



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EZINE

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Why FITR?

Small food businesses can transform local areas.

We seek to harness this potential by creating a **“How to guide”** for local communities to successfully establish food incubator hubs. These food incubator hubs will cater for the growing numbers of emerging food entrepreneurs who urgently need a place to produce, learn and grow.

Partner meeting

Hosted by Business Development Friesland, the FITR partners met in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands in April. Friesland being one of the main agro food regions in the Netherlands has great potential to benefit from the food incubation concept. The partners discussed the outline of the FITR **training course**, to be launched later this year!

FITR & Prime minister



Momentum Marketing Services, our Irish partners were delighted to meet with and present our project to **Enda Kenny**, the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) at a recent event at The Food Hub, Drumshanbo, Leitrim, Ireland.

Momentum played an integral role in the development of **The Food Hub** in Drumshanbo which saw the transformation of a dilapidated food production facility (26,000 sq ft), which at one point employed 150 people, into:

- a community of 14 independent workspace units for food companies – varying sizes for incubation & growth orientated companies
- Ireland's first shared use/time share manufacturing kitchen.

Momentum will bring the learning from this and other similar projects to the FITR project.

FITR Goals

We aim to forge an effective & replicable model to provide the learning and structure to develop kitchens & incubators in local communities. In this project we will:

- Establish 4 Regional Partnerships to study and capture best practice in the development of Food incubators;
- Create & publish "The Food Incubator Guide" to facilitate the replication of these Regional Partnerships across Europe;
- Develop a course curriculum, guiding Vocational Education and business development practitioners on how to establish a Food incubator;
- Publish an online toolkit focusing on "how-to" strategies for food hub establishment and operation;
- Trial and publish the toolkit and curriculum online for free and widely publicise it to encourage usage in other regions;
- Organise four National & International events to evangelise our work and ensure widespread uptake.



FITR Benefits

Management and staff from business development agencies, local community groups, VET & HEI providers, chambers of commerce and enterprise centres will benefit from:

- An improved understanding of the potential of food incubators and their role as a driver for regional entrepreneurship in a fast growing sector;
- Direct professional development, organizational learning and an increase in professional reputation;
- The development of a robust regional partnership formula for use in the food sector which can also prove useful in other sector in community development;
- Improved network links to food enterprises, and other support agencies and stakeholders throughout Europe;
- Access to unique proven tools and operational strategies enabling you to further the development of food businesses and maximise their contribution to regional growth.

Join a FITR Partnership



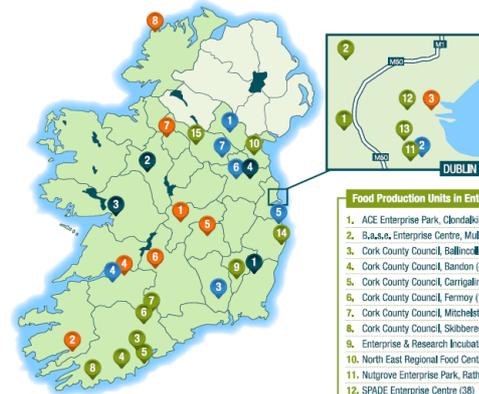
Food Incubators Mapping (Ireland)

| Dedicated Food Incubators | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Ferbane Food Campus (3) | |
| 2. Kitchen Incubators Kerry, Farranfore (3) | TSK |
| 3. Liffey Trust Food Hub (10) | |
| 4. Limerick Food Centre | |
| 5. Mountmellick Food Hub (4) | TSK |
| 6. North Tipp Food Works, Rear Cross (3) | TSK |
| 7. The Food Hub Drumslishanbo (8) | TSK |
| 8. Uidanas Food Units, Magheraarty | |

| Time Share Kitchen | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ballybay Enterprise Park | |
| 2. Hour Kitchen, Churchtown, Dublin 14 | |
| 3. Kilkenny School of Food | |
| 4. Kilmerrick Racecourse (2) | |
| 5. Newmarket Kitchen | |
| 6. Meath Food Hub, Navan | |
| 7. Virginia Show Centre | |

| Emerging | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Bundobdy, Co. Wexford | |
| 2. Castlejura, Co. Roscommon | TSK |
| 3. Galway City | |
| 4. Boyne Valley Food Hub, Navan | |

TSK Also offers a Time Share Kitchen



| Food Production Units in Enterprise Centres | |
|--|-----|
| 1. ACE Enterprise Park, Clondalkin (1) | |
| 2. B.A.S.E. Enterprise Centre, Mulhuddart (2) | |
| 3. Cork County Council, Ballincellig (4) | |
| 4. Cork County Council, Bandon (4) | |
| 5. Cork County Council, Carrigaline, Cork (4) | |
| 6. Cork County Council, Fermoy (1) | |
| 7. Cork County Council, Mitchelstown (1) | |
| 8. Cork County Council, Skibbereen (3) | |
| 9. Enterprise & Research Incubation Campus Carlow (2) | |
| 10. North East Regional Food Centre, Ardee Business Park (2) | TSK |
| 11. Nutgrove Enterprise Park, Rathfrilandham (2) | |
| 12. SPADE Enterprise Centre (38) | |
| 13. Terenure Enterprise Centre (2) | |
| 14. Wicklow Enterprise Centre (2) | |
| 15. Keshandra Enterprise Centre | |

www.foodincubators.how

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Roscommon Leader Partnership and Momentum have successfully established the **Irish FITR Partnership** in the Roscommon/Leitrim Region and are working with key stakeholders to determine existing and emerging food sector initiatives in their region with regard to remit, gaps and opportunities.

As can be seen from the mapping, there is a big gap in provision of facilities in the west of Ireland. Further research has shown that food producers will travel up to 60 miles to use a space.

As a result, it is expected that the FITR project will have a very positive impact in the region.

Want to join this partnership?

Please email amee@ridc.ie

Want to join other FITR partnerships?

We are active in Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and Slovakia as well!

Find your local partner via www.foodincubators.how and get on board!



www.foodincubators.how