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NEWS FROM THE ISEKI-FOOD ASSOCIATION

Open call for Editor-in-Chief: International Journal of Food Studies



International Journal of Food Studies

Official Journal of the ISEKI_Food Association



The IJFS, a journal of the ISEKI-Food Association, is an international peer-reviewed open-access journal featuring scientific articles on the world of Food in Education, Research and Industry. It was established in 2012 and has since had two Editors-in-Chief (EiCs). The journal is an open-access publication that aims for a rapid turnaround and a short time to publication.

Open Call for Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Food Studies

The ISEKI-Food Association invites applications from interested colleagues to serve as the **Editor-in-Chief (EIC)** of the **International Journal of Food Studies (IJFS)**:

The term of this appointment, commencing **October 1, 2024**, is for 4 years, but may be renewed by mutual agreement for a second four-year term.

Please read carefully the **position terms** and **application criteria in this document**.

This call for EIC remains open from July 1st to August 31st 2024.

Applications should be sent to office@iseki-food.net

NEWS ABOUT PROJECTS WITH ISEKI-FOOD ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATION

Six key strategic recommendations to promote the development of professional skills in the agriculture, food industry, and forestry sectors at European level

by Ana Ramalho¹, Luis Mayor¹, Nuno Ribeiro¹, Sara Barbosa¹ and Domingos Godinho²

¹ ISEKI-Food Association, ² CONFAGRI (luis.mayor@iseki-food.net)

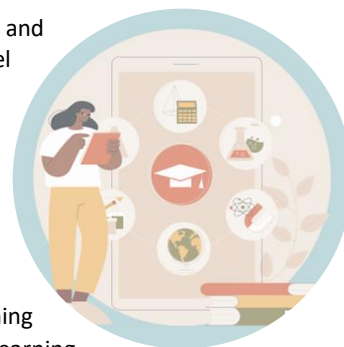
As an activity of the **FIELDS** project, a European Strategy has been developed to strengthen and modernise workers' skills in the agricultural, food, and forestry sectors.



The strategy is the result of the findings from several studies carried out in the project where the main trend on skills needs in the areas of digitalization, sustainable production, bioeconomy, and business entrepreneurship were identified. These studies included a literature review, focus groups held in several countries, interviews with European experts, and a future scenario analysis on skill needs.

The Strategy aimed to launch general guidelines to boost lifelong vocational education and training (VET) and skills acquisition, addressing several strategic pillars at the European level in line with the **European Skills Agenda**. The strategic report resulted in six key strategic recommendations, one for each pillar of action, to improve the European system of lifelong learning, as follows:

1. **Training needs:** the future skills needed by the sectors focus on sustainable production; high technology; management/entrepreneurship and soft skills. Flexible and adaptable educational programs are necessary to respond to these needs.
2. **Regulations:** focus on reducing the complexity and rigidity of current training systems and increasing transparency, with the development of module-based learning systems and micro-credentials. The involvement of different actors (education, productive sector, government agencies) is needed in the design, implementation and monitoring of VET systems. It is recommended that VET systems be harmonised between different European countries.
3. **Funding:** it should be tailored to needs, be permanent and less dependent on projects, more transparent and accessible. Some funding should be addressed to improve the flexibility of education systems and their infrastructure, to promote inclusion and equality, and to foster work-based learning.
4. **Key elements and prerequisites for future VET programs:** improving and promoting continuous training, fostering work-based practice, and adapting teaching to new trends and available tools.
5. **Key governance functions in the European VET eco-system:** with a focus on structure at different levels (national and European), including the creation and reinforcing of strategic partnerships for exchange and support in policy-making.
6. **Monitoring the European VET eco-system:** it is important to establish and harmonise initiatives to monitor education and training systems at the European and national levels with comprehensive but user-friendly performance indicators, for example on existing training provision, demand for new skills, and the impact of policies used.



An essential element for the future dynamization of lifelong VET is the **Agri-food Pact for Skills**, which aims to get public and private stakeholders together and encourage them to make concrete commitments to upskilling and reskilling the current and future agri-food workforce.

You can access the summary of the European Strategy (PT and EN) and the full document (EN) on the project's website, where other relevant publications are also available.

Get to know the activities and follow the FIELDS Project through the project [website](#), and the social networks [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#).



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The FIELDS project has come to an end: insights on the achievements and main outcomes

by Ana Ramalho and Luis Mayor, ISEKI-Food Association



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The **Erasmus+ project FIELDS** was launched in January 2020 with the aim of addressing skills needs in the Agri-food and Forestry sectors, in alignment with the European skills agenda and strategy. The project focused on specific areas, identified as emergent for reskilling and upskilling the related workforce, namely sustainability, digitalization, bioeconomy, business and entrepreneurship and soft skills. To meet the objectives, the consortium began by mapping existing skills needs and gaps, carrying out extensive groundwork that included:

- an **online database** that provides state-of-the-art information regarding European **curricula/courses, projects, best practices, regulatory frameworks and funding opportunities** with reference to agriculture, the food industry, forestry and related sectors.
- **11 Focus groups** with experts in **nine EU-countries** and **two at EU-level** which outcomes are detailed in an **open-access publication**.
- A **European survey** launched to confirm the results of the focus groups results, from the **stakeholder's perspective**, as bottom-up approach. These outcomes were also **published as open access**.
- A **Trends and Scenarios** analysis on skill needs for EU agriculture, food industry and forestry. It includes the **potential impact of trends** and **different scenarios** reflecting possible future skill needs by sector, from the year 2020 until the year 2030.

All the information gathered allowed to define 10 occupational profiles across in all sectors and to identify the **most relevant training topics** to be developed during the project. The consortium succeeded to **develop 74 training units**, organized as **17 in Bioeconomy, 29 in Sustainability, 18 in Digitalization and 10 in Soft skills & Entrepreneurship**. All the training materials are available **for free** in English, on an **online eLearning platform** and will be accessible for years to come.

The training materials developed were actively used in **33 training sessions** with interested actors (farmers, VET students, advisors, among others), held in the project partner countries (7 European countries plus one training in Kenya), in local languages and adapted to the profile and background of the audience. These training sessions had a strong impact, **reaching 901 participants**.



Following on the trends and scenarios report, a longer term analysis on skills enhancement was performed at European level, resulting in a guidance document – **the European Strategy (full report and summary available)**. This extensive report is grounded on six main pillars, each with a strategic statement: **i) training needs; ii) regulations; iii) funding; iv) key elements and prerequisites for future VET programs; v) key governance functions in the European VET eco-system and vi) monitoring in the European VET ecosystem**. This strategy can be used as support for discussions with multiple Eu and National level stakeholders on the future of the European VET ecosystem.

The project FIELDS activities will have continuity with the EU funded follow-up project **I-RESTART**, which also includes activities for the Veterinary sector, and the **Agri-food Pact for Skills**, a European flagship initiative that aims to engage public and private entities to increase cooperation, to overcome challenges and foster training opportunities in the agrifood sector.

ISEKI is very proud to have been part of this project and to have contributed to all the excellent achievements over the past four years.

e-SafeFood Project: Microbial Shelf Life Training Module Launch

by **Federica Striglio, Luis Mayor, Sara Barbosa, Luminita Ciolacu**, Project Managers, ISEKI-Food Association



Good news from the **e-SafeFood Project: the training module on Microbial Shelf Life is live!**

The course on Microbial Shelf Life is now available for free to all interested participants. The course will provide those who have completed it, to earn a certificate upon completion.

The course is structured on three levels, and is provided in translated version as follows:

- **Basic level:** available in English, French, and Spanish (soon to be ready in Portuguese!)
- **Intermediate level:** English
- **Advanced level:** English

This course is designed to provide valuable insights, knowledge, and practical skills to our audience.

What can be expected from the course:

- The module will teach trainees about the main regulatory requirements, studies, and tools necessary to validate or verify the microbial shelf life of foodstuffs.

WHATS NEXT?:

- **The e-SafeFood Process Validation course is next on the launch schedule, so stay tuned to receive more information on the dates.**
 - This module will teach proof of process efficiency, topics in predictive microbiology, and validation of processes. This course will be available at the advanced level.

Link to the course found on the ISEKI Moodle: <https://moodle.iseki-food.net/course/index.php?categoryid=29>

Stay tuned for more updates on the launch dates and registration details for these courses.

Follow us on: [website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Project details can be found on the ISEKI Project Overview page [here](#).

Contact: Gemma Cornuau, Project Coordinator: g.cornuau@actia-asso.eu

ISEKI organized the Multiplier Event on the last month of the HORECA-FS Project
by **Federica Striglio, Christoph Knöbl & Sara Barbosa**, Project Managers at ISEKI-Food Association



"Strategies to improve the Qualification of Hotel Restaurant Catering Staff on Food Safety and Hygiene Practices"

The Multiplier Event was organized by the ISEKI-Food Association on April 8th and held in Escola Superior Agrária at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, Portugal, with the purpose of disseminating the Project Results produced by the HORECA-FS Project.

The target audience for the event was educational trainers and students in food systems and food workers to show them the HORECA-FS course and other results of this project. About 37 students and teachers from ESAC-IPC participated in the event. Sara Barbosa started by presenting the ISEKI-Food Association and Federica Striglio talked about the objectives and different activities of the HORECA-FS Project and explained how to register and use the online platform.

During the meeting, the issues and difficulties in the HORECA sector were discussed and short animated videos with the following topics were also presented:

1. Food Safety Management
2. Personal Hygiene
3. Working Place and Equipment Cleaning, Hygiene and Sanitation
4. Ensuring Food Safety in Horeca Operations
5. Food Allergy



We invite our readers interested in the Horeca sector to register on our platform and take the course. It is available at <http://www.horecafs.org/lms>, where you can find six different modules regarding the safety and hygiene rules in this sector.

As the project accomplishes, its impact echoes within the hospitality industry, contributing to enhanced standards, innovative practices, and a more interconnected European community. The end signifies not an endpoint, but rather a milestone in the ongoing pursuit of excellence and cooperation within the HORECA sector.

WASTELESS joint webinar: Current developments in food loss & waste reduction
by **Luminita Ciolacu** and **Sofia Reis** (alphabetically), Project Managers at ISEKI-Food Association



CURRENT DEVELOPEMENTS IN FOOD LOSS & WASTE REDUCTION

Online Webinar

17th – 18th of June 2024

On June 17th and 18th, WASTELESS hosted together with the sister project FOLOU a dynamic online free webinar: **“Current developments in Food Loss & Waste reduction”**. The webinar brought together experts in the field of food losses and waste to discuss the current atus and latest developments. More than 300 people registered for the webinar and attended in the two days the different sessions. Representatives of several EU projects working in the field of food loss and waste presented their goals and achievements and share valuable insights from their work. The sessions of the webinar are all available on the WASTELESS YouTube channel.

Session 1 – **Current policies and regulatory strategies for FLW monitoring at EU level**

Session 2 - **Digital tools and methodologies to measure FLW**

Session 3 - **Innovative practices to use FLW**

Session 4 - **Valorisation strategies to reduce FLW**

Follow WASTELESS on: wastelesseu.com, [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



**Funded by
the European Union**

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Declaration for our sustainable future: FOODPathS urges EU policymakers to prioritise the transition

The ISEKI Food Association is a partner in the **FoodPaths project**, and happy to share the following news:

[Brussels, 19th June 2024]

FOODPathS and its **partners** urge policy makers and all food system stakeholders to prioritise working towards future sustainable food systems amidst uncertainty in the composition of the new European Commission. The **declaration** sets out the necessary steps for the EU to honour its flagship Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy as a central pillar of the Green Deal. **To ensure food and nutrition security for future generations, the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability should be integrally addressed from today onwards.**

Food systems (FS) in Europe and across the world are currently unsustainable. Simultaneously, global challenges are threatening our food systems' capacity to provide food security and freedom of choice for future generations within the limits of our planet.

FOODPathS and its advisory board members, representing the diverse food systems actors, recognise these obstacles and call for **urgent and collective action** to policy makers and all FS actors to include these **key elements** in their future policies and action:

- **Inclusive governance** on local, national, European, and global levels is a prerequisite because food systems are highly complex with strong interdependencies with its societies, economies, cultures and landscapes
- A **Food system approach** aids in sustainability transition
- Food system **progress monitoring and sustainability indicators** will show food system performance. This is crucial because of the efficient use of resources and the trust in institutions

Only in such a coherent way, all food system (FS) actors can contribute to the highly needed transition and reach the goals of the European **Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet & Climate**. **Waiting is no option anymore, actions are needed today.**

"An orchestra may play a symphony if all musicians play harmonically; similarly, a food systems' partnership reach sustainability if all its actors (inter-)act sustainably." Said Hugo De-Vries, a Research Director at INRAE and project coordinator of FOODPathS.

This **Declaration** is signed by the Advisory Board Members and the FOODPathS coordinator on behalf of the Consortium Partners, representing diverse networks of FS actors, during the second annual FOODPathS meeting in Finland.



FOODPathS declaration signing in Seinäjoki, Finland, 12th June 2024

ENDS

Background:

FOODPathS is a project funded by the European Commission that aims to offer a concrete pathway and necessary tools to support the establishment of the European [Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet & Climate](#)

About:

Learn more about the FOODPathS project and its partners at [FOODPathS](#)

Contacts:

For media inquiries and further information, please contact:

Matteo Sabini, Camila Massri, FOODPathS communication managers

(matteo.sabini@eufic.org; camila.massri@eufic.org)

NEWS ABOUT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Training programmes on Sustainable Food Packaging at Ghent University

by [Frank Devlieghere](#) and [Ewout Ramon](#), Ghent University, Belgium

Ghent University is proud and happy to have developed **three unique training programmes** on Sustainable Food Packaging.

Three programmes, different in length, intensity, focus and learning outcomes. Something for every taste and every kind of profile, be it young graduates, professionals, or international students.

1. Advanced **Master** of Science in Sustainable Food Packaging (60 ECTS)

A **comprehensive**, holistic programme combining all possible aspects in 9 courses and a master's thesis. The programme leads to master's degree ([read a testimonial here](#)).

2. Postgraduate Programme Sustainable Food Packaging **Solutions** (45 ECTS)

A **shorter** programme containing the fundamentals of the master's programme in 7 courses, and a hands-on internship at an external organisation.

3. Postgraduate Programme Food Packaging

Track: Food, Materials or Sustainability (20 ECTS)

The **shortest** programme focusing on one of the three domains, in which a successful integrative assignment leads to a postgraduate certificate.

Why?

Keeping a food product fresh and safe for as long as possible reduces food waste, but the material needed to ensure the longest possible shelf life is not always the most sustainable. Conversely, the most sustainable material may not have the best effect on the food in terms of food safety or quality. In this way, every food product faces its own puzzling question: which material and technology should we use to maximise shelf life, guarantee quality, be cost-efficient, sustainable, and safe?

These issues are at the heart of our programmes.

Upcoming editions start in September 2024.

All info and registration: www.sfp.ugent.be

UPCOMING FOOD-RELATED EVENTS / WEBINARS

July 2024

8-11 July 2024

28th International ICFMH Conference FOOD MICRO 2024

More information: <https://foodmicro2024.com/home.php>

Burgos, Spain

August 2024

6-8 August 2024

3rd International Food Research Conference 2024

More information:

https://food.upm.edu.my/activities/third_international_food_research_conference_2024_3rd_ifrc_2024-27515

Putrajaya, Malaysia

25-28 August 2024

16th Conference of Food Engineering

More information: <https://socfoodeng.org/cofe/>

Washington, United States

September 2024

4-6 September 2024

IBEREO 2024 - The Iberian Meeting on Rheology

More information: <https://ibereo2024.com/>

Lisbon, Portugal

4-6 September 2024

CIIAL 2024: IV Ibero-American Congress of Food Engineering

More information: info@grupoelis.com.uy

Montevideo, Uruguay

8-12 September 2024

22nd World Congress of Food Science and Technology IUFoST 2024

More information: <https://iufost2024-italy.com/>

Rimini, Italy

25-27 September 2024

RETASTE: Rethink Food Resources, Losses, and Waste 2024

More information: <https://retaste.gr/>

Crete, Greece

October 2024

2-4 October 2024

SAAFoST - 2024 Nutrition Congress

More information: <https://conference.eventsair.com/>

Durban, South Africa

16-18 October 2024

5th International Congress FoodTech 2024

More information: foodtech24@fins.uns.ac.rs

Novi Sad, Serbia

November 2024

5-8 November 2024

11th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis

More information: <https://www.rafa2024.eu/>

Prague, Czech Republic

New! 25-28 November 2024

2024 ICC International Conference: GRAINS FOR ONE HEALTH

More information: <https://icc-onehealth.com/#about-gfoh24-3224>

Taipei, Taiwan

April 2025

New! 31 March - 2 April 2025

8th Whole Grain Summit

More information: <https://icc.or.at/events/122-8th-whole-grain-summit>

Detmold, Germany

New! 9-11 April 2025

GreenFoodTech 2025

More information: <https://greenfoodtech-2025.colloque.inrae.fr/>

Saint Malo, France

July 2025

New! 2-4 July 2025

8th International ISEKI-Food Conference

Timisoara, Romania

September 2025

New! 22-26 September 2025

21st ICC Conference 2025 - Jubilee 70 Years ICC

More information: <https://icc.or.at/events/123-21st-icc-conference>

Vienna, Austria

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