

Workshop 4:

Innovation in Curriculum Development

In this workshop new contents of future curricula should be identified. Which topics will be important in future, which are outdated, which should be revised? What does a European curriculum look like?

Training and education strategies in food studies to enhance professional impact towards a modern and sustainable food supply chain: the ISEKI_Food projects

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The availability of safe, nutritious, affordable and healthy food has taken on a new and pressing dimension in the face of an ever growing global population and increasing environmental and sustainability concerns. On the other side the job market also in the food sector has become increasingly competitive and requires qualified professionals.

Education and training are playing a main role in providing the skills, competences and knowledge relevant for the job market and the professional career of the food scientist and technologists. Besides the sector-specific skills, the need to improve the so-called personal or “soft” skills has been recently arisen. The development of permanent interfaces with all the stakeholders of the food value chain is the paramount to achieve innovation tuned with societal needs as well as benefits to consumers.

The ISEKI_Food projects were designed as a network of Universities and Research Institutions, Industrial partners as well as Professional and Students Associations of the food sector to foster collaboration, to develop mutual knowledge and exchange of ideas, at an EU and International level. To ensure the sustainability of the network activities the ISEKI-Food Association (www.iseki-food.net) was founded in 2005.

In this presentation, the main initiatives of the ISEKI_Food network at EU and international level aimed to enhance HE curricula to enhance the food professional impact on society' determinants and to contribute to the innovation of the food chain will be reviewed.

The just ended ISEKI_Food 4 project (www.iseki-food4.eu) was aimed to 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.