

# MoniQA

## Towards harmonisation of analytical methods for monitoring food quality and safety in the food supply chain

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### Background

MoniQA (“**M**onitoring and **Q**uality Assurance in the Food Supply Chain”) is a European Union funded ‘Network of Excellence’ project. It comprises over

155 researchers and scientists from 33 international partners (including Campden BRI), located in 20 countries. The project seeks to establish long-lasting cooperation amongst leading research institutions and industrial partners, to further ensure food quality and safety for consumers.

By implementing joint research programmes and promoting exchanges of researchers, the aim of the project is to promote increased competence in food safety for all involved in the food chain. MoniQA allows participants to work together in areas other than research, including training. This means that knowledge as well as equipment and personnel can be shared globally among the partners. In the long term, the consortium plans

### General project objectives

The project’s objectives are essentially 4-fold:

<i>Integration</i>	To overcome fragmentation of research activities by co-ordinating and merging research portfolios in terms of infrastructure, personnel and joint economic models to achieve a sustainable network.
<i>Joint Research</i>	To develop collective knowledge outputs by producing common tools such as guidelines for harmonisation of detection methods and technologies, good traceability practices, databases for food quality and safety assessment and socio-economic impacts of new EU food quality and safety regulations.
<i>Spreading of Excellence</i>	To promote results generated by the network to targeted stakeholder groups, as well as to facilitate and foster a knowledge sharing and learning culture within the network through educational programmes and training courses.
<i>Management</i>	To establish an efficient management structure with independent quality assurance that can be sustained beyond the EU funding.

## Campden BRI contributions

Campden BRI is contracted to contribute to the first three objectives. Details of key contributions to each objective are summarised below.

<i>Integration</i>	Contributions to this objective have been primarily concerned with establishing an infrastructure to facilitate interactions between industrial stake-holders and the consortium together with initial work on developing a business model for the project once EU funding ceases. A key aspect of both these activities was a 'Sustainability Workshop' for members of the MoniQA management team hosted by Campden BRI at Chipping Campden on 5 September 2008.
<i>Joint Research</i>	Campden BRI personnel have been active contributors to the production of strategy documents concerning the food-safety management aspects of mycotoxins and food allergens and areas of concern which would benefit from harmonisation. These papers will be published in the scientific literature later in 2009. Campden BRI has also been involved in providing expert quality assurance support in connection with deliverables from other consortium members in connection with this objective.
<i>Spreading of Excellence</i>	<p>In addition to giving invited papers at international conferences (13th ICC Cereal; &amp; Bread Congress, Madrid, 16 June 2008; 1st MoniQA International Conference, Rome, 9 October 2008; 5th World Mycotoxin Forum, Noordwijk, 18 November 2008), Campden BRI Personnel collaborated with other MoniQA consortium members and organised or contributed to the following MoniQA training courses or industrial knowledge transfer events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of food analysis in managing food chemical contaminant risk within the food industry (<i>Vienna, 18 and 19 September 2008 - in collaboration with University of Natural Resources &amp; Life Sciences</i>)</li><li>• Developments in mill &amp; bakery food safety management (<i>Ankara &amp; Istanbul, 20 and 23 October 2008 - in collaboration with Hacettepe University</i>)</li><li>• Food safety and analytical challenges in the cereal based food chain (<i>Budapest, 10 December 2008 - in collaboration with Budapest University of Technology &amp; Economics</i>).</li></ul>

that the project will form the basis of a global network of food safety and quality experts, which will continue after the initial project has ended.

It is anticipated that Campden BRI will continue to contribute in a similar manner in 2009. Further details about the MoniQA project can be obtained from its website ([www.moniqa.org](http://www.moniqa.org)) or by contacting the Campden BRI representative.

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