

In this fourth newsletter, **OFELIA – Open Innovation for Functional Foods and Medicinal Aromatic Plants (FFMAPs)**:

A focus is given on the **Lithuanian Business Innovation Case (BIC)**, where **digital technologies are being applied to the processing stage of herbal teas and food supplements**.

The demonstrator connects Acorus Calamus' real production environment with AgriFood Lithuania DIH's digital innovation and capacity-building role.

BIC 2: Lithuania

Digitalization of the processing stage of herbal teas and food supplements

Implemented through the collaboration of:



Acorus Calamus

Production environment and sector know-how in medicinal and aromatic plant processing.



AgriFood Lithuania DIH

Digital innovation support, capacity building and ecosystem engagement.

The Lithuania BIC moves from labour-intensive, judgement-heavy raw material sorting toward hyperspectral sensing and digital quality monitoring in a real processing environment.

Core priorities: processing reliability, quality standardisation and scalable digital quality evidence.

Why it matters

Quality evidence

More objective control of plant-based raw materials.

Traceable processing

Data supports compliance and transparency.

Interregional learning

Validated methods can inform other FFMAP value chains.

The 2nd BIC - digitalization of processing

BIC 2 supports the shift from manual sorting and inconsistent quality checks to data-supported processing for herbal teas, food supplements and other FFMAP products.



Technologies explored



IoT and process data

Real-time monitoring of key processing parameters to improve efficiency.



Digital traceability tools

Blockchain-based solutions to increase transparency across the value chain.



Quality and certification support

Digital systems to strengthen quality assurance, standards and certification requirements.



Data-driven optimisation

AI and analytics tools to optimise processes, resource use and product quality.

Expected operational impact

The BIC framework **targets measurable improvements** in processing reliability and quality evidence.

30-50%

target reduction in manual sorting labour

Higher

sorting accuracy and consistency

Faster

processing throughout after pilot stabilisation

Better

quality evidence for certification and compliance



The Lithuanian demonstrator complements the wider OFELIA portfolio, where regional BICs validate practical digital solutions and feed comparable evidence into the OFELIA Hub and Impact Dashboard.

OFELIA presented at BEYOND Expo 2026 that took place in Athens during June

OFELIA was presented during the event “The Priorities of EIT Food and the Greek Ecosystem: Challenges and Opportunities”, organised by the EIT Food National Representatives for Greece - Democritus University of Thrace and Mantis Beyond Innovation.

18 June 2026



Event highlights

The agenda focused on agri-food innovation, EU opportunities for local actors, funding and entrepreneurship calls, educational initiatives, research opportunities and links between academia, research organisations and industry.

OFELIA's participation helped position the project within this innovation ecosystem by highlighting digital transformation, traceability and interregional collaboration in the FFMAP value chain.

Stay connected

To follow the project's progress, stakeholders can visit **ofeliahub.eu**, explore the project resources and newsroom, and subscribe to receive future newsletters and updates.

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