

2nd Call: The new Food and Drink Professional – Industry growth by focusing on people



Dear Stakeholder of the Food industry,

We are pleased to invite you to attend an Open Symposium, next 29th January 2013, in the afternoon, where the main results of the TRACK_FAST project will be presented.

TRACK_FAST is an EU funded support action, whose main objective is the “Identification of the training and career requirements of future European food scientists and technologists (FST), and implementation of a European strategy to recruit the next generation FST leaders” (www.trackfast.eu).

In this event you will have the opportunity to contribute to a vision document: **THE NEW FOOD & DRINK PROFESSIONAL: Industry Growth by Focusing on People**, to be distributed to National Professional Associations, Industry Federations and Training and Higher Education Institutions.

Furthermore, the debates of the symposium are expected to provide useful input for future activities in the European AgriFood context under different structures to support this sector in the future: ETP Food 4 Life, fostering the implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, and future EU activities like Joint Programming Initiative and European Institute of Technology.

Join us in defining the future of food professionals and their industry!

Warm Regards
TRACK_FAST Team

**See below information on registration
Apologies for cross/double posting**

**29th January 2013
NH Hotel du Grand
Sablon – Brussels**



Objectives of the Symposium

The symposium will bring together food industry representatives, training and higher education institutions and policy makers. The meeting will present the results achieved by TRACK_FAST and outline the recommendations for the future:

- Who are the food professionals in Europe: their personal motivations, career paths and working conditions? The result of a Pan-European survey to 3000+ professionals
- What skills are needed by the industry? The result of a consultation with more than 300 professionals in SMEs, large companies, research and government



- How can a professional move forward in his career and meet the needs of his employer? The continual professional development portfolio for the Food and Drink professional
- Should the professionals be certified? What are the benefits for the industry (especially SMEs) and the professionals? The proposal on Certified Food Safety professional and the Certified New Product Development professional
- How can young people be recruited to the Food and Drink Industry? Suggestions for actions to attract motivated students.
- What is the role of the different stakeholders in defining the future of the sector and the people working within?

Draft Programme

12.30 Welcome Sandwich Buffet

13.30 Registration

14.00 Welcome by **Cristina Silva**,

Coordinator of Track_Fast, Biotechnology College, Porto Regional Center of Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal

14.10 Opening address by **Antonio Di Giulio** (to be confirmed)

Acting Director, Directorate for Biotechnology, Agriculture, Food, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission

14.30 Track_Fast Main Achievements

❖ **Katherine Flynn** *The European Association for Food Safety - The SAFE Consortium, Belgium*

❖ **Rui Costa** *Department of Food Science and Technology, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, Portugal*

❖ **Peter Ho** *School of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Leeds, United Kingdom*

❖ **Huub Lelieveld** *European Federation of Food Science and Technology (EFFoST), Netherlands*

15.00 “**THE NEW FOOD & DRINK PROFESSIONAL: Industry Growth by Focusing on People**” by **Mafalda Quintas** *Biotechnology College, Porto Regional Center of Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal*

15.15 Coffee break

15.45 Roundtable discussion

Representatives from industry, professionals, policy making and of TRACK_FAST consortium

18.15 Closure

18.30 Cocktail

To participate

Registration is free to any interested stakeholder but limited seats are available.

Sign up today to confirm your place!

Pre-register by sending a message to trackfast@porto.ucp.pt with your name, profession and company/institution name and wait for our confirmation reply.

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