

Work package number	3	Start date or starting event:	1
Work package title	Network building		
Activity type	Others		
Objectives			
<p>WP 3 focuses on the development of a network of universities, institutes, high schools, consumer organisations, consumer associations, NGOs and private enterprises active in the field of consumer science related to food (networking).</p> <p>The objective of these networking activities will also be to better define the role of the consumer associations in relation to consumer protection and to promote fair practices in food trade and product quality – and, as such, to invite them as well.</p> <p>This network should allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To better understand and build the supply chains policies and strategies on the one side, basing their development and structuring on their knowledge about the consumers’ preferences and the market opportunities; and • To better orientate the nutrition and health policies on the other side. 			
Description of work			
<p>Networking addresses the issue of intra Balkan relations, links with the international research community and interdisciplinary linkages between sciences dealing with food consumer behaviour.</p> <p>This involves the organisational aspects of cooperation but also the more fundamental food science paradigm, including the multidisciplinary approach and association of all stakeholders, bringing non-research organisation into research work.</p> <p>During the whole implementation of the project, special attention will be paid to associate to all activities research institutions of the different fields such as economics, psychology, sociology, socio-psychology, anthropology and nutrition. In addition, consumer organisations and farmers, producers, processors and retailers will be consulted in the different surveys and involved in the training and dissemination activities.</p> <p>Specific networking activities will assist the institutes of various fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise the need of adopting multidisciplinary approach and therefore associate research organisations of different fields; • To negotiate cooperation modalities on specific research activities related to the project; • To establish regional framework agreement related to food consumer science research between research organisations; • To establish a Balkan Network for Food Consumer Science, gathering public institutions and the private enterprises active in the consumer research related to food, farmers, producers, processors and consumer organisations. In association with Western European scientific partners. The formalisation of the Network will be considered and done if the conclusions are that it can be profitable for the sustainability of the cooperation within the network. <p>Each WBC research institution directly involved in the project will be pro-active at country level to associate to the process all organisations concerned with food consumer science, including research organisations, but also processor, consumer and farmer organisations. WBC research institutions and stakeholder representatives, such as consumer and producer associations will participate in networking activities. This will involve pro-activity in the networking meetings including scientific papers and presentations on country specific issues. Some networks, already identified and contacted, such as the Food Safety and Nutrition Project within the SSE Health Network (in which consortium partners are already members), will be solicited. They will identify and convey the stakeholders to country level meetings as well as provide meeting space and logistic support for the organisation of those meetings. All WBC institutions attending the meeting will contribute to the organised meetings by preparing interventions and delegating researchers and managers with decision power to key meetings. The research organisation of the WBC associated to the Network for Food Consumer Science in the WBC will provide inputs for the website.</p> <p>The Slovenian Consumer Association (SCA) will be subcontracted by UL-SLO to intervene in specific meetings on consumer organisations, rights and possible actions in the six WBC. The objective of these meetings will be to better define the role of the consumer associations in relation to consumer protection and to promote fair practices in food trade and product quality. UL-SLO will also organise the Slovenian meetings but the networking will be done</p>			

conjointly with SCA.

SEEDDEV will assist the organisation of country level meetings by submitting agendas, moderating discussions and reporting findings and decisions. SEEDDEV will also ensure the management and the updating of the website with content discussed during the meetings. AGRIDEA will provide guidance on the modalities of intra-organisational cooperation and linking the WBC research organisations and the Balkan Network for Food Consumer Science with Western European research institutions.

Activity 3.1 Two regular networking meetings per year and per country

Activity 3.2 The animation of part of the website FOCUS-BALKANS for the Balkan Network for Food Consumer Science

Deliverables

D 3.1 First annual report on networking activities. Month 12.

D 3.2 Second annual report on networking activities. Month 24.

D 3.3 Final report on networking activities. Month 36.

These reports on networking activities will comment what has been done and how the meetings have been going. They will be made of the meeting minutes and the lists of presence of the different meetings.