

Pre-notification for COMPARE Food Metagenomic Ring Trial

Dear Colleague,

Due to the importance of foods in the transmission of zoonotic agents, within COMPARE Task 2.7 framework a food metagenomic ring trial will be organised between **April and June, 2018**.

The **aim** of the ring trial is to compare microorganisms' identity and corresponding abundances in a food matrix tested by shotgun metagenomic sequencing.

The food matrix will be smoked salmon spiked with a mock community containing bacteria, viruses and parasites. The food matrix will be dispatched to each ring trial participant frozen, including a thermo-logger to monitor the shipping temperature.

The participation to the ring trial is **free of charge**.

The registration to the ring trial is now open and will **close on March 9th 2018**.

The ring trial consists of the following items:

ITEM 1 - QUESTIONNAIRE (deadline for submission May 9th 2018)

It is expected that each participant will enter details related to the applied procedures for shotgun metagenomic sequencing of the food matrix into an on-line questionnaire. The questions will relate to the entire workflow, from sample handling to data analysis (e.g., sample handling procedure, nucleic acid extraction and purification procedure, library-preparation protocol, shotgun metagenomic sequencing protocol, bioinformatic analysis, times and indicative costs of each part of the workflow).

ITEM 2 - WET LAB PART (deadline for submission June 15th 2018)

It is expected that each Participant will receive the spiked smoked salmon shipped from DTU on April 24th 2018, perform nucleic acid extraction and shotgun metagenomic sequencing and upload sequencing data (as fastq files) in a dedicated COMPARE data hub. Please note that for the spiked food sample a minimum sequencing yield of 7 Gbp is highly recommended.

ITEM 3 - DRY LAB PART (deadline for submission June 15th 2018)

It is expected that each participant will receive a metagenome data-file on April 24th 2018, conduct bioinformatic analysis and upload results in a dedicated COMPARE data hub.

Each participant must fill in the questionnaire (Item 1) and can decide to apply for both Item 2 (wet lab part) and Item 3 (dry lab part) or one of them.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FOOD METAGENOMIC RING TRIAL

All laboratories of the COMPARE community are invited to join the food metagenomics ring trial. Due to the limited number of spiked samples available, laboratories within COMPARE community be enrolled based on "first in first served" principle with a maximum number of participants limited to 10. In case that less than ten laboratories of the COMPARE community will sign up, the ring trial will be offered also to outside users. **If you are aware of users** in your country that might be interested to join the ring trial please let Alessandra De Cesare know.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE FOOD METAGENOMIC RING TRIAL

Please, sign up for the ring trial by e-mail to Alessandra De Cesare (alessandra.decesare@unibo.it) no later than March 9th 2018 providing the following information:

- Name of institute/organization and main contact person
- Complete mailing address for shipment of the spiked sample
- Telephone and fax number, e-mail address
- FedEx or DHL import account number (if available)
- Items of the food ring trial you plan to participate in (wet lab, dry lab or both)

If you experience any problem related to the food ring trial please contact Alessandra De Cesare

E-mail alessandra.decesare@unibo.it; Phone +39 051 2097853.

TIMELINE FOR SHIPMENT OF SPIKED SAMPLES AND DATA-FILES

The spiked smoked salmon sample for the wet lab part will be shipped from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Food) to each participant on April 24th 2018.

Within the same date, the metagenome data-file (i.e., dry lab part) to analyze will be provided to each Participant by e-mail.

To avoid delays, please send a **valid import permit** for the wet lab part to Alessandra De Cesare within **April 6th 2018 if needed**.

Please note that the participants are asked to handle the spiked samples as **urgent material** like in outbreak situations.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING RESULTS

The results for both, the wet lab part and dry lab part, must be submitted by latest **June 15th 2018** following the instructions which will be provided.

Participation is anonymous and only the ring test provider and the individual participant will know identity and results of each participant based on an assigned ID code.

An overall report summarizing all results will be included in Deliverable 2.6 expected for November 2018. Moreover, a joint publication will be eventually produced having participants as co-authors.

Deadline for sign-up for the COMPARE Food Metagenomic Ring Trial is March 9th 2018