



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On the 15th November 2018, the EUFRUIT consortium met in Bolzano (Italy), for the project's third and last General Assembly. EUFRUIT is a multi-layered, thematic network under the Horizon 2020 programme (Project ID: 696337) that aims to bridge the gap between research outcomes and uptake of those results by the sector itself.

During the past three years, the consortium members have collected a large array of best practices and ongoing research efforts on a public Knowledge Platform at <http://kp.eufrin.org/>. Additionally, the platform offers a set of synthesis reports which reflect the current state of play in research along four thematic areas: performance of new varieties and cultivar developments, minimising residues on fruit and in the environment, improving quality during handling and storage, and enhancing sustainable production systems.

The EUFRUIT project was launched in March 2016 with the objective of facilitating access to knowledge and disseminating existing research and innovation potential for the benefit of the fresh fruit sector. EUFRUIT is a thematic European Fruit Network, which comprises of a consortium of 21 official partners from 12 different countries. To connect the researchers' work to the business reality of the sector and to represent the fruit industry in the multi-actor project, both AREFLH (Association of European Horticultural Regions) and Freshfel Europe (European fresh fruit and vegetables Association) are part of the consortium. Both sector associations are actively involved in the dissemination of the project results and in providing input from a business and policy perspective in the project's goals and end results.

On the 15th of November, EUFRUIT's annual meeting took place in order to present the results achieved so far as well as to discuss the project's future after the end of the grant agreement. The project coordinator was pleased to announce that the consortium had successfully delivered on all its proposed objectives, particularly in the promotion of the Knowledge Platform's (KP) visibility as well as in its reaching out strategy towards end users. Today, the KP contains over 900 items (industry publications, technical bulletins, newsletters) which are publicly available to the widest possible audience. Included on the platform are scanning reports, which are drafted by the individual partners, containing the state of play within the partner's particular region and research field, and synthesis reports, which identify best practices and research gaps within one of the four mentioned thematic areas.

In addition, the EUFRUIT consortium agreed that the KP will be maintained after the project's end and will be regularly updated by individual members in order to ensure that knowledge will continue to be rapidly exchanged across country borders. Finally, the various project members present took turns at an EUFRUIT-specific exhibition stand to raise awareness of the project among visitors of the INTERPOMA trade fair which took place concomitantly to the meeting.

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AREFLH

Assembly of European Horticultural Regions

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Note to the Editors: *The Assembly of European Horticultural Regions (AREFLH) main missions are:*

- *to represent its 19 member regions and 25 AOPs, from 7 European countries;*
- *to defend the economic and social interests of the fruit, vegetable and horticultural sectors in Europe;*
- *to foster exchanges of best practices, partnerships and joint projects between regions and professional organisations;*
- *to actively seek new solutions for the main issues affecting the future of the fruit and vegetables production in Europe.*