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TransFarm

# TransFarm - TRANSborder cooperation for circular soil-less FARMing systems

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# Future of food – Food in our future!

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- Major concerns of current food systems:
  - Climate change (global warming or local cooling?)
  - Multiple effects both on land, seas, lakes and rivers
  - Loss of biodiversity
  - Population growth
  - Monocultural agriculture and soil deterioration,
  - Increasing pollution, changes in land usage
  - Lack of ground water vs. need of irrigation
  - Over-fishing, food crisis



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# TransFarm – the project

## TransFarm

- TransFarm project cultivates and promotes circular and soil -less farming methods, such as **aquaponics**, a method where fish and vegetables are grown indoors in a symbiotic closed circular farming system. This supports three dimensions of sustainability to build a more resilient food system
- The aquaponic system...
  - Has growing season all year round both for vegetables and for fish, which contributes to a reduced environmental impact – optimized environment for optimized growth, 90 % less water consumed, no pesticides used and no nutrient run -offs
  - brings circular food production into towns and cities for urban farmers
  - improves access to fresh and healthy food, sustainably produced nearby (ultra local food)



# TransFarm – the key results

## TransFarm

- **TransFarm** project has created and published **key guiding materials** (about **water, plants and fish** ) for setting up an aquaponic farming system – this material is **freely available** at project 's Web Space ([www.centralbaltic.eu/project/transfarm](http://www.centralbaltic.eu/project/transfarm) ) for a long time after the project has ended!
- All key guiding reports are published in several languages (in English, in Swedish, in Estonian, in Latvian and in Finnish) – there are also manuals for **aquaponic system construction and monitoring** (published only in English)
- **Toolkit for economic planning of an aquaponic system** - Business plans and marketing strategies help entrepreneurs to commercially start their aquaponic farming systems
- **Three great aquaponic demo systems** have been built (in Sweden, in Estonia and in Latvia) , and these all provide new knowledge and learnings for people studying aquaponic farming/engineering (aquaponic curriculums at V äddö folkhögskola and at Campus Roslagen, related disciplines utilizing demos at EULS & LU)



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# TransFarm – lessons learned

## TransFarm

- **There are still many challenges to overcome** - aquaponic farming systems have not yet reached an **industrial scale** in the Nordic or Baltic countries, but the **“foundation stone”** has been laid and **“seeds” are cultivated** for urban aquaponic farming to develop
- Starting an aquaponic farming system requires patience – phrase: **“start with a small scale system to find the optimal balance, and your losses will be smaller!”**
- Market entries are also challenging when competition from traditional farming methods is hard and market unit prices are low – **search for niche markets nearby with higher value products and for customers whose willingness to pay for ecological products is higher** – marketing and sales skills are in focus!



# TransFarm – the Team

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## TransFarm

### Project consortium:

- University of Turku (LP),
- Campus Roslagen/ UCV (3/23 -4/24),
- Norrtälje Vatten och Avfall AB (5/24-1/26)
- Coompanion Roslagen & Norrort
- Estonian University of Life Sciences,
- University of Latvia

Project total budget = 1,663

Meur (ERDF = 1,330Meur )

Project duration: 3/2023 -2/2026



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Thank you – tack - kiitoksia!



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