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Current state of Biotechnology and The European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA)

The last century is called the 'golden age' of biotechnology and its branches. Biotechnology is the combination of modern technologies and science to living organisms or biological systems, in order to develop new products and/or to change existing processes for specific uses. The largest biotech market in the world is the U.S. followed by the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. Red biotechnology accounts for more than half of the world's production with green biotechnology accounting for 12% and the rest as white biotechnology. The biotechnology industry has become such an important sector nowadays with its global value estimated more than 500 billion dollars. In comparison, its global value was only 54 billion dollars in 1999 and 101 billion dollars in 2003. Among European Union Countries; the United Kingdom, Germany, and France invest the most in research in the biotechnology industry. In other parts of the world, Japan, Israel, and Brazil are noticeable as countries accelerating their investments in biotechnology. In addition, India has especially developed research environments in the field of biotechnology. The European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA) has as its main characteristic the symbiosis between science, education and the biotechnological industry. The Association is the leading organization of biotechnology professionals in Europe and marks its 16th year by now.

The aims of the Association are to:

- implement, consult or supervise programs for the assessment of skills and knowledge in sciences with an emphasis on biotechnology,
- undertake programs concerning education and training, especially those concerning innovative approaches,
- operate as a consultant or assessor in programs concerning education and training,
- provide certification of achievement when assessments have been carried out under appropriate conditions,
- co-operate with established professional or other associations in the furtherance of its objectives,
- extend the reach of all aspects of education in biotechnology beyond national, European and other borders.

The partners of the Association have an opportunity to do collaboration with different disciplines and groups of biotechnology in the worldwide for a long time within Thematic Network projects. These projects were intended to create a network of universities in order to analyze and discuss the formation of students. Many networks are created in scientific and humanistic disciplines.

Biotechnology can provide many benefits for mankind, but there should be ethical considerations as well as educate the general public in order to be aware of the positive and negative aspects of biotechnology.

Biography

Munis Dunder was born in 1961. He graduated from Faculty of Medicine, Erciyes University (Turkey) in 1985. He obtained his Ph.D in Genetics from the Glasgow University (UK) in 1994 and M.D in Clinical Genetics in Faculty of Medicine, Osmangazi University (Turkey). He is president of the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA). He is a board of the European Predictive, Preventive and Personalized Medicine Association (EPMA) and EPMA Journal. He has published more than 60 papers in reputed journals.

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