

A summit in hygienic design expertise: The EHEDG World Congress on Hygienic Engineering & Design 2011 held 22 – 24 September 2011 in Ohrid/Macedonia

EHEDG World Congress on Hygienic Engineering & Design 2011 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia proved to be a 'summit' not only in Hygienic Design expertise, but also in the field of Food Quality & Safety as well as in Food Production & Processing (New Food Magazine).

At this Congress, professor Vlasta Piližota, Editor in chief of *Croatian Journal of Food Science and Technology* was invited to give presentation on "Scientific knowledge applicable to enhancing the safety of fresh produce" (section: Food Quality and Safety and Food Production and Processing).

At the World Congress were present 230 high level attendees from all over the globe, or: Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and USA.

At the Congress were present representatives from different renowned Universities and institutions like: Alfort Veterinary School, Odessa National Academy of Food Technologies, University of Parma, Gdansk University of Technology, St. Petersburg State Technical University, EHEDG, 3-A, NSF, Nickel Institute, Ainia, Campden BRI, Food and Veterinary Agency - Macedonia, French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), Turkish Food Safety Association, Japan Food Machinery Manufacturers Association etc.

100 of the attendees were high representatives (owners, CEO's, Sales Managers etc) from 61 companies as: Tetrapak, Nestle, Unilever, Kraft Foods, Stork, GEA, SKF, JBT FoodTech, Diversey Inc., Tesid Chemie, Alfa Laval, Givaudan, Van Meeuwen, Veolia Water Solutions & Technologies, Frigoscandia, etc.

42 presentations divided in two sections: 1) Hygienic Engineering and Design and 2) Food Quality and Safety and Food Production and Processing, gave an insight into the various fields of expertise of the high-class EHEDG lecturers and academia representatives who offered the delegates two highly informative days.

The congress revealed to be an excellent platform for networking and meetings, especially on its final 'Brokerage Event' day which was held at 24th of September.

The organizers of the Macedonian EHEDG Regional Section (Chairman Professor Vladimir Kakurinov) and EHEDG International were more than satisfied with the successful outcome which is documented in the 1st Journal of Hygienic Engineering & Design (which is available upon request to EHEDG Secretariat: secretariat@ehedg.org).

On the post-congress day, more than 40 EHEDG Regional & Subgroup Chairpersons held their Plenary Meeting together with the Executive Committee for updating each other on the state of affairs in their technical work and their local networking activities including an introduction of the US-American partner organisation 3-A whose Director Timothy Rugh and Steering Committee Chair Tracy Schonrock were present at the meeting.

To date, the EHEDG membership has grown to more than 800 experts worldwide from mechanical engineering companies, food industries, academia, health and food safety organisations and other institutions out of which 240 working party members are involved into 16 active Subgroups for the time being. The network has grown to 16 countries while the same number of Regional Sections is currently under development.

The next EHEDG World Congress on Hygienic Engineering & Design is scheduled to take place 7 – 9 November 2012 at Palacio de Congressos in Valencia/Spain.

Chairman of the Macedonian EHEDG Regional Section

Professor Vladimir Kakurinov