



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the seventh edition of the ETP Food for Life newsletter. The aim of this quarterly newsletter is to inform you about the development and activities of the ETP Food for Life.

### **ETP Board Meeting held on 12 May 2009**

Following the launch of the Implementation Action Plan (IAP), which sets out and establishes the important deliverables of the ETP, the Board discussed the future strategy for the implementation of this plan and the future of the ETP.

In particular, some of the main challenges of the Board in the coming months, will involve continuing and strengthening the activities of the ETP Working Groups.

These Groups played a central role in developing the ETP's activities from its 'Vision for 2020 and beyond' to the Strategic Research Agenda (SSRA) and to the publication Implementation Action Plan ( IAP) .

Many Working Group members played key roles in securing trans-national discussions and fruitful debates on the SSRA and in the establishment of National Food Technology Platforms. Consideration is currently being given to the future role of these groups in the post-IAP phase of the ETP.

It will be important to ensure that the composition of the Food for Life WGs reflects the pan-European nature of our research activities.

A call for interest will soon be published on the ETP website, to give the possibility to researchers, scientists and other professionals of the food sector to contribute to the implementation of the Activities of our ETP Food for Life .

### **National Technology Platform and the Member States Mirror Groups join forces**

Since April 2006, thirty-six National Food Technology Platforms (NFTPs) have been established under the umbrella of "Food for Life"<sup>1</sup>.

These NFTPs are currently implementing the inventory of national and European funding schemes, as well as a guide of best practices for attaining funding for innovation, networking and for clustering of SMEs. The guide is being made possible through business development, management and innovation support.

The ETP Food for Life Member States Mirror Group (MG) was established in June 2008, with eighteen National Food Technology Platforms appointing members, Government representatives and funding agencies.

One of the main activities of the MG is to inform the ETP and its stakeholders about policies and programmes relevant to the agro-food sector and to the activities and deliverables of the

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Austria, Belgium Flanders, Belgium Walloon, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Platform, in particular those addressing research, communication, training, knowledge and technology transfer.

A joint meeting between representatives of the ETP Food For Life Members States Mirror Group and the National Food for Life Network took place on 12th May 2009.

The aim of this meeting was to reinforce the cooperation between the two groups, which complement each other in terms of national activities. The Mirror Group is aimed to act as a driver for trans-European dialogue between the bodies funding food research, as well as with the ETP. The aim is to encourage stakeholders to optimise research funding by avoiding duplication and thereby releasing funding for shared strategic goals. NTPs will contribute to the content of the Implementation Plan by collecting data on national research priorities and funding possibilities.

The two groups believe that the trans-national dialog on food research funding and policies is essential. The EU framework programme provides only 5 % of the total European research budget; the other 95 % is national funding. Clearly, there is a lot to gain in coordination and alignment of current programmes, as well as in identifying opportunities to mobilise new sources of funding for common calls.

The two groups will therefore work together to enhance communication and cooperation around national funding schemes for food research and their integration.

The Strategic Research Agenda and the Implementation Action Plan will therefore provide a guide in setting focused priorities.

## **Trophelia Europe – Europe’s student Innovation prize**

The second edition of Trophelia Europe (the student Innovation prize in Europe) will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 alongside the SIAL international fair in Paris.

Trophelia was established in 2000, via an initiative from ACTIA and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Vaucluse (France), in the context of the European regulation and policy, under the auspices of CIAA’s Research and Science expert group and the ETP Food for Life.

The main goal of this European-wide competition is to encourage the creation, implementation and development of new food products by teams of students from scientific and commercial establishments of higher education.

This initiative is fully in line with the Lisbon strategy, has and it’s objective is to boost innovation that should lead to increased competitiveness of European industries.

In addition, Trophelia Europe is in agreement with the strategic agenda of the European Technology Platform “Food for Life” which integrates an educational dimension to ensure the availability of a work force in the food sector by:

- attracting young people to choose a career in the food sector, and
- improving the innovation culture and awareness.

The involvement of the National Food Federations, under the auspices of CIAA and its Research and Development activities, is a positive sign of the companies’ willingness to involve themselves in Research and Innovation.

Moreover, the wide participation of EU Countries will allow new entries to benefit from the experience of leading countries in the field of food research.

### **KBBE Work Programme 2010 published by FP7**

On 31<sup>st</sup> July the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation published the KBBE Work Programme for the year 2010

The ETP Food for Life is pleased that a considerable number of research challenges arising from the Food for Life SRA and IAP have been recognised and reflected in the WP 2010, Theme 2 Call for Proposals: "Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology".

Tangible inputs from research support eco-innovation in the food industry and help to prevent diet-related diseases and disorders. Consumer research focuses on healthy diets and food choices determinants. Further research support is provided in the area of nutrition for a better understanding of the regulation of hunger/satiety and on age-related disorders. Food processing focuses on areas such as packaging, personalised nutrition and foods for specific population groups. Food quality and safety research addresses the fate of contaminants during processing how it contributes to maintaining Europe's alert system to emerging risks in the food and feed sector. The total food chain approach is further developed in the light of global developments.

SMEs are expected to be actively involved in all relevant research into practical industrial application of new technologies or research results and in the development of industrially relevant technologies.

A number of topics in the WP 2010 are specifically designed to encourage SME and industry participation in research

and innovation. To ensure that the research efforts have the expected impact, active participation from industrial partners offers added value, which will be reflected in the evaluation process. Below are the reported SME targeted topics in the food area:

- KBBE.2010.2.2-02 Diet and prevention of functional decline of the elderly
- KBBE.2010.2.3-01 Development of biodegradable food packaging
- KBBE.2010.2.3-02 Strategies for personalised nutrition
- KBBE.2010.2.3-03 Health-value-added food products for population groups at risk of poverty

### **Call "Influenza 2010"**

A specific call "Influenza 2010" was published on 30th July in the FP7 Work Programme 2010. Through a cross-thematic approach, this call involves two different sectors, i.e. "Health" and "Food, Agriculture & Fisheries, and Biotechnology".

A network of laboratories working on swine influenza has been supported in FP5 and FP6 for the surveillance in pigs in Europe and research in swine influenza viruses is partially/marginally addressed within the wider context of influenza. The emergence of a new H1N1 virus on the American continent in humans, which shares common features with swine influenza viruses, shows the need of the mobilisation of further research efforts in the area, complementing current on-going activities in influenza in humans and birds.

The following Theme 2 topics are included in this call:

- KBBE.2010.1.3-05 Swine influenza surveillance network

- KBBE.2010.1.3-06 Pathogenesis and transmission of influenza in pigs

An additional topic is presented in Section 2.3.3 of the Health Theme.

### **ETP Food for Life organises the first Becoteps workshop**

The Becoteps (Bio-Economy Technology Platforms) project started its activities on 1st March 2009. Becoteps is a coordination and support action in collaboration with DG Research to promote the idea of a Knowledge Based Bio-Economy Network (KBBE net). Coordination and Support actions contribute firstly to coordination and networking activities at European and international, national or regional level (organisation of events and studies, or the organisation and management of joint or common initiatives); secondly to activities to support the implementation of the Theme (including dissemination, information and communication); and finally to activities to stimulate and encourage the participation of civil society organisations.

ETP Food for Life is represented by Kirsten Brandt and will have specific responsibility for organising a workshop on 'Trust and collaboration in the food and feed chains'. The meeting will take place in Newcastle on 29-30 September 2009. The final issue will be to identify the actions required to ensure that enterprises at every step of the food production and supply chain will benefit from improved competitiveness via these new innovations.

The workshop will be aimed at handling issues of trust (authenticity, food safety, corporate ethics and consumer perceptions) and collaboration from the food production and supply chain management perspective, with particular focus on efficiency/efficient actions.

### **From the European Commission**

#### **THE SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE NETWORK ON THE KNOWLEDGE BASED BIO-ECONOMY (KBBE-NET)**

On 16h June 2009 the European Commission invited all KBBE relevant ERA Nets and ETPs to a joint meeting to discuss opportunities for future cooperation between the ERA-Nets and ETPs to strengthen and create synergies.

The meeting provided an important networking opportunity to promote and secure closer cooperation between KBBE ERA Nets and ETPs. Timothy Hall, chair of the meeting, underlined the importance of coordinating the activities of ETPs, ERA Nets, SCAR and Joint Programming.

The European Commission also encouraged the active cooperation between platforms and is supportive to interactions between these and ERA-Nets that are focused on similar issues. KBBE NET representatives, ETPs and ERA-NETs were invited to report on ongoing or planned foresight activities, and to reflect on whether collaboration/joint activities would be required.

#### **ETP Conference "Gearing research and innovation to address societal challenges", Brussels, 13th October 2009**

This conference will bring together European Technology Platforms (ETPs), national policy makers in the area of research and innovation and representatives from different Commission services. It will enable a first exchange of experiences and best practices on the contribution of ETPs to address societal challenges considered as key EU policy priorities. The

conference builds on the results of the work of the ETP expert group and the evaluation of ETPs carried out in 2008. The objectives of the event are to:

- Facilitate the work of ETPs in proposing and implementing research agendas tailored to meet the needs of societal challenges;
- Bring national research actors into the debate while disseminating best practices on interaction between ETPs and national research authorities (through Mirror Groups, national technology platforms, linkages between ETPs and Eureka clusters and ERA-Nets, research partnerships on a national level, etc).

#### **Financing R&D activities: Risk-sharing finance facility**

Financial markets and financial institutions are traditionally reluctant to invest in R&D projects. This is due to the fact that there is a higher uncertainty or risk for R&D projects compared to more traditional business projects.

In order to improve access to loans for R&D projects, the Community proposed the 'Risk-Sharing Finance Facility' (RSFF), which consists of a financial collaboration between the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The RSFF aims to improve access to the EIB debt finance for participants of European R&D projects.

Such a mechanism was specifically called for by the European Council in its decision on the Financial Perspectives for 2007-2013.

The Risk-Sharing Finance Facility was thus signed on 5 June 2007 between the European Commission and the EIB.

Sharing the risk between the Commission and the EIB allows the RSFF to produce additional loans for R&D projects. Moreover, projects with a higher risk than would otherwise be possible for the EIB are also considered. The loans will benefit those R&D projects (including infrastructure projects), which have a strong European dimension.

The EU contribution can be reused over time and hence stimulate loans over an extended period.

Partners may approach the EIB either individually or through joint legal entities. Beneficiaries may thus include large companies, SMEs, public and private research organisations and public-private partnerships.

Partners in large projects supported by FP7, such as Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI), collaborative projects and research infrastructures, will be automatically eligible. Eligible requests will then be examined by the EIB according to the usual banking practice. The European Commission has defined precise eligibility criteria and has set up an eligibility panel.

The RSFF aims at having a demonstrative effect, to ensure that all projects can eventually benefit: R&D stakeholders and financial institutions will learn to work together, paving the way for further R&D loans in Europe.

All private and public organisations involved in R&D will consequently benefit by:

- Increasing the total volume of funding available for R&D projects, and
- Allowing public subsidies to focus more on R&D activities unsuitable for loans but with a substantial value to society.

## **Good to Know!**

### **New food dictionary**

EFFoST and Food-Info have launched a new multilingual food dictionary: [www.fooddictionary.eu](http://www.fooddictionary.eu)

This dictionary currently operates in 30 working languages and has presently nearly 1000 (English) base words in the database with over 22000 translations. All words will have a description and image, video and/or sound fragment. E-number, CAS number and scientific name are added when appropriate. In due course, all descriptions will be translated and more words, images and translations will be added. The aim is to provide more than 5000 base words by the end of 2009. To speed up this process the project is looking for sponsoring and help to pay the translators at the different European universities.

### **The World in 2025**

The European expert group on "The World in 2025" has developed a report outlining the ways our society might look in fifteen years' time. The prospective analysis is based on the current state of the world and its historical evolution. It includes the demographic, economic, trade, financial, environmental, technological and social dimensions as well as the issues of migration, security and governance. To download the report, please go to [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/report-the-world-in-2025\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/report-the-world-in-2025_en.pdf)

## **Agenda of Upcoming Events**

- 18 September 2009 Meeting of the ETP Food for Life Board, Brussels
- 29/30 September 2009 workshop 'Trust and collaboration in the food and feed chains', Newcastle
- 30 September 2009: official presentation of the ETP Food for Life at the "CIAA European Parliament Annual Evening" Brussels
- 02 October 2009: 6th National Technology Platform meeting in Riga
- 15 October 2009 Meeting of the Member States Mirror Group
- 22 December 2009 second joint meeting of ETP Food for Life NFTP's and Mirror Group

Best regards,

Julian Drausinger - Chairman of the Communication Training and Technology Transfer Group of the ETP Food for Life

Roberta Mancina - ETP Food for Life Secretariat