



**“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania**



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**Session 9**

**FP7 FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**BIOTECHNOLOGY IN FP7 AND HORIZON 2020**

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**Abstract**

Biotechnology plays an important role in addressing social, environmental and economic challenges and it is recognised as a key enabling technology in the transition to a green, low carbon and resource-efficient economy. Biotechnologies for non-health applications have received a considerable attention in the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7). “Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology”, also referred as a European Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE), is one of 10 thematic areas in the FP7 Cooperation programme, and to date it has supported transnational and international projects with about 500 Million Euro on different sectors of biotechnology. In mid 2012 the final FP7 calls will be opened. They will aim at bridging the gap between FP7 and new programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020.

Running from 2014 to 2020 with a proposed budget of €80 billion budget, Horizon 2020 will combine research and innovation funding currently provided through FP7, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 offers a coherent package of support with simplified funding rules for the best research that provides major business opportunities. Its three priorities are 1) Excellent Research 2) Industrial Leadership and 3) Societal Challenges. Biotechnology is listed among technologies which are fundamental to our economy (Key Enabling Technologies - KETs) and it will be financed under Industrial Leadership priority. Biotechnology will be also supported under the third priority, Societal Challenges. Horizon 2020 builds on the thematic research from FP7 and reflects the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. “Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime resources and the bioeconomy” are among major concerns shared by European citizens and therefore this area is among six priority challenges selected for funding.

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