

ValuSect gets additional funding to also develop the insects as feed industry

18 May 2021, Brussels — From April 2021 onwards, the ValuSect project does not only support the development of insects for food, but also extends its research and knowledge transfer to feed. An additional vouchers call for feed will be launched at the end of 2021, offering the opportunity to SMEs in the insects as feed sector to also boost their business.

Launched in December 2019, the ValuSect project has been working so far on insect-based food, studying crickets, grasshoppers and yellow mealworms. In January 2021, the consortium applied for the <u>Interreg North-West Europe call for capitalisation</u>¹, seeing an opportunity to transfer the acquired knowledge to insects as feed, which is a very promising sector. The project will also include the black soldier fly species (*Hermetia Illucens*) to its scope for its high potential for the feed sector.

As part of this extension, ValuSect will launch a **vouchers call** at the end of 2021, proposing services to applicants willing to develop their insects as feed business for a total of $300.000 \in$. SMEs will be invited to apply to get services worth $\notin 10k$, $\notin 20k$ or $\notin 40k \notin$ from ValuSect partners in order to, for example, optimise insect breeding condition, insect composition or insect feed processing. 20 cases will be selected.

In order to support this new topic, the consortium welcomes **3 new partners** who have expertise and a great network in the insects as feed sector: <u>DGfZ</u>, the German Society of Animal <u>Production</u> (Germany) as full partner; the <u>CCPA Groupe</u> (France) and <u>The Belgian Feed</u> <u>Association</u> (Belgium) as associated partners.

The global insect feed market was estimated at \notin 133 million in 2020 and is expected to reach \notin 736.7 million by the end of 2026². ValuSect will be glad to bring its contribution to the knowledge around insects as feed.

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What is ValuSect?

¹The Interreg NWE capitalisation call "Maximising project impact" targets existing project ValuSect is a project funded by Interreg North-West Europe (European Region Development Fund). The partnerships which have a solid ground for additional activities and where continuation of ValuSect consortiums will improve the sustainable production and processing techniques of insect-based products and teamsfeed availaged knowledge to agric food businesses in North-West Europe.

From April 2021 onwards, the project extended its scope to insects feed and black soldier flies.

