

[View this email in your browser](#)**Welcome to our first project's newsletter!**

Gathering 12 partners from across Europe, this 4-years EU-funded collaborative project aims to build the first AI-driven mycotoxin management platform to address the impact of climate change on food safety and human health.



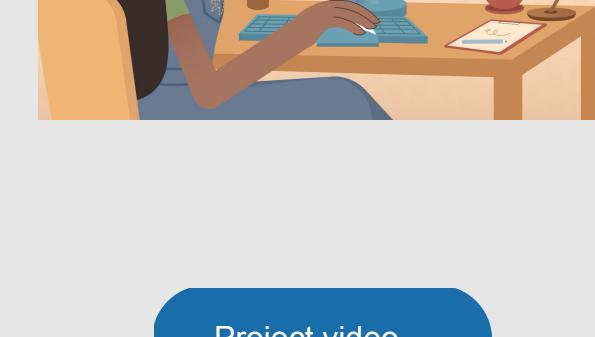
Following the project's launch in December 2024, the first project activities have been carried out. Read on to get the latest updates on this promising project.

**Our website is live**

The project's website was launched by our valued partner Euroquality. You will find comprehensive information about the project's concept, objectives, partners and latest news and events.

Discover our animated project video!

Curious about what drives our mission? Watch our animated video to explore the project in a simple, visual, and comprehensive way. See how we tackle food safety risks linked to climate change and mycotoxins, all at a glance.

[Project website](#)[Project video](#)**Technical achievements from MYMATCH first year**

MYMATCH's first year brought solid progress across all work packages, laying the groundwork for future innovation. Here's a snapshot of the key technical achievements that shaped this milestone year.

WP3 - Building the multi-actor approach

Led by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), WP3 focuses on engaging stakeholders throughout the project by establishing continuous dialogue, defining end-user requirements, co-designing the AI platform's architecture, and building collaborations with EU initiatives.

List of end-user needs and requirements

First, UCSC delivered a comprehensive list of end-user needs and requirements by engaging 264 stakeholders across 9 countries. This work identified expectations, challenges, and digital readiness, enabling the creation of realistic user personas to guide the co-design of the MYMATCH AI platform.

[Explore the main outputs](#)**Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB)**

The MYMATCH project has set up its Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) to integrate expert knowledge and end-user perspectives into all activities. The SAB will play a key role in defining user requirements, co-designing climate scenarios, supporting training, and guiding the final platform demonstration through regular workshops and ongoing collaboration.

Surveys

As part of MYMATCH's multi-actor engagement strategy, three tailored questionnaires are being distributed to farmers, food industry representatives, and consumers, complemented by interviews with policymakers and experts. These surveys explore climate change perceptions, mycotoxin risk awareness, and digital readiness, providing insights that will shape user requirements and the development of the MYMATCH AI platform. Data collection is ongoing across countries to ensure balanced representation.

Setting the ground: existing knowledge and tools to assess MY impact on food safety under CC conditions (WP4)

Led by the University of Parma, WP4 reviewed existing knowledge and tools to assess mycotoxin impact on food safety under climate change. Completed in November, this work defined priority gaps and data-quality requirements for MYMATCH modeling.

[Discover the key findings!](#)**WP5 – Mapping Mycotoxin Risks in Crops**

Led by CNR, WP5 focuses on sampling and characterizing mycotoxicogenic fungi in maize, wheat, and tomatoes across Europe to support predictive modeling. Significant progress has been made:

- Sampling & protocols:** plans refined for broad geographic coverage, standardized protocols implemented for cereals and tomatoes, and an updated tomato protocol introduced in September.
- Fungal isolation & genetics:** isolation is ongoing, with agreed DNA marker loci for species identification. Sequencing responsibilities have been distributed, targeting ~150 isolates per partner, plus additional strains handled by CNR.
- Data & mapping:** most sampling sites mapped via a dedicated Google Maps interface; weather and agronomic data collection underway.
- Next steps:** complete sample collection, resolve shipping issues, initiate strain deposit procedures, and advance whole-genome sequencing led by NFCSO and CNR.

These efforts lay the foundation for predictive models that will help safeguard food systems under climate change.

[Discover tomato sampling](#)[Discover wheat sampling](#)[In vitro characterization of fungal strains](#)**WP6 - Studying climate impact on fungal growth and MY production**

Coordinated by Cranfield University, WP6 is generating new ecological and physiological data to understand how climate change influences fungal interactions and mycotoxin production. So far, the team has focused on identifying and characterizing strains from all partners for the upcoming experimental phase. Next, selected resilient strains will undergo full ecophysiological assays in vitro and in planta, where temperature, humidity, and CO₂ levels will be systematically varied. These experiments will deliver robust datasets to strengthen predictive models in future work packages.

WP7 - Data navigator and predictive models for food system safety

Led by CNR, WP7 is creating a cloud-based data ecosystem and predictive models to assess food safety risks under climate change. Since its launch in May, WP7 has:

- Set up the MYMATCH data-sharing platform** on Nextcloud, hosting datasets from WP4, WP5, and WP6.

- Started climate data processing**, including downscaling and preparing input layers for pilot sites.

- Developed crop suitability and phenology-aware layers**, integrating soil, land use, and climate variables to support exposure modeling.

Next steps include refining multi-fungi co-occurrence models, preparing data pipelines for the AI-enhanced Scenario Builder, and enabling risk simulations in WP8.

WP8 - Developing the MYMATCH platform

In November 2025, WP8 officially kicked off under the leadership of our Greek partner EXUS! This work package will develop the MYMATCH AI Mycotoxin Management Platform, featuring tools for scenario building, risk prediction, early warnings, and recommendations. This will empower users to make informed decisions and prevent food safety threats under changing climate conditions.

Stay tuned for updates as this exciting development unfolds!



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