

The EU SAFFI project Presented in September 2022 at the International meetings on Infant Nutrition in Kracow (Poland) and Valencia (Spain)



The EU funded Horizon 2020 SAFFI project "Safe Food For Infants", was presented in Valencia (Spain) at the 8th International congress on Nutrition (14-17 September 2022) and in Kracow (Poland) at the 12th UENPS Congress, 2022 the European traditional meeting of the Union of European Neonatal & Perinatal Societies, which gathers all Major European neonatal and perinatal societies and the major stakeholders involved the care and safety of infants (2-4 September 2022).

The principles, mission and goals of SAFFI were discussed by the officers of the European Union of National Pediatric Societies (EPA-UNEPSA) with the delegates from the European countries and various stakeholders involved in nutrition who debated the important issue of food safety and its implications for infants children's health. Despite a decrease in biological, chemical, and physical hazards in infant food owing to national and international control programs, the risks of hazards in infant food remain a global concern. Raising consumer awareness on the consequences of unhealthy food consumption, and a growth of consciousness by the food industry of the importance of ensuring protection against contaminants in commercially available products, have limited the risk of food contaminants. However, interventions applied across the food supply chain to inspect the presence of food contaminants and help to ensure a sustainable supply of nutritious safe food, are insufficient to provide an extensive and comprehensive protection. Infant food safety in the economically advanced Western world is currently monitored by increasingly strict legal regulations; however, some countries still use banned substances in industrial food production owing to their poor economy and insufficient regulation. The export and import exchange of commercial, often low-cost, infant food products, may raise serious risks for children's health despite the presence of standard control procedures and techniques, which may be insufficient or inadequate to detect a large variety of contaminants in food products.

SAFFI aims to provide an answer to the necessity to further decrease the risks of hazards of different nature in infants and children's food and to emphasize the importance of developing and constantly update integrated and effective systems for monitoring the presence of contaminants in infant food. Coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), SAFFI bring together 14 partners from seven countries across Europe and 6 partners from two Chinese provinces gathering the required expertise in food safety control, infant food production, analytical and data sciences to achieve the project goal.



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SAFFI: THE SINO-EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM PARTNER CENTERS



- Coordination: French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE),
- Five international infant food companies (Friesland Campina, HiPP, YIOTIS, Beingmate, YFFC)
 - Two food safety authority institutions (ZAIQ and ANSES)
 - Three European technological SMEs (CremeGlobal, Computomics, BDS)
 - The Union of 49 National European Societies of Pediatric (EPA-UNEPSA)
 - Seven leading European and Chinese academic institutions (WU, UNITO, IRTA, IVV; ZJU, ZAAS, JAAS)



Contact
 Coordinator: Dr. Erwan Engel
 Institut National De Recherche Pour L'agriculture, L'alimentation Et L'environnement
 UR370 QuaPA, MASS group / 63122 Saint-Genès-Champagnelle - FRANCE
 Tel : +33(0)473624589 - email: erwan.engel@inrae.fr

