



Executive summary Interaction with Stakeholders

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Content Summary

Stakeholder interaction with the MoniQA NoE is an important pathway for dissemination of results, seeking expert input from external institutions, linking activities and joining forces with related projects and initiatives as well as the promotion of MoniQA's sustainability programme. Interaction with Stakeholder Groups is a continuous process throughout the network EC-funded lifetime and beyond. In the first year of MoniQA, the following activities towards stakeholder interaction were established:

1. Identification of Stakeholder Groups: the stakeholder groups most relevant to the MoniQA NoE were initially identified as the following:

1. *Consumer and Trade:* trading organisations and institutions, consumer organisations, the press and media
2. *Science and Research:* universities and research institutes, with a special emphasis on PhD students, post-docs and young scientists, company research departments and private research laboratories, related EU projects, NoEs, other international/national research projects, ETPs (European Technology Platforms) and other initiatives
3. *Industry and SMEs* (small and medium sized enterprises): this is a rather diverse group including food manufacturers, food developers, plant breeders, producers of agricultural goods, providers of analytical methods, and test kit producers
4. *Organisations:* this is also a similarly varied group with national and EU authorities, policy makers, European Commission, standardisation bodies, regulatory bodies, internationally operating validation/ standardisation/ proficiency testing institutions (governmental and non-governmental institutions, private companies)

The needs and interests of each organisation were analysed.

2. MoniQA Advisory Panel: The Advisory Panel brings together 13 members from 11 countries. They represent mainly individuals from International Organisations and EU institutions. Members of the Advisory Panel receive all published and unpublished



material for review and comment. They are invited to all MoniQA meetings, both internal and dissemination meetings. The names of the people on the advisory board are available on the project website at <http://www.monika.org/index.php?id=120231&lang=default>

3. Stakeholder events/meetings: in its first year a variety of activities were organised or supported by MoniQA. Several stakeholder meetings are planned for the second year of MoniQA – for more information see the MoniQA website www.monika.org.

4. Training courses and workshops: MoniQA Training Courses and Workshops are especially designed for PhD students and post-docs, as well as young scientists and other interested researchers. Thus far workshops have taken place in Prague, CZ, 6 November 2007 and Vienna 14-18 April 2008. Even though students from the MoniQA consortium are preferentially enrolled, the training courses and workshops are also open to stakeholders. For MoniQA partners, bursaries have been developed to support attendance. Information about upcoming training is available on the MoniQA website www.monika.org.

5. Links of MoniQA partners to other related projects or institutions: MoniQA has established links with a variety of EU funded projects in similar fields. These are featured in the MoniQA link section on the homepage: www.monika.org. These links have been very useful for additional dissemination of information about MoniQA and MoniQA events, and for the promotion of MoniQA. Additionally, the various related projects have proven a useful resource for information needed for selected MoniQA activities and also for expert input. Several partners of related EU projects have been invited as speakers at MoniQA events and vice versa.

6. Involvement in the horizontal MoniQA Working Groups: according to the thematic priorities established (see executive summary on priority issues) Working Groups were established during the first year. These working groups are a major entry point for involvement and input from Stakeholders.

7. Participation in surveys and questionnaires: Various questionnaires have been initiated during the first year to address both consortium partners and external Stakeholders. To maximise the usefulness and effectiveness of stakeholder interaction via questionnaires, it was decided to coordinate these activities and harmonise the stakeholder approach.

8. Application to become Associated Partner Through signing up to become associate partners, stakeholders can benefit from a variety of benefits. For the time being the Associated Partnership in MoniQA is free. In the future – when more services and outputs of commercial value become available – a membership fee or service fee is foreseen. More information is available from the website in the FAQ section: www.monika.org.

About MoniQA – www.monika.org

MoniQA ("Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the Food Supply Chain") is a Network of Excellence (NoE) funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme. The Network aims to make food safer by harmonising methods for food analyses. The project is coordinated by the Vienna-based International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC). More than 155 researchers and scientist from 33 international partners from 20 countries are involved in MoniQA.



Join us!

MoniQA offers associated partnerships for interested organisations, SMEs and institutions. For more information see the FAQ section on the MoniQA website (<http://www.moniqa.org/index.php?id=90440&lang=default>) or contact:

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