



High Tech Farming partnership

**Working Committee
Semi-annual Meeting
11th June 2018, Seinajoki, Finland**

About the partnership

Objectives

Accelerating the development and adoption of Precision Farming technologies by:

- **Improving projects impact**
- **Reducing funding and/or knowledge gaps**
- **Allowing a better management and better marketing of new technologies**

S3 HTF Partnership was established as an informal consortium in October 2016, it officially started its operation at the S3 Agri-Food Platform Kick-off event (6-7 December 2016).

About the partnership

Focus and topics

New and High technologies relevant for farming practices: sensing, data acquisition/management, automation/robotics, including ancillary activities such as maintenance & repairing, training and on-farm demo activities.

Focus on 4 Value chains:

Crops; Tree cultivations; Livestock; Protected cultivations and 5 technology/service oriented areas:

- **Eyes and touch:** sensors and data acquisition
- **Mind:** data processing
- **Arms:** automation and machineries
- **Services:** maintenance/repairing; training and demo



About the partnership

Participating regions

The partnership is mainly driven by Regional Administrations from 13 EU Countries. Partner Regions:

Flanders, Weser–Ems, Central Macedonia, West Macedonia, Galicia, Extremadura, South Ostrobothnia, Pays De la Loire, Toscana, Marche, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, North East Romania, East Central Sweden, Northern Netherlands, Gelderland, Noord Holland, Zuid Holland, North-Brabant, Limburg, Northern Ireland, Centro.

Estonia is the only National Government which participates as partner

Partners have mapped main actors as follow:

80 Academy/RTO; 163 Companies; 23 Governments; 160 End-users (farmers)

State of development of the partnership and achievements today

- Scoping Note
- Joint mapping (+extended mapping → JRC expert)
- Submission of INTERREG project “Hint4AF” (failed)
- Connection with a H2020 funded projects (NEFERTITI)
- Participation to / Organisation of events
- Identification of promising business cases - Submission of the Expression of Interest under DG REGIO call and selection as Pilot Partnership

Learn -> Connect -> Demonstrate -> Commercialise -> Scale-up



Extended mapping

Observations made by Prof. Emanuela Todeva (*High Tech Farming Value Chain: European Agri-Food Platform 2018*)

- The high-tech is disconnected from the intensely integrated agro-farming;
- Lack of internationalisation and most subsidiaries are within the Regions;
- Very big discrepancy across regions in terms of diversification (as well as in terms of reporting);
- Emergence of dynamic capabilities around landscaping services;
- Only 37% of firms have data on employment while only 16% on revenue, where negative performance does not allow to determine any patterns at cluster level.

Progresses

After the selection as Pilot Partnership by DG REGIO, Partners have selected a reduced number of promising pilot business cases to be developed along 2018:

- **Technology adoption in small and family farms**
- **Agriculture warnings for weeds and diseases**
- **Integration of sensors to monitor and improve the conditions of livestock**

Planning in terms of demo cases and potential business cases

1. Technology adoption in small and family farms

The business case is focused on the development of a PPP for the implementation of a **service platform for agritech**.

Main actors: ICT Companies, Demo-farms, Agritech companies, Public Bodies – Paying Agencies, Standardization and certification bodies.

With a strong role of ICT and demo-farms, the pilot constitutes a business incubators for new technology solutions, particularly targeting small and family farmers, thus accelerating the technology development from Small and Medium Agritech Enterprises and the uptake by farmers.

Leading Region: Tuscany

2. Agriculture warnings for weeds and diseases

In Flanders, a relevant project is supporting technology improvement for the detection and treatment of toxic weeds in agricultural crops by drones via remote sensing. The project is matching the interest of Pays de la Loire, where companies are collaborating in a PPP to develop an agricultural robotic platform for different application on-field (e.g. weeding), and of Central Macedonia, with established pilot sites to offer advice on Agricultural Warnings for pests and diseases.

Leading Region: Flanders

3. Integration of sensors to monitor and improve the conditions of livestock

In North Brabant, a brand new sustainable farming concept aiming at zero emission by 2025 generated a cluster of innovative projects on livestock (*Familievarken, Floating Farm and Total circular farm*). This approach offers interesting connections with Centro Region, where a disruptive concept of Community goats herd (FarmReal) allows farmers to follow goats' life through a web platform, based on the data collected from sensorised collars.

Leading Region: North Brabant

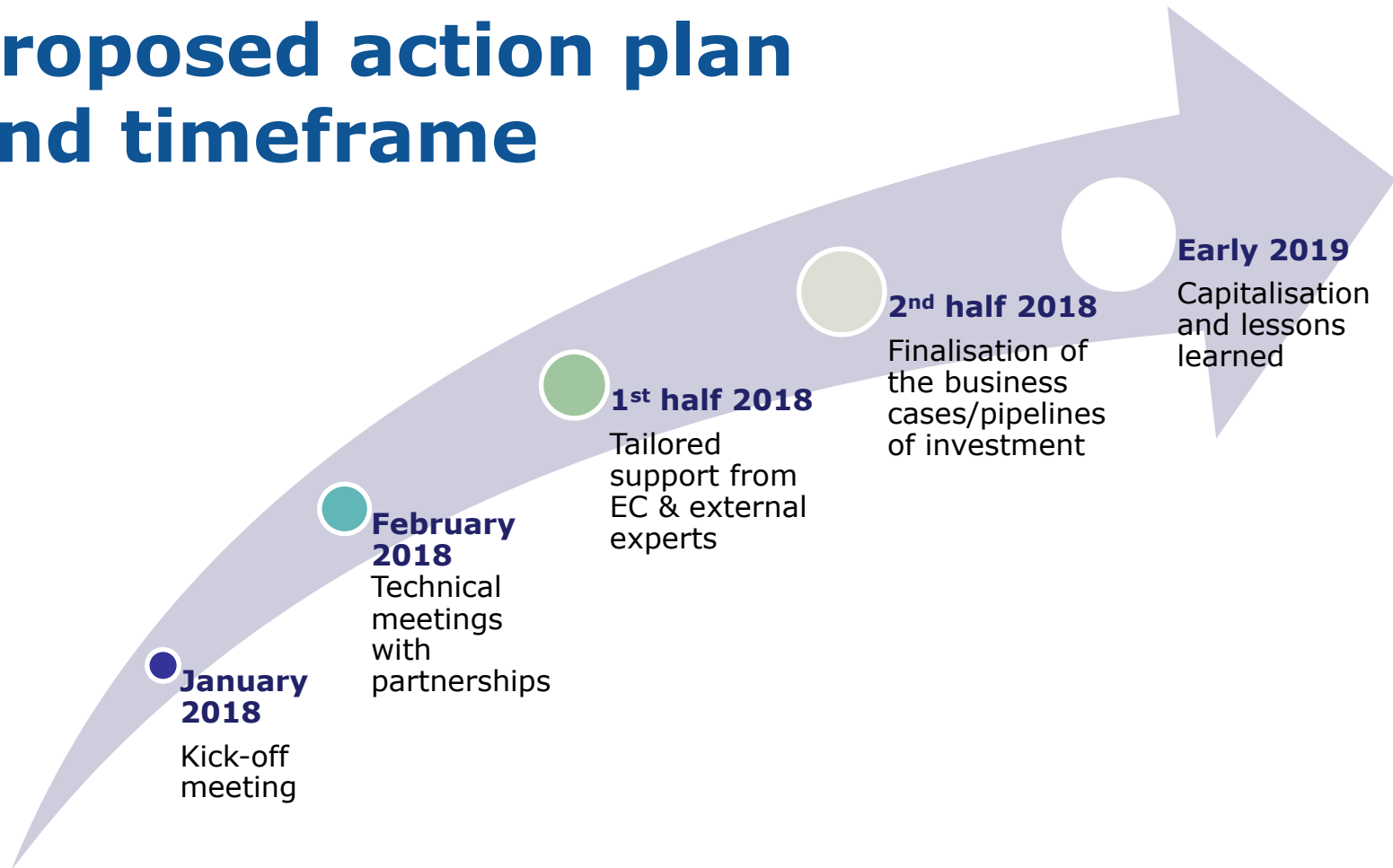
Challenges / Bottlenecks

- *Selection of business cases*
 - *Development of strong relationship among partners*
 - *Identification of a concept for interviewing actors*
 - *Meetings and exchange of info to allow convergences*
- *Integration of competences vs Market competition*
- *Improving administrative capacities in public bodies and cluster management (Interregional dimension is not Business as Usual)*
- *Closing the gap between technology providers and primary producers (Post market services, trust, economic sustainability, market dimension)*

Expected support

- *Involvement of businesses / facilitators*
- *Definition and alignment of funding tools*
- *Market analysis*
- *Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes at Interregional level*
- *Legal issues (e.g. IPR and Data protection)*

Pilot Action - Proposed action plan and timeframe



Future plans

Next events

- Brussels, SMART AKIS Event 27 June: Panel debate + Expo Village → [Registration](#)
- Bretagne (SPACE Fair: 11-14 September 2018)
- Centro (IOTec+Agro: 3-4 October 2018)

Other issues:

- Improving the Partnership Governance and revising the Action Plan according to Business Cases development