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SINTEF Fisheries and Aquaculture

sigma Σchain

ΣChain : Developing a Stakeholders' Guide on the vulnerability of food and feed chains to dangerous agents and substances (EU FP6-FOOD-518451)

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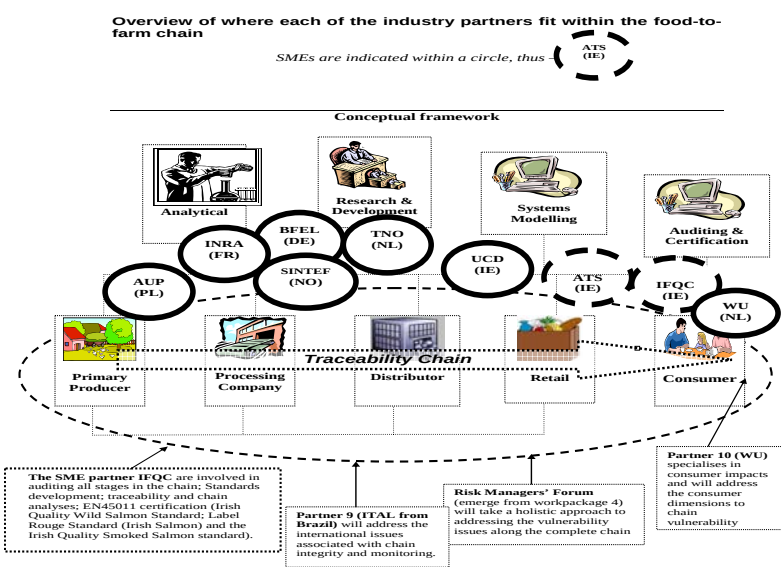
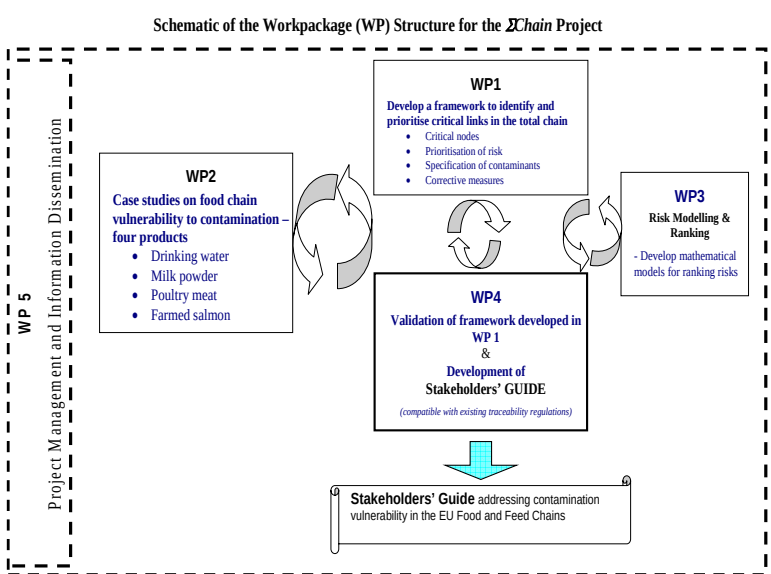
The European citizen requires harmonised food and feed chain traceability systems that offer protection from poisoning by dangerous agents and substances. The objective of this project is to develop methodologies that will optimise the traceability process with respect to chain vulnerability to contamination.

This project will evaluate current chain traceability systems, including methodologies for the identification of contaminants. Chain vulnerability varies depending on chain type, and case studies will be conducted on four "high vulnerability" products, representing 3 major categories of chains. The products are: drinking water (i.e. *a rapid contamination chain*); milk powder (i.e. *a batch mixing chain*); and both poultry meat and farmed salmon (i.e. *long geographic chains*). Each of these chains will be mapped and their vulnerability to contamination assessed. A risk model will be developed to provide quantitative risk assessments of chain vulnerability. A generic *Framework* will be constructed for the assessment of chain vulnerability and the prioritisation of chain contamination risk. This *Framework* will be validated using the case studies and wider inputs from stakeholders. The outputs from these tasks will be synthesised into a Stakeholders' Guide to food and feed chain vulnerability to contamination. The Guide will be in book format, supported by software that enables the stakeholder to input specific chain data for a product and produce associated chain maps and assessments of contamination risks. It will also enable the stakeholder to examine risk minimisation options (viz. corrective measures), such as enhanced security of the most vulnerable links.

No.	Participant Organization	Country
1	University College Dublin	Ireland
2	Bundesforschungsanstalt für Ernährung und Lebensmittel – *Meat*	Germany
3	TNO Quality of Life	Netherlands
4	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA	France
5	Agricultural University of Poznan	Poland
6	AgriTech Solutions	Ireland
7	SINTEF	Norway
8	IFQC	Ireland
9	Tecnología de Alimentos - ITAL	Brazil
10	Wageningen University	Netherlands
11	SYNCOM Forschungs- und Entwicklungs-beratung GmbH	Germany

This is a 3-year ca. €2.9 million EU financed STREP project with 11 partners hat achieves *critical mass* comprising *centres of expertise* from universities, research institutes and industry (2 SMEs) spread across the EU (including New EU State Poland) and 3rd country (Brazil). SMEs account for ca. 16 % of the budget, and there are venture capital and training programmes in place to assist them in the exploitation of the outputs. The project started in April 2006 and it has a comprehensive Project Management, Gender Mainstreaming and Technology Implementation Plan.





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