



RESEARCH THAT RESONATES

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**IUFoST** 17<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF  
FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EXPO

BOOK OF  
ABSTRACTS\*

\* Please note if you do not find a set of abstracts for a Concurrent Session, this is because we did not receive a set of abstracts for that session.

## **CS 6.6: Enhancing The Potential Of Food Science And Technology Careers Towards An Innovative And Sustainable Food Chain (ISEKI)**

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### **CS6.6.1**

#### **Drivers Of Innovation In Education And Training In Food Science And Technology**

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The food system is challenged by an ever-growing societal needs due to significant changes occurring at several levels (economy, society, technology, environment). Innovation and sustainability are some of the key driving forces of modern food production chain, while quality and safety remain paramount objectives in continuous stride for improvements and addressing consumer needs and expectations. Food security, energy, water, nutritional and climate aspects are also vital topics driving research and development in the agro-food sector. To benefit all the food stakeholders, accelerated new knowledge and know-how generated by fundamental research in food as well as other adjacent scientific domains should be transformed into innovation and practices to facilitate their full utilization and implementation. To date the critical driving force and the cardinal role of education and training as the specific knowledge and skills determinant to lead innovation, promote and sustain economic development in all manufacturing sectors are broadly accepted. Consequently, EU and many other countries are promoting the implementation different actions and strategic programmes focusing on a 'smart, sustainable, inclusive growth' of the society by increasing the number of young people that successfully complete a Higher Education (HE) study, increasing investments in R&D, and innovation for achieving an improved knowledge base in the population. The education of the next 2.0 young generation equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century know-how and skills, while simultaneously creating a knowledgeable workforce in the food sector implies the involvement of several actors with different backgrounds, expectations and responsibilities. Academia's role in providing mastery sector specific knowledge along with learning related skills by reaching, however, a matured level, is not sufficient anymore. A paradigm shift is need in academia educational methodologies, and learning outcomes, in order to provide the future generation of food scientists and technologist with required knowledge, skills and competences as well as the proper innovation and entrepreneur mind-set to meet the job market expectations. In the Food Science and Technology/Engineering sector, the ISEKI\_Food network has promoted since 1998 continuous and diligent projects (e.g. FP7 Track\_Fast, Erasmus TN ISEKI\_Food) aimed on enhancing HE. These efforts involved a large number of representatives of main food supply chain stakeholders representing countries from all over the world. Most current project (ISEKI\_Food 4, [www.iseki-food4.eu](http://www.iseki-food4.eu)), focuses on modernization and upgrading food studies programmes, promoting employability and entrepreneurship of the graduated FS&T, and expanding lecturing qualifications of university teaching staff. Successful modernization of the HE food studies and enabling sustainable societal and economic growth require development of adequate academia-research-job market interactions and their improvement in a wider societal framework, and also the involvement of policymakers and other stakeholders to promote flow of knowledge and innovation. Enhancement of the educational approaches with an international, intercultural, intergenerational and interdisciplinary perspective should be also taken into account.