European Union at Expo 2015

How can we ensure safe, nutritious, sufficient and sustainable food for all? This is the theme of Expo 2015 and an important challenge facing the European Union and the world. The EU, with its high food safety standards, its strong food industry, its ambitious research and innovation programme and its global efforts to achieve food and nutrition security has a crucial contribution to make to overcoming the related challenges. The EU aims at seizing the Expo opportunity to focus the international debate and cooperation on food issues – and to give our policy efforts in tackling them a fresh boost.

The EU at Expo 2015 – facts and figures

The EU theme is “Growing Europe’s future together for a better world”.

EU Pavilion

- 800 m² of exhibition plus offices, a conference room and a rooftop social area
- Over 800 volunteers aged 18-30, from all over the European Union

Budget

- € 12.2 million euros for the pavilion and the visitor experience
- € 1 million euros for the EU scientific programme for Expo

Events

- Over 150 scientific, public and stakeholder events organised by the European Commission, the European Parliament or the EU countries taking place in the EU Pavilion, the JRC research site in Ispra (60 kms away from Expo) and at Milan University.

Scientific component

- An EU Scientific Steering Committee has been set up for Expo 2015 to advise and encourage debate. It is composed of 11 scientists and 5 additional experts of international repute. It will oversee a series of around 30 meetings, focused on scientific aspects of the food agenda, which will take place during the 6 months of Expo.

Spreading the word

- The main attraction of the pavilion will be a short animated movie displayed through specific simulators. The story features two characters, Alex, a farmer, who falls in love with a scientist, Sylvia, under unlikely circumstances. The message of the story is about the link between human effort and science and research in overcoming the food related challenges.

Role of Joint Research Centre

The EU’s presence at Expo is coordinated by the Joint Research Centre, the European Commission’s in-house science service. Its main research site is located in Ispra, only 60 kms away from Expo and has a longstanding expertise on food-related issues, covering not only food security but also food safety.

Contacts
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The food and nutrition security global challenge

Over 800 million people face hunger in less economically developed countries while high levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases are recorded in developed countries.

Food challenge

To feed a global population of 9.2 billion people in 2050 food production must be sustainably increased by 60%.

Food security

The EU is the biggest development and humanitarian donor in the world, contributing for more than 50% of global aid to countries and people in need.

Food business

The EU is the world’s largest food exporter (20.8%) and second largest food importer (18.1%) in the food and drink industry.

Food research

The EU’s framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, invests 3.851 billion euros in research on food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime water research and the bioeconomy.

Expo Milano 2015 – facts and figures

The Expo Milano 2015 theme is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

- 20+ million expected visitors
- Over 150 countries (of which 20 EU Member States): ± 94% of the world’s population
- 1.1 million m² of exhibition area (over 150 football fields)
- 53 national pavilions
- 9 clusters based on common themes or food groups
- 10,000 volunteers, 31 languages

1 May - 31 October, Milano 2015

Did you know that?

- The first participation of European Institutions to a World Expo dates back to Brussels 1958, when it was still the European Coal and Steel Community, followed by the pavilion of the European Economic Community at Seattle 1962.
- The last EU participation in a world Expo was in Shanghai in 2010.
- The last world fair held in Milan dates back to 1906 and was dedicated to transportation.
- This is the first time in 15 years that the Expo takes place in Europe.

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Europe as you’ve never experienced it before!