



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;

- Communication and collaboration authorities, laboratories and stakeholders

Lecturers: Dr Lenche Jovanovska

Dr Mina Barova

Date:

Place: Nicosia, Cyprus

“Project funded by the European Union within the scope of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, implemented by NSF Euro Consultants Consortium”



Disclaimer: This presentation has been produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of NSF Euro Consultants Consortium – Contractor, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

- Foodborne outbreaks and crisis management: Institutional and legal framework
- The context: global market and food production complexity
- Legal framework
- EU bodies involved in managing outbreaks and crisis
- Communication and collaboration authorities, laboratories and stakeholders
- Conclusions

FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL MARKET



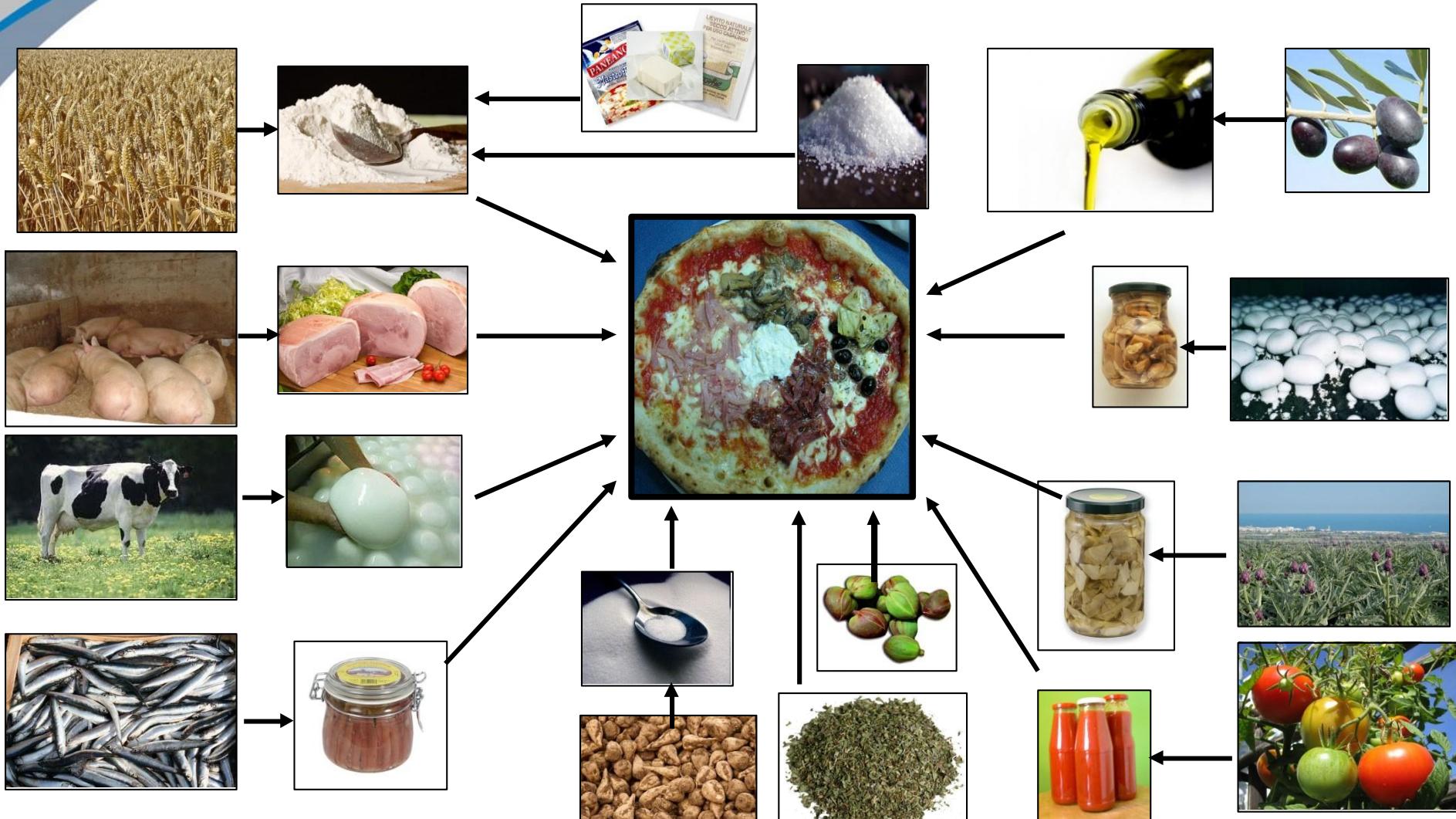
- The enormous quantity of agri-food products traded every day, and the complexity of the food production chain, increase exponentially the possibility that a foodborne outbreak becomes a multi-country incidents.
- This requires:
 - ✓ the adoption of a strategy for foodborne outbreaks management based on prevention and preparedness
 - ✓ a strong coordination between all the involved subjects.



Table 4: EU28 agri-food imports – top 20 origins

EU28 agri-food imports from PARTNER/PERIOD (million Euro) source: COMEXT	cumulative data: 12 month period					monthly data			
	Rank 2016/17	Aug15- Jul16	Aug16- Jul17	Difference Aug16-Jul17 to Aug15-Jul16		Jul-16	Jul-17	Difference Jul 17 to Jul 16	
				mio €	mio €			mio €	%
Extra-EU28		112.438	117.023	4.585	4,1	8.490	9.237	747	8,8
Brazil	1	12.279	11.793	-486	-4,0	1.073	1.020	-53	-4,9
United States of America	2	11.263	11.470	207	1,8	649	736	86	13,3
Argentina	3	6.041	5.820	-221	-3,7	577	512	-65	-11,2
China	4	5.088	5.271	183	3,6	388	428	40	10,3
Indonesia	5	4.065	5.044	979	24,1	292	444	152	51,9
Ukraine	6	4.474	4.888	414	9,2	253	391	137	54,2
Switzerland	7	4.661	4.738	77	1,7	369	364	-5	-1,5
Turkey	8	4.892	4.520	-373	-7,6	317	341	24	7,4
Ivory Coast	9	3.610	3.439	-172	-4,8	281	222	-59	-20,9
India	10	2.885	3.112	227	7,9	210	285	75	35,8
Vietnam	11	2.255	2.645	390	17,3	208	233	26	12,3
South Africa	12	2.495	2.563	68	2,7	253	286	33	13,0
Australia	13	2.089	2.479	390	18,7	117	161	43	36,8
Thailand	14	2.426	2.332	-94	-3,9	193	198	5	2,8
Chile	15	2.346	2.325	-20	-0,9	172	196	24	13,9
Colombia	16	2.121	2.310	189	8,9	144	183	39	27,1
Canada	17	2.225	2.297	72	3,2	133	136	3	1,9
New Zealand	18	2.426	2.286	-140	-5,8	236	261	25	10,7
Peru	19	2.062	2.231	169	8,2	149	170	20	13,7
Morocco	20	1.914	2.157	244	12,7	78	91	13	16,1
other countries		30.822	33.304	2.483	8,1	2.397	2.581	184	7,7

COMPLEXITY OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN



35 ingredients, 60 countries, 5 continents



- Definition – A confirmed foodborne disease outbreak is defined as an incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness after ingestion of a common food or meal and epidemiologic evaluation implicates the meal or the food as the source of illness.



- Definition
- Many subjects are involved: physicians, health centres, laboratories, food control services, risk assessors, risk managers, etc.
- Effective collaboration and communication shall be guaranteed
- Preparedness plays an essential role



- The legal framework to prevent, monitor and manage food-borne outbreaks is multidisciplinary
- It contains requirements for public health and food safety managers, risk assessors and risk communicators
- The need for coordination between these actors and between different levels (local, national, EU and international) is laid down in these EU rules.



- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Investigations
- Management
- Communication
- Reporting/publication



- Regulation (EC) 178/2002: traceability, EFSA, RASFF, emergencies and crisis
- Food Hygiene Package: general and specific hygiene rules, official control
- Regulation (EC) 2017/625: contingency planning
- Directive 2003/99/EC: monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, epidemiological investigation of food-borne outbreaks



- Implementing Decision 2019/300/EU: general plan for food/feed crisis management (repealing Decision 2004/478/EC)
- Regulation (EU) 2022/2371: serious cross-border threats to health; establishes Early Warning and Response System (EWRS), establishes the Health Security Committee (HSC) (repealing Decision 1082/2013/EU)
- Regulation (EC) No 851/2004: establishes ECDC



- DG SANTE: Health and Food Safety
- DG Health and Food Audits and Analysis
- EFSA: European Food Safety Authority
- ECDC: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- EURL: EU Reference laboratories for food and feed



DG SANTE: Health and Food Safety

- is responsible for EU policy on food safety and health and for monitoring the implementation of related laws
- develops and carries out the Commission's policies on food safety and public health
- coordinates the implementation of policies through the Standing committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
- enforcement & control of policies.



DG Health and Food Audits and Analysis

Tasks:

Audits, inspections and related non-audit activities

Objectives

- To ensure that EU legislation on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and in the area of medical devices is properly implemented and enforced
- To ensure that effective control systems are in place across the EU Member States and within non-member countries which export their products to the EU.



European Food Safety Authority -EFSA

- Independent European agency established in 2002
- Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, that defines tasks, mission, organisation and operation
- Roles: risk assessment and risk communication.



European Food Safety Authority –EFSA

- Provides independent scientific advice and risk communication
- Produces scientific opinions and advice that form the basis for European policies and legislation
- Plays an important role in collecting and analysing data to ensure that European risk assessment is supported by the most comprehensive scientific information available
- Communicates on risks associated with the food chain
- Most of EFSA's work is undertaken in response to requests for scientific advice from the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU Member States.



ECDC: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

- Established in 2005
- Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 851/2004
- **Mission: to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases**

ECDC works in three key strategic areas:

- provides evidence for effective and efficient decision-making
- strengthens public health systems
- supports the response to public health threats.



Community Reference laboratories for food and feed

- Regulation 2017/625 Art. 94, responsibilities and tasks

<https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/officialcontrols/legislation/ref-labs.en>

CONCLUSIONS



- Globalisation increased enormously the possibility of international food incidents
- The European strategy for the management of foodborne outbreaks is based on prevention and preparedness
- The legal framework is ample enough to include all the actors and specific enough to distribute responsibilities
- The EU bodies cover all the different aspects in outbreaks and crisis, including assessment, management and communication
- It is essential to guarantee adequate coordination at all levels, horizontally and vertically.



Project e-mail: foodsafetyprojectTCc@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



"Project funded by the European Union within the scope of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, implemented by NSF Euro Consultants Consortium"