



newsletter  
newsletter

no.1

February 2010

Faculty of Technology, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

[www.tf.uns.ac.rs/CEFSERweb/CEFSERindex.html](http://www.tf.uns.ac.rs/CEFSERweb/CEFSERindex.html)

## After the 1<sup>st</sup> year: CEFSEr in 2009

***CEFSER is the FP7-REGPOT-2008-1 project dedicated to the reinforcement of research capacities at the Laboratory for Chemical Contaminants in Food and the Environment at the Faculty of Technology, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, in order to become a unique Western Balkan Country (WBC) Centre of Excellence in Food Safety and Emerging Risks. It started on Feb 01, 2009, and will last 36 months. The summary of the realized activities and outcomes of CEFSEr in the first project year is given hereafter.***



CEFSER celebrated the first year anniversary in February 2010

## REINFORCEMENT OF THE MATERIAL RESOURCES

Two outstanding instruments are arriving at the CEFSEr lab. This is the result of the negotiation of the CEFSEr coordinator, Prof. Dr. Biljana Škrbić with the representatives of the world companies for the separation instruments and mass spectrometric detectors, conducted during 2009.

Prof. Dr. Biljana Škrbić explained: "In order to perform the procurement of the instruments as successful as possible in terms of the CEFSEr sustainability and attractiveness for the future international research activities, it was decided to try to extend the project budget share allocated to the reinforcement of the material resources in a way to purchase two instruments with complementary application ranges in the field of food and environmental safety instead of one instrument originally planned to be bought". She further said that the CEFSEr supporting partners suggested to have ultra performance liquid chromatograph (UPLC) with high resolution mass spectrometer (MS) together with UPLC coupled to triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (MS/MS), originally planned to be bought. Laboratory with such systems is fully equipped for targeted analysis and also for the screening of unknowns, both very important aspects in the food safety analysis, particularly in the analysis of emerging pollutants.

CEFSER supporting partners are excellent research centers from EU such as: CHIRON AS, Norway, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at Vrije University (VU), the Netherlands, Instituto de Investigaciones Químicas y Ambientales, Spain (IIQAB-CSIC), and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Czech Republic.

"Now, the CEFSEr lab is the first one in the Balkan region possessing Thermo Scientific UHPLC Accela - TSQ Vantage MS/MS, and Thermo Scientific UHPLC Accela - Exactive MS with Orbitrap technology, representing modern centre attractive for joint research" said Prof. Škrbić and added: "The thorough trainings and practice are now in front of us. The CEFSEr project has been designed to fully unlock all our potentials and capabilities and with the support of the EU partners we are going to develop new methods for the analysis of organic pollutants in food and the environment."

In this context, three CEFSEr events are foreseen for 2010 with invited lecturers from the supporting institutions (more about them might be found on the CEFSEr web site):

- 1st CEFSEr Training Course "Capabilities of UPLC-MS/MS in Analysis of Contaminants and Pharmaceutical Compounds in Food and the Environment", April 06-08, 2010;
- 2nd CEFSEr Training Course "Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) Procedures in Analysis of Contaminants and Pharmaceutical Compounds in Food and the Environment", April 09, 2010;
- 3rd CEFSEr Training Course dedicated to Orbitrap technology, September 16-17, 2010.



*During the installation of Thermo Fisher Scientific UHPLC Accela - TSQ Vantage™ MS/MS in the CEFSEr lab*

*Thermo Fisher Scientific UHPLC Accela - Exactive MS*



## REINFORCEMENT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES

"The first year of CEFSEr project was all about gathering new knowledge on the advanced food analysis. We attended several prestigious international events having a chance to be more familiar with the latest developments in the field of food quality and safety. Moreover, 2009 was dedicated to transferring the gained knowledge to newly employed researchers and to be introduced with UPLC-MS/MS basics and applications. The preparation of the CEFSEr training courses have been initiated well in advance in order to have a full success in their organization during 2010" explained Prof. Škrbić.

The reinforcement of the human resources under the CEFSEr project started from the very beginning of the project lifetime. The call for hiring was opened during March 2009, while the new working contracts between the Faculty of Technology and four elected young researchers have been signed in the beginning of April.



*Four new researchers employed for 34 months at the Faculty of Technology within the CEFSEr project*

"The opportunity to participate in the prestigious international events of relevance for the CEFSEr area of interest, to promote CEFSEr as an attractive place for joint research, to have a direct contact with the outstanding partnering organizations from EU, and being trained by the foremost researchers, led us very fast to

*Meeting with Dr. H. Liu from CHIRON, Norway, the CEFSEr supporting partner, at the 4<sup>th</sup> RAFA Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic*



The CEFSEr team members attended the following events:

- Congress 'FOOD RESEARCH IN SUPPORT TO SCIENCE-BASED REGULATION', Prague, April 21-22, 2009;
- WATERS Food Summit, Istanbul, April 29 -30, 2009;
- FP6 -TRACE project workshop on "Determining the geographical origin of food - trace elements and isotopic patterns in food verification", Prague, November 03, 2009;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis, Prague, November 04-06, 2009, with 2 poster presented;
- FP6-TRACE project training course in DART-TOF MS for authenticity and traceability purposes and profiling, Prague, November 25-27, 2009.

the next step of the integration of the Faculty of Technology in the ERA" summarized the CEFSEr coordinator, further explaining: "Specifically, in the first project year, the CEFSEr Lab was invited to join the consortium of the advanced EU research institutions complementary dedicated to various aspects of food safety. Within the consortium, new partners for future joint work have been found and links with potential to evolve into strategic partnership have been established. These links are further exploited within the new REGPOT (FP7-REGPOT-2010-1 call) project proposed by the Faculty of Technology, in which these outstanding institutions gave the support."

## DISSEMINATION OF EXCELLENCE

The CEFSEr project was presented on several occasions:

- the visit of the Serbian High-Level Expert Delegation to EC-JRC-Institute for Reference Materials and Methods, Geel, June 16, 2009;
- FP7 KBBE Brokerage Event-2010 held in Lisbon, October 20, 2009;
- several international scientific conferences, and
- the CEFSEr Symposium "Communicating research to the public", Novi Sad, November 30, 2009.



*The participants of the CEFSEr symposium*

The CEFSEr web site was launched during 2009. It has been regularly updated with the latest information on the CEFSEr activities. Moreover, the CEFSEr team members have used every opportunity to promote the project; thus it was presented during several events, including also the CEFSEr Symposium "Communicating research to the public" organized on November 30, 2009. According to the results of the questionnaire, this event was evaluated as excellent.

*Dr. Irmela Brach, the EC project officer, and Dr. Keith Harrap, the FOOD CLUSTER coordinator, at the 4<sup>th</sup> FOOD CLUSTER meeting in Wageningen*



 **FOOD CLUSTER INITIATIVE**

During 2009, the CEFSEr members participated in two meetings of FOOD CLUSTER initiative of EC, held in Mersin, Turkey, and in Wageningen, The Netherlands.