

For the full text of this newsletter please visit:

[www.moniqua.org/newsletter](http://www.moniqua.org/newsletter)

## In Perspective:



### MoniQA and Food Allergens

Around 1-4% of the overall population and 5-7% of infants suffer from food allergies. Food avoidance is the only option for these individuals since there is currently no effective cure. In order to make an informed choice about what is safe to eat, allergic consumers need to be provided with the relevant information about food allergens.

National and international legislation requires the food industry to provide products to be safe for allergic consumers to eat and the analytical community plays a vital role in supporting the food industry in managing allergens in the food chain. The MoniQA Working Group (WG) "Food Allergens", led by Bert Pöpping (Eurofins) and Clare Mills (IFR), brings together key stakeholders, namely food manufacturers, retailers, consumers, enforcement authorities and analytical laboratories. Together, they are working to develop a synthesis of the needs and priorities, identifying gaps and suggesting ways forward to address these issues.

Recently, the group invited interested stakeholders from food industry, authorities, consumer organisations and method providers to give feedback on the recent achievements of the WG "Food Allergens" and to discuss further requirements and their visions for future developments in this field.

Go to <http://www.moniqua.org/allergens-intro> to read more.

## Industry Corner



### The MoniQA methods database

MoniQA has developed a database of food quality and safety issues and corresponding analytical tools for food production and the supply chain. Via commodity and contaminant searches, the database users gain access to legislative limits and corresponding analytical and sampling methods as well as original legislation. A key component of this fully searchable database is the EU Rapid Alert System (RASFF). Also included are EU provenance issues, a thesaurus of terms and links to sources of reliable information.

The terms and conditions for other organisations including our Associate Partners (see below) to access the MoniQA methods database have been agreed and access will be granted shortly.

The MoniQA database is structured around two key elements: a comprehensive list of contaminants and a comprehensive list of commodities (or matrices) in which these contaminants may pose a food-chain threat.

Read more at <http://www.moniqua.org/database>

[www.moniqua.org/newsletter](http://www.moniqua.org/newsletter)



# MoniQA

## MoniQA Network of Excellence

### Research Frontiers

#### The nano-food revolution



Nanotechnology (the control of matter on atomic and molecular scale) could potentially transform industry and everyday life. However, there are concerns whether the application of nanotech is safe. In an own-initiative report, the European Parliament has recently decided to consider all nanomaterials as new substances and holds that existing legislation does not take into account the risks associated with nanotechnology. According to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), in the area of food science, uncertainties in detecting and measuring levels of nanomaterials could make risk assessment of some nano products extremely difficult.

Surf to <http://www.moniqua.org/nano-intro> to read more.

### Policy Monitor



MoniQA provides support for a systematic assessment of the socio-economic impact of new EU food quality and safety regulations. Impact is evaluated in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, and consistency of application, and with respect to different stakeholders (consumers, industry, regulatory bodies, and others.)

Click on <http://www.moniqua.org/factsheets> to read more

### Food Safety Web Spotlight / Consumer Corner



CommNet is a network of communications managers in EU-funded projects about food quality and safety. CommNet started in 2005 and has since grown to comprise more than 20 projects. Communication managers from these projects meet several times a year to share best practice and to advance the state of food science communication.

More information: <http://www.commnet.eu/>



### Events

Visit MoniQA at the following events:

- China International Food Safety and Quality Conference and Expo 23-24 October 2009, Beijing, China
- Recent Advances in Food Analysis (RAFA) 4-6 November 2009, Prague, Czech Republic
- European Food Science Day 18 November, 2009, Brussels, Belgium

For more events go to <http://www.moniqua.org/calendar>





Check out <http://www.moniqua.org/pastrainings> for reviews of the following MoniQA food science trainings

- Combined MoniQA FST on reference materials and communication training. 15-19 June 2009. Vienna, Austria
- Joint MoniQA/Healthgrain FST - "Building skills on the analysis of components formed during thermal processing of foods." 20-24 April 2004, Ankara, Turkey

## MoniQA Related Events in Review

Look at <http://www.moniqua.org/eventreviews> for other events where MoniQA was recently presented, such as:

- Workshop on Production, Processing and Marketing of Cereals 10-11 May 2009, Khartoum, Sudan
- FoodSafe 09 Symposium 28-29 April 2009, Grenaa, Denmark

## MoniQA Project News



In May 2009 the MoniQA project passed its second review by experts on behalf of the European Commission with flying colours. The experts concluded that the project has fully achieved its objectives and goals for the period and has even exceeded expectations. Out of 27 evaluation items MoniQA completely achieved 26 and partially achieved only one. No negative score was given for any item. Comments and suggestions given by the evaluators were integrated into the new work plan for period 3.

Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods (QAS) is a brand new international journal publishing peer-reviewed scientific primary research papers and review papers in the areas of cereals, grain crops, their quality and issues relating to food safety. This official Journal of ICC and MoniQA is published by Wiley-Blackwell

Special offer: 12 month free trial of online articles of QAS.

More information: <http://www.moniqua.org/journal>

## Ask MoniQA



### How can Associated Partners participate?

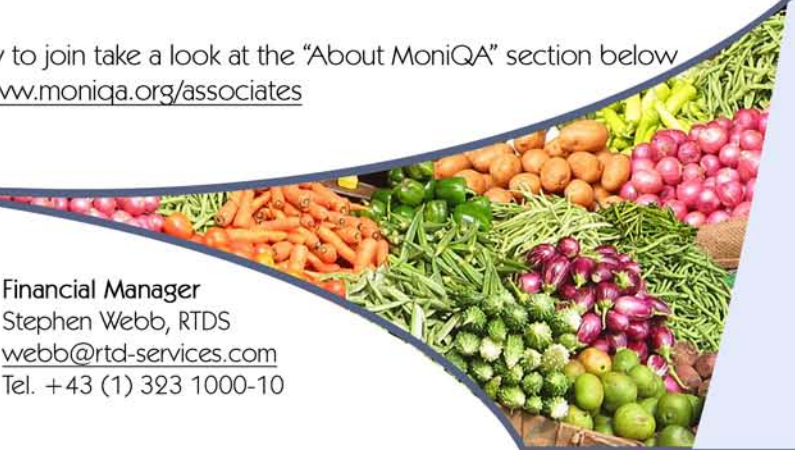
MoniQA offers stakeholder such as small and medium-size businesses, industry and research organisations as well as other entities the chance to become an Associated Partner. So far, more than 35 organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to become official Associated Partners.

For more information on how to join take a look at the "About MoniQA" section below or click on our FAQ <http://www.moniqua.org/associates>

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## About MoniQA



MoniQA (Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the Food Supply Chain) is funded by the European Union. It is a Network of Excellence aiming to make food safer by harmonising worldwide food quality and safety monitoring and control strategies.

- MoniQA focuses on validation of and setting performance criteria/requirements for methods used to analyse foods and food products for safety and quality with the main focus being on rapid methods and their applicability and reliability in routine testing.
- MoniQA seeks to establish long-lasting cooperation amongst leading research institutes, industrial partners and the small- and medium-sized businesses in food and retail in order to ensure food quality and safety for consumers.
- Researchers from around the world have been involved right from the start in 2007 and the network is constantly growing.
- In the long-term the MoniQA consortium hopes that the project will form the basis of a sustainable global network of food safety and quality experts. The project is coordinated by ICC.

### Join us!

MoniQA offers associated partnerships interested organisations, SMEs and institutions. In principle Associated Partners will benefit from

- Favourable conditions for participation in MONIQA events
- Consideration for partnering in new projects
- Involvement and selective invitation to expert panels
- Voluntary participation in the "Integration" and "Dissemination" programmes
- Future offers (subscriber fees are likely) include:
  - participation in exchange and mobility programmes
  - access to the MoniQA databases

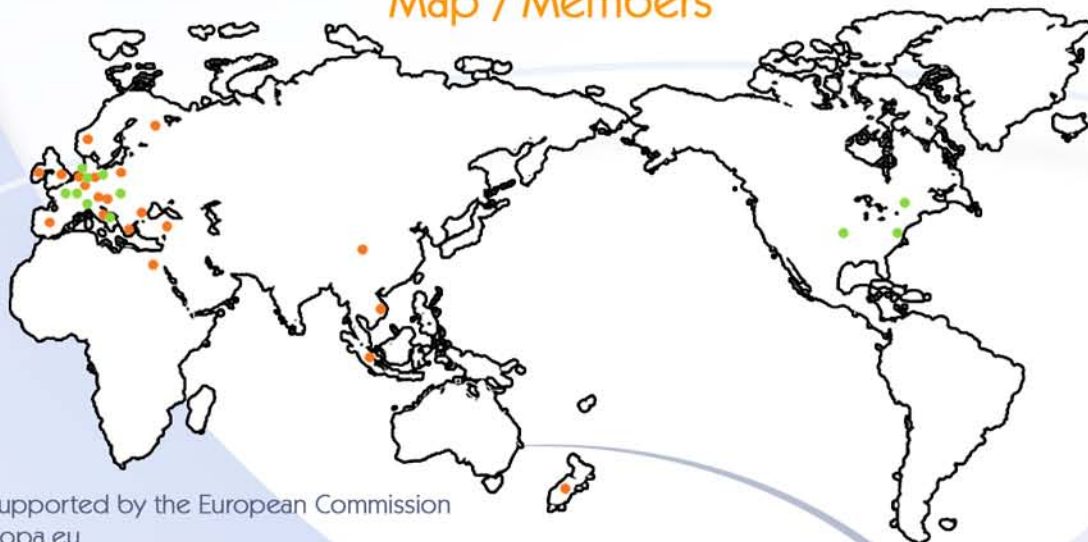
For more information see also the FAQ section on the MoniQA homepage [www.moniqa.org](http://www.moniqa.org)

Interested? Contact: MoniQA Project Manager  
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### Disclaimer

This newsletter is published by the MoniQA consortium. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print but no liability will be accepted for losses caused by inaccurate information.

### Map / Members



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[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

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SIXTH FRAMEWORK  
PROGRAMME

