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| Searching for a Coordinator/Partner for | **The Green Deal – Farm to Fork** |
| Topic | **LC-GD-6-1-2020:** **Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations in support of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy** |
| Subtopic | **Subtopic E.         Reducing food losses and waste at every stage of the food chain including consumption, while also avoiding unsustainable packaging.** |
| Organisation Details | UCC Food Business and Development Department (<https://www.cubsucc.com/departments/food-business-and-development/>) and Environmental Research Institute (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/eri/>), and associated centres, such as MAREI Institute ( <https://www.marei.ie/>), at University College Cork, incorporating sustainable food system and circular economy researchers, working with local NGOs, such as Cobh Zero Waste (<https://cobhzerowaste.com/>) and national organisations such as VOICE (Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment - <https://voiceireland.org/>). |
| How we can contribute to this topic | Engagement with communities and businesses, from farmers to consumers, is vital to both understand food waste flows and to identify the most practical means of reducing food waste in the most effective manner. UCC has engaged with local community groups on Great Island, which has a population of 15,000 people and 4,000+ households, including 50+ farms and hotels, restaurants and many retail food outlets, including three large supermarkets, as well as a weekly farmers market and local produce market. The community has a significant proportion of low income and vulnerable households. This provides an opportunity for a detailed investigation into food losses and waste within a clearly defined island boundary from farm to fork. Researchers in other EU locations, including other islands, might be interested in a similar approach, creating an EU network of food waste experiences for context comparisons. |
| Other information | The detailed research on Great Island, Cork would be enabled by a strong network of local NGOs, led by Cobh Zero Waste, facilitating access to local community groups, businesses and other organisations, such as schools and hospitals. Cobh Zero Waste has been raising awareness on food waste and other sustainability issues at its monthly market stall, community workshops, compost courses, household waste surveys, supermarket action days against single use plastic, repair cafes and other initiatives. Cobh Zero Waste has also worked with other NGOs, waste management companies, regional development agencies, local government and many businesses, including reusable coffee cup and take-away container schemes.The food waste research project would be conducted by a team of socio-economic experts and researchers in food systems within the Food Business and Development department, working with technical experts on the circular economy and waste from UCC’s Environmental Research Institute and its associated centres, such as MAREI. |
| Previous Horizon 2020 projects | Both the UCC Food Business and Development and ERI have been, and are currently, involved in a number of Horizon 2020 projects – details available on request.  |
| Contact Details, Name, Email & phone number | Dr Stephen Thornhill, Food Business and Development, s.thornhill@ucc.ie, +353 87 212 6850 (UCC +353 21 490 3348). Dr Paul Bolger, Environmental Research Institute. p.bolger@ucc.ie, +353 21 490 3000. |
| Irish NCP | Matthew Clarke Matthew.Clarke@agriculture.gov.ie +353871026192 |