



MoniQA

The MoniQA Network of Excellence (NoE) aims at harmonisation of analytical methods for monitoring and controlling quality and safety in the food supply chain.

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 NoE integrates key organisations across the food supply chain from around the world to find acceptable solutions for all stakeholders including the consumer, food manufacturers, food research institutes and regulatory bodies.

The network members will investigate mechanisms to coordinate and merge research activities, personnel and infrastructure to achieve synergetic effects. The resulting harmonised analytical strategies and methods, databases and training modules will extend beyond the network to associated partners and involved stakeholders. Food production industries and SMEs will benefit through harmonised analytical methods and technologies, as will the consumers.

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. It will allow sharing of data and knowledge for harmonising standards and performance quality of analytical methods for monitoring and controlling food quality and safety.

Integrating activities will facilitate shared access to the 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 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. The MoniQA Network is funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme as a response to the challenge of global food quality and safety.

MoniQA Objectives and Activities

Integration Objective

To overcome fragmentation of research activities by coordinating and merging research portfolios in terms of infrastructure, personnel and joint economic models to achieve a sustainable network.

Joint Research Objective

To develop collective knowledge of the network 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

Spreading of Excellence Objective

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.

Management Objective

To establish an efficient management structure with independent quality assurance that can be sustained beyond the EC funding.

Integration Activities

- WP 1: Coordinating and merging research infrastructure
- WP 2: Personnel exchange and mobility
- WP 3: Achieving network sustainability

Joint Research Activities

- WP 4: Harmonisation and standardisation of analytical methods
- WP 5: Advanced processes and ICT technologies
- WP 6: Development of database for food safety hazards
- WP 7: Socio-economic impact and cost efficiency

Spreading of Excellence Activities

- WP8: Dissemination and knowledge management
- WP9: Joint education programmes and training tools

Management Activities

- WP 10: Consortium activities Management

Programme leaders

Integration

VTT - TECHNICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF FINLAND
Vuorimiehentie 3, 02044 Espoo, Finland
Maria Saarela

Spreading of Excellence

Q-Plan - INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES S. A.
15 Messogion Avenue, 11526 Athens, Greece
Christos Tapinos

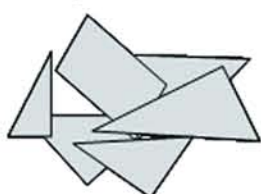
Joint Research

CSL - CENTRAL SCIENCE LABORATORY
Sand Hutton, YO41 1LZ York, UK
Martin Rose

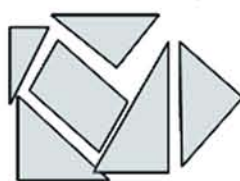
Management

ICC - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CEREAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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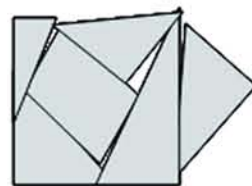
Year 1
Resource inventories
Assess best practice
Establish stakeholder groups
Design databases



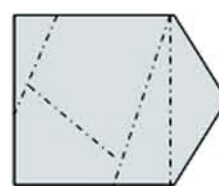
Year 2
Resource sharing concepts
Launch databases
Sustainability strategies
Joint education concept



Year 3
Implement resource sharing
Utilise databases
Mobilised personnel
Shared knowledge



Year 4+
Sustainable Network
Harmonised methods & standards
Validation studies



MoniQA Network of Excellence



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