

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. 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. 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.

Food challenge

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

Food security

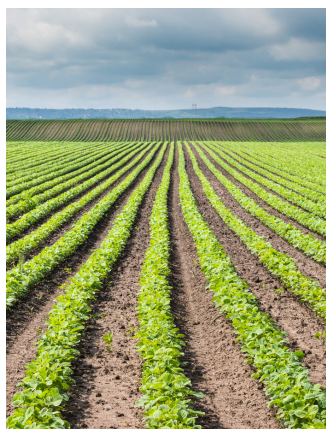
 The EU is the biggest development and humanitarian donor in the world, contributing for more than **50% of global aid** to countries and people in need.

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 **EUR 3.851 billion in research** on food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime water research and the bioeconomy.



Role of the 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 km away from Expo and has a longstanding expertise on food-related issues, covering not only food security but also food safety. Expo visitors are welcome to visit the JRC research site in Ispra. Details are available on the EU at Expo website.

Contacts

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Official Participant

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


 **EUR 12.2 million** for the pavilion and the visitor experience

 **EUR 1 million** 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 km 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**.



Expo Milano 2015 at a glance

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**

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.