

QMKnowledge System

Support of SMEs and Food Chains in the efficient identification and implementation of integrated quality systems

Background

Enterprises in the agri-food sector are increasingly confronted with the need to adjust their production processes and operations to the requirements of quality systems and to integrate these requirements into their own individual integrated process management system. Integration efforts are further aggravated by correlations of quality system requirements with other process related requirements. An integrated approach is necessary for a cost effective implementation of systems.



Main Targets

The main targets of this project are the developing of a description model, which includes a benchmark of requirements of quality and environmental management systems and of occupational health systems. The correlations with cost and benefit categories is an additional target of the project and will desire a suitable cost and benefit analysis approach. Enterprises could calculate their costs and benefits before they implement a new system. Another target is the creation of approaches for specific scenarios concerning the implementation of quality systems. This part of the research takes into account the business environment and the relationships of a firm with its most important suppliers and customers and is focused on the external business processes.

Target Groups

Enterprises, quality standard designer, certification enterprises and consulting firms can profit from the advisory model. The results of this project should also be useful for ongoing research regarding the costs and benefits of standards.

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Subproject Information

Acronym	QMKnow-ledge System
Title	Support of SMEs and Food Chains in the efficient identification and implementation of integrated quality systems
Partnerregions	<p>Prof. Dr. G. Schiefer/NRW schiefer@uni-bonn.de</p> <p>Prof. Dr. J.H. Trienekens/Gelderland jacques.trienekens@wur.nl</p> <p>Françoise Molegnana/Rhône-Alpes molegnana@peacritt.fr</p> 
Duration	August 2005 – July 2007
Project approach	<p>The approach for the realization of this project was the variety of different quality standards in Europe and the number of certifications an enterprise needs for selling. Furthermore, changes in requirements on national and international level may force enterprises into a major reorganization of their internal `integrated management system` and , as a consequence, a major reorganization of processes and management approaches. Initial expectations on a simplification and unification of process related management system requirements within Europe and between the different stages of production have not been fulfilled.</p>
Expected results and outputs	<p>Output of this project will be an advisory model (data base model with computerized support) , which presents a support tool for the implementation of quality, environmental and occupational health systems into the individual integrated (process) management system`of enterprises. Additional, the data base could be a basis for a cost benefit analysis in decision situations concerning the implementation of systems. Selected scenario studies will present first specific results of costs and benefits for different stages and sectors. Another part of the project will for identify the business environments and related best practice relationship of different enterprises in the chain. Combining these two parts of the study will result in a number of practical and workable recommendations for effective quality management.</p>