



TRACK_FAST Symposium

**The new Food and Drink Professional
– Industry growth by focusing on people**

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- Importance of human capital for competitive agro-food industry widely recognised
- But difficulties regarding workforce availability

"Stakeholders indicate that there is a shortage of qualified and competent employees in the sector, since it does not appear to be perceived as an attractive career choice."

(* HLG on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry, DG Enter)

- Debate resulted in FP7 Call (2008): Training & career development for future food scientists

- Winner



What are the challenges



in food, health, and well-being

Demographic changes (↑ world population, aging)

↑ diet-related health problems

↑ environmental pressures

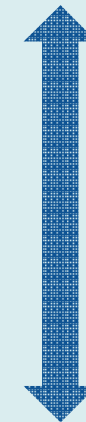
~ competitiveness & resilience of agri-food systems



Sustainability

- Safe, healthy & affordable food
Brain research/ Nutrition / Quality
- Governance/ relationships
- Resource efficiency
Bio-Resource, Water, Energy

Consumption



Production

Food Chain

Security, resilience

Global
drivers

What are the needs...



...for skills, education and training?

technical know-how (to tackle the challenges)

business & social skills

- entrepreneurial skills
- management skills (respond to adaptation)
- soft skills (learning & innovate)
- leadership skills (setting the right incentives, and enabling conditions)





WHAT we need to do:

- upgrade skills
- better match demand and supply of skills
- better anticipate future challenges & opportunities



HOW to do:



- to make careers in the life sciences more attractive (to ↑ social recognition of food professionals)
- to design education & training systems to respond quickly to continuously changing needs

What are the actions at EU level (1)



BIOECONOMY STRATEGY

- "Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe", adopted 2012
- One pillar 'Investments in research, innovation and skills', calls for building the human capacity required
 - Conference "New skills for a European bioeconomy" (Nov 2012, EC, RTD)
 - Conclusions will reported on at the Bioeconomy Stakeholder Conference, in Dublin on 14-15th February 2013

What are the actions at EU level (2)



HORIZON 2020

Commission proposal for a 80 billion euro research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020)

Objectives

As a core part of Europe 2020, Innovation Union & European Research Area:

- **Responding to the economic crisis** to invest in future jobs and growth
- **Addressing people's concerns** about their livelihoods, safety and environment
- **Strengthening the EU's global position** in research, innovation and technology



Three priorities:

1. Excellent science

incl. Marie Curie-Sklodowska Actions

2. Industrial leadership

incl. SMEs, (eco)-innovation

3. Societal challenges

incl. Agri-food research



3. Societal challenges: proposed funding (million euro, 2014-2020)

<i>Health, demographic change and wellbeing</i>	<i>8 033</i>
<i>Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research & the bioeconomy</i>	<i>4 152</i>
<i>Secure, clean and efficient energy*</i>	<i>5 782</i>
<i>Smart, green and integrated transport</i>	<i>6 802</i>
<i>Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials</i>	<i>3 160</i>
<i>Inclusive, innovative and secure societies</i>	<i>3 819</i>

**Additional €1 788m for nuclear safety and security from the Euratom Treaty activities (2014-2018). Does not include ITER.*



Implementation?

- **Collaborative Projects (CP) & Coordination & Support Actions (CSA)**
- **European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)**, theme planned in 2014: Food4Future (sustainable food supply chain, from farm to fork)
- **European Technology Platform (ETP): Food4Life**
- **Public-Private Partnerships**, e.g. Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs)
- **Public-Public Partnerships**, e.g. Joint research Programme Initiatives (JPI) 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' and 'Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change'



Next steps

- July 2012 Final calls under FP7 to bridge gap towards Horizon 2020
- Ongoing Parliament and Council negotiations on the basis of the Commission proposals
- Ongoing Parliament and Council negotiations on EU budget 2014-2020 (including overall budget for Horizon 2020)
- Mid 2013 Adoption of legislative acts by Parliament and Council on Horizon 2020
- 1/1/2014** **Horizon 2020 starts, launch of first calls**

Find out more: www.ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020

Concluding remarks



- The EC is strongly committed to advancing skills in FST, and as part of the bioeconomy agenda
- collective effort required (EC, MS, industries,....., as well as citizens)
- responses to the questions indicated by the Track_Fast consortium
- Thank you for the great work!