DRIVING EU-AFRICAN TRADE BY FOOD CHAIN INNOVATIONS

Our first year: building bridges between Europe and Africa

From the kick-off in Freising to the mid-term meeting in Tunisia: news from 15 partners in 12 countries working for fairer, healthier and more sustainable food trade.



EDITORIAL

Welcome from the Coordinator

Dear readers,

Africa's food systems hold enormous potential, yet trade barriers, gaps in logistics and limited access to knowledge and finance still keep many farmers and small businesses from reaching new markets. STREAMING was created to change this. In our first year, 15 partners from 12 countries in Europe and Africa have laid strong foundations. We launched the project in Freising and met again at our mid-term meeting in Tunisia. We started joint work on digital trade solutions and took STREAMING to stakeholders in Ethiopia. Our first open call attracted more than 500 applications, a clear sign of the energy in the innovation community. I warmly thank our partners, evaluators, sister projects and the many stakeholders who have joined us. I invite you to read about our progress, follow us online and take part in the opportunities ahead.

Marlies Resch & Thomas Lötzbeyer
Project Coordination, University of Applied Science Weihenstephan-Triesdorf (HSWT)

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KICK-OFF MEETING · FREISING, GERMANY · 05-06 March 2025

STREAMING sets off in Freising



Hosted by the coordinator, Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf (HSWT), the kick-off meeting brought together the 15 partners of STREAMING from Europe and Africa to launch the 42-month Horizon Europe project.

These were discussed: Policy perspectives and strategies, administrative aspects of EU STREAMING, Financial aspects of EU STREAMING, short introduction of all partners, work program of EU STREAMING for the first 12 months, presentation and discussions on the financial support to third parties, dissemination & communication plan.

MID-TERM MEETING · DJERBA, TUNISIA · 02-09 May 2026

Halfway there: the consortium meets in Tunisia

Hosted by the Université de Gabès (UNIVGB), partners reviewed progress across all work packages and planned the second half of the project.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Planning the next 12 months:** Breakout sessions allowed each work package plan its next year, with one-to-one Q&A support on mid-term reporting.
2. **Links to local innovation:** Partners were introduced to iHuzo Africa and Technopole Medenine, and could visit the Incubation Center in Medenine, strengthening ties between the project and Tunisia's innovation scene.





15 partners

12 countries in Europe and Africa

42 months, Feb 2025 – Jul 2028

€4.4M Horizon Europe funding

WORK PACKAGE 3 · DIGITALISATION FOR EFFICIENT TRADE RELATIONS

First face-to-face WP3 workshop maps the road ahead

Europe needs additional trading partners to preserve its economic strength and resilience, and Africa offers immense potential: thousands of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are eager to bring their products to Europe, yet trade barriers stand in the way.

In WP3, BITMi, GS1 Germany, HSWT, Rwanda ICT Chamber and Wageningen University & Research are developing practical solutions for the seamless exchange of trade data, tailored training materials and a digital platform to support local business growth.

The team met for its first face-to-face workshop hosted by Anna Brodmann and Dr. Geraldine Schmitz (BITMi). A second workshop was held at Wageningen University NL, followed by a third meeting at the GS1 head office in Cologne Germany.



“I’m genuinely inspired by the energy and commitment of every team member. It’s rare to see such motivation across the board.”

- Juriaan, WUR

RESEARCH IN FOCUS · WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Investigating digital innovation in Rwanda’s food systems



In July 2025, WUR PhD researcher Juriaan Wolfers, Philemon Mugisha (ICT Chamber Rwanda) and Dr. Geraldine Schmitz (BITMi) visited partners in Kigali to support WP3 activities on digitalisation and EU–Africa trade relations. They engaged with Rwandan coffee, tea, cassava, dairy and vegetable producers to explore sectoral challenges.

Subsequent FQD Master’s research examined digital transformation and trade compliance in East African cassava and tea value chains, followed by studies on Tunisian fish and Ethiopian avocado chains. Findings highlighted farmers’ and intermediaries’ limited access to knowledge, finance and evolving certification and regulatory requirements.

NEW PUBLICATION

Mapping of digital transformation in the African Agri-food trade system

Juriaan Wolfers, Ayalew Kassahun, Cor Verdouw, Bedir Tekinerdoğan · Trends in Food Science & Technology, 2026· Open access

DOI / link: 10.1016/j.tifs.2026.106083

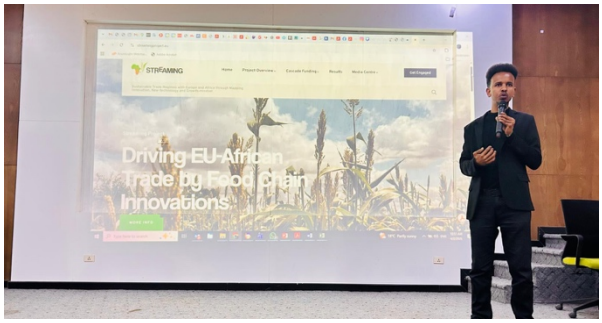
DISSEMINATION EVENT · OROMIA REGION, ETHIOPIA · 02 APRIL 2026

Bringing STREAMING to stakeholders in Ethiopia

The Western Balkans Institute (WEBIN), which leads communication and dissemination in STREAMING, organised a dissemination event at three Ethiopian Universities; Arsi University, Borana University & Oromia State University.

The event was led by STREAMING Impact Pathway Strategist & CDE leader Mr. Yahya Adow Ibrahim, and aimed to promote the upcoming open call for innovation transfer while raising awareness of the project's results and opportunities.

Participants were introduced to the open call's objectives, and how innovations can move from research into real-world practice. Such events help build institutional collaboration and the uptake of project innovations across Africa.







CASCADE FUNDING · OPEN CALLS

€875,000 to bring research into practice

Through Financial Support to Third Parties, STREAMING funds universities, research centres, NGOs, incubators and their practice partners to transfer knowledge and innovation along the food value chain.

CLOSED · KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER CALL

€275,000

Up to €25,000 per project for practice-oriented courses on nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, life cycle assessment and sustainable food production.

500+ applications

~100 evaluators

11 projects funded

COMING SOON · INNOVATION TRANSFER CALL

€600,000

Grants for innovation transfer activities: sustainable food processing, aquaculture, alternative proteins, digital technologies, packaging and more.

Coming soon….

Apply: streamingproject.eu/open-calls

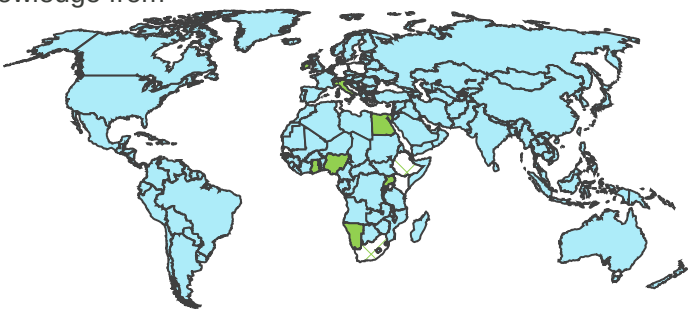
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CASCADE FUNDING · KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PROJECTS

11 funded projects across Europe and Africa

The 11 projects selected in the Knowledge Transfer Call are based in Egypt, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Namibia, Nigeria and Uganda. They contribute directly to STREAMING's expected outcomes by moving knowledge from research into practice, with a focus on:

- Life cycle assessment tools
- Reducing food waste
- Protecting biodiversity
- Innovative solutions for food system actors
- Climate-neutral, fair, just and efficient food trade



Funded project countries STREAMING consortium countries

WORK PACKAGE 2 · FIELD CAMPAIGN · SOUTHERN TUNISIA · 13-18 JULY 2026

Scouting agrifood innovation in arid Southern Tunisia

STREAMING reached a major milestone with an intensive field scouting campaign across Gabès, Médenine and Kébili. An interdisciplinary team assessed candidate innovations against technical criteria, focusing on food security, alternative proteins and reducing post-harvest losses. The scouting days were open to rural women innovators, students, PhD researchers and young entrepreneurs, and female entrepreneurship stood out strongly.

31 project ideas scouted

23 start-ups evaluated

HIGHLIGHTED START-UPS

- **NoriNutri**: protein extraction from Moringa oleifera
- **VIE VERTE BSF**: Black Soldier Fly insect bio-conversion
- **BioFeedOasis**: animal feed from oasis biomass
- **Eco Saveurs**: adding value to dates



AI MODIFIED



Scouting session with innovators and partners



Field visit in an oasis in southern Tunisia

The campaign shows how arid bioresources can drive a circular bioeconomy and empower local communities across African innovation corridors.

AI Usage Acknowledgement: Image was used for illustrative purposes

STREAMING IN NUMBERS ·

~5,000	**193,068**	**108,765**	**500+**
LinkedIn followers	LinkedIn impressions in 12 months	members reached organically	open call applications

STRONGER TOGETHER

Synergies with sister projects

STREAMING works with FCI4Africa, its twinning project, and with FS4Africa, INCITIS-FOOD and modernAKIS, sharing exhibitions and promoting each other's open calls. With the PRIMA project ProxIMed, HSWT runs Start2Scale, a free short course taking food businesses from idea to reality.



COMING UP

What's next in 2027

March	Innovation Transfer Call: deadline and webinar for applicants
April	Opening of innovation hubs and model farms in Africa
May	Launch of the STREAMING learning platform and courses
May	Webinar on policy recommendations for non-tariff barriers

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