



## **MicrobiomeSupport: Towards coordinated microbiome R&I activities in the food system to support (EU and) international bioeconomy goals**

**Main author:** Angela Sessitsch (Austrian Institute of Technology)

**Co-authors:** Tanja Kostic, Angela Sessitsch

### INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of the potential of microbiomes, throughout the food chains, is seen as a promising means to ensuring the sustainability of our food system. Although a number of relevant European programmes and initiatives are currently running or are being launched, they are largely fragmented, implying a stringent need for coordinated action. This need for joint action should also be regarded at the international level.

MicrobiomeSupport is a CSA uniting 27 partners with the overall objective of establishing an international network of experts and stakeholders in the field of microbiome food systems research and to assess applicability and impact of the microbiomes on the food system.

### METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the project are:

- Identification and mapping of microbiome activities, programmes and facilities along the food chain and beyond in the EU and worldwide
- Creation of a platform for scientists, regulatory experts, industry, funding and policy organisations as well as support of the International Bioeconomy Forum to implement the 'Food Systems Microbiome' working group
- Improve use of existing data to allow comparability and improved mining of microbiome data
- Define strategic agendas to enable joint international microbiome applications in the food sector and beyond
- Collaboration and coordination in support of a sustainable bioeconomy in Europe and worldwide, in line with the FOOD 2030 policy goals
- Raising awareness and exchange of knowledge across scientific and political communities, including the International Bioeconomy Forum and the general public

## RESULTS

MicrobiomeSupport has:

- developed a Microbiome Research Database containing information on networks, organisations, projects, funders, policies and strategies in the food systems microbiome research field
- published a re-visited definition of the microbiome
- defined a range of standards pertinent to microbiome research
- provided arguments for how microbiomes can be used to address global challenges
- developed a set of recommendations for novel strategic research agendas, regulations and educational programmes
- developed resources to communicate on the importance of microbiomes in the food system and beyond

## DISCUSSION

MicrobiomeSupport established a strong network of international stakeholders that work together to ensure that suitable framework conditions are established that allow the potential of the microbiomes to be fully exploited.