

Timeline and general outline for the training sessions and national meetings of the policy labs

The training and learning sessions for the policy lab coordinators are set up in such a way to prepare them for the organization and facilitation of the national meetings. This is reflected in the ‘policy lab honeycomb’:



This figure was developed at the start of the project and the first group of policy labs is currently going through these stages. The principle remains the same for the second group of policy labs, but as the timeline is shorter, the themes of the first two training sessions will be condensed into one. This means there will be four training sessions instead of five, and three national meetings instead of four (although the coordinators may still make the choice to split the themes of the first training session into two national meetings again).

Timeline second group of policy labs

- March 4 2019: Application deadline
- March 8 2019: Deadline for communicating selection
- April 8&9 2019: First training session on ‘System Awareness and System Analysis’ and ‘Future
 - outlook and agenda setting’, in parallel with first group of policy labs and
 - with a joint sessions
- June 2019: Possibly already first national meeting
- September 2019: Latest possibility for first national meeting
- October 2019: Second training session on ‘Guiding experiments’

- October 17&18 2019: Second annual Fit4Food conference in Brussels. Second training possibly connected to this, also after discussing with coordinators.
- November, December
- or January 2020: Second national meeting.
- May or June 2020: Third training session on ‘Experiment learning’, joint with first group of
 - coordinators.
- September 2020: Last national meeting
- October 2020: Final training sessions on ‘Sharing lessons’, joint with first group of coordinators.

General outline of national meetings

We have worked out the general aims and objectives of the first two national meetings, to give a bit more of an idea what they should be about. As stated above, the coordinators can also choose to split the themes for the first national meeting into two again, if they feel this is desirable and feasible.

1st national meeting: System Awareness and System Understanding, and Future outlook and agenda setting

- Understanding of the food system
- Understanding of the main challenges and knowledge questions of the key players of the food systems
- Overview of existing relevant research agendas, research programmes

- Discuss and agree upon a shared vision
- Make an assessment of your R&I landscape → for example a SWOT analysis
- Draft a roadmap to improve the R&I landscape, to work towards your vision (or future outlook or ultimate goal)

2nd national meeting: Experimentation and Innovation

- Deciding on promising ideas and how to put these into action during the next +/- 10 months (for example different ways of funding research to stimulate a systems and/or RRI approach; better connecting regional and national activities; a plan for multistakeholder collaboration on developing a research programme/policy brief/etc)
- Taking into account your work from the first meeting and input generated by the project



- Agreeing on expectations, indicators and monitoring. When is an experiment a success? How could the outcome contribute to a sustainable change in food systems R&I?
- Who will be involved in the experiment(s) and how?

The aims and objectives last national meeting, on continuity and legacy, will be worked out by the time of the first training session in April. As Fit4Food is itself very much an innovative process, it has not been set in stone from the beginning, but we have been adapting and developing as we go, taking into account the experiences and needs of the policy labs.

