

Organisation



Dunarea de Jos University
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Faculty of Food Science and Engineering



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Expression of interest

of Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Faculty of Food Science and Engineering to join a Consortium on HORIZON EUROPE calls

HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-01-3 Thematic network tackling food fraud by translating research and innovation into practice

Organization details:

Country: Romania

Name of the organization: Faculty of Food Science and Engineering from the “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati

Contact person short description and contact details:

Anca Ioana Nicolau (AIN)

AIN graduated as engineer in food technology (1985) and obtained her PhD title in Industrial Biotechnology (1999). She is currently professor of Food Microbiology, Rapid methods and Automation in Microbiology and Hygiene for Food Business Operators at the Faculty of Food Science and Engineering from the Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania, and coordinates PhD thesis in the domain of Industrial Engineering, specialization Food Industry. Her current research is related to the detection of pathogens in food and food processing environments and to the destruction of microorganisms using alternative technologies. She acted as institutional responsible for several European projects, the most recent ones being the ERANET ERA IB2 SafeFood project (2016-2019) and the Horizon 2020 SafeConsume project (2017-2022).

Follow her publications on Loop: <https://loop.frontiersin.org/people/269090/overview>.

Contact: anca.nicolau@ugal.ro or via LinkedIn

Short description of the organization

“Dunarea de Jos“ University of Galati (UGAL) is ranked the most important institution for higher education in the South-East of Romania and has been nationally and internationally acknowledged since its foundation, in 1948 (<https://www.ugal.ro/>).

With a strong food engineering core and a long- standing tradition in food research, the **Faculty of Food Science and Engineering (FFSE)** dates from UGAL`s early beginnings, and it has been educating students for more than 70 years (<http://www.sia.ugal.ro/>). The academic activity is carried out in accredited fundamental fields for all the bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs developed within the faculty. FFSE has all the necessary resources (modern infrastructure, material and human resources) to support the academic performance and scientific research through two research centers, ranked at the institutional level in the excellence research units category, namely the Integrated Center for Research, Expertise and Technological Transfer in Food Industry (BioAliment-TehnIA) and the Romanian Center for Modelling Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (MORAS).

Possible main contributions of organization to the project proposal

Research. Identification of key drivers likely to impact food fraud in Romania in the next 5 to 10 years.

Assisting FBOs in elaboration of TACCP and VACCP plans and advise them on claims, including those about carbon neutrality, carbon net-zero and greenhouse gas emissions reductions; support FBOs, especially medium-sized, with food fraud detection.

Analysis. Improve and extend our authenticity testing services (based on mass spectrometry, chromatography, both liquid and gas, and DNA testing).

Contribution to **food fraud prevention strategy** by identification of risks and implementation of a food fraud prevention plan at national level, along with supply chain management and laboratory testing.

Other. Support authenticity testing for food fraud detection by preparing reference materials.

Specific expertise relevant to the call topic

Infrastructure

The research infrastructure of BioalimentTehnIA Research Centre is presented at (<https://www.unicer.ugal.ro/index.php/en/about-tehnia>)

Research directions - Food expertise, food quality control and food safety

- Assessing food quality and safety;
- Technical expertise in food industry;
- Ensuring and monitoring the quality and safety of food at the manufacturer;
- Consultancy in implementation processes for food quality and safety management programs (SR EN ISO 22000: 2005, HACCP system) and quality management in testing laboratories (ISO 17025);

- Training the personnel in the principles of food quality and safety management, total quality management;
- Working with national food safety and consumer protection bodies to monitor food quality, prevent the consumption of fake and / or contaminated food, risk analysis;
- Integration into national and international programs to monitor food quality and food safety in accordance with EU legislation;
- Extending the conformity assessment capability in line with the latest analytical methods for investigating, assuring and monitoring food quality and food safety.

Projects

- **2017 - 2022, SafeConsume** - Safer food through changed consumer behaviour: Effective tools and products, information strategies, education and a food safety policy reducing health burden from foodborne illnesses (Horizon 2020) safeconsume.eu
- **2021 - 2022, ProSafeConsume financed by UEFISCDI (Contract 14/2021)** prosafconsume.ugal.ro
- **2016 – 2019, SafeFood** - Development of a novel industrial process for safe, sustainable and higher quality foods, using biotechnology and cybernetic approach (**ERANET ERA IB2**)
- **2012 – 2014, PROMISE** - Protection of consumers by microbial risk mitigation through combating segregation of expertise (FP7)

Papers

Nicolau, A.I., Barker, G. C., Aprodu, I., Wagner, M. 2013. Relating the biotracing concept to practices in food safety, *Food Control*, 29(1): 221-225, doi:10.1016/j.foodcont.2012.05.020

Nicolau, A.I. 2012. Handling of the media during an incident in Romania involving dioxin contamination of yoghurts, chapter 19 in Case studies in food safety and authenticity-Lessons from real life, Woodhead Publishing Series in FoodScience, Technology and Nutrition: no.240, ed. J.Hoorfar, Woodhead Publishing ltd., Oxford, ISBN 978-0-85709-412-4, pages 168-177

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