

# **ISEKI\_Food Network - Integrating Safety and Environment Knowledge In Food towards European Sustainable Development**

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ISEKI\_Food (Integrating Safety and Environment Knowledge In Food towards European Sustainable Development) was designed as a network of University and Research Institutions, professional Associations, Industrial partners and Students Associations to foster collaboration on a variety of joint interest projects. Under this premise four networks were founded that included the initial FOODNET (1998-2001) and its follow up networks, ISEKI\_Food 1, 2 and 3 (2002-2011). While the networks initially had only European members, a new initiative (ISEKI\_Mundus) was started in 2007 to bring in members from around the globe to discuss issues surrounding food sciences. ISEKI\_Mundus got already two projects approved (2007-2011). ISEKI\_Food and ISEKI\_Mundus projects ([www.esb.ucp.pt/iseki/](http://www.esb.ucp.pt/iseki/)) received funding from the European Union through the Socrates Erasmus, Lifelong Learning and Erasmus Mundus programmes, that are the EUs major tools to support the creation of a common European Area of Higher Education (EAHE).

To ensure the continuation of the globalization and internationalization efforts even beyond the time limit of funding received from the European Union, members founded in 2005 the ISEKI Food Association ([www.iseki-food.net/](http://www.iseki-food.net/)). The mission of the ISEKI Food Association is to be a leading network for all stakeholders in the food supply chain with regard to education, legislation, research and communication. The main objectives of the actual projects are to continue to contribute to the: 1) realisation of the European Higher Education Area in the field of Food Studies and 2) internationalization and enhancement of the quality of the European higher education in Food Studies. The work plan is fostering innovative developments, enhancement of food studies quality, and improvement of European higher education international attractiveness.

More specific objectives are: 1) Creation of a Virtual Networking Environment (VNE); 2) The European Quality Assurance System for Food Study Programmes (EQAS\_Food); 3) Facilitating / Promoting / Fostering Lifelong Learning in Higher Education: Employability Aligned Curricula and Accreditation of Prior Experimental Learning (APEL); 4) Innovation in Food Study materials; 5) Development of a Platform for the International Cooperation And Mobility in the field of Food (PICAM\_Food) and 6) The exploitation of network results through the ISEKI\_Food Association (IFA).

Actually the ISEKI\_Food projects include 149 institutions from 58 countries, including the five continents. The IFA Association includes 98 individual members and 15 company members from 43 countries.