

## Case Descriptions of the Local Innovation Partnership in Vidzeme, Latvia

### Context

#### Local Innovation Partnership (LIP) in Vidzeme, Latvia

The political framework and action plans to reach the region's bioeconomy vision is outlined in [Vidzeme Planning Region \(VPR\) Development Program 2021-2027](#). [Vidzeme Planning Region Sustainable Development Strategy 2030](#) includes the action plan towards a 'knowledge-based bioeconomy', focusing on high value-added wood products, production of healthy food and beverages and use of biomass for chemical processing and energy production.

The research of smart specialization of Vidzeme region, bioeconomy action plan and practical activities in Vidzeme region show that region's weakness towards development of bioeconomy is lack of knowledge. The pilot will tackle the challenge of healthy and sustainable food production and consumption with readily applicable concepts.

### Why

- There is a need in Vidzeme region to promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity. Along with the European Green Deal policy initiative, as well as the [Farm to Fork](#) strategy developed within it.
- Vidzeme Planning Region also puts more and more emphasis on activities and projects that promote the implementation and development of new, more sustainable food systems in the region

*"KISMET actualises the involvement of more and more interested parties in discussions and actions regarding the development of new agricultural and food industry models, while highlighting the need for a regional food strategy and helping with the development of sustainable food systems in the Vidzeme region and its municipalities." - Marta Riekstiņa (Vidzeme Planning Region)*

### What

One of the main challenges in Vidzeme region regarding the development of sustainable food systems is the lack of knowledge and interaction of actors in food system in such topics as:

- Technologies/ digitalisation
- Circularity
- Sustainability assessment
- Green procurement

### Who

#### Project Partners

- [Vidzeme Planning Region](#)

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#### Associated Organisation

- Latvian Food Bioeconomy Cluster

#### Other Stakeholders

- 11 Vidzeme municipalities
- Regional SMEs
- Institute of Agricultural resources and economics
- Vidzeme University of Applied Science
- Business incubators
- Latvian Rural Advisory and training centre
- Latvian Rural Forum



## Piloting the KISMET project's

# Enabling Programme for Sustainable Food Environments

## 1 | Governance, integration, participation

### Co-creation model for developing food strategy

#### Development of Vidzeme Food Strategy

None of Vidzeme region municipality have their food strategies, the food policy as itself is such a new task in their agenda. Facts and data about the status quo of food system in Vidzeme region is not sufficient to be used as tool for motivating politicians to take more sustainable actions towards developing local food systems.

For that reason, a regional Food strategy could be a very useful tool, like a roadmap for activities for Vidzeme Planning region as a regional level player as well as local municipalities and other players of food system.

#### Actions:

- Investigate our strategies/visions/action plans that our food strategy should relate to.
- Collect data and facts about the status quo of food system in Vidzeme region.
- Engage local and regional stakeholders (LIP members and others).
- Develop a vision, aims and action plan.
- Communicate about the importance of the strategy

## 2 | Demand-side (drivers for sustainable consumption)

### Food education for public sector

#### Educating the persons, who are part of the provision of public catering

Chefs in public kitchens and menu developers often lack knowledge about new food combinations, about the usage of seasonal products, how to better plan the menu in order to include more and more local products.

However, it also needs to go hand in hand with the procurement process of public catering, that requirements of these procurements are in line with the new menus and inclusion of more and more local food products.

#### Actions:

- Trainings about the novel food, sustainable food.
- Creation of sustainable menus.
- Piloting, if possible, the new menus.
- Workshops with municipalities, companies and other stakeholders, who are involved in public catering.

## 3 | Supply-side (drivers for sustainable production)

### Development plan for Quadruple helix network activities

#### Widening networking opportunities

Local networking is already very active but is rather small in scope and should be wider and outside the regional and even national borders. There are a lot of important players in food systems located in other region, with whom knowledge exchange and cooperation could be needed.

#### Actions:

- Trainings about the novel food, alternative proteins, tastes.
- Trainings about the product development.
- Food forum.
- Benchmarking visits to KISMET partners.