



NTPs 06/2010

Rome, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**OBJECT:**

- **Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> NTPs meeting (Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010).**
- **Convocation of the 8<sup>th</sup> NTPs meeting (Rimini, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010).**

- On 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, at 9.30 a.m. the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Technology Platforms takes place in Brussels (see the list of participants in Annex 1). The following 19 Platforms attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium (Wagralim and Flanders'Food), Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece (by proxy to M. C. Di Domizio), Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Portugal (by proxy to D. Rossi), Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine. Norway and The Netherlands joined at the Joint Meeting with the Mirror Group.
- **D. Rossi** welcomes the participants and thanks them for attending the meeting.
- **F. Heroufosse (Wagralim NTP)** illustrates the two Belgian NTPs (Wagralim and Flanders' Food) (see Annex 2):
  - **Wagralim** is the NTP for the French speaking Belgium. It is a Competitiveness Cluster associating 80 companies with R&D centers and other partners. 22 important projects have been financed (14 R&I and 8 Training) on Health – Nutrition, Technology (conservation) / Industrial Efficiency, Packaging and Bio-Packaging and Sustainability). Project leaders are always companies. There are also other "small" projects in partnership. The main achievements of the Platform concern: new scientific tools for functional ingredients, functional chocolate with polyphenolics, demonstration plant for bio-packaging, platform project for food preservation, cracking of flax, wheat leading to new ingredients, networking between companies and R&D centers, new innovation culture, international network in construction /Truefood.
  - **Flanders' Food** is the NTP for the Flemish speaking Belgium. It involves 27 knowledge centres and 215 companies paying membership fee. Flanders'Food services concern scientific and technological advice (215), seminars, training and workshops (16 events with 972 participants), science and technology watch newsletter, 22 large collaborative research projects coordinated by the Platform itself: 12 projects with 129 food companies (2006 – 2009) and 10 projects with 73 food companies (2010 – 2011). Examples: salt, fat and sugar reduction, fatbloom reduction in chocolate, allergen risk evaluation and mildheat.
- **A. Sebok** informs the participants about the progress with the inventory of national/transnational/international funding schemes. 6 updates were received (Denmark, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Romania) and 8 new schemes. 57 descriptions have been received in total from 18 countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. The descriptions will be available on the web-site (see Annex 3). There was a roundtable during which all NTPs updated each other on the funding opportunities available in the different countries. A particular focus was put on the possibility of collaborating with foreign countries foreseen by national research programmes.

**ACTION: NTPs to update the inventories every 6 months.**

- **D. Rossi** and **M. C. Di Domizio** illustrate the results of the survey concerning the skills that companies need. NTPs collected the view of member SMEs and large companies on the skills what they expect from different staff members (young graduates, technicians, skilled workers) for future employment. Separate forms have been filled in for each type of employees. Some countries did not answer the questions on technicians because the term technician is relevant mostly for Central and Eastern Europe where the German schooling system dominated. Technicians do not have a university degree. They attended a secondary school where they got specialised technical training for a specific area, but got training also for the ordinary secondary school subjects (e.g. they can go to university if they want). All countries answered the questions concerning skilled workers. They are operators who have got school training and practical training after the primary school for a specific area, but mainly focused on technical subjects without a detailed training on grammar, literature, physics, mathematics etc. which is not directly related to their specific area. NTPs have also provided a rating for each skills (5. Very important, 4. Important, 3. Moderately important, 2. May be useful, 1. Not important). 15 NTPs answered (4 more than in Riga): Austria, Belgium Flanders, Belgium Walloon, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Germany, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia and Switzerland. A deep analysis of the results of the survey has been elaborated (see Annex 4):

**ACTIONS:**

- **NTPs that have not answered the survey yet have to send the survey filled in to the Secretariat (didomizio@federalimentare.it).**
  - **Further information should be collected from additional respondents by all NTPs, in order to check the reliability of some results (e.g. legal skills should be a priority skill for large companies).**
  - **A. Sebok will draft a position paper on the results of the survey. This position paper should underline also the weak points of the results.**
- **A. Sebok** proposes a list of subjects by the NTPs for integrated funding. The NTPs adopted the following list to be proposed to the joint meeting with the Mirror Group to be held on the same day:
    1. *Validated approaches to carry out (food safety) risk – benefit evaluations along the food chain.(11 votes up to 19)*
    2. *Improved utilisation of food raw materials and reduced waste throughout the food chain, including the development of systems for reprocessing to add value to food by-products.(12 votes up to 19)*
    3. *Harmonised European core training programmes based on new research results for the Food Industry – in more than 30 countries.(14 votes up to 19)*
  - **D. Rossi** and **M. Cristina Di Domizio** update the Participants on FP7 (call 2011) and FP8 (see Annex 5). In particular they inform the NTPs about the great success obtained for call 2011 of FP7 because the ETP "Food for Life" Implementation Action Plan is the source of the majority of topics of Theme 2 "Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology" – Activity 2.2. for all the research areas: Consumers, Nutrition, Food processing, Food quality and safety, Environmental impacts and Total food chain and European Research Area. In some cases also ETP "Food for Life" written inputs are mentioned as sources. Concerning FP8, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 NTPs received a communication informing that national consultation process is beginning in some EU Member States (e.g. Austria and U.K.). The same consultation is now about to start in many other Member States. CIAA and the ETP will prepare a strategic document highlighting research priorities for use in FP8 consultations at national and EU level. The activity of the Key Thrusts will be taken into account. Member States Mirror Group was informed about this activity.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **NTPs to contact national Government representatives in order to understand if the FP8 consultation has started in their countries.**
- **NTPs to share contribution at national level with CIAA & ETP (and with the Mirror Group).**
- **NTPs to answer the following questions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, in order to help CIAA and the ETP to develop their position on this important issue:**
  - 1. What are EU FP8 challenges for our industry?**
  - 2. Which more concrete food related research areas should be in the EU FP8?**
  - 3. In order to be more efficient, is it necessary to change the structure of FP 8? If your answer is yes, how should I be changed?**
  - 4. Can you explain the impact of European funding and innovation for your country?**

➤ **A. Sebok** and **D. Rossi** illustrate the campaign to support innovation of SMEs (see Annex 6) that should:

- enhance competitiveness of food SMEs through increasing their involvement into implementation of innovation;
- convince food industry SMEs on the benefits and feasibility of exploiting research results;
- increase the awareness of policy makers at EU and national level on the different nature of innovation in the food sector compared to the high-tech sectors and on the differences in role of food industry SMEs compared to research intensive SMEs in the high-tech sectors and other non-food manufacturing sectors;
- propose actions and measures for policy makers for enhancing implementation of research results for innovation at SMEs, including funding.

The target groups of the campaign are: SMEs, policy makers, research providers and knowledge transfer organisations.

It is unanimously agreed that the campaign will be coordinated by a Task Force that will develop a set of communication tools in English (e. g. a letter from the NTPs/ETP to the national and EU policy makers asking their support, a core presentation, a model leaflet) adjusted by the NTPs to the national conditions and needs. The TF will also define recommended timing of the actions, design European action of the ETP, provide assistance to the NTPs and collect experiences.

It is also decided that some steps will be necessary at national level, such as setting up the national campaign teams (coordinator, publicity manager and additional team members), to define available budget, prepare a national action plan, develop communication tools, deliver the campaign, review the mid-term progress and experiences to be shared at European level.

The campaign will start in mid May 2010 and finish in mid November 2010. The countries can choose the most appropriate time for themselves.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **Organise a Task Force to coordinate national campaigns and share the messages. The TF will be chaired by D. Rossi and A. Sebok. It will involve J. Drausinger, members of the SME Task Force, a representative of the CIAA communication department and, for NTPs, P. Kelly, C. Cotillon and F. Morais.**
- **Setting up the national campaign teams (coordinator, publicity manager and additional team members).**

- **J. Drausinger** informed the NTPs on the results of the first meeting of Communication, Training and Technology Transfer working group (see Annex 7) focused on the following issues:
  - Internal Communication activities: for the group the activities of the ETP Food for Life are not well reported to the members of CIAA. Therefore more efficient communication is urgently needed. The group recommends the involvement of the CIAA communication department.
  - External Communication activities: state of art and tools. The group has recognised the potential role as multiplier factor to be played by NTPs and the Federations Techno Scientific Mediators. The group has agreed to strengthen the external communication activities a strong B2B Communication system. The communication flow with NTPs shall be a two-way system:
    - One side: NTPs are demanding to be better informed regarding the activities of the ETP;
    - Two – sides: NTPs should be more active in promoting the ETP at national level and NTPs should ensure communication of their activity reach the European level (via the ETP Secretariat).

**ACTIONS:**

- **The next meeting of CTTT will be on 12 April at 10.00 a.m. at CIAA premises in Brussels.**

- **M. Cristina Di Domizio** updates on NTPs candidates for the ETP Key Thrusts working groups (see Annex 8). In the occasion of the meetings of the Research Science Expert Group and of the NTPs held in Riga on 1st and 2nd October 2009 it was decided to involve NTPs in the recruitment process of candidates for the Key - Thrusts working groups of the ETP "Food for Life". In December 2009 NTPs were asked to inform their members about this opportunity and to select possible candidates for the KT working groups and ETP Task Forces. France, Italy, Norway, Romania and The Netherlands sent candidates for KT 1, 2 and 3.

**ACTIONS:**

- **NTPs to send candidates to M. Cristina Di Domizio ([didomizio@federalimentare.it](mailto:didomizio@federalimentare.it)), to Roberta Mancina ([r.mancia@ciaa.be](mailto:r.mancia@ciaa.be)) and to the Key Thrust leaders:**
  - **Key Thrust 1: Improve health, wellbeing & longevity (leader: Gerd Harzer – KraftFoods - [gharzer@krafteurope.com](mailto:gharzer@krafteurope.com)).**
  - **Key Thrust 2: Build consumer trust in the food chain (leader: Harmen Hofstra - European Association for Food Safety - [harmen.hofstra@safeconsortium.org](mailto:harmen.hofstra@safeconsortium.org)).**
  - **Key Thrust 3: Sustainable & ethical production (leader: Ulf Sonesson - Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology - [Ulf.Sonesson@sik.se](mailto:Ulf.Sonesson@sik.se)).**

- Please find enclosed Trophelia presentation by **C. Cotillon** (see Annex 9).
- Please find Truefood presentation by **D. Rossi** (see Annex 10).
- **The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of "Food for Life" National Platforms will be held in Rimini (Italy) on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the framework of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Biotechnology Symposium and Exhibition (Sept. 14-18, 2010)** (see Annex 11 and, for more information, [www.ibs2010.org](http://www.ibs2010.org)).

- At 12.00 a.m. the Joint meeting of NTPs and the ETP Mirror Group takes place. In that occasion **M. Schans**, Project Officer – Agency NL Chair EuroAgri-Foodchain, illustrates the EuroAgri-Food chain. Eureka and EuroAgri-Foodchain offer their support to the ETP and the NTPs (Annex 12). Specific minutes for the joint meeting will be sent.

Yours sincerely

Daniele Rossi  
Chairman of the collaboration activities of  
the NTPs

András Sebők  
Vice-Chairman the collaboration  
activities of the NTPs