

IGCAT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM

IGCAT Voice



It was a great pleasure for me to attend the 6th Annual Expert's Meeting of IGCAT and 1st World Regions of Gastronomy meeting held 25-26 March 2019 in Barcelona, Spain.

It was gratifying for me to see how UNWTO Academy's work on building a sustainable tourism sector has been adopted and shared through IGCAT's philosophy and programmes such as the Region of Gastronomy Award. The meeting agreed on the importance of sustainability education in the tourism sector and explored interesting ways to create ownership of sustainability values - seen in the Regions of Gastronomy Food Charter that uses the Award to get small businesses to sign up to shared principles in sustainability and more proactive methods that are introduced in Kuopio whereby undertaking training in

sustainability becomes a requirement to use the Awarded logo.

The UNWTO Academy is responsible for implementing work programmes on Education and Training of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), with the objective of supporting Member States in the formulation and implementation of educational policies, plans and instruments which effectively contribute to an improvement in the quality, competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism sector through excellence in education and training.

IGCAT reminds us of the importance of local food and regional gastronomy not just for our economies but for our future health and well-being, and as an essential part to ensure sustainable tourism and quality of life. I fully endorse and look forward to collaborating more closely with IGCAT as it builds on the success of the Region of Gastronomy Award around the world.

Omar Valdez

Executive Director, UNWTO Academy

1st World Region of Gastronomy Meeting held in Barcelona

29 March 2019 - Building a better food future for world regions was the intention behind the first ever World Region of Gastronomy meeting, held fittingly in the first region to receive the IGCAT title of European Region of Gastronomy in 2016. The meeting took place in the emblematic Casa de les Punxes, hosted by the Catalan Tourism Board on 26 March 2019 in Barcelona and opened by leading stakeholders from Catalonia 2016. [Read more.](#)



Our mission is a global message

30 March 2019 - The International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT) held its 6th Annual Expert's meeting amongst calls by world experts to expand the flagship Region of Gastronomy Award to include regions beyond Europe. As the awarding body of the Region of Gastronomy title, IGCAT's mission is to raise awareness of the importance to safeguard and promote distinct food, culture, arts and sustainable... [Read more.](#)

Gastronomy and education: a winning combination for regional development

28 December 2018 - University partners in the FOODBIZ project completed the first round of planned multiplier events by organising experiential learning workshops aimed to involve students, business players and researchers operating in their local food sectors. The workshops were organised by the University of Macerata (Italy) - leading partner of FOODBIZ; the University of Gothenburg (Sweden); the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the University of Rijeka (Croatia); and the University of Economic... [Read more.](#)



IGCAT has launched the Food Film Menu 2019!

13 March 2019 - IGCAT is proud to announce the official launch of the Food Film Menu! The creation of the Food Film Menu aims to support interactive and innovative ways of giving visibility to the food heritage of the currently awarded European Regions of Gastronomy and potential world Regions of Gastronomy. This initiative falls into the digital agenda of IGCAT's strategy to use technology to promote... [Read more.](#)

European Young Chef Award 2019 announced!

28 February 2019 - The European Young Chef Award 2019 has been announced by IGCAT and will be hosted by South Aegean, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2019 against the stunning background of Rhodes island, on 23-24 October 2019. The competition will gather finalists of the local contests held in the awarded and candidate European Regions of Gastronomy and will give them the opportunity... [Read more.](#)



Developing local food networks: FOODBIZ state of play

18 January 2019 - Engaging local stakeholders to build local networks is one of the main goals of FOODBIZ - *University and business learning for new employability paths in food and gastronomy*, an Erasmus+ funded project involving four European universities committed to strengthen key employability skills of higher education students in the field of food and gastronomy. [Read more.](#)

News from the Regions of Gastronomy

117 stakeholders promote the gastronomic richness of the islands

4 March 2019 - The South Aegean, awarded European Region of Gastronomy 2019 has just launched its action plan for the title year. Taking place in the Auditorium of the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens, the press conference held on the 31 January 2019 uncovers the course of planned events and actions organised by the South Aegean Region's executives, the Cyclades & Dodecanese Chefs' Club as... [Read more.](#)



European Regions of Gastronomy tackling the urban-rural divide

26 February 2019 - The exchange of knowledge and good practises is a fundamental principle and major strength of the European Region of Gastronomy Platform. Something that was very well demonstrated once again during the 16th European Region of Gastronomy Platform meeting, held on 11-13 February 2019 in Sibiu, Romania. Representatives from the European Regions of Gastronomy gathered to present local excellent examples in the... [Read more.](#)

Thrilling food events and focus on sustainability in Sibiu

13 February 2019 - The European Region of Gastronomy Platform gathered to celebrate the opening of Sibiu, European Regions of Gastronomy 2019. They share the title this year with the South Aegean and both regions have kick-started a thrilling yearly programme full of events, projects and initiatives aimed at promoting local gastronomy and culture. Hosted on 12 February 2019 by Nicolae Bălcescu Land Forces... [Read more.](#)



Best trips 2019

By **Maryellen Kennedy Duckett**

29 January 2019 - Best Trips 2019 - Galway, Ireland WHY GO NOW: Get inspired by big ideas Galway may sit at the far western edge of Europe, but lately the "City of Tribes" has been the center of attention. Named a 2018 European Region of Gastronomy, Ireland's fourth largest city (population 80,000) is gearing up for the next big thing: Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture. Throughout... [Read more.](#)

South Aegean impresses as European Region of Gastronomy for 2019

By **NEOS KOSMOS**

22 January 2019 - 'Taste the Seasons' projects showcases the deliciousness and diversity of the region's culinary culture. With tourism and hospitality currently being the strongest sector in Greece in terms of economic development, the country's most popular region, that of the South Aegean Sea, has been named European Region of Gastronomy for 2019. This year-long project that aims to promote the area's multifaceted culinary... [Read more.](#)



Current news from around the globe



Slow Food in the Nordic Countries: strengthening a regional coalition

By **Dominique Plédel Jónsson**

20 March 2019 - Regional cooperation between the convivia of the Nordic Countries started in 2009 and has come a long way in the past 10 years. The most visible event to have come out of this collaboration was Terra Madre Nordic, which took place in Copenhagen in April 2018, in "Kødbyen", and presented more than 80 producers, 20 degustations and 20-something debates, to... [Read more.](#)

Travel industry: Managing sustainable tourism growth in Europe

By **Chief Assignment Editor**

12 February 2019 - Delegates at the Conference on Managing Sustainable Tourism Growth in Europe, organized this week by the European Travel Commission (ETC), were faced with an urgent call to achieve a balance between the needs of the tourism industry, travelers, local communities and the environment if they are to succeed now and in the future. [Read more.](#)



Sustainable tourism: a new International Standard for accommodation providers

By **Clare Naden**

4 February 2019 - Not only is tourism growing by the day, it is an industry that promotes understanding and peace between countries and cultures, provides millions of jobs and is ideally placed to contribute directly to many of the United Nations' 17 sustainability goals. Accommodation facilities are central to any tourism activity and therefore hold immense potential... [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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IGCAT compiles trends and facts from around the world. Please send news items and comments to info@igcat.org.

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