

# MoniQA Network of Excellence

Scientists from 20 countries collaborate in the MoniQA network to harmonise worldwide food quality and safety monitoring and control strategies.

Socio-economic impact assessment will enhance effectiveness and efficiency of new food quality and safety regulations.

Harmonised food quality and safety control adds value in the food chain and will improve consumer confidence.

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.

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## MoniQA Objectives and Activities

Integration Objective	Integration Activities
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.	WP 1: Coordinating and merging research infrastructure WP 2: Personnel exchange and mobility WP 3: Achieving network sustainability
Joint Research Objective	Joint Research Activities
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	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 Objective	Spreading of Excellence Activities
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.	WP8: Dissemination and knowledge management WP9: Joint education programmes and training tools
Management Objective	Management Activities
To establish an efficient management structure with independent quality assurance that can be sustained beyond the EC funding.	WP 10: Consortium activities Management

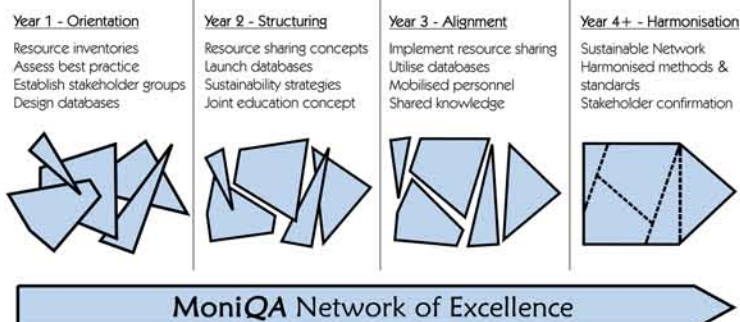
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