

ActiBioSafe - Improving food safety through the development and implementation of active and biodegradable food packaging systems

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Romanian and Norwegian scientists join forces to develop innovative food packaging biomaterials with antimicrobial and antioxidant properties in a new collaborative project.

This project (contract no 1SEE/2014) ending in 2017 is funded by the Romanian - EEA Research Programme operated by the Ministry of National Education (MEN), under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 . The *main objective* of the project is to obtain complex bioactive systems based on PHAs (PLA) and chitosan biopolymers, as well as on the design and embedding of encapsulated forms with active substances in order to:

- a) prolong the shelf-life of the food packaged products;
- b) inhibit pathogenic microorganisms growth and
- c) impart other functionalities (antioxidative, bioactive) to packaging.

The project objectives include these priority aspects:

- 1) reducing food contamination risk and extending shelf-life of food products by obtaining a new active and biodegradable food pack system and increasing quality, food safety and security for a wide range of food products during storage;
- 2) minimizing food packaging waste through replacing traditional plastic packaging materials with new biodegradable and antimicrobial packaging biocomposites;
- 3) decreasing food waste by prolonging the shelf-life of food products using the new active and biodegradable food pack system.

The project is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Cornelia Vasile from the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Iasi, Romania, partnering with Nofima – the Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (team leader Dr. M. Sivertsvik), the Research Institute of Organic and Auxiliaries Products – ICPAO Medias (team leader Dr. M. Rapa), packaging company Rodax SRL (team leader Dr. L. Moldovan), and the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest (team leader Dr. A. Mitelut). The total budget for the project is € 900.000 (85% European funding, 15% Romanian funding).



Picture from the kick-off meeting in Iasi, November, 29th 2014