



Invitation Letter to BTSF National Contact Points seeking applications for BTSF training activities on

CONTRACT NUMBER 2020 96 08

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON

“PLANT DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING”

Phase 1

Valid as of 2022-11-22

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1. *Course objectives*

General objective

The Scope of the European Union legislative and policy framework for plant disease outbreaks – contingency planning for priority pests is to ensure that such plans for priority pests are drawn up and maintained by each Member State for those pests capable of establishing within their respective territories, being compulsory to have the plans in place by mid-2023.

Specific objectives

The present program pursues the following specific objectives:

- Improve further the knowledge of the control requirements
- Allow the exchange of experience and disseminate best practices for control activities and procedures with particular emphasis on contingency planning with respect to possible outbreak(s) of priority pest(s) on the EU territory

The aim is:

- to ensure a consistent and rigorous implementation of the regulatory requirements
- to contribute to increase the effectiveness of the competent authorities/control authorities/control bodies' verification of compliance with requirements
- to draw on the experience of other sectors where contingency planning already exists e.g. animal health and food crisis preparedness.

Furthermore, the training programme aim to provide knowledge on plant disease outbreaks, in particular with respect to the obligation for contingency planning for priority pests, with emphasis on the requirements of such plans, their definition, structure and operational elements as it is highlighted in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 Article 25(2).

2. Training dates and locations

9 three-days-long Face-to-face training courses will be delivered between January 2023 and December 2023 (and two more sessions in 2024) with approximately 30 people in each session.

An introductory session in the afternoon of the first day will be followed by 3 days of training. The course agenda is attached (Annex 3).

Table 1: Training dates and Location

Year	Training session	Location	Proposed dates	Deadline for registration
2023	Session 1	Madrid, Spain	31/01-03/02-2023	21-12-2022
	Session 2	Ljubljana, Slovenia	21/24-03-2023	01-02-2023
	Session 3	Bratislava, Slovakia	18/21-04-2023	01-03-2023
	Session 4	Tallinn, Estonia	23/26-05-2023	29-03-2023
	Session 5	Lisbon, Portugal	13/16-06-2023	18-04-2023
	Session 6	Ljubljana, Slovenia	26/29-09-2023	27-07-2023
	Session 7	Bratislava, Slovakia	17/20-10-2023	24-08-2023
	Session 8	Madrid, Spain	14/17-11-2023	19-09-2023
	Session 9	To be decided	11/14-12-2023	23-10-2023
2024	Session 10	To be decided	To be decided	To be decided
	Session 11	To be decided	To be decided	To be decided

For organisational purposes, names of participants should be communicated **always respecting the deadline**.

3. Selection criteria for participants

- Participant must:
1. Fulfil the eligibility criteria
 2. Meet the minimum requirements
 3. Be selected using the evaluation criteria

1. Eligibility criteria for Course Plant Disease Outbreaks and Contingency Planning

The training program is opened to participants whose application form is submitted by the corresponding BTSF National Contact Points.

Only **eligible participants** should be further assessed against the minimum requirements below.

- Have the capacity to work and make interventions in English language.
- Be committed to disseminating the knowledge gained (courses, workshops, articles, blogs) in the short medium term once the training ends. Guidance on how to disseminate the knowledge will be provided during the sessions, and a follow up questionnaire will be performed to participants attending.

Participants must meet the minimum requirements below to ensure they can follow and fully participate in this course. Participants who do not meet the minimum requirements should not be proposed for the training.

2. Minimum requirements for Plant Disease Outbreaks and Contingency Planning

Yes/No

- The training course is mainly addressed to all official staff of Member States involved in Plant Health, including those performing official controls and other official activities such as:
 - 1) staff of the national, regional and local competent authority/ies directly involved in carrying out inspections and enforcing controls.
 - 2) staff of the competent authority/ies which are involved in the controls of imported products.

The evaluation criteria should be used as a tool to prioritise participation (higher score indicates higher priority), but there is no minimum score necessary.

3. Evaluation criteria for Plant Disease Outbreaks and Contingency Planning

Yes/No

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| a) | Official staff of Member States involved in development and implementation of plant disease outbreak contingency plans, including those performing official controls and other official activities such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) staff of the national, regional and local competent authority/ies directly involved in carrying out inspections and enforcing controls. 2) staff of the competent authority/ies which are involved in the controls of imported products. | |
| c) | Experience or contributing towards plant disease outbreaks contingency and/or action plans and related advanced outcomes. | |

4. Country allocations

A total of 330 seats will be allocated according to the tables below. Please note that the number of allocated seats for each country may vary.

Country	F2F	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	TOTAL F2F
Country													
Austria	10	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	10
Belgium	8		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		8
Bulgaria	12	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Croatia	6		1		1	1	1		1			1	6
Cyprus	4		1		1		1					1	4
Czech Republic	8		1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	8
Denmark	8	1	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	8
Estonia	8	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		8
Finland	8	1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	8
France	16	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	16
Germany	18	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	18
Greece	8	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		8
Hungary	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	10
Ireland	12	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Italy	18	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	18
Latvia	8	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1		8
Lithuania	8	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	8
Luxembourg	3						1	1		1			3
Malta	4			1			1		1		1		4
Netherlands	14	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	14
Poland	18	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	18
Portugal	16	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	16
Romania	8	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		8
Slovakia	8	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	8
Slovenia	8	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1		8
Spain	18	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	18
Sweden	8	1	1		1	1	1	1		1		1	8
Total MS	275	25	24	24	26	25	26	27	25	25	25	23	275
Candidate Countries													
Albania	6		1		1		1		1	1		1	6
Macedonia, Rep. North	6		1	1		1		1		1	1		6
Montenegro	6		1	1		1		1	1			1	6
Serbia	7	1			1	1	1			1	1	1	7
Turkey	7		1	1		1	1		1		1	1	7
Total CC	32	1	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	32
Total MS+CC	307	26	28	27	28	29	29	29	28	28	28	27	307
EU SPS Agreements													
Iceland	3	1			1					1			3
Norway	4		1			1			1			1	4

Country	F2F	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	TOTAL F2F
Switzerland	4	1		1			1			1			4
UK - Norther Ireland	4	1			1			1			1		4
Total EU SPS agreents	15	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	15
Potential Candidate Countries													
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2		1								1		2
Kosovo	2			1								1	2
Total PCC	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Utmost regions of MS* i.e.													
Martinica	2			1								1	2
La Reunion	2	1							1				2
Total utmost regions	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
Total SPS + utmost regions + PCC	23	4	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	23
TOTAL	330	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	330

Table 1: Distribution of seats among the countries invited

You are welcome to nominate more participants for the reserve list than indicated in the table above. If seats will become available, you will be informed in due time.

5. Face-to-face logistical arrangements amend as required

In the case of face-to-face training sessions, the European Commission will fund in full the visa, travel, accommodation, meals, and field visit costs for all training participants. No daily allowance will be paid on top of this. Any other costs are to be paid by the participants themselves.

Participants will arrive at the training venues on Day 1 afternoon and training will commence on Day 1 afternoon (depending on travel connections, participants may be requested to arrive at the training venues on Day -1 evening). Return travel will be on Day 4 afternoon (or Day 5 morning according to flight connections).

AENOR team will liaise further with the nominated participants for all logistics and practical aspects.

6. Virtual Classrooms – Not foreseen.

Should the circumstances require so, VC sessions will be organised with the use of the Zoom web conferencing tool. To avoid delays, participants will be invited take part in a short technical test of their equipment a few days before the training sessions. This will allow participants to test their equipment and view the main features of the VC application platform.

During this brief test, participants will have the chance to learn all the tools of the VC platform. During this meeting, the Event Manager and Assistant Event Manager will also go through the main aspects of the agenda and different sessions that are foreseen. Additionally, in the morning of Day 1 of the VC, time will be dedicated to a technical session to refresh participants on the main features of the platform, and ensure connections are working properly.

The participants should have a computer with a working camera and audio system (speaker and microphone) as well as a good internet connection.

Annex 1: Background and main topics covered in training

Background

In the EU plant health is a key factor for sustainable and competitive agriculture, horticulture and forestry. The former regulatory framework for plant health within the EU was aimed to protect European agriculture and forestry by preventing the entry and spread of foreign pests. It was unique in that it is an open regime. However, it was criticized for being unable to stop the increased influx of dangerous new pests caused by globalization of trade. The already per se meaningful importance of the plant health risks is currently conditioned and potentially impaired in a globalized trading scenario and the current and future climate change context.

The present scenario will involve higher temperature, lower water availability and other associated changes in agri-food systems. This will entail the emergence of new plant health risks and the growing incidence and spread of present ones in many cases. Plant Health risks are associated with living organisms in “free” movement and the already high and increasing trade globalization will have significantly impact enhancing the phytosanitary risks and making the EU plant health control system even more complex and challenging. The new Regulation focuses particularly on the prevention of entry or spread of plant pests within the EU. It takes a more proactive approach involving prevention and eradication, providing special phytosanitary actions prescribed for Priority Pests, being them twenty of those pests not present in the EU, or, if present, just in small areas and under official control, that pose a high risk to plant health, known as Union quarantine pests. These have the most severe potential impacts on the economy, environment and/or society of the EU. These are subject to enhanced measures including surveys, eradication action plans, public awareness, contingency plans and simulation exercises. The list was published by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1702.

Full scope of secondary legislation accompanying import check demands some preparation on side of NPPOs. These provision force NPPO to prior readiness to enable smooth procedures as well as contingency plans. Today, the EU is the largest importer and exporter of agri-food products in the world. This success is based on the strong integration of its agriculture and wider agri-food chain.

European Commission (EC) is bringing efforts by different ways to contribute to the establishment and proper implementation of the new Plant Health Regime (PHR) and all its associated activities. Among these initiatives, the BTSF programme aims to train, harmonizes and exchange knowledge on prevention actions against diseases affecting plants, enhancing knowledge of MS by putting in place awareness and preventive measures, and means to react in case of an outbreak event minimizing its effects by contingency planning, organising simulation exercises, to test the measures implemented, find best practices and improve the systems in place.

Main topics covered in the training

The main objective of the training is to provide a clear, comprehensive, and harmonised understanding of the key elements for plant health regulation in the EU, specifically on contingency planning, on simulation exercises and on action plans for priority pests, focusing on the development, during the time of each workshop, of a simulation exercise.

Furthermore, it should allow the exchange of information and experience amongst MS and increase the efficacy of plant health actions.

To reach the indicated objectives and results, the following topics, among others, will be addressed:

- Introduction to contingency plans of plant disease outbreaks in EU territory for priority pests: early detection and eradication rules for Union quarantine pests, contingency planning in the EU and New Plant Health Regime, weakness and lessons learned, and specific pest incidence and risks in the EU.
- EU legal framework on contingency planning: EU New Plant Health legislation overview Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and IA, guidelines, EPPO and EFSA experiences, and focus on priority pests.
- Contingency planning: roles and responsibilities, chain of command, resources, modelling for disease spread scenario, information and communication to Member States and European Commission, tools and timings, instructions and manuals, risk assessment, management and communication, and self-assessment, analysis and update of contingency plans.
- Simulation exercise and other preparedness activities: data collection, information sharing, testing the procedures in place after the confirmation of an outbreak, measures to be taken, coordination and collaboration, best practices and lessons learned, and reporting.
- Action plans for priority pests: eradication and containment measures, time schedule for the application of measures, organisation of surveys in case of an outbreak, methodology for visual examination, sampling and testing, and communication and notifications.

In this sense, participants will be invited to participate actively in discussions, debriefings and working groups. They will be given preparation tasks prior to the attendance to the session and asked to update their knowledge of EU legislation in their sector and to bring examples of their national practices and communication materials in their given sector.

Annex 2: Legislation and guidance

In October 2016, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against plant pests (“Plant Health Law”). On 13 December 2016, the Regulation entered into force and will be applicable from 14 December 2019, together with some implementing and delegated acts. This regulation strengthened the import requirements for better prevention of introduction of new pests. It also set out requirements for establishment of the National survey programme, providing obligation to carry out risk-based surveys on Union quarantine pests and pests provisionally qualifying as Union quarantine pests. Such approach will ensure early detection of pests in EU.

An overview of the legislation that will be mentioned during the course is the following:

- EU List of Priority Pests - Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1702
- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625
- New Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against plant pests: Art. 25, 26, 27
- New Plant Health Regulation (EU) Implementing acts (IA) and Delegated Acts (DA) in force:

New PHR Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 Implementing Acts (IA) and Delegated Acts (DA) in force
Specific rules for release of plants/products from quarantine stations and confinement facilities (IR)
Legal basis: 64(3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2148 Adopted: 13 December 2019 Date of application: 14 December 2019
Uniform conditions for the implementation of new PHR (IR)
Legal basis: Art. 5(2), 32(2), 37(24), 40(2), 41(2), 53(2), 54(2), 72(1), 73, 79(2), 80(2) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 Adopted: 28 November 2019 Date of application: 14 December 2019
Priority pests List (DA)
Legal basis: Art. 6 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1702 Adopted: 1 August 2019 Date of application: 14 December 2019
Movement of scientific material (DA)
Legal bases: Art. 8(5) and 48(5) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/829 Adopted: 14 March 2019 Date of application: 14 December 2019
Criteria to be fulfilled by authorised operators to issue plant passports (DA)
Legal basis: Art.89(2) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/827 Adopted: 13 March 2019 Date of application: 14 December 2020
Procedure for the risk assessment on high risk plants (IA)
Legal basis Art. 42(6) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2018 Adopted: 18 December 2018 Date of application: 14 December 2019
High risk plants and plants exempted from PC (IA)
Legal bases: Art. 42(2) and 73 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 Adopted: 18 December 2018 Date of application: 14 December 2019
Formats of plant passports (IA)
Legal basis: Art. 83(7) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2313 Adopted: 13 December 2017

New PHR Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 Implementing Acts (IA) and Delegated Acts (DA) in force
Date of application: 14 December 2019
Information to be provided to travellers and clients of postal services (IA)
Legal basis: Art. 45 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/178 Adopted: 31 January 2020 Date of application: 3 February 2020
Measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Xylella fastidiosa (IA)
Legal bases: Art. 28(1,2) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 Adopted: 14 August 2020 Date of application: 17 August 2020
Phytosanitary measures for the introduction into the Union of certain plants, plant products and other objects which have been removed from the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (IA)
Legal basis: Art. 42(4) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 Adopted: 21 August 2020 Date of application: 24 August 2020
Format and instructions for the annual reports on the results of the surveys and on the format of the multiannual survey programmes and the practical arrangements (IA)
Legal basis: Art. 22(3) and 23(3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1231 Adopted: 27 August 2020 Date of entry into force unknown (pending notification) or not yet in force. Date of effect: 17/09/2020

- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 300/2019 of 19 February 2019 establishing a general plan for crisis management in the field of the safety of food and feed

Annex 3: Agenda

F2F	Contents
Day 1	L1. Introduction to plant health outbreaks and contingency in the EU territory
	L2. EU Plant Health Legislation overview focusing on contingency for priority pests
	GA1. Priority Pests. MS Prioritization exercise [60']
Day 2	L3. EU Priority Pests. Prioritizing for contingency planning
	L4. Anticipation. Prevention, surveillance, early detection
	GA2. Procedures on presumptive diagnosis [45']
	L5. Contingency Planning. General aspects
	L6. Contingency Plans for Priority Pests (PP)
	GA3. Contingency Plans in place in MS. Assessment. Common constraints, challenges, weaknesses [60']
	L7. Contingency Plans for PP: Roles and Responsibilities
	GA4. Contingency Plans for PP: Coordination and Cooperation Group exercise / brainstorming: roles and responsibilities. Chain of command. Agree, based on general guidelines for coordination, roles, collaboration and coordination among different actors in the chain of command
	L8. Procedures after final confirmation of an outbreak
GA5. Coordination, cooperation and mutual support at national level and between countries [60']	
Day 3	L9. Action Plans for Priority Pests
	GA6. Data Collection and Modelling for Outbreak Analysis
	L10. Outbreak Management and Eradication Measures
	GA7. Outbreak Management and Eradication Measures [60']
	L11. Notification and Reporting
	L12. Communication
	GA8. Simulation exercises and other preparedness activities [30']
	Simulation Exercise (I)
Simulation Exercise (II)	
Day 4	Simulation Exercise (III)
	GA9. Self-Assessment, Analysis and Update of Contingency Plans [30']
	L13. Summary of Course

Annex 4: Training material, outcomes and dissemination activities

Participants will receive an email prior to the course with the link to the BTSF Academy and their password to access it provided by the team at BTSF Academy platform.

All the presentations and hands-out will be available for download from the BTSF Academy, as well as background information on the tutors' team and IT guidance documents.

At the end of the course, participants will be provided with a syllabus to facilitate the dissemination of the contents.

Additionally, after the end of the training, pending their mandatory attendance to each day of the training, participants will be granted with their certificate of attendance.

Training material

Option: All participants will receive the training material well in advance of the training. The material will include additional pre-recorded material for offline studies. Preparatory videos will introduce the specific topic and provide background information to participants.

All participants will receive a Dissemination Kit electronically to enable them to actively disseminate course knowledge upon their return from BTSF training. Participants attending face-to-face courses will receive the information on the USB key.

Dissemination Kit

This contains the following training materials:

- All course presentations
- Study notes on field trips and group activities/discussions and conclusions thereof
- The course syllabus
- The training information sheet
- Glossary of terms and abbreviations used in the course
- Additional references for further study
- Written guidance on how to actively disseminate course knowledge to colleagues upon participants' return to their home countries, different methodologies/examples/best practice
- Other information and material delivered at the course such as quizzes, FAQs etc.

Dissemination questionnaire

Two to three months after the respective training session, participants will receive a standard questionnaire requesting information on the dissemination activities of the participant after the training, and details on differences in the approach adopted in day-to-day work following the training.

Self-assessment test

Furthermore, the programme 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 participants of the subjects taught.

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

For Virtual Classrooms

Participant agree to be registered in the BTSF Academy and agree to be recorded during VC training sessions and to take a group photo of the participants and tutors at the end of the training. Videos and photo will be published in the BTSF Academy in the corresponding training course section and will be visible only to registered

users of the BTSE ACADEMY.

Please find more information regarding data protection here:

<https://btsfacademy.eu/training/mod/page/view.php?id=417>

Annex 5: Contractor contact details

The Project is managed by: AENOR

Project Manager: Mónica ZABALA

Training Coordinator: Anita BENKO

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

All official communication between National Contact Points and the project will be maintained through the functional e-mail address 20209608CPPD@aenor.com or by phone to + 34 629 28 62 62 telephone number.

All information on BTSF training can be found at the [BTSF Academy](#) website and at <http://btsf-aenor.com/>. These websites will be regularly updated with details of forthcoming courses.