6th International Congress on Food Safety and Quality

„FOOD AND HEALTH“

11-14 November 2026

Hotel Omorika, Crikvenica, Croatia

FINAL PROGRAMME



ORGANISER

Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"

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Croatian Metrology Society

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Institute for Health and Food Safety, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Wednesday | 11 November 2026

11:00 - 13:00	Participant registration
13:00 - 14:30	WORKSHOP I – SENSORY PROPERTIES OF CHEESES
	Workshop leader: Assoc. Prof. Nataša Mikulec, PhD, University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture
15:00 - 16:30	WORKSHOP II – SENSORY PROPERTIES OF PROSCIUTTO WITH GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN
	Workshop leader: Sandra Petričević, PhD, Croatian Veterinary Institute, Split
17:00 - 18:30	WORKSHOP III – SENSORY PROPERTIES OF INDIGENOUS WINES
	Workshop leaders: Assoc. Prof. Natka Ćurko, PhD, Asst. Prof. Manuela Panić, PhD, University of Zagreb Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology
20:00	WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday | 12 November 2026

09:00 - 11:00	Participant registration
11:00 - 11:45	**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONGRESS**
11:45 - 12:00	PRESS STATEMENTS
	MODERATORS: *Irena Žuntar, Lea Pollak, Adela Krivohlavek*
12:00 - 12:30	PLENARY LECTURE I
	AI4Science at EFSA: Use Cases Supporting Scientific Risk Assessment | *Leonard Matijević, EFSA*
12:30 - 13:00	PLENARY LECTURE II
	Supporting Food and Feed Safety Across Europe: The Role of the European Union Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins | *Josipa Gržetić Martens, Wageningen Food Safety Research*
13:00 - 13:15	DISCUSSION
13:15 - 14:30	LUNCH BREAK

	MODERATORS: *Irena Žuntar, Lea Pollak, Adela Krivohlavek*
14:30 - 15:00	PLENARY LECTURE III
	Quality Labels of Agricultural and Food Products as a Tool for Strategic Branding of the Republic of Croatia on the International Market | *Sanja Kolarić Kravar, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*
15:00 - 15:30	PLENARY LECTURE IV
	Quo Vadis, Food Safety? | *Dražen Knežević, Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food, Centre for Food Safety*
15:30 - 16:00	PLENARY LECTURE V
	Nanoplastics in Food: Can We Measure What We Need to Regulate? | *Ivana Vinković Vrček, Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health*
16:00 - 16:15	DISCUSSION
16:15 - 16:45	COFFEE BREAK
	MODERATORS: *Irena Žuntar, Lea Pollak, Adela Krivohlavek*
16:45 - 17:15	PLENARY LECTURE VI
	Who's Eating Off Your Plate? Industry, Fear, and the Myth of Free Food Choice | *Natko Beck, HOOD – Association for Health Prevention, Promotion and Protection*
17:15 - 17:45	PLENARY LECTURE VII
	Official Controls on Food Safety Under the Competence of Sanitary Inspection: Planning, Implementation and Results | *Romana Franić, State Inspectorate of the Republic of Croatia (DIRH)*
17:45 - 18:05	INVITED LECTURE I
	Status of Monacolin K From Red Yeast Rice in Food Supplements | *Lea Pollak, Croatian Institute of Public Health*
18:05 - 18:20	DISCUSSION
18:20 - 18:50	WORKSHOP
	MDPI workshop | *Jelena Milenković, MDPI d.o.o.*
20:00	CONGRESS DINNER

Friday | 13 November 2026

MODERATORS: *Amir Ibrahimagić, Dario Lasić*

09:00 - 09:20 INVITED LECTURE II

When Sweetness Turns Bitter: Hidden Photochemical Hazards of Chlorinated Aspartame and Related Artificial Sweeteners | *Davor Šakić, University of Zagreb Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry*

09:20 - 09:35 LECTURE I

Impact of Diet on the Presence of Aflatoxin B1 in Breast Milk and Risk Assessment for Infant Health | *Amir Ibrahimagić, Institute for Health and Food Safety Zenica (INZ), Bosnia and Herzegovina*

09:35 - 09:50 LECTURE II

Ochratoxin A as a Food Contaminant: Risk Assessment for the Population of Children and Adolescents in the Republic of Croatia | *Sanja Miloš, Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food*

09:50 - 10:05 LECTURE III

What Is Hidden in Potato Tubers? | *Adela Krivohlavek, Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"*

10:05 - 10:20 LECTURE IV

Contaminant Analysis From a Laboratory Point of View: How to Obtain a Reliable Outcome? | *Ruben Thomaes, Eurofins Food & Feed Testing Netherlands*

10:20 - 10:35 LECTURE V

From Paper to Real-Time: The Digital Transformation of Food Safety and Quality Management | *Daniel Laczó, OPEX Solutions Kft., Hungary*

10:35 - 10:50 DISCUSSION

10:50 - 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

MODERATORS: *Nataša Mikulec, Gordana Jurak*

11:30 - 11:50 INVITED LECTURE III

What Lies Behind the Numbers? Long-Term Trends in Pesticide Residues in Food and Their Implications for Consumer Health | *Iva Pavlinić Prokurica, Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food*

11:50 - 12:05 LECTURE VI

Occurrence of Pesticide Residues with Obesogenic Potential in Plant-Based Food on the Slovenian Market | *Vesna Viher Hrženjak, National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia*

12:05 - 12:20 LECTURE VII

PFAS Pesticides in the Food Chain: A Food Safety Perspective | *Gordana Jurak, Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"*

12:20 - 12:35 LECTURE VIII

The Role of Veterinary Public Health in Improving the Safety of Local Food Products From Small-Scale Producers | *Majda Fetahagić, Institute for Health and Food Safety Zenica (INZ), Bosnia and Herzegovina*

12:35 - 12:50 LECTURE IX

The Innovative BSSB System for Honey Bee Survival and Sustainable Beekeeping | *Ivan Bračić, PIP d.o.o.*

12:50 - 13:00 LECTURE X

NIR Spectroscopy for Fast and Reliable Food Analysis – sponsored lecture by Primalab d.o.o. | *Andrea Gelemanović, Primalab d.o.o.*

13:00 - 13:15 DISCUSSION

13:15 - 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

MODERATORS: *Ivana Kolčić, Lidija Barušić*

15:00 - 15:20 INVITED LECTURE IV

REACH and CLP Regulations as the Basis for Regulatory Control of Hazardous Chemicals | *Ivana Vrhovac Filipović, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia*

15:20 - 15:35	LECTURE XI
	The Role of Vitamin D in Maintaining Bone Density in Women: The Importance of Diet and Supplementation in Osteoporosis Prevention | *Martina Đotlo, Institute of Public Health of Central Bosnia Canton, Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina*
15:35 - 15:50	LECTURE XII
	Sarcopenia Is Preventable by Resistance Training, a Protein Diet and Specific Supplements | *Josip Čulig, Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, Collegium of Public Health*
15:50 - 16:05	LECTURE XIII
	Challenges in the Determination of Curcumin as a Food Coloring in Potato-Based Snacks | *Iva Ladan, Croatian Institute of Public Health*
16:05 - 16:20	LECTURE XIV
	Can We Achieve Remission of Type 2 Diabetes Using the Mediterranean Diet, Physical Activity and Psychological Support? Preliminary Results of a Randomized Clinical Trial (REMeDI2ME) | *Ivana Kolčić, University of Split School of Medicine*
16:20 - 16:35	DISCUSSION
16:35 - 17:30	COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER EVALUATION
17:30 - 18:45	ROUND TABLE
	Use of Alternative Plant Proteins and the Impact of Climate Change on Dietary Habits Moderator: *Dario Lasić, PhD, Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"* Panellists: *Sofija Babić, Head of the Environmental Policy and Advocacy Programme, WWF Adria* *Assoc. Prof. Marko Obranović, PhD, Laboratory for Oil and Fat Technology, University of Zagreb Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology* *Asst. Prof. Tena Niseteo, PhD, Children's Hospital Zagreb and University of Zagreb Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology* *Vesna Viher Hrženjak, PhD, National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia*
18:45 - 19:00	BEST POSTER AWARD

Saturday | 14 November 2026

MODERATORS: *Vesna Viher Hrženjak, Nadica Maltar Strmečki*

09:00 - 09:20 INVITED LECTURE V

Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in Evaluating the Quality and Safety of Food Processed With Innovative Non-Thermal Technologies | *Nadica Maltar Strmečki, Ruđer Bošković Institute*

09:20 - 09:35 LECTURE XV

The Effectiveness of Health Counseling for People with Excess Body Weight at the Health Counseling Center of the Andrija Štampar Teaching Institute of Public Health | *Hrvoje Radašević, Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"*

09:35 - 09:50 LECTURE XVI

A Multi-Purpose Facility for Food Irradiation and Vector Insect Control: Supporting Pollinator Sustainability Under Climate Change | *Ivica Prlić, Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health*

09:50 - 10:05 LECTURE XVII

The "Živjeti zdravo" Certification Mark in the Selection of Nutritionally Superior Products | *Jasmina Hasanović, Croatian Institute of Public Health*

10:05 - 10:20 LECTURE XVIII

The Role of Standardization in Ensuring Food Safety and Quality – Responding to New Challenges | *Dražen Biošić, Croatian Standards Institute*

10:20 - 10:35 LECTURE XIX

The Importance of Self-Assessed Reasons for Placement in Long-Term Institutional Care for Preparing Menus for Older Adults in Nursing Homes | *Nada Tomasović Mrčela, Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"*

10:35 - 10:50 DISCUSSION

10:50 CLOSING OF THE CONGRESS

POSTERS

1 Sodium chloride content in meals served at a preschool institution in the city of Sombor
Nevena Ćuk, Jelena Zelić, and Dragoslava Čubrilo | Institute of Public Health, Sombor, Serbia

2 Analysis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and highly polar pesticides in milk within the EKOREG project
Marija Denžić Lugomer, Tiana Novosel, Maja Đokić, Vesna Jaki Tkalec, Sanja Furmeg, Nina Bilandžić, Ana Končurat, Željko Cvetnić, Ivana Kmetič, Teuta Murati, and Damir Pavliček | Croatian Veterinary Institute, Veterinary Institute Križevci, Križevci, Croatia

3 Population exposure to PFAS compounds through consumption of different species of marine fish
Nina Bilandžić, Ines Varga, Jelena Kaurinović, Božica Solomun Kolanović, Marija Sedak, Ivana Varenina, Maja Đokić, Bruno Čalopek, Đurđica Božić Luburić, Tanja Bogdanović, Sandra Petričević, Bosiljka Mustać, Bruna Petani, and Slavica Čolak | Croatian Veterinary Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

4 An overview of the role of inulin as a functional ingredient in maintaining gastrointestinal health
Mirjana Zukić and Daniela Čačić Kenjerić | J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Food Technology, Osijek, Croatia

5 Utilisation trends of vitamin and mineral medicinal products in Croatia 2019–2025: a national drug utilisation study
Krunoslav Peter, Željka Bažulić Štimac, and Katarina Gvozdanović | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

6 Occurrence of undeclared animal species in commercial meat products as determined by ELISA
Božica Solomun Kolanović, Ines Varga, Jelena Kaurinović, Maja Đokić, Ivana Varenina, Marija Sedak, Bruno Čalopek, and Nina Bilandžić | Croatian Veterinary Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

7 Ancient oil under modern light: photo-NMR investigation of traditional Adriatic "seawater olive oil"
Valerije Vrček, Mladen Lučin, and Robert Hadžić | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Zagreb, Croatia

8 HOCl-mediated formation of 5-chlorouracil: NMR and DFT insights connecting food chlorination chemistry with inflammatory DNA damage
Irena Žuntar, Antonio Ljulj, Lea Ulm, Adela Krivohlavek, Davor Šakić, and Valerije Vrček | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Zagreb, Croatia

9 Zero food poverty and macronutrient sufficiency through institutional social service
Alen Župan | City of Zagreb, Institution "Dobri dom", Zagreb, Croatia

10 Effect of forward osmosis dealcoholization on red wine color and anthocyanin composition
Natka Ćurko, Irena Zanini, Josip Ćurko, Filip Macner, Marin Matošić, Lucija Surać, and Karin Kovačević Ganić | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

11 Microplastics as an emerging threat to public health and water ecosystems
Sanja Bijelović, Stanka Bobić, Marija Joksimović, and Emil Živadinović | Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia

12 Fusarium mycotoxins in cereals: the safety implications of existing and new maximum levels
Nina Kudumija, Sanja Furmeg, Tina Lešić, Ana Vulić, Jelka Pleadin, and Manuela Zadravec | Croatian Veterinary Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

13 Safety aspects of mushrooms as an alternative protein source
Maja Lazarus, Antonija Sulimanec, Tatjana Orct, Andreja Jurič, Blanka Tariba Lovaković, Jasminka Senčar, Branko Petrinec, Nikica Šprem, and Ivan Širić | Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zagreb, Croatia

14 Analysis of the lifestyle habits of students in Split and Osijek
Anita Rakić[1 2], Ines Banjari[3], Marijana Mijaković[1], and Nada Rakić[4]

[1] Teaching Institute for Public Health of the Split-Dalmatia County, Split, Croatia
[2] University of Split, Faculty of Health Sciences, Split, Croatia
[3] J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Food Technology, Osijek, Croatia
[4] University of Split, School of Medicine, Split, Croatia

15 Lead exposure assessment through drinking water and food in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Amir Ibrahimagić, Dženana Hasanbašić, Nermin Imamović, Benjamin Čaušević, and Muamer Mandra | Institute for Health and Food Safety, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

16 Comparison of the composition and quality parameters of Varaždin Pumpkin Seed Oil from different certified producers
Dunja Šamec and Dragutin Vincek | University North, Varaždin, Croatia

17 The importance of extracting pyrrolizidine and tropane alkaloids from plant materials
Ana Peić, Jasna Bošnir, and Vladimira Maković | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

18 Determination of histamine in fish and canned fish products by HPLC: assessment of compliance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005
Martina Bevardi, Maja Budeč, and Jasna Bošnir | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

19 The caloric delusion: protein distribution gaps in institutionalized elderly care
Judita Grzunov Letinić[1], Jozica Raljević[1], Danijela Peroš-Pucar[1], and Zdenka Pelaić[2]

[1] Public Health Institute Zadar, Zadar, Croatia
[2] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

20 Long-term microbiological air quality in food-contact packaging manufacturing: a nine-year indoor-outdoor assessment
Ivona Majić | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

21 Is the ice in your glass microbiologically safe? A five-year analysis of ice from food service establishments
Dijana Begić Šinjori[1], Anita Ptiček Siročić[2], and Ivana Boltižar[1]

[1] Institute for Public Health of the Varaždin County, Varaždin, Croatia
[2] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering, Varaždin, Croatia

22 Monitoring the free amino acid dynamics and ripening profiles of cheese by integrated HPLC-DAD, NIR spectroscopy, and chemometrics
Snježana Kazazić[1], Nataša Mikulec[2], Jasminka Špoljarić[2], Fabijan Oštarić[2], Zoran Kiralj[1], and Jasenka Gajdoš Kljusurić[3]

[1] Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia
[2] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb, Croatia
[3] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

23 Application of single particle inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (spICP-MS) for determination of metallic nanoparticles (MNPs) in poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) for potential food contact use
Bernarda Marković, Nino Dimitrov, Ivona Vidić Štrac, Nikša Krstulović, and Rafaela Radičić | Croatian Institute of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia

24 Melissopalinological analysis of linden honey
Barbara Stjepanović and Ana Večenaj | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

25 Safety of children's products intended for food contact: monitoring results for the city of Zagreb 2025–2026
Lidija Barušić, Lidija Baričević, Željka Kuharić, Ivana Augustić, and Iva Majsak | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

26 The new HACCP system regulation: key changes and their practical significance
Robert Kecerin, Zdenko Mlinar, Ivančica Kovaček, and Vedran Prahin | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

27 Allergen management in the food industry: results and implications of VITAL 4.0 implementation and ELISA analysis
Ivana Prskalo, Dario Lasić, and Vladimira Maković | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

28 Comparison of organic and inorganic phosphorus in food products using the spectrophotometric method
Ana Novak and Željka Pavlek | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

29 Metals in food and food-contact materials – from source to consumer
Borna Čulig, Željka Kuharić, and Senka Ninković | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

30 Microplastics in honey and hive products from Croatia: occurrence, polymer composition, and particle size distribution
Vlatka Mikulec, Želimira Cvetković, Petra Besedić, and Martina Ivešić | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

31 Comparative validation of a QuEChERS-UHPLC-MS/MS method targeting 335 pesticides in pepper and dried cannabis using an Agilent 6495D
Krste Tashev, Suzana Krstevska, Simona Gorgievska, and Oliver Ivanovski | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, State Phytosanitary Laboratory, Skopje, North Macedonia

32 Potential of stable isotope analysis for geographical origin assessment, production system differentiation, and traceability of potatoes
Martina Ivešić, Adela Krivohlavek, Nataša Mikulec, Ivone Jakaša, Damir Iveković, and Milan Poljak | Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia

33 Geographical and seasonal variability of mono- and disaccharides in potato tubers cultivated in Croatia
Adela Krivohlavek[1], Martina Ivešić[1], Maja Budeč[1], Martina Bevardi[1], Nataša Mikulec[2], Ivone Jakaša[3], Damir Iveković[3], and Milan Poljak[2]

[1] Teaching Institute for Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar", Zagreb, Croatia
[2] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb, Croatia
[3] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

34 Reducing alcohol levels in wine by reverse osmosis: effects on aroma composition
Karin Kovačević Ganić, Filip Macner, Irena Zanini, Josip Ćurko, Marin Matošić, Natka Ćurko | University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia

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