



## ***BTSF – CRISIS AND FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS MANAGEMENT***

### **Notification To Competent Authorities**

Organisation and implementation of training activities on preparedness and management of food-borne outbreaks in the EU under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative

#### **Objectives of the proposed training and goals to be reached**

A food crisis can have severe impacts on health, it may also cause social alarm and generate a negative impact on economic operators. It is therefore vital that, before it occurs, agreed procedures are in place to ensure optimal management, guarantee minimal damage and provide adequate and clear information to consumers and other stakeholders.

Experience has been gained from a number of multinational foodborne outbreaks, such as the 2011 STEC outbreak in sprouts. As pointed out by the lessons learned from the 2011 outbreak ("Commission Staff Working Document SANCO/13004/2011"), a crisis can have a high economic impact and, in order to reduce such impact, prevention plays an important role. Therefore, taking into account the Commission's priority on growth and employment, further to improve procedures for crisis management, more focus should also be given to outbreak preparedness, which would enable preventing or limiting the extent of an outbreak. Preparedness and response planning is an essential element for effective monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health.

The present training proposal will address issues listed above through the adoption of a practical approach, aimed to increase knowledge of Competent Authorities and field inspectors on preparedness and management on foodborne outbreaks, in order to increase the level of expertise and harmonisation.

It should further be considered that food-borne outbreak management, investigation and reporting require a multidisciplinary approach at local, national and, if multinational, European and international level and between public and veterinary/food safety authorities. The inter-sectoral approach includes food, feed and human health aspects and it is important to ensure the interoperability between human health and veterinary sectors for preparedness and response planning. **To facilitate the multidisciplinary collaboration, invited countries will be requested to select on the specific training sessions two officials coming respectively from the public health authorities and the veterinary/food safety authorities.**



### **General training objective**

The training program will aim at disseminating best practices for the multidisciplinary management, investigation and reporting of food-borne outbreaks, improving knowledge of this complex area of work and ensuring consistent and high implementation standards across the Union.

### **Specific objectives:**

- Stress the importance of preparedness for foodborne outbreaks and to improve outbreak preparedness
- Further improve procedures for crisis management
- Disseminate best practices for communication in case of crisis
- Promote exchange of experience in order to increase the level of expertise and harmonisation in the management of foodborne outbreaks
- Promote the establishment of effective surveillance systems for the early detection of foodborne outbreaks
- Strengthen investigation and reporting of national and multinational food-borne outbreaks

The training will be addressed both to officials from public health authorities and veterinary/food safety authorities of the Member States, EEA/EFTA countries and European Union candidate and potential candidate countries involved in food-borne outbreak investigation.

### **Main topics that will be addressed:**

- Outbreak/crisis preparedness and investigation: organisation of intersectoral preparedness exercises, development of outbreak management plan and crisis networks, setting up tracing investigation in practice;
- Organisation of rapid outbreak assessment;
- Outbreak and crisis management: standard operational procedures, use of EWRS, EPIS and RASFF and similar alert and reporting systems at national level, coordination, contingency plans;
- Elements of food- and waterborne disease (FWD) outbreaks: epidemiology, case definition, microbiology and food safety aspects;
- Practical application of analytical epidemiological methods and other tools for food-borne investigation: surveillance systems, tracing back and forward investigations, cohort studies, case-control studies, role of molecular typing;
- Crisis communication, including communication during the uncertainty phase of an event and to major trade partners;
- The organisation of simulation exercises, including a complex tracing investigation of food and feed multinational incidents

### **Training agenda**

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The training will be organised over 4 days and it will be designed in the following way: opening introductory session in the afternoon on the day of arrival, two full day sessions and a session in the morning on the final day.

The final agenda will be circulated in due course.

### Courses, locations and allocations of seats

Ten four-day training courses will be delivered between January 2018 and June 2019.

The dates and locations of the training sessions are the following:

*Training sessions: dates and locations*

Year	Training session	Tentative dates	City
2018	1	30 January - 02 February 2018	Barcelona (Spain)
	2	05-08 March 2018	Bologna (Italy)
	3	17-20 April 2018	Riga (Latvia)
	4	19-22 June 2018	Voorschoten (The Netherlands)
	5	11-14 September 2018	Voorschoten (The Netherlands)
	6	20-23 November 2018	Barcelona (Spain)
2019	7	15-18 January 2019	Barcelona (Spain)
	8	05-08 March 2019	Bologna (Italy)
	9	07-10 May 2019	Riga (Latvia)
	10	18-21 June 2019	Riga (Latvia)

The attendance will be approximately 30 people for each session. As specified, the courses will be offered to officials from public health authorities and veterinary/food safety authorities of the Member States, EEA/EFTA countries and European Union candidate and potential candidate countries. **It's again highlighted that each invited country on the different training sessions will be requested to select two officials coming respectively from each of the above-mentioned authority.**

Quotas of allocated seats will be according to table below:

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	Country	Suggested Allocation	Country	Suggested Allocation
<b>Member States</b>	Austria	8	Italy	20
	Belgium	8	Latvia	8
	Bulgaria	6	Lithuania	6
	Croatia	6	Luxembourg	2
	Cyprus	4	Malta	4
	Czech Republic	8	Netherlands	10
	Denmark	8	Poland	10
	Estonia	6	Portugal	8
	Finland	6	Romania	8
	France	20	Slovakia	6
	Germany	20	Slovenia	6
	Greece	8	Spain	20
	Hungary	8	Sweden	8
	Ireland	8	United Kingdom	20
	<b>Total MS</b>			<b>260</b>
	<b>Candidate Countries</b>		Albania	2
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia			6	
Montenegro			2	
Serbia			6	
Turkey			4	
		<b>Total Candidate</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Global participation Member States and Candidate Countries</b>			<b>280</b>	
<b>EFTA Countries</b>		Iceland	4	
		Norway	4	
		Switzerland	4	
		Liechtenstein	2	
		<b>Total EFTA</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>Potential Candidate Countries</b>		Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	
		Kosovo	2	
		<b>Total Potential</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</b>			<b>300</b>	

In addition to the numbers indicated above, each country will be requested to indicate additional participants for a reserve list to be used should one or more countries not meet the proposed quota.

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For logistic organisational reasons, it is kindly requested that names of participants shall be communicated at the latest within 30 days from each workshop. A reminder will be sent to NCPs before each event.

Participants will arrive at the training venues on Tuesday morning and training will commence on Tuesday afternoon (depending on travel connections, participants may be requested to arrive at the training venues on Monday evening). Return travel will be on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning according to flight connections. The sole exception is represented by training session 2: participants will arrive on Monday morning, with training beginning on Monday afternoon and they will travel back on Thursday afternoon.

### Participants' profile

The proposal of OPERA will aim at disseminating best practices for the multidisciplinary management, investigation and reporting of food-borne outbreaks, improving knowledge of this complex area of work and ensuring consistent and high implementation standards across the Union. To ensure a properly targeted selection of participants, relevant selection criteria are enclosed here below.

#### Selection criteria for regular participants

<b>Minimum requirements</b> (participants who do not meet the minimum requirements should not be proposed for the training and should not be evaluated according to the selection criteria listed below)		
Minimum 3 years of professional experience in public health sector or official control on food safety		Yes/No
Competent authority responsible for investigation and/or management of foodborne outbreaks		Yes/No
<b>Evaluation criteria</b>		<b>Max. score</b>
1)	Professional experience in public health or official control on food safety <i>Scoring</i> less than 3 years = 0 points; ≥ 3 years = 5 points; 5 - 10 years = 10 points; > 10 years 12.5 = points	12.5
2)	Experience in foodborne outbreak investigation and/or management <i>Scoring</i> no experience = 0 points; < 2 years = 5 points; 2-5 years = 10 points; > 5 years = 12.5 points	12.5
3)	Experience in surveillance systems to early detect foodborne outbreaks <i>Scoring</i> no experience = 0 points; < 3 years = 5 points; 3-6 years = 10 points; > 6 years = 12.5 points)	12.5
4)	Experience in traceability investigation <i>Scoring</i> no experience = 0 points; < 2 years = 5 points; 2-4 years = 10 points; > 4 years = 12.5 points	12.5
<b>Maximum total score</b>		<b>50</b>

As concerns the Evaluation Criteria, these should be used as a tool to rank participants according to priority (where higher scoring indicates higher priority) but there is no expected minimum scoring to be met with.

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**Participants will be requested to commit themselves to disseminate the knowledge received via different dissemination methods**, i.e. informing colleagues about the information received at the training, distributing (photocopying or sending via electronic way) the training materials among their colleagues, preparing informative articles in the professional national journals or preparing presentations based on the training materials for the staff of national Competent Authorities or other disseminating methods which could be appropriate to share the information received via the BTSF training. During the course participants will be provided with a training package to be used as supporting dissemination material.

#### Dissemination questionnaire

Between two to three months after the respective training session, participants will receive a standard questionnaire requesting information of dissemination activities performed by the participant after the workshop and details on differences in the approach adopted in day-to-day work after having undergone the training.

#### Self-assessment test

Furthermore, selected participants should be informed that the program will include an anonymous knowledge test to be carried out at the beginning and at the end of each training session in order to measure the impact of the training on the understanding of the taught subjects by participants.

Participants are expected to agree to carry out the above tests and to reply to the questionnaire.

### **Project Management**

The project is managed by OPERA Srl.

Project Manager is Claudio BOMPARD.

Training Coordinator is Alberto MANCUSO.

Separate notifications will be sent to NCPs for each course and will contain the names and contact details of the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager as also logistical details on the event.

All official communication between NCPs and the project will be maintained through the functional e-mail [20169609foodborneoutbreaks@btsftraining.com](mailto:20169609foodborneoutbreaks@btsftraining.com) or phone to + 39 06 96042652.

Booking of flights and other logistical arrangements will be handled by OPERA staff. Contacts of relevant staff members involved will be supplied to the participants.

The project website is [www.btsftraining.com/btsf-foodborne-outbreaks-management](http://www.btsftraining.com/btsf-foodborne-outbreaks-management) and will be regularly updated with details of forthcoming courses.