



APRISE
ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN RESEARCH & INNOVATION SKILLS ENHANCEMENT

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2026

APRISE-Alternative Proteins Research and Innovation Skills Enhancement



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Alternative Protein Research and Innovation Skills Enhancement (APRISE) is an EU-funded ERA Talents project enhancing research and innovation capacities in the alternative protein sector across Widening Countries such as Türkiye, Greece, Poland, Malta, and North Macedonia. Coordinated by Middle East Technical University (Türkiye), APRISE brings together 18 academic, non-academic, and industry partners to provide interdisciplinary training, secondments, and career development opportunities for R&I talents, including early-stage researchers, experienced researchers, and project/administrative staff. The project strengthens academia-industry collaboration, supports sustainable food production, and promotes policy engagement to drive innovation in the alternative protein market.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen research and innovation skills in alternative protein systems
- Support professional development and career progression through training and mobility
- Enhance policy awareness and stakeholder engagement capacities
- Promote sustainability and responsible innovation in food systems
- Reduce skills and capacity disparities between Widening and non-Widening Countries

TRAINING IN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT



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WHY ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN?

Alternative proteins are increasingly recognised as a strategic component of sustainable food systems due to their relevance to climate action, resource efficiency, and food security.

As the sector evolves rapidly, there is a growing demand for professionals equipped with advanced technical, interdisciplinary, and transferable skills.

APRISE responds to this challenge by supporting capacity building in alternative protein research and innovation while ensuring that emerging technologies and practices are matched by appropriately trained talents across Europe.



WHY WIDENING COUNTRIES?

Widening Countries possess strong scientific potential and dynamic agri-food ecosystems, yet often face structural barriers that limit participation in advanced research and innovation activities.

These challenges include:

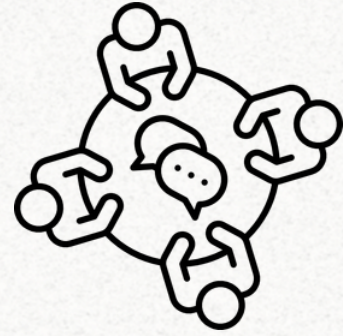
- limited access to international mobility opportunities
- fragmented innovation ecosystems
- insufficient cross-sector collaboration
- reduced access to specialised skills development pathways

APRISE addresses these barriers by prioritising talents and institutions from Widening Countries, supporting long-term skills retention, institutional strengthening, and equitable participation in European research and innovation networks.



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HIGHLIGHTS

KICK-OFF MEETING

The kick-off meeting was held on 2nd and 3rd October 2025.

Hosted by Middle East Technical University in Ankara, the APRISE Kick-Off Meeting formally launched the project and brought together representatives from across the consortium.

The meeting focused on aligning partners on project objectives, governance structures, implementation priorities, and operational procedures for the first project year.



DISCUSSION AREAS

- project management and reporting
- secondment eligibility and implementation rules
- budget flexibility and financial management
- training architecture and learning assessment
- dissemination and exploitation activities
- advisory board establishment
- open access and publication requirements



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HIGHLIGHTS

TALENT SELECTION

Primary selection activities were coordinated by Middle East Technical University, Agricultural University of Athens, and Warsaw University of Life Sciences, while all consortium partners contributed to internal talent identification and validation processes.

Calls for participation were disseminated across partner institutions, outlining eligibility requirements and application procedures. Overall, 50+ talents were selected.



METHODOLOGY PLAN

The consortium established the methodology plan to ensure transparent, inclusive, and harmonised talent recruitment across the consortium.

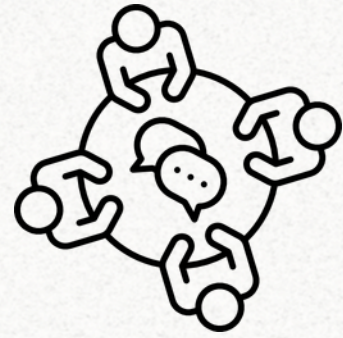
The framework is based on:

- a clear governance structure with defined institutional responsibilities
- common eligibility and selection criteria
- a two-step evaluation process consisting of online applications and structured interviews supported by a scoring template



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HIGHLIGHTS

1ST CONSORTIUM MEETING

On 27 March 2026, the first consortium meeting was organised in two sessions: administrative coordination and talent session.

The Administrative Session focused on:

- project overview and implementation progress
- reporting workflows
- training and secondment frameworks
- priorities for the next six months,
- planning of the first APRISE training school, hosted by the Agricultural University of Athens



TALENT SESSION

- introduction of the APRISE project
- training roadmap
- secondment expectations
- documentation
- career development plans
- upcoming activities



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DELIVERABLES SUBMITTED

WORK PACKAGE	OUTPUT
ONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D1.1 Data Management Plan• D1.2 Talent Selection and Methodology Plan• D1.3 Career Development Plans (CDPs)
TWO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D2.1 Research Skills Training Plan
SIX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D6.1 Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan (First Draft)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



first APRISE training school
Athens, Greece | 29 June to 1 July 2026
hosted by AUA, focusing on APros production, characterization, extraction, fermentation, and bioprocessing.



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second consortium meeting (CM2)
Überherrn, Germany | 29 September to 1 October 2026
hosted by MyBiotech, bringing partners together to review progress and plan next steps.



launch of international secondments during summer 2026



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The APRISE Consortium



Middle East Technical University (METU)



Agricultural University of Athens (AUA)



Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS)



Nottingham Trent University (NTU)



Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA)



MyBiotech GmbH (MyB)



Nutri Biotech Services Ltd (NBio)



EcoVibes P.C. (EVs)



Telewander ApS (Tw)



BKEA Ltd



SUTAS Süt Ürünleri A.S. (SUTAS)



Advanced Climate Risk Education (ACRE)



NordicHorizon Institutet (NHI)



OpenCom I.S.S.C. (OPC)



BitkiBazlı Gıdalar Derneği (BTK)



Zdruzenie Platforma za Zelen Razvoj (GGP)



Türkiye Teknoloji Geliştirme Vakfı (TTGV)



Theta Biomarkers IKE (Theta)



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Thank you for reading the first edition of our newsletter.
We look forward to sharing more developments, achievements, and
experiences in the next edition. Stay connected!

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