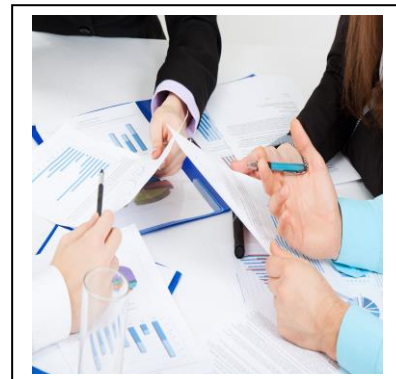


# Advancement of non-technological innovation performance and innovation capacity in the fruit growing and processing sectors in selected Baltic Sea countries

→ *The project aims at developing the fruit growing potential in the Baltic Sea Region to secure the availability of healthy, high quality fruit and fruit products through research driven innovations, thereby increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of the fruit chain in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden.*

Priority area	Innovation
Specific objective	Research and innovation infrastructure
Project acronym	InnoFruit
Lead Partner	Latvia State Institute of Fruit growing, Latvia
Project partners	3 LV, 2 PL, 1 LT, 1 SE
Project budget*	Total EUR 1,5 MM
*preliminary figures before contract signature	



## Summary

Despite the fact that high level research in the field of fruit growing and processing has been developed in Latvia and Lithuania the transfer of knowledge and innovation in these countries is limited due to the lack of appropriate advisory systems, slow development of fruit growing cooperatives, and low absorptive capacity of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

The mutual exchange of knowledge and learning among the project partners aim to address the specific objective of the project to increase the number of successful SMEs in the fruit growing sector through the use and implementation of technological and non-technological innovations via a newly created demo farm network.

The complementary competencies of research organisations, nongovernmental organisations, producers’ cooperatives, and SMEs constituting the project consortium will facilitate efficient development and use of the demonstration base offered by the

open network. The activities to be performed as part of the project will also lead to the elaboration of guidelines for the establishment of similar demo farms in other countries, more efficient communication tools for diverse stakeholder groups, increased accessibility of new demonstration objects for fruit growing and fruit processing companies, as well as development of policy recommendations on knowledge and technology transfer in the fruit growing and food sector.

The project is expected to boost the innovation capacity of companies in the Baltic Sea Region, especially in the area of process, organisation, and marketing innovations, enabling them to open up new markets or reposition their products. It will also enhance the profile of the research organisations in providing relevant extension services along with boosting their research capacity and technological base. The project will contribute to the advancement and sustainable development of the knowledge based bioeconomy sector, int. al. contributing to the mitigation of regional disparities in the macro region.