

# IGCAT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM

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## IGCAT Voice

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In 2016 IGCAT awarded **Catalonia, European Region of Gastronomy**. This title has helped consolidate Catalan gastronomy, involved all sectors, linked different stakeholders, and as a result provided cultural and economic value to local food and tourist products. In brief, what has the last 5 years looked like?

**2014** - Inspiration. A period to understand the IGCAT project and get to know the European Regions of Gastronomy Platform. It enabled a dialogue between the Department of Agriculture and the Tourism Agency to identify regional challenges.

**2015** - Work in progress. Both departments strived to enhance coordination between different sectors related to gastronomy in Catalonia. Interconnecting product, gastronomy and territory meant involving producers as well as cultural heritage and the landscape custodians.

**2016** - Awarded year. Approximately 150 people joined the General Council, a technical committee and a board of experts, that worked in conjunction with over 700 affiliate organizations to develop activities. More than 150 events related to gastronomy took place all over Catalonia. The Catalan Tourism Board declared 2016 the Year of Gastronomy and Wine Tourism, with a view to positioning gastronomy as one of the key tourism destination factors.

**2017** - Legacy. Thanks to the title, there is better cohesion within the territory related to gastronomy. **Benvinguts a Pagés (Welcome to the Farm)** is just one of the outstanding initiatives linking rural and urban life, that will continue. The **Gastronomy Plan** brought more than 120 experts together to agree the future of gastronomy in Catalonia.

**2018** - Future. The Department of Agriculture, the Tourism Agency and Catalan stakeholders are now implementing the gastronomy plan in order to establish Catalonia through storytelling and branding, using the region's variety of gastronomy products, landscapes and cuisine.

Our original commitment was for five years and now we hope to stay as founding members in the European Region of Gastronomy Platform because it has and remains a crucial point of good practise exchange and knowledge which has contributed to our gastronomy legacy.

### **Blanca Cros i Moll**

Head of European Programmes and International Relations, Catalan Tourist Board  
IGCAT Executive Board Member

### From the Ground Up, Feeding our Future. Galway-West of Ireland 2018 officially launched

18 March 2018 - Galway-West of Ireland, when embarking on their **European Region of Gastronomy** journey two years ago, boldly proclaimed their aim to reach into local communities and develop a vision for Galway Gastronomy, involving farmers, fishermen, producers, small businesses, health workers, teachers, parents and children; in short, everyone! On Friday 16 of March, **Galway-West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy 2018** officially launched their title year and flagship programme of events entitled **From...** [Read more.](#)



### Opening North Brabant's year as food region

1 March 2018 - A promising year has just started for **North Brabant, European Region of Gastronomy 2018** (The Netherlands) that officially opened its title year on 1 March 2018 in front of representatives from local and foreign authorities, the Regions of Gastronomy Platform, and local and international press. The region of North Brabant formally presented its **We Are Food 2018** programme in the stunning background of the Industrial Heritage Foundation Meierij, in Veghel, North Brabant, a former industrial complex reconverted to an innovative centre including food courts, a supermarket, and acting as a meeting point for food professionals to share ideas and find creative solutions. Under the... [Read more.](#)

### Slovenia becomes a candidate Region of Gastronomy

2 March 2018 - Slovenia impressed the European Regions of Gastronomy Platform with their proposal to become **candidate** for the award in **2021**. Slovenia, has already taken important steps to towards the Award, with ten key institutions already signing a protocol agreement demonstrating their firm commitment for Slovenia to bid for the title in 2021. Slovenian stakeholders have already held several meetings in order to clarify the main objectives that the region intends to achieve through the title, as well as the key focus areas they will be working on. The **Executive Committee** includes representatives from... [Read more.](#)



### International visibility through joint regional development projects

28 February 2018 - **13th European Regions of Gastronomy Platform Meeting**. At a time when increasingly fast-paced globalisation and worryingly rapid climate change threaten our territories and our living, a strong commitment is needed to promote sustainability as a goal and as means to ensure a better quality of life for present and future generations. The Regions of Gastronomy are tackling these challenges taking on the responsibility to ensure their communities sound and sustainable development by capitalising on their existing unique resources. And, more than ever, ... [Read more.](#)

## Open Call! European Young Chef Award 2018

7 March 2018 - The third edition of the **European Young Chef Award** will be hosted by the Galway International Hotel School, **GMIT** on 25 - 26 November 2017. **Galway, West of Ireland is European Region of Gastronomy Awarded 2018** and the region belonging to the European Young Chef 2017 edition winner, **Aisling Rock**. The competition will see finalists coming from awarded and candidate **European Regions of Gastronomy** competing inside the kitchens of GMIT for the coveted title by **innovating on a traditional recipe** using raw material coming from their native regions. The innovative recipes will be presented in front of a Jury panel of... [Read more.](#)



## South Aegean: Gastronomy knowledge transfer across generations

15 March 2018 - Who knows more about traditional cuisine than our elder family members? The event "Aegean mamas know best" was developed in the framework of the **Taste the Season** programme by **South Aegean, European Region of Gastronomy Awarded 2019**. Organized under the auspices of the Region's Ambassador Chef **Argiro Barbarigou**, the day focused on Aegean gastronomy, addressing and involving a public of all ages. The initiative brought together families and top chefs in order to valorize... [Read more.](#)

## Catalonia's opening of 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage

22 February 2018 - A new, exciting year has just started for **Catalonia, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2016** that is ready to kick-start a full programme of initiatives in the framework of **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage** to celebrate local and European cultural richness. **IGCAT** attended the opening ceremony of the Year that took place on 16 February 2018, on the ravishing background of the **Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site** in Barcelona, declared UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. Promoted by the **European Parliament** and the **Council of the European Union**, the... [Read more.](#)



## Bit 2018: A comparison among European Regions of Gastronomy

21 February 2018 - The **Bit 2018 "Your Travel exhibition"** held in Milan from 10 to 12 February has been the framework for some of the European Regions of Gastronomy to meet and assess the current situation. During the session titled "**A comparison among European Regions of Gastronomy**" the Platform members discussed the important results achieved till now as well as future programmes. **East Lombardy, European Region of Gastronomy** awarded for the year 2017, assessed the positive outcomes achieved during the year of the Award. **Roberta Garibaldi** and **Laura Castelletti** explained... [Read more.](#)

## Report on Food Tourism in Italy: Gastronomy as key factor in the decision-making process

1 February 2018 - The **First Report on Food Tourism in Italy**, launched at the beginning of *The year of Italian food in the world*, was presented in Milan on 23 January. During the Press Conference, the author, **Prof. Roberta Garibaldi**, researcher and Professor of Food Tourism at the **University of Bergamo**, IGCAT expert and Coordinator of **East Lombardy, European Region of Gastronomy 2017** introduced the main findings and the future trends of the tourism segment. The research combines... [Read more.](#)



## Menus of change at the ASEAN Tourism Forum

26 January 2018 - The **Future of Food: Turning ASEAN Tradition and Craftsmanship into Sustainable Gastronomic Tourism** was the title of the **ASEAN Gastronomy Conference** that took place on 25 January 2018 within the framework of the **ASEAN Tourism Forum**, 22-26 January 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Tourism and Sports Minister of Thailand, **Weerasak Kowsurat** presided over the opening ceremony of the conference, proceeded by a show of solidarity by ASEAN representatives from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Thailand that took to stage and shared their pride of... [Read more.](#)

## Current news from around the globe

### Overtourism: where will it take us? The sustainability of mass tourism debated at ITB travel show Berlin 2018

14 March 2018 - At the **ITB** travel trade show in Berlin *overtourism* is hotly debated. Majorca, Venice and Berlin – they all suffer from the excesses of tourism, even though tourists are an important economic factor. At the start of a New Year plans are often made and wishes noted, including the so-called bucket-list, featuring desired holiday destinations. These are places or sights which one should definitely have seen in a lifetime. At the end of last year... [Read more.](#)



## EU to scrutinise organic food supply chain in response to growth in fraudulent claims

28 February 2018 - The **European Court of Auditors** (ECA) is to carry out an audit of organic food in the EU in response to growing retail sales within the sector that leaves the industry open to fraudulent organic claims. The audit is an update to the ECA's last inspection in 2012, during which retail sales in the EU organic market grew by 54% in 2010 - 2015. Imports of organic produce grew by 32% during this period. *The challenge faced by the organic sector is to ensure a steady growth of supply and...* [Read more.](#)

## UNESCO report confirms impact of 2005 convention on national government's cultural diversity policy



6 February 2018 - The new UNESCO Global Report 2018 entitled **Re|Shaping Cultural Policies** is an invaluable tool for examining the progress to date of the **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. The convention was established in 2005 and is now ratified by 146 Parties, and aims to support sustainable cultural governance, exchange and integration across the world. The 2018 Report has significantly improved... [Read more.](#)

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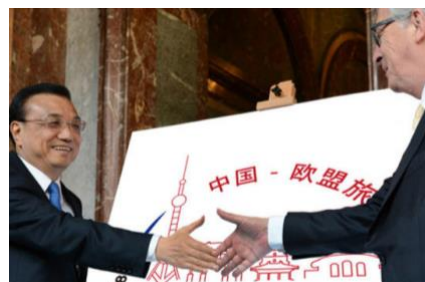
## Land grabbing: An urgent issue for indigenous peoples around the world

31 January 2018 - About 2.5 billion people around the globe, including 370 million indigenous people, depend on land and natural resources that are held, used, and managed collectively. This means that one third of the world's population is vulnerable to dispossession by more powerful actors. As stated by the "[Land Rights Now](#)" campaign, indigenous peoples protect more than 50% of world's land surface but have formally recognized ownership over just 10%. In many cases, States or corporations have taken or exploited lands that were legally protected. Industries such as logging, ... [Read more.](#)

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## Supporting sustainable tourism in Europe, EU-China Tourism Year officially launched in Venice

29 January 2018 - The aim of the [EU-China Tourism Year \(ECTY\)](#) is to increase the number of Chinese visitors to Europe, whilst encouraging sustainable tourism and stimulating investment opportunities for Europe and China through a number of cooperative marketing campaigns. These campaigns will be funded through public-private partnerships, business summits, and around 5000 business-to-business meetings for tourism operators financed by the European... [Read more.](#)



IGCAT carries out research, collects knowledge and develops projects to support creative solutions in regional and local development.

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