

RATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Risk AssessmentT InnOvation for low-risk pesticides

Potential low-risk pesticides (LRPs) of natural origin are gaining in popularity, particularly in response to the European Green Deal. However, the data requirements for the authorisation process in the European Union (EU) are broadly similar to those for synthetic pesticides, which can hinder the market entry of potential LRPs.

The EU-funded RATION project (Grant Agreement n° 101084163) aims to make a significant contribution to improving risk assessment procedures for potential naturally occurring LRPs.

Duration: From 01.11.2022 to 31.10.2026
Budget: 7€ millions 100% funded by the European Commission

Consortium: 21 beneficiaries and 1 associated partner from 10 Member States and two non-EU countries

FOCUS ON THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM (STAFO)



The StaFo is a body created during the first year of the project, it is in continuous interaction with the partners and plays several roles in the project:

- provides the consortium with information on upcoming and ongoing changes in the EU regulatory framework for LRPs, which is constantly evolving;
- identifying and highlighting, through discussion and interaction with partners, those elements of the current procedure that are not, or still are, relevant to LRP and should be retained as they are in the risk-assessment;
- provides feedback on the technical tasks and protocols established by the RATION partners;
- plays a central role in the project's communication and dissemination strategy, with its members acting as RATION ambassadors, attracting a wider audience of stakeholders;
- presents the needs and views of consumers and end-users.

The StaFo already has 70 members from academia, industry, regulatory bodies and end-users (representatives of farmers' associations) representing 17 countries.

If you would like to become a member of the RATION Stakeholder Forum, please contact the management team at rationlrp@uth.gr

Cooperation with Horizon Europe projects

A synergy was created between the three Horizon-funded projects BrightSpace, GeneBEcon and RATION. The collaboration focuses on economic modelling of the regulatory alternatives for new genomic techniques (GeneBEcon), low-risk pesticides (RATION) and their implications for the measurements of environmental and economic impacts at farm, market and sector levels (BrightSpace).

BrightSpace



BrightSpace is a European research project aiming to design effective and sustainable strategies to navigate within a safe and just operating space.

The consortium consists of 14 partners.
<https://brightspace-project.eu/>

GeneBEcon



GeneBEcon researches and innovates using new genomic techniques (NGT) to provide farmers and biobased industries with climate-friendly and less polluting agricultural and aquacultural solutions. The consortium consists of 18 partners.
<https://genebecon.eu/>

A FEW WORDS FROM THE COORDINATOR

My name is Dimitrios Karpouzas, Professor of Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology in the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of Thessaly, Greece and I am the Coordinator of the EU project RATION. I would like to welcome you to the first e-newsletter of the EU project RATION. In the project RATION academic, industrial and regulatory bodies joined forces to address the urgent need for new tools and risk assessment schemes for low risk pesticides that are currently facing major difficulties in entering the EU market due to the unjust regulatory framework used. We, as RATION, aim to develop a ready-to-implement, scientifically sound and tailored to the needs and characteristics of low risk pesticides risk assessment scheme that will be available for implementation by the European Commission.

Our ambition is that RATION will offer all the necessary tools that will unblock the potential of low-risk pesticides of biological origin to reach the EU market, and meet the expectations of the European Commission for a reduction in the use of chemical pesticides by 50% by 2030.



News from RATION

1st Birthday for RATION !

On November 2023 RATION celebrated its first year. This first year has been rich in dialogue and consolidation of the network of partners for our Stakeholder Forum, paving the way for research to flourish in the years to come.

This first celebration was preceded by our first consortium meeting in person, in Larissa (Greece), where we were able to discuss the project's progress and share our relevant updates.



2. Already two workshops for our Stakeholder Forum

To be able to accurately quantify the expectations of the different stakeholders associated with plant protection, and to be able to compare these with what will ensure that the risks of LRP are considered in a coherent way, RATION has set up a body,

called the Stakeholders Forum (StaFo).

The third StaFo workshop will be organized in March 2024, the exact dates will be announced shortly, stay tuned !

3. RATION in presentation

March 2023: The vision of RATION was presented to the 7th Meeting of the Expert Group on BioPesticides (EGBP) in the OECD headquarters in Paris.

[More information](#)

May 2023: Presentation of RATION to the members of Hellenic Crop Protection Association.

[More information](#)

August 2023: RATION, in collaboration with two other European projects (BrightSpace and GeneBEcon), took part in the pre-congress of the XVII Symposium of European Association of Agricultural Economists.

[More information](#)

October 2023: RATION and its main goals and progress were presented in the XII European Congress of Entomology.

[More information](#)

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