

The New Food and Drink Professional: *the role of TRACK_FAST project*

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The TRACK_FAST project (www.trackfast.eu) was a 3 ½ year Framework 7 project with the main objectives of identifying the training and career requirements of future European food scientists and technologists (FSTs), and implementing a European strategy to recruit the next generation of FST leaders. TRACK_FAST was built on the assumption that restoration and maintenance of EU's food industry leadership in the global economy can only happen through promoting a higher degree of innovation and competitiveness in the food sector. This will be achieved by a profound change in Europe's food workforce (who must to be updated on the most recent skills and issues in the industry) and in its employers (who need to select the most skilled candidate for each function). TRACK_FAST was able to propose the right skills and career planning, and contribute to build an identity, for European FST professionals.

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