

SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTIONS - SSAS

The objectives of specific support actions under this priority are to help implement the ERA, to facilitate the participation of SMEs in research projects, to stimulate the international co-operation with third countries, to link with candidate countries, and to improve policy support and exploitation of results. SSAs are also invited to contribute to the "EU Strategy for Life Sciences and Biotechnology". Support Actions under these headings can include conferences, seminars, studies and analyses, working and expert groups, networking, operational support, and dissemination of information and communication, or combinations thereof.

More information on the EU Strategy for Life Sciences and Biotechnology, particularly on the Life Sciences Action Plan (EC Communication COM(2002)27) can be found on the Europa web site for Biotechnology (http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/biotechnology/pdf/com2002-27_en.pdf).

The topic of the SSAs has to fall within the general objectives and scope of the thematic priority "Food quality and safety" as described in the decision on the specific programme. These objectives are:

- Realising ERA objectives
- Promotion of SME participation
- Stimulating international cooperation
- Supporting policy development (NMS)
- Stimulating exploitation
- Contributing to the EU Strategy for Life Sciences and Biotechnology
- Linking with associated candidate countries

SSA projects aim to contribute actively to the implementation of activities of the work programme, the analysis and dissemination of results or the preparation of future activities, with a view to enabling the Community to achieve or define its RTD strategic objectives. Therefore, a significant emphasis has been placed on Support Actions:

- to promote and facilitate the dissemination, transfer, exploitation, assessment and/or broad take-up of past and present programme results (over and above the standard diffusion and exploitation activities of individual projects);
- to contribute to strategic objectives, notably regarding the European research area (e.g. pilot initiatives on benchmarking, mapping, networking, etc.);
- to prepare future community RTD activities, (e.g. via prospective studies, exploratory measures, pilot actions etc.);

as opposed to awareness and information exchange activities, e.g. annual workshops and conferences, that would take place anyway without Commission support. The latter activities will not be welcome if they do not serve the programme's strategic objectives (in the sense of the European Research Area, improved co-ordination, public awareness, preparation of future Community initiatives, etc.).

SSA proposals that fall under the public procurement laws, (e.g. impact assessment, actions supporting legislation etc.), are not financed under this call for proposals, but can be part of a separate call for tenders, depending on budget availability.

Detailed financial plans, including co-financing or contributions in kind of third parties, should be submitted with the proposal. In case of applications for networking or other support services, the financial plans should also indicate how a sustainable functioning of these services is achieved once the EU support comes to an end.

WHEN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS UNDER THE CURRENT CALL, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO DUPLICATE SSAs THAT HAVE BEEN ALREADY SELECTED FOR FUNDING UNDER EARLIER CALLS.

A short description of the SSA proposals selected under the FP6 previous calls can be found [here](#) (12 proposals under call FP6-2002-FOOD-1, 13 proposals under call FP6-2003-FOOD-2-A, 3 proposals under call FP6-2003-ACC-SSA-Food, 9 proposal under call FP6-2003-FOOD-2-B and 9 proposals under call FP6-2004-FOOD-3-B). Additional information on previously selected SSAs can be gathered from the Commission Services (contact: Alessio.Vassarotti@cec.eu.int).

SSAs funded under the following calls for proposals:

FP6-2002-FOOD-1

SSA 1 – MOSAICS: Managing access to and transfer of microbial resources

This SSA will develop a system for managing access to and transfer of microbial resources to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity provisions on access and benefit sharing.

SSA 2 – MRFES: Multimedia resources on European food science

This SSA aims to constitute a multimedia repository on European food science in order to narrow the gap between scientists and key stakeholders by using effective communication platforms that offer high impact value, such as television, the internet and publications.

SSA 3 – OPTIMILK: Quality, safety and value optimisation of the milk supply chain in Central and Eastern European markets

The purpose of this SSA is to provide recommendations for the development of internationally competitive milk supply chains in terms of quality, safety and value in Central and Eastern European countries.

SSA 4 – CODE-EFABAR: A Code of Good Practice for farm animal breeding and reproduction

Through this SSA animal breeding and reproduction organisations will develop, discuss and implement a Code of Good Practice for farm animal breeding and reproduction.

SSA 5 – TRAIN-NET-FUTURE: Training network for National Contact Points and support organisations with a focus on Candidate Countries in the areas of food quality and safety

The overall objective of the SSA is to raise the quantity and quality of research projects from participants as partners or co-ordinators - particularly from Candidate Countries - in all types of instruments, in Thematic Priority 5 "Food Quality and Safety" of FP6.

SSA 6 – POLFOOD: Research and innovation in food technologies - European partnership and transfer of knowledge to Poland

The aim of this SSA is to promote partnership and technology transfer among the researchers and industry operating in the Polish food sector through participation in Priority 5 "Food quality and safety" research and development projects in FP6.

SSA 7 – GUTHEALTH SUPPORT: Networking in Candidate Countries towards Food, GI-tract functionality and human health

This SSA will provide a valuable support to the European Research Area in the field of food, gastro-intestinal tract functionality and human health by expanding forums to Candidate Countries to convey the objectives and outcomes of EU research projects.

SSA 8 – SELAMAT: Enhancing safety of food - legislation, analysis and management, with ASEM countries, through training & research.

This SSA aims at creating a network for international co-operation on food safety issues between Europe and Asia. The partners will set up the network, develop partnerships, organise workshops and courses on food safety, define the structure for a database for analytical methods, evaluate the food safety research agenda in an international perspective.

SSA 9 – BioProducts 4 Food: Disseminating the results of EC-funded research on food quality and safety

This SSA will promote and facilitate the exploitation of European advances in plant and microbial biotechnology into products, processes and practices to improve food quality and safety and thus improve European health and wellbeing.

SSA 10 – CEC ANIMAL SCIENCE: Supporting animal science organisations from Central Europe Candidate Countries

The overall objective of this SSA is to encourage and facilitate the participation of organisations from the animal science sector in the Candidate Countries in the activities of Priority 5 "Food Quality and Safety" of FP6.

SSA 11 – IRFOS: Integration of European food safety research from producers to consumers

This SSA will emphasise the results obtained in the area of food safety by selecting and evaluating projects supported in the Fifth and Sixth Framework Programmes. It proposes to co-ordinate food safety research policy in Europe with respect to national research policies, to identify and evaluate the emerging issues and open the way to future research. It will also provide the scientific background allowing better co-ordination and harmonisation of European food safety policies with those of other international institutions.

SSA 12 – TDC-olive: Setting-up a network of Technology Dissemination Centres to optimise SMEs in the olive and olive oil sector

The ultimate aim of this SSA is to reinforce the olive and olive oil industry, which is mainly composed of SMEs, in order to increase the prominence of olives and olive oil in the diet so as to promote health. This implies improving access to information on technological innovation with a view to optimising product quality and environmental impact.

FP6-2003-ACC-SSA-Food (Targeted Specific Support Actions for Associated Candidate Countries)

SSA 1 – CHANNEL: Opening channels of communication between Associate Candidate Countries and the EU in Ecological Farming

The main objectives of the project are: (i) to assess and analyse which development stages have been achieved by the participating countries in the field of organic agriculture; (ii) to open communication channels on different level necessary for starting the harmonisation and equalisation process in organic agriculture.

SSA 2 – CEAF: Stimulating participation of Central Europe in the Agri-Food Sector in FP6

The project will provide special support to Food Quality & Safety organisations wishing to participate in FP6. Through a series of specialised workshops and other measures the participants will have the opportunity to learn about FP6, FQ&S Programme and to master their skills in proposal development. Other activities of the project will help to creation of detailed database of researchers and research organisations in the candidate countries.

SSA 3 – QUALITYMEAT: Survey on the research landscape in the Associated Candidate Countries for Monitoring and promoting Good Quality Meat production – the whole food-chain from farm to fork of Poultry and Pork Meat

The activities and the relative objectives of the proposal are to: (i) create a database of researchers and research centres working the specific field in the CC; (ii) implement a virtual on-line partner search mechanism with the supporting database; (iii) organise a series of conferences on meat safety and quality combined with FP6 Info Days and promotion of research potential in CC; (iiii) organise a brokerage event called "International Brokerage Event Meat Safety".

FP6-2003-FOOD-2-A

SSA 1 – ENVIRFOOD: Environment friendly food production system: requirements for plant breeding and seed production

This project aims at bringing together the currently fragmented cereals research expertise with the EU in order to initiate emergence of strong transnational-regional research network on cereals quality for food/feed production able to provide strong partnership to the colleagues in Baltic Sea region and EU.

SSA 2 – ALCUE-FOOD: "From European fork to Latin American farm": an innovative networking platform for EU-LAC partnerships in food quality and safety R&D

The aim of this innovative project is to establish a dialogue promoting platform to facilitate knowledge-sharing between EU and Latin American countries in the South Cone. It focuses on factors influencing food quality and safety with the ultimate objective of stimulating enhanced regulations and practices.

SSA 3 – MYCO-GLOBE: Integration of Mycotoxin and Toxigenic Fungi Research for Food Safety in Global System

The project proposal aims to disseminate the results of FP5 and FP6 projects related to mycotoxins and toxigenic fungi through the establishment of a consortium. It will also improve cooperation practices mainly with African countries (including training) and create venues for information sharing with advanced countries (USA and Australia).

SSA 4 – SAFEFOODNET: Chemical Food Safety Network for the enlarging Europe

The main objectives of this project are to harmonize and integrate Associated Candidate Countries (ACC) infrastructures and activities in the field of chemical food safety with those of Member States and to provide the recently established European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) with a network of scientists, researchers and institutions.

SSA 5 – TESTMETEDECO: Development of test methods for the detection and characterisation of endocrine disrupting chemicals in environmental species

The TESTMETEDECO project objective is the improvement of international coordination in the area of test methods for the detection and characterization of endocrine disrupting chemicals in environmental species.

SSA 6 - SMEs-NET: SMEs Networking European Food Safety Stakeholders

The aim of this project is to identify the RTD needs of the European SMEs through a network of 17 partners out of which 12 are the national federations of the food & drink industry. It has a broad European dimension. The project will examine 4 specific topics of the food chain: safety, technology, nutritional aspects, and consumer expectations.

SSA 7 - EAGLES FOOD FORUM: European Action on Global Life Sciences - Food Forum

The EAGLES FOOD FORUM project is a response to the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Action Plan and intends to create a forum whose instruments will be lectures, reports, symposia and workshops in the area of food. It is focused on Europe, but seeks to build bridges with developing countries in the areas of knowledge- and information-sharing.

SSA 8 - GMO-COMPASS: European Action on Global Life Sciences - Food Forum

GMO-COMPASS aims to fill a currently existing gap by establishing a science-based consumer-oriented website providing easily comprehensible information on issues of safety evaluations of GMOs and GMO products. The website will be combined with a virtual platform for an open public dialogue.

SSA 9 - EU-US-SAFE-FOOD: Developing a Strategic Transatlantic Approach to Food Safety

This project aims to develop a bilateral networking platform between EU and USA on zoonoses / food- borne diseases, for research into all aspects of microbiological food safety with particular emphasis in pre-harvest phase of the production chain. The project will contribute to the harmonization of scientific information and future legislation in the major industrialized trading regions.

SSA 10 - e-MENSA: e-platform technologies for the European agro-food supply chain

The proposed project aims at establishing a technology platform for supporting development of supply chain electronic platforms (e-platforms) in agro-food through multi-stakeholder trans-national working groups in order to explore consensus across players/academia on technological strategies, to prepare for future research activities and to support policy development at EU level.

SSA 11 - CLONING IN PUBLIC: Facilitating a cross-cutting European public debate on farm animal cloning and proposing common European guidelines for the cloning of farm animals

The overall aim of CLONING IN PUBLIC is to address and anticipate concern about farm animal cloning in Europe by assessing the state of affairs within this area of research and launching a debate with the participation of multiple stakeholders. The project also aims at developing suggestions for common European guidelines for animal cloning.

SSA 12 – BIOPOLIS: Inventory and analysis of national public policies that stimulate research in life sciences and biotechnology, its exploitation and commercialisation by industry in Europe in the period 2001-2004

BIOPOLIS aims to provide and extend baseline data, indicators and methodologies on biotechnology policies in 30 countries for the period 2001-2004.

SSA 13 – BIOPOP: Pilot study on innovative approaches to public communication of life sciences and biotechnology by students and young researches

The BIOPOP proposal is a pilot study to explore new approaches to biotech communication with the general public, involving students and young life science researchers as communication actors with active participation of the public in an open-lab environment in the main square of six European cities. The topics to be communicated are GMOs, biodiversity, bioremediation, labelling and control.

FP6-2003-FOOD-2-B

SSA 1 - EAN-SEABUCK: Establishment of European-Asian Network for the development of strategies to enhance the sustainable use of Sea Buckthorn

The project involves international cooperation between partners in Germany and two INCO countries, China and Russia for the transfer of technology in the field of Sea Buckthorn cultivation and processing.

Sea Buckthorn is a plant rich in bio-active compounds, useful for soil conservation and a chance for additional income in remote rural areas.

SSA 2 –TECARE: Transregional Cooperative Platform for Competitiveness in Meat Research and SMEs

This SSA will set-up a European cooperative platform in the field of meat research to foster effective partnership between research community, industry, and policy makers at trans regional level.

The proposal intends to develop a European platform and intends to involve all the actors of the meat chain, IAGs, SMEs, researchers, experts, etc.

SSA 3 – CDEUSSA: European platform for research on prevention and treatment of coeliac disease: a multidisciplinary approach to integrate basic scientific knowledge in clinical applications and food industry

CDEUSSA aims at the establishment of a platform to close the gap between the basic science on coeliac disease (much of which has been generated by European research projects) and the practical application of its results in prevention, clinical treatment and in the formulation of specialized foods.

SSA 4 – GLOFAL: Global View of Food Allergy: opportunities to study the influence of microbial exposure

The proposal involves creating a nucleus of scientists in INCO-target countries in Asia and Africa trained and specializing in research and diagnosis of food related allergies. The project activities include information dissemination, training and technology transfer from EU partners with proven expertise and experience in food allergy research.

SSA 5 – GUTIMPACT: Innovations and Impact of Gut Health Foods: A Virtual Technology Platform

The programme is an ambitious and comprehensive undertaking coordinating a major European dairy company, an academic grouping, an SME and an organization (industry platform) having a strong industrial membership. The proposed work plans will unravel an understanding of how food mediated gut health improvements are achieved. The SSA Gut Impact will identify gaps in the present knowledge and will provide proposed means by which these gaps may be bridged. The final pivotal outcome will be a Technology Roadmap.

SSA 6 - ERMES: European Research for MEditerranean Seafood

The ERMES proposal describes a novel approach to bring scientific services to Mediterranean SME's involved in the seafood industry. Five European research organizations are to combine forces with business support organizations (Chambers of Commerce from Mediterranean Countries), to identify SMEs that would benefit from research and technology transfer to engender innovation in seafood production.

SSA 7 - White Biotech TP: A European Technology Platform on Industrial Biotechnology for Sustainable Development

The objective of this project is to establish an European Technology Platform for White Biotechnology, involving stakeholders from academia, industry and also political institutions as the Commission and the European Parliament. The topic is of vital interest for Europe, it is highly relevant to the programme as it proposes to develop an agreed road-map for the future of the bioprocessing sector in Europe.

SSA 8 - Functional FoodNet: Exploitation of functional food science by creating a European network of food industries

This project proposes to develop a network of organizations and companies involved in development of functional foods. This is a developing area with a range of common challenges at the levels of science, technology, regulatory compliance and consumer education and information. The project proposes two levels of networking – a General Network which will discuss issues common to all participants, and also 4 Product-Specific Networks which will deal with issues specific to specific product types. The decision on these product areas will be made by a General Network meeting at the start of the project.

SSA 9 - YOUNG-TRAIN: training and mentoring early career scientists from candidate, associated and Mediterranean countries in a whole food chain approach to quality and safety

The Proposal focuses on meat quality and safety. Global consumer demand for high quality animal products will entail an improvement in transparency and accountability of the food chain, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries. The project

aims to increase knowledge and networking for about forty early career scientists through training and mentoring in a whole food chain approach to meat safety and quality.

FP6-2004-FOOD-3-B

SSA 1 - INFOOD NETWORK: Sharing Information on food related environmental, safety and traceability aspects among European small and medium farms

INFOOD NETWORK is aimed to support the implementation of food safety and environmental-related policies by farmers through networking, gathering information, building a database on their requirements and on best practices to implement food safety – related policies. These tasks will be complemented with a dedicated website, methodological guide in 4 languages, specific international workshops and participation in international exhibitions.

SSA 2 - NMSACC-PCVD: PCVD: Towards improved food quality and safety within EU New Member States and Associated Candidate Countries

The NMSACC-PCVD proposal is to establish an SSA that links New Member States and Candidate Countries to an established STREP project in the area of Porcine CircoVirus Diseases (PCVD).

This SSA links the 16 partners of the STREP project to a further 21 institutions in 10 New Member States and 3 Candidate Countries. The participating countries cover up to 20% of pig farming within the EU and 18% of pork production

SSA 3 – CONSUMERCHOICE: Do European consumers buy GMO foods?

CONSUMERCHOICE proposes to come to conclusions about the attitude of consumers to GM foods by using a real, direct approach: investigating what are their purchase habits in real markets from different EU countries currently offering GM foods for sale.

SSA 4 - Food-N-Co: Cooperation Network of National Contact Points with a special focus on Third Countries in the area of Food Quality and Safety

The proposal aims to facilitate participation of a series of third countries in EU research, with emphasis on food quality and safety, by training and networking Reference Contact Persons whose main task will be supporting and improving participation of third country partners in FP6 and FP7.

SSA 5 - InJoy&Train: East European Co-operation Network for International Joint Training in FP6/FP7 Food Quality and Safety for EU-Russia-Ukraine-Armenia-Belarus (R-U-A-B) Countries

The main objective of the project is to increase participation from INCO targeted countries (Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus) in food safety and quality projects of the FP6/FP7 through networking and training of researchers, multipliers and national contact points (NCP) and raising awareness in Europe of skilled potential partners from these countries.

SSA 6 – EPIPAGRI: Towards European Collective Management of Public Intellectual Property for Agricultural Biotechnologies

This project aims at proving the feasibility and advantages of a joint management of the intellectual property (IP) of European Public Research Organisations (PROs) involved in agricultural research.

SSA 7 – TOSSIE: Towards Sustainable Sugar Industry in Europe

This project intends to work out a strategy for the competitiveness and environmental sustainability of the sugar sector (including its upstream by-products), and to initiate a technology platform, building on research results in 3 areas: alternative process technologies, engineering and management tools and innovative process structures.

SSA 8 – SAFOODNET: Food Safety and Hygiene Networking within New EU Countries and Associated Candidate Countries

The proposal intends to build a substantial network in food safety and to strengthen existing networks between SME's. Knowledge sharing will lead to a prevention of risks related to food microbiological hazards and will identify key areas for future EU RTD.

SSA 9 – EUROLYMPH: Collaborative European action into environmental, nutritional and genetic factors in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma aetiology

The applicants propose to develop a network to investigate the role of environmental and nutritional factors in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) in more details. The potential etiologic role of exposure to pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), solvents and ultraviolet (UV) radiation will be highlighted. NHL poses considerable burden on society, while there is practically no evidence-base for prevention.