



## The ΣChain Project

ΣChain is a 3-year €2.93 million 6th Framework Programme (EC) Project with 11 partners from universities, research institutes and industry spread across the European Union, Norway and Brazil.

The objective of ΣChain is to develop methodologies that will optimise the traceability process within food and feed chains with respect to chain vulnerability to contamination.

Representative production chains of four “high vulnerability” products (drinking water, milk powder, poultry meat and farmed salmon) were mapped and their vulnerability to contamination was assessed. A *risk model* was developed to provide quantitative risk assessments of chain vulnerability. A *generic framework* was constructed for the evaluation of chain vulnerability and the prioritisation of chain contamination risk. This framework has been validated using the case studies and wider inputs from stakeholders.

The output from these tasks was synthesised into a *Stakeholders' Guide* to food and feed chain vulnerability to contamination. It presents a generic protocol for assessing and addressing potential food chain vulnerabilities to contamination with dangerous substances.

This workshop will give you a comprehensive overview of the development and application of the *Stakeholders' Guide* on the vulnerability of food and feed chains to dangerous agents and substances

For more information about ΣChain, its objectives, work plan and partners please refer to:

<http://www.sigmachain.eu>



## Max Rubner-Institut (MRI), Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food, Germany

The MRI is a research institution of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. The research focus of the MRI is health and consumer protection in the food sector in general. Apart from head office in Karlsruhe, the MRI has locations in Kiel, Detmold, Münster, Hamburg and Kulmbach.

### Max Rubner-Institut (MRI), Location Kulmbach consists of:

- Analysis Division (specific analytical methods on all food stuffs)
- Department of Safety and Quality of Meat (main focus on meat, meat products and eggs)
- Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology (microbiology and biotechnology on meat, meat products and eggs)

## Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Introductory remarks

*Gerhard Rechkemmer, President MRI*

*Chair persons: Gerd Abeln, Ralf Lautenschläger, Editors-in-Chief, Fleischwirtschaft/FW International*

### 14.00 – 16.30

Introduction

*Francis Butler (UCD, Ireland)*

Food safety from a chain perspective

*Hilde Cnossen (TNO, The Netherlands)*

Consumer and expert perspectives of traceability: implications for food chain vulnerabilities

*Lynn Frewer (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)*



## Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009

*Chair persons: Gerd Abeln, Ralf Lautenschläger, Editors-in-Chief, Fleischwirtschaft/Fleischwirtschaft International.*

### 09.00 – 10.30

Chain mapping as a tool towards vulnerability assessment

*Sabine Andrée (MRI, Germany)*

Identification of contaminants during the production of consumer products of farmed Atlantic salmon  
*Stine Wiborg Dahle, Harry Westavik and Iciar Martinez (SINTEF, Norway); Clare Winkel and Dave Garforth (IFQC, Ireland)*

E-tracking technology and the supply chain  
*Alexis Pacquit (Biosystems Engineering Ltd., Ireland)*

### 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

### 11.00 – 13.00

Handling risks in the food chain  
*Francis Butler (UCD, Ireland) and Niels Lucas Luijckx (TNO, The Netherlands)*

Addressing vulnerabilities

Keynote 1: Primary Production  
*Bert Urlings, VION Director Quality Management*

Keynote 2: Processing  
*Georg Denk, Executive Director W. BRANDENBURG GmbH & Co. oHG*

Lessons learned/Panel discussion  
*Francis Butler (UCD, Ireland)*



## REGISTRATION

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**Please confirm your attendance before the  
17<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.**

## FEES

Registration (before 17 <sup>th</sup> April)	€	90,00
Late Registration (6 <sup>th</sup> or 7 <sup>th</sup> May)		
Conference Office	€	110,00

**The Workshop fee includes a printed copy of  
the “Stakeholders’ Guide on the vulnerability of  
food and feed chains to dangerous agents and  
substances”.**

## PAYMENT

**Please pay fee by bank transfer to:**

Kulmbacher Bank

Account No.: 87696

BLZ: 771 900 00

IBAN: DE97 7719 0000 0000 0876 96

BIC: GENODEF1KU1

For payment by   please use the  
attached registration/ payment form.

Please indicate the name of the participant as  
well as the keyword “SIGMACHAIN”.

Refunding of fees in case of cancellation is  
only possible before 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.



## VENUE

Dr.-Stammberger-Halle,  
95326 Kulmbach, Sutte 2,  
Germany

## CONFERENCE OFFICE

Phone: +49 (0)9221 8213-248

Open from Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009, 8.00 am.

## ACCOMMODATION BUREAU

Tourist information can be obtained at:

Dr.-Stammberger-Halle,  
Sutte 2, 95326 Kulmbach, Germany.

Phone: +49 (0)9221 9588-0

Fax: +49 (0)9221 9588-44

E-mail: [touristinfo@stadt-kulmbach.de](mailto:touristinfo@stadt-kulmbach.de)

Hotels Kulmbach: <http://www.kulmbach.de>

**For more information on the Workshop please  
contact:**

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The International Workshop “Developing a  
*Stakeholders’ Guide* on the vulnerability of food  
and feed chains to dangerous agents and sub-  
stances” takes place within the scope of the

## 44<sup>th</sup> Kulmbach Week

**For more information please refer to the  
corresponding leaflet.**

**sigma  
Σ chain**



## International Workshop

**Developing a *Stakeholders’ Guide* on the  
vulnerability of food and feed chains to  
dangerous agents and substances**

**6 - 7 May 2009**

**Dr.-Stammberger-Halle  
Kulmbach  
Germany**

**MRI**   
**Max Rubner-Institut**  
Location Kulmbach