



Project no. 016101

Project acronym: YOUNG-TRAIN

Project title: **Training and mentoring early career scientists from candidate, associated and Mediterranean Countries in a whole food chain approach to quality and safety**

Instrument: **Specific Support Action**

Thematic Priority: **[5] Food Quality and Safety**

Title of report: **Publishable final activity report**

Period covered: **from 01.05.2007 to 30.04.2008**

Start date of project: **01.05.2005** Duration: **36 months**

Project coordinator name: **Cledwyn Thomas**

Project coordinator organisation name: **EAAP**

Version: Final

Publishable final activity report

1. Project Execution

The principal objective of this project was to strengthen the total food chain approach in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on improving the quality and safety of meat. Through a programme of training seminars and workshops, early career animal scientists (ECS) recruited from the target countries were able to acquire knowledge to enable them better to participate in the European Research Area. Collaborative research proposals on a whole food chain approach to meat safety and quality for the future framework programme were to be derived and exploited through improved dissemination and exploitation of research results.

The project was coordinated by EAAP (European Federation for Animal Science), Rome, Italy with partners of Teagasc, The Ashtown Food Centre, Dublin, Ireland; Institut de Recerca I Tecnologia Agrolimentàries, Girona, Spain; Departments of Animal Product Processing and Qualification and Animal Physiology and Hygiene, University of Kaposvár, Hungary; Institute for Learning and Research Technology, University of Bristol, UK; Animal Nutrition and Nutritional Diseases, Veterinary Faculty of Firat University, Turkey; Kozponti Elelmiszer-Tudományi Kutatóintézet, Hungary; Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Slovenia; Baltic Genofund, Lithuania and Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Dpt. Sciences Alimentaires et Nutritionnelles, Morocco.

Forty early career scientists (ECS) were recruited into the project from the target countries. In total, 18 female and 22 male scientists, from 22 different countries were selected (see picture below): 13 from the newly entered countries, 7 from the Mediterranean rim, 7 from Central & Southern Europe and 13 from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).



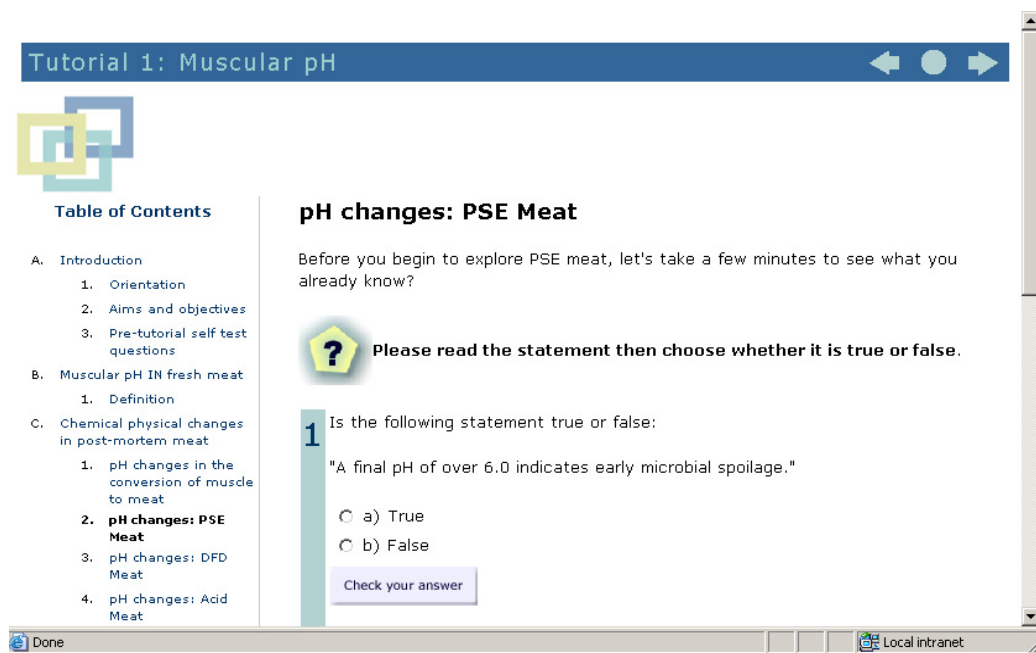
The outputs of the project can be found on www.young-train.net and this website will be maintained by EAAP for the foreseeable future to allow the ECS to continue to interact and to support the network created by the project.

The first objective of the project was to train and develop the ECS and to ensure that they were better equipped to take part in future RTD and eLearning activities in a whole food chain approach to meat quality and safety. A project seminar was organised in Viterbo, Italy, in November 2005 to provide the ECS with skills in communication and presentation and a sound background in eLearning methodology. Feedback from the seminar indicated high levels of satisfaction but also good indications for the organisation of future meetings. An example of the interactive course material produced for the seminar and subsequently transferred to the project website is shown below.



A second project seminar in Girona, Spain in May 2006 provided the ECS with an introduction to EU research programmes, mechanisms and channels of dissemination. Presentations were made on the role of technology platforms on Food for Life and Animal Breeding as well as the thematic programmes in Sustainable Animal Production and Health and in Food Quality and Safety. The role and function of the EU National Contact Points (NCP) in food quality and safety were outlined together with examples of work undertaken by NCPs in support of Framework 6. Presentations were also made on how to construct successful bids into the programme and these were updated once the procedures for FP7 were announced. Successful proposals needed not only to have high science quality but also supported by an efficient management structure with a sound plan for dissemination of the outputs to have a widespread impact.

The second aim of the project was to produce E-Learning training and awareness materials to be subsequently used for wider dissemination of the whole food chain approach to meat quality and safety. An example of an interactive course on meat quality produced by IRTA, Spain is shown below.



In addition all the presentations from all the events organized by the project (Seminars, Workshops, Dissemination) have been converted into e-learning material, suitable for web delivery with range of delivery formats offered to meet the needs of users (pdf, html, audio and video, CD). In addition, a series of menus in a generic format (e.g. meat safety, consumer studies etc) have been derived to provide easy access to these materials. Responses to questionnaires at the regional dissemination events have been positive with all delegates finding the materials, particularly the audio visual presentations very useful or useful for themselves, colleagues and students.

The third objective was to develop joint RTD proposals on meat quality and safety that are relevant to the problems of Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Seminars, workshops and round table discussions were held to provide the ECS with the state of the art. Topics included factors influencing meat quality and safety and importantly the ethical, environmental and consumer needs drivers that influence the meat chain. A wide range of organisations were involved such as FAO and also other FP6 projects with linked aims (e.g. Truefoods). These discussions provided the basis for the development of research and dissemination themes that could be presented for discussion and comment at future dissemination events across the target countries. The themes are:

- Improving health and well being of consumers from whole chain management
- Welfare of animals in traditional systems
- Meat safety – analysis and implementation of *appropriate* disease and contamination control, good practice, codes and standards
- Genetic improvement of traditional breeds to improve meat quality and human health

These 4 main themes were subsequently discussed at a Round Table event held in Antalya, Turkey in September 2006. The discussions, with an audience of over 500 delegates, provided support for the above themes and importantly on the role traditional products in linking meat chain systems with rural communities and their environment. The incorporation of the ECS into networks was also facilitated by a joint seminar at Antalya with FAO on

‘Safety of Food of Animal Origin along the Production Chain’. Presentations and discussion from the seminar are available on the website (www.young-train.net).

As part of the process of developing research and dissemination proposals, the ECS together with project partners have considered how procedures could be changed to actively encourage participation of ECS in the future programme of FP7. Recommendations have been made to enable more support to be given to ECS in the target countries to be better integrated into the European Research Area. These include providing support to ECS to attend planning meetings prior to call deadlines and improved training in resource management and budgeting.

The fourth objective was to disseminate the outputs. This was achieved through 4 regional events in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean and by creating and sustaining a project and E-Learning website. The regional events were held in Cairo (March 2007); Budapest, Hungary (July 2007); Astana, Kazakhstan (January 2008) and Kaunas, Lithuania (April, 2008). Presentations covering the state of the meat chain in the regions, consumer needs and human health, the retail sector and were the need to add value to the meat chain through traditional products, the *practical* implementation of meat safety and hygiene measures particularly in CIS and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries and methods to improve the welfare of livestock and to understand welfare related behaviour in traditional breeds. Concern was also expressed about the changing diet in the target countries and the potential negative impact on human health. The delegates also had hands-on experience of accessing and using the eLearning materials and their reactions assisted in the further development material. Feedback from the audiences at the regional events showed high levels of satisfaction with between 91 and 94.8% agreeing that the events met their needs and provided them with useful information. Delegates at all 3 meetings agreed that the 4 RTD projects being developed by the ECS were relevant to the meat chain issues within their region.

The four projects were modified according to the feedback received from the regional events and are presented in a format that can be used as a basis for submission to a number of programmes both Europe wide and regional. The projects are:

- Whole chain management of traditional products of animal origin connecting People–Animal–Landscape (ANIMACHAIN)
- Meat Safety Improvement in Target CIS Countries (MEATSAFECIS)
- Welfare of animals in traditional systems in Eastern, Central and Southern European countries - impact of farm and ante mortem treatment (TRADWELF)
- Genetic improvement of traditional breeds to improve meat quality and human health (TRABREEDMEAT)

These ideas were discussed by the ECS representatives and the project leaders, members of the project team and project steering group and members of DG Research Directorate E.

Future actions were agreed as:

- To develop one or two projects that most closely fitted the future priorities in FP7
- To submit other ideas into other programmes such as COST and also to pursue personal development through for example Marie Curie or Agri Mundus
- EAAP agreed to continue to host the YT website and the Network for the
- EAAP will try to find support to enable the ECS to attend future annual meetings of the Federation

The project website (www.young-train.net) has been extensively modified to include all the ELearning materials derived from the events organised by the project. These have been reorganised into subject areas for easy reference and are available in a variety of formats from pdf to audio video to interactive courses on meat quality and the ELearning technology. During the year there were over 3000 visits per month to the website with an average of 1408 files downloaded per month.

A final survey of the ECS showed high levels of satisfaction with the project with the project having met its aims in terms of ELearning (87%), training and development (100%) research project development (87%) and dissemination (90%).

Delegates at the Cairo and Astana Regional Meetings



2. Plan for using and disseminating the knowledge

Exploitable knowledge and its Use

No exploitable knowledge in its final form has been produced during the period

Dissemination of knowledge

Planned /actual Dates	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed	Size of audience	Partner responsible /involved
June 2005 - onwards	Project web-site	Scientists/public	Worldwide	>5000	EAAP/ ILRT
September 2006	Conference Round table	Research / Public	Europe	600	EAAP/IRTA/NFC/all partners
March 2007 onwards	Conference;4 regional dissemination events	Research, Industry, Public	Europe	600	UNKA/EAAP
September 2006 onwards	Publications - eLearning materials	Research, Industry, Public	Europe but also worldwide	>5000	ILRT/NFC/IRTA/All Partners
September 2006 onwards	video presentations	Research, Industry, Public	Europe but also worldwide	>5000	ILRT

Project Websites/ eLearning materials

The project website www.young-train.net has been continuously updated and recently extensively upgraded and now contains all the eLearning activities in a range of download formats from pdf / PowerPoint to audio visual. EAAP will continue to host the website post project.

All the material arising from the various events in the project have been integrated into E-Learning packages which are cross referenced and indexed.

One of the regional events in Astana Kazakhstan was recorded by Kazak television with a report on the main national news. A video of the newscast has been received and this will be incorporated into the website post project

Presentations

Presentations on the project were made by the ECS at the European Information and Brokerage Days International Cooperation in the Theme 2 of the FP7 in November 2007 in Brussels.

Section 3 - Publishable results

There are no publishable results in this period.

Further information on the project can be found on www.young-train.net

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