



EUFRUIT Project



Freshfel joined another research project called EUFRUIT, financed under the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union. This project is a project which has been made possible, amongst others, because of the Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SIRA) for the fruit and vegetable sector, as published by the task force of AREFLH, EUFRIN and Freshfel. The EUFRUIT project launched on 3-4 March 2016 is a concrete result of the efforts of AREFLH and Freshfel Europe in collaboration with EUFRIN to bring together the fruit sector and their research institutes.



EUFRUIT is a project focussed primarily on research exchange in Europe. The aim is to set up a unique thematic European Fruit Network where research institutes and the European representative organizations of the fresh fruit sector are joining forces. Currently, much of the knowledge gathered through research is wasted as it is not properly shared throughout Europe. The aim of this project is to facilitate a better exchange of information for the benefit of (applied) research in the EU.



Altogether, EUFRUIT gathers a consortium of 21 partners from 12 different countries. The consortium will focus its activities on 4 crucial thematic areas for the competitiveness and innovation potential of the European fruit sector. These areas include:



1. New cultivar development,
2. Minimise residues on fruit and in the environment,
3. Optimise storage and fruit quality, as well as,
4. Enhance sustainable production systems.



EUFRUIT will act as a knowledge platform while providing unique networking opportunities for academics and researchers partners, fruit business operators as well as decision makers. From the fresh produce sector, both AREFLH (Association of the Regions producing fruit, vegetables and horticulture products) and Freshfel Europe (European fruit and vegetables Association) will be actively involved in the dissemination of the project achievements to the sector. As such, Freshfel will play an active role in communicating and disseminating information about this project.



The project has an overall budget of 1.8 million EUR for a three year period. The network will establish in the upcoming three years a systematic approach for knowledge gathering and dissemination. This will be facilitated by harmonizing methodologies for the scanning and synthesis of knowledge, and foster exchange of best practises and technologies reviewed by international experts in the 4 priorities areas of the thematic network. It will importantly secure a direct path for new knowledge and reduce the likelihood of repetition of research at a national level.



Jointly with the other partners in the project AREFLH and Freshfel Europe will regularly update the sector on the progress of the work. The websites of EUFRIN (www.eufrin.org), Areflh (www.areflh.org) and Freshfel Europe (www.freshfel.org) will provide regular updates on the project developments.

