



BAFN

Balkan Agro Food Network

www.bafn.eu

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to support the opening of the European Research Area by developing a sustainable network in agricultural and food sector in the Western Balkan

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Euroquality

Background and overview

Several initiatives were implemented to facilitate the access to EU research programmes for researchers from the Western Balkan Countries (WBC). In 2003, a “EU-Balkan Countries Action plan in Science and Technology” was adopted. This action plan identified four initiatives to be promoted (“support to research infrastructures”, “improvement of the human potential”, “institutional building” and “promotion of joint research activities”) and five scientific fields of intervention (“Information and Communication Technologies”, “Energy”, “Environment”, “Agriculture” and “Cultural Heritage”).

The project Balkan Agro Food Network (BAFN) intends to contribute to these efforts in the area of agricultural and food research.

The overall objective of the project is to support the opening of the European Research Area by developing a sustainable network in agricultural and food sector in the Western Balkan.

What is a BAFN?

BAFN is a project supported by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6). The project started on May 1st 2006 and ran two years, ending in April 2008.

The consortium gathers 13 organisations from 8 countries

- **Albania**

Sustainable Economic Development Agency (SEDA)
Agricultural University of Tirana

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Faculty of Technology, University of Banja Luka
Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

- **Bulgaria**

University of Plovdiv
Europroject

- **France**

Euroquality

- **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

University “St Kliment Ohridski”
SS Cyril and Methodius University, Institute of Agriculture-Skopje

- **Greece**

Food Industrial Research and Technology Development Company (ETAT)

- **Hungary**

GKI Economic Research Co

- **Serbia**

Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade



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Mission Statement

The BAFN objectives are achieved thanks to the creation of a network of agrifood research groups, researchers and companies.

Researchers and research groups are invited to register their profile into an on-line and dynamic database as well as the companies.

Networking is then stimulated thanks to the involvement in national consultations and to the communication of relevant information for scientists and companies from the agricultural and food sector.

Project achievements and expected outputs

- **A database of research groups, researchers and companies**

The database is a tool intended to foster the building of research networks between scientists from the WBC and scientists from the EU. It is designed to help researchers and organisations to initiate cooperations with others, and to identify scientists or organisations with specific competencies.

The database opened in September 2006 at www.bafn.eu. More than 521 research teams and 477 private companies were identified and invited to register their profile. In October 2007 292 research groups, 753 researchers and 166 companies already expressed their interest and registered on the directories.

- **An information platform for those who are interested in EU research**

The web site www.bafn.eu provides information about EU programmes and opportunities in agricultural and food research sector. It is also intended to help researchers from Western Europe to have a better knowledge on the Western Balkan Countries. Key data about each country as well as list of researchers and companies are summarized in “the country profiles” pages.

Project achievements and expected outputs

- **A mapping report**

A mapping report, identifying the research potential in the field of agricultural and food research will be delivered in 2007. The report includes data on the organisations (type of organisation, average size, production and productivity) and on the scientists (level and sector of education, age, gender etc.). The report, which uses the results of a survey, also identifies the main players in agricultural and food research in each country covered by the project.

- **Recommendations on research areas and support instruments – Foresight study**

A Synthesis Report, identifying current situation and future needs of the Western Balkan agrifood research was delivered in April 2008. The report includes a list of the main scientific fields considered as the priority areas for agricultural and food research in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, FYROM and Serbia. It also includes a description of supports mechanisms that could contribute to answer specific problems of research organisations from the WBC. The report is a contribution to the implementation of the “*EU-Balkan Countries Action plan in Science and Technology*” in the agricultural and food sector.



- **Dissemination plan**

Promotion of the Western Balkan Countries competencies and dissemination of information to the network members and non-specialised audience through the publication of:

- News and events on FP7 and other European programmes
- Newsletters (every 4-month)
- Press releases

The web site www.bafn.eu is the central tool for the dissemination.

Coordination and Contact

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