



Project: Technical assistance to improve implementation of food safety standards and disease crisis preparedness

Activity 1.1.17: Training on topics relevant to food chain safety including processed food of non-animal origin and composite food

Module: Trainings on food safety risk assessment and contingency arrangements to respond to emergencies. Outbreak investigation;

- Risk assessment, rapid outbreak assessments (ROA)

Lecturers: Dr Lenche Jovanovska

Dr Mina Barova

Date:

Place: Nicosia, Cyprus

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- Risk assessment
- Rapid Outbreak Assessment
- Risk assessment platform: Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS)
- Risk management platform: Early Warning Response System (EWRS)
- Risk management platform Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Main stakeholders at EU level involved in Rapid Outbreak Assessments



Risk assessment

- Investigation of the event
- Identification, assessment & communication of the risk associated with the event
- Main stakeholders: Public health institutes and food safety authorities, ECDC, EFSA,
- Risk assessment platform: Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS).



Risk management

- Implementation of the control measures to stop the event
- Management of the event
- Main stakeholders: Ministries of health (MoH) and food safety authorities, Health Security Committee, European Commission (EC)
- Risk management platforms: Early Warning Response System(EWRS),Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)



Legal basis:

- Regulation 851/2004 –European Parliament and the Council, establishing ECDC
- Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 –European Parliament and the Council on **serious cross-border threats to health**

Mission: identify, **assess and communicate health threats** from communicable diseases

Mandate: surveillance, **detection and risk assessment of threats** to human health from communicable diseases and unknown origin outbreaks.

Legal basis:

- Regulation 178/2002 –European Parliament and the Council, establishing EFSA
- Directive 2003/99/EC -European Parliament and Council on monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents

Mission: provide scientific advice and scientific and technical support for the EU legislation and policies in all fields which have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety.



Intelligence Information System (EPIS)

Aim: Outbreak detection and support to investigation coordination

- EPIS FWD: Epidemic Intelligence Information System for food and waterborne diseases
- Public health network in EU and 25 non-EU countries
- Managed by ECDC
- EPIS platform: Restricted access*



*The designated National Coordinator in the EU Member States is responsible for nominating participating experts in their country and controls the access rights through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool.

Risk management platform: Early Warning Response System (EWRS)

- Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health
- Define rights and obligations of countries to report public health events
- Aim: to enable the Commission and the competent authorities responsible at national level to be in permanent communication for the purposes of **alerting, assessing public health risks and determining the measures that may be required to protect public health**

Early warning and response system

Risk management platform: Early Warning Response System (EWRS)



- Notify **EWRS** if:
- **Unusual or unexpected** event for the given place and time, or significant **morbidity or mortality** in humans, or it grows or may **grow rapidly**, or it exceeds or may **exceed national response capacity**;
- And it affects or may affect **more than one Member State**;
- And it requires or may require a **coordinated response** at European Union level

EWRS platform: restricted access*

Early warning and response system

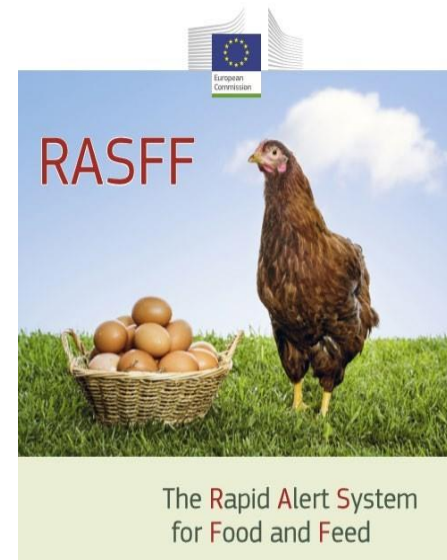
*The competent Public Health Authorities of the EU Member States, which have been designated officially by the Government of their Country as members of the EWRS , and the competent service of the European Commission





System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

- An official system for sharing information on hazards found in food and feed and trade of (potentially) contaminated batches between Member States, and for tracing these batches back and forward.
- **Aim:** to ensure the flow of information to enabling swift reaction when risks to public health are detected in the food chain
- **iRASFF:** restricted access to competent authorities of RASFF member countries, designated officially by the Government of their Country as members of the RASFF, and the competent service of the European Commission.



Joint ECDC-EFSA Rapid Outbreak Assessment (ROA)



- Produced when there is need to rapidly communicate about the risk assessment to MS and EC
- Produced by ECDC, EFSA, DG SANTE (EC) and Member States (MS)
- Joint ROAs regards:
 - the main foodborne diseases
 - other new, emerging or rare foodborne bacterial (incl. their toxins or metabolites), viral and parasitic infections, which may require a joint ECDC-EFSA ROA (this is evaluated case-by- case).

EVENTS



- Rapid risk assessment includes three components
 - ✓ **hazard assessment**
 - ✓ **exposure assessment**
 - ✓ **context assessment**
- Leads to characterisation of the risk
- A level of confidence is assigned to the rapid risk assessment

Main stakeholders at EU level involved in Rapid Outbreak Assessments



Risk assessment

ECDC – Human health

EFSA – Food safety and veterinary
sector

EURLs – EU Reference Laboratories for
food and feed

Risk management

SANTE-C3 – Human health

SANTE-G (G4 and G5-RASFF) - Crisis
management in food



Phases of actions

- Alert phase
- Assessment phase
- Management phase
- Closure phase



Detection of a possible multi-country foodborne outbreak by:

- Member States
- ECDC
- EC SANTE-C3, SANTE-G4 and SANTE G5 (EWRS/RASFF)

Threat detection in ECDC:

- EPIS FWD (urgent inquiries, molecular surveillance & news items)
- INFOSAN – WHO
- EWRS
- RASFF

Non-FWD-dedicated platforms

- WHO, independent, blogs
- Media
- Surveillance data - The European Surveillance System (TESSy)



Phases of actions

The assessment is based on:

- information in **EPIS-FWD**, **EWRS** and **RASFF**
- information shared by the countries before and during the review of the draft ROA

Platforms to share information:

- Unknown (food) vehicle of infection: **EPIS-FWD – EWRS - RASFF news**
- Known(food)vehicle of infection:**EWRS(and EPIS) – RASFF notification**
- Traceability of the vehicle of infection and any related food information (incl. lab results): **RASFF**.



The **criteria** that trigger the production of a joint ROA are:

- Verified multi-country foodborne outbreak AND
- EWRS notification

Production of the joint ROA

- ECDC prepares the draft assessment
- EFSA analyse data on food and animals, its assessment and comments to the draft
- When relevant, SANTE-G4 contacts the food and animal experts and/or the EURL to collect further information through other networks (e.g. National Reference Laboratories(NRLs), Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee), experts of PAFF's working groups)
- MSs review the content and may add information



- **SANTE-C3** and **SANTE-G4** ensure the coordination of the public health and food safety control measures (respectively)

If further information arises:

- ECDC and EFSA may decide to update the joint ROA

Or

- SANTE-C3 and SANTE-G4 can request an update of the ROA



When the conditions which justified the alert cease to exist:

- the MS deactivates the event in EWRS
- ECDC in consultation with EFSA, SANTE-C3 and SANTE-G4 closes the event at the EU level
- ECDC and SANTE-C3 assess the effectiveness of the public health measures
- EFSA and SANTE-G4 assess the effectiveness of the food safety measures.



European Food Safety Authority EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

JOINT ECDC-EFSA RAPID OUTBREAK ASSESSMENT

Multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella* Agona infections possibly linked to ready-to-eat food

26 July 2018

EFSA's website:
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/>

ECDC's website:
<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/home>



European Food Safety Authority EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

JOINT ECDC-EFSA RAPID OUTBREAK ASSESSMENT

Multi-country outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* serogroup IVb, multi-locus sequence type 6, infections linked to frozen corn and possibly to other frozen vegetables – first update

3 July 2018

- Foodborne Disease Burden relates to much more than foodborne disease outbreaks. Foodborne disease surveillance must cover outbreaks as well as sporadic cases.
- EPIS is a platform for the exchange of risk assessment information between Member States and the EU and is hosted by ECDC
- EPIS allows nominated public health experts to exchange technical information to assess whether current and emerging public health threat
- Risk management platform: Early Warning Response System (EWRS)
- Risk management platform Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is a management tool.
- DG SANTE ensure the coordination of the public health and food safety control measures (respectively)

Project e-mail: foodsafetyprojectTCc@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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