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Publishable executive summary

The overall objective of the project is to support the opening of the European Research Area by developing a sustainable network in agricultural and food research in the Western Balkan.

To achieve this objective, the consortium will provide:

- 1) Statistical data on the research and industrial organisations from WBC involved in agricultural and food research.
- 2) Four national mapping reports and one consolidated mapping report, identifying the main players in agricultural research.
- 3) A foresight study identifying agricultural and food research areas and policy support with potential for enhanced co-ordination between the Member States and the Western Balkan. A position paper on FP7 will be provided.

A sustainable, access free & on-line database integrated in a web portal will be developed. An expert panel will also be constituted. The results will be validated thanks to the consultation of experts. Results will be discussed at the occasion of an international workshop involving high level stakeholders.

The project gathers 13 organisations including university departments, research institutes and ministries of research from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia Montenegro. Organisations from France, Bulgaria, Hungary and Greece and with good knowledge of FP6 and experience in the Western Balkan (WB) also participate to the project.

Section 1 – Project objectives and major achievements during the reporting period

1.1 Overview of general project objective

Improve the knowledge of the EU research community on the WBC research in agricultural and food sector.

In the EU, very little is known about current developments in the Western Balkan. For example, very few citizens from the EU know that the Macedonia FYR officially applied for EU membership in March 2004. In order to enlarge the ERA to the region, there is an urgent need to increase the knowledge of EU researchers on the Western Balkan Countries. The project attempts to answer this need by providing and disseminating general information as well as specific data on the agricultural research landscape and actors from the WBC to the research community from the EU. These objectives can be achieved thanks to the involvement in the project of organisations involved in other projects in agricultural area (EQY, UoP, ETAT and EP).

Stimulate participation in FQS thematic priorities

As mentioned in the conclusions of the last ad hoc group meeting, the participation of research establishments from the WBC in the thematic priority is very difficult. The search for excellence, the increased competition at FP6 calls for proposal makes unlikely the elaboration of proposals by research teams from the WBC. The only possibility for researchers from the Western Balkan is to join EU consortia. For this, there is a need to promote WB researchers competencies. As FP6 will come to an end in 2006, the need is to develop sustainable tools that can be used during FP7. BAFN intends to develop a sustainable database of research organisations and researchers. The database will be access free and will allow to identify specific competencies in the field of agricultural and food research. The database will be linked to other database of researchers established in other projects (CEEC ANIMAL SIENCE, CEEC AGRI POLICY and EU AGRI MAPPING).

Help to identify priorities for future research programmes

In the view of preparation of FP7, it is necessary to identify future support policies and priority research areas able to answer the specific needs of the WBC. There is also a need for a better co-ordination of national and Community co-operation activities. This will be achieved through the consultation of researchers and the settlement of an expert panel that will identify agricultural and food research areas with potential for enhanced co-ordination between the Member States and the Western Balkan Countries.

These objectives will be achieved thanks to the creation of a network of researchers from the Western Balkan. Researchers will be invited to register their profile into an on-line and dynamic database. Networking will then be stimulated thanks to the dissemination of information relevant to agricultural and food research (information on national and international co-operations, information on current research activities etc.), the diffusion of newsletters, the dissemination of scientific information and project results, participation to workshops, invitation to events.

1.2 Technical objectives

The objectives of the project will be achieved in five phases:

During the first phase (**WP1**) methodologies will be elaborated. The plan of the mapping exercise and the foresight analysis will be elaborated. The questionnaires for the two databases and for the surveys will also be prepared. The first questionnaire will be short. It will be used to invite the research and industrial organisations like researchers and industrialists to register into the two on-line databases. The second questionnaire will be used for the mapping of competencies. The content of web portal, the format of the newsletter and the planning of expert panel meetings will also be settled during this phase. Another objective will be to identify resources. A list of research centres will be prepared by partners from the WBC. Existing reports, and scientific publications will also be collected.

The objective of **WP2** is to create the network. A web based platform as well as two databases of research and industrial organisations like researchers and industrialists will be developed. The first questionnaire will be computerised by EQY. Partners from the WBC will invite organisations identified in WP1 to register their profile into the web portal. Members of the expert panel will also be contacted during this phase.

During **WP3**, the agrifood research mapping report will be elaborated. A computerised questionnaire will be sent to the database members. EQY will provide the results of the statistical exploitation of the survey to the partners from the WBC who will draft a national report for each country. GKI will draft the consolidated report. The report will then be distributed to the research community for consultation. It will be finalised by GKI and disseminated in WP5.

The aim of the **WP4** is to provide recommendations on the agrifood research and on policy that would be needed to support agrifood researchers from the WBC and to favour their inclusion in the ERA. A position paper will be then elaborated. It will be prepared thanks to a foresight analysis. ETAT will realise a first review of available data and will conduce interview with experts to identify first priorities. Meetings with expert panel will then be organised to prepare recommendations. A consultation of the researchers and industrialists will then be realised. As in WP3, a computerised questionnaire will be sent to the members of the database. EQY will provide the results of the statistical exploitation of the survey to ETAT. Finally a position paper will be adopted by the expert panels. The document will be disseminated in WP5.

WP5 concerns the promotion of the WBC competencies and the dissemination of information to the members of the network. News will be sent regularly to the members of the databases. A minimum of two news shall be sent every month. A newsletter will be published every four months. Activities for the promotion of WBC competencies in the EU will also be organised thanks to the publication of press releases and the dissemination of the reports previously elaborated. EP will be the leader of this workpackage.

Summary of the work objectives performed and main achievements for the reporting period

BAFN is organised into 6 work-packages: Methodologies (WP1), Network creation (WP2), Mapping activities (WP3), Foresight activities (WP4), Dissemination (WP5) and Management (WP6). The project has a duration of 24 months. The present report covers the 12-month period from the 1st of May 2006 to 30th of April 2007.

Table 1: Summary of objectives & achievements for the first period

Tasks	Deadline	Objective of realisation reached					Chance to reach objective		
		0%	<	50%	<	100%	☺	☹	☹
WP 1 – Methodology									
T 1.1 Methodology for the research database	June 2006					X	X		
T 1.2 Methodology for the industrial database	June 2006					X	X		
T 1.3 Methodology for the mapping of competencies	June 2006					X	X		
T1.4 Methodology for foresight study	June 2006					X	X		
T1.5 Plan for dissemination activities	June 2006					X	X		
T1.6 Identification of resources	June 2006					X	X		
WP 2 – Network creation									
T2.1 Elaboration of web portal	July 2006					X	X		
T2.2 Elaboration of the database system	October 2006					X	X		
T2.3 Registering of research establishments and researchers (EQY) and industrialists	October 2006					X	X		
T2.4 Expert panel	October 2006					X	X		
WP 3 – Mapping report									
T3.1 Survey	February 2007					X	X		
T3.2 Analysis of the answers	March 2007					X	X		
T3.3 Drafting of the national mapping reports	May 2007					X	X		
T3.4 Drafting of the consolidated mapping report	July 2007					X	X		
T3.5 Final report	October 2007					X	X		
WP 4 – Foresight study									
T 4.1 Preparatory phase	February 2007					X	X		
T 4.2 Expert panel meetings	July 2007					X	X		
T 4.3 Survey	October 2007					X	X		
T 4.4 Final position paper	December 2007					X	X		

Tasks	Deadline	Objective of realisation reached			Chance to reach objective				
		0%	<	50%	<	100%	☺	☹	☹
WP 5 – Dissemination and promotion of WBC competencies									
T5.1 Web site up-date and news	April 2008					X	X		
T5.2 Newsletter	February 2008					X	X		
T5.3 Dissemination of project results	April 2008					X	X		
T5.4 Exploitation plan	April 2008					X	X		
WP 6 – Management									
T6.1 Administrative and financial management	April 2008					X	X		
T6.2 Project technical co-ordination, quality follow-up	April 2008					X	X		
T6.3 Knowledge and information flow management	April 2008					X	X		
T6.4 Co-ordination of activities with other projects	April 2008					X	X		

A summary of the deliverables planned for the first year is given hereunder:

Table 2 : Summary of the deliverables planned for the first year

N°	Title	WP no	Lead Participant	Nature	Delivery date	
					Planned	Real
D1	Methodology report	WP1	EQY	R	30/06/2006	30/06/2006
D2	Web portal	WP2	EQY	O	31/07/2006	31/07/2006
D3	On line database of research organisations	WP2	EQY	O	28/02/2007	28/02/2007
D4	On line database of industrial organisations	WP2	EQY	O	28/02/2007	28/02/2007
D5	National mapping report (draft)	WP3	GKI	R	28/02/2007	30/05/2007
D6	Mapping report on WBC(draft)	WP3	GKI	R	30/04/2007	30/05/2007
	Final mapping reports				30/10/2007	17/04/2008
D7	Draft results of the foresight study	WP4	ETAT	R	31/05/2007	19/07/2007
D8	4 expert panel meeting reports	WP4	ETAT	R	30/10/2007	17/10/2007
D9	Position paper	WP4	ETAT	R	31/12/2007	18/04/2008

D10	Regular update and news on the web site	WP5	EP	R	30/10/06; 31/12/06; 28/02/07; 30/04/07; 30/06/07; 31/08/07; 30/10/07; 31/12/07; 28/02/07; 30/04/08	30/10/06; 31/12/06; 28/02/07; 30/04/07; 30/06/07; 31/08/07; 30/10/07; 31/12/07; 28/02/07; 30/04/08
D11	5 Newsletters	WP5	EP	R	30/10/06; 28/02/07; 30/06/07; 30/10/07; 28/02/08	01/11/06; 01/03/07; 01/07/2007; 01/11/2007; 01/04/2008
D 12	Report on dissemination activities	WP5	EP	R	30/04/2008	30/04/2008
D 13	Management reports	WP6	EQY	R	31/05/2007 31/05/2008	15/06/2007 15/07/2008

The table shows that at the end of the first year of the project, all the deliverables due for that period have been delivered.

The final deliverables D6', D7 and D9 were delayed due to the extension of the survey until the end of November 2007.

The last three newsletters due for the 2nd reporting period of the project were also delayed in order to advertise the organisation of the High Level Meeting and to disseminate the project results.

Section 2 – Work package progress of the period

Work package progress of the period per partner

WP 1 - Methodology

Objectives

The main objective of this work package is to establish the methodology that will be used to reach the project's objectives.

Progress towards objectives

EQY set up the methodology of the project and drafted the methodology report in May – June 2006. ETAT, GKI and EP contributed to this report as workpackage and task leader and the others partners approved the content of both the proposed methodology and the time table. The D1 Methodology report was ready on time at the end of June 2006. An updated version of this first deliverable was set up in November 2006 including the revised questionnaires.

T1.1 Methodology for the research database (EQY)

EQY set up the methodology for the research database. It elaborated the specifications of the database as well as the content of the research organisation and researcher questionnaires to be sent to the research organisations and the electronic tools of registration and surfing in the databases.

T1.2 Methodology for the industrial database (EP)

EP prepared all the documents related to the industry database. It consists in:

- A document describing the specifications for the web developments
- The questionnaire
- Template for the “fact sheet” (how the information is displayed on the website, once that the questionnaire is completed)
- Template for the section “Search Engine”
- Template for the section “My Account”

The documents have been elaborated in an iterative way: first templates have been prepared by EP, partners have provided comments and the template have been revised. as well as the structure of the database. The work has been realised between mid June and mid August 2006.

T1.3 Methodology for the mapping of competencies (GKI)

GKI – in co-operation with Euroquality – has elaborated and finalized the questionnaire (adopted from the EU Agri Mapping FP6 project, contract no. 022801), which is being used in the web-based survey.

GKI has provided Euroquality the structure of raw data, which is suitable for the statistical exploitation of the results. Euroquality has been sending GKI the survey results on a regular basis in CSV format.

EQY updated and modified the methodology of the project including the timetable of the mapping exercise due to the extension of the survey.

T1.4 Methodology for foresight study (ETAT & EP)

During this task, ETAT elaborated with the support of EP the methodology of the foresight study. The core methodology was already given in the “Description of work”, i.e. the technical Annex I of the contract of the coordinator with the Commission.

Thus, based on the core methodology therein given, ETAT described each task of work package 4 “Foresight Study” in detail, provided precise information of the time schedule and the supporting documents the BAFN partners will need to gather, fill in or consult. ETAT divided each task of the work package into various sub phases providing to the partners “manual of work” containing all the necessary steps they will be asked to follow in order to effectively conduct the foresight study.

ETAT submitted to EQY the analytical methodology of the work package 4 “foresight study” which contained a Gantt Chart of the schedules programmed (in an excel format), and the coordinator embodied it in the methodological report of the whole program.

EQY, ETAT and EP rethought the methodology of the foresight study by adding a consultation of the EU agrifood experts. It has for consequences to also modify the perception and conception of the Position Paper.

T1.5 Plan for dissemination activities (EP)

EP has been in charge of co-ordinating from the partners for the dissemination plan. A questionnaire has been elaborated and distributed to the partners in May 2006. It included:

- a mailing list of targets (persons or/and organisations) possibly interested in further disseminating the BAFN project results
- a list of events in which the BAFN project could be promoted

The answers have been consolidated into a unique document called “Dissemination plan”. The exercise has been repeated at the end of the year 2006 and a second version of the dissemination plan has been prepared in December.

T1.6 Identification of resources

ETAT with a support of EQY started gathering relevant publications for the foresight study. References on developing foresight studies or previous foresight studies were also collected. The local partners of the Western Balkan countries also collected information for preparing the national reports.

Deviation from the project WP

The WP1 was supposed to be achieved at the end of the first year of the project. However the methodology of the mapping of competencies and of the foresight studies took more time to be defined as these exercises were constantly in progress.

Deliverables

D1 Methodology report containing (EQY)

- Questionnaire for the database (EQY)
- Methodology and questionnaire for the research mapping of competencies (GKI)
- Methodology and questionnaire for the industrial mapping of competencies (EP)
- Methodology and planning of the expert panel workshops for the foresight study (ETAT & EP)
- Plan for dissemination (EP)
- List of research and industrial organisations (SEDA, AUT, UoB, INGEB; UKLO, UoS, MSER, UoBe)

Milestones

M1 : Methodological report available

WP2 -Network creation

Objectives

The WP2 has three main objectives: the elaboration of the database that will be the “cement” of the project, the creation of the web portal and the identification of the members of the expert panel of WBC.

Progress towards objectives

T2.1 Elaboration of web portal (EQY)

EQY elaborated the web portal of the BAFN project by including the tools for the registration in and the access to the databases of agrifood research groups and companies in July 2007. The content of the web portal was reviewed by the work package leaders and the partners. It consists in :

- a description of the project : summary, online power point presentation, online leaflet.
- country profile for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, FYROM and Serbia: some economics figures and statistics on the country and its agrifood sector, list of the agrifood researchers and the companies registered in the databases.
- a description of the mapping activity: methodology, expected results and time table.
- a description of the foresight activity : methodology, expected results and time table.
- access to the databases : agrifood research database and database for agrifood companies.

EQY also elaborated a private secured website of the project for the communication between the partners and the exchange of document.

EQY updated regularly the web portal of the BAFN project by including information on the project status and progress.

EQY also updated the private secured website of the project for the communication between the partners and the exchange of document by adding the presentations, reports of the Progress Meeting, the deliverables and reporting reports.

T2.2 Elaboration of the database system (EQY)

EQY developed the database system for each of the 2 databases. The system was adapted to the specific expectations of each database. It consists in:

- online questionnaires (research organisations, researchers and companies) for registration into the databases.
- online “fact sheet” (how the information is displayed on the website, once that the questionnaire is completed).
- section “Search Engine” for surfing on the database and finding organisations corresponding to a specific profile.
- section “My Account” allowing the registered organisations or researchers to update their profile.

EQY updated the database system for each of the 2 databases, one for the research centres and one for the agrifood companies.

T2.3 Registering of research establishments and researchers (EQY) and industrialists (EP)

The partners registered the main research organisations and companies in a dedicated Master List developed by EQY. EQY sent invitation to register several times to these organisations by email. The local partners contacted them directly by phone and fax or organised some meetings to support the registration process. The research organisations were asked in the

questionnaire to list researchers, that were invited to register themselves in the researcher database.

The results of the registration process at the end of the project is as follows:

For the companies

Country	Levels 1	Database registrations	
		Number	%
Albania	76	40	52,63
Bosnia and Herzegovina	98	37	37,76
FYROM	86	43	50,00
Serbia	143	118	82,52
Total	399	164	41,10

For the research centres and researchers

Country	Levels 1	Database registrations	Mapping registrations	Researchers	% registration	% mapping
Albania	27,00	25,00	92,59	12,00	44,44	34,00
Bosnia & Herzegovina	42,00	18,00	42,86	13,00	30,95	36,00
Croatia	122,00	91,00	74,59	68,00	55,74	233,00
FYROM	83,00	47,00	56,63	41,00	49,40	64,00
Serbia	194,00	118,00	60,82	103,00	53,09	402,00
Total	468,00	299,00	134,71	237,00	104,58	769,00

T2.4 Expert panel (ETAT)

ETAT sent to the WBC partners a template document containing all the necessary fields the partners would have had to fulfil about the experts, i.e. the contact person, the institution name, the post address, the telephone number and a fax number and one valid email address.

The WBC Partners, by fulfilling this template document, made up a list of experts and sent it to ETAT S.A. The list contained both research and industrial experts. Experts from this list were selected in latter phases (task 4.1) in order to fulfil the qualitative questionnaires and will be in the future selected in order to take part in the expert panel meetings.

In this task ETAT aggregated the list of experts from all the WBC and made the first communication. ETAT composed an informative letter, containing information about the whole project, focusing though in the foresight activities. The letter informed the experts that in latter phases they would be asked to fulfil a qualitative questionnaire or/and participate to an expert panel meeting. The informative letter was send to all the members of the list nominally. The failures were tracked and there was an additional sending to those they did not receive in the first place.

Deviation from the project WP

The difficulty was to register the agrifood companies but the interest showed by these companies is very low.

Deliverables

D2 Web portal (EQY)

D3 On line database of research organisations (free access, and updated every year) (EQY)

D4 On line database of industrial organisations (free access, and updated every year) (EP)

Milestones

M2 : Web portal and database system available

M3: Representative number of research establishments and researchers registered into the database.

WP3 Mapping report**Objectives**

The aim of this WP is to elaborate the mapping reports starting from the survey. The report will be presented at the occasion of a high-level meeting organised by ETAT in WP 4.

Progress towards objectivesT3.1 Survey (EQY & WBC)

A specific questionnaire for the mapping of the competencies of the research groups was drafted by EQY and automatically sent through specific tools to the research centres registered in the BAFN database.

Concerning the companies, specific questions were added in the registration questionnaire to draw a mapping of competencies of the agrifood companies in the Western Balkan countries.

The main results of the registration process at the end of the first year are given in the part T2.3 here above.

T3.2 Analysis of the answers (EQY)

The first extraction of the survey results was done for the meeting in Skopje, where a presentation was delivered by GKI. In addition, GKI has prepared uniform “country profiles” for each WBC, which will be part of the mapping report and which use available statistical data on agriculture and agrifood research.

GKI provided to EQY the structure of raw data suitable for the statistical exploitation of the results. EQY sent to GKI the survey results on a regular basis in CSV format. Then GKI has extracted it and analysed with the help of a specialised software (SPSS for Windows provides a powerful statistical analysis and data management system in a graphical environment using descriptive menus and dialog boxes).

GKI collected available complementary statistics and used it for the Mapping Report.

The second extraction of the survey results was done for the meeting in Sarajevo in October 2007, where a presentation was delivered by GKI. After the last extraction of the survey in March 2008, the final results were presented at the final conference and the high level meeting of BAFN organised in Paris, in April 2008. In addition, GKI has finalized a uniform BAFN “country profile” for each WBC, which have been elemental parts of the mapping report and which use available statistical data on agriculture and agrifood research.

T3.3 Drafting of the national mapping reports (GKI & WBC)

In providing a more general context to the mapping, National mapping reports were drafted for the four Western Balkan Countries. Local partners provided useful comments and reflections. GKI also relied upon the statements of the Review Documents prepared by the BAFN project partners (www.bafn.eu/foresight_reports). Additionally, GKI collected and analysed essential statistics, and prepared uniform reports for all the WBC and co-ordinated the work. The national reports prepared by GKI contain general information about agricultural & food research, as well as a map of competencies grouped by sub-sector. These reports were presented, discussed, modified and approved by national experts at local expert panel meetings during the second half of 2007.

T3.4 Drafting of the consolidated mapping report (GKI)

Based on information contained in the National mapping reports conducted also by GKI, plus the statistical exploitation of the survey, the consolidated report has been elaborated first time for the workshop in Sarajevo, then with several modifications after the final conference in Paris. The consolidated report presents the state of agricultural research in the WBC and a sector-based mapping.

T3.5 Final report (GKI)

The final 'mapping report' is a country-specific synthesis of the statistical information and the survey results available to describe agrifood research in the Western Balkan countries. The main source of information was the web-assisted survey conducted in the BAFN project frame (www.bafn.eu/research). When relevant, available complementary statistics were also used. The report covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Serbia (including Kosovo), but for comparison, some statistical and survey data of Croatia (from the EU Agri Mapping project report available at www.agrifoodresearch.net) was also provided.

In order to finalise this report, consultations have been organised. The national reports and the draft of the consolidated mapping report were sent to the members of the expert panel so that comments could be made. The latter was also sent to the organisation that did not register into the database to incite them to join the network. GKI monitored this work during its whole duration. The report was presented at the occasion of a high-level meeting organised in Paris.

Deviation from the project WP

There were 1-2 months delay in the overall progress (mainly with closing the survey and organising the consultations), but it did not endanger the timely completion of the WP.

Deliverables

D5 National mapping report (SEDA, AUT, UoB, INGEB; UKLO, UoS, MSER, UoBe)

D6 Mapping report for the 4 WBC (GKI)

Milestones

M4 Survey of research establishments completed

WP4 Foresight study

Objectives

The aim is to conduct a foresight analysis in order to provide recommendations to provide recommendations on the agrifood research and industry and on policy that would be needed to support agrifood researchers and industrialists from the WBC. A position paper will be prepared.

Progress towards objectives

T4-1 Preparatory phase (ETAT)

This phase consisted in collecting supporting documents for the work of the panels. Statistical data was also collected. Current agrifood research and industry orientations and support policies were described. A first questionnaire for remote interview of experts was elaborated.

This information will be analysed to provide a SWOT analysis of the research orientations. The formation of the SWOT analysis it is programmed in the second year of the project.

This task was divided in several phases for reasons of management. These phases were described in detail in the Task 1.4 of the project and the information was embodied in the overall methodology of the project. Following will be presented the activities undertaken by ETAT and the WBC partners by phase posed by the internal methodology.

1. Structure of the National Report by ETAT S.A.

A National Report was structured taking into consideration the information and data needed to conduct a foresight study. The structure of the report was delivered to the WBC project partners in order to prepare the National Report in a standard format. Was a document divided in some thematic areas and in each area questions was posed. The Structure of National report was presented to the partners during the second consortium meeting. After the meeting the partners ETAT and GKI with the help and guidance of the coordinator tried to simplify the Structure of National Report. At this phase a first lag was noted, due to the fact that this collaboration was not foreseen by the core methodology foreseen by the technical annex nor the methodology decided by the partners during the first task of the project. The work was thus divided between partners and the partners started to gather information as it was anticipated by the next phase.

2. Fulfilment of National Report by the West Balkan Countries (WBC) project partners

2a. Collecting Supporting Documents

Supporting documents or other sources of information were collected by the WBC project partners. The collected information assisted WBC project partners to fulfil the National Report.

2b. Collecting Statistical Data from National Official Sources

Statistical data from Official Sources, e.g. the National Statistical Services or other relevant of each WBC was collected by the WBC project partners. This statistical data was also useful to the completion of the National Report given to the partners by ETAT S.A. During this phase various problems were reported by the WBC partners. The main problem was the lack of official statistical data concerning the R&D and S&T sector. This problem is also generally reported by the relevant to the WBC literature.

2c. Fulfilment of the National Report

Based on the information and data collected in steps 2a and 2b the WBC project partners completed the National Report. The lag time reported in the phase 1 (Structure of National Report) of the task 4.1 was inevitably transferred to this phase.

3. Validation of National Reports

3a. Collecting statistical data of international organisations

Data and information from the international literature was also collected for each one of the WBC by ETAT S.A. These data was used to supplement the frame of the current situation and moreover to validate the National Reports completed by WBC project partners.

4. Drawing up of the Review Document on the Current Situation for each WBC

Based on the National Reports drawn up for each WBC in step 2c by the WBC project partners and the statistical data collected in step 3 by ETAT S.A. a Review Document on the Current Situation for Each WBC was written. In this phase a lag time was also transferred in an accumulative way.

5. Qualitative Verification of the Review Document on the Current Situation for each WBC

5a. Questionnaire and Supporting document Editing

At this phase a semi-structured questioner was anticipated to be constructed. Taking into account the rate of response of the scientific and industrial community to the other task of the

project and moreover the fact that the experts were already asked to fulfil various questionnaire in order to built the data base, it was consider better to constructed a closed questionnaire so that the response will be optimised. Thus the supporting information needed by each expert to fulfil the questioner was embodied in the questionnaire itself and no separate supporting document was needed.

The questionnaire was organized in 6 parts, each one covering a thematic area. The thematic areas are considered to fully cover the research area reality. The questions were posed in such a way that their answers will constitute a potential field of the SWOT analysis.

The questionnaire was addressed to experts of the research and industry communities. These experts were already selected by the WBC partners during the first step of the project (T2.5 Expert panel settlement) and they were informed by the ETAT about the BAFN project even by the first steps of the project via the nominative informative letter (T2.5 Expert panel settlement).

An informative accompanying letter explaining the content and scope of the BAFN project and the use of the questionnaire was also composed by ETAT. Using this template 4 letters addressing each WBC were created, giving the contact data of the WBC partners, so that the experts could seek for help in completing the questionnaire if needed.

5b. Questionnaire sending and follow up

The questionnaire and the aggregated list of the experts constructed in T2.5 were sent to the coordinator for validation. The questionnaire was sent to all the experts by the coordinator. During the one year meeting all the partners talk about the questionnaire and discussed its content. At this meeting was decided that the questionnaire is not going to be translated. The reason was that the members of the list constructed in T2.5 have fine knowledge of the English language. The second decision was, that the time that is going to be given to the scientific and industrial experts to complete the questionnaire will be prolonged until 15/05/2007, thus until the beginning of the second year of the project.

During this period the WBC partners followed up and motivated the experts to fulfil the questionnaire by means selected by them. Furthermore ETAT also proceeded to two (2) massive mailing to the experts included in the list (of T2.5). The reminder letters were short enough to motivate the experts to read them, but also cohesive enough to inform them about the project and remind them about the questionnaire they were asked to fulfil.

This task was divided in several phases for reasons of management. These phases were described in detail in the Task 1.4 of the project and the information was embodied in the overall methodology of the project. During the first reporting period some preparatory activities were undertaken. ETAT S.A. structured (made a template) of the “National Report” giving guidance on what information should be gathered. After the fulfilment of the national Reports by the Western Balkan Partners, the reports were validated by ETAT S.A., via information cross checking with international organisations sources. In parallel a “qualitative questionnaire” was developed by ETAT S.A. in order to develop this questionnaire ETAT S.A. took into consideration both the National Reports send by the Western Balkan Partners and the literature gathered for reasons of validation. In the first reporting period the questionnaires were sent but the feedback was not analysed until the second reporting period. Hereby the activities undertaken within this Task during the second reporting period are presented.

SWOT Analysis Editing

Based on the quantitative information collected by the partners and the qualitative information collected by the experts (via the qualitative questionnaire) ETAT conducted one SWOT (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis for each WBC. The SWOT analysis can be considered as the first draft of the foresight study. When the information

gathered permitted it, the SWOT analysis was structured in 6 different areas, i.e. the areas presented in the qualitative questionnaire.

In order to conduct the SWOT analysis ETAT S.A. followed all the incoming emails, developed a template excel document, aggregated all the incoming questionnaires in this template document, developed an algorithm for the analysis of the answers, made the analysis of the answers and finally presented the SWOT analysis in a word format.

The SWOT analysis for each country was incorporated in the National Reports, thus having as an output the “Review Document” for each country. The analysis of the answers of the experts and especially answers over which the experts have expressed a strong and clear opinion (i.e., perceived through a consistent high ranking amongst the experts of the group) led to the expression of preliminary results / recommendations.

T4-2 Expert panel meetings (ETAT, EP & UoP)

This phase of the project has already begun, but not all the activities are going to be held during the first year. The overall methodology is given hereafter. The phase1 “expert panel meeting preparation is currently (05/23007) ongoing and is presented afterwards.

One expert panel meeting in each WBC will be organized. The aim will be to identify important and key research directions. A report will be elaborated for each panel. The meetings will be organized by ETAT with the support of EP for the industrial group. UoP will support and attend all the meetings.

The dates of the meetings are already fixed. The programming of the dates and all the relevant communication was realised during the first year of the project, i.e. in 04/2007. The expert panel meetings are going to be realised in June 2007 (second year of the project). EP has already prepared the agenda of each meeting. ETAT is currently (month 05/2007) preparing the presentation of the SWOT analysis of each WBC.

ETAT S.A. followed the consortium communicating activities relating to the realisation and programming of the expert panel meetings. The expert panels meetings took place in Skopje – 27 June 2007, in Tirana – 29 June 2007, in Belgrade - 13 July 2007 and in Banja Luka – 16 July 2007.

ETAT S.A. made 4 presentations in power point format presenting mainly the content of the SWOT analysis and the preliminary recommendations. The presentation also contained a brief presentation of the general framework of the foresight activities. The presentations were made by country.

The Western Balkan Partners organised the Expert Panel Meeting in their respective countries:

- In Skopje, FYROM on June 26, 2007.
- In Tirana, Albania on June 29, 2007.
- In Belgrade, Serbia on July 13, 2007.
- In Banja Luka, Bosnia Herzegovina on July 16, 2007.

The Local Partners presented the project reports and discuss their content with the agrifood experts. The main discussions were on the needs of the agrifood sector in their countries. The Local Partners drafted a meeting report.

UoP attended the 4 Expert Panel meetings in order to have a general picture of the Western Balkan agrifood sector situation and needs. It drafted with the support of EP a common report synthesising the 4 Expert panel meetings reports.

The partner UoP has analysed the answers from the Expert Panel Meetings in WBC about the scientific priorities in the field of food and agriculture and created a shortlist with the main areas of interest.

The partner UoP has analysed the presented projects from the project portfolio presented at the Expert Panel Meetings, with topics and explanation, which were considered as priorities for the WBC.

The shortlist with the most important project topics were presented to European national Contact Points for consideration, concerning the possible interest in their countries to the shown topics. The results were processed and analysed.

A final shortlist of project topics had been established (2-3) with the aim to be supported for introduction in the future Work Programs of the Commission for the next Calls of FP7 in 2009. The UoP partner being at the same time PC member is planning to “lobby” for the above mentioned topics and their importance for the WBC.

T4-3 Survey

In order to validate the conclusions of the expert panels, a survey of the researchers and industrialists that registered into the databases was organized.

Furthermore a survey of the EU agrifood experts within the members of the FAFB NCPs and the FP Program Committee Members were conducted by UoP and ETAT. The survey intended to identify the research priorities and topics of common interest between the WBC countries and the E.U. Member States. EP helped to prepare the consultation of scientists. A report called “ Results of the consultation on the findings of the expert panel meetings”.

T4-4 Final position paper

After the consultation of the research and industrial communities a foresight synthesis report taking into account all the input of the previous steps was elaborated. Taking into consideration this synthesis report ETAT S.A. produced the final position paper.

Based on the project results EP has prepared the final report called “Agri-food research in the Western Balkan Countries: Current situation and future needs - Synthesis report”.

These documents were presented at the time of the High level meeting organized in Paris, in March 28, 2008. A revision of the final position paper was produced after taking into consideration the comments of the partners and the EC officials in the high level meeting.

Deviation from the project WP

The SWOT analysis foreseen at the end of April 2007 has been postponed to mid May 2007 mainly because of the poor results of the registration of companies in the database. This 15 days delay do not modify the scheduled of the next activities.

Deliverables

D7 Draft results of the foresight study (ETAT & EP)

D8 Meeting report of the expert panel (ETAT & EP)

D9 Position paper (ETAT & EP)

Milestones

At the end of this work package, the position paper identifying agrifood research and industry as well as policy support tools will be ready.

WP5 Dissemination and promotion of WBC competencies

Objectives

EP, EQY and the other partners will analyse the state of art in research systems in WB, the scientific co-operation and provide recommendations in an overall document.

Progress towards objectives

T5.1 Web site up-date and news

EP has been in charge of the regular updating of the sections news and events of the website. During the first year, 19 news have been posted:

- FP7 calls for proposals now available (2006-12-22)
- EU enlargement – what impact on research in Bulgaria, Romania and the EU? (2006-12-12)
- Open FP7 call for WBC (2007-01-18)
- ASO Call for proposals in the field of “Information Science and Society in SEE countries” (2006-12-21)
- Food is getting healthier and better, thanks to EU research (2006-12-20)
- Report “Survey on Future Plant Research Activities in Europe” (2006-12-13)
- Publication about herbal teas, medicinal and aromatic plants and mushrooms from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2006-12-12)
- Science and Research Commissioner visits the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2006-11-30)
- UNESCO office in Venice: useful resources on science and technology in South East Europe (2006-11-24)
- Key findings of the 2006 Enlargement progress reports (2006-11-13)
- ERAWATCH: new web site on the European Research Landscape (2006-11-03)
- Co-operation between Western Balkan and the EU in the FP7 Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology (2006-10-11)
- New Agri-Net portal: information on EU research (2006-10-09)
- Bulgaria’s and Romania’s EU accession on 1 January 2007 (2006-09-28)
- Launching of BAFN research database (2006-09-18)
- Conference on Western Balkan and FP7 (2006-09-18)
- See-science.eu opened in August 2006 (2006-08-25)
- Networking day for RTD Austria- Western Balkan (2006-08-25)
- BAFN launched in May 2006 (2006-05-28)

Some news have also been sent to the researchers who registered on the web site:

- News for the publication of the FP7 call for proposals KBBE-2006-1 in December 2006 (sent to 466 members including 274 research groups, 346 researchers and 120 companies)
- News for the publication of the call for proposals FP7-REGPOT-2007-3 in February 2007 (sent to 638 addresses including 446 researchers and 192 research groups)

EP was also responsible for the update of the “events” section. The following events have been advertised during the first year:

3-4 July 2006	Agriculture and Environment in the Balkans and Turkey	Gembloux, Belgium
26 September 2006	Croatia and the Western Balkan Region - Perspectives for Cooperation with the EU in the FP7 Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology	Zagreb, Croatia

28-29 September 2006	International conference: South East Europe	Ljubljana, Slovenia
26-30 September 2006	AGROFOOD 2006 - International fairs and exhibitions	Skopje, Macedonia, FYROM
26-30 September 2006	Fair of Chambers of Commerce	Skopje, Macedonia, FYROM
24-26 October 2006	Nano & Microtechnologies in the Food & HealthFood Industries – Conference	Amsterdam, Netherlands
26-27 October 2006	Information Day on the 7th Framework Programme –Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology	Budapest, Hungary
15-18 November 2006	"Interfood and Drink", "Meatmania", "The World of Milk" and "Salon du Vin"	Sofia, Bulgaria
23-24 November 2006	Perspectives for project financed research and project oriented research institutions in Southeast Europe	Sofia, Bulgaria
23-25 November 2006	1st International Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development	Topusko, Croatia
20-24 January 2007	SIRHA - International Hotel Catering and Food Trade Exhibition	Lyon, France
25-26 January 2007	FP7 - Research in the field of biotechnology, agriculture, food, fishery and forestry – a cooperation between EU, Balkan region and Eastern European neighbourhood area	Bucharest, Romania
31 January - 01 February 2007	Launching Conference 7th FP in Bulgaria	Sofia, Bulgaria
15-18 February 2007	BIOFACH - Trade Fair for Organic products & dried fruits	Nuremberg, Germany
20-22 February 2007	IFE - International Food, Drink & Hospitality Exhibition	Budapest, Hungary
20-23 March 2007	3rd International Congress of the European Integrated Project Quality Low Input Food (QLIF)	Stuttgart, Germany

EP has been in charge of the regular updating of the sections news and events of the website. During the second year, 26 news have been posted:

- 15 January 2009: deadline for the call FP7-KBBE-2009-3 (2008-05-14)
- Report on agri-food research in the Western Balkan Countries (2008-04-18)
- Fourth KBBE call for proposal under preparation (2008-04-14)
- Albania and Montenegro joined FP7 as Associated Countries (2008-01-03)
- March 28th, 2008 - Conference in Paris to discuss agrifood research in the Western Balkan Countries (2008-03-11)
- List of scientific officers for the call FP7-KBBE-2007-2B (2008-01-07)
- Third call for proposals now published (2007-11-30)
- Catalogue of Food Quality and Safety projects in FP6 (2007-11-22)
- Overview of the 3 first FP7 calls in agri-food research (2007-09-13)
- Negotiation guidance now available (2007-09-10)
- WorldWideScience.org: 200 million pages of research information (2007-07-09)
- Upcoming information for the call REGPOT 3 (2007-07-06)
- EPSS available for the call 2A (2007-06-22)
- Second call for proposals officially published (2007-06-15)
- 3 Western Balkans countries and Turkey join EU research programme (2007-06-13)
- Conference on the future of agri-food research (2007-05-15)
- Conference on Academia-Industry cooperation in Germany (2007-05-11)
- Towards future challenges of agricultural research in Europe (2007-05-11)
- First Balkan symposium on fruit growing in Plovdiv, Bulgaria (2007-05-10)
- JRC Information Day in Skopje (2007-04-30)
- New documents for FP7 participants (2007-04-30)
- Make the most of research EU funding opportunities in food industry (2007-04-20)
- Commission published review on the Life Sciences and Biotechnology strategy (2007-04-14)

- Adoption of the Green Paper 'The European Research Area: New Perspectives' (2007-04-09)
- Facts and Figures of the European Research Area (2007-04-09)
- Open FP7 call for WBC (2007-01-18)

EP was also responsible for the update of the “events” section. The following events (76 in total) have been advertised during the second year:

17-18 April 2007	Perspectives for Food 2030	Brussels, Belgium
17-18 April 2007	Biofuels in Central and Eastern Europe	Praha, Czech Republic
17-19 April 2007	Health Benefits of fruit and vegetables within a Mediterranean style diet: EGEA IV	Brussels, Belgium
17-19 April 2007	CASCADE Annual meeting	Helsinki, Finland
20 April 2007	Living with Allergy: European Frontiers in Allergy and Asthma Research (GA²LEN Annual Conference)	London, United Kingdom
20-21 April 2007	Early nutrition programming and health outcomes in later life: obesity and beyond (EARNEST conference)	Budapest, Hungary
20-21 April 2007	Heavy Metals in the Environment and the Wellbeing of Humans and Animals	Bucharest, Romania
23-25 April 2007	First Grain Legum Legumes TTP workshop: Targeting Science to Real Needs	Paris, France
25 April 2007	Symposium on Epidemiology of toxic metals	Portorož, Slovenia
25-26 April 2007	Economic science for rural development	Jelgava, Latvia
26-27 April 2007	TRACE 3rd Annual Meeting on Traceability	Crete, Greece
3-4 May 2007	Second Welfare Quality Stakeholder Conference: Assuring animal welfare: from societal concerns to implementation	Berlin, Germany
3-4 May 2007	Assuring animal welfare: from societal concerns to implementation	Berlin, Germany
3-5 May 2007	International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security	Rome, Italy
7-11 May 2007	CASCADE course in Health risk assessment: focus on cancer, developmental neurotoxicity and endocrine disruption as critical effects	Stockholm, Sweden
14-15 May 2007	OECD Forum 2007: Innovation, Growth and Equity	Paris, France
16-18 May 2007		Cork, Ireland
18 May 2007	Technology Transfer Day on Functional Food	Rimini, Italy
23-24 May 2007	Med-Vet-Net Bioinformatics Workshop	Bedford, United Kingdom
24-25 May 2007	Engineering for rural development	Jelgava, Latvia
30 May 1 June 2007	En Route To The Knowledge-Based Bioeconomy	Cologne, Germany
5-6 June 2007	Fourth SEAFOODplus Conference	Bilbao, Spain
6-7 June 2007	Optimising Quality and Safety of Cereal Products (4th HEALTHGRAIN Industrial Platform workshop)	Budapest, Hungary
4-8 June 2007	Genomics for Animal Health: Joint SABRE and EADGENE conference	Utrecht, Netherlands
10-16 June 2007	XXXth World Congress of Vine and Wine	Budapest, Hungary
17-19 June 2007	The 16th SRA (Society for Risk Analysis) Europe Conference	The Hague, Netherlands
21-23 June 2007	100th Jubilee seminar of the European Association of Agricultural Economists	Novi Sad, Serbia
26-27 June 2007	Research towards Future Challenges of European Agriculture	Brussels, Belgium
27-29 June 2007	Sustainable rural development: what is the role of the agri-food sector?	Halle, Germany
5-6 July 2007	Management of Climate Risks in Agriculture	Berlin, Germany
13-16 September 2007	European rural development network conference 2007	Sinaia, Romania
17-19 September 2007	13th European Congress on Biotechnology	Barcelona, Spain
21 – 24 September 2007	International Trade Fair “Agribusiness 2007”	Tirana, Albania
25-26 September 2007	Bioforum 2007	Milan, Italy
26-27 September 2007	Improving quality, healthiness and safety of European diets: Role of food composition data (EuroFIR Congress)	Granada, Spain
26-28 September 2007	Prion 2007 (Neuropriion conference)	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
2 October 2007	EUREKA's Eurostars launching event	Brussels, Belgium
4 October 2007	Scientific Symposium on Food Safety, Nutrition and Nanotechnology	Parma, Italy

8-10 October 2007	The Future of Science and Technology in Europe	Lisbon, Portugal
22-23 October 2007	SAFOODNET 2ns seminar: Risk assessment of microbial problems and preventive actions in food industry	Istanbul, Turkey
29-30 October 2007	New insights in the role of healthy ingredients, in particular phytochemicals (5th HEALTHGRAIN Industrial Platform workshop)	London, United Kingdom
7-9 November 2007	3rd International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis	Prague, Czech Republic
15 November 2007	Incorporating Omega 3 in the food chain - Why? Where? & How?	London, United Kingdom
12-16 November 2007	6th European conference on grain legume : integrative approach for sustainable agriculture (GLIP dissemination conference)	Lisbon, Portugal
15-16 November 2007	4th International Conference & Exhibition on Polyphenols Applications: From Source to Optimal Industrial Uses	Malta, Malta
14 – 17 November 2007	“Inter Food and Drink”, “Meatmania”, “The World of Milk”, “Salon de Vin” and “Bulpek”	Sofia, Bulgaria
29-30 November 2007	FP7 European Information and Brokerage Days: Transnational Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology	Brussels, Belgium
10-12 December 2007	SAFOODNET 1st workshop: Detection and identification of harmful microbes	Brno, Czech Republic
13-14 December 2007	Workshop on Risk and cost benefit analysis of traceability in the agri-food chain (organised by MARS PAC in collaboration with the CO-Extra and TRACE consortia)	Ispra, Italy
14-15 January 2008	"Plant-derived feed additives" Recent scientific results and regulatory development - 1st FEED-SEG Symposium	Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary
31 January 2008	Symposium on "Exposure-Driven Safety Assessment Strategies" (SAFE Consortium)	Brussels, Belgium
13-15 February 2008	Soil nitrogen: research and extension (4th International QLIF Training and Exchange workshop)	Driebergen, Netherlands
7-9 April 2008	ARK-Genomics conference 2008: 3rd International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics (ISAFG)	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
8-11 April 2008	Genomes 2008 - Functional Genomics of Microorganisms	Paris, France
26-29 April 2008	Second SAFE consortium International Congress on Food safety: “Novel Technologies and Food Safety”	Girona, Spain
15-17 May 2008	Joint Central European Congress: 4th Central European Congress on Food and 6th Croatian Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists	Cavtat, Croatia
19-21 May 2008	5th Forest-based Sector Technology Platform Conference	Kranjska Gora, Slovenia
28-30 May 2008	8th international Conference on Management in AgriFood Chains and Networks	Ede, Netherlands
4-6 June 2008	2nd Annual Meeting of EPIZONE “The need for speed”	Brescia, Italy
4-7 June 2008	IPC 2008 - Probiotics for the 3rd Millennium	High Tatras, Slovakia
7 June 2008	Bluetongue Satellite Symposium. “Bluetongue in Europe, back to the future !!”	Brescia, Italy
18-20 June 2008	Cultivate the future: 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress	Modena, Italy
18-20 June 2008	16th IFOAM Organic World Congress	Modena, Italy
15-24 June 2008	16th IFOAM Organic World Congress 2008	Modena, Italy
22-26 June 2008	4th EPSO Conference: 'Plants for Life'	Toulon, France
24-27 June 2008	1st Global Conference on GMO Analysis	Como, Italy
18-22 July 2008	Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF2008)	Barcelona, Spain
1-4 September 2008	Food Micro 2008 conference: Evolving Microbial Food Quality and Safety	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
2-5 September 2008	NuGOWeek 2008	Potsdam, Germany
10-12 September 2008	Advances in Plant Protection Strategies	Druskininkai, Lithuania
11-12 September 2008	FOOD-FRENZ CONFENCE: Research Developments in Food Science and Technology in Europe and New Zealand	Budapest, Hungary
10-13 September 2008	4th International Workshop on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level	Ghent, Belgium
23-26 September 2008	5th European Conference on Biological Invasions	Praha, Czech Republic
25-28 September 2008	ESTIV2008: 15th International Congress on In Vitro Toxicology	Stockholm, Sweden
26-29 October 2008	Agriculture in transition: transitions towards sustainable agriculture, food-chains and peri-urban areas	Wageningen, Netherlands
4-9 November 2008	First EFFoST (European Federation of Food Science and Technology) Congress on Food Systems	Ljubljana, Slovenia

T5.2 Newsletter

EP has prepared the 2 Newsletters that the partners disseminated. The work has consisted in:

- Deciding on the sections covered by the newsletter
- Preparing the design
- Collecting information from partners
- Writing the newsletter
- Publishing the newsletter on the website
- Sending the newsletter to the members registered on bafn.eu

The first newsletter has been published in November 2006. The second one in March 2007 to 893 addresses. To consult the newsletter : <http://www.bafn.eu/newsletter>.

EP has prepared the 3 Newsletters. The work has consisted in:

- Collecting information from partners
- Writing the newsletter
- Publishing the newsletter on the website
- Sending the newsletter to the members registered on bafn.eu

The first newsletter has been published in July 2007, November 2007 and April 2008. To consult the newsletter : <http://www.europartnersearch.net/bafn/index.php?page=newsletter>.




18.06.2008


EVENTS
NEWS
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter


Newsletter




Newsletter 1
November 2006




Newsletter 2
March 2007



Newsletter 3
July 2007



Newsletter 4
November 2007



Newsletter 5
April 2008

T5.3 Dissemination of project results

EP has prepared the press release: 2 press releases have been prepared in May 2006 (one for dissemination in WBC and one for dissemination in the EU). A second press release as well as Power Point Presentation and a document presenting the project (2 pages) have been prepared in December 2007.

EP also contributed to prepare an article published in the Winter 06/07 E-journal of the project SEE-SCIENCE. To consult the article: <http://www.see-science.eu/news/1044.html>. An article on the project EU-BALKAN FABNET was also published by ETAT.

<http://www.see-science.eu/news/1045.html>

The activities of the BAFN project have been disseminated in several events on FP7 taken part in Bulgaria:

1. Meeting “National Technology Platforms in the area of food”, Italy, Rome, April, 2007
2. TEMPUS Project HERBS meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, March, 2007.
3. Forum “Nanosciences and nanotechnologies”, University of Plovdiv, February, 2007.
4. Three meetings for the first call of FP7 (National Centre Agrarian Sciences, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Plant Physiology0 performed by I. Minkov, Bio NCP, FP7.

The BAFN network was exploded to find partners for establishing a consortium for preparation of a project for the program Integration and strengthening the ERA in Southern East Europe (SeeERA Net).

The link and news about BAFN was published in the official site of the Faculty of Biology - <http://bio.uni-plovdiv.bg/> UoP, and in the site of the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, UoP - <http://plantgene.eu/>.

During the first year of the project ETAT made two press releases concerning the BAFN project. In order to make the first press release ETAT was based on a template sent by the partner EP. ETAT ended up with a Greek and an English version of the press release. The content of the press release was relevant to the whole project, not only the foresight study. The first BAFN press release was sent to 31 newspapers (both Greek and English speaking), 2 sector magazines and 1 sector portals. ETAT followed the press releases and had one verified announcement on the sector portal.

In order to make the second press release ETAT made a new document, this time more specific to the foresight study activity. This press release was made only in Greek language. The press release was sent to 30 recipients including newspapers, food sector magazines and food sector e-portals. ETAT followed the press release and had one verified announcement on one newsletter mainly circulating in north Greece targeting agro-food scientists and agro-food business men.

Further more during the first year of the project ETAT promoted the BAFN project through 2 events:

- 1) Through the Info - day on the “Food Agriculture and Biotechnology” Theme of the 7th Framework Programme held at the Lecture theatre of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute, 127 Vas. Sofias Ave., Athens, on 25/10/2006.
- 2) Through the kiosk at the “TROFOtech- FOODTech 2006” exhibition, held at the Exhibition Centre – West Airport, Fencing Olympic Property, Hellinikon, Athens, Europe on 16-19/11/2006. At the kiosk a newsletter of the BAFN project was disseminated.

UoBe also disseminated the results of the project through the website of the Faculty, and also in one daily newspaper (Danas, March 5 2007), several professional newsletters/papers and two periodicals in February-April¹.

Finally EQY participated to two main events:

- "Croatia and the Western Balkan Region – Perspectives for Cooperation with the EU in the FP7 Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology", Zagreb, Croatia, 26/09/2006.
- "Projects on International cooperation in FP6 and FP7-FAB", Brussels, Belgium, 12/02/2007.

Each time the BAFN project has been presented.

The final report and the position paper have been published on the website <http://www.europartnersearch.net/bafn>. A press release has been prepared, translated in 8 languages, posted on the website and disseminated. Several articles have been published including on the following website:

EU Agrinet: http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/bafn_en.htm

Cordis : http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=29062 and <http://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm?fuseaction=article.Detail&rcn=17297>

Eurosfaire: <http://www.eurosfaire.prd.fr/news/consulter.php?id=1908>

Emails informing the BAFN database members on the project progress were regularly sent by Euroquality.

Furthermore during the second reporting period of the project ETAT promoted the BAFN project using the channel of other FP funded projects. ETAT was invited in a workshop organized by the project WBC-INCO.NET under the title „Workshop on priority setting (WP 2) and Round Table on other initiatives (WP 1) " which was held in Bonn (Germany) on April 10 and 11, 2008.

The event was focusing mainly in the presentation of the methodology followed for the foresight activities. References were made also to the results of the project. In order to participate to this event ETAT S.A. made a short summary presenting the project methodology in word format and submitted to the organizers prior to the event for reasons of information. ETAT S.A. also made a power point presentation focusing mainly methodological issues and problems that might arise in the exercise of determining priorities due to the particular character of the WBCs area. In order to make this presentation ETAT S.A. collaborated with the partners EP and UoP. These partners were very actively involved in the work package 4 for the foresight activities.

The presentation was very well accepted by the WBC-INCO.NET partners. The project posted the final press release in the publicly accessible sector of the site <http://www.wbc-inco.net/news/5530.html> and added the following comment

“The BAFN priority setting exercise has also been presented to WBC-INCO.NET partners who concluded that it is "a very good example of what should be done in the region concerning the other thematics of FP7, in order to facilitate the cooperation between the EU and West Balkan Region.”

Numerous Meetings were held with several representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP) Agriculture University of Tirana (AUT) and different research institutions (like institute of Food Research) related to BAFN project dissemination plan as well as for the needs and institutional assessment in the frame of the current ongoing National Food Authority project.

¹ Poljoprivrednik- January 26 2007, Poljoprivredni list-February 7 2007, Poljoindustrija-April 14 2007, Biljni lekar-1st issue in 2007, Pesticidi No 1, 2007

Of special importance Meeting with representatives of the University of Tirana from the Science Faculty and the experts of the Chemistry Department.

SEDA continued to have meetings with Mr.Llazar Korra ,Task manager for Agriculture and Giovanni Serritela, horizontal activity co-ordinator (both from EU Delegation Office in Tirana) related to BAFN findings and recommendations in order to revise several EU IPA structural funds, i.e. how BAFN can better shape several proposal and EU IPA project fiches.

SEDA achieved to take part in several activities planned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP) and other ones organized by other stakeholders in Albania to include several local, national and international fairs such as agro fairs or Fiera Dell Levante (Italy etc) .

SEDA contacted Albanian Council of Agriculture (KASH) and convinced them to publish in their web site BAFN project newsletter and products and informed the council member of how the European Commission is supporting this project to involve researchers of the agricultural and food sector from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia Montenegro and FYROM.

SEDA has ensured a proper dissemination of project results through continuation of meetings with representatives of MAFCP, AUT, KEA, KASH, chambers of commerce, and other agrofood stakeholder. This had a positive impact in several stakeholders and the Albanian community of researchers to increase the national and international cooperation with the focus on maximising the effectivity of future IPA structural funds based on the notice that there are being prepared several projects to build in capacities in the WBC and Albania in the frame of Rural Development program of EU

The results of the projects have been disseminated on different events of other FP6 projects and the activity of UoP partner as a Bulgarian NCP – info days and training events.

The UoP partner, together with EP partner organised dissemination of the BAFP project results at the Scientific Directorate – Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Sciences, as well as at the Bulgarian National Science Fund.

T5.4 Exploitation plan

EP organised the dissemination of the final report. A dissemination plan has been prepared and sent to the BAFN partners. Each partner has implemented its own dissemination activity.

Deviation from the project WP

No deviation to be reported.

Deliverables

D10 Regular update and news on the web site (at least 40 news) (UoP & EP)

D11 Five newsletters (EP)

D12 Report on the dissemination activities (EP)

Milestones

The expected result is a broad dissemination of the project results and a better knowledge on the WBC competencies in the EU Member States.

WP6 Management

Objectives

- Co-ordinating the activities.
- Maintaining an efficient relation with partners and the EC services.

EQY is the WP leader. The other WP leaders (GKI, ETAT and EP) will be also largely involved in the management activities.

Description of work

Task 6.1 Administrative and financial management

EQY elaborated and uploaded an internal management web site in which all the contractual documents, the deliverables, meetings' presentations and reports and the tools for following up the activities are available to each partner through a secured access. An intermediate costs statement has been requested to all the partners at the end of December 2006 and 2007.

Task 6.2 Project technical co-ordination, quality follow-up

Each work package leader followed up the activities of each partner.

5 co-ordination meetings were held during the two years of the project:

- Kick off meeting, in Sofia, Bulgaria, on May 16 et 17, 2006.
- 6-month meeting, in Paris, France, on November 6, 2006.
- 12-month meeting, in Skopje, FYROM, on April 20, 2007.
- 18-month meeting, in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, on October 19, 2007.
- 24-month meeting, in Paris, France, on March 27, 2008.

These meetings allow the partners to review the activities done during the last period and to agree on the work plan of the next one.

Task 6.3 Knowledge and information flow management

Specific tools were developed by EQY to manage the information flow and organise the follow up of the registration process.

Task 6.4 Co-ordination of activities with other projects

Consortia of others SSAs, as EU AGRI MAPPING, EU-Balkan-FABNET, and SEE-ERA-NET focused on Food Quality and Safety and on the WBC were kept aware of the advancement and the results of the project by EQY.

Deliverables

D13 Management reports

Table 1: Deliverables List

List all deliverables, giving date of submission and any proposed revision to plans.

Deliverable No ²	Deliverable title	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature ³	Dissemination level ⁴	Delivery date ⁵
D1	Methodology report	WP1	EQY	R	RE	30/06/2006
D2	Web portal	WP2	EQY	O	PU	31/07/2006
D3	On line database of research organisations	WP2	EQY	O	PU	28/02/2007
D4	On line database of industrial organisations	WP2	EQY	O	PU	28/02/2007
D5	National mapping report (draft)	WP3	GKI	R	PP	28/02/2007
D6	Mapping report on WBC(draft)	WP3	GKI	R	PP	30/04/2007
D6'	Final mapping reports			R	PU	30/10/2007
D7	Draft results of the foresight study	WP4	ETAT	R	PP	31/05/2007
D8	4 expert panel meeting reports	WP4	ETAT	R	PU	30/10/2007
D9	Position paper	WP4	ETAT	R	PU	31/12/2007
D10	Regular update and news on the web site	WP5	EP	R	PU	30/10/06 ; 31/12/06 ; 28/02/07 ; 30/04/07 ; 30/06/07 ; 31/08/07 ; 30/10/07 ; 31/12/07 ; 28/02/08 ; 30/04/08

² Deliverable numbers in order of delivery dates: D1 – Dn

² Please indicate the nature of the deliverable using one of the following codes:

- R** = Report
- P** = Prototype
- D** = Demonstrator
- O** = Other

³ Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes:

- PU** = Public
- PP** = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).
- RE** = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).
- CO** = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

⁴ Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 0 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.

Deliverable No	Deliverable title	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature	Dissemination level	Delivery date
D11	5 Newsletters	WP5	EP	R	PU	30/10/06 ; 28/02/07 ; 30/06/07 ; 30/10/07 ; 28/02/08
D 12	Report on dissemination activities	WP5	EP	R	PU	30/04/2008
D 13	Management reports	WP6	EQY	R	CO	31/05/2007 31/05/2008

Table 2: Project timetable.

	Months																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WP1 Methodology																								
T1.1 Methodology for research database																								
T1.2 Methodology for industrial database																								
T1.3 Methodology for mapping																								
T1.4 Methodology for foresight																								
T1.5 Plan for dissemination																								
T1.6 Identification of resources		D1	M1																					
WP2 Network creation																								
T2.1 Elaboration of web portal			D2																					
T2.2 On-line research database system elaboration			M2			D3																		
T2.3 On-line industrial database system elaboration						D4																		
T2.4 Registering of research & industrial organisations							M3																	
T2.5 Expert Panel settlement																								
WP3 Mapping activity																								
T3.1 Survey										M4														
T3.2 Analysis of the answers																								
T3.3 National mapping report												D5												
T3.4 Mapping report on WBC														D6										
T3.5 Consultation for final report																						D6'		
WP4 Foresight activity																								
T4.1 Identification of first priorities																								
T4.2 Expert panel meeting															D7	M5								
T4.3 Survey																			D8					
T4.4 Final position paper																					D9			
WP5 Dissemination																								
T5.1 News and update of web site						D10		D10		D10		D10		D10		D10		D10		D10		D10		D10
T5.2 Newsletter						D11				D11				D11				D11				D11		
T5.3 Dissemination of project results																								D12
T5.4 Exploitation plan																								
WP6 Management	M					M						M							M					M
T6.1 Management																								D13

D: Deliverables, M: meeting Mi (1<i<5): Milestone