

# **TRACK\_FAST** - Training Requirements And Careers for Knowledge-based Food Science and Technology in Europe

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The food and drink industry is the single largest manufacturing sector in the EU and is mainly comprised by SMEs and microenterprises (99.1% of European food and drink businesses). The European food industry is in the lower part of the innovation performance ranking, and is losing relative importance in the global food market. This situation was a primary reason for the initiation of the ETP Food4 Life, which seeks to stimulate and underpin innovation in the agro-food chain. TRACK\_FAST project, drawn from all geographic points of Europe, is an EU funded support action (KBBE:227220) which the main objective is the "Identification of the training and career requirements of future European food scientists and technologists (FST), and implementation of a European strategy to recruit the next generation FST leaders". TRACK\_FAST will achieve this goal through:

- Identification and definition of personal skills requirements in food job market.
- Developments for the regulation of food science and technology professions in Europe.
- Establishment of a framework for continual professional training and career development for the FST professional.
- Motivation of young people to enter and pursue of a career in food science and technology in Europe.

TRACK\_FAST support action points at training needs and career paths. The project will therefore coordinate a programme of information and experience gathering, discussions with employers and employees, and with those responsible for providing academic and other training deliver awareness and experience in career development activities. Moreover, young students will be motivated to pursue a career in food area, thus promoting a new generation of skilled, flexible and enthusiastic food scientists and technologists. TRACK\_FAST will provide main stakeholders with a forum within which their main needs will be considered. Moreover, TRACK\_FAST focus on the key factors to identify needs and guide future works, as well as the development of specific and effective measures to prompt changes. The consortium and work plan are framed in a strong engagement between stakeholders, thus TRACK\_FAST will contribute to a more innovative and competitive food and drink sector, which is a key area for job creation, global competition and societal benefit in Europe.