

Welcome to the first newsletter of **OFELIA – Open Innovation for Functional Foods and Medicinal Aromatic Plants (FFMAPs)**. OFELIA aims to strengthen the resilience, competitiveness and sustainability of FFMAP value chains across Europe, with a strong focus on less developed regions, by fostering interregional collaboration and digital transformation. The project brings together **11 partners from 5 countries** and works through **4 BICs** to help bridge research, market needs and sustainable production.

Building momentum across the consortium

On 6-7 November 2025, the consortium met in Xanthi, Greece, for the project's kick-off meeting. We presented the project's vision and objectives, reviewed the work plan, and engaged in constructive exchanges strengthening partnerships and setting the tone.

The OFELIA Hub is now live

A major first milestone for the project was the launch of the **OFELIA Hub website** <https://ofeliahub.eu/>, which now serves as the central online entry point for the project. Through the Hub, visitors can explore the project vision, objectives and work plan, meet the partners, and follow news, events, results and upcoming opportunities as the project evolves.



Open Innovation For Functional Foods & Medicinal Aromatic Plants (FFMAP)

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Strengthening synergies in the I3 ecosystem

OFELIA has also started building collaboration with other **I3-funded agrifood projects**. A cooperation with **FARM360TECH** started, including support for dissemination of a questionnaire addressed to farmers and agrifood stakeholders. The goal of this joint effort is to gather field insights that can shape innovation, digital solutions and interregional cooperation in the agrifood sector.

OFELIA at Agrotica 2026, Thessaloniki, Greece

On 14 March 2026, OFELIA gained strong visibility through its participation in **Agrotica 2026**. The project participated in the event “**Funding Opportunities in Agri-food: Digital Innovation in Action**”, co-organized by the **Democritus University of Thrace**, OFELIA’s lead partner, together with other projects and contributors including **EXEO** and **reframe.food**. The event focused on agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable development in the primary sector.

The event brought together the projects **DigiAgriFood**, **DIGI-Rangeland**, **FARM360TECH** and **OFELIA**, while a live questionnaire captured participants’ views on real challenges in production, processing and distribution. The discussion emphasized that stronger collaboration and networking are essential for accelerating digital innovation and building more competitive agri-food ecosystems.



What OFELIA stands for

The project is framed around a clear mission: supporting innovation and sustainable growth in **Functional Foods and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants**, sectors with rising relevance for health, nutrition, natural products and clean-label demand. At the same time, the project addresses structural barriers often faced by less developed regions, such as limited access to investment, weaker interregional linkages, and gaps in technology, skills and infrastructure.

Follow us on social media https://linktr.ee/Ofelia_Project_EU

Thank you for being part of the OFELIA journey. More updates, opportunities and project results will be shared soon



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