



BTSF – RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE FOOD CHAIN

COURSE 8 - Evidence collection, management and integration

Fact-sheet

The harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies has been identified as a priority area of the Strategy for Cooperation and Networking between the EU Member States and EFSA, since harmonisation would help in the development of high-quality scientific opinions that are recognised as truly authoritative. 2008 EFSA Working Group Report on "Fostering harmonised risk assessment approaches in Member States" pointed out how countries organised risk assessment differently at the time. Many of the procedures in the countries appeared to be in line, or at least not in conflict, with procedural aspects within EFSA, however highlighting discrepancies in procedural aspects of risk assessment, mostly regarding declarations of interest, public register of risk assessment requests, procedures concerning the selection of experts, the interaction with stakeholders and between risk assessors and risk managers during the risk assessment process.

The present training programme will address issues listed above through the adoption of a practical approach, aimed to increase knowledge of Competent Authorities and scientists from public institutions and national authorities involved in food chain risk assessment in order to increase the level of expertise and harmonisation.

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the training programme is to disseminate best practices for the implementation of principles and methods of food chain risk assessment, improving knowledge of this complex area of work and ensuring consistent and high implementation standards across the European Union.

Specific objectives are:

- Promoting reduction of discrepancies in procedural aspects of risk assessment;
- Contributing to the harmonisation of risk assessment approaches;
- Contributing to increasing transparency and building trust amongst Member States' authorities in each other's risk assessments;
- Disseminating best practices for risk management and communication;
- Promoting exchange of experience in order to increase the level of expertise and harmonisation of approaches.

TOPICS

The following topics will be covered during the training sessions, both from a theoretical and practical standpoint.

1. Systematic review;
2. Problem formulation;
3. Weight of the evidence;
4. Biological relevance;
5. Evidence integration;
6. Uncertainty analysis;
7. Expert knowledge Elicitation;



8. Risk Communication and crisis Communication.

Besides, group works, exercises and case studies will be included.

A test of knowledge will be carried out by all participants at the beginning and at the end of each workshop.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The training will be addressed to official from Competent Authorities and scientists from public institutions and national authorities involved in food chain risk assessment (with a focus on evidence collection, management and integration). The training will be particularly addressed to participants already attending the present BTSF training courses on risk assessment and/or participants who have already attended the previous BTSF editions on risk assessment.

TRAINING LOCATIONS AND CALENDAR

During the second phase, 2 five-day training sessions will be organised and implemented, and approximately 20 people will attend each training session.

Training sessions will be implemented according to the following calendar.

Year	Training sessions	Locations	Proposed dates
2024	TS 1	Vienna, Austria	11-15 March 2024
2025	TS 2	Rome, Italy	3-7 February 2025

PARTICIPANT SELECTION CRITERIA

Trainees must be originated from national authorities and public institutions involved in food chain risk assessment. They must have worked in functional areas of food chain risk assessment with a minimum of 3 years of professional experience or have had experience of setting up and implementation of food chain risk assessment in a Competent Authority (covering areas of food/ feed safety, animal health or animal welfare), with a specific experience in evidence collection, integration and management.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TUTORS' TEAM

The project will be implemented by the company OPERA srl in consortium with NSF Euro Consultants SA. The project's staff includes Mr. Claudio Bompard (CEO of OPERA) as Project Manager, Mr. Peter Raspor as training coordinator, Ms. Kristina Hristova and Ms. Elena Chakarova as Event Managers, and a pool of 4 highly qualified tutors from 4 MS: Mr. Boris Antunovic, Mr. Gabor Lövei, Mr. Rob Theelen, Ms. Elizabeta Mičović.