



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixth edition of the ETP Food for Life newsletter. The aim of this quarterly newsletter is to inform people interested in the development and activities of ETP Food for Life about our ongoing activities.

Launch of the Implementation Action Plan

On 17th October 2008 at the Leopold Hotel, Brussels, Professor Peter van Bladeren (Chairman of the ETP Board) accompanied by Mrs Frieda Brepoels (Member of the European Parliament) and Dr Jürgen Lucas (DG Research, European Commission) welcomed participants to the official launch the IAP. The ETP's Vision for 2020 and beyond (published in 2005) provided an overarching strategy for the future of the food chain with its Strategic Research Agenda (2007) outlining the requirements for research, training, communication and knowledge transfer which had been identified after extensive consultation within and beyond EU Member States. The Implementation Action Plan, the final stage of the initial phase of the ETP, identifies and prioritises the next steps, activities and actions needed to realise the proposals and the potential opportunities described in the SRA. The IAP also indicates the approximate cost of undertaking these (€400-500 each year for the initial five year period) and the anticipated "mix" of public/private money required.

The IAP outlines the next steps that are necessary to realise the requirements described in the SRA and to create new markets and meet important social and environmental goals within three Key Thrusts:

- improving health, well-being and longevity,
- building consumer trust in the food chain, and
- supporting sustainable and ethical production.

The Chairman of the ETP Board and Dr Jan Maat, Chairman of the ETP Operational Committee outlined how the links established with other ETPs during the development of the SRA and IAP, will help ensure that the Knowledge-based Bio-economies, KBBE, theme of the EU Framework Programme can most effectively address the severe challenge of global competition that Europe currently faces and can work together to secure a greater proportion of funding for the sector within the next Framework Programme.

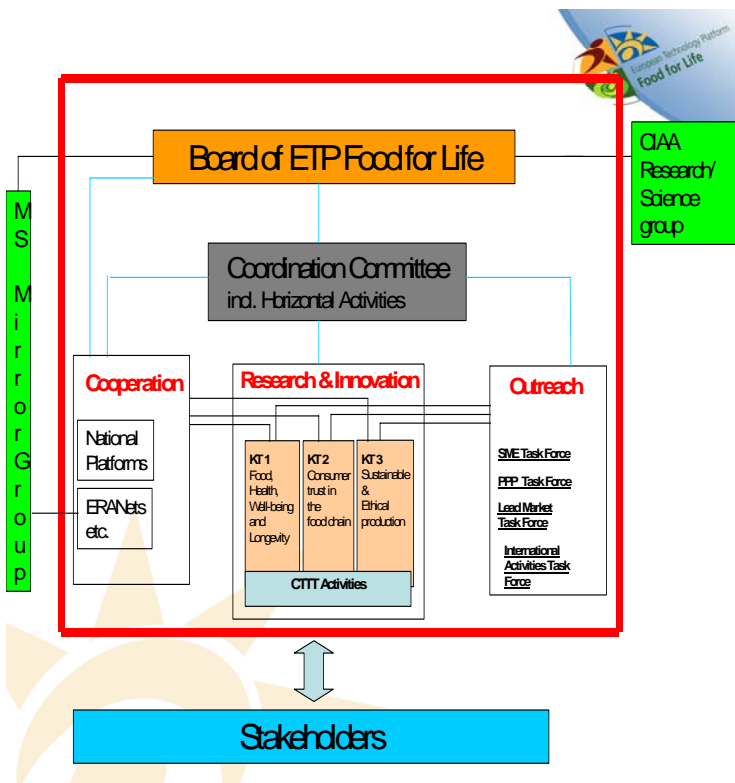
ETP Food for Life represents a unique opportunity for the stakeholders in the European food chain work together to increase their competitive strength and ensure the continued well-being and welfare of consumers across Europe. The IAP is posted at www.etp.ciaa.eu.

Summary of ETP Food for Life Board Meeting, 19th December 2008.

Following the launch of the Implementation Action Plan, IAP, the document that establishes the important deliverables of the ETP, a future implementation strategy for the ETP was thoroughly discussed by the Board. In order to be better able to pursue and

monitor the programme laid out in the IAP the overall structure of the Platform it was agreed that a new organisational structure be defined, shown below, based on activities prioritised in the IAP.

New Organisational Structure of ETP Food for Life



During the meeting, Peter van Bladeren stepped down as Chair to be succeeded by Dr Wim van Gelder, Danone Senior vice President. Peter van Bladeren was thanked for his very effective and dedicated activities on behalf of the ETP during its initial phases. He will now become a Board Member. Congratulations were offered to Jan Maat who had been appointed as Managing Director of the Top Institute Food and Nutrition in Wageningen, www.tifn.nl, alongside his Unilever position.

Network of National Technology Platforms

Through its recent extensive consultation processes with influential industrialists, key research workers, representatives of consumer organisations, policymakers, regulators and the networking of national public bodies that support food research within its Mirror Group, ETP Food for Life is also influencing the future direction of national research activities.

The ETP is collecting an inventory of national and European funding schemes, as well as a guide of best practices for attaining funding for innovation and networking, and for clustering SMEs. The latter is being made possible through business development and management and innovation support.

Another important forum for exchange of information, experience and best practice is the Network of the National Technology Platforms which builds on initial contacts made during the consultation processes leading to the SRA and IAP. We have encouraged and supported the establishment and the related work of National Platforms. Since 2006, 34[1] National Technology Platforms have been established. In addition, the Greek Technology Platform will be officially launched in Athens on 18th May 2009. “Food for Life Lebanon” and “Food for Life Greece” would be the 35th and the 36th National Food Platforms.

Cooperation with other ETPs and ERA-Nets; BECOTEPS Project

The Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) sector defines the interest base of the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology theme of the

Cooperation theme of Framework Programme 7. On 18th February, 2009, the European Commission invited all KBBE relevant **ERA Nets** and **ETPs** to a joint meeting to discuss the results from the evaluation study on ETPs during 2008, the future role of ETPs and opportunities for future cooperation between the ERA-Nets and ETPs to strengthen and create synergies. Lisbeth Munksgaard, Chair of the Mirror Group, and Roberta Mancia, Secretary of the ETP, represented our ETP at this meeting.

The meeting provided an important networking experience to promote and secure closer cooperation. All ETPs have been officially invited to strengthen mutual contacts and cooperation. In particular, ETP Manufactures, (<http://www.manufuture.org>) expressed its wish to establish close cooperation with us. The European Commission is also behind the active cooperation between platforms and it is supportive of interactions between these and ERA-Nets which are focused on similar issues.

During this joint meeting the FP7 BECOTEPS project, a Cooperation and Support Action, was introduced and discussed. Within this project, coordinated by ETP Plants for the Future, KBBE ETPs have joined forces to address synergies and gaps in their SRAs. BECOTEPS will run from 2009 to 2010 and will facilitate ongoing collaboration and interaction, define research challenges and optimize dissemination to national and European funding organisations and ministries. ETP Food for Life is represented by Kirsten Brandt and will have specific responsibility for organizing workshops on 'Trust and collaboration in the food

and feed chains', 'Integrating nonfood chains', and 'Cross-cutting sustainability issues'.

The other technology platforms involved are:

- EBTP - European Biofuels Technology Platform.
- EATIP - European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Programmer.
- Plants for the Future.
- SusChem - The European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry.
- FABRE - Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform.
- Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform.

New Organic Food Research Technology Platform

A new technology platform 'TP Organics' (<http://www.tporganics.eu/>) has been launched to bring together stakeholders from civil society, academia and industry in organic food research which will be particularly relevant to the KBBE theme for research into food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology. Stakeholders urged the European Commission to provide adequate support for organic food and farming research at their launch at the beginning of December. TP Organics has developed a common vision for research up to 2025 and will aim to define a common research agenda and implementation plans.

The stakeholder platform argues that investment in organic farming would help to improve food quality and help to meet environmental and social standards. They believe research in the field must

foster innovations and economic development in line with the need of society for sustainable solutions. Making farming more sustainable is one of their objectives. The Vision 2025 document published by the platform (see below) provides a list of supporters and organisations involved in the platform.

TP Organics plans to elaborate this research proposal within the next 12 months. In November 2008 a “Call for Experts” was sent to several senior scientists, to the stakeholder forum and to the TP Partners in order to develop three different expert groups on Eco-functional Intensification, Food for Health and Well-being, and Empowerment of Rural Areas.

Because of the overlap between the activity of the second expert group, above, and that of our ETP and approach has been made to TP Organics by Professor Dietrich Knorr to see how best we might cooperate.

Research Policy: European Commission's Priorities for 2010

The European Commission has published its Annual Policy Strategy for 2010, which is designed to provide a starting point for the formal institutional discussions, with the aim of reaching agreement on the next year's priorities and the draft budget for 2010. The document provides an overview of the planned priorities for next year. Four core policy objectives are identified: Economic and social recovery; Climate change and sustainable Europe; Putting the citizen first; and Europe as a world partner. These will be discussed among the European institutions before being confirmed by the new Commission in the autumn of 2009. The implementation of the European Economic Recovery

Plan will be a matter of high priority. Key priorities include:

- The mid-term review of the current EU spending programmes will take place, which will include the mid-term review of FP7. As well as reviewing the implementation of the existing programmes, the Commission will also be looking ahead, and will be seeking to build a consensus on the main strands of the next multi-annual financial framework so that the legislative process for the next programmes can be developed.
- The implementation of the Climate and Energy package will be a priority for 2010.
- The Commission will continue to promote and implement its integrated maritime policy during 2010, and in relation to this is expected to submit a reform proposal for the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- The Commission will continue efforts to create a Community patent and patent litigation system as well as working on modernising the copyright and the trademark systems.
- 2010 will be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, and will see a follow-up strategy to the Roadmap on gender equality. There will be preparations for 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering.
- In the Health sector, as well as implementing the EU Health Strategy, the co-decision procedures will conclude on patients' rights in cross border healthcare and on organ donation and transplantation.

International priorities will include: the continuation of the accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey; negotiations on a new agreement with

Russia; development of the transatlantic partnership; the EU-Latin America Summit will take place in May 2010; and in September 2010 UN Summit will review progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

In line with EC financial programming, the proposed 2010 budget will see an increase of nine percent for the budget Heading 1a which includes FP7, the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), the Competiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), the Trans-European Networks (TENs), Galileo and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The EIT Governing Body have decided to hold three stakeholder seminars, one for each of the agreed themes. The seminars are designed to bring together representatives from all potential stakeholders and information multipliers for business, entrepreneurship, research and higher education having an interest in actively contributing to the shaping of the KICs. The EIT GB will not specify any preferred areas within the KIC themes.

The EIT Regulation allows for two to three KICs to be funded in this first call. The KIC themes offer proposers considerable flexibility. Proposals for KICs are expected to have a "centre of gravity" in one of the identified theme, at the same time a KIC is free to cover aspects of the other themes. KICs should "educate and develop entrepreneurial people" and "innovative European entrepreneurs should be a major output of every KIC". KICs are expected to be elite centres that build on webs of excellence, each KIC should have a track

record of education, technology for business and entrepreneurship, with the ability to undertake research into non-technical aspects of innovation.

A KIC will typically have a budget of €100 million per year, and a lifetime of between least seven to 15 years. The EIT will cover only 25% of the funding with the rest will come from other programmes. The EIT Governing Body is expecting innovative solutions to funding, including the use of: European funding such as Structural Funds, FP7, and the Lifelong Learning Programme; national funding; and funding from other sources such as venture capitalists and investments. The actual funding from the EIT will depend on activities, and could be more in the early years, and less in later years once the KIC has established itself.

The EIT Governing Body has agreed that KICs should typically include four to six co-location centres/lead nodes and in exceptional cases, more than six co-location centres may be considered. It has also given a clear message that the co-location centres should be places where staff from different stakeholders come to work together, face-to-face and which link other partners, such as local clusters of SMEs. Each of the co-location centres should accept and send members of the KIC consortium and students for placements of six to nine months.

Expected Call Timetable

- Publication of call – 2nd April, 2009.
- Deadline - end of August, 2009.
- 2-3 KICs to be selected by January, 2010.
- Evaluation and monitoring of KICs to start by August, 2010

Expert Group Report on Future of NoEs

In December 2007 the European Commission established an Expert Group to consider the Future of Networks of Excellence (NoEs). The Expert Group presented their final report to the Commission in September 2008, since then the Commission has been internally considering the outcome of the report.

Key recommendations are :

- some existing NoEs have come close to achieving the originally defined objectives. The Commission is invited to launch a competitive call for these NoEs to seek support for moving further towards integration.
- Useful activities initiated by NoEs should be continued through traditional funding schemes like Coordination and Support Actions, CSAs.
- The NoE scheme should be discontinued in the present form and no new calls should be launched.
- In the future a revised scheme: 'Joint Research Initiatives (JRIs)' should be introduced, oriented towards long-term (academic) research alliances between universities and research organisations.

Despite the Expert Group's recommendation the Commission will continue to use the NoE scheme strategically in some targeted areas, where there is a clear need to overcome fragmentation. The future use of NoEs is likely to depend on the needs identified in individual Cooperation themes.

ETP Food for Life places a high priority on a future NoE targeted at consumer sciences.

External cooperation programs in the field of research

EU and China to deepen research cooperation

The EU and China are looking to strengthen their links in the area of agricultural research. Chinese partners are involved in a growing number of Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects. According to Dr Timothy Hall, Acting Director of the Biotechnologies, Agriculture and Food Directorate of the European Commission's Research DG, the European Commission is particularly interested in working with China in three key areas: animal health and diseases (especially transmissible diseases like bird flu); improving the resistance of crop plants to factors such as drought, salinity and heat; and food safety. The exact form of EU-China agricultural research cooperation will be decided in future meetings, but will probably start off with a relatively simple mechanism such as twinning projects.

More information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm>

Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes associated to FP7

On 28 November, 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed which will allow Bosnia and Herzegovina full access to FP7. Their "associated status" will allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in all calls for proposals and compete on an equal footing with the EU Member States and the other associated countries for research co-operation and support actions funded under FP7, as of 1 January 2009. In addition to forging links with scientists and companies

across Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina will have new opportunities to work with its regional partners in addressing common challenges. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the 12th country to be associated to FP7. More information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1758&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

FP7: EU-Brazil S&T Co-operation

Leaders at the EU-Brazil Summit held at the end of December 2008 adopted a Joint Action Plan which sets out the political priorities and actions of the Strategic Partnership until 2011. In brief, the Joint Action Plan explains how annual dialogues will support the regular summits and ministerial meetings. The implementation of the action plan for science and technology will be followed by the Steering Committee on Co-operation in Science and Technology (SCC).

The priority areas of the Science and Technology Chapter of the Joint Action Plan are social sciences and humanities, e-infrastructure, energy, cross-sectional studies, training and development of human resources, researcher exchanges, environment and climate change, nanotechnology and materials, health, safety, information and communication technologies, transport, food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology. These areas were priorities identified in the Roadmap prepared following the 2nd Steering Committee of the EU-Brazil S&T Agreement.

More information:

http://ims.ukro.ac.uk/NR/ronlyres/E286A6CA-5CAE-49FE-866D-B3718C5F9F09/6606/jointactionplan_eu_brazil_scitechnol2008_en.pdf

Funding Available for New Zealand Researchers to join COST Actions

The New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, MoRST, has allocated funding for New Zealand scientists and groups to participate in ongoing and future COST Actions. The same organization is also offering support to successful International Research Staff Exchange Scheme, IRSES, projects submitted to the FP7 People pillar. Further details from Ms Karla Falloon, Science Counsellor, NZ Mission to the European Commission, karla.falloon@morst.govt.nz

Flash news

Ex-post evaluation of Framework Programme 6

A report on FP6 has recently been published,

[Expert Group Report on FP6 Ex-post Evaluation \(.pdf\)](#)

CIAA publishes its policy recommendations for improving industry competitiveness

These recommendations represent the CIAA's input into the work of the High Level Group on the competitiveness of the agro-food industry. The CIAA policy recommendations (Input into the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Agro-food Industry) are an addition to the CIAA 2008 Report on the EU food and drink industry competitiveness indicators published earlier this year. To download CIAA policy recommendation :

http://www.ciaa.eu/documents/brochures/CPT00209E_Annex1.pdf

DG Sanco consultation

DG Sanco is seeking responses to assist the development of a Commission Communication addressing reduction of health inequalities in Europe. The deadline for responses is April 1st.

Best wishes,

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