

IGCAT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM

IGCAT Voice



As the year draws to a close we often reflect on our accomplishments and as this is **IGCAT's 5th birthday** it is an opportunity for us to consider all we have achieved. Hard to imagine that in such a short amount of time we have:

- Developed a network of more than **61 experts** in almost as many countries that see creativity, food, culture and heritage as a means to support regional development and empower local communities;
- Given **10 Regions of Gastronomy** our prestigious award because of their commitment to sustainable futures and raising awareness of the importance of cultural and food diversity;
- Held **2 editions of the European Young Chef Award**, that has as its ambassador Joan Roca and aims to highlight the importance of local plant and animal varieties and the need to innovate to safeguard their future;
- Certified **17 young chef regional ambassadors** committed to working with local products and traditional recipes;
- Featured in national press and on national television in several countries;
- Gained recognition and endorsement from **major international institutions** and forums including Committee of the Regions, European Travel Commission, DG Grow, DG Agriculture, International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA), UNESCO and UNWTO.

Next year, we already have a full calendar of events that we look forward to sharing with you. Together we are making a difference.

Wishing you a joyous conclusion to the year as well as opportunities and inspiration for 2018.

IGCAT Executive Board

IGCAT News

IGCAT applauded for fostering sustainable tourism at 2nd UNESCO/UNWTO World Conference on Culture and Tourism

12 December 2017 - IGCAT and its flagship **Regions of Gastronomy Platform** and **Award** was applauded at the **2nd UNESCO/UNWTO World Conference on Culture and Tourism**, as a leading initiative **fostering sustainable cultural tourism development**. The World Conference, held in **Muscat, Oman** 11-12 December 2017, brought together world leaders including **Taleb Rifai, UNWTO Secretary-General**, H.E. **Ahmed Bin Nasser Al Mahrizi**, Minister of Tourism, Sultanate of Oman, Ms **Eliza Jean Reid**, First Lady of Iceland and good will ambassadors such as H.R.H. **Princess Dana Firas**. [Read more.](#)



FOODBIZ - Innovative solutions for sustainable regional development

29 November 2017 - On 23-24 November 2017, IGCAT participated in the kick-off meeting of **FOODBIZ - University and business learning for new employability paths in food and gastronomy**, a two-year project developed in the framework of Erasmus+ programme's action *Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education* and aimed to boost smart and sustainable regional development. Based on cross-sectoral dialogue and placed at the exciting convergence of agriculture, food and tourism, the project is designed to... [Read more.](#)

Participatory Governance in Culture: exploring practises

27 November 2017 - The international conference **Do It Together! Participatory Governance in Culture: Exploring practices, theories and policies**, was held in **Rijeka, European Capital of Culture 2020**, 22-24 November 2017 organised by **Kultura Nova**. The event gathered scholars, researchers, theorists, cultural operators, artists, practitioners, activists, policy-makers, and decision makers from across the world and representing different cultural disciplines. [Read more.](#)





Galway-West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy 2018 supporting entrepreneurship in the food sector

13 December 2017 - In the framework of Galway-West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy 2018, Enterprise Ireland allocated just under €2.5 million from the Regional Development fund to the **BIA Innovator Campus** project, an innovative regional food workspace infrastructure aimed to revamp the food sector in the West of Ireland. [Read more.](#)

Latvian Senses project from Riga-Gauja, European Region of Gastronomy 2017 awarded at BEA World Festival

8 December 2017 - In its title year, **Riga-Gauja, European Region of Gastronomy 2017** received a prestigious recognition for one of its flagship events, the gastronomic performance *Latvian Senses*, awarded second best cultural event in 2017 at international **BEA World Festival** in Portugal last November. [Read more.](#)



G7 Agriculture and Astino nel gusto, East Lombardy on the forefront for food security and valorisation

5 December 2017 - Last October, Bergamo, in **East Lombardy, European Region of Gastronomy 2017** was the framework of the **G7 Agriculture ministerial meeting**, an occasion to rethink agriculture and food policies through the lenses of sustainability and biodiversity. [Read more.](#)

European Young Chef Award 2017

Aisling Rock announced winner of the European Young Chef Award 2017

5 November 2017 - **Aisling Rock** from Galway-West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy 2018 is the winner of the **European Young Chef Award 2017**, who surprised the jury presenting her innovative dish: **Mackerel, Pickle, Sheep Yoghurt**. The innovative version, based on the traditional recipe Salted mackerel with root vegetables and potatoes, impressed the jury not only for the outstanding flavours. The dish was awarded because it conveyed fidelity and respect to tradition. Aisling was able to valorise local, fresh products from her region, as well as to show the link between the traditional and innovative recipes thanks to her storytelling. [Read more.](#)



Round Table with celebrity chef Argiro Barbarigou

8 November 2017 - On 6 November 2017, the **European Young Chef Award 2017** was followed by a **Round Table** event focused on mentoring young chefs and the importance of innovating on tradition. The Round Table hosted by **EUHT StPOL** involved the head of the European Young Chef Award 2017 jury panel, the Greek celebrity chef **Argiro Barbarigou**, alongside **Stamatis Misomikes** and **Shane Sheedy**, winner and finalist of last edition and **IGCAT Regional Chef Ambassadors**.

During the session, moderated by **IGCAT's President, Dr. Diane Dodd**, the young chefs had the opportunity to get inspired by the expertise of the three speakers, as well as to ask questions related to the focus themes. [Read more.](#)

IGCAT's Regional Chef Ambassadors promoting awareness on the importance of cultural and food diversity

27 November 2017 - During the **European Young Chef Award 2017**, the young finalists had the opportunity to become **IGCAT Regional Chef Ambassadors** by signing a protocol and joining IGCAT in its advocacy of cultural and food diversity. By becoming Ambassadors, the young talented chefs commit to spread this message, underlining the importance of local products, innovation on tradition, healthy eating, and sustainable experiences with the final aim to assure a more sustainable future to our regions. [Read more.](#)





Keeping the flame alive

5 November 2017 - In occasion of the European Young Chef Award 2017 on 5 November 2017 at EUHTStPOL the young chefs participated to a Master Class held by Stamatios Misomikes, IGCAT Regional Chef Ambassador and winner of the European Young Chef Award 2016. The Master Class, titled *Tradition meets innovation*, focused on the central theme of the competition. The Chef opened with a quote of Jean Jaure: "Keeping the flame alive". This was the point of departure in order to deeper

understand the process bringing from tradition to innovation which involves creativity, development, research and identification as central steps. [Read more.](#)

Current news from around the globe

European cultural heritage to be celebrated with campaign

20 December 2017 - THOUSANDS of initiatives and celebrations are set to begin across Europe to raise awareness of the diversity of **European history and culture**. The **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018** has been launched this week at the **European Culture Forum in Milan**. The European Commission campaign puts the spotlight on the **wealth and diversity of Europe's cultural heritage** and why it is important. It aims to reach out specifically to children and young people, local communities and people who are rarely in touch with culture, with the aim of fostering a sense of cultural ownership. [Read more.](#)



Launch of the third edition: International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21

19 December 2017 - The call for applications for the "International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21", will stay open from 2 November 2017 to 16 March 2018. This Award aims to recognise important contributions from cities and individuals to the relation between culture and sustainable

development. All Cities and Local Governments who work on **culture and sustainability** and who implement projects, programmes, and policies in this field are invited to send a candidacy. [Read more.](#)

UNWTO appoints First Lady of Iceland as Special Ambassador for Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals

18 December 2017 - H.E. Ms. Eliza Jean Reid, First Lady of Iceland has been nominated as **Special Ambassador for Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The appointment took place at the second **UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture**, an official event of the **International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017**, being held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 11 and 12 ... [Read more.](#)



Farm tourism seen as path to inclusive, sustainable agriculture

15 December 2017 - **Farm tourism** opens up a whole new perspective for **inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development (Isard)** and provides hope for **revitalizing the sector** as a sunrise, if not a sunshine industry in **Southeast Asia**. Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., director of the **Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca)**, gave this reflection as the center opened the five-day **"Exposure Workshop on Farm Tourism Practices in Southeast Asia"**... [Read more.](#)

Terra Madre Day 2017: serving solutions to tackle climate change

14 December 2017 - Each year on Slow Food's anniversary, December 10, the global Slow Food network celebrates **Terra Madre Day** to promote local eating, agricultural biodiversity and sustainable food production. This year's **Terra Madre Day** called special attention to the **Menu for Change** campaign, which highlights the **relationship between food and climate change**: starting from food, we can and must make a difference. [Read more.](#)



Mind the (food) gap

12 December 2017 - By the middle of this century, **the world's farmers will have another 2.4-billion mouths to feed**, half of which will be in Africa. But if we only focus on producing more calories of food per hectare, and throttling back population growth in order to fill the gap, **we won't address the more complex reasons why our modern food system leaves us hungry, heavy, and sick**, argues science writer LEONIE JOUBERT. It was telling that the apex dignitary invited to last week's **Global Food Security Conference** in Cape Town was the Minister of Agriculture. [Read more.](#)

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

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This is just a small selection of news from the past three months. Please visit [IGCAT](#) for more and regular news!

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