

I02.2. Collection of best practices on zoonoses interventions

Type of practice	Erasmus+ project
Best practice title	Training in innovation through the Quality System in Food Microbiological Laboratories (MicroQLab)
Period of implementation	01/09/2014 – 31/08/2016
Location	-
Geographical coverage	International
Contacts	abenito@ainia.es
Link	http://www.microqlab.eu/eng/index.html
Target audience	Technicians and researchers involved in food microbiological laboratories.
Background and objectives	<p>One of the priorities of the EU policies is to ensure food safety by finding effective and integrated solutions and developing better ways of assuring microbiological security in food. An essential aspect to ensure food safety is the performance of quality based analytical controls that should demonstrate the adequacy of the products.</p> <p>In this framework, the main objective of MicroQLab project is the development of an innovative eLearning programme on Quality Systems for food microbiological laboratories, contributing to the EU policies to ensure food safety and for the harmonisation in most aspects of safety and health regulations.</p> <p>The development of the course aimed to these particular objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the quality of the performance of microbiological analysis by taking into account all the factors that are involve in the result • To improve the efficiency of the training in the implementation of quality systems by an interactive and attractive e-learning solution that will reduce training efforts • To contribute to modernise higher education and quality in VET, in order to keep up with the globalisation and technological developments all over Europe by the inclusion of new ITC tools • To improve skills and qualifications to facilitate personal development and employability for trainees that are seeking for jobs

	<p>and need to acquire practical competence to access to the labour market in the analytical field and food testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the competitiveness of the food sector by building the abilities of employees to better practices in food control, assurance of quality and increasing growth and internationalisation.
Short description	<p>MicroQLab, is an European Commission funded project, developed in collaboration with 4 European partners.</p> <p>MicroQLab main objective is to develop an innovative e-learning programme on Quality Systems for food microbiological laboratories, providing knowledge acquisition and specialisation in the analytical area of food microbiology. The course is devoted to analytical technicians and researchers with the expertise needed to establish a quality system in the laboratory in a simple, interactive and comprehensive way, filling a gap in an area require for the implementation of a quality system and that involves applied knowledge in many different disciplines: statistical analysis, physical measurements, personal training, etc.</p>
Activities	<p>There will be 7 activities to implement the Project, as described below:</p> <p>Activity 1-Management.</p> <p>Activity 2-Design, development and implementation of a Quality Plan.</p> <p>Activity 3- Conducting training needs analysis exercise</p> <p>Activity 4- Development of the training program</p> <p>Activity 5-Conducting of pilot studies</p> <p>Activity 6- Dissemination</p> <p>Activity 7- Exploitation</p>
Products	<p>The main product is the eLearning programme developed to facilitate the implementation of Quality Systems for microbiological food testing laboratories.</p>
Impact	<p>MicroQLab will have a positive impact on all the organisations and persons directly or indirectly involved in the project activities.</p> <p>Partners will obtain a product of high quality and innovative and that has been developed attending to trainees’ demands and needs and using ICT-based methodologies, making more efficient and attractive the learning process.</p>

	<p>For the target groups the main impact of MicroQLab will be the access to a more efficient and cost-effective way of implementing a quality system in a laboratory providing knowledge acquisition and specialisation in the analytical area of food microbiology. This will improve skills and qualifications to facilitate personal development and employability for trainees that are seeking for jobs and need to acquire practical competence to access to the labour market</p> <p>The course will be also very beneficial for the trainees that are already working and need the acquisition of new knowledge and skills to achieve new responsibilities in the work place, allowing to have competence in new areas that are every time more in demand. These trainees will benefit saving time and efforts when confronted to the tasks involved in the implementation of a quality system, making then more motivated and satisfied at their jobs.</p> <p>For the stakeholders, the impact of MicroQLab will be also important and can be measured by the improvement of the competitiveness of the food sector by building the abilities of employees to better practices in food control, assurance of quality and increasing growth and internationalisation.</p>
<p>Key words</p>	<p>eLearning, Quality system, microbiological laboratories, food safety</p>