



The EU-BALKAN FABNET Newsletter

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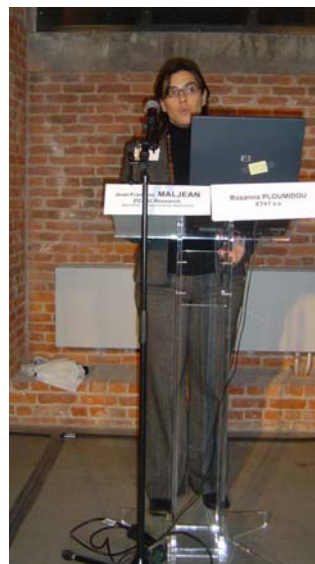
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EU-BALKAN FABNET PROJECT AND SERVICES

FAFB Brokerage Event: a networking opportunity for researchers

EU-Balkan-FABNET was one of the EU-funded projects that co-organised the FP7 European Information and Brokerage Days, a major two-day networking event that took place in Brussels on 29 and 30 November 2007 and was hosted by the Brussels Enterprise Agency.

The event, which was strongly supported by the European Commission, aimed at delivering information on the 2008 call for proposals in the Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology Theme of FP7, giving ground to researchers from Europe and other countries to present their project ideas and encouraging participants to meet each other and discuss on potential future partnerships.



Nearly 300 delegates attended the event, including 16 participants from the Western Balkan countries. According to Ms. Rozanna Ploumidou of ETAT S.A., who presented the EU-Balkan-FABNET project to the audience, the event offered, in a very timely way, an excellent opportunity for researchers and multipliers of the Balkan region to see what FP7 is and – most importantly – talk to a high number of other parties, actively interested in European research.

Prior to the event, participants had the opportunity to promote project ideas for the coming or future calls, some of which were also presented during the 2nd day of the event. A catalogue of more than 90 project ideas was compiled, 4 of which originated from Western Balkan researchers. Proposal owners had the opportunity to meet potential research partners and discuss on joint activities during a dedicated face-to-face meeting session. 141 researcher-to-researcher meetings were pre-arranged, based on the contents of the catalogue and the choices of the participants, while ample time was available for on the spot meetings and discussions.

Taking into account the feedback of the participants, clearly, such networking opportunities are highly appreciated by researchers. To that end, EU-Balkan-FABNET includes in its plans to support the participation of researchers or the Western Balkan region to future events of similar orientation.

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Training for researchers in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Within the frame of FP6 Project EU-Balkan-FABNet Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science in Sarajevo (UNISAR) on 1.10.2007. organized the first workshop for B&H researches in the field of food, agriculture and biotechnology aimed to train participants in basic and critical information regarding participation in FP7 projects.

26 participants from four institutions that are involved in the fields of food, agriculture and bio-technology took part in the workshop

(Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Technology University of Tuzla, Faculty of Agriculture University of Banja Luka and Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Sarajevo).



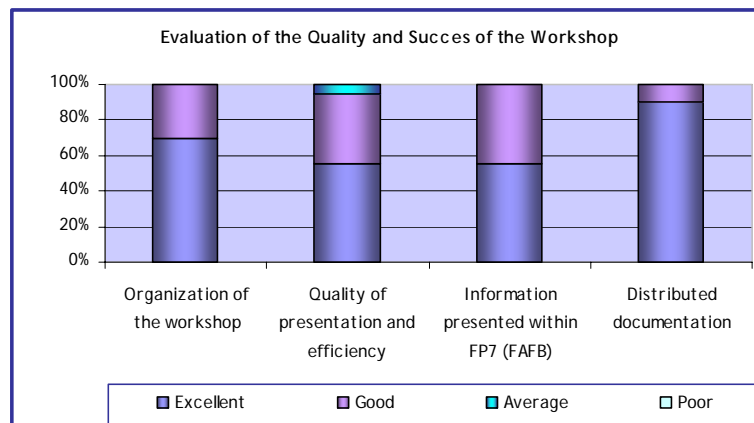
After the EU-Balkan-FABNet project was presented by UNISAR coordinator, following presentations were given:

- General information on FP7 and rules of participation;
- Specific programme "Cooperation"
- Specific programme "Capacities",
- Specific programme "People",
- Specific programme "Ideas",
- Registration to CORDIS and searching partners;
- Knowledge-based bio-economy (KBBE) and calls within KBBE and
- Financial schemes.



After presentations all participants have approached to Quiz aimed to check to what extent information from presented topics were adopted. It was followed with discussion for more than an hour which indicates high interest of participants in presented issues and FP7 in general, so increased participation in the future FP7 calls is expected.

Evaluation of the quality and success of the workshop was checked by the mean of evaluation form. Out of all present participants, 20 filled in evaluation form. Summarized results of evaluation of the quality and success of the workshop are presented in the chart.



Within the comments, most of participants expressed their approvable opinion about general quality of the workshop, emphasizing high level of professionalism, good choice of topics and good time management. They particularly emphasized the need for organization of such workshops more often. They also stressed that these workshops should have rather specific than general approach with concrete chosen examples. All these suggestions will, surely, be taken into account within organization of the second workshop within the Project.

General impression of the organizer about the workshop is that it was successful, useful and that it presented significant step in better understanding of FP7 concept and KBBE thematic field for most of B&H researchers that attended the workshop. Significant number of participant has been showing increasing interest in FP7 after the workshop which is proved by more frequent questions by researchers about future third call within FP7.

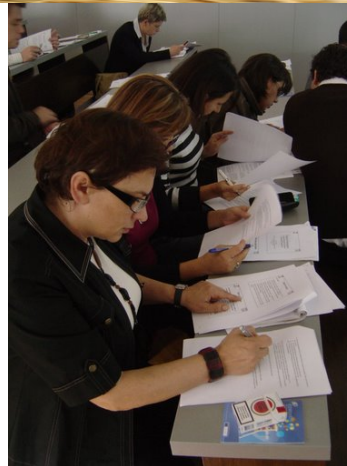
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**Training for multipliers in Croatia
December 2007**

EU-BALKAN FABNET NEWSLETTER

Within the FP6 project EU BALKAN FABNET (EU-Western Balkan network for training and the promotion of cooperation in research activities within the Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology theme of FP7"), coordinated by ETAT from Greece, the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, partner in the project, organised the National Training for Partners & Multipliers on October 4-5, in Zagreb, Croatia. The person in charge was Ms. Lana Žutelija, National Contact Point for the "Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology" Theme within FP7.



Most of the partners in the project (including partners from the WBCs - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Montenegro; as well as Greece, Italy, Belgium and Bulgaria) took part in the event, as expert speakers and/or within the audience.

The training was mostly addressing multipliers from the Croatian FAFB community, as well as researchers acting as multipliers, and other contact persons from institutions involved in FP7 FAFB activities. Around 40 people were attending the training, and the feedback was, both from the partners and the multipliers, very positive, judging the event as very useful and providing good information.

A detailed presentation of the FAFB Theme (overview of 1st call results, Work Programme 2008) was made by Ms. Paola Materia from APRE (also involved in the FOOD-N-CO project), Italy. Rules for participation, financial rules as well as the life cycle of the project were explained in details, followed by a practical exercise/quiz in order to involve the audience through a practical approach. IPR issues were approached by the Croatian Legal NCP. The evaluator's point of view, including the whole evaluation procedure, has been given by a Croatian expert, FP6 and FP7 evaluator, as well as Programme Committee Expert for the FAFB Theme.

Colleagues from the University of Rijeka, working at the University Research Office, showed an excellent example of appointed multipliers and their role and duties, as well as giving insight in the required knowledge and experience. They shared their experience as Science Managers and gave an excellent overview of their activities, aiming at helping researchers to participate in FP7 and other EU programmes. A practical exercise on how to write a good partner profile has been held by the Mr. Erwan Le Guen from BEA (FAFB NCP for the Brussels region, Belgium), while Mr. Gorgias Garofalakis, from ETAT, Greece, EU BALKAN FABNET coordinator, explained in details the interaction between NCPs/multipliers and clients.

The EU BALKAN FABNET training for multipliers will be followed by 2 trainings for researchers, organised in the upcoming period.

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

FAFB: Launch of the 2008 call for proposals

The third FP7 call for proposals, FP7-KBBE-2008-2B, in the agri-food area is to be officially published by the European Commission, on November 30th, 2007. The submission deadline is February 26th, 2008. The overall budget to finance such projects, as indicated in the first draft of the Work Programme, should be €96.41m.

The overall objective of calls published within the FAFB Theme is to create the possibility to submit project proposals for academic and industrial researchers, as well as for SMEs and programme managers/owners.

Fully in line with the two first calls, these project proposals need to address the following general topics: Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forests and aquatic environments;

Fork to farm: food (including sea food), health and well-being; and Life sciences, biotechnology and biochemistry for sustainable non-food products and processes.

Contrary to the second FAFB call (FP7-KBBE-2007-2A, with a deadline for the second and final stage of evaluation on February 19th, 2008), in which large collaborative projects and Networks of Excellence are financed, this present call will be instrumented through small collaborative projects (with a requested Commission contribution up to €3m) and Coordination and Support Actions (up to €1m). The reason for such an orientation is to be found in the limited financial resources available in the first few years of the FP7. The EC will therefore focus both on small collaborative projects where needs of competitiveness and support are greater as well as projects impact, and on CSAs which will contribute to identify priority actions in later calls.

In the third FAFB call, a particular attention has been paid to sustainable production and management of biological resources with 50% of the overall budget €47,7m (against 36% and 43% in the previous budgets, respectively in the second 2007-2A and first 2007-1 calls).

Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS) | Information Package
Additional Documents | Get Support | Build Your Consortium

General call 3

Identifier: FP7-KBBE-2008-2B

Publication date: 30 November 2007

Budget: € 96 850 000

Deadline: 26 February 2008 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

OJ Reference: [OJ C288 of 30 November 2007](#)

Specific Programme: [Cooperation]

Theme: [Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology]

Restrictions to Participation: see eligibility criteria in the Work Programme

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Information Package:

In order to receive a complete Information Package for this call, you will need to select the following elements:

1. The call fiche (only available in .pdf format)
2. The work programme (.pdf format)
3. FP7 factsheets in your preferred language - an overview of the basic features of this programme (.pdf format)
4. The Guides for Applicants relevant to the funding schemes used in this call (.pdf format)

All files have been treated uniformly and compressed to facilitate the access to the individual documents and to optimise the speed of transfer. To access the files, you will need a file compression utility capable of opening the '.zip' format.

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PROJECTS ALREADY FUNDED IN FOOD SECTOR

FUTUREFOOD6

FUTUREFOOD6 is a Specific Support Action (SSA) project financed by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). It will help to assist the total food chain in Central and Eastern European countries to reach international quality and safety standards, and in turn, enhance European competitiveness as a whole by developing an industry, which is synonymous with safety, diversity, sophistication and products of high quality.



The objectives of the project are:

1. to promote a new decision-making culture among managers and policy-makers in order to put quality and safety issues into the centre of the total food chain management
2. to identify future key technologies and new business models to promote the quality and safety requirements in food production, by establishing a Food Quality and Safety Platform in CEE countries

Why FUTUREFOOD6

Food quality and safety are crucial aspects of human life and are, therefore, prime policy objectives of the EU. Food quality and safety have to be secured through regulations with regard to inputs, production processes, outputs, transportation, storage, packaging, labeling, documentation of origin and the like, for creating an adequate infrastructure for food markets and their smooth development. The food industries in the CEE are undergoing sweeping ownership, technological, organizational and financial changes. The new decision-making processes should put a strong emphasis on safety and quality standards. Substantial changes in financial services, wholesale markets, commodities exchange, price information, transportation facilities and infrastructure are also needed.

The FUTUREFOOD6 project is fully financed by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme and is been coordinated by UNIDO.

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EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Albania becomes an Associated Country

Albania have signed on the 17th December the Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission. Therefore, Albania is able to participate in the Seventh Framework Programme on the same basis as EU Member States.



[For further information](#)



3rd International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics

7 – 9 April 2008, Edinburgh International Conference Centre

This meeting brings together two important conference series, the European Farm Animal Functional Genomics Conference (ARK-Genomics) and the International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics (Michigan State University), to present opportunities to take stock of the current International position in animal functional genomics, identify areas for collaborations and develop new resources.

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