

# TEMPLATE

## Output factsheet: Innovation networks

Version 1

<b>Project index number and acronym</b>	CE633 URBAN INNO
<b>Lead partner</b>	City of Rijeka
<b>Output number and title</b>	O.T1.2 Urban innovation clusters/networks established
<b>Responsible partner (PP name and number)</b>	PP6 TUKE
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## Summary description of the established innovation network explaining its structure and functions

The Innovation Network for Support of Local Economy in Kosice Region was established to support the cooperation among partners coming from research, development and innovation, education, entrepreneurs, public bodies, non-profit sector and general public in creation of proper conditions for the efficient functioning of the local economy, ensuring the marketing of local products and services produced by small and medium companies within the Kosice Region.

This partnership focuses its activities primarily on the area of cross-industry support of increase of local agricultural production competitiveness and the increase of efficiency of processes related to its positioning and marketing within regional and urban food systems. The Innovation Network shall answer to challenges in the form of the preparation and implementation of action plans and joint innovative projects for the development of Kosice Region. The pilot project of the network is the development and launch of agricultural digital marketplace pairing the urban demand for local food with the supply from surrounding rural parts.

The network was established on 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 by two founding members - Technical University of Kosice (representing the research and education domain) and Kosice Self-governing Region (Policy / Administration level partner) and is open for other partners to join. Until July 2018, following organizations joined in the role of regular partners: European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Via Carpatia (cross-border sectoral / business support organization), Gemer Craftsmen Association (Business support organization) and Agency for Support of Procurement Innovations (Civil society).

The innovation network is the voluntary cooperative grouping coordinated by network leader Technical University of Kosice. Members and network partners agreed to meet on irregular basis according to needs to coordinate the ongoing initiatives and projects, or availability of appropriate public and private funding for network actions.

## NUTS region(s) concerned by the innovation network (relevant NUTS level)

The activities of the innovation network will be concentrated mainly within the Kosice region (Kosický kraj) in the eastern part of Slovakia (Východné Slovensko).

NUTS1: SK0  
NUTS2: SK04  
NUTS3: SK042

## Expected impact and benefits of the innovation network for the concerned territories and target groups

The innovation network will answer to various challenges primarily in the area of local agricultural production competitiveness and its positioning and marketing within urban food networks, covering the agricultural production technology and processes, logistics, legislation duties, quality and safety control, business skills and marketing - therefore, the cross-industrial approach and quadruple-helix innovation partnership is essential to cope with these complex problems.

The activities are targeted to increase the quality of life of citizens in Kosice region. The network will help local SMEs to overcome the present state policy and market failures, aiming to increase the employment in the rural areas. The citizens in the urban areas will be given the improved access to healthier and more secure local food chains. The policy partners will be helped with the challenges they face by implementation of innovative solutions or by advisory activities provided by formed community of experts from different sectors. Innovation actors will improve the impacts of the activities they perform by coordinated approach in joint innovation action plans.

## Sustainability of the innovation network and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

Joint approach creating synergies among initiatives and presence of end-users from initial phases will help innovation network members to successfully solve the complex problems related to agricultural production and its marketing in local food systems.

The innovation network is built on generic principles and approaches - quadruple-helix approach respecting the voice of citizens, and using the participatory processes not only within its internal organization, but also within the activities with external stakeholders, when implementing innovative initiatives and projects - the network set-up can therefore be transferred to other areas or sectors. Moreover, the knowledge and best practices will be freely shared to other members to be transferred inter organizationally, but also spread across the relevant sectors and the society for the benefit of the regions and country.

## Lessons learned from the development and establishment process of the innovation network and added value of transnational cooperation

The development process of the cluster/network helped the members better understand their specific needs and motivations for their membership in the innovation network. Also the availability of the assets, in terms of infrastructure, networks, human and financial resources, that can be provided by different members for the sake of joint innovation initiatives, was discussed and understood. The understanding in both directions was being formed at several meetings and it took quite long period of time, however, it is recognized the cornerstone of future actions and the viability of the innovation network.

Within the formation of the innovation network, the knowledge gained within the transnational Core Team Training Workshops in Kosice and Rijeka guided the founding members through the development process, shaping the format of Innovation network management, communication and funding processes.

## References to relevant deliverables and web-links If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

### **Inventory of key innovation stakeholders - regional maps - Kosice**

The document describing the innovation environment and the actors in the region of Kosice, Slovakia.

### **Core Team Agreement - Kosice**

The Agreement of the Innovation Network members on the preparatory activities including the list of nominated persons for this activities.

### **Core Team Training Workshops**

1st in Kosice and 2nd in Rijeka realized by mentoring partners - e-Zavod and Municipality of Maribor from Slovenia

### **Basic urban innovation roadmap - Kosice**

Short-term goals, bringing to paper the vision, mission and structure of the new network.

### **Urban Innovation Network Launch Event**

The event the network was launched and presented to relevant national and foreign stakeholders.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

The document setting-up the Innovation Network by the Founding members.

### **Selected press articles and media appearances about Memorandum signing ceremony**

<https://kosicednes.sk/udalosti/ksk-tuke-zalozili-inovacnu-siet-na-podporu-lokalnej-ekonomiky/>

<https://web.vucke.sk/sk/novinky/kosicky-samospravny-kraj-ekonomicka-fakulta-tuke-zalozili-inovacnu-siet-podporu-lokalnej-ekonomiky.html>

<https://kosice.dnes24.sk/zalozili-inovacnu-siet-na-podporu-lokalnej-ekonomiky-303355>

<https://sk-sk.facebook.com/RastoTrnka/posts/1684458438333817>