

ISSUE 4

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

We are delighted to share with you the latest developments, achievements, and insights from the RIA4FOOD project. As we move forward on our mission to drive innovation, sustainability, and resilience across the agri-food value chain, this edition highlights the progress our teams and partners have made in recent months.

Inside this issue, you will find updates on our ongoing research activities, new pilot actions, collaborative initiatives, and upcoming events that continue to shape the future of food systems. Each milestone brings us closer to empowering stakeholders with data-driven solutions and innovative technologies that foster efficiency and environmental responsibility.

## LET'S KEEP ADVANCING A SMARTER, GREENER, AND MORE CONNECTED AGRI-FOOD FUTURE, TOGETHER!

Thank you for being part of our growing community. Your engagement and support fuel the momentum behind the RIA4FOOD vision. We hope you enjoy this edition and stay inspired by the collective strides we are making together.

WELCOME TO THE 4TH ISSUE OF THE RIA4FOOD PROJECT NEWSLETTER!



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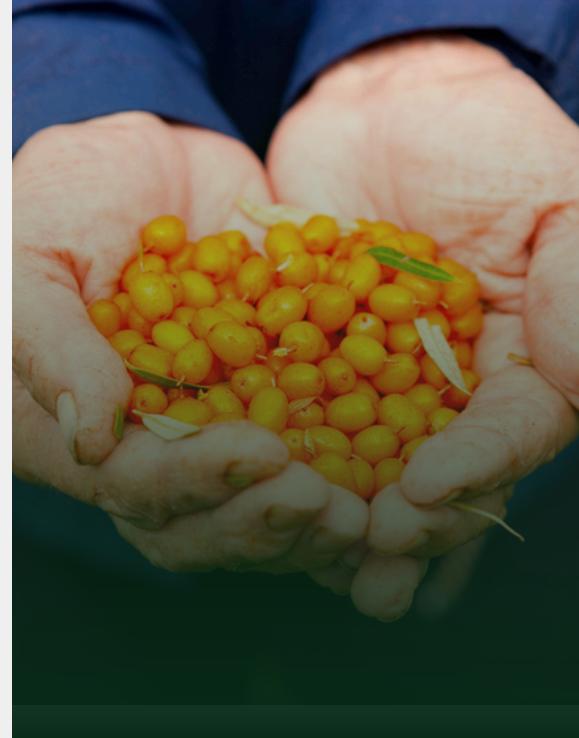


# RECENT EVENTS ACROSS RIA4FOOD



The past months have been rich in activities, collaboration, and knowledge exchange across the RIA4FOOD network. From impactful meetings to key dissemination events, our partners have continued to drive forward the project's objectives with dedication.

Here is a look at the milestones that marked this period.



## 24TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE LIFE SCIENCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA (25-27 SEPTEMBER 2025)

The RIA4FOOD project was proudly represented at the 24th International Conference Life Sciences for Sustainable Development, held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, between 25-27 September 2025. This high-impact scientific event brought together researchers, industry representatives, and stakeholders working toward innovative and sustainable solutions in the life sciences sector. Within this framework, the RIA4FOOD team delivered the oral presentation "Functional Assessment of Processed Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) Varieties Under Simulated *In Vitro* Digestion." The contribution showcased our ongoing research focused on evaluating the bioaccessibility and functional potential of differently processed sea buckthorn products, an important step in understanding how processing conditions influence nutritional quality and health-related attributes. Participation in this conference strengthened the dissemination of RIA4FOOD outcomes and fostered valuable scientific dialogue with experts from related disciplines.



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# RECENT EVENTS ACROSS RIA4FOOD



Participants attending the scientific sessions of the 24th International Conference "Life Sciences for Sustainable Development" in Cluj-Napoca, where RIA4FOOD research findings were disseminated to the academic community.



Group photo of conference participants gathered in front of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj-Napoca, marking RIA4FOOD's contribution to this international event dedicated to sustainable development in the life sciences.



## EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT – CLUJ-NAPOCA, 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

The European Researchers' Night is a major pan-European science outreach event held annually with the aim of bringing research and innovation closer to the public. Through interactive demonstrations, hands-on experiments, exhibitions, and discussions with scientists, the event encourages citizens of all ages to explore the impact of research on society and everyday life. Organized simultaneously across numerous EU countries, it fosters curiosity, promotes scientific literacy, and strengthens the connection between researchers and the broader community. By offering an accessible and engaging setting, the European Researchers' Night highlights the value of science in addressing societal challenges and inspires the next generation of innovators.



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# RECENT EVENTS ACROSS RIA4FOOD

## EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT – CLUJ-NAPOCA

26 SEPTEMBER 2025



During the 2025 edition of the European Researchers' Night in Cluj-Napoca, organized with the involvement of USAMV Cluj-Napoca and Inspire Science, the RIA4FOOD project actively contributed to promoting scientific knowledge within the community. The RIA4FOOD team presented interactive demonstrations and educational materials showcasing the project's work on sustainable food systems, functional foods, and innovative research methods. Through engaging discussions, the team highlighted how RIA4FOOD advances scientific understanding in the agri-food sector and supports healthier, more sustainable dietary solutions. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with students, families, and curious visitors, raising awareness of the project's objectives and strengthening its outreach at regional level.



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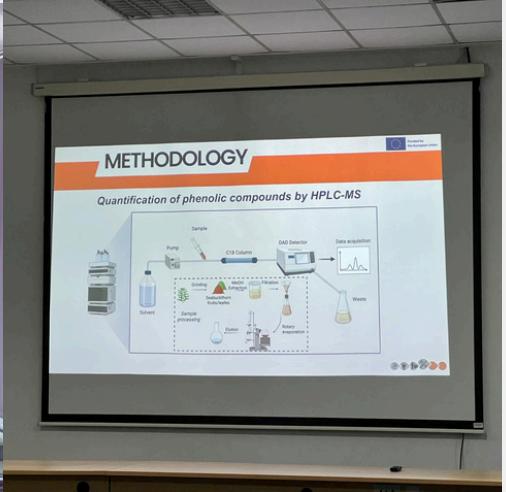
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## RIA4FOOD AT THE SMART DIASPORA 2025 CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4-7, 2025



The Smart Diaspora 2025 Conference brought together distinguished researchers, innovators, industry leaders, and representatives of the Romanian scientific diaspora in an inspiring forum dedicated to advancing research excellence and strengthening international collaboration. As one of the most significant platforms for dialogue between Romanian academics abroad and institutions within the country, the conference fostered the exchange of ideas, interdisciplinary perspectives, and strategic visions for a more innovative and globally connected research ecosystem. This edition emphasized the role of science and technology in addressing societal challenges, supporting sustainable development, and driving economic competitiveness. Through thematic sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, participants explored emerging trends, shared cutting-edge research outcomes, and identified avenues for collaborative projects that bridge borders and disciplines. Smart Diaspora 2025 thus served not only as a celebration of scientific achievement but also as a catalyst for long-term partnerships that enrich both national and international research landscapes. During this prestigious gathering of Romanian scientists working both in the country and abroad, the USAMV Cluj-Napoca team proudly presented the RIA4FOOD project, highlighting its scientific contributions and relevance for the future of sustainable food systems. Through dedicated discussions and interactions with participants, the team showcased the project's core research directions and emphasized its potential to support healthier diets and more resilient agri-food chains. The presence of RIA4FOOD at Smart Diaspora 2025 strengthened the project's visibility within the Romanian research community and fostered new connections with specialists interested in interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge transfer.

# RECENT EVENTS ACROSS RIA4FOOD

## RIA4FOOD AT THE “MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & POLICIES” SEMINAR – UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, 15 OCTOBER 2025



On October 15, 2025, the RIA4FOOD project was proudly showcased during the poster exhibition at the seminar “Multifunctional Agriculture: Education, Entrepreneurship & Policies,” organized within the framework of the MY FARM project and hosted at the University of Patras Conference & Cultural Center, Greece. This event brought together academics, policymakers and entrepreneurs, interested in shaping the future of modern agriculture. Through its dedicated poster presentation, RIA4FOOD highlighted innovative, science-driven approaches for achieving safe, sustainable, and smart food production. The project’s contribution sparked meaningful dialogue with experts and stakeholders, who showed strong interest in its methodology, research outcomes, and potential applications across the agri-food sector. Participation in this seminar not only strengthened the visibility of RIA4FOOD but also reinforced the project’s role in supporting transformative solutions aligned with European strategies for sustainable food systems.



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## RIA4FOOD AT THE GUARDAGENTS KICK-OFF MEETING – UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, 19–20 NOVEMBER 2025



On 19–20 November 2025, the RIA4FOOD project was presented during the GUARDAGENTS Kick-off Meeting, hosted at the Conference & Cultural Center of the University of Patras. This event marked the official start of the GUARDAGENTS initiative, bringing together researchers, project coordinators, and institutional representatives to outline objectives, plan collaborative actions, and set the foundation for future project activities.

During the meeting, the RIA4FOOD team contributed to the scientific dialogue by introducing the project's core research directions and results, with a focus on innovative approaches for evaluating functional foods, simulating in vitro digestion, and supporting sustainable production systems. The presentation sparked active discussions on synergies between GUARDAGENTS and RIA4FOOD, especially in the context of shared goals related to food safety, nutrition, and technological innovation.

Alongside the formal presentations, participants had the opportunity to visit the RIA4FOOD poster stand, which showcased the project's methodology, research achievements, and ongoing activities. The event provided an excellent platform to strengthen inter-project collaboration and enhance visibility within the broader European research community.



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# SECONDEES ACTIVITY & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



As part of the RIA4FOOD commitment to strengthening scientific collaboration, capacity building, and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, several secondees carried out research visits across partner institutions during this period. These secondments provided valuable hands-on experience, exposure to advanced methodologies, and new perspectives that enrich our project's scientific outcomes. Below, we highlight the experiences and contributions of our secondees during their mobility activities.

## SECONDEE SPOTLIGHT – FSH → UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

During her secondment at the University of Patras, Suncica focused on the extraction and analysis of bioactive compounds from sea buckthorn varieties, applying advanced metabolite profiling techniques and participating in NMR analytical sessions. Her work contributed to the functional assessment activities within RIA4FOOD, while also enhancing her understanding of complex laboratory workflows and sustainability assessment challenges.



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# SECONDEES ACTIVITY & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



## SECONDEE SPOTLIGHT – FSH → USAMV

During her secondment at the USAMV Cluj-Napoca, Nadiia expanded her expertise as a food scientist by working with a three-phase *in vitro* static digestion model. Her research focused on evaluating how fresh and osmotic sea buckthorn products behave throughout the oral, gastric, and intestinal stages of digestion, providing deeper insight into nutrient release and structural transformation. In addition, she contributed to studies simulating colonic fermentation, gaining exposure to advanced tools used to assess the full digestive trajectory of functional food components.



This hands-on experience strengthened her understanding of how digestion affects the bioaccessibility and behavior of bioactive compounds, while also demonstrating how such evidence supports innovation in functional foods and health-oriented products. Working alongside researchers trained in these methodologies allowed her to connect theory with practical application, enriching both her technical skills and her perspective on research translation within the RIA4FOOD project.





AS WE CLOSE THE YEAR, WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO ALL PARTNERS, RESEARCHERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROGRESS OF THE RIA4FOOD PROJECT. YOUR DEDICATION AND COLLABORATION CONTINUE TO DRIVE OUR SCIENTIFIC MISSION FORWARD. WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2026 WITH RENEWED ENERGY, NEW OBJECTIVES, AND A SHARED COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR.

### THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



NovaMechanics  
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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE RIA4FOOD JOURNEY THIS YEAR. WE WISH YOU A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A BRIGHT START TO THE NEW YEAR!



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