



INVITATION LETTER

Training courses on Plant Protection Products

This training is implemented by the TrainSaferFood consortium.





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1. Introduction

Dear National Contact Point,

As part of the Better Training for Safer Food initiative, the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency is organizing and implementing a 24-month training programme with the objective to support the sustainable use of plant protection products in the EU. The training is mainly to be held for officials from EU Member States (MS), a limited number of participants from non-EU countries from potential candidate countries (CC), and participants from EFTA/EEA countries under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' Initiative.

The aim of the training is to provide an updated knowledge platform to MS appointed participants who will be dealing with activities related to the training of users and traders/distributors of plant protection products in compliance with Article 5 and 6 and Annex I of Directive 2009/128/EC, following a "train the trainer" approach.

Consequently, the training will be focused on Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of plant protection products (SUD). Related legislation, in particular Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, will be considered where relevant.

The SUD aims at reducing the risks associated with the use of plant protection products, by ensuring better training and theoretical knowledge as well as upgrading of professional skills of plant protection product users, including the selection, calibration and maintenance of plant protection product application equipment and development of integrated pest management schemes.

Another objective of Directive 2009/128/EC is also to achieve the sustainable use of plant protection products by promoting among others the use of IPM and of alternatives approaches or techniques.



1.1 Overall educational project objective

The purpose of the program is aimed to the provision of training and knowledge on the topics required under Directive 2009/128/EC, where Member States shall ensure that all professional users and distributors have access to appropriate training systems provided by bodies designated by the competent authorities.

For this reason, each course is divided in three modules: the legal requirements, the safe use and environmental aspects and sustainable use of PPPs.

1.2 Overall project objective

The purpose of this project is to provide training to individuals who are responsible for the delivery of subsequent courses to professional users, retailers and distributors.

The focus of the course is therefore on ensuring that participants depart with a very practical understanding of how requirements of relevant rules should be applied within the professional sphere. In particular, the programme of the training will deepen all the subjects included in the Annex I of Directive 2009/128/EC targeting them to the different types of audience, which later the trainers will have to address. This focus will ensure that follow up trainings targeting users, distributors and retailers are valued by them, therefore increasing awareness and knowledge on the relevant topics.

The workshops should “improve the harmonization of training programmes between Member States”. All Member States (and third countries) will have developed individual training programmes which will have respected EC Directives and Regulations but which are also affected by historical and cultural factors and by national and regional priorities. This national or regional level approach supports the concentration of resources on priority issues and this ensures that training is highly relevant to users and is therefore valued by them.

It is equally important that the national and regional training programmes are developed with a common understanding of the EC legislative and regulatory framework and that all such programmes reflect a harmonised approach to the use, distribution and retail of PPPs. The exchange of information among the participants and use of good practice from other Member States will also enrich training activities and support the recognition of training certificates from other countries.

Delegates will need to build confidence and understanding of possible different approaches to the implementation of PPPs and IPM provisions but also how these individual systems align with EU requirements and ensure harmonised implementation across Member States and their trading partners.



2. Selection criteria

The trainees should have the required **technical skills related to plant protection products and agronomic practices as well as fluency in English.**

In addition they should be professionally involved in activities related to the sustainable use of pesticides, in particular training activities under the SUD. It should be clear from their background and professional skills that the participation in the training activity will be a key element for the improvement of their daily work.

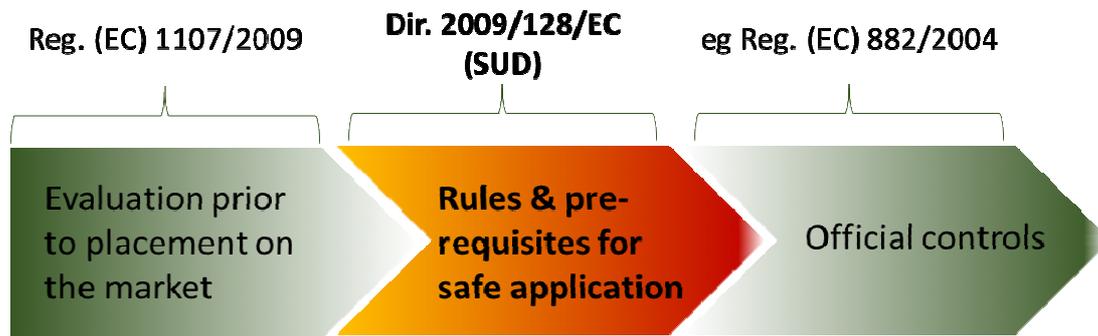
The participants will be requested to commit themselves **to disseminate** the knowledge received via different dissemination methods i.e. informing colleagues about the information received at the training, distributing (photocopying or sending via electronic way) the training material among their colleagues, preparing informative articles in the professional national or, if possible, in international journals, preparing presentations based on the training material for the National Competent authorities' professional trainings or other dissemination methods which could be appropriate to share the information received via the BTSF trainings.

Participants are preferred to have related competence by means of at least two years of professional experience in topics related to SUD articles or a University of Technological Education degree in agronomic or related sciences.

ToR concerning the targeted audience

European legislation has so far focused on the rules governing plant protection products and their active substances authorization prior to their placement on the market, as described in Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 and on the post registration issues such as controls on plant protection products and residue monitoring. Consequently, all training activities on food safety issues have so far been organized and implemented to cover the respective pieces of European legislation.

The novelty that the Directive (EC) 128/2009, the 'so-called' Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) brings in the European regulatory framework related to plant protection products (see scheme below), is that it focuses on their use phase, establishing the framework to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting, between other issues, the use of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.



The SUD in the European Regulatory framework for ppp's

This project "Towards the sustainable use of plant protection products" aims to provide specific training under the scope of the SUD and in particular taking into account the provisions of article 5 where MS have to grant that all professional users and distributors have access to appropriate training by bodies designated by competent authorities. Further, according to article 6, the sale of plant protection products restricted for professional uses shall be restricted to persons holding a training certificate by 26 November 2015 and all distributors will have to ensure sufficient staff holding a training certificate to be available at time of sale. The SUD focuses on the field application of pesticides and the identification of the general rules and prerequisites for their safe application for human health and the environment, as well as the site specific prerequisites for the continuation of their use, and ultimately the continuation of the sustainability of primary production. Subjects to be addressed in training programmes are defined in its annex I.

Thus, the forefront of this educational program compared to previous training activities is that it will provide the necessary knowledge on the needs and practices directly related to the use phase of plant protection products (e.g. application on the fields or greenhouses) to those officials involved in training the professional users and distributors on plant protection products. It is beyond doubt that a key component of this project is to improve the spreading of knowledge and awareness of the key provisions of the SUD.



3. Practical Arrangements

In total we will organize 14 training courses in three different locations:

5 in Berlin (Germany), 5 in Lisbon (Portugal) and 4 in Athens (Greece)

Our team will take care of all logistics such as: booking flights and hotels, meals and local transportations.

All costs related to logistics will be covered by our company.

Please note that any extra costs (mini-bar, phone calls and extra beverages in or outside of the hotel) will be at the participant own charge.

3.1 Timing of training courses

The dates proposed for the Training courses (see below) have been chosen to avoid conflict with the main technical and regulatory committee meetings and holiday periods during 2014-2015.

Training Course	Location	Dates
1	Lisbon	16-19 Feb 2015
2	Lisbon	09-12 Mar 2015
3	Berlin	11-14 May 2015
4	Athens	22-25 Jun 2015
5	Berlin	07-09 Sep 2015
6	Athens	12-15 Oct 2015
7	Berlin	09-12 Nov 2015



8	Lisbon	25-28 Jan 2016
9	Athens	07-10 Mar 2016
10	Berlin	11-14 Apr 2016
11	Lisbon	09-12 May 2016
12	Athens	30 May-02 Jun 2016
13	Lisbon	27-30 Jun 2016
14	Berlin	29 Aug-01 Sep 2016



3.2 Locations of training courses

3.2.1 LISBON

In Lisbon we have selected Novotel Lisbon for the for the accommodation, meals and training venue.

The hotel is located in the city of Lisbon, just 10 minutes' walk from Lisbon's historical city center.

Totally renovated, it is ideal for business meetings, offering 10 spacious meeting rooms. The Novotel Lisbon hotel also has a swimming pool, fitness center, restaurant, bar and garage.

All rooms are modern, spacious and equipped with: shower, WC, hairdryer, telephone, cable TV, mini bar, Wi-Fi connection.

The conference room selected is a first-class, fully air-conditioned event room, featuring modern conference technology, including projector, laptop (connected to Internet), flipchart, whiteboard, laser pointer and free WLAN for the participants.





3.2.2 BERLIN

In Berlin we have selected the NH Alexanderplatz.

It is located in the city center and participants have easy access to all of the sights and attractions of Berlin. Alexanderplatz hosts Berlin's famous television tower and the shopping of Alexa. And nearby, the beautiful urban oasis Volkspark Friedrichshain with green paths tempts joggers and sightseers.

The conference facilities at the NH Berlin Alexanderplatz provide a sophisticated space for this type of event. For refreshments, lunches and dinners, there is a very nice and airy restaurant with its elegant summer terrace. Rooms are modern and fully equipped.

The NH Berlin Alexanderplatz hotel has also a nice wellness area including a sauna and steam bath.



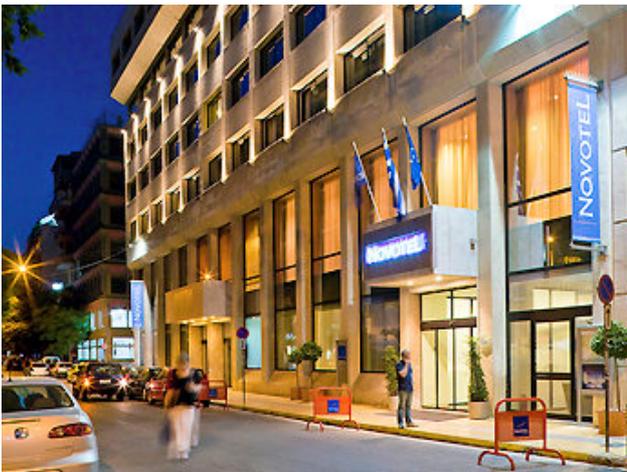


3.2.3 ATHENS

In Athens we have selected the Novotel.

This 4 star hotel in the centre of Athens is close to Omonia Square, Larissis station and the National Museum.

All rooms are modern, spacious, with King bed, en suite bath/shower, large ergonomic work area, 26" LCD TV with pay movies and internet access, broadband connection, hair dryer, minibar, tea/coffee. The conference facilities at the Novotel provide a professional daily-light space for this type of events (8 rooms, audio and video equipment, podium, syndicate rooms, overhead projector Air-conditioned meeting room, WIFI wireless internet access, high speed transmission line, etc etc). Novotel has also a nice swimming-pool and a fitness center.





4. Invitation of your Country

The Chafea wishes to invite participants from your country to attend sessions as indicated in the table received in the **Annex – quota**.

However, **do not hesitate to send us additional applications**, which would be placed on a reserve list for each session. Should there be any availability, we would inform the National Contact Point at least three weeks before the training session.

As much as possible, do not hesitate to send us registration forms before the indicated deadline.

The earlier participants are registered, the easier it is then to carry out the organisation of the session

5. Registration Procedure

Please register via the website of TrainSaferFood: www.TrainSaferFood.eu

Click on the green button “Register here” and select the link corresponding to the training course you would like to register the participant.

As a login, please use the

username: tsfcontactpoint and the **password: x15z25@tsf**.



6. Learning objectives and agenda

Each course is divided in three modules: the legal requirements, the safe use and environmental aspects and safe use of PPPs.

Legal requirements

- Relevant EU-legislation regarding plant protection products and their use
- General principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as new legal requirement (ref. Article 55 of Regulation 1107/2009 and Annex III of Directive 2009/128/EC);
- Record keeping of professional use of plant protection products, in accordance with the relevant legislation (Article 67 of Regulation 1107/2009);
- New requirements for plant protection product application equipment (Article 8 of Directive 2009/128/EC) including for instance in particular the relevant new standards for inspections (ISO 16122 series);
- Hazards and risks associated with plant protection products, how to identify and control such risks when taking the decision which PPP to apply, how to interpret labeling of PPPs;
- Risk of illegal plant protection products.

Safe use

- Safe working practices for storing, transporting, handling and mixing of plant protection products. Safe disposing of empty packaging and of surplus of plant protection products (including tank mixes);
- Guidance for interpretation of label requirements (including also specific Regulation 547/2011 on labelling of plant protection products);
- Minimising operator exposure and appropriate use of specific personal protection equipment (PPE), update on available PPE, new machinery requirements, and other risk mitigation measures for different needs;
- Use of plant protection product application equipment (e.g. sprayers, including hand-held equipment) and its maintenance, required technical checks of sprayers, ways to improve spray quality. Consideration of available and new standards for machinery inspection;
- Preparing plant protection product application equipment for work, including calibration, and operation with minimum risks;



- Emergency actions to protect human health and/or the environment, e.g. in case of accidental spillage, contamination, or extreme weather events that would result in plant protection product leaching or run-off risks;
- How to reduce potential risks to bystanders or residents;
- Responsibility of professional users, first aid measures in case of acute poisoning, and report of incidents.

Environmental aspects and sustainable use of PPPs

- Basics of integrated pest management (IPM), integrated crop management strategies and techniques, organic farming principles, biological pest control methods including examples of available low-chemical input alternatives;
- General principles on IPM, crop or sector-specific guidelines for IPM and/or integrated production;
- Decision support schemes for IPM;
- Comparative assessment of plant protection products at user level to choose the plant protection products with the least side effects taking into account the local variables such as climate, soil and crop types, and relieves;
- Risk mitigation measures such as buffer zones for water protection, specific spraying techniques (e.g. low-volume spraying, low-drift nozzles, dust reducing sowing equipment), etc;
- Technical check of sprayers, calibration of plant protection product application equipment, ways to improve application quality (sprayers; sowing of treated seeds, etc);
- Special care in protection areas established under Articles 6 and 7 of Directive 2000/60/EC.

The above content of training courses can differentiate upon the needs of the participants expressed in the questionnaires. The final aim is the participants along with the tutors will contribute each others' learning.



**Training course
On
Plant Protection Products**



Day 1

Time	Session Title	Session objectives	Learning tool	Tutor(s)
15:00-15:15	Welcome and Introduction	Welcome of trainees and registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address and presentation of tutors 		All tutors
15:15-16:00	BTSF Programme	Introduction of the BTSF programme and the course : "Towards a sustainable use of plant protection products" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video on Better Training for Safer Food Presentation of the program and visits 		All tutors
16:00-16:30	Icebreaker (group exercise)	Presentation of participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentation of each participant Break up into small groups and discussion of participants' role and professional background, expectations from the workshop 		All tutors
16:30-17:00	Introduction to EU legislation regarding plant protection products and their use	An introduction to organization and implementation of training activities on the sustainable use of plant protection products in compliance with provisions of Directive 2009/128/EC.	Presentation	TC D. Vlachos
Coffee break				
17:15-18:00	Lecture 1	Legal requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions of SUD on training and certification of knowledge on sustainable use of plant protection products and prohibitions of sale New requirements for PPPs application equipment; Implementation of SUD in EU Member States (training programs, checklists and tests) Legislative framework, identification and risks of illegal plant protection products 	Presentation and case studies	TC D. Vlachos
18:00-18:45	Workshop 1	Discussion on the different national legal requirements for Sustainable Use of plant protection products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will be organized in working groups based on level of expertise of the Country represented in the course Tutors and participants will discuss on how training certification systems are organized in their countries, how initial and additional training is 	Workshop	All tutors



		<p>planned and targeted for the different audiences (users and distributors) taking into account subjects listed in annex I of Directive 2009/128 etc..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how IPM is applied in their countries in terms of availability of IPM training, of IPM official guidelines, of decision support systems and of advisory services with objective to identify best practices of divulgation of IPM to users/salers during training sessions ▪ Participants will explain their expectations for the training. ▪ 		
18:45-19:30	Reporting back to the plenary Questions and Answers	<p>Presentation of the findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the information discussed within the different working groups ▪ The leader of each group will present the key issues on a board for a better understanding ▪ Summary of the different points of view 	Workshop	All tutors



Day 2

9:00-9:30	Lecture 2	<p>Safe use – Identification of hazards and risks to humans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hazards and Risks to humans: operators, residents, bystanders, people entering treated areas and those handling or eating treated items; ▪ Interpretation of label with focus on product classification, PPE, first aid measures. 	Presentation and case studies	K. Machera
9:30-10:00	Lecture 3	<p>Safe use – Measures to minimize risks to humans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimizing operator exposure <i>via</i> appropriate use of specific personal protection equipment (PPE) and application practices; ▪ Safe working practices for storing, transporting, handling and mixing of PPPs; ▪ Safe disposal of empty packaging and of surplus of PPPs 	Presentation and case studies	D. Nikolopoulou
10:00-11:00	Workshop 2	<p>Discussions on working groups moderated by the tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical exercises prepared by the tutor ▪ Divide the delegates into working groups to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how it is carried out in each country - What guidance is given by the competent authorities and what control measures are taken. 	Workshop	D. Nikolopoulou (Assistance of all other tutors)
Coffee break				
11:15-11:45	Reporting back to the plenary Questions and Answers	<p>Presentation of the findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the information discussed within the different working groups ▪ The leader of each group will present the key issues on a board for a better understanding ▪ Summary of the different points of view 	Workshop	All tutors
11:45-12:45	Case study 1	<p>Training activities applied for safe working practices</p>	Workshop	K. Machera (Assistance of all other tutors)
Lunch break				
13:45-14:30	Lecture 4	<p>Safe use – application equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of plant protection product application equipment (e.g. sprayers, including hand-held equipment) and its maintenance, required technical checks of sprayers, 	Presentation and case studies	M. Vlachogiannis



		<p>ways to improve spray quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration of available and new standards for machinery inspection; ▪ Preparing plant protection product application equipment for work, including calibration, and operation with minimum risks; ▪ Technical check of sprayers, calibration of plant protection product application equipment, ways to improve application quality (sprayers; sowing of treated seeds, etc); 		
14:30-15:00	Workshop 3	<p>Discussions on working groups moderated by the tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical exercises prepared by the tutor ▪ Divide the delegates into working groups to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how it's carried out in each country - What guidance is given by the competent authorities and what control measures are taken. 	Workshop	M. Vlachogiannis (Assistance of all other tutors)
15:00-15:45	Reporting back to the plenary Questions and Answers	<p>Presentation of the findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the information discussed within the different working groups ▪ The leader of each group will present the information on a board for a better understanding ▪ Summary of the different points of view 	Workshop	All tutors
Coffee break				
16:00-16:30	Lecture 5	<p>Environmental aspects and sustainable use of PPPs: Drift</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risks to non-target plants, beneficial insects, wildlife, biodiversity and the environment in general; ▪ Risk mitigation measures such as buffer zones for water protection, specific spraying techniques (e.g. low-volume spraying, low-drift nozzles, dust reducing sowing equipment), etc; ▪ Drift reduction strategy 	Presentation and case studies	R. Glass
16:30-18:00	Case study 2	Network platform of certain multi-choice questions randomly selected, as a model for the certification of trainers	Workshop	R. Glass (Assistance of all other tutors)

Day 3



9:00-9:30	Lecture 6	<p>Environmental aspects and sustainable use of PPPs: IPM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basics of integrated pest management (IPM), integrated crop management strategies and techniques, organic farming principles, biological pest control methods including examples of available low-chemical input alternatives; ▪ General principles on IPM, crop or sector-specific guidelines for IPM and/or integrated production; ▪ Record keeping of professional use of PPPs ▪ Decision support schemes for IPM. 	Presentation and case studies	P. Mylonas
9:30-10:30	Workshop 4	<p>Discussions on working groups moderated by the tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical exercises prepared by the tutor ▪ Divide the participants into working groups to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how it is carried out in each country - What guidance is given by the competent authorities and what control measures are taken. 	Workshop	P. Mylonas (Assistance of all other tutors)
Coffee break				
10:45-11:30	Reporting back to the plenary Questions and Answers	<p>Presentation of the findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the information discussed within the different working groups ▪ The leader of each group will present the key issues on a board for a better understanding ▪ Summary of the different points of view 	Workshop	All tutors
11:30-12:15	Lecture 7	<p>Minimisation of side effects of PPPs for the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparative assessment of plant protection products at user level; ▪ Emergency actions to protect human health and/or the environment, e.g. in case of accidental spillage, contamination, or extreme weather events that would result in pesticide leaching risks ▪ Special care of protected areas established under Art. 6 and 7 of Directive 2000/60/EC 	Presentation and case studies	M. Rubbiani
12:15-13:15	Workshop 5	<p>Discussions on working groups moderated by the tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical exercises prepared by the tutor ▪ Divide the delegates into working groups to discuss: 	Workshop	M. Rubbiani (Assistance of all other tutors)



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how it's carried out in each country - What guidance is given by the competent authorities and what control measures are taken. 		
Lunch				
14:15-15:00	Reporting back to the plenary Questions and Answers	Presentation of the findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the information discussed within the different working groups ▪ The leader of each group will present key issues on a board for a better understanding ▪ Summary of the different points of view 	Workshop	All tutors
15:00-17:30	Organization of training activities by participants groups	Each group of participant prepare and present a ½hour training session and the other groups participate with question and answers	Role play- Joint work	All tutors
17:30-18:00	Question and answers	Discussions moderated by the training coordinator and al the tutors	Workshop	All tutors



Day 4

9:00-10:00	Debriefing session	Debriefing session of the role play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tutors lead by training coordinator Review and discussion of each group training activity. 	Workshop	All tutors
10:00-10:30	Lecture 8	Post-training dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the importance of post-training dissemination Types of dissemination 	Presentation	TC D. Vlachos
Coffee break				
10:45-11:30	Questions and answers	Discussions moderated by the training coordinator	Workshop	All tutors
11:30-12:30		Conclusions and recommendations	Workshop	All tutors
12:30-13:45	Closing of the training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks by the participants & reporting on previous topic discussions Evaluation of the Training Distribution of training certificates 	Workshop	All tutors
Lunch and Airport Transfer of participants				

