



Newsletter No. 13

The 4th School on Pulsed Electric Field Applications in Food and Biotechnology successfully completed!

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The 4th School on Pulsed Electric Field Applications in Food and Biotechnology took place from 9-12th May 2017 at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna, Austria, and brought together 61 people enthusiastic about learning, discussing, and sharing their knowledge on PEF. 32 participants from all over Europe and beyond enjoyed the intensive four day training program. It consisted of lectures given by 12 leading international PEF experts as well as practical courses conducted by a team of 17 young researchers and students working in the field of emerging food and bioprocessing technologies.

The 4th PEF School was a joint effort between the BOKU Institute of Food Technology and the BOKU Institute for Synthetic Bioarchitectures with strong support from the Technical University Berlin, the University Ljubljana and the Masaryk University Brno as well as from the FieldFood project and EFFoST. The content of the courses was designed for both, academic and industrial researchers and the growing industrial relevance of PEF and other emerging technologies was not only reflected by a considerable number of participants from the industry but also by the support from industrial partners such as Elea, Roplass and EnergyPulse Systems.

A full day pre-event workshop on Numerical Simulation in Food and Bioprocessing gave a valuable insight into new tools for process analysis, design and optimization before the program of the PEF School started and covered all relevant areas from the basics of electroporation up to industrial applications and the legislative framework. Five practical courses on microbial inactivation and preservation by PEF, plant cell disintegration, modelling & simulation, pulse generation & equipment design, as well as emerging food processing technologies were offered each afternoon.

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Thus, participants were able to gain hands-on experience related to the theoretical insights obtained during the lectures and poster sessions in the morning. To round off the scientific agenda a diverse program of social events was organized in the evenings in order to explore the historical Vienna, the Viennese vineyards and Vienna Prater.

The event was very well perceived by the participants and provided a timely update on recent progress in research and process development. It promoted the interaction between different research groups and will further facilitate the cooperation among academic partners and between academia and industry.

I would like to thank every participant for his/her contribution and I am looking forward to next year's instalment!

The **Scientific Committee** composed of Giovanna Ferrari (Italy), Wolfgang Frey (Germany), Dietrich Knorr (Germany), Damijan Miklavčič (Slovenia), Javier Raso (Spain), Justin Teissié (France) and Stefan Töpfl (Germany) invited Henry Jäger (Austria) and James Lyng (Ireland) to become members of the Scientific Committee and they both accepted. Welcome!

Scientific Committee also accepted the offer made by Stefan Töpfl to organize the 5th PEF school by DIL (German Institute of Food Technologies) in Quakenbrück, Germany, from **May 14 – 18, 2018**.

Forthcoming events

24th International Symposium on Bioelectrochemistry and Bioenergetics of the Bioelectrochemical Society

Lyon, July 3 – 7, 2017

<http://www.bes2017.fr/>

2nd World Congress on Electroporation and Pulsed Electric Fields

Norfolk, September 24 – 28, 2017

<http://wc2017.electroporation.net>

Electroporation-Based Technologies and Treatments – EBTT

Ljubljana, November 12 – 18, 2017

<http://2017.ebtt.org>

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Group of participants in the BOKU Food Technology Pilot Plant gaining an insight into PEF inactivation trials in one of the practical courses.

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