



A workshop dedicated to the “Analysis of estrogenic endocrine disruptors in food: state-of-the-art and future trends from specific spectrometric approaches to emerging global transcriptomic approaches” was organised by the LABERCA (<http://www.laberca.org>) at the National Veterinary School of Nantes from 9th to 11th December 2008, through the continuous education structure School for Advanced Residue Analysis in Food (<http://www.saraf-educ.org>). The main objective of this workshop, was to disseminate and demonstrate to the scientific community the various developments and findings gathered on this subject within the BIOCOP integrated project (<http://www.biocop.org>) conducted in the frame of the 6th FP and coordinated by Pf. Chris Elliott (Queen’s University, Belfast). This event, also in connexion with the CASCADE network of excellence (<http://www.cascadenet.org>), gathered 16 participants from France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Italy, Hungary and Sweden. Internationally renowned speakers from the most recognised and reference experts in the field such as Pr. Niels Skakkebaek (Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark), Dr. Bernard Jegou (INSERM, Rennes, France) or Dr. Alessandra Roncaglioni (Mario Negri Institute, Milano, Italy) have first introduced the complex clinical, biological, and mechanistic aspects of this thematic, respectively. Major scientists involved in the BIOCOP project were then invited to present their own methodological developments including targeted mass spectrometric measurements for steroid hormones (Bruno Le Bizec, Frédérique Courant) or phytoestrogens (Jean-Philippe Antignac), global transcriptomic profiling applied to mycotoxins or phytoestrogens (Pf. Hanspeter Naegeli, Dr. Hans Gmuender, Dr. Katerina Lancova), and finally some preliminary results in the field of metabolomics applied to the investigation of metabolic disorders induced in animal (Dr. Gaud Pinel) or human (Dr. Frédérique Courant) consecutively to a chemical exposure. Discussions were also organised so as to encourage exchange and networking within the group. Feedback on the workshop was positive, with comments from the participants such as “All the lectures and presentations performed during the last three days were really impressive - the methods described and results of experiments performed show the huge possibilities for further work and research. I enjoyed and learned a lot from this workshop and I will use it for sure in my own project” or again “Excellent workshop - broad vision on endocrine disruptions and a lot of techniques mentioned and presented”. Time, of course, is always of the essence and some participants regretted not to have enough time for further discussions... Rather encouraging, as this topic probably has much more to reveal than was outlined in these already very busy three days.

