

# EARLY OUTCOMES

The PETER project held its inaugural meeting in Prague in April 2006. Plans were made for a major follow up meeting in York, October 2006 and monthly conference calls of all 8 project partners to monitor and organize the project progress. An intranet was set up for internal communication and sharing of project documents and reports. A website (<http://www.eu-peter.org/>) was also created and is running with many appropriate links.

The planned outputs from 16 food traceability projects funded by EU 5th and 6th Framework Programmes have been reviewed to identify gaps and overlaps and also to agree coherent products for dissemination.

**Following meetings with relevant stakeholders and researchers, a total of 28 areas have been identified for future collaboration between projects. Topics include best practice for cost-benefit assessment of traceability; harmonisation of analytical methods and quality assurance; use of standard traceability language.**

Stakeholder needs have been assessed and gaps in the current EU research programmes identified. This has resulted in a number of research areas being identified which have been recommended for inclusion into the remaining FP7 schedule. Products from past and present research programmes have also been identified as suitable for immediate international dissemination with many more potentially becoming available during the lifetime of the current traceability projects.

Other outcomes of the PETER project include the preparation of a document featuring suggestions on possible interactions between all projects in the areas of:

**traceability systems and language, chemical methods of analysis, methods for bio-traceability, sensors, socio-economic impacts, networking.**

It also contains a list of possible collaboration issues between projects, including open project meetings, training initiatives, and recommendations for good project management.

Partners have already spoken at many food related conferences around the world and plans are at an advanced stage to participate in other major international events including final stand-alone PETER dissemination seminars in Malaysia and Belgium in Spring 2008.

Work has begun on a Compendium of Automatic Identification and Data Capture technologies and Application Guidelines relevant to traceability and a database has been established and is continually updated with details of activities, stakeholders, communication and dissemination channels on traceability in the European Union, INCO countries and in the Latin America and MERCOSUR region.

Seven other EC funded traceability projects (SIGMACHAIN, SAFEED-PAP, TRACEBACK, CHILL-ON, P2P Project, HERMES, and Ethical Traceability) have accepted invitations to cooperate in dissemination and exploitation.



## The PETER Project is essentially about communication.

As the world's largest single market, the EC offers a massive trading opportunity for companies wishing to export to it. But success depends on understanding and complying with traceability standards and legislation.

The PETER Project will help industries and individual companies maximise their potential in the EC marketplace. The project will be of especial benefit to small and medium sized companies with limited resource who are looking for added value, low-cost traceability systems and solutions which will help them expand.

The PETER Project will provide reliable guidelines and help avoid expensive and time consuming mistakes. It will make the EC's vast traceability resources available to current and potential business partners to make trade easier, fairer - and more profitable.

### General Objectives

The PETER project has 6 key objectives:

1. Providing an international forum for focussing, disseminating and exploiting EU research on food & feed traceability
2. Improving collaboration between European projects
3. Reducing potential duplication among ongoing projects
4. Maximising the effectiveness of project activities with reference to shared objectives and results
5. Creating added value by providing information about gaps, redundancies and research needs after comparing the project complementarities
6. Achieving a high level of dissemination and exploitation involving all 422 project partners, with targeted stakeholder dissemination activities including website, e-brochure, workshops, conferences and educational documents.

## Research Products available now from PETER partners

Important research products are already available offering stakeholders good traceability practice guides.

They include:

**TraceFood** – a framework that makes it easier to know where food products originate from and what has happened to them. You will find it at: [www.tracefood.org](http://www.tracefood.org)

**TraceCore XML** – ensuring that relevant comparable and searchable information can be gathered and shared in a standard way through a supply chain for all food products. More information at: [www.tracefood.org](http://www.tracefood.org)

**FoodTrace Generic Framework:** ensuring smooth and efficient transfer of information along and across every stage of food chains with the ability to plan, model, validate and implement. [www.eufoodtrace.org](http://www.eufoodtrace.org)

**FoodTrace: Guidelines for Data Capture** – the business, process and quality drivers for realising harmonious traceability systems and accommodating cross supply chain complexities. [www.eufoodtrace.org](http://www.eufoodtrace.org)

**J. Davison and Y. Bertheau. EC regulations on the traceability and detection of GMOs:** difficulties in interpretation, implementation and compliance. CAB Reviews: Perspectives in Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Nutrition and Natural Resource (in press, 2008).

# FUTURE RESEARCH AREAS

## Topics identified for suggested inclusion in EU Framework 7 calls

These topics have been identified by European stakeholders as areas that need future research within the EU Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology themes for FP7.

### Development and demonstration of an international global numbering system for food traceability.

With the globalisation of the European food supply, there is a need for a global food traceability system which will assist food safety riskndly labelling system that can clearly provide this additional information.

The aim of this project would be to liaise with international bodies with a view to developing and demonstrating an internationally recognised numbering system for food products. The project should include a full economic assessment of the implementation of the numbering system; a demonstration of the system in one food sector and a full consumer evaluation.

**Expected Impact:** Demonstration and cost benefit analysis of an internationally recognised standard numbering system for food traceability.

### Study into the potential impact of introducing internal traceability of food products within an SME.

One of the major obstacles to food traceability, as demonstrated by the Sudan 1 food contamination incident, is the lack of internal traceability within medium and small food producers, ingredient blenders and suppliers. The consequence of this is an increased impact on the food supply chain in the event of a product withdrawal and the increased perception by the consumer that the food supply is unsafe. Food producers on the other hand perceive internal traceability as cumbersome and unnecessarily expensive with no direct benefit to the company.

This project would aim to carry out a Europe wide survey of SME's across a range of foodsectors (including farms), that have implemented

internal traceability. It would carry out a cost benefit analysis and identify other indirect benefits. The project would also canvas the views of food producing SME's and farmers across Europe who have no internal traceability and invite them to identify their major resistance to implementation of internal traceability. The project should invite some of those companies who have implemented internal traceability to carry out a more detailed cost benefit analysis with later follow up interviews to determine whether the internal traceability systems have been adopted, modified or rejected.

**Expected Impact:** Identification of the cause of major resistance to implementing food traceability systems in SME's. Demonstration of internal traceability models for different food sectors to provide guidance for best practice. Promoting internal traceability to SME's through the demonstration of the financial benefits.

