



**EIT Food Education - Learning Services**

# Competency Framework

We equip the brightest minds all over Europe  
and beyond, with skills and knowledge  
to create a sustainable food system



Co-funded by the  
European Union

# Competency Framework



Underpinning capabilities



Technical capabilities



Thinking activities



Influencing activities



Performing activities



Entrepreneurship



Sustainability



## FOOD SYSTEMS

The ability to analyse the food system, appraise current and future sustainability challenges, and develop appropriate responses using systems approaches.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The ability to recognise, develop and act on entrepreneurial opportunities in a range of organisational settings, and to play an effective role in new venture formation and growth.

## DATA MANAGEMENT

The ability to develop and use digital tools with the purpose of accessing, managing, analysing and interpreting data.

## TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The ability to use emerging technologies in (radical or breakthrough) innovation processes.

## COMMUNICATION

The ability to drive interpersonal communication, and to translate complex ideas for different audiences.

## LEADERSHIP

The ability to be an effective leader, and to mobilise resources efficiently to accomplish a goal based on responsible management practice.

## PROBLEM SOLVING

The ability to analyse and understand the problem space, generate new ideas, assess their validity, and co-create solutions.

## CRITICAL THINKING

The ability to assess facts and evidence to drive decision-making, including constructive questioning of the status quo.

**EXPLORE**



**EXPLORE**  
Lay the foundations in contributing to the sector.

**PRACTICE**



**PRACTICE**  
Turn ideas into actions to the benefit of your field of influence.

**MASTER**



**MASTER**  
Deliver impact within your field of influence and the sector.

**INSPIRE**



**INSPIRE**  
Transform the system and have an influence that goes beyond your field and the wider sector.

# Competency Framework



## Sustainability

- **SUSTAINABILITY** is at the core of all competencies. It includes creating healthier lives through food, achieving a net zero food system (including the prevention of biodiversity loss), and creating a fully transparent, fair, inclusive and resilient food supply. All competencies are oriented towards these aims to contribute to food system transformation.



## Underpinning capabilities

- **UNDERPINNING CAPABILITIES** is a group of essential transversal competencies that form the foundation for effective action. They can be used in a wide range of settings to drive change in context-specific ways.



## Technical capabilities

- **TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES** is a group of key technical competencies that advance readily available skillsets and know-how to accelerate sustainability transitions.



## Entrepreneurship

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is the engine for achieving change. It comprises a mindset and key skills to envision, create and implement innovative solutions to challenges in a wide range of contexts including in ventures, industry, academia, policy and NGOs.



## Thinking activities

- **THINKING ACTIVITIES** are conceptual and analytical in nature. They support actions that generate and appraise solutions, and challenge established systems and routines.



## Influencing activities

- **INFLUENCING ACTIVITIES** are about working with and through others to achieve impact. They support actions that foster collaborations, and engage stakeholders in an honest dialogue.



## Performing activities

- **PERFORMING ACTIVITIES** are about technical expertise. They support actions that combine systems approaches with a range of novel technologies to perform food systems transformation.



# 8 Core Competencies



Underpinning capabilities



Technical capabilities



Thinking activities



Influencing activities



Performing activities



Entrepreneurship



Sustainability



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## LEADERSHIP

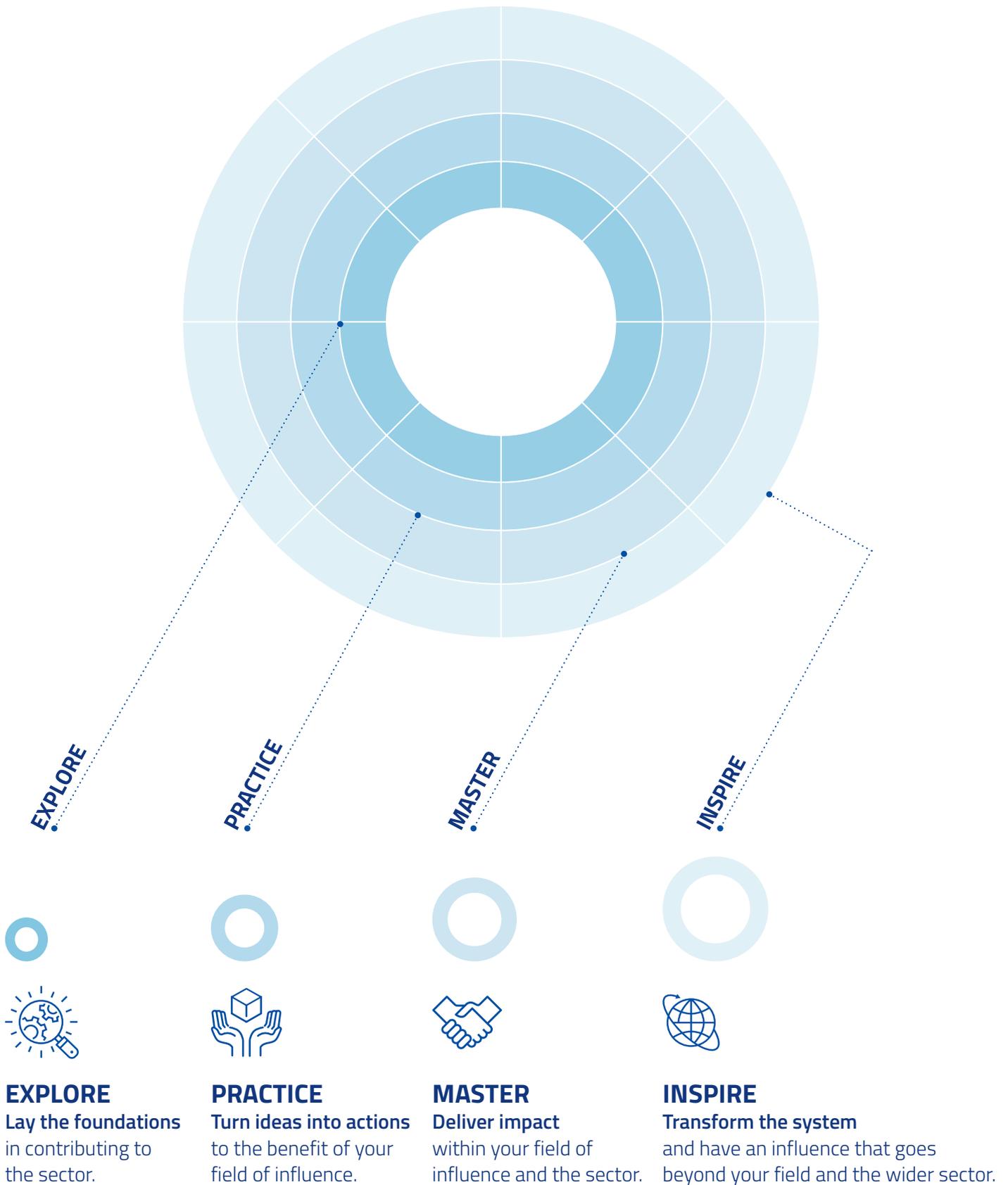
The ability to be an effective leader, and to mobilise resources efficiently to accomplish a goal based on responsible management practice.



## FOOD SYSTEMS

The ability to analyse the food system, appraise current and future sustainability challenges, and develop appropriate responses using systems approaches.

# 4 Levels per Competency



# Learning Objectives per Competency Level



FOOD SYSTEMS



DATA MANAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



PROBLEM SOLVING



CRITICAL THINKING



LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATION



## EXPLORE

Lay the foundations in contributing to the sector.

**Apply basic systems analysis techniques** to describe the food system.

**Identify dominant sustainability challenges** for the food system.

**Recognise how innovations can contribute** to achieving societal impact.

**Implement effective data management protocols.**

**Recognise the importance** of data security measures.

**Identify** key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

**Competently use** appropriate technologies to contribute to food system innovations.

**Appraise the relevance** of emerging technologies in a particular work or study context.

**Identify** key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

**Recognise the importance** of IPR management.

**Appraise and articulate** the value of opportunities.

**Identify and use** relevant resources to support the creation of social and environmental value.

**Implement** effective actions to support the creation of sustainability impacts.

**Analyse relevant aspects** of the problem space to inform creative thought.

**Use basic methods** to generate new ideas and to assess their validity.

**Contribute** to co-creation processes to develop sustainable solutions.

**Collect, analyse and report** information and data to support the generation of new ideas and approaches.

**Recognise the importance** of ethical goals.

**Implement** a food system innovation project in a particular work or study context.

**Demonstrate ownership** of project goals.

**Identify relevant stakeholders** and their prominent concerns.

**Recognise the importance** of inclusive dialogue in food systems transformation.

**Implement** basic communication methods.



## PRACTICE

Turn ideas into actions to the benefit of your field of influence.

**Analyse the food system** using a range of systems approaches to appraise current and future sustainability challenges.

**Implement innovative responses** to address sustainability challenges in the food system.

**Appraise the efficacy of different digital tools** and sensing methods to acquire, manage and manipulate data.

**Devise** effective data management protocols.

**Design** effective actions to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

**Implement** adequate data security measures.

**Mobilise** appropriate technologies in innovation processes

**Design** effective actions to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

**Contribute** to the development of new technologies for food system transformation.

**Manage** IPRs.

**Create opportunities** for social and environmental value creation.

**Mobilise** resources to create sustainable value for others.

**Design and implement** effective actions to deliver impact.

**Appraise the problem space** to identify current and future needs.

**Mobilise** effective methodologies to generate new ideas.

**Appraise the validity of new ideas** and co-create sustainable solutions.

**Collect, analyse, interpret and report** information to develop sustainable solutions to current and future challenges.

**Appraise unintended consequences** of any course of action to devise ethical goals.

**Appraise different strategies** to deliver a food system innovation.

**Demonstrate leadership** towards the implementation of a food system innovation.

**Devise effective communication methods** that support organisational strategies.

**Engage in honest and inclusive two-way communication** with stakeholders about their concerns.

**Adjust messaging** for different audiences.

# Learning Objectives per Competency Level



FOOD SYSTEMS



DATA MANAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



PROBLEM SOLVING



CRITICAL THINKING



LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATION



## MASTER

Deliver impact within your field of influence and the sector.



**Develop strategies** to address current and future challenges using systems approaches.

**Design innovative responses** to address sustainability challenges in the food system.

**Develop strategies** for data acquisition, analysis and manipulation.

**Develop and lead the implementation** of robust data security measures.

**Develop strategies** to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

**Develop strategies** to mobilise and manage technologies in innovation processes.

**Develop and lead the implementation** of new technologies.

**Develop strategies** to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

**Devise** adequate IPR management strategies.

**Create opportunities** for systemic social and environmental value creation.

**Devise strategies** to mobilise and leverage resources to create sustainable value.

**Design effective actions** to scale societal impact.

**Critically appraise** the problem space to analyse the strategic implications of future choices.

**Mobilise effective co-creation methodologies** to generate original and sustainable solutions that include relevant voices.

**Critically analyse, interpret and report** data and information to inform ethical decision making.

**Challenge existing practices** and knowledge to develop sustainable alternatives.

**Influence, persuade and challenge others** to transform the food system through innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Translate a vision** for strategic change into a food system innovation.

**Identify, engage with and respond honestly** to stakeholder needs.

**Develop strategies** to deliver effective inclusive communications approaches.

**Translate complex ideas** for different audiences.



## INSPIRE

Transform the system and have an influence that goes beyond your field and the wider sector.



**Champion systems approaches** to appraise current and future challenges to the food system.

**Educate and support others** to develop innovative responses to address sustainability challenges.

**Educate and support others** to use digital tools to support innovations in the food system.

**Champion robust data security systems.**

**Educate and challenge others** to appraise and mitigate unintended consequences of technology use.

**Educate and support others** to use emerging technologies in *(radical or breakthrough)* innovation processes.

**Challenge others** to apply technologies to, or draw from, different problem spaces.

**Educate and challenge others** to appraise and mitigate unintended consequences of technology use.

**Guide others** on their entrepreneurial journey to achieve sustainability goals.

**Champion relevant insights** into entrepreneurial mindset and practice.

**Contribute** to sustainability-oriented entrepreneurial ecosystems.

**Educate and support others** to generate original and sustainable solutions to address food system challenges.

**Champion effective co-creation methodologies** to include a range of relevant voices in the generation of solutions.

**Educate and support others** to critically analyse existing practices to develop sustainable alternatives.

**Challenge others** to base their decision making on an ethical and sustainable basis.

**Educate, influence, persuade and challenge others** to lead and promote food system transformation.

**Create** a vision for strategic change of the food system.

**Champion** effective inclusive stakeholder management.

**Demonstrate effective inclusive thought leadership** in and beyond the food system domain.



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