



A new, Austria coordinated EU-project towards the harmonisation of analytical methods for monitoring food quality and safety in the food supply chain

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A globalised economy has rapidly increased international trade of a large variety of foods and food products. Consumer satisfaction and health are of utmost importance. Ensuring high quality and safety of food requires powerful and reliable tools and methods for food analysis and control. The MONIQA Network of Excellence (NoE) integrates key organisations across the food supply chain around the world to find acceptable solutions for all stakeholders including the consumer, food manufacturers, food research institutes and regulatory bodies. Food production industries and SMEs will benefit through harmonised analytical methods and technologies, as will the end consumers. The resulting harmonised analytical strategies and methods, databases and training modules will extend beyond the network to associated partners and involved stakeholders.



MoniQA will play an important role in European and worldwide food quality and safety research by creating a virtual laboratory for joint research, training, dissemination and mobility programmes. Integrating activities will facilitate shared access to world's best research facilities, technological platforms, databases, analytical

tools and knowledge. Joint research is directed towards the most pressing issues to fulfil food quality and safety policies, as well as citizens' concerns. The network will develop common strategies for harmonising and validating detection methods and technologies to set new standards in quality and safety - within food production and extending throughout the whole food supply chain.

International food trade helps promote economic development, but likewise creates risks. Complex food supply chains now require harmonised standards in analytical methods and technologies to ensure quality and safety in the global food production and supply chain.



MoniQA (www.moniqua.org) is a EU funded Network of Excellence (NoE), which works towards harmonisation of analytical methods for monitoring food quality and safety in the food supply chain. The Consortium consists of 33 partners from 20 countries, of which four are INCO countries. Egypt, China, Indonesia and Vietnam are integrated and will contribute to the success of the Project by bringing in their experience on scientific and managerial issues. In return they will benefit from the global Network of related organisations.

The MoniQA NoE (Contract N0. FOOD-CT-2006-36337) is coordinated by ICC – International Association for Cereal Science and Technology), represented by Roland Ernest Poms. MoniQA is funded by the European Commission with 12.3 Mio EURO between 2007 and 2012 within the Sixth Framework Programme Topic T5.4.5.1: Quality and safety control strategies for food (NOE).

Make the most of research funding opportunities, Potocnik tells EU food industry

EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik has urged small businesses to make the most of the research funding opportunities available for the future competitiveness of the European food industry.

Speaking at the 'Perspective for Food 2030' conference, Mr Potocnik recommended that the EU's food industry, consisting mainly of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to undertake research that takes into account the whole food chain - from the beginning to the end of the food cycle - in order to meet the industry's innovation challenge.

'Food is not just about what we put on our plates. It influences many other areas, such as the environment, health and the economy,' he said.

'This means opening up to other disciplines by involving converging technologies, such as neurosciences, biotechnologies and nanotechnologies. Learning from other disciplines can mean productivity gains and energy savings,' he added.

Although the food industry is the EU's leading manufacturing sector, industry spends significantly less on research and development (R&D) than its global competitors, the United States or Japan. This is mainly due to the fact that 99% of the 283,000 European food companies are SMEs, which cannot devote the extensive time or resources to lengthy research processes.



Mr Potocnik therefore called for more private investment in food R&D and encouraged SMEs to make the most of funds available at regional, national and European level for research and innovation in the food sector.

He specifically pointed to the opportunities available in the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) and the improved conditions for SMEs' participation. These include, among others, increased potential funding of SME research projects up to 75%, the inclusion of SME specific calls for proposals and the simplification of procedures for participating in FP7.

Combining these elements would involve change and making research a major tool for advancing the food industry, through innovation, cooperation and knowledge, said Mr Potocnik.

For further information on the conference, please visit:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/food2030/index_en.htm



The Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine - Hassan II (IAV)

The mission

IAV is the major Moroccan institute of higher education in agriculture and natural resources. IAV has developed an integrated training system, innovative research in various fields, and assure a significant contribution to technology transfer and continuous education.

Resources:

The scientific staff comprises 320 faculty members with more that 200 full professors.

IAV enjoys an important scientific infrastructure: 32 departments, about 70 laboratories and two campuses are operational, the first in Rabat and the second in Agadir.

Partnership and cooperation:

IAV has developed a wide range international collaborative with higher education and research institutions in Europe, North America, Africa and other regions in the world. About 10% of IAV student population is composes of foreign student and 30% of further education programs are developed for international training.



Participation in the FP's
IAV has participated to 32 projects since the first FP and in the VI FP is partner of 16 projects.

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Further information: www.iav.ac.ma

Courses - Congress - Seminars

Conference "Towards Future Challenges of Agriculture Research In Europe" Brussels, Chalemagne Building 26 27 June 2007

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research will hold a major Conference in Brussels (Belgium) on the future of European agriculture and its consequences for research.
An individual request for registration is necessary. Registration will be possible (on line) from 14 May.

"Agricultural Research for Develment (ARD) in Europe: Towards a Shared Vision" Egmont Palace, Brussels, Belgium 28 - 29 June 2007

This events aims at strengthening the dialogue between the European Member State and Associated State, the European Commission and representatives of the regional and global ARD fora in order to develop a share vision on what ARD should be in Europe and to increase the efficacy and efficiency of all European research and capacity development effort in this field.



Co-ordinator organization name:

French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)

info@era-ard.org

Role of food composition data in improving quality, healthiness and safety of European diets

2nd International EuroFIR Congress, Granada, Sept 2007

26-27th September 2007, Caja Rural, Granada, Spain

Having access to quality and accurate compositional data about the food we eat is crucial to regulators, health policy makers, researchers, the food industry and the public. This second Congress will describe how EuroFIR (European Food Information Resource) is contributing to this important work, and will provide examples of how food composition data are used in a variety of settings, including public health, research and the food industry.

For further information, please email a.denny@nutrition.org.uk

<http://www.eurofir.net>

EFSA and the University of Parma organise Scientific Symposium on Food Safety, Nutrition and Nanotechnology

4 October 2007, Parma

In collaboration with the University of Parma EFSA is organising a Scientific Symposium to discuss key topics concerning food safety, nutrition, health and nanotechnology with the Italian scientific community.

The Symposium will be hosted by the University of Parma and will aim to foster dialogue with Italian scientists and to increase awareness of EFSA's scientific activities and its role in Europe. Scientists, university students and experts from regulatory and private sectors interested in food safety and nutrition are welcome to participate.

The Symposium will be held on Thursday, 4th October 2007 between 9:00 and 17:30 at the Auditorium of the University of Parma, which is located on the University Campus. Please follow this link for more information and to access the registration form: <http://www.unipr.it/EFSA2007>



Call for Proposal

➤ **FP7-ERANET-2007-RTD**

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=7

➤ **FP7-KBBE-2007-1**

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=16