging



**Food Circle 4**  
Upcycling plant side-streams



Modul in unit

Innovative module in unit

\* In case of HPP: not part of mobile unit but in toll centers







OCHSEN



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# The program



- 13:00 – 13:40 PM Session 1**  
Building Resilient Regional Food Systems - Reflect the FOX Project Approach
- 13:40 – 15:15 PM Session 2**  
The Future is Local: How the FOX Project is Transforming Small-Scale Food Production
- 15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break and poster session**
- 15:45 – 17:10 PM Session 3**  
Processing the Harvest: Consumer engagement, Sustainability, and Health
- 17:10 – 18:00 Closure and networking reception**



**13:15 Keynote speech:**  
‘Policy perspectives on Regional Food Systems: Promoting Sustainable Food Production and Consumption’  
• **Ana Patricia Lopez**  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

**13:25 Keynote speech:**  
‘From Policy to Economic Growth: Unleashing the Potential of Localised Production’  
• **Minna Huttunen**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

**PM Session 2**  
The Future is Local: How the FOX Project is Transforming Small-Scale Food Production

**13:40 Presentation:**  
‘Shorter, Greener, Smarter: Transforming the Food Chain with Innovative Technologies’  
• **Malgorzata Nowacka**  
Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW)  
• **Martijnje Vollebregt**  
Wageningen University & Research (WUR)  
• **Leonor Pascual**  
AINIA

**14:25 Panel discussion:**  
‘Insights from the Field: Stakeholders perspectives share during FOX’s live events’  
• **Ariette Matser**  
Wageningen University & Research (WUR)  
• **Christian Falkenstein**  
Falkenstein Projektmanagement GmbH  
• **Milena Zdravkovic**  
Gelita AG  
• **Leonor Pascual**  
AINIA

**15:00 Presentation:**  
‘Business Opportunities for Food Producers and Regional Food Systems’  
• **Björn Moller**  
Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI

**15:15** 🍎 Coffee break and poster session (30 min)





# For Your Information

## Questions to speakers?

- 1 Raise your hand during the Q&A time!
- 2 If there was no time for your question, please send it to us via **slido.com**.

Join **slido.com**  
with **#FOX**



## Any other questions?

The EUFIC team is ready to help!



## Post event email

All attendees and people registered to our newsletter will receive an email with the presentations, recordings of the sessions, illustrations and Q&A compilation







Innovative local processing  
for a sustainable future

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