QUALITY SOIL AS A PATHWAY TO HEALTHY FOOD IN THE EU – PROJECT INFORMATION

KVALITA PÔDY AKO CESTA K ZDRAVÍM POTRAVINÁM V EÚ – INFORMÁCIE O PROJEKTOCH

Zuzana BOHÁTOVÁ – Lucia PALŠOVÁ – Jarmila LAZÍKOVÁ*

Numerous studies have shown that heavy metals can accumulate in tissues, subsequently affect organ functions, and disrupt the reproductive, nervous or endocrine system. In general, heavy metal compounds are toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic, and carcinogenic in animals. They enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, or through the skin, and their presence can cause serious toxicity. Therefore, the health status in relation to xenobiotics should be monitored and explored.

There is a need to contribute to food safety, quality control and/or effects of risk factors of food chain on animal and human health status. It is necessary to foster an expertise dialogue between the crucial experts (academics, public authorities, professionals from practice) in the field of food/feed management in the EU affecting achieving the objectives of correlated EU policies and recently adopted European Green Deal. Therefore, the Institute of Law in cooperation with the Institute of Applied Biology of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra and Association of Agrarian and Environmental Lawyers organized in 2021 an International Scientific Conference with the title “Quality Soil as a Pathway to Healthy Food in the EU – Challenges to 2030”.

This event was organized in the framework of the *Jean Monnet Project “Quality Soil as a Pathway to Healthy Food in the EU”*, acronym *FOODIE*, no. 621119-EPP-1-2020-1-SK-EPPJMO-PRO-JECT. The International Scientific Conference was organized online (October 19-21, 2021) due to the ongoing pandemic situation caused by the COVID-19. In total 40 researchers, teachers, PhD. students, representatives of public authori-

ties and experts at different levels of competence in the field of food and feed management attended the conference. Participants from universities and research institutions from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and Croatia presented their research results and stimulated a rich debate on the sustainability of soil quality in the context of the EU food security, as well as on the necessary measures to guarantee sustainable agriculture and food security in the EU in the future.

Finally, the participants broadened their knowledge on the risk factors influencing soil contamination and food quality; promoted professional cooperation between the institutions in the field and agreed on further gathering knowledge and expertise and on exchanging experiences on food quality, food chain risk factors and risk assessment.

The multidisciplinary approach (political, legal, socio-economic, agrotechnical and medical) to the addressed issue was evident from the individual presentations. The discussion on the risk factors of the food chain in the EU was conducted in synergy between experts at different levels of competence (academics, public authorities and practitioners), which contributed to the next steps in environmental, food and health policy.

Although the conference took place online, its results have strengthened the cooperation between the participating experts and broadened the latest knowledge in the field. These results will be used in teaching, research and further project activities and will contribute to the development of risk as-

Abstract (EN)

Globalization and the pressure to increased industrial agriculture result in deterioration of the environment, climate change and a serious threat to human and animal health. Soil contamination affected by the environmental pollution is one of the most pressing issues in the political and expert debate on food safety within the related EU policies as Common Agricultural Policy, EU agri-environmental, EU food policy and EU health policy.

Abstrakt (SK)

Globalizácia a tlak na zvyšovanie priemyselného poľnohospodárstva majú za následok zhoršovanie životného prostredia, zmenu klímy a vážne ohrozenie zdravia ľudí a zvierat. Kontaminácia pôdy ovplyvnená znečistením životného prostredia je jednou z najpálčivejších otázok v politickej a odbornej diskusii o bezpečnosti potravín v rámci súvisiacich politík EÚ ako je Spoločná poľnohospodárska politika, agroenvironmentálna politika EÚ, potravinová politika EÚ a zdravotná politika EÚ.

Keywords (EN)

soil quality, healthy food, projects

Kľúčové slová (SK)

kvalita pôdy, zdravé potraviny, projekty

* Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

assessment of food chain aspects in the EU as well as to raising awareness of the impact of food chain risk factors (as well as processing risks) on animal and human health.

In 2021, the Institute of Law of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra also participated in the *Demand-driven Research for the Sustainable and Innovative Food, Drive4SIFood 313011V336*, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund <https://www.agrobiotech.sk/dopytovo-orientovany-vyskum-pre-udrzatelne-a-inovativne-potravinny-drive4si-food/>.

The overall goal of this project is to expand knowledge and better understand the topics in the development of quality, safe and innovative foods and their subsequent environmental and energy processing through scientific research activities.

This project focuses on research and development of innovative foods that condition sustainable health, especially in case of vulnerable groups. The tool for reflecting the requirements of the current consumer is 15 activities synthesizing a circular approach to the problem. Activity 6 focuses on the economic and legal aspects of healthy food. It is divided into five topics, the last of which deals with EU Food Law. This topic focuses on food marketing and food labeling, functional foods, foods with nutrition and health claims, novel foods, intellectual property in the food industry (trademark, inventions, designations of origin, geographical indications, traditional specialties guaranteed, designs) and food safety risk management. The realization of the project started in 2019 and will finish in 2023.

The Institute of Law in 2021 successfully finished two Jean Monnet Modules “EU Intellectual Property Law”, no. 599683-EPP-1-2018-1-SK-EPPJMO-MODULE: <https://eu-intellectual-property.webnode.sk> and “Economic and Legal Basics of Entrepreneurship in Agrifood Industry”, no. 600459-EPP-1-2018-1-SK-EPPJMO-MODULE. Both projects were realized during the period 2018-2021.

The project “Intellectual Property in the EU” focused on the creation of the course “Intellectual Property in the EU” for the Master students. It has addressed issues of copyright, industrial rights such as inventions, utility models, designs, new plant varieties, designations of origin, geographical indications, traditional specialties guaranteed and trademarks. The newly established course provides students with knowledge in the field of intellectual property, which will enable students to better understand the value of intellectual property and learn about the ways and possibilities of its legal protection in the

EU. The project published two professional monographs, The Collection of Judgements of the ECJ to the Intellectual Property and Quality Systems for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs in the EU, one scientific monograph Commentary on the Trademark Act, 6 scientific articles, 1 textbook and 1 script. An online international scientific conference was organized as part of the project, the proceedings of which is available on the project’s website.

The main objective of the project “Economic and Legal Basics of Entrepreneurship in Agri-food Industry” was to bring new view on the basic economic and legal aspects of the business within the agriculture and food industry with emphasis on the EU territory. New knowledge was gained by students across different faculties of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. There was also research conducted within the project. Different papers were published in national and international journals. During numerous activities within the project all new knowledge was composed in a new publication “Economic and legal aspects of agri-food business within the EU”. This book will be used as a teaching material for future students of the course.

All above mentioned project realized at the Institute of Law contribute to increasing the competencies of the members of the Institute, improving the quality of the teaching process, stimulating dialogue between experts from several related fields and improving international cooperation.

Contact address/ Kontaktná adresa

Ing. Zuzana Bohátová, PhD.

Centre of International Programmes,
Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development,
SUA in Nitra, Tr. A. Hlinku 2, 949 76, Nitra,
e-mail: zuzana.bohatova@uniag.sk

Doc. JUDr. Lucia Paľšová, PhD.

Institute of Law, Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development,
SUA in Nitra, Tr. A. Hlinku 2, 949 76, Nitra,
e-mail: lucia.palsova@uniag.sk

doc. JUDr. Ing. Jarmila Lazíková, PhD.

Institute of Law, Faculty of European Studies and Regional Development,
SUA in Nitra, Tr. A. Hlinku 2, 949 76, Nitra,
e-mail: jarmila.lazikova@uniag.sk