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**Improving skills on food quality and safety
issues in the Leonardo da Vinci Vocational
Training Project
WELFOOD
in virtual environment.**

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Education and Culture
LEONARDO DA VINCI



Objectives

Interest of public in Europe has recently focussed on three main points in food production systems such as animal welfare; environmental impacts on and of animals; as well as quality and safety of foods. Thus, significance of knowledge on quality assurance has been increasing in all phases of food production of animal origin. The topic requires special skills in the sectors involved including animal husbandry and food industry. In line with the principle “from fork-to-farm” in foods of animal origin, i.e. traceability, transparency and labelling, research on production methods should aim to meet the consumer's requirements. Recent experiences and requests from commercial practice reveal expanding demand for experts who are skilled at state-of-the art and up-to-date level in the subject. Thus, in the Pilot Project WELFOOD “Promoting quality assurance in animal welfare-environment-food quality interaction studies through upgraded e-Learning” multidisciplinary approach is aimed at for the inclusion and transfer of recent scientific findings and knowledge into curricula in virtual environment. Driving force for application of ICT is due its high didactic and added value and rapid transfer of knowledge in a fast and efficient way.

Products and target groups

Lecturers and teachers
Teachers and students
Students, teachers, internal and
external counterparts

Outcome of the project

- * *Balancing among international core curricula vs. local specialities of teaching organisations on animal welfare – environment – food quality issues,*
- * *Contribution to develop European dimension in the specific curricula in response to novel challenges.*
- * *Promoting networking for European students and teaching staff interested in the specific area.*
- * *Facilitating mobility among similar study programs with different teaching/learning approaches,*
- * *Upgrading transparency and enhance overall quality in higher education through international comparative evaluations, as well as assist EU cooperation in quality assurance,*
- * *Fostering comparability, compatibility, competitiveness and overall attractiveness of EU higher education in the disciplines in question.*

Products

Teaching materials organised in three courses for vocational training

1) Animal welfare

- * Ethical views and their justification
- * Definitions of animal welfare in domestic animals
- * Welfare assessments of production systems
- * Improving welfare status in different phase of production chain
- * Effect of transport and pre-slaughter handling on animal welfare

2) Environmental impacts on and of animals

- * Challenge of artificial environment to domestic animals
- * Nutrient efficiency, direct and indirect emissions, manure handling and processing

3) Food quality and safety

- * On farm risk analysis
- * HACCP at farm level
- * Foods deriving from GMOs
- * Animal welfare implications of farm assurance schemes
- * Traceability and transparency

Teaching method – e-learning

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-learning>)

“E-learning most often means an approach to facilitate and enhance learning by means of personal computers, CDROMs, Digital Television, Mobile Devices and the Internet. This may include email, discussion forums, and collaborative software. E-learning may also be used to support distance learning through the use of WANs (Wide area networks), and may also be considered to be a form of flexible learning where just-in-time learning is possible. Courses can be tailored to specific needs and asynchronous learning is possible.” (Reference: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-learning>).

Advantages

(<http://www.infowerk.co.at/spring02/main.php?sid=15&group=2&lang=en>)

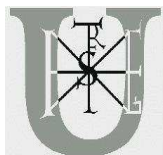
E-learning is synergistic, time saving, efficient and cost effective, flexible and measurable. Does not replace personnel, but makes training exciting and interactive. Reduces training time due to the dense learning content and limited to essentials. Minimizes scheduling problems and decreases time away from work. Even training cost such as tuition fee, administration, and travel expenses are reduced by almost 30 per cent. It allows students to learn everywhere and any time as well as offers standardized quality vs. consistent delivery of training content.

Co-ordination

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