

Dr. Laurence Moreau
Project Officer,
European Commission,
DG RTD - Unit E3 - Food - Health -Well-being,
SDME 02/97,
B-1049 Brussels,
Belgium.

3rd March 2010

Dear Dr. Moreau,

Request for extension of Contract FP7 KBBE-213178-VITAL

Following the recommendations of the external expert reviewers in their Technical Review Report, on behalf of the VITAL Consortium I would like to request that the duration of the project be extended by 6 months, from 1st April until September 30th 2011.

The benefits to the project of the requested extension are:

- 1) Completion of Workpackages 2, 3 and 4. There was an unforeseen delay in the commencement of the actual data-gathering within these WPs. This was due to the unavailability of the CEN standard methods which we originally intended to use for data-gathering (these not having been fully developed by the CEN group at that stage). VITAL therefore had to develop its own methods, and test them in ring trials. The extension will thus allow the analysis of the samples to be extended to fully make up for the delay caused by the development of the methods.
- 2) Completion of WP5. The delay in the commencement of the data-gathering has a “domino effect”, since the gathered data needs to be analysed within WP5. The proposed request will allow that to be effectively performed within a reasonable timescale.
- 3) Facilitation of the fact-finding missions within WP6. The fact-finding missions have proven to be very complex to organise, with considerable pressure on the fact-finding team to arrange convenient timescales to travel to the various premises within each food supply chains in the various countries. The extension would allow the fact-finding team to organise a practical and work / life balance-oriented schedule of visits for the remainder of the project.

- 4) Delivery of increased impact within WP7. The reviewers emphasised within the Technical Review the importance and value of VITAL's outcomes to a wide range of stakeholders and end-users. A major dissemination activity of VITAL will be the Symposium, workshop and training courses. An extension of the project through the Summer of 2011 will allow these conferences to be held during a season in which increased participation by external scientists and stakeholders is likely. The extension will also allow time for the possibility of a joint meeting with other projects and in collaboration with scientific societies to be realistically explored.

It is recognised that any requested extension would not be given additional funding. This has been fully considered within the project. The extension would however entail a small amount of extra management activity by the Core Administration Team, and a levy of 0.1059% from each beneficiary to fund this activity within the Coordinating institute has been agreed by the Consortium.

I attach a revised Description of Work which is based on an extended project timescale.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Nigel Cook
VITAL Coordinator