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**Bridging education, training and research for industry and the wider community: the ISEKI\_Food Network approach**

Paola Pittia<sup>1,5</sup> Cristina L.M. Silva<sup>2,5</sup>, Gerhard Schleining<sup>3,5</sup>, Rui Costa<sup>4,5</sup>, Richard Marshall<sup>5</sup>

University of Teramo, Faculty of Bioscience, Technology for Food and Environment, Via C.R. Lericci 1, Mosciano S. Angelo-IT, [ppittia@unite.it](mailto:ppittia@unite.it)<sup>(1)</sup>

Catholic University of Portugal, College of Biotechnology (ESB), Regional Center of Porto, Rua Dr. António Bernardino de Almeida, Porto-PT, [clsilva@porto.ucp.pt](mailto:clsilva@porto.ucp.pt)<sup>(2)</sup>

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Department of Food Science and Technology, Muthgasse, Vienna-AT, [gerhard.schleining@boku.ac.at](mailto:gerhard.schleining@boku.ac.at)<sup>(3)</sup>

Politécnico de Coimbra, Coimbra-PT, [ruicosta@esac.pt](mailto:ruicosta@esac.pt)<sup>(4)</sup>

ISEKI-Food Association c/o BOKU Department of Food Science and Technology, Muthgasse, Vienna-AT, [office@iseki-food.net](mailto:office@iseki-food.net)<sup>(5)</sup>

ISEKI-Food was designed as a network of University and Research Institutions, Professional and Students Associations, and Industrial partners to foster collaboration. Several European and global academic networks projects received funding between 1998 and 2011 from the European Commission and currently the ISEKI\_Food 4 (2011-2014, [www.iseki-food4.eu](http://www.iseki-food4.eu)) and Track\_Fast (2009-2013, [www.track-fast.eu](http://www.track-fast.eu)) projects are ongoing.

The main objectives of the network are to contribute to the Higher Education Area by internationalization, enhancement of food studies quality and fostering of innovative developments of the entire food sector by bridging education, research and industry.

Important outcomes of this network ([www.iseki-food.eu](http://www.iseki-food.eu)) are e.g. the EQAS\_Food award for accredited Food Study Programmes; innovative teaching materials and methods including the ISEKI-Food book series published by Springer; a training platform including tailor made e-learning courses, web seminars and workshops facilitating Lifelong Learning; a platform to support international cooperation and mobility (PICAM\_Food); several web databases collecting curricula, teaching materials and stakeholders aimed to maintain a worldwide network in the food supply chain and to promote synergies between research, education/teaching and industry.

The International Journal of Food Studies (<http://www.iseki-food-ejournal.com>) is an international peer-reviewed open-access journal featuring scientific articles for education, research and industry.

The ongoing ISEKI\_Food 4 project will contribute to the modernization of the food studies by tools to promote the development of the personal skills in the future generation of food technologists, to implement the educational abilities of the university teaching staff and to implement the entrepreneurship and professional qualification of doctoral students in a lifelong learning perspective.

A virtual tool for Continual Professional development ([www.foodcareers.eu](http://www.foodcareers.eu)) of food professionals and a website ([www.foodgalaxy.org](http://www.foodgalaxy.org)) to attract talented students to undertake a career in the food sector have been developed within the Track\_Fast project and the former will be maintained by the ISEKI Food Association.

To ensure the sustainability of the network activities the ISEKI-Food Association ([www.iseki-food.net](http://www.iseki-food.net)) was founded in 2005 counting over 250 individual members as well as 200 individual members as well as 27 companies and institutions from all over the world.

Today the ISEKI-Food Network is a successful Network that is managing to achieve a great impact through its internationalization and communication to a large audience of stakeholders of the food sector.

**KEY WORDS**

Higher Education, ISEKI-Food 4, ISEKI\_Food network, Track\_Fast project, ISEKI\_Food Association

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