



## Cardiovascular disease causes almost half of all deaths in the European Union

In past years, we have seen a growing occurrence of cardiovascular disease (CVD), which currently is responsible for 47% of deaths in Europe. As demonstrated by ever growing healthcare costs, which currently total ca. €195 billion (£157 bn), measures to reverse this trend are essential.

It is essential to focus on developing solutions such as improved dietary habits including increased consumption of foods containing bioactive substances purported to be beneficial for the cardiovascular system. 'Beneficial effects of dietary bioactive peptides and polyphenols on cardiovascular health in humans' (BACCHUS) will develop resources facilitating generation of robust and exploitable scientific evidence that supports a cause-and-effect relationship between consumption of bioactive peptides and polyphenols, and beneficial physiological effects related to cardiovascular health in humans (e.g. reducing high blood pressure). BACCHUS will also support European SMEs creating new food products, which boost cardiovascular health, with scientific evidence and tools essential for health claims dossiers seeking a favourable opinion from EFSA.

To achieve this, the BACCHUS has brought together 16 SMEs that are involved in developing food products and pursuing health claims, and 12 leading research organisations with expertise in health claims legislation, and food and health research. BACCHUS is focusing on the action of bioactive substances found in foods that are common in European diets including apple, chokeberry, sweet oranges, pomegranate, cured pork products and wheat. For more information visit: <http://www.bacchus-fp7.eu> .

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[paragraph for individual institutes] The Institute of Food Research, which is strategically funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) aims to meet the challenges of supplying safe, nutritious food that promotes healthy ageing now and in the future. IFR provides underpinning science for government and the food manufacturing industry. Within the BACCHUS consortium, lead researchers Paul Kroon and Paul Finglas will do this and that...



**Notes to Editors:**

The 28 beneficiaries of BACCHUS are: Institute of Food Research (UK), University of Leeds (UK), Turkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu (TR), Agencia estatal consejo superior de investigaciones (ES), NOFIMA (Norway), University College Cork (IE), Institut za Medicinska Istra Ivanja (Serbia), Universita di Bologna (IT), Universiteit Gent (BE), Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek NV (BE), LGC Ltd. (UK), Helsingin Yliopisto (FI), British Nutrition Foundation (UK), EuroFIR AISBL (BE), Pamida International SRO (SK), CREME Software Ltd. (IE), Valdycomer SA (ES), Industrias Carnicas VAQUERO (ES), Wagralim ASBL (BE), Critical Processes Ltd. (UK), Coressence Ltd. (UK), Laboratorios Admira sl. (ES), Bioaesis srl. (IT), Kamut Enterprises of Europe BVBA (BE), Bioactor BV (NL), Prodigest (BE), Nutrika doo (Serbia) and Fundacion Universitaria San Antonio de Cartagena (ES)

Project coordinator: Institute of Food Research  
Lead researcher(s): Paul Kroon and Paul Finglas

European cardiovascular disease statistics 2012: <http://www.ehnheart.org/cvd-statistics.html>  
CVD causes 47% of deaths in Europe and 40% in the European Union  
Overall, CVD is estimated to cost the EU economy €195 billion a year (ca. £157 bn)  
Of the total cost, 54% are direct medical care, 24% productivity losses (e.g. days off work, medical retirement) and 22% informal care (e.g. relatives and friends caring for patients, transport costs to hospital)

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