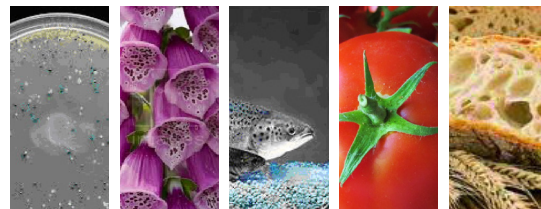




AREA

ADVANCING RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES AT FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



www.area.agrif.bg.ac.rs



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Project full title: "ADVANCING RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES AT FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE"

Funding scheme: Coordination and support actions

Call identifier: FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1

Project number: 316004

Participant: Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Name of the coordinating person: Prof Radmila Stikic

Project summary

AREA aim is to reinforce and advance the research capacity of 13 excellent groups at the Faculty of Agriculture, Belgrade lead by scientists with expertise unique in Serbia in crop physiology and anatomy, biodiversity, weed science, horticulture, plant pathology, aquaculture, food biochemistry, food and biotechnology. AREA project is build on the existing expertise of 13 research groups, representing 6 of the Faculty's 8 research Institutes which have already built international reputations on the strength of their research programmes. An additional group, lead by the General Secretary of the Faculty, is formed to develop and implement the Plan for Intellectual Property and Innovation (IPI) capacity-building at the Faculty. AREA focus is on a set of coherent activities that will both improve the research capacity of each group to progress its own state-of-the-art research programmes, as well as stimulate interactions amongst the research, by strengthening implementation of existing DNA marker technologies and introducing innovative, Raman micro-spectroscopy, technologies that are common and relevant to these groups. To improve AREA teams' interactions with their scientific and non-scientific stakeholders and media, a series of dissemination activities including international conferences and workshops will be organized. AREA strategic intellectual property development plan for IP management and innovation capacity building at Faculty will ensure that Faculty's researchers can deliver sustainable innovative science and future research interactions at both regional and European levels.

AREA groups and team leaders

Plant stress physiology group

Prof Radmila Stikić
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Functional crop anatomy group

Prof Sofija Pekić Quarrie
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Biodiversity research group

Prof Zora Dajić Stevanović
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Fruit breeding group

Prof Dragan Nikolić
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Weed Science Group

Prof Sava Vrbničanin
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Carp aquaculture group

Prof Zoran Marković
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Microbial ecology group

Prof Vera Raičević
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Phytobacteriology group

Prof Aleksa Obradović
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Plant virus and fungus molecular diagnostics group

Prof Branka Krstić
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Food biochemistry group

Prof Biljana Vucelić-Radović
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Food biotechnology group

Prof Miomir Nikšić
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Food technology group

Prof Predrag Puđa
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Immobilization (encapsulation) biotechnology group

Prof Viktor Nedović
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Intellectual property and innovation group

Bogdan Mladenović, Dipl. Iur.
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Training EU institutions

Institute of Agronomic Research, Avignon, France;
Institute of Physical Chemistry, University of Jena, Germany;
School of Agriculture and School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading, UK;
Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health (GmbH), Research Unit Microbe-Plant Interactions, Working Group: Molecular Microbial Ecology, Germany;

Department of Laboratory Methods and Diagnostics, Dutch General Inspection Service, The Netherlands;
Department of Biology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Bari, Italy;
Nofima Marin Institute, Aas, Norway;
Department of Life Sciences, University of Parma, Italy;
Technology Transfer Office, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Concept and activities of project

WP1 - Twinning through exchange of know-how and experience

WP2 - Conferences, workshops, dissemination and promotional activities

WP3 - Recruitment of experienced researchers

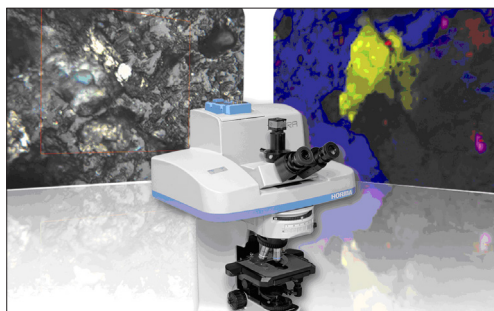
WP4 - Upgrading and acquisition of research equipment

WP5 - Strategic Intellectual Property development plan and innovation capacity building

WP6 - Project management

In collaboration with EU training institutions the new and improved expertise in DNA-based technologies will be achieved in:

- characterising of genes for crop stress responses and response to herbicides
- molecular taxonomy of plants
- analysing of pathogenic populations
- DNA-based GMO and food tracing
- marker-assisted selection in fish and fruit breeding programmes
- genetic diversity of zooplankton and zoobenthos
- molecular characterization of lactic acid bacteria.



In Raman micro/spectroscopy the focus will be on:

- chemical analyses and localisation of various compounds in plants and plant products
- microbes
- fish meat
- food constituents and
- practical application in new food technology methods such as encapsulation.

To improve AREA teams' interactions with their scientific and non-scientific stakeholders and media, a series of dissemination activities including international conferences and workshops will be organized. AREA strategic intellectual property development plan for IP management and innovation capacity building at Faculty will ensure that Faculty's researchers can deliver sustainable innovative science and future research interactions at both regional and European levels.

Project impacts

- Upgrading of the RTD capacity and capability and quality of research
- Better integration in the European Research Area and improved participation in FP projects
- Improved research capacity for effective contribution to regional development
- Improved FA innovation potential
- Further commercial exploitation of IPR-protected AREA results as well as FA products

More information

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