

## Expression of interest

Expression of interest of the University of Donja Gorica - Centre of Excellence (FoodHub) to join a Consortium as an additional partner from a Widening country to an ongoing project under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 actions.

### Call Topic:

Hop-On Facility (HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-07-01)

### Organization details:

Country	Montenegro
Name of the organization	University of Donja Gorica - Centre of Excellence for Digitalization of Microbial Food Safety Risk Assessment and Quality Parameters for Accurate Food Authenticity Certification (FoodHub)
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Website	<a href="https://foodhub.udg.edu.me">https://foodhub.udg.edu.me</a>

### Short description of the organization

*The equipment available, the relations with the industry, the profile of the main researchers*

University of Donja Gorica (UDG) is a private higher education institution and it includes 12 faculties, 18 departments (study programs) and over 300 engaged professors, associates and researchers. Within the UDG, the Centre of Excellence for Digitalization of Microbial Food Safety Risk Assessment and Quality Parameters for Accurate Food Authenticity Certification (FoodHub) was founded in January 2020 with the overall goal to offer reliable, science-based solutions for food safety risk elimination and hazard identification, digitalized food safety risk assessment tools, reliable certification and tracing of food authenticity, promotion and ready to use applications for the food production industry and tourism sector. FoodHub CoE maintains a range of activities related to food production, having an insight into capacities and areas in need of intervention. FoodHub has expertise in food safety, food quality, food authenticity, education, and training. Furthermore, it connects a wide front of different stakeholders, including agricultural producers, leading food companies, research institutions, and consumers from Montenegro. The interdisciplinary team is a strong pillar of FoodHub and it is composed of experts, senior and young researchers.

Two existing Laboratories will be at disposal for the project needs: Laboratory for Food Quality and Safety (150m<sup>2</sup>) and Laboratory for Information Technologies (50m<sup>2</sup>). The Laboratory for

Food Quality and Safety is equipped with state-of-the-art analytical instruments for physical and chemical analysis, microbiology tests, and molecular biology tests.

**Professor Aleksandra Martinovic** is the director of the FoodHub CoE. She holds two Ph.D. degrees in the area of food biotechnology and microbiology. Prof. Aleksandra Martinovic has also been engaged in conducting international programs and being involved in the issues concerning food microbiology and food quality and safety. She has worked as a Project Coordinator in various projects and has significant research experience in molecular microbiology, food safety, and food technology.

## References

*Previous research project (last 3 years)*

Project title/starting date	Activities	Role in the project
Establishment of Centre Evaluation of Honey authenticity (MedExLab); 2019-2021	The main goal of the <b>MedExLab</b> project was to set up a centre of excellence to test honey authenticity, with specific regards to the geographical origin. This goal has been achieved through the implementation of the needed methods of analyses and the interpretation of that test results.	Coordinator
Products and Process Innovation in the Montenegrin Food Industry – INNOFOOD; 2019-2021	The aim of the project is Ex vivo testing of probiotic characteristics of selected lactic acid bacteria from traditional products and their use in creating new products. The goal of the <b>InnoFood</b> project is to encourage the innovative development of the food sector, using the resources of natural biodiversity and the potential of the domestic food production sector.	Coordinator
Digital Technologies for Food Safety Decision Support (FoodDecide); 2021-2024	This research aims at developing efficient decision support software for Montenegrin food business operators and governmental agencies supporting food safety and disease outbreak investigations. The newly developed open source software technologies will also be available for German or European stakeholders.	Co-beneficiary

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<p>Improving traditional cheese making in the North of Montenegro (Value Cheese); 2019-2021</p>	<p>The project aims to improve the quality of locally produced cheeses, and applicants, co-applicant and target groups and beneficiaries have been selected having in mind that goal. The overall objective of the project is to transfer know-how for improved dairy production and valorisation of traditional dairy products in Montenegro.</p>	<p>Coordinator</p>
<p>Traceability at wine industry through integrated labelling of typicality, health protection effect and organoleptic attributes (H2020-MSCA TRACEWINDU); 2021-2025</p>	<p>The EU-funded TRACEWINDU project aims to ensure and improve the traceability of wine along the entire value chain, with intelligent labeling and data recording through blockchain technology. This will allow consumers to make purchases based on complete and reliable information about the production process.</p>	<p>Co-beneficiary</p>

Professor Aleksandra Martinovic



Director of the Centre of Excellence - FoodHub