



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)**

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**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

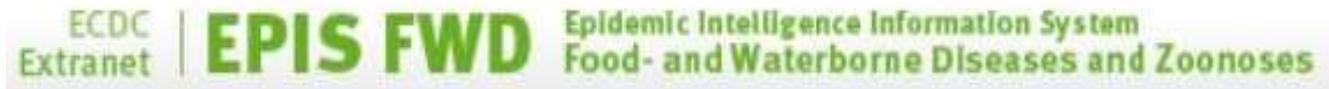
**Mission:** provide scientific advice and scientific and technical support for the EU legislation and policies in all fields which have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety.



## 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**

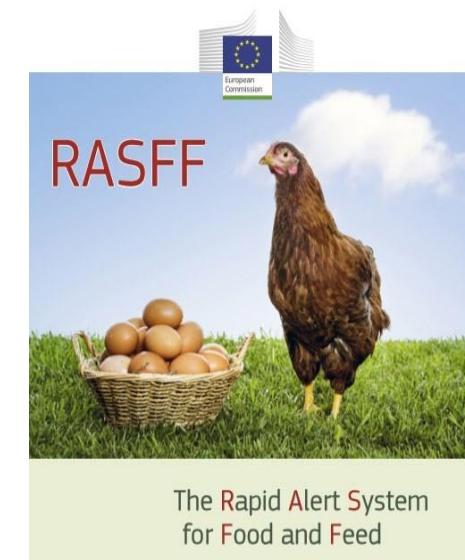
\*The competent Public Health Authorities of the EU Member States, which have been designated officially by the Government of their Country as members of the EWRS , and the competent service of the European Commission





## 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).

# RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 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

EUURLs – 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.



JOINT ECDC-EFSA RAPID OUTBREAK ASSESSMENT

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

26 July 2018

**efsa** European Food Safety Authority

**ecdc** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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

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



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

**efsa** European Food Safety Authority

**ecdc** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

# CONCLUSIONS



- 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)



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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