

EU Food Safety Almanac



2017

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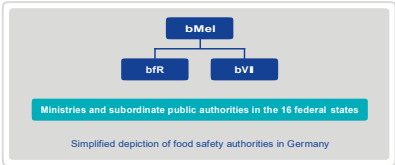
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Country profiles – how to read the EU Almanac

Each country profile provides an overview of public institutions in the area of food and feed safety.

Diagram of national institutions: Each chapter starts with a simplified diagram depicting the organisational structures and hierarchies. The main institutions of each country are given as an acronym. The list of abbreviations (Chapter 6) contains the full names of all institutions listed in the Almanac (in English as well as the language of each country). Institutions at central/national level are illustrated in blue boxes, regional/local institutions in turquoise ones.



Legal foundation: Brief description of national legal foundations in the area of food and feed safety at the beginning of the chapter.

Institutions at central level (shown in blue boxes): Tasks and activities of each institution are described in a separate section for each institution. The blue box at the beginning of each section contains the acronym and the full name of the institution. The grey box below lists the main tasks in the area of food and feed safety, followed by the city in which the institution is based, and the website.

bfR
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

- ⚙ Risk assessment
- ⚙ Risk communication
- ⚙ EFSA Focal Point
- ⚙ Research

Seat: Berlin
<http://www.bfr.bund.de/en>

Responsibility: Ten pictograms are used to illustrate the areas of responsibility of each respective institution.

Plant protection products

Drinking water

Genetic engineering

Contaminants

Feed

Food supplements

Residues of veterinary medicinal products

Mineral water

Novel foods

Zoonoses

Regional and local level: Institutions on a regional and local level are described in a separate section. They are highlighted by turquoise coloured boxes.

EFSA network: Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 establishing the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) states that institutions operating in the fields within the EFSA remit are to form a network. Institutions that fall under this category are listed under the heading "Institutions involved in the EFSA network" and are marked by a yellow box.

Regional and local levels

Germany consists of 16 federal states, with large individual differences with regard to the size of each state (between approximately 1 and 18 million inhabitants per state). ...

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung – BfR) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz – BfN)

The institutions involved in the EFSA Network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 are listed at the end of each country profile and are subject to changes. An up-to-date list of these institutions is available in the Internet at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/art36listg.pdf>

EU Food Safety Almanac

Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR)
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

Dr. Lea Herges, Dipl.-Ing. Susanne Kaus, PD Dr. Gaby-Fleur Böhl, Dr. Nicole Gollnick

Foreword

Food Safety in the EU: an Almanac

Dear Readers,

The globalisation of food production and food trading poses new challenges for consumer health protection. The safety of foods and feeds has to be guaranteed along global and increasingly complex supply chains. In Europe, the supply of food from all over the world is steadily growing. Consequently, this is leading to an increase in requirements that have to be met for scientific assessments, reduction of food risks and effective risk communication.

The EU Food Safety Almanac gives an overview of the competent public institutions and the structures of food and feed safety within Europe. The emphasis here is on risk assessment. This overview of organisational links and cooperation not only facilitates the search for European partners, it also helps to avoid the duplication of work and to clarify responsibilities.

This brochure is intended for everyone who wishes to find out more about food safety structures and institutions. Further, it is addressed at those who work in the following institutions and fields: food safety agency staff, trade and general interest press, consumer associations, the food industry, science and politics.

The Food Safety Almanac covers all Member States of the European Union, along with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland and the neighbouring European countries of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

This brochure does not claim to give a full description of each national structure, it is limited to the essential aspects in the interest of clarity and is intentionally restricted to the subject of consumer protection as a legally protected area. This does not mean, however, that other legally protected areas, such as environmental protection, animal welfare, and health and safety at work, are any less important.

During the preparation of this EU Almanac, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment received great and committed support from the EFSA Focal Points in the Member States and from EFSA itself. I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their contributions.

The EU Almanac (3rd edition) was evaluated in 2015 by members of the EFSA Advisory Forum, the Communication working group of EFSA's Advisory Forum, the European EFSA Focal Points and the German institutions involved in the EFSA network. The respondents declared themselves "satisfied" to "very satisfied" with regard to the information content, extent of the country profiles, update rhythm, layout, clarity of the icons, structure and quality of the EU Almanac. The valuable feedback on the evaluation was integrated into this new edition of the EU Almanac, which is available in six languages German, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese.

With this 4th edition of the EU Food Safety Almanac, you are given an updated and comprehensive overview of food and feed safety in the European Union and other countries. In doing so, we hope to be able to make a valuable contribution towards strengthening risk assessment capacities and expanding international cooperation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andreas Hensel".

Professor Dr. Dr. Andreas Hensel
BfR President and
German Representative of
the EFSA Advisory Forum

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1 National Structures and Food Safety

Effective cooperation between state actors in Europe strengthens food safety. If all parties involved are familiar with the relevant actors and the legal framework in the European Member States, countries are able to work together more efficiently, thus avoiding duplication of work and effectively maintaining consumer protection. Improved cooperation contributes to harmonised risk assessment methods and to the efficient control of risks. It also increases the transparency of decision-making processes and facilitates the search for European partners for project co-operation.

The aim of food safety and effective consumer protection is to protect health, prevent fraud and provide proper consumer information. Common European legal regulations provide a uniform and reliable level of protection for European consumers. National measures alone are not enough to provide sufficient protection in a globalised world.

Without releasing companies and consumers from their responsibilities and due diligence obligations, it is the responsibility of the state to protect consumers in the area of food safety through risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

The following procedure is followed here:

As a first step, a risk is evaluated using scientific methods ("risk assessment"). In its "Guidance Document for Health Assessments", the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has stipulated national processes which form a starting point for discussion within the scope of European harmonisation efforts:

http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/364/guidance_document_for_health_assessments.pdf

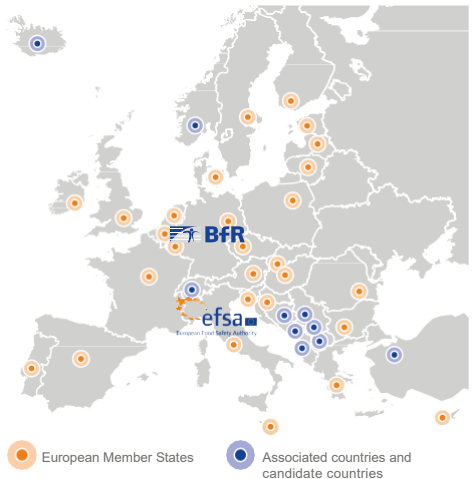


Guidance Document for Health Assessment (BfR)

Competent institutions in risk management use risk assessments to decide on the necessary measures ("risk management"). In addition to scientific risk assessments, this process also incorporates social and economic aspects in order to evaluate the suitability and efficiency of these measures.

Consumers are only able to make self-determined purchase decisions if they have been adequately informed. For this reason, transparent risk communication is essential in all respects. For this purpose, information on food safety should be made accessible in an appropriate form. Other affected and involved parties from science, politics, associations, NGOs and public institutions should also be included in the interactive exchange of information and opinions.

In 2000, the EU Commission's White Paper provided the impetus for a new structure of food safety in Europe. A new concept for effective and comprehensive consumer health protection was introduced whereby food safety is to be guaranteed in all stages of production and processing along the entire food chain "from the farm to the fork". In 2002, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was founded as an independent scientific body for risk assessment at EU level. The same year also saw the establishment of the BfR which has a similar function in Germany. These and other newly created bodies then led to the set-up of a network of competent institutions which operates as a link between the national and European levels, as well as between bodies in the various Member States.



EFSA Focal Point Network

At European level, risk assessment and risk communication are tasks assigned to EFSA, while risk management remains with the European Commission and Council of the European Union.

Information from the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) on food and feed that poses serious health risks is communicated on a daily basis between the Member States and the European Commission. Risk assessments are published by many national institutions as well as EFSA. The media and product testing organisations also provide information which enhances transparency for consumers.

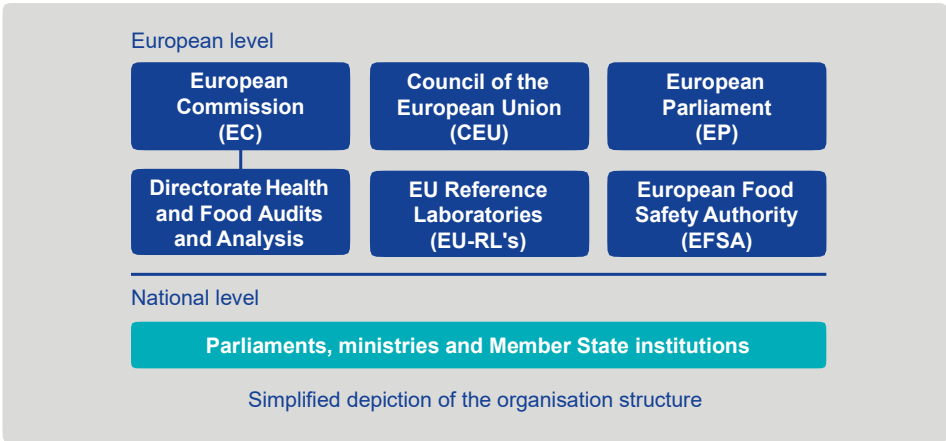
The EU Food Safety Almanac (EU Almanac) serves as a work of reference which provides an overview of the current legal frameworks that exist with regard to food safety. It is an example of the constructive cooperation practised between all bodies involved in food safety in Europe. EFSA as well as its Focal Points in all EU Member States and 10 neighbouring countries have contributed to the EU Food Safety Almanac produced by the BfR. Overall, 38 country profiles are presented.

In the various European states, the work allocation of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication has different legal structures. Some countries, including Germany, prefer to spread responsibility for risk assessment and risk management between different institutions. Other countries unite these tasks in a single institution.

The relevant government institutions along with their tasks and legal foundations in relation to food and feed safety can be found in each country profile. The profiles also state whether (and to what extent) a country publishes its risk assessments.

Interestingly, some countries tend to have their risk assessments conducted by external experts (commissions), whereas in others the institutions largely carry out risk assessments by themselves. The distribution of responsibility between the national, regional and local levels within a given country also has an impact on efficient food safety regulation. This aspect is outlined in the EU Food Safety Almanac for each of 38 European countries described.

2 Food Safety in the European Union



Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 and No. 882/2004¹ are the main legal foundations of food legislation in the European Union (EU). EU regulations apply directly in all Member States of the EU without each one having to enact national laws.

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 lays down the general principles and requirements of food law within the EU. It covers all stages of food production and processing along the food chain, “from the farm to the fork”. In addition, it establishes and specifies the remit of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and establishes the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 lays down the general principles of official controls performed to ensure compliance with food and feed law. This means that in the EU, in particular the set-up of a multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) by the Member States is prescribed along with the corresponding reporting. At EU level, risk assessment and risk communication are formally separated from risk management. While risk assessments are undertaken by the European Food Safety Authority

(EFSA), EU risk management is dealt with by the European Commission (EC). Risk communication, the third element of risk analysis, is a shared competence between risk assessors and managers.

EC
European Commission

- ♦ European law making
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Food safety policy

Seat: Brussels, Belgium
<http://ec.europa.eu>

It is the role of the EC to promote the general interest of the EU as a whole. The “College of Commissioners” (currently one commissioner from each Member State) defines policy and makes decisions.

¹ 14 December 2019 was specified as date of application of the new EU Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

The EC is the EU's executive body: as the “guardian of the treaties”, the EC is responsible for ensuring that EU law is properly implemented and applied in all EU Member States. In the event of infringements or doubts about the interpretation on EU law, the European Court of Justice has the final say.

The EC is the only institution with the right of legislative initiative. In practice, the proposals for legislation (Regulations, Directives and Decisions) are prepared by specific EC departments. The EC Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE, prepares draft legislation in the area of food and feed, animal and plant health, for example, while the EC Directorate General for Environment prepares draft legislation in this area.

DG SANTE coordinates the RASFF. It collects, verifies and disseminates food and feed safety information among the Member States and EFSA.

CEU Council of the European Union

- ◆ European law making
- ◆ Food safety policy
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Brussels, Belgium
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>



Together with the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (CEU) is the main decision-making body in the EU. One minister from each national government attends CEU meetings. Which minister attends a meeting depends on the topic to be discussed. The minister represents his/her Member State. Food safety issues, for example, are dealt with at meetings of the CEU “Agriculture and Fisheries”, while food labelling would

be addressed at the CEU “Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs”.

European legislation in the field of consumer health protection and food and feed safety is adopted through the “co-decision procedure”, the most frequently applied legislative procedure in EU law. “Co-decision procedure” means that draft legislation needs to be adopted by both the CEU and the European Parliament (EP).

EP European Parliament

- ◆ Food safety policy
- ◆ European law making
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Strasbourg, France
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>



The European Parliament (EP) is elected by the citizens of the EU. It has 751 members from 28 EU countries and represents the interests of more than 500 million people. The fact that the EP is directly elected by the citizens helps guarantee the democratic legitimacy of European law.

The EP exercises democratic supervision over the other EU institutions, especially the EC. The EP has the power to approve or reject the nomination of commissioners and also has the right to censure the EC as a whole. The EP shares authority over the EU budget with the CEU and can therefore influence EU spending. At the end of the process, it either adopts or rejects the budget in its entirety.

The EP also prepares draft legislation in the area of food and feed safety. The EP has 22 standing committees. The “Standing committee of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety” deals with food safety and drinking water issues.

EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Parma, Italy
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>



EFSA is an independent European Agency and the keystone of risk assessment regarding food and feed safety in the EU. In close collaboration with national institutions and in open consultation with other stakeholders, EFSA delivers independent scientific advice as well as clear and understandable communication on existing and emerging risks. In its capacity as a risk assessment authority, EFSA prepares scientific opinions and recommendations which form a sound foundation for European policies and legislation to support the EC, EP and EU Member States in taking effective and timely risk management decisions. All risk assessments are published on the EFSA website.

Although EFSA receives requests for risk assessments from the EC, EP and Member States, it also undertakes scientific work on its own initiative. EFSA's remit covers risk assessments on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health.

Directorate Health and Food Audits and Analysis

- ◆ Risk management (inspection and control)

Seat: Grange, Ireland
http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits_analysis_en



The Directorate Health and Food Audits and Analysis is part of the EC Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), and its activities are outlined in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (Articles 45 and 46).

This Directorate assesses how EU regulations are complied with within the EU and in non-EU countries that export to the EU. This is achieved mainly through inspections of the competent institutions of the Member States and non-EU countries.

The Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis provides information on the results of its assessments. Where appropriate, it also recommends measures to remedy shortcomings and monitors their implementation. Inspection reports are published on the Internet along with the comments of the countries inspected.

EU-RLs
European Union Reference Laboratories

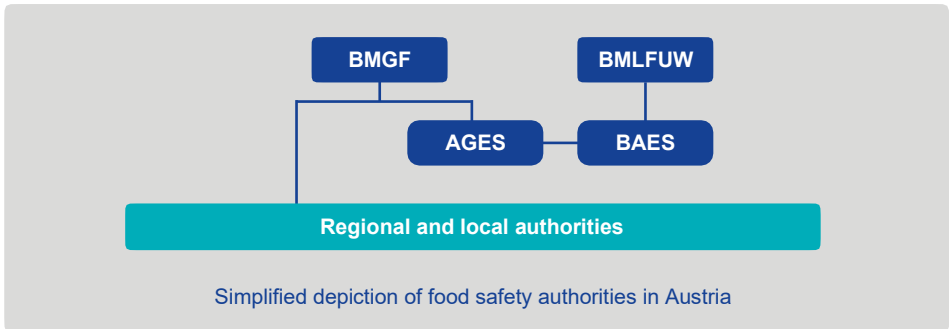
- ◆ Analytics and diagnostics
- ◆ Harmonisation of laboratory methods

European Union Reference Laboratories (EU-RLs) are analytical laboratories designated by EU directives and regulations. Several EU-RLs are part of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) which is a Directorate-General of the EC. EU-RLs provide the EC with technical and scientific support in the area of diagnostic and analytical tests. The remit of EU-RLs includes the set-up of EU-wide test standards, routine procedures and reliable methods, the organisation of comparative tests, training of analysts from national laboratories and networking with National Reference Laboratories. EU-RLs have an overview of international standards and practices, reference substances, reagents and their suppliers.

The EU-RLs for food and feed are listed in Annex VII of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:165:0001:0141:EN:PDF>

3 Food Safety in the Member States

3.1 Austria



The Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Austria. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Austria risk assessment and risk management are largely institutionally separated. Risk assessments are published on the Internet.

BMGF Ministry of Health and Women

- ◆ Health policy, food safety
- ◆ Animal health and welfare
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Vienna
<https://www.bmgf.gv.at>



The Ministry of Health and Women (BMGF) is responsible for health policy and food safety. The BMGF prepares draft legislation in the field of food safety based on scientific risk assessments by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). The BMGF is responsible for the coordination of state food inspections and can issue national regulations in the area of food and feed.

The BMGF's portfolio includes food, novel foods, food supplements, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, mineral water, drinking water, residues of plant protection products and veterinary drugs, medical devices and medicinal products. Furthermore, the BMGF is responsible for the approval of pilot studies with regard to the

cultivation of genetically modified plants. It is also responsible for the approval of the use of GMOs in conjunction with food and feed.

The remit of the BMGF extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and animal welfare.

BMLFUW
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management

- ◆ Agricultural policy, food and feed safety
- ◆ Plant health
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Vienna
<http://www.lebensministerium.at>



The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) is responsible for agricultural policy and food safety during primary food production. It prepares draft legislation in the field of feed and groundwater based on scientific risk assessments by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). The BMLFUW is authorised to issue national regulations with regard to feed and groundwater.

The work of the BMLFUW is supported by the Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES). The area of work of the BMLFUW extends beyond the field of food safety to plant health and plant protection.

AGES
Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Research

Seat: Vienna
<http://www.ages.at>



The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) is a limited liability company (GmbH) owned by the BMGF and BMLFUW. AGES has a mandate from the Republic of Austria to prepare scientific risk assessments and conduct transparent risk communication with the public at large, scientists and other interested or involved groups. Independent of any scientific, political or social interests AGES prepares scientific risk assessments, identifies new health risks and prepares recommendations for risk reduction. AGES risk assessments are used by the BMGF and BMLFUW and by local authorities as the foundation for their management measures.

AGES remit includes food and feed safety, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. AGES is also active in the field of animal health, plant health, plant protection, soil health, fertilisers, seeds, bee health and radiation protection. AGES is also involved in active research. AGES has scientific analytical laboratory facilities in all of its areas of activity.

There are 61 National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and reference laboratories in the fields of veterinary medicine and human medicine attached to AGES.

The regulatory authority for veterinary drugs is assigned to the Federal Office for Safety in Health Care (BASG). The BASG is also an authority within the organisational structure of AGES. BASG issues and monitors market authorisation of medicinal products and other medical devices.

In contrast, the coordination and implementation of animal feed inspections is not delegated to the federal states, it is responsibility of the BAES (national level).

BAES Federal Office for Food Safety

◆ Risk management

Seat: Vienna
<http://www.baes.gv.at>



The Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES) was implemented by the Austrian Health and Food Safety Act. It is associated with AGES and employs the resources available to operate in the execution of the sovereign functions of AGES. The BAES is responsible for the coordination and implementation of state inspections of animal feed. It is also the regulatory authority for plant protection products. The area of work of the BAES extends beyond the field of animal feed to plant health.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

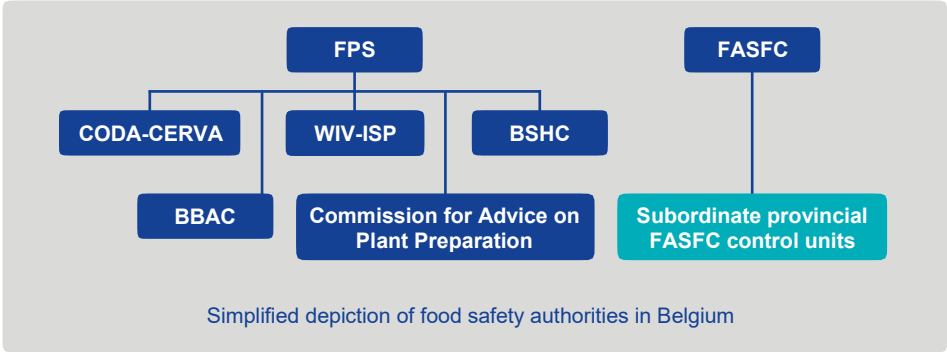
1. Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH, AGES) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Environment Agency Austria Ltd (Umweltbundesamt GmbH)
3. University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, BOKU)
4. University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien)
5. University of Vienna (Universität Wien)

Regional and local levels

Austria consists of nine federal states which are divided into 95 districts (15 urban districts and 80 rural districts). Each district is further divided into several municipalities. Depending on the distribution of statutory competences, the responsibility for the implementation of food inspections is held by federal authorities or regional authorities of the nine federal states.

The Ministry of Health and Women (BMGF) has transferred the coordination and implementation of federal inspections on all aspects of food safety to the federal states of Austria (food safety inspections are carried out at a regional and local level).

3.2 Belgium



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and national food laws are the central legal foundation for food legislation in Belgium. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. In Belgium several independent organisations are involved in risk assessment of food and feed safety. However, there is no strict institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

FPS
**Federal Public Service for Health,
Food Chain Safety and Environment**

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point
- ♦ Codex Contact Point
- ♦ WHO Food Safety and Nutrition counterparts

Seat: Brussels
<http://www.health.belgium.be>



The Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS) is a federal authority and is responsible for policy and legislation in the area of food and feed safety, including novel foods, food supplements, chemical and microbiological contaminants, allergens, labelling and claims, dietetic products, materials in contact with food, bottled water, water used in food business operators, zoonoses, residues of plant protection products, plant and animal health, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and veterinary medicinal products.

The FPS is responsible for drafting legislation in the area of food and feed safety. FPS food policy is based on scientific risk assessments. Risk assessments are carried out by the Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA), the Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP) and the Belgian Superior Health Council (BSHC). The BSHC acts as a link between government and the scientific world in the area of nutrition and food safety (nutrition advice, food supplements, dietetic products, risk assessment of food additives, chemical or microbiological contaminants, etc.)

Several other institutions provide the FPS with scientific opinions on food safety: the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council (BBAC), the Commission for Advice on Plant Preparation and, in specific cases, the Scientific Committee of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAFSC) as well as external academic departments. The FPS is the regulatory authority for plant protection products. By contrast, the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) which is the competent authority responsible for the supervision of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines for human and veterinary use (including homeopathic medicines, herbal medicines, pharmacy-made and official preparations) and also of medical devices and accessories as well as raw materials for the preparation and production of medicines.

The FPS provides funding for scientific research in the area of food safety as well as animal and plant health. There are yearly calls for project proposals, with a bottom-up ("free research") and a top-down ("targeted research") approach.

The area of work of the FPS extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, nutrition policy, animal health, plant protection, environment, cosmetics, biocides and REACH.

FASFC Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Multi-annual national control plan

Seat: Brussels

<http://www.afsca.be/home-en>

<http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/scientificcommittee/>



The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) is a federal executive agency, responsible for official controls and inspections as well as for the definition and enforcement of operational standards applicable during food production (from farm to fork). The agency carries out official controls of food, feed and its raw materials at all stages of the feed and food chain including production, processing, storage, transport, trade, import and export of food and its raw materials. The FASFC oversees all official controls on the basis of multi-annual national control plans. In addition it is also responsible for the control of animal health and plant health.

To fulfil its tasks, the FASFC is supported by two committees. The Advisory Committee includes all FASFC stakeholders and provides opinions on risk management matters. The Scientific Committee is responsible for independent risk assessment and provides scientific opinions on risk management standards and regulations.

CODA-CERVA Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Research

Seat: Brussels
<http://www.coda-cerva.be>



The Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA) is a federal research institute focusing on the prevention of infectious animal diseases including zoonoses. CODA-CERVA participates in active research and provides expert advice and scientific risk assessments.

WIV-ISP Scientific Institute of Public Health

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Research

Seat: Brussels
<http://www.wiv-isp.be>



The Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP) is a federal research institute focusing on public health and surveillance of human disease and health risks. WIV-ISP participates in active research and provides expert advice and scientific risk assessments. With respect to food, WIV-ISP focuses in particular on food microbiology, anti-microbial resistance, toxic and pharmacologic residues, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and emerging chemical risks.

Several NRL's are located at WIV-ISP and CODA-CERVA. BBAC is one of the two pillars (with the Biosafety and Biotechnology Unit of the WIV-ISP) of the scientific evaluation system for GMOs. The secretariat of the BBAC is hosted at the WIV-ISP. Website of the BBAC: <http://www.bio-council.be/Pages/Home.aspx>

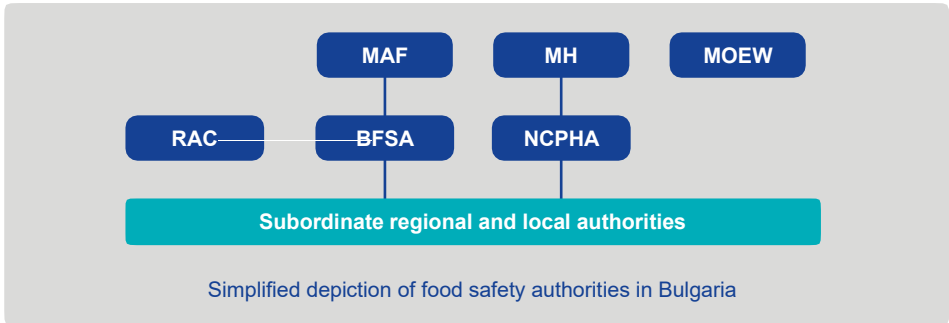
Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels of the Belgian federal state consist of three regions, 10 provinces and 589 districts. Provincial FASFC control units are responsible for carrying out food inspections. The central FASFC unit is responsible for coordinating food inspections. The monitoring of drinking water is the responsibility of the regional authorities.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and Scientific Committee of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (SciCom-FASFC)
3. Scientific Institute of Public Health
4. CODA-CERVA (Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre)
5. Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W)
6. Own Capital of the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
7. Ghent University
8. Centre d'Economie Rurale (CER Group)
9. University of Liege (Université de Liège)
10. Catholic University of Louvain (Université Catholique de Louvain)
11. KU Leuven
12. Hasselt University (Universiteit Hasselt)

3.3 Bulgaria



The Food Law is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Bulgaria. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Bulgaria there is some institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

In January 2011, the Bulgarian Parliament decided to establish a new public authority called Bulgarian Food Safety Agency. This agency is within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) and it is responsible for food and feed safety throughout the food chain. The agency has been operating since February 2011.

MAF is responsible for agricultural policy and food and feed safety. It prepares draft legislation in this area and is responsible for the implementation of official controls of food and feed.

MAF Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Sofia
<http://www.mzh.government.bg>

Within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) there is the Directorate for Animal Health and Food Safety. It is responsible for the development and coordination of the implementation of MAF policy in the field of food safety and quality, feed safety, animal health and welfare. The Directorate is responsible for harmonisation of legislation and coordination of control authorities within the Ministry and for the preparation of the multi-annual national control plan. This includes the coordination of specific control and inspection activities with the Ministry of Health (MH). The Directorate for Animal Health and Food Safety is also responsible for market authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

MH Ministry of Health

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Sofia

<http://www.mh.government.bg>



The Ministry of Health (MH) is responsible for health policy and safety of the bottled natural mineral, spring and table water (Directive 98/83/EC) and investigation of foodborne outbreaks. In the field of food safety in the past MH was responsible for the harmonisation of legislation with European provisions as well as the coordination of inspection of control activities which are carried out by Regional Health Inspections. Most risk assessments were prepared by the Expert Council within the MH but it has ceased to exist since the creation of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) and the Risk Assessment Centre (RAC).

The portfolio of MH encompasses, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, contaminants and residues of plant protection products and food contact materials. Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MH pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MOEW Ministry of Environment and Water

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Sofia

<http://www.moew.government.bg>



The Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) deals with environmental policy and the management and protection of water.

BFSA Bulgarian Food Safety Agency

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Sofia

<http://www.babh.government.bg>



The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) is a specialised body of the MAF. BFSA incorporates the former National Veterinary Service, the former National Plant Protection Service and the former National Grain and Feed Service, as well as the regional food health inspectors, who were responsible for the control of food of non-animal origin in the Regional Health Inspections (former Regional Inspections for Public Health Protection and Control) under the MH and the quality compliance of fresh fruits and vegetables (under the MAF) with the European Commission standards for placing on the market.

BFSA is the competent governmental authority for carrying out official controls in Bulgaria in terms of phytosanitary issues, plant protection products and fertilisers, veterinary activities, animal health and welfare, animal by-products not intended for

human consumption, feeding stuffs, raw materials and foodstuffs with the exception of bottled natural mineral, spring and table water, materials and articles intended for contact with food, and the quality compliance of fresh fruits and vegetables with the European Commission standards for placing on the market. In BFSa they are formed 14 departments/directorates, which are in accordance with the above mentioned activities.

The agency has its central office in Sofia. It also has 28 regional food safety directorates distributed across the country as well as four specialised structures – the National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute, the Central Laboratory for Veterinary Control and Ecology, the Central Laboratory for Chemical Testing and Control and the Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine.

RAC Risk Assessment Centre

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Sofia
<http://www.babh.government.bg>
<http://focalpointbg.com>



The Risk Assessment Centre (RAC) was created via the adoption of the Law on the BFSa and its Code of Organisation. It is managed by a Management Board and assisted by an Advisory Board. RAC is an independent legal entity within the structure of the BFSa, a third level budget unit to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. RAC provides independent scientific assessment of risks related to food safety, human health, animal health and welfare, food and feed additives, GMOs, dietetic products, nutrition and allergens, materials and articles intended for contact with food, enzymes, flavourings and supporting substances, biological hazards, contaminants, plant

health and plant protection. RAC works in close collaboration with EFSA and other national and international scientific institutions in the food and feed risk assessment area. EFSA Advisory Forum representative and the national Focal Point of EFSA are located within the RAC.

NCPHA National Centre for Public Health and Analysis

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Sofia
<http://www.ncpha.government.bg>



The National Centre for Public Health and Analysis (NCPHA) is subordinate to the MH and deals with health protection, health education and nutrition. The NCPHA is responsible for the publication of risk assessments in the field of nutrition and hygiene and is also responsible for microbiological hazards, contaminants, residues of plant protection products, GMOs, food contact materials, heavy metals, food supplements, food additives, novel foods and mineral water.

Regional and local levels

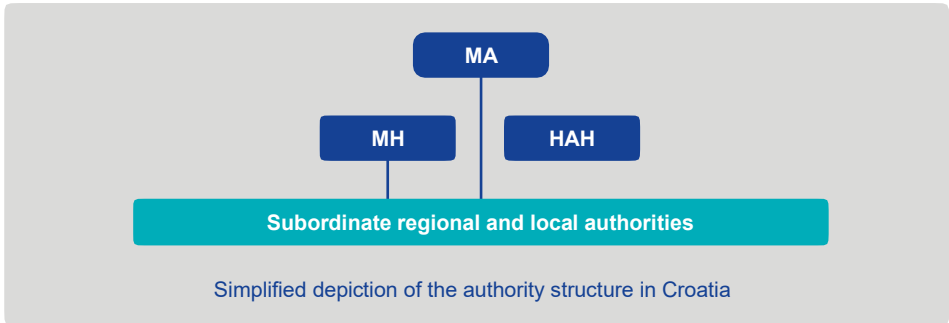
Bulgaria consists of 28 administrative regions with 264 towns and municipalities. Inspections at regional and local levels are conducted by authorities that are subordinate to central government. Both the MH and MAF have 28 regional services which report their activities to the central level in the ministries.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network
pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

Bulgaria

1. Risk Assessment Center (RAC)
(EFSA Focal Point)
2. Food Research and Development Institute
3. National Center of Public Health
and Analyses (NCPHA)
4. National Diagnostic and Research
Veterinary Medical institute (NDRVMI)
5. Institute of Cryobiology and
Food Technology (ICFT)
6. Agricultural University Plovdiv
7. Central Laboratory of Veterinary Control
and Ecology
8. University of Food Technologies
9. The Stephan Angeloff Institute of
Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy
of Sciences
10. Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research
Institute
11. Trakia University
12. Joint Genomic Center to Sofia University
13. Institute of Biology and Immunology of
Reproduction Acad. "Kiril Bratanov", BAS
14. Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnology
and Plant Protection

3.4 Croatia



The legal framework for food safety in Croatia is provided by the Food Act, which transposes the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Croatia risk assessment is institutionally separated from risk management. Risk assessment outputs are published on the web page of the Croatian Food Agency (HAH) unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

MA Ministry of Agriculture

- ♦ Agriculture policy, animal health, animal welfare and plant health
- ♦ Food and feed safety policy
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Zagreb
<http://www.mps.hr>



The portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) includes drafting and enforcing legislation in the area of food and feed safety, quality and hygiene as well as agricultural policy, official controls, plant health, animal health and welfare. The MA is the competent authority for official controls in the area of food and feed safety, which includes controls during the primary production of food of animal or plant origin and control of food of animal origin during processing, import, export and retail. The MA develops a single multi-annual national control plan and designates official reference laboratories to analyse food and feed and to safeguard animal health and welfare as well as plant health. The MA is responsible for informing the public in case of reasonable grounds to suspect that food or feed may represent a risk for human or animal health.

MH Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy
- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Zagreb
<https://zdravlje.gov.hr>



In collaboration with the MA, the Ministry of Health (MH) is responsible for drafting legislation in the area of food safety covering the food of non-animal origin, food supplements, food for infants and young children, foods for special medical purposes, quick-frozen foodstuffs, contaminants in food-stuffs, food additives and flavouring as well as functional foods. The MH is also responsible for sanitary inspections of food of non-animal origin, during production, processing, import and export. Furthermore, the MH is responsible for sanitary inspection of food of animal and non-animal origin in retail, with the exception of establishments already approved by the MA. The MH cooperates closely with the MA in order to supervise and conduct official controls and to develop multi-annual national control plans.

HAH Croatian Food Agency

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Communication of risk assessments
- ◆ Scientific and technical support
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Osijek
<http://www.hah.hr>



The Croatian Food Agency (HAH) is an independent and science-based authority appointed by government and works within the portfolio of the MA. HAH provides scientific and technical support on all matters with regards to food and feed safety, animal health and welfare as well as nutritional habits as a base for risk assessment. HAH is also responsible for communication on risk assessments results.

HAH works in close cooperation and communication with several national and international institutions. National independent scientific experts support the work of HAH by participation in the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and working groups. HAH also closely cooperates with the MA and MH in developing multi-annual national control plans. Finally, HAH is responsible for establishing and coordination of National network of institutions in the area of food safety. The Codex Contact Point is at the Croatian Standards Institute (HZN).

Regional and local levels

Croatia is divided into 20 counties and the capital city of Zagreb Which also has county status. At the regional and local level, inspection of food of animal and non-animal origin is carried out by state and border sanitary and veterinary inspectors. The regional and local inspections are coordinated and supervised by the Directorate for Veterinary and Food Safety (MA), Directorate for Quality and Phytosanitary policy (MA) and Directorate for Health Promotion (MH).

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Croatian Food Agency (Hrvatska agencija za hranu, HAH) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Croatian Veterinary Institute (Hrvatski Veterinarski Institut)

3.5 Cyprus



The central legal founding legislation for food in the Republic of Cyprus is The Food (Sale and Control) Law, which is in line with Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Cyprus there is no established food safety authority but there is a Food Safety Council (FSC). In 2003, the FSC of Cyprus was established by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Its members are representatives of all relevant competent authorities (MOH, MOA, etc.) and stakeholders including municipalities and consumers.

MOH Ministry of Health, Food Safety Council (FSC)

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Nicosia
<http://www.moh.gov.cy>
<http://www.moh.gov.cy/sgl>



The Ministry of Health (MOH) deals with health policy and food safety in Cyprus. The portfolio of the MOH includes food hygiene, food of plant origin, ice-cream, honey, drinking and mineral waters, food supplements, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), residues of plant protection products and contaminants. More specifically, the MOH is responsible for sampling, inspection and enforcement, official laboratory food control, drafting of multi-annual national control plans in cooperation with the MOA, relevant evaluation and risk assessment of the analytical results within the FSC.

The State General Laboratory (SGL) of the MOH is the national EFSA Advisory Forum Member and the EFSA Focal Point. The Medical and Public Health Service (MPHS) is the RASFF Contact Point. The SGL conducts risk assessment of contaminants and other toxic chemicals in close collaboration with the MOH and the FSC.

Six National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MOH pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MOA
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Nicosia
<http://www.moa.gov.cy>



The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (MOA) deals with agricultural policy and food and feed safety in Cyprus. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food of animal origin (except ice-cream and honey) and feed, and is responsible for state inspections. The National Residues Plan for animals and animal products is carried out by the MOA in cooperation with the MOH. The area of work of the MOA extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, veterinary medicinal products, plant protection products, zoonoses, plant health, animal health and welfare as well as the registration and approval of establishments and intermediaries.

The MOA is the authorisation authority for veterinary medicinal products in Cyprus and the regulatory authority for pesticides and veterinary drugs in Cyprus.

Four National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 are attached to the MOA.

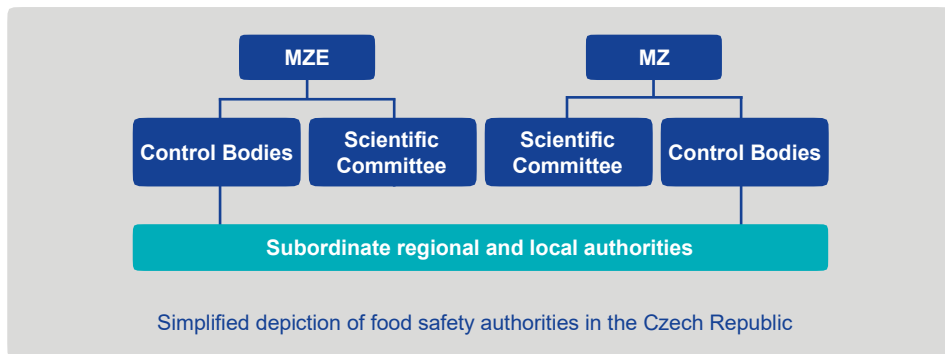
Regional and local levels

The Republic of Cyprus has six administrative districts. The regional and local levels are subordinate to the central state food safety institutions in a direct chain of instruction and are mainly responsible for the implementation of inspections. Five offices at regional level and six other local institutions report to the MOA. Within the framework of public health five offices have been set up in the administrative districts. Eight out of the 24 autonomous municipalities have their own control competences in the field of food hygiene in the restaurant and catering sector. Their activities are monitored by the MOH.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. State General Laboratory (SGL)
2. Veterinary Services
3. Department of Agriculture
4. Agricultural Research Institute
5. Environmental Health Services
6. University of Cyprus (UCY)
7. Cyprus University of Technology

3.6 Czech Republic



Act No. 110/1997 Coll. on food and tobacco products, as amended, is the central legal foundation for food legislation in the Czech Republic. The Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy for 2014 – 2020 is a key document of the Czech Republic in the field of food safety and nutrition.

Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In the Czech Republic there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management, however there is procedural separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

MZE Ministry of Agriculture

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Prague
<http://eagri.cz>



The Ministry of Agriculture (MZE) deals with agricultural policy and food safety in the Czech Republic. It is responsible for foods of animal and plant origin and also for state food inspections.

The portfolio of the MZE also includes food and feed, animal welfare and health, veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products and their residues, contaminants, drinking water, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), novel foods, additives, food supplements and food labelling.

The MZE is in charge of supervision especially in the following areas:

- ♦ Czech Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority – food of plant origin, retail of food products of animal origin.
- ♦ State Veterinary Administration – production, processing and distribution of food and feed of animal origin, animal health and welfare, border inspection.
- ♦ Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture – hygiene of production, processing, distribution and retail of feedstuffs, phytosanitary matters, plant protection products.
- ♦ Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture is the regulatory authority for plant protection products.
- ♦ Czech Breeding Inspection – animal identification and registration.
- ♦ Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biologicals and Medicines (in collaboration with State Phytosanitary Administration) – veterinary medicinal products and some aspects of plant protection products. The Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biologicals and Medicines is the regulatory authority for veterinary drugs.

Risk communication is another main area of the MZE remit. The Food Safety Information Centre was set up to provide information, accessible to the general public, on all aspects of food safety (“from farm to fork”).

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to relevant competent authorities, which come within the portfolio of the MZE and the Ministry of Health (MZ), pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MZ

Ministry of Health

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Food hygiene

Seat: Prague

<http://www.mzcr.cz>



The Ministry of Health (MZ) deals with public health protection and food safety in the Czech Republic. The portfolio of the MZ includes food contact materials, contaminants, mineral water and plant protection products and their residues.

The inspection competence of the MZ is restricted to food contact materials, food hygiene and, more particularly, the catering trade. The relevant competent authorities are Public Health Authorities.

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MZ.

Regional and local levels

The Czech Republic consists of 14 regions which are further divided into districts.

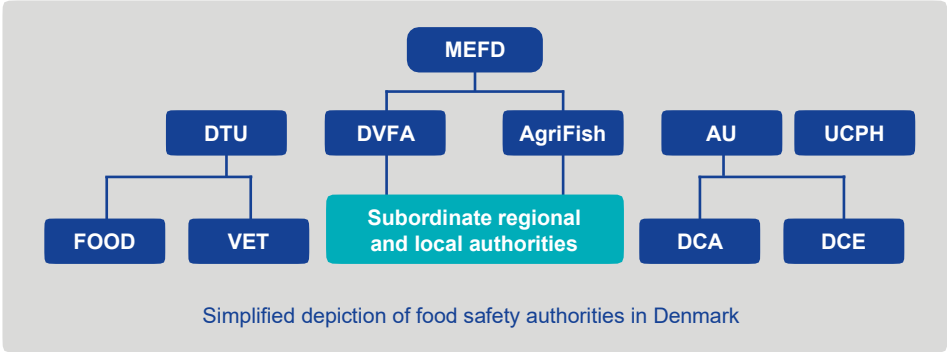
Food and feed inspections are the responsibility of the regions. In all 14 regions there are regional offices of the State Veterinary Administrations and Public Health Authorities. In seven regions there are regional offices of the Czech Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority and the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture.

Animal welfare is the responsibility of the municipalities, i. e. to inspect, take measures and deal with infringements.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network
pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Mendel University in Brno, Faculty of Agronomy, Department of Animal Breeding
3. National Institute of Public Health
4. Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)
5. Crop Research Institute
6. Institute of Animal Science
7. Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Čzech zemmh Univ univerzita v Praze)
8. Food Research Institute Prague
9. Biology Centre, the Czech Academy of Sciences (BC CAS)
10. Institute of Chemical Technology Prague
11. University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno
12. University of South Bohemia in Čnive Buddersity
13. University of Ostrava

3.7 Denmark



The Danish Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Denmark. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts. In Denmark risk assessment is institutionally separated from risk management. Some risk assessments are published and others are not.

MEFD
Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark

♦ Agricultural policy, food safety

Seat: Copenhagen
<http://www.fvm.dk>

The Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark (MEFD) deals with environmental and agricultural policy as well as food safety in Denmark. The MEFD prepares draft legislation in the field of food and feed safety. The food safety work of the MEFD is supported by two specialist authorities: The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) and the Danish AgriFish Agency (AgriFish).

The food related area of work of the MEFD extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

DVFA

Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Copenhagen
<http://www.fvst.dk>



As a subordinate specialist authority of the MEFD, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) is responsible for risk management in the field of food and feed safety. The DVFA is responsible for food and feed inspections countrywide. The risk assessments of the National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) are used by the DVFA as the basis for management measures in the field of food safety. The risk assessments of Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA), Aarhus University, are used by the DVFA as the basis for management measures in the area of feed.

The remit of the DVFA includes novel foods, food supplements, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, mineral water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. The area of work of the DVFA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, consumer information, i. e. food labelling and nutritional advice.

AgriFish

The Danish AgriFish Agency

- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Copenhagen
<http://www.agrifish.dk>



As a specialist authority that supports the MEFD, the Danish AgriFish Agency (AgriFish) is responsible for the areas of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as plants and horticulture. The remit of AgriFish includes residues of plant protection products and plant health. Seven National Reference Laboratories are attached to AgriFish pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

DTU

National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Research-bases decision support
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ Surveillance and monitoring
- ◆ Contingency planning
- ◆ Diagnostics
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Reference Laboratories

Seat: Copenhagen
<http://www.food.dtu.dk>



The National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) researches and communicates sustainable and value-adding solutions in the areas of food and health for the benefit of society and industry. The institute makes a difference by producing knowledge and technical solutions

which prevent disease and promote health, make it possible to feed the growing population and develop a sustainable food production.

The institutes tasks are carried out in a unique interdisciplinary cooperation between the disciplines of nutrition, chemistry, toxicology, microbiology, epidemiology and technology.

The institute serves as National Reference Laboratories for chemical and microbiological food contamination pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Furthermore, the National Food Institute is also the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides in cereals and feedingstuffs and for antimicrobial resistance. The institute also serves as WHO collaboration centre for antimicrobial resistance for foodborne pathogens and for food contamination monitoring.

Providing scientific advice and risk assessment to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration the National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark is one of the National Veterinary Institutes core assignments and is based on strong scientific competence and expertise within notifiable and production-related diseases in domestic animals and fish. The Department functions as National Reference Laboratory for animal diseases and is appointed as European Reference Laboratory for fish diseases. In addition the Department provides tools for monitoring and control of disease, antimicrobial use and resistance to support the establishment of livestock production systems with healthy animals, ensuring safe and secure food supply.

UCPH University of Copenhagen

◆ Research

Seat: Copenhagen
<http://www.ku.dk>



The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) provides research and research based education within Veterinary- and Food Science. The main areas of interest for EFSA are novel foods, genetic engineering, microbial food safety, zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, animal health and welfare as well as human nutrition.

DCA Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture, Aarhus University (AU)

◆ Research

- ◆ National and international public-sector services
- ◆ Risk assessment

Seat: Foulum, Tjele
<http://dca.au.dk>



The remit of the Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA), Aarhus University (AU), includes research-based risk assessments in the field of feed safety. The DCA delivers research-based consultancy and solutions including risk assessments to be used by the MEFD, the Danish Agri-Fish Agency and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration as the basis for regulation and legislative work. The DCA cooperates with the DCE in fulfilling tasks i. e. for the MEFD in areas, in which their different kinds of expertise are supplementary.

The areas of work of the DCA include:

- ◆ Livestock: production systems and management, breeding, health, welfare, feeding and feed safety, cloning, GMOs
- ◆ Food quality: quality assurance, production systems, supply, processing, storage, nutrition, exposure assessment, nanotechnology
- ◆ Plant health: plant protection products including efficacy testing and evaluation
- ◆ Plants: production management, breeding, biotechnology, climatology, agroecology
- ◆ Interactions among climate, soil, plants, animals and humans in agricultural systems
- ◆ Organic farming

DCE

**Danish Centre for Environment and Energy,
Aarhus University (AU)**

- ◆ Research
- ◆ National and international public-sector services
- ◆ Risk assessment

Seat: Roskilde, Silkeborg
<http://dce.au.dk/en>



The Danish Centre for Environment and Energy (DCE), Aarhus University (AU), delivers research-based consultancy and solutions to the Ministry of the Environment, the Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate, and others. The DCE cooperates with the DCA in fulfilling tasks i. e. for the MEFD in areas, in which their different kinds of expertise are supplementary.

The work of the DCE includes areas, in which environmental considerations are of major importance for the assessment of food, feed and their production, such as:

- ◆ Contaminants in the food chain
- ◆ GMOs (e. g. environmental risk assessment, plant invasion studies and microbial diversity)

- ◆ Plant protection products and their residues (e. g. ecotoxicology, exposure scenarios, models and ecosystems)
- ◆ Plant health (e. g. pest risk assessment)

The DCE is involved in the development of guidelines for risk assessment and has expertise in antibiotics, growth regulators, and wildlife for the dispersal of emerging diseases.

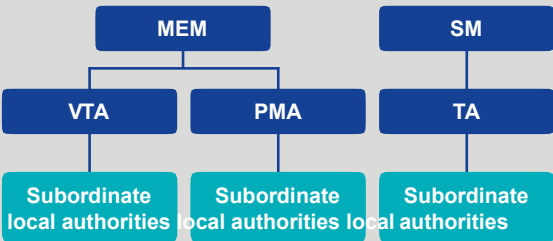
Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels in Denmark consist of five regions and 98 districts. The DVFA consists of three local veterinary control offices and five local food control offices. The local offices are an integrated part of the DVFA.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Technical University of Denmark (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Aarhus University (AU)
3. University of Copenhagen

3.8 Estonia



Simplified depiction of food safety authorities in Estonia

The central legal foundation for food and feed safety in Estonia are the Food Act and the Feed Act. These acts describe provisions on hygiene, labelling, control as well as the responsible competent authorities or control bodies in the field of food and feed safety. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Estonia there is no strict institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management, however some procedural aspects are separated. There is no routine publishing of the results of risk assessment, however depending on the importance of the result they can be published and/or are available upon request.

MEM
Ministry of Rural Affairs

- ♦ Agricultural policy and food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Coordination of risk assessment
- ♦ Codex Contact Point
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Tallinn
<http://www.agri.ee>



The Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM) deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food safety in Estonia. The MEM prepares draft legislation in the field of food and feed and coordinates the performance of state tasks in food safety. The Veterinary and Food Board (VTA) and the Agricultural Board (PMA) facilitate the work of the MEM within their remit as the competent authorities and executive bodies. They are responsible for official food and feed control. With regard to questions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the MEM collaborates closely with the Ministry of the Environment (KKM) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (SM).

There are two National Reference Laboratories (Veterinary and Food Laboratory, Agricultural Research Centre) attached to the MEM according to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The area of work of the MEM extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

SM Ministry of Social Affairs

- ◆ Health policy
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Tallinn
<http://www.sm.ee>



The Ministry of Social Affairs (SM) deals with health policy in Estonia. It prepares draft legislation in the field of drinking water, mineral water and spring water. The SM, MEM and KKM work together in the field of GMOs. The Health Board (TA) and the State Agency of Medicines (RA) support the work of the SM in their capacity as the competent authorities. The RA is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Estonia, except for their use by veterinarians and animal keepers.

The task area of the SM extends to questions on nutrition in public institutions in Estonia (nutritional value of food, diverse and balanced nutrition).

TA Health Board

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Tallinn
<http://www.terviseamet.ee>



The Health Board (TA) is subordinate to the SM. The TA is responsible for risk assessment, risk management measures and risk communication in the area of drinking water, natural mineral water and spring water.

The TA is the competent authority for natural mineral water and drinking water, and monitors and coordinates tasks of relevant regional and local authorities.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to the TA in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

VTA Veterinary and Food Board

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Tallinn
<http://www.vet.agri.ee>



The Veterinary and Food Board (VTA) is subordinate to the MEM. The main focus of the work of the VTA is risk management and risk communication. The VTA monitors and coordinates relevant tasks of local authorities. Risk assessment is outsourced to research institutes and universities.

The activities of the VTA include, amongst other areas, feed, food supplements, GMOs, food contact materials, zoonoses, novel foods and residues of veterinary medicinal products. The area of work of the VTA extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, animal health and animal welfare, organic production, animal breeding and market control.

PMA Agricultural Board

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Saku
<http://www.pma.agri.ee>



The Agricultural Board (PMA) is subordinate to the MEM. The remit of the PMA includes risk assessment, risk management and risk communication with regard to plant protection products (PPPs). The PMA is the regulatory authority for the authorisation of PPPs (including pesticides). The PMA also controls the use of PPPs to ensure that relevant regulations are observed.

The area of work of the PMA extends beyond plant protection products to, for instance, plant health.

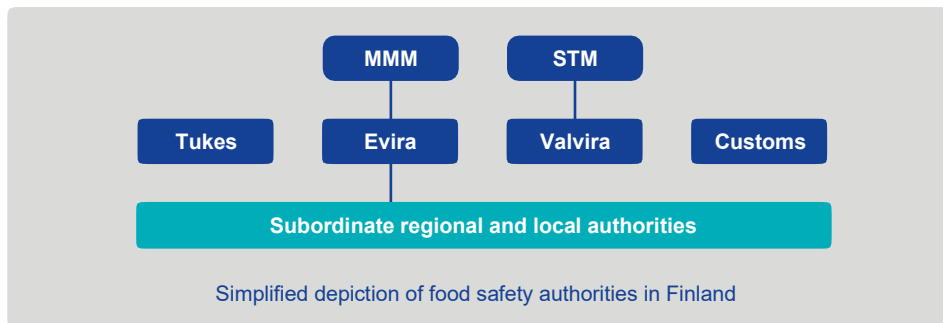
Regional and local levels

The VTA has a local office in each of the 15 regions of Estonia. These local offices are called Veterinary Centres and are responsible for enacting food and feed legislation and for food and feed inspections. The PMA also has a local office in each region which is responsible for plant health and for controlling the use of plant protection products. The TA consists of a central authority and four regional offices called Health Board Services which have further divisions in 15 counties.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Ministry of Rural Affairs (EFSA Focal Point), including:
 - Food Safety Department (FSD)
 - Plant Health Department
 - Research and Development Department
 - IT Department
2. Estonian Environmental Research Centre (Eesti Keskkonnauuringute Keskus OÜ)
3. Estonian University of Life Sciences (Eesti Maaülikool, EMÜ)
4. Estonian Veterinary and Food Laboratory
5. University of Tartu
6. National Institute for Health Development
7. Veterinary and Food Board

3.9 Finland



The Finnish Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Finland. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts. While there is no strict institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management in Finland, procedural aspects of risk assessment and risk management are separated. Risk assessments are publicly available.

MMM Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

- ♦ Food and feed safety
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Helsinki
<http://mmm.fi/en/frontpage>



Ministerial responsibility for food and feed safety is centralised in Finland within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM). It bears policy and legislative responsibility. The portfolio of the MMM includes feed, animal welfare, animal health, plant health and plant protection. The MMM's responsibility for animal products encompasses all processing stages except distribution.

There are three National Reference Laboratories attached to the MMM, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

STM**Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**

- ◆ Nutrition policy
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Helsinki
<http://stm.fi/en/frontpage>



In the food sector the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) deals with nutrition policy, including legislation on drinking water. The Board of Gene Technology at the STM is responsible for coordinating activities under the EC genetic engineering directives.

Evira**Finnish Food Safety Authority**

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Helsinki, several regional seats
<https://www.evira.fi/en>



The Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) operates under the MMM and is the central authority in the field of food and feed safety in Finland. Evira plays a leading role in the development and implementation of the national food control programme covering the food chain from “farm to fork”. Some of the inspections are carried out directly by Evira, but main responsibility for the inspections is however assigned to regional and municipal authorities.

Evira is responsible for scientific risk assessment and conducts scientific research on food safety. It also acts as the link to consumers and organises risk communication.

The Finnish Zoonosis Centre located within Evira forms a cooperation body between Evira and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). This ensures close cooperation between relevant experts in the field of food and feed safety as well as animal and public health.

The area of work of Evira extends to food, food hygiene, novel foods, zoonoses, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), packaged waters and water quality in food production, feed, residues and consumer safety, as well as food contaminants and supplements.

The work area of Evira extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and veterinary medicinal products. (The regulatory agency for veterinary drugs however is the Finnish Medicines Agency Fimea).

Tukes**Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency**

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Helsinki, Tampere, Rovaniemi
<http://www.tukes.fi/en>



The Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes) supervises and promotes the technical safety and conformity, together with the consumer and chemicals safety in Finland. Tukes is the regulatory agency for pesticides. Tasks related to pesticides are under the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

Valvira National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Helsinki
<http://www.valvira.fi/web/en/front-page>



The National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira) is responsible in the field of food safety for the supervision of tap water. Valvira is also in charge of the implementation and control activities of the national Gene Technology Act. In addition to this Valvira supervises pesticide residues in alcohol products.

Finnish Customs

- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Helsinki
<http://www.tulli.fi>

Finnish Customs (under the Ministry of Finance) are the competent authorities for food of non-animal origin at import.

Regional and local levels

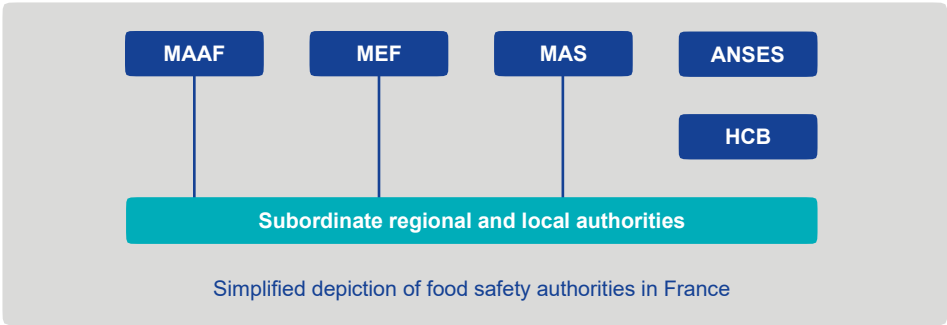
Finland is divided into six regions which are managed by Regional State Administrative Agencies. These regional agencies are under the Ministry of Finance. The regions are further divided into self-governing municipalities. Food control as well as control of animal health and welfare is carried out by 62 local environmental health care control units which report to the municipalities.

In addition, controls in the area of animal identification, registration, animal feed and plant health are carried out by 15 regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (supervised by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy) on behalf of Evira.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)
3. Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
4. University of Helsinki
5. National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
6. MTT Agrifood Research Finland
7. University of Turku
8. Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)

3.10 France



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European parliament and of the council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law is the central foundation for food legislation in France.

Government measures with regard to food safety are based on science and more particularly on scientific risk assessment.

In France, food safety, risk assessment and risk management are institutionally separated. Risk assessments, scientific opinions and other statements are conducted by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) and the High Council for Biotechnology (HCB) in the case of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and are publicly available through publication on their websites (unless prohibited by statutory provisions).

Risk management is divided among three general directorates in three ministries: the Directorate General for Food (DGAL, MAAF), the Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF, MEF) and the Directorate General for Health (DGS, MAS).

The ministries use risk assessments prepared by ANSES, and HCB in the case of GMOs, as the scientific foundation for risk management measures.

These three general directorates have a dual responsibility:

- ♦ “political” through a central administration that ensures French representation in international and European authorities and also by the development of regulations at the national level.
- ♦ “operational” through decentralised services located in the regions and départements whose mission is to control the implementation of health and food regulations.

Risk communication is conducted by ANSES and by the ministries as relevant. The Codex Contact Point in France is located at the *Secrétariat général des affaires européennes* (General Secretariat for European Affairs), placed under the authority of the Prime Minister.

MAAF Ministry of Agriculture, AgriFood and Forestry

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Paris
<http://agriculture.gouv.fr>



In the field of food safety, the Ministry of Agriculture, AgriFood and Forestry (MAAF) is responsible for agricultural policy, the safety of food of animal or plant origin and the safety of animal feed. MAAF prepares draft legislation in this area and is also responsible for control and inspection. MAAF is also responsible for fighting food crime.

MAAF's portfolio encompasses plant protection products, including residues, veterinary medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses.

The area of work of MAAF extends beyond food safety to plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare. In France there are two RASFF Contact Points, one is at MAAF the other at MEF.

MEF Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control

- ♦ Consumer policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Paris
<http://www.economie.gouv.fr>



The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, Directorate General for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (MEF) is responsible for consumer policy including state food inspections of all products of non-animal origin. The portfolio of the MEF includes food supplements, novel foods, mineral water, residues of plant protection products and GMOs in food of non-animal origin (other aspects with regards to GMOs are covered by the MAAF).

MAS Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Directorate General for Health

- ♦ Health policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication

Seat: Paris
<http://www.sante.gouv.fr>

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (MAS) Directorate General for Health deals with public health policy, food safety and mineral and drinking water. MAS defines objectives and priorities for public health policy, sets the legislative and regulatory framework, develops public health plans and national health programmes and ensures their implementation. In collaboration with MAAF, MAS is in charge of investigations on foodborne diseases.

ANSES French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ Research, scientific & technical support

Seat: Maisons-Alfort
<http://www.anses.fr>



Created on 1 July 2010, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is a scientific body active in the fields of food safety, occupational and environmental health, animal health and welfare, and plant health. ANSES's core activity is to conduct independent and pluralistic expert assessments in order to evaluate health risks and provide the competent authorities with all the necessary measures to preserve public health. These assessments are carried out with the support of 18 scientific expert committees and related ad hoc working groups involving more than 800 external scientific experts.

In compliance with the European regulatory framework for GMOs, ANSES participates in the assessment of GMO dossiers together with HCB.

ANSES is also the French authority for veterinary medicinal products, and it provides assessment of applications for the marketing of pesticides and biocides, as well as chemicals within the framework of the REACH regulations. It issues marketing authorisations, following assessment work, of plant protection products, fertilisers and growing media, and their adjuvants.

ANSES reports to five ministries, three of which have responsibilities in the area of food safety.

These ministries use risk assessments prepared by ANSES as basis for risk management measures.

ANSES conducts monitoring, alert, vigilance, research and reference activities. It also defines, implements and funds scientific and technical research programmes. The Agency relies on a network of 11 reference and research laboratories which operate in three main areas: animal health and welfare, food safety (chemical and microbiological) and plant health and hold numerous reference mandates (66 national mandates, 9 EU, and 19 international: WHO, FAO, OIE).

HCB High Council for Biotechnology

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Paris
<http://www.hautconseildesbiotechnologies.fr>



Set up by the Genetically Modified Organisms Act (GMO Act) of 25 June 2008, the High Council for Biotechnology (HCB) gives independent advice to the French government on all issues relating to GMOs and other types of biotechnology. It reports to the ministries responsible for the environment, agriculture, research, health and consumer affairs. In particular, HCB has the tasks of

- ◆ Assessing the safety of biotechnology: It provides opinions on national biomonitoring and on the risks to public health and the environment of various possible uses of GMOs;
- ◆ Studying society-related aspects of biotechnology: It specifically gives advice on the social and economic impact of GMOs and considers the ethical issues that they raise.

In order to carry out these tasks, HCB consists of two committees: a Scientific Committee (SC) and an Economic, Ethical and Social Committee (EESC).

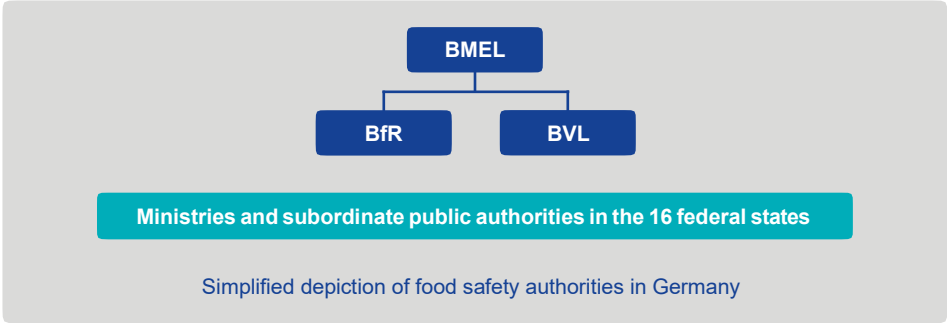
Regional and local levels

France consists of 18 regions and 101 départements (five départements and regions are located overseas). Feed and food inspections are carried out by the decentralised services (regional and local offices) of the three ministries in charge of food and feed safety.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire de l'Alimentation, de l'Environnement et du Travail, ANSES) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Institute for Agricultural Research/Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
3. High Council for Biotechnology (Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies, HCB)
4. French Agriculture Research Centre for International Development (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement, CIRAD)
5. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort
6. Institut Pasteur (Paris)
7. Institut Pasteur de Lille
8. Institute for Higher Education and Research in Food, Animal Health, Agronomic and Environmental Sciences (Institut d'Enseignement Supérieur et de Recherche en Alimentation, Santé Animale, Sciences Agronomiques et de l'Environnement, VetAgro Sup)
9. Food and Cellular Toxicology Laboratory (Laboratoire de Toxicologie Alimentaire et Cellulaire, EA 3880, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, UBO)
10. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (ENVT)
11. Agrocampus Ouest
12. National Institute for Research in Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (Institut National de Recherche en Sciences et Technologies pour l'Environnement et l'Agriculture, IRSTEA)
13. French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, Ifremer)
14. French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (Institut de Veille Sanitaire, InVS)
15. National College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering, Nantes Atlantique (Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire, Agroalimentaire et de l'Alimentation, Nantes-Atlantique, Oniris)
16. Centre International d'Etudes Supérieures en Sciences Agronomiques
17. University of Burgundy (Université de Bourgogne, uB)

3.11 Germany



In Germany the central legal foundation for food legislation is the Food and Feed Code (Lebensmittel- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch). Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Germany risk assessment and risk management are institutionally separated at federal level. At regional level, however, (i. e. in the 16 federal states) risk assessment and risk management are not institutionally separated. In Germany, food safety laws are enacted at federal level, however, implementation and control at the regional level is the responsibility of the 16 federal states.

Risk assessments are usually published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

BMEL
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

♦ Agricultural policy and food safety

Seat: Bonn and Berlin
<http://www.bmel.de>

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) is responsible for agricultural policy and food safety. In the field of food safety the BMEL prepares draft legislation and issues ordinances. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a specialist authority within the portfolio of the BMEL. It contributes to the enforcement of legislation by undertaking statutory risk assessments and advises political circles. On management issues, the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) undertakes preparatory work for the BMEL.

The portfolio of the BMEL also encompasses other federal research institutions such as the Max Rubner-Institut (MRI) in the field of nutrition and food.

BMUB Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

◆ Environmental policy

Seat: Bonn and Berlin
<http://www.bmub.bund.de>

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) is responsible for the prevention of food safety risks caused by environmental contaminants, introduced into air, water or soil via human activity. The Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Federal Office for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) support the work of the BMUB as the competent specialist authorities in its portfolio. Effective environmental protection contributes to the production of healthy, largely uncontaminated food. The BMEL is responsible for the other areas of food safety. The BfR and BVL, the competent specialist authorities in this area, support the BMEL and BMUB in the field of food safety.

BfR German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ Research

Seat: Berlin
<http://www.bfr.bund.de/en>



The remit of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) encompasses scientifically based risk assessments as part of administrative procedures, for instance marketing authorisations for plant protection products, and policy advice. The BfR risk assessments are used by the BMEL,

BMUB and regional/local public authorities as the basis for management measures. Without being influenced by economic, political or social interests, the BfR has the task of assessing risks, identifying new health risks and drawing up risk minimisation recommendations. In this context, the BfR draws on the support of 15 independent expert committees with around 200 committee members overall. In its capacity as a scientific body, the BfR enjoys independence in respect of the results of its opinions, and prepares expert reports on risk assessment.

The BfR's remit includes novel foods and food ingredients, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), food supplements, zoonoses, food contact materials and mineral waters. Other main areas of its work are research and transparent communication with the public at large, scientific circles and other stakeholders.

14 National Reference Laboratories are attached to the BfR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

In addition to food safety, the BfR is also responsible for risk assessments in the area of safety of consumer products, cosmetics, biocides and chemicals (REACH). The BfR also collects and evaluates notifications of intoxication caused by chemicals.

BVL Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Braunschweig and Berlin
<http://www.bvl.bund.de>



The main focus of the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) is on risk management. In the field of food safety the BVL supports the cooperation between the BMEL, BMUB and the federal states. Together with the federal states, the BVL coordinates programmes for inspection and control of food to ensure comparable results and procedures in all 16 federal states of Germany. The BVL is the national contact point for the Rapid Alert System (RASFF) of the European Union. In times of crisis, it serves as a situation centre for the crisis management group of the BMEL.

The BVL is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. In its decision-making process the BVL normally draws on BfR risk assessments. Based on risk assessments by other authorities, the BVL decides on applications for the experimental scientific cultivation of genetically modified plants. Furthermore, the BVL is involved in the EU marketing authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food and feed.

The European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for residues of veterinary medicines and contaminants in food of animal origin and eight National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) are attached to the BVL pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

In addition to food safety, the activity of the BVL extends, amongst other things, to cosmetics and commodities which come into contact with food for human consumption.

UBA Federal Environmental Agency

- ◆ Risk assessment

Seat: Dessau
<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de>

The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) is a specialist authority within the portfolio of the BMUB. The Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) is also responsible for the quality of drinking water; the drinking water department of the UBA as responsible authority supports the BMG. Other statutory tasks include informing the public at large about environmental protection.

RKI Robert Koch Institute

- ◆ Research

Seat: Berlin
<http://www.rki.de>

As a federal institute within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is the government's central scientific institution for disease surveillance and prevention as well as for biomedical research. The RKI's main tasks include the identification, surveillance and prevention of diseases, especially infectious diseases. According to its legal mandate the RKI provides the scientific basis for health-related political decision making. The RKI informs and advises the competent federal ministries, in particular the BMG, the scientific community, and increasingly, the general public.

Regional and local levels

Germany consists of 16 federal states, with large individual differences with regard to the size of each state (between approximately 1 and 18 million inhabitants per state). The 16 federal states of Germany are, in principle, responsible for implementation of the law. Implementation of food and feed safety is therefore the responsibility of the federal states. In this task the federal states are independent, i. e. not bound by instructions of the federal government.

In Germany, the federal states are responsible for food control. To ensure comparable procedures in all 16 federal states, the federal states coordinate their activities mainly in working groups in which the federal level is also involved. In most federal states, food control is divided into three levels: At the uppermost level, the responsible ministry coordinates the food control. Below this, the provincial authorities or the regional government offices are responsible for the supervisory control of the food control authorities in the district or municipal authorities ("Kreise und Kreisfreie Städte"). These local offices for food and veterinary control carry out the investigation locally (http://www.bvl.bund.de/DE/01_Lebensmittel/01_Aufgaben/01_WerMachtWas/01_Landesbehoerden/Im_vet_ueberw_node.html).

4. Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) – Federal Research Institute for Cultivated Plants (Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen)
5. Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit – BVL)
6. Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit)
7. Max Rubner-Institut (MRI), Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food (Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ernährung und Lebensmittel)
8. German Nutrition Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ernährung – DGE)
9. Research Institute of Child Nutrition (Forschungsinstitut für Kinderernährung – FKE)
10. German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA)

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung – BfR) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz – BfN)
3. Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

3.12 Greece



Simplified depiction of food safety authorities in Greece

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Greece. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Greece, there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

YAAT
Ministry of Rural Development and Food

- ◆ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Athens
<http://www.minagric.gr>



The Ministry of Rural Development and Food (YAAT) is responsible for agricultural policy and safety of agricultural (food) products in Greece. YAAT implements horizontal and vertical legislation in the area of food and feed and is responsible for the coordination of food safety inspections, in cooperation with EFET. The bases for YAAT management measures are the risk assessments undertaken by YAAT itself or its supervised organisations. YAAT also engages in the transparent communication with the consumer on topics of food and feed safety. YAAT is also responsible for feed safety, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and zoonoses. YAAT monitors veterinary inspections by local authorities and is the regulatory authority for plant protection products (including pesticides).

The regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the National Organization for Medicines (EOF). The area of work of YAAT extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, plant protection, animal health, animal welfare and biocides.

46 National Reference Laboratories operate in Greece pursuant to regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

YY Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy, food safety
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Athens
<http://www.moh.gov.gr>



The Ministry of Health (YY) deals with health policy. It is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in the field of mineral waters and drinking water.

EFET Hellenic Food Authority

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Athens
<http://www.efet.gr>



The Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) is a subordinate authority of YAAT. EFET ensures that food produced, distributed or marketed in Greece

meets food safety and hygiene standards as described by national and European legislation.

EFET supervises food inspections in Greece. EFET's central services monitor and coordinate tasks of regional EFET authorities. Risk assessments are compiled by a scientific advisory body (ESET) established within EFET. Risk assessments are the basis for risk management measures and their corresponding communication. The risk assessment work of EFET is performed in an independent fashion.

The area of work of EFET extends beyond food safety to labelling, nutrition and health claims, nutrition policy, training, communication with stakeholders, etc.

EOF National Organization for Medicines

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Athens
<http://www.eof.gr>



The National Organization for Medicines (EOF) is a public entity administratively under YY. The task of EOF is to ensure public health and safety of medicinal products for human and veterinary use. The remit of EOF also includes foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses, food supplements, biocides, medical devices and cosmetics. EOF is the regulatory authority for all health-related products in Greece. It monitors the post-marketing product quality, safety and efficacy. EOF proposes and promotes medical and pharmaceutical research. EOF also supplies the public and health professionals with objective information on medicines (for human and veterinary use) and other health-related products to ensure their safe and rational use and to support optimal cost-effectiveness.

Regional and local levels

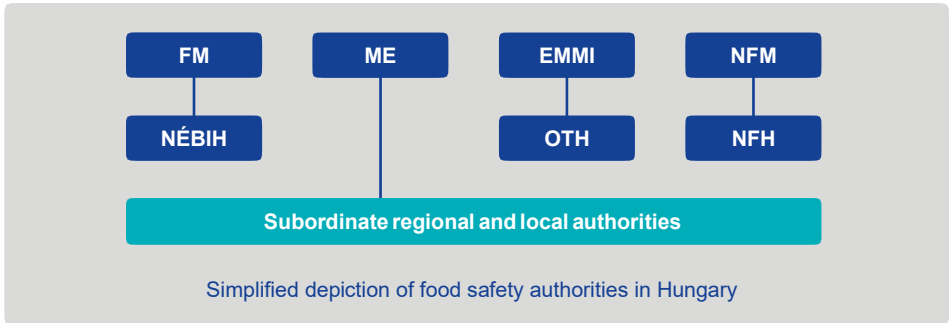
Regional and local levels in Greece consist of seven decentralised administrations, 13 regions and 325 municipalities. Nine regional EFET authorities and local authorities are responsible for the implementation of food inspections. YAAT and EFET are responsible for coordinating regional food inspections.

Both the central General Chemical State Laboratory and the regional Chemical Services are under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and are responsible for the laboratory analyses of foodstuffs.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Hellenic Food Authority (EFET) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Benaki Phytopathological Institute
3. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
 - Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Public Health Nutrition and Nutritional Epidemiology Unit, Medical school
 - Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry
4. University of Crete
5. Agricultural University of Athens
6. Harokopio University
7. NTUA, School of Chemical Engineering, Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Technology
8. Hellenic Health Foundation
9. Alexander Technological Educational Institution of Thessaloniki
10. Hellenic Agricultural Organisation – DEMETER
11. Ministry of Finance, including:
 - General Chemical State Laboratory
12. Ministry of Rural Development and Food, including:
 - Directorate of Plant Produce Protection
 - Food Hygiene Institute of Athens
 - Food Hygiene Institute of Thessaloniki
13. National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos”
14. University of Thessaly
15. University of Ioannina
16. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

3.13 Hungary



The Food Chain Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Hungary. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Hungary, the National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH) is responsible for risk management and risk assessment. Risk assessments are not published on the Internet yet.

FM Ministry of Agriculture

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food chain safety policy
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication

Seat: Budapest

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-agriculture>



The Ministry of Agriculture (FM) has full responsibility for official controls on all the food chain. The ministry's core tasks are: international relations, strategic planning and drafting legislation in the fields of food chain safety from farm to table, and supervising the control activities at county and local levels.

The portfolio of the FM includes soil, plant health, feed, food, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, mineral water and drinking water. The FM also deals with residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, however the regulatory authority for pesticides and veterinary drugs is the NÉBIH.

The ministry formulates government measures related not only to rural development, but also to the supervision of food chains, environmental protection and the agricultural economy. The ministry's main goals are the sustainable management of natural resources, diversity of rural land use, rural development and creating conditions for the safe and high-quality production and distribution of food products.

EMMI
Ministry of Human Capacities,
State Secretariat for Healthcare

- ◆ Health policy and consumer protection
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Budapest
<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-human-resources>

The State Secretariat for Healthcare is responsible for determining the special rules and the preparation of legislation related to the direction of healthcare provision on national level and in institutions of higher education. It regulates national public healthcare tasks.

The area of competence of the Ministry of Human Capacities (EMMI) covers legislation in the field of nutritional health (e.g. nutritional health aspects of mass catering), and is primarily responsible for establishing legislation on food supplements, dietetic products, infant and follow-up formulae, health and nutrition claims and nutrition labelling. EMMI supervises the National Office of the Chief Medical Officer which is responsible for nutrition, health claims, food supplements, food for special nutritional purposes and foodborne diseases.

NFM
Ministry of National Development,
State Secretariat for Infocommunication
and Consumer Protection

- ◆ Consumer protection

Seat: Budapest
<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-national-development>

The Authority of Consumer Protection (NFH) – which is working under the Ministry of National Development (NFM) professional management – has competence in case of violation of the prohibition of unfair commercial practices related to foodstuff labelling and advertising.

ME
Prime Minister's Office

- ◆ Funding for staffing, infrastructure
- ◆ Implementing of the operational programmes

Seat: Budapest
<http://www.kormany.hu/en/prime-minister-s-office>

Since 2011 the Prime Minister's Office (ME) is responsible for funding for staffing, infrastructure and implementation of the operational programmes.

Administratively the County Government Offices (CGOs) are under the Prime Minister's Office. The ME has other, non-professional management powers (for example: employer rights) – as regards of the CGO's.

NÉBIH National Food Chain Safety Office

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ WHO INFOSAN Contact Point

Seat: Budapest
<http://portal.nebih.gov.hu/hu>

The National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH) is an independent legal entity with nationwide competence and responsibility operating under the direct supervision of the Minister of Agriculture. Its annual budget is allocated by the Government. The NÉBIH has a complex organisation structure with different horizontal and professional directorates and testing laboratories. The NÉBIH covers the whole food chain from soil to retail distribution and catering as well, in order to facilitate safety of food and feed production in terms of animal and plant health and soil conservation. The NÉBIH is involved in the authorisation of novel foods.

The Directorate for Food Safety Risk Assessment is responsible for risk assessment in Hungary in the field of food safety.

The System Management and Supervision Directorate coordinates the multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) and is responsible for risk assessment, strategic and risk based planning of official controls, and for IT system developments.

As a result of the cooperative preliminary work of the Ministry of Rural Development and the NÉBIH the Food Chain Safety Strategy 2013 – 2022 has been accepted by the Government. The Strategy determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety, as well as it provides guidance on the achievement of these desired goals for the next ten years.

Regional and local levels

Administratively, Hungary is divided into 19 counties and Budapest. The counties are further subdivided into 175 districts, and Budapest is its own sub region, with 23 districts.

At county level all authorities involved in official controls of the food chain have been merged and integrated into the County Government Offices (CGOs). Since 1st April 2015 previously independent agricultural administration bodies have been merged into one department within the CGOs.

The ME is responsible for the direction of the CGOs; the FM is responsible for the professional direction of the units responsible for food chain control. Regarding to the official controls of food chain, the CGOs implement the control plans following the procedures and guidelines that are all provided by NÉBIH and ordered by the FM.

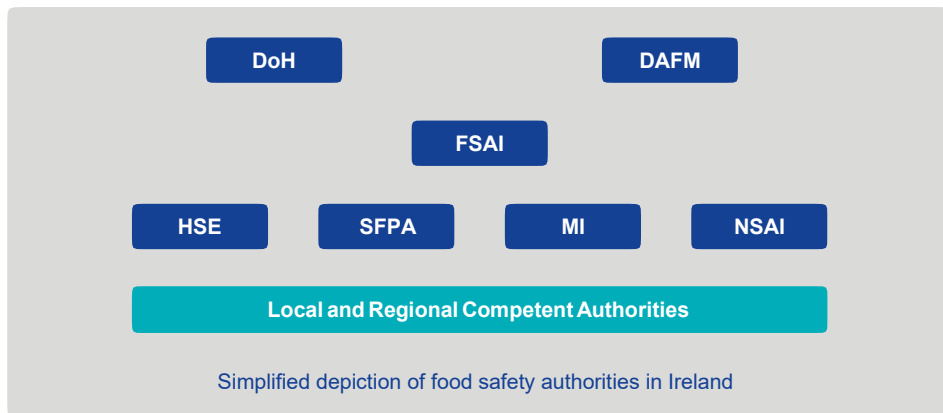
Since 2013 at local level there are 198 district government offices (DGOs). Within these DGOs there are 82 district food chain safety and animal health unit. In average each unit is responsible for 2– 3 DGOs.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network
pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

Hungary

1. National Food Chain Safety Office (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science
3. Hungarian Dairy Research Institute
4. Szent István University Faculty of Veterinary Science
5. Cereal Research Non-Profit Company
6. Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Food Science
7. National Center of Epidemiology
8. Centre for Agricultural Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
9. Research Centre for Natural Sciences
10. University of Debrecen
11. National Agricultural Research and Innovation Center (Nemzeti Agrárkutatási és Innovációs Központ)

3.14 Ireland



Most Irish food legislation derives from Ireland's membership of the European Union. In Ireland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management. Risk assessments are in principle published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

DoH
Department of Health

♦ Health policy, food safety policy

Seat: Dublin
<http://health.gov.ie>

The Department of Health (DoH) is responsible for policy issues in the area of food safety, for formulating and transposing EU regulations and for reviewing national legislation. Its remit covers the retail sectors for food and non-retail processing and distribution of foods of animal and non-animal origin.

DAFM
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

♦ Agricultural policy, food safety policy
 ♦ Food and feed risk assessment
 ♦ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Dublin
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>



The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is responsible for policy development, negotiation at EU level, implementation in national law of EU rules and official controls in the areas of primary production of food, animal health and welfare, feed safety, plant health, fisheries, slaughtering of animals and processing of foods of animal origin up to but not including the retail level. DAFM carries out risk assessments in the field of animal feed. DAFM personnel also enforce food law and conduct risk management of food under contract to the FSAI. DAFM enforcement of feed law and associated risk management activities are a stand alone function. Eight

National Reference Laboratories are attached to DAFM pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The remit of DAFM extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health, animal welfare, feed, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and zoonoses. DAFM is the regulatory authority for pesticides and veterinary drugs.

DAFM national veterinary service is subdivided into four regional animal health and welfare inspectorates with 28 District Veterinary Offices. There are six regional veterinary public health inspectorate regions.

FSAI Food Safety Authority of Ireland

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Dublin
<http://www.fsai.ie>



The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is a statutory, independent and science based body, dedicated to protecting public health and consumer interests in the area of food safety and hygiene. Established in 1999, its principal function is to ensure that food produced in the State and food distributed or marketed in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene that are reasonably achievable.

The FSAI enforces food legislation in Ireland. It does this by managing official control activities through service contract arrangements with other bodies – namely, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the Sea-fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA), Local Authorities, the Marine Institute (MI) and the National Standards Authority

of Ireland (NSAI) – scientific and technical support to other bodies through publications and training, and carrying out risk assessments to underpin risk management decisions and actions.

The FSAI has a remit to carry out risk assessment, risk management and risk communication relating to food safety.

HSE Health Service Executive

- ♦ Public Health
- ♦ Environmental Health
- ♦ Food Safety

Seat: Kildare
<http://www.hse.ie>



The Health Service Executive (HSE) was established by the DoH as part of the provisions of the Health Act, 2004. The Environmental Health Service is part of the HSE and provides a range of food safety and food control services on behalf of the FSAI. The HSE has nine food laboratories which are official laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Two of these laboratories have been appointed as National Reference Laboratories.

The HSE is divided into four geographical regions: Southern Region, Western Region, Dublin Mid-Leinster Region and Dublin North Eastern Region. There are between seven and nine environmental health sections in each region and 39 nationally.

SFPA Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority

- ♦ Regulation of the seafishing and seafood sectors

Seat: Cork
<http://www.sfpa.ie>

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of national and EU legislation that deals with health conditions for the production and placing on the market of fish, shellfish and fisheries products. Their remit extends from harvesting and catching through to fish or fish products being placed on the market, but excluding products on retail sale, which are supervised by the HSE. The SFPA has six offices in the major ports around the coast.

MI Marine Institute

♦ Marine research, technology development and innovation

Seat: Galway
<http://www.marine.ie>

The Marine Institute (MI) is responsible for implementation of aquatic animal health legislation under EU and National legislation and monitors the movement of finfish and shellfish into and within Ireland. The MI is the National Reference Laboratory for finfish, molluscs and crustacean disease. It provides scientific advice and support services to both the FSAI and SFPA.

NSAI National Standards Authority of Ireland

♦ National standards and measurement body

Seat: Dublin
<http://www.nsai.ie>



The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is responsible for the development of Irish standards, representing Irish interests in the work of the European and International standards bodies CEN and ISO, the recognition of natural mineral waters and controls on suppliers of food contact materials.

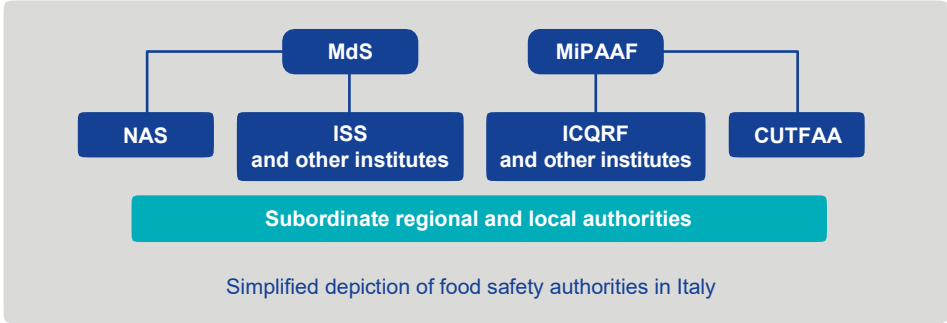
Regional and local levels

Local authorities (31 in total) which come under the local government structure of the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government are multipurpose bodies responsible for an extensive range of services including veterinary services. These are arranged on a county or city level.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Food Safety Authority of Ireland (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory
3. Safefood
4. Cork Public Analyst's Laboratory
5. Teagasc
6. Marine Institute
7. University College Cork – National University of Ireland, Cork
8. University College Dublin
9. National University of Ireland Galway
10. University of Limerick, Department of Life Sciences
11. Athlone Institute of Technology
12. Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
13. National University of Ireland Maynooth
14. TCD (Trinity College Dublin)
15. Limerick Institute of Technology

3.15 Italy



MdS
Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy, food safety
- ◆ Animal health and animal welfare
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Rome
<http://www.salute.gov.it>

In Italy most of the competences for food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare are assigned at national level to the Ministry of Health (MdS) (reorganised by “Prime Minister’s Decree No. 59 of 11 February 2014”) in particular to:

- ◆ Directorate General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine (DGAHVM);
- ◆ Directorate General for Food Hygiene, Food Safety and Nutrition (DGFHFSN);
- ◆ Directorate General for Advisory Bodies for Health Care (DGABHC) (office 2 and 3);
- ◆ General Secretary (office 3).

In this regard the Directorate General for Advisory Bodies for Health Care was established within the Italian Ministry of Health (MdS), identified as the competent Italian authority for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). It performs functions related to physical, chemical and biological risk assessment in food safety and to ensuring a link with the regions and also with regard to the planning of risk evaluation activities of the food chain and the stakeholders.

The established Directorate General for Advisory Bodies for Health Care (DGABHC) in addition to its risk assessment activities, has responsibility for consultation with consumers’ and producers’ associations and for undertaking preliminary investigation and coordination of risk assessment processes.

It includes the National Committee for Food Safety (CNSA) the consultative technical body consisting of 18 independent experts, it collaborates with EFSA and gives scientific advice, requested by the central Competent Authorities, and the competent authorities of the Regions or Autonomous Provinces.

The activity of the MdS includes official controls during import of food and feed, general food and feed hygiene, novel food, food supplements, labelling and nutrition, food contact materials, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, residues of plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products. The MdS is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products and may conduct audits and inspections on the regional competent authorities.

Italy introduced administrative sanctions against violation of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 by Legislative Decree No. 190/2006, and implemented the EU Hygiene Package by Legislative Decree No. 193/2007, which identifies the national Competent Authorities for Official Controls. When a detected unconformity may represent a danger for public health also penal actions apply.

All control activities performed by the central and local competent authorities are integrated in a multi-annual national control plan (MANCP) developed in compliance with the principles and guidelines laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, according to which plans shall be based on risk assessment (Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002) and risk categorisation (Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004).

The MANCP is carried out in collaboration with all competent authorities: the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS – National Institute of Health), the Sperimentale Zooprofilattico Institutes (IZZSS), the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF), the Ministry of Environment, the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, the Customs Agency, the Comandi Carabinieri for health protection (NAS), the State Forestry Corps (CUTFAA), the Port Authorities and the Ministry of Finance's Police.

MiPAAF Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies

- ♦ Agricultural policy
- ♦ Plant health
- ♦ Controls on quality, labelling and traceability of food and feed
- ♦ Some aspects in the field of plant protection products and fertilisers
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Rome
<http://www.politicheagricole.gov.it>



Within the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF), the Department of Competitive Policies is responsible for the coordination of activities related to the quality of agricultural products and food. The Directorate General of Competitive Policies for Rural Development is responsible for plant health, seeds, propagation material, fertilisers and some aspects of the field of plant protection products, as well as for husbandry and products of animal origin.

The Central Inspectorate for Fraud repression and Quality protection of the agri-food products (ICQRF) is the Law Enforcement Body of the MiPAAF responsible for fraud prevention. It carries out controls on labelling and quality of foodstuffs, agricultural product feed, fertilisers and plant protection products by means of its own laboratory network.

ISS**National Institute of Health**

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Rome

<http://www.iss.it>

At national level, the National Institute of Health (ISS) (which is under the portfolio of the MdS) is the main technical and scientific public body of the Italian National Health Service. It undertakes risk assessment in the area of feed, novel food, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products on behalf of the MdS. An important activity of the institute, carried out on behalf of the Minister of Health or the regions, is inspection and quality control of food products and packaging. The ISS also performs confirmatory analysis.

Regional and local levels

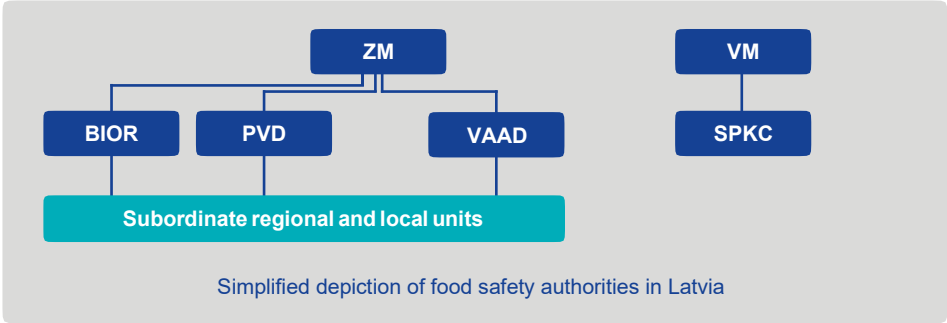
Except for those matters explicitly reserved to the central government, responsibility for controls has been devolved to regional level. The 19 regions and 2 autonomous provinces have responsibility, within their territories, for planning, coordination, guidance, authorisation, and verification, while the operational implementation of controls is handled at local level by 146 local units with a high degree of managerial autonomy. Local units are responsible for local controls on animal health, animal welfare and food both of animal and non-animal origin. Food, feed and animal official samples collected by the local units within their official control activity are analyzed by IIZZSS official laboratories operating at local level.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanita, ISS) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria, CREA)
3. National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR)
4. Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)
5. Experimental Zooprophyllaxis Institute of Abruzzo and Molise Regions (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale", IZS AM)
6. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Apulia and Basilicata (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Puglia e della Basilicata, IZSPB)
7. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Lazio and Tuscany (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana, IZSLT)
8. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna "Bruno Ubertini" (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia-Romagna "Bruno Ubertini", IZSLER)
9. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta, IZSP/LVA)
10. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Sicily (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia "A. Mirri", IZSSIC)
11. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Umbria and Marche Regions (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche, IZSUM)
12. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Venezia (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, IZSVE)

13. Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, UNIBO)
14. Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
15. Azienda Socio Sanitaria Territoriale (ASST) Fatebenefratelli Sacco
16. University of Eastern Piedmont (Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale “Amedeo Avogadro”, UNIPMN)
17. University of Bari Aldo Moro
18. University of Foggia (Università degli Studi di Foggia, UNIFG)
19. University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano, UNIMI)
20. University of Palermo (Università degli studi di Palermo, UNIPA)
21. University of Parma (Università degli Studi di Parma, UNIPR)
22. University of Pavia (Università degli Studi di Pavia, UNIPV)
23. University of Perugia (Università degli Studi di Perugia, UNIPG)
24. Sapienza – University of Rome (Sapienza – Università di Roma, UNIROMA1)
25. Veterinary Public Health Institute of Mezzogiorno (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Mezzogiorno, IZSM)
26. Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)
27. University of Napoli Federico II (Università di Napoli Federico II)
28. University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, UNIMORE)

3.16 Latvia



Food businesses have to follow both the EU food safety legislation and the national legal acts in the area of food safety and quality. The Law on the Supervision of the Handling of Food is the central foundation for food legislation in Latvia. Infringement of food safety legislation concerning routine checks of food establishments, consumer complaints and outbreaks of foodborne diseases can lead to measures under civil law and if necessary under criminal law. Official controls in the area of food safety are carried out on the basis of the risk assessment approach. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Latvia there is clear institutional separation with regard to implementation of functions of risk assessment and risk management in the area of food safety. Risk assessment is carried out by the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR), while risk management rests with the Food and Veterinary Service of Latvia. Urgent information with regard to risk assessment and risk management activities, as well as other relevant information for food business operators and consumers is published on the Internet home page of competent authorities on a case by case basis unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

ZM
Ministry of Agriculture

- ◆ Agricultural policy
- ◆ Food safety and quality
- ◆ Food information for consumers
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Riga
<http://www.zm.gov.lv>

The Ministry of Agriculture (ZM) is responsible for the development and implementation of policy in agricultural and food and feed safety sectors including development of national legal acts for sectors mentioned above. The ZM cooperates with BIOR as risk assessment body and with the Food and Veterinary Service and State's Plant Protection Service as risk management bodies to decide on necessary measures for risk management purposes. The ZM is constantly involved in risk communication activities at different levels.

In general the portfolio of the ZM covers such topics as food safety and quality, plant health and plant protection, animal health and animal welfare. The ZM responsibilities include legal regulation of novel foods, food supplements, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), mineral water, as well as development and implementation of monitoring and control

programs in the field of zoonoses, pesticide residues, residues of veterinary drugs and other food and feed contaminants.

VM Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health care, public health and pharmacy policy
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Riga
<http://www.vm.gov.lv>

The main task of the Ministry of Health (VM) is to develop and implement national policy to safeguard public health and to promote disease prevention by encouraging healthy lifestyles, as well as to create conditions for citizens to receive cost effective, accessible and quality health care services.

The VM is responsible for the development, coordination and updating of nutrition policy, analysis of the results of monitoring of foodborne diseases, as well as preparation of scientific opinions in relation to solving of nutrition problems and giving information on actual nutrition topics to the public.

The VM is responsible for elaboration of recommendations for nutrient and energy intake for different population groups in Latvia and the development of standards of nutrient and energy intake for children in kindergartens and schools, as well as for inhabitants of social care houses and patients in hospitals.

The VM is involved in the monitoring of safety and quality of drinking water with exception of internal water supplies for food establishments. The Nutrition Council under the VM was set up to support the activities in the field of nutrition.

The VM is constantly involved in risk communication activities at different levels.

BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Riga
<http://www.bior.gov.lv>

The Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) carries out scientific activities in food, veterinary, environmental and fisheries sectors, as well as in other sectors of biology. BIOR provides expertise, scientific substantiation and risk assessment in the sectors mentioned above. BIOR implements projects to assess the risk in the field of food safety and animal infectious diseases, ensuring cooperation with institutions and organisations performing activities in these areas. BIOR performs functions of the National Reference Laboratory in the areas defined in the legislation and carries out laboratorial and diagnostic investigations related to state monitoring and food movement control, animal health protection, animal feed and veterinary drugs movement. BIOR is nominated as the Latvia's National Focal Point for the EFSA.

PVD Food and Veterinary Service

- ◆ Surveillance and control
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Riga
<http://www.pvd.gov.lv>



The Food and Veterinary Service (PVD) operates under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The PVD is responsible for the realisation of the State's surveillance and control function in the area of food safety and quality, as well as in the area of food labelling throughout the entire food chain, including surveillance and border controls of food (concept "from the field to the table"). The PVD carries out registration and approval of food establishments.

If there is a threat to human life or health, the State's chief food and veterinary inspector is entitled to specify restrictions or prohibitions on the distribution of food in the territory of Latvia. The PVD is nominated as the official RASFF Contact Point in Latvia.

VAAD State Plant Protection Service

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Riga
<http://www.vaad.gov.lv>



The State Plant Protection Service (VAAD) operates under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The VAAD performs official surveillance and control in the field of free movement of plant products, fertilisers, plants and plant protection products, plant varieties, seed and planting material. The VAAD collaborates with international organisations and provides exchange of information with other countries on issues of plant protection, plant quarantine, movement of seeds and variety protection rights. The VAAD is responsible for control of GMOs within seeds and other propagating material.

SPKC Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

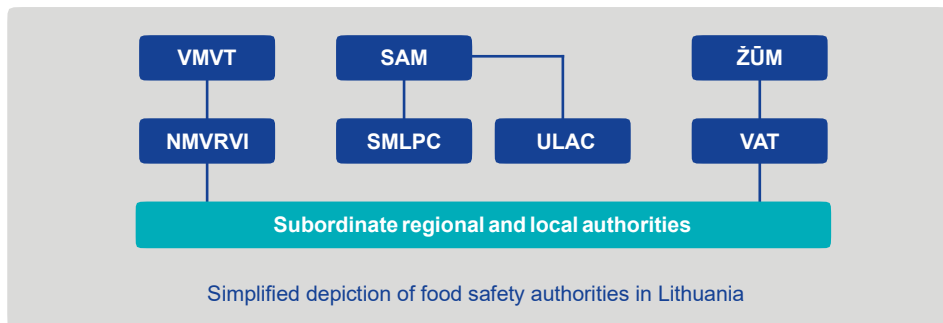
Seat: Riga
<http://www.spkc.gov.lv>

The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (SPKC) carries out epidemiologic surveillance and monitoring and maintain related data basis, as well as takes the necessary measures to prevent and localise infection diseases. It carries out public health monitoring, maintains the related reporting system and consults public on health and healthy life-style issues. The SPKC is responsible for the Early Warning and Response System for communicable diseases for communicable diseases in the EU (EWRS), performs the tasks of the coordinator of The European Surveillance System (TESSy) and is nominated as Focal Point for WHO and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR" (EFSA Focal Point)
2. State Plant Protection Service
(Valsts augu aizsardzības dienests)
3. Food and Veterinary Service
4. Latvia University of Agriculture:
 - Faculty of Food Technology (FFT)
 - Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM)
 - Research Institute of Biotechnology and Veterinary Medicine "Sigra" (RIBVMS)
5. University of Latvia
 - Faculty of Biology
 - Faculty of Chemistry
6. Rīga Stradiņš University
(Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte)

3.17 Lithuania



The Lithuanian Law on Food is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Lithuania. It covers requirements of food placed on the market, handling of food, competences of public authorities in the area of food safety, duties and liability of food producers, food operators and food trade.

Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Lithuania risk assessment and risk management are institutionally separated. Risk assessments are published on the Internet.

VMVT State Food and Veterinary Service

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.vmvt.lt>



The State Food and Veterinary Service (VMVT) is accountable to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and prepares and implements regulations in the area of food quality, food safety as well as animal health and welfare. Activities of the VMVT are usually based on scientific opinions from the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (NMVRVI).

The VMVT monitors and controls animal health, including outbreaks of zoonoses and other contagious animal diseases. It is the aim of VMVT to ensure that all necessary biological measures are applied to prevent introduction of zoonoses and other contagious animal diseases into the territory of Lithuania and the EU.

The VMVT performs an official control of the entire food chain, according to the principle “from farm to fork”. The VMVT monitors the food on the Lithuanian market, as well as that intended for export its safety compliance, labelling and other mandatory legal requirements.

NMVRVI National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Research

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.nmvrvi.lt>



As a subordinate specialist authority of the VMVT, the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (NMVRVI) is responsible for science-based risk assessments, identification of new health risks and recommendations for risk reduction. The remit of the NMVRVI includes safety and effectiveness of veterinary preparations and veterinary biocides, assessment of biological, chemical and other risk factors in food and feed, zoonoses, assessment of the safety and efficacy of food and feed supplements, risk assessment of GMOs for living animals and GMOs in food and feed.

The NMVRVI is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Lithuania. One National Reference Laboratory is an integral part of the NMVRVI in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The remit of the NMVRVI extends beyond food safety, for instance, to animal health.

SAM Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy and food safety
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.sam.lt>

The Ministry of Health (SAM) is responsible for health policy and food safety in Lithuania. SAM prepares draft legislation in the area of food and food safety taking into account scientific assessments of risk to human health. SAM's portfolio includes food additives, food supplements, maximum permitted concentrations of contaminants in food, addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to foods, foods for particular dietary uses, irradiated food, genetically modified food, novel food and food contact materials. SAM also stipulates mandatory requirements to protect the consumer, i. e. food labelling and use of nutrition and health claims. It also stipulates mandatory requirements with regard to the health of persons handling food, required health examination procedures and obligatory hygiene training.

The National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory (NVSTL) is attached to SAM in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

SMLPC Health Education and Disease Prevention Centre

- ◆ Consumer food safety education
- ◆ Research (food consumption and monitoring)

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.smlpc.lt>



The Health Education and Disease Prevention Centre (SMLPC) is a specialist authority within the portfolio of SAM. The SMLPC organises and performs nutrition and food safety education for the residents, communities and professionals. The SMLPC carries out regular monitoring of food consumption in Lithuania.

ULAC Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.ulac.lt>

The Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS (ULAC) is a specialist authority within the portfolio of SAM. The ULAC is responsible for organising and carrying out communicable disease prevention and control in order to reduce the Lithuanian population morbidity, mortality and disability. The ULAC carries out prevention and control of food and waterborne diseases and zoonoses at national level.

ŽŪM Ministry of Agriculture

- ◆ Agricultural policy

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.zum.lt>

The Ministry of Agriculture (ŽŪM) is responsible for food quality and food safety in Lithuania. This includes regulation of food labelling, handling of food, cultivation of crops for human consumption, use of plant protection products as well as organic farming. In collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health, the ŽŪM is involved in the regulation of the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

VAT State Plant Service

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Vilnius
<http://www.vatzum.lt>



The State Plant Service (VAT) is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of ŽŪM. The VAT is responsible for the implementation and the control of the safe application of plant protection products and phytosanitary measures.

The VAT evaluates and authorises the use of plant protection products and carries out post-registration control (import, storage, sale, labelling, package and use of plant protection products). The VAT also controls the cultivation of GM plant crops and the use of propagating materials (including GMOs). In these contexts the VAT monitors and coordinates the tasks of the 10 regional divisions.

ASU**Aleksandras Stulginskis University**

♦ Risk assessment

♦ Research

Seat: Kaunas

<http://www.asu.lt>

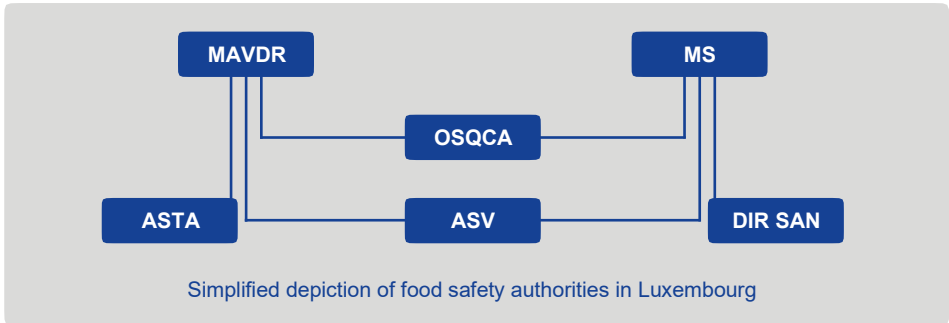
Lithuania

The Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU) is a state institution of higher education and research, awarding the diplomas and degrees at PhD, MSc and BSc levels in the fields of food sciences, agriculture, forestry, water and land resources management, bioenergy and mechanical engineering, climate change and sustainable use of natural resources. At present it has over 5,000 students in a wide range of study programmes of biomedicine, technologies and social sciences.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network
pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. State Food and Veterinary Service (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Health Education and Disease Prevention Centre, Ministry of Health
3. State Plant Protection Service, Ministry of Agriculture
4. National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute
5. Aleksandras Stulginskis University
6. Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS

3.18 Luxembourg



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and national food laws are the central legal foundation for food legislation in Luxembourg. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Luxembourg there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

MAVDR Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.ma.public.lu>

The Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development (MAVDR) deals with agricultural policy and prepares draft legislation in specific areas of food and feed safety. Both ministries, the MAVDR and Ministry of Health (MS), are supported by competent authorities, such as the Agricultural Technical Services Administration (ASTA) and Veterinary Service Administration (ASV). The portfolio of the MAVDR extends beyond the area of food and feed safety to plant health, plant protection products, animal health and animal welfare.

MS
Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy, food safety
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.ms.public.lu>

The Ministry of Health (MS) deals with health policy and food safety and prepares draft legislation in this area. State food safety inspections are carried out by subordinate authorities and are monitored by the MS. The MS is supported by competent authorities such as Directorate of Public Health (DIR SAN), the Division of Pharmacy and Medicine (DPM) and ASV. The portfolio of the MS extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, biocides and cosmetics.

OSQCA
Organisation for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu>



The Organisation for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain (OSQCA) is a subordinate authority within the portfolio of the MAVDR and MS. It is the task of the OSQCA to ensure optimal cooperation between all authorities in the area of food and feed safety. Policy and management measures on the part of the MAVDR and the MS are based on risk assessments prepared by the

OSQCA (as well as ASTA, ASV and DIR SAN). At the request of the MAVDR and MS, OSQCA prepares additional recommendations on food safety. The OSQCA is responsible for the coordination of state food and feed inspections. It audits competent authorities responsible for the control of food safety throughout the entire food chain. In addition, the OSQCA provides training for these authorities, as described in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The remit of the OSQCA includes the whole field of food and feed safety as described in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, including novel foods, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, food supplements, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, mineral waters and drinking water.

ASTA
Agricultural Technical Services Administration

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.asta.etat.lu>



The Agricultural Technical Services Administration (ASTA) is a subordinate authority within the portfolio of the MAVDR. The ASTA is responsible for risk assessment and implementation of state inspections of feed, plant protection products and EU quality labels PDO, PGI and TSG. The ASTA is the regulatory authority for pesticides. The ASTA is responsible for the control of primary production of food of non-animal origin.

ASV Veterinary Service Administration

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.asv.public.lu>



The Veterinary Service Administration (ASV) is a subordinate authority within the portfolio of the MAVDR and MS. The ASV is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state inspections in the field of food of animal origin, animal health and animal welfare.

DIR SAN Directorate of Public Health

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Luxembourg
<http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu>



The Directorate of Public Health (DIR SAN) is subordinate to MS. The Division of Food Safety (SECUALIM) within DIR SAN is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state food safety controls in the area of food hygiene, HACCP, microbiological agents, contaminants, pesticide residues, GMOs, novel food, food supplements, food additives, special dietary food, food labelling, food contact material, irradiation, import of food and beverages of non-animal origin.

In the area of food hygiene, SECUALIM collaborates closely with the customs administration. Common procedures and checklists are in place for inspection and control activities.

The Division of Pharmacy and Medicine (DPM), within DIR SAN is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state food safety controls in the area of medicated feed and medicinal products. DPM is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products.

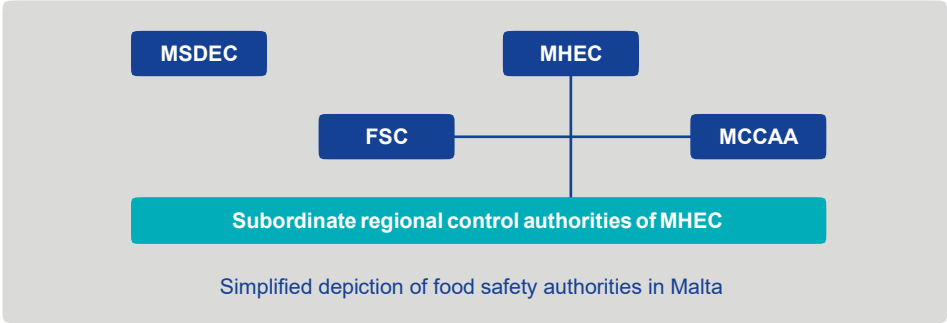
Regional and local levels

Implementation of feed, food and other types of inspections is undertaken by central authorities.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Ministry of Health of Luxembourg (Ministère de la Santé)
2. Luxembourg Institute of Health
3. Laboratoire national de santé
4. Centre de Recherche Public-Gabriel Lippmann (CRP-GL)

3.19 Malta



The Food Safety Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Malta. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Malta risk assessment is institutionally separated from risk management. Risk assessments are not published.

Generally speaking Malta has a national centralised system. Due to the small scale of the services, the offices at central level are responsible not only for policy and coordination but also for direct implementation of controls.

MSDEC
Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food and feed safety
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Santa Venera
<http://msdec.gov.mt/en>

The Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC) deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food and feed safety in Malta. It is the competent authority for controls of food of animal origin. The MSDEC is responsible for guidance, approval and inspection of all types of establishments for food of animal origin and for import controls on food of animal origin and feed.

The portfolio of the MSDEC includes feed, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. The MSDEC is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Malta. The MSDEC area of work extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

MHEC Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care

- ♦ Social and health policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Valletta
<http://www.sahha.gov.mt>



The Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (MHEC) deals with social policy, health policy and food safety in Malta. It is responsible for controls of foodstuffs and food hygiene as well as for supervising and coordinating the implementation of controls. The actual controls are carried out by seven regional bodies. The portfolio of the MHEC includes hygiene, novel foods, food supplements, mineral water and drinking water.

The MHEC area of work extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

FSC Food Safety Commission

- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Codex Contact Point
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point
- ♦ Research

Seat: Santa Venera
http://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/others/foodsafetycom/introduction/duty_of_food_safety_commission.aspx



The Food Safety Commission (FSC) is an independent governmental coordinating body which reports to the MHEC. The FSC is responsible for

risk management and risk communication. The FSC is the coordination office for issues related to food safety and provides a forum for cooperation between the MSDEC, MHEC and the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA), as well as other entities involved in food safety. The FSC is responsible for the registration of all food establishments.

In Malta, the Public Health Laboratory is the National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. It draws on the services of National Reference Laboratories in other EU Member States.

MCCAA Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Blata I-Bajda
<http://www.mccaa.org.mt>



The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) is a government-appointed authority within the portfolio of the Ministry for Fair Competition, Small Business and Consumers. The Food Safety Act assigns specific responsibility for risk assessment to the MCCAA. MCCAA risk assessments are used by the MSDEC and MHEC as the basis for management measures in the field of food safety. The MCCAA assesses risks, identifies new health risks and prepares risk reduction recommendations. The MCCAA provides technical and scientific advice to FSC. The remit of the MCCAA includes novel foods, food supplements, health and nutrition claims and natural mineral water. The MCCAA is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Malta. The area of work of the MCCAA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, cosmetics, biocides and consumer products.

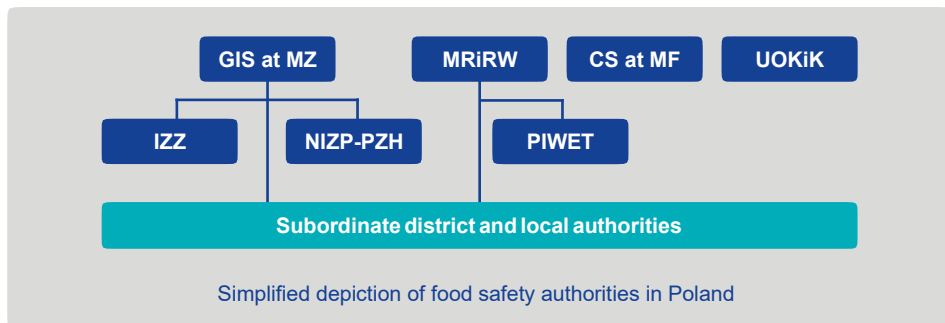
Regional and local levels

The implementation of food inspections is done through seven regional control bodies which are subordinate to the MHEC. Coordination of food and feed inspection is carried out at the Food Safety Commission level.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

- 1. Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (EFSA Focal Point)

3.20 Poland



The central legal foundation for food legislation in Poland is the Food and Nutrition Safety Act of 25th August 2006. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts. In Poland risk management and risk assessment are institutionally separated. Risk assessments are not published.

GIS at MZ Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) at the Ministry of Health (MZ)

- ◆ Health policy and food safety
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Warsaw

<http://www.mz.gov.pl>

<http://www.gis.gov.pl>



The Ministry of Health (MZ) is responsible for public health policy and food safety. The MZ prepares draft legislation in food hygiene, pesticide residues, contaminants and import of foods of non-animal origin. The portfolio of the MZ extends beyond food safety to, for instance, medicinal products. The Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products at the MZ is the regulatory authority for veterinary drugs in Poland.

The Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) is subordinate to the MZ and is the competent authority for food safety in Poland. It cooperates with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW) on matters regarding food safety and with both the MRiRW and the Ministry of Environ-

ment (MS) on matters regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The GIS coordinates and supervises the activities of the State Sanitary Inspectorates (PIS) which are responsible for official control of all aspects of food safety, i. e. food hygiene, pesticide residues, contaminants, import of food of non-animal origin, food contact materials, food additives, GMOs in food, food supplements and novel foods. The GIS is also responsible for monitoring contaminants in food of non-animal origin. GIS risk management measures are based on scientific risk assessments carried out by the National Food and Nutrition Institute (IZZ) and the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIZP-PZH).

16 National Reference Laboratories belong to the GIS in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MRiRW **Ministry of Agriculture and** **Rural Development**

- ◆ Agricultural policy and safety of food of animal origin
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ FAO/WHO Codex Contact Point

Seat: Warsaw
<http://www.minrol.gov.pl>



The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW) is responsible for agricultural policy and the safety of food of animal origin and prepares draft legislation in this area. The MRiRW is supported by three competent specialist authorities responsible for control and inspection: the General Veterinary Inspectorate (GIW), the Main Inspectorate for Seeds and Plant Health (PIORIN) and the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (IJHARS). The FAO/WHO Codex Contact Point for Poland is located at IJHARS.

The work of the MRiRW is mainly focused on risk management on food of animal origin and is based on scientific risk assessments prepared by the National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWET). The portfolio of the MRiRW includes safety of feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses. In these areas, the MRiRW monitors the activities of the district and local authorities.

The MRiRW is the regulatory authority for pesticides and plant protection products. In food safety, the MRiRW cooperates with the MZ, and for GMOs with both i. e. the MZ and MS. The portfolio of the MRiRW extends beyond food safety to animal health and animal welfare. The MRiRW is also responsible for the monitoring of contaminants in food of animal origin.

CS at MF **Customs Service (CS) at the** **Ministry of Finance (MF)**

- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Warsaw
<http://www.mf.gov.pl>

The Custom Service (CS) is subordinate to the Ministry of Finance (MF) and is responsible for the border control of food. The CS cooperates with three specialist authorities: the GIW on controls of export and import of animals, food of animal origin and feed; PIORIN on controls of export and import of regulated plants and plant material and the GIS on controls of export and import of food of plant origin.

UOKiK Office of Competition and Consumer Protection

♦ Risk management

Seat: Warsaw
<http://www.uokik.gov.pl>

The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (UOKiK) aims to protect the interests of the consumer and to ensure free and fair competition within a free market. The President of the UOKiK reports directly to the Prime Minister. It is the task of the UOKiK to protect the health of consumers and ensure that only safe products that meet the essential requirements set forth in Polish regulations are available on the market. Other tasks of the UOKiK are to prevent dominant entities from operating on the market (cartels) and the monitoring of efficiency and impact of state aid on the free market.

IZZ National Food and Nutrition Institute

♦ Risk assessment
♦ Research

Seat: Warsaw
<http://www.izz.waw.pl>



The National Food and Nutrition Institute (IZZ) prepares scientific risk assessments on nutrition and novel foods, and is involved in active research within this area.

NIZP-PZH National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene

♦ Risk assessment
♦ Research

Seat: Warsaw
<http://www.pzh.gov.pl>



The National Institut of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIZP-PZH) prepares scientific risk assessments on food additives, biological risks, added chemical substances, residues of plant protection products and drinking water. The NIZP-PZH also performs active research in this area.

PIWET National Veterinary Research Institute

♦ Risk assessment
♦ Research

Seat: Puławy
<http://www.piwet.pulawy.pl>



The National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWET) prepares scientific risk assessments on feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products and zoonoses. The PIWET also performs active research.

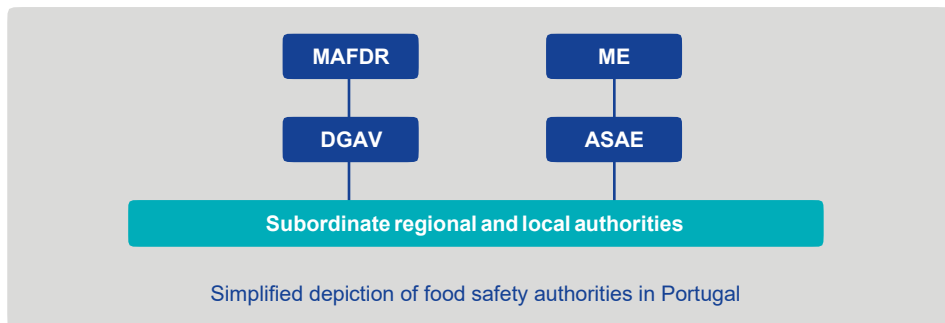
Regional and local levels

In Poland there is a three tier division in public administration: 16 regions (voivodships), 379 districts (powiats) and 2,478 local authorities (gminas). At district and local levels the specialist authorities of the GIS and MRiRW are responsible for enacting food laws and carrying out food inspections. They are instructed and monitored by the GIS and MRiRW in their respective areas of activity.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Veterinary Research Institute
3. Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants
4. National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene
5. National Food and Nutrition Institute
6. Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute
7. Research Institute of Horticulture

3.21 Portugal



Together with European food laws, Decree-Law No. 113/2006 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Portugal. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Portugal there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk communication from risk management. Risk assessments are not published.

MAFDR Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Codex Contact Point
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Lisbon

<http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/ministerios/meco.aspx>



Within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFDR) the Food and Veterinary Directorate (DGAV) is in charge of coordinating legislation, preparing bills and the multi-annual national control plan. It is also responsible for the implementation of food safety controls for food of animal origin. Most activities in the area of food safety and food inspections are supervised by the MAFDR.

The MAFDR's work extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health, animal welfare and biocides. The National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinarian Research (INIAV) is subordinate to the MAFDR. INIAV contains several National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) 882/200 in its structure.

ME
Ministry of Economy

- ◆ Economic & consumer policy, food safety
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Lisbon
<http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/ministerios/meco.aspx>

The Ministry of Economy (ME) deals with economic and consumer policy, as well as with food safety in Portugal. The Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE) is the competent specialist authority that supports the work of the ME.

ASAE
Economic and Food Safety Authority

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Lisbon
<http://www.asae.pt>



As a subordinate specialist authority of the ME, the Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE) is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management (food inspection) in the field of food safety.

The ASAE is advised by an independent Scientific Council supported by 6 specialised thematic panels (1. Additives and Contaminants in the Food Chain; 2. Feed, Health and Animal Welfare; 3. Biological Hazards; 4. Plant Health and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs); 5. Nutrition and Food Allergies and 6. Risk Communication).

The ASAE is a criminal police that operates as the national authority responsible for carrying out inspections to prevent and combat fraud in all economic areas, including food and feed.

It is also responsible for risk assessment and risk communication in relation to food and feed. This is handled by a department that coordinates EFSA-related activities.

The organic structure of the ASAE covers the whole country with one central and several regional control services.

The remit of the ASAE includes the commercialisation chain of plant and animal products, including fishing products (aquaculture, factory ships, vessels, stores, warehouses and wholesale markets). The ASAE competences include also food supplements, contaminants in meat, fish, plant products and mineral water. The safety of tap water lies within the responsibility of the regulatory authority for water and waste.

ASAE has 3 National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, namely: mycotoxins in food, dioxins in food and feed and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in oils and fats.

DGAV Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary Issues

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Lisbon
<http://www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt>



The Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV) is the subordinate specialist authority of the MAFRD. With risk assessment based on science, the DGAV implements state food policy and carries out inspections.

As regards the operation of control systems for the safety of food and feed, animal health and animal welfare, plant health and veterinary public health, activities are carried out by five regional directorates that respond directly to DGAV's central management. This directorate also controls an inspection network.

The powers of the DGAV include genetically modified food, zoonoses, veterinary and plant protection products residues and materials in contact with food. DGAV is the regulatory body for veterinary and plant protection products in Portugal and residues of plant protection products, including pesticide residues in plants. As the national plant protection authority, DGAV supports the development of regulation on plant protection products, and implements the national waste control programs, including pesticides. DGAV is also responsible for developing the multi-annual national control plan in compliance with the principles and guidelines laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The DGAV's area of work goes beyond food safety, for example animal health, animal feed, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, animal by-products, veterinary medicines and animal welfare. In addition to these DGAV is responsible for developing multi-annual national control plans in compliance with the guidelines established in Regulation (EC) 882/2004, based on risk assessment.

Regional and local levels

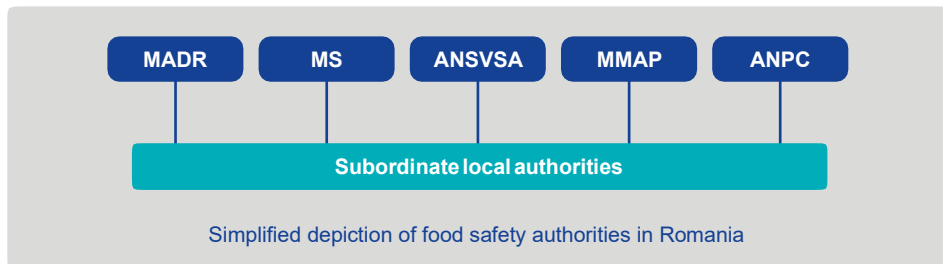
Continental Portugal is administratively divided into 18 districts (308 counties) and two autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira). The Azores and Madeira each have an elected assembly with decentralised powers to pass legislation. The evaluation, management and communication of risk in the autonomous regions are dependent on the regional governments. So in Madeira is ARAE (Regional Authority for the Economic Activities) and in Azores, IRAE (Regional Inspection Economic Activities) which have identical competences to ASAE.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Portuguese Authority for Food and Economic Safety (ASAE) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Instituto Nacional de Saude Doutor Ricardo Jorge, I.P.
3. National Institute of Pharmacy and Medicines – INFARMED
4. Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV)
5. Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa
6. Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
7. Instituto Superior de Engenharia – Universidade do Algarve
8. Universidade de Lisboa
9. University of Coimbra

10. Clínica Universitária de Medicina –
Faculdade de Medicina – Coimbra
11. Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde
Egas Moniz
12. University of Porto, Faculty of Nutrition
and Food Sciences
13. Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade
do Porto
14. Faculdade de Farmacia da Universidade
do Porto (FFUP)
15. ICETA Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias
Agrárias e Agro-Alimentares
16. Área Departamental de Ciência e
Tecnologia de Alimentos, Escola Superior
Agrária Instituto Politécnico de Beja
17. Instituto Politécnico de Leiria (IPL)
18. Instituto Politécnico de Santarém
19. Instituto Superior de Agronomia
20. Universidade Católica Portuguesa
21. ITQB-UNL
22. Instituto Politécnico de Bragança
23. University of Aveiro – Food Biochemistry
Group
24. Faculty of Sciences and Technology / UNL
25. Universidade do Minho
26. Instituto de Ciências Agrárias
Mediterrânicas
27. Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute,
I.P.

3.22 Romania



Law No. 150/2004 (with amendments) is the legal foundation for food and feed legislation in Romania. Infringement of food and feed regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment.

In Romania there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are not published on the Internet.

MADR Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Bucharest
<http://www.madr.ro>



The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Romania. It prepares draft legislation in the area of food and feed of non-animal origin, residues of plant protection products and cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The MADR also carries out risk assessments in these fields. Activities of the MADR with regard to plant protection products are supported by the National Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Health.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MADR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MS Ministry of Health

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Bucharest
<http://www.ms.ro>



The Ministry of Health (MS) is responsible for health protection and food safety in Romania. The MS prepares draft legislation in the field of food safety and is responsible for official controls in the area of food safety. The portfolio of the MS includes novel foods, food supplements, food for populations with special nutritional requirements, food additives, enzymes and flavourings, treatment of food with ionising irradiation, food contact materials as well as mineral water. The MS is also responsible for risk assessment in these areas.

ANSVSA National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management, border controls
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Bucharest
<http://www.ansvsa.ro>



The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA) is subordinate to the Romanian Government and activities of the ANSVSA are coordinated by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The ANSVSA manages all activities in the area of food safety – from raw materials

to the consumer issues. ANSVSA is responsible for official control, preparation of draft legislation as well as preparation of risk assessments in the following areas: contaminants, residues of plant protection products, import of animal and plant products, traceability and labelling of genetically modified food and feed, zoonoses, veterinary medicinal products and their residues, feed, animal health and welfare.

The ANSVSA ensures that HACCP and hygienic requirements are implemented in food production and catering businesses.

National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 are subordinate to the ANSVSA and attached to the Institute of Diagnosis and Animal Health, the Institute of Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health, the State Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Laboratory and the Institute for Control of Biological Products and Veterinary Medicines.

MMA Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Bucharest
<http://www.mmediu.ro>



The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (MMA) deals with environmental policy and is the main competent authority for plant protection products and GMOs. The MMA authorises and controls the use of GMOs and plant protection products and monitors their impact on the environment. In this area the MMA is supported by the National Protection Agency and the National Environmental Guard. Authorisation of plant protection products in Romania requires the approval

of three ministries, the MADR, MS and MMAP. The MMAP is also responsible for the management of obsolete pesticides.

ANPC National Authority for Consumer Protection

◆ Risk management

Seat: Bucharest
<http://www.anpc.ro>

The National Authority for Consumer Protection (ANPC) monitors whether food, food advertising, and food labelling conforms to legal requirements. The ANPC also handles consumer complaints.

Regional and local levels

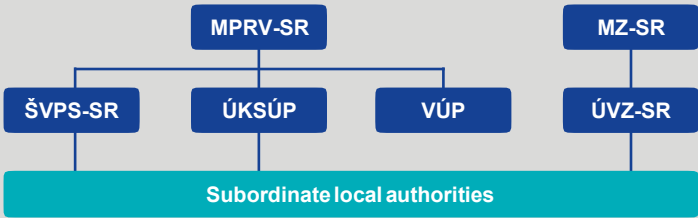
Romania has a unitary governmental structure with decentralised regional administration offices. The regional level (42 administrative districts) has no autonomous competency. The regional administration supervises the work of local authorities. All authorities (MADR, MS, ANSVSA, MMAP and ANPC) have regional offices that carry out inspections and control in the area of food and feed safety, plant protection and plant health as well as veterinary inspections.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (EFSA FocalPoint)
2. Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health
3. Ministry of Public Health
 - Department of Public Health Authority (PHA)
 - Department of Sanitary State Inspection
4. Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health

5. Banat's University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine
6. Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of Bucharest – Sanitary Veterinary Laboratory of State
7. University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine – Cluj Napoca
8. National Institute of Research and Development for Food Bioresources – IBA Bucharest
9. Dunarea de Jos University

3.23 Slovak Republic



Simplified depiction of food safety authorities in the Slovak Republic

The central legal foundation for food legislation in Slovakia is the act on foodstuffs (No. 152/1995 Coll.). Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts. In Slovakia risk assessment and risk management are institutionally separated. Risk assessments are published on the Internet.

MPRV-SR
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

- ◆ Coordination of risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.mpsr.sk>



The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MPRV-SR) is responsible for agricultural policy, animal health and welfare, animal feed, food safety, plant health and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The MPRV-SR is involved in risk communication and the coordination of risk assessment. The MPRV-SR manages and coordinates the official control authorities in the area of food and feed safety (the State Veterinary and Food Administration, ŠVPS-SR and Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture, ÚKSÚP). The Food Safety and Nutrition Department of the MPRV-SR coordinates laboratory analysis and authorises laboratories to conduct analytical work (including designation of National Reference Laboratories).

The Commission for Food Safety and Nutrition is an advisory body of the Food Safety and Nutrition Department of the MPRV-SR. The Commission issues advice with regards to nutrition and food safety throughout the food chain, particularly with regard to creation and implementation of strategies and policies in this area. Scientific risk assessments are prepared by scientific bodies, research institutions and universities.

Several National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MPRV-SR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MZ-SR Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

◆ Risk management

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.health.gov.sk>



The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MZ-SR) is responsible for health policy and is the central competent authority for official food controls in the hotel, restaurant and catering sector and for the production and placing following products on the market: novel foods, food supplements, foods intended for particular nutritional uses (including foods for infants and young children) as well as natural mineral water, spring water for infants and young children, foodstuffs treated with ionising radiation and food contact materials. The competent authority responsible for coordinating the implementation of official food controls in this sector is the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚVZ-SR) and its regional authorities.

The MZ-SR has authorised several laboratories to conduct laboratory analysis of samples taken during official food control. All these laboratories are accredited according to EN ISO/IEC 17025 by the SNAS (Slovak National Accreditation Service),

DAP (Deutsches Akkreditierungssystem Prüfwesen) or the CIA (Czech Accreditation Institute).

National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MZ-SR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

ŠVPS-SR State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic

◆ Risk management ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.svssr.sk>



The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic (ŠVPS-SR) is subordinate to the MPRV-SR and responsible for the official control of animal health and welfare, food of animal and non-animal origin at all stages of production, processing and distribution, except in the catering sector, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health (MZ-SR). The remit of the ŠVPS-SR extends to feed materials of animal origin, feed-ingstuffs used directly at farm level, medicated feedingstuffs, veterinary medicines and their residues and animal by-products.

The ŠVPS-SR manages and coordinates the activities of the State Veterinary Institute, three State Veterinary and Food Institutes, the Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biopreparations and Medicines, and the Institute of Postgraduate Study for Veterinary Surgeons.

The State Veterinary Institute and the three State Veterinary and Food Institutes have been designated by the MPRV-SR as official laboratories to conduct analysis of samples taken during official controls of animal health and the safety of food of animal and plant origin, including analyses of imported and domestically-produced feedingstuffs.

These laboratories are accredited in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025. The regulatory authority for veterinary drugs is the Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biopreparations and Medicines (Seat: Nitra, <http://www.uskvbl.sk>).

ÚKSÚP Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture

◆ Risk management

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.uksup.sk>



The Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture (ÚKSÚP) is subordinate to the MPRV-SR and responsible for the official control of the agricultural sector. The ÚKSÚP remit covers plant health, seeds and seedlings, plant varieties, plant protection products, animal feed and animal nutrition. ÚKSÚP assists during drafting of legislation and provides advisory services.

The ÚKSÚP performs phytosanitary controls on imported and exported plants and plant materials at three border crossing points. The ÚKSÚP is the competent authority for organic farming in Slovakia designated by the Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming (DEPOF). Analysis of samples taken during official controls are performed by its own accredited laboratories.

VÚP Food Research Institute

◆ Risk assessment ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.vup.sk>



The Food Research Institute (VÚP) is subordinate to the MPRV-SR and one of its main role is research focused on food safety and development of new analytical methods and techniques. The Institute acts as part of the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) in the Slovak Republic and provides scientific opinions with regard to contaminants and pesticides in food. The VÚP is also involved in drafting food legislation. The VÚP provides training for both businesses and official authorities and is active in education and information with regard to food. The Institute's laboratories are accredited to the EN ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 9000 standards.

ÚVZ-SR Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic

◆ Risk management

Seat: Bratislava
<http://www.uvzsr.sk>



The Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚVZ-SR) is the competent authority responsible for coordinating the implementation of official food controls in the sectors mentioned in the preceding section. The authority coordinates all food safety activities, including the preparation of control programmes and related reports, the organisation of laboratory capacity and cooperation with the MPRV-SR and on consumer protection issues. Controls are implemented by 36 regional public health authorities.

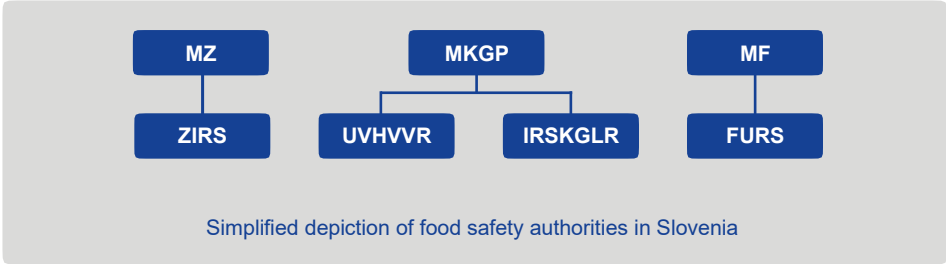
Regional and local levels

The Slovak Republic consists of eight regions and 79 districts. Food and feed inspections, as well as veterinary and phytosanitary care are coordinated and conducted by the ŠVPS-SR, ÚK-SÚP and ÚVZ-SR. The ŠVPS-SR is supported by eight regional and 40 district veterinary and food authorities, as well as four laboratories and three border inspection posts. The ÚVZ-SR is supported by 36 regional authorities and 10 laboratories.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MARD) (EFSA Focal Point), including:
 - Food Safety and Nutrition Department (FSND)
 - Department of Animal Production
 - Department of Plant Production
2. Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
3. Regional Public Health Authority in Poprad
4. Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture
5. State Veterinary and Food Institute
6. Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
7. University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice
8. Institute of Parasitology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
9. Water Research Institute
10. National Agricultural and Food Centre

3.24 Slovenia



The Food Law is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Slovenia. Several national laws and governmental regulations represent the legal foundation for official controls. Infringement of these regulations can lead to administrative and/or penalty measures being taken by the Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (ZIRS), the Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (UVHVVR), the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries (IRSKGLR) and Financial Administration (FURS). Measures can also be taken under criminal law (Public Prosecution Office) and civil law (civil claims). The above measures are based on legal requirements or on risk analyses in cases where no EU or national legal requirements exist. The final decision on the legality of measures taken rests with the courts.

Processes of risk assessment and risk management are institutionally separated.

MZ
Ministry of Health

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.mz.gov.si>



The Ministry of Health (MZ) is responsible for policy and legislative framework in the area of healthcare, including public health and health insurance. The portfolio of the MZ includes safety of food and drinking water and conducting a general policy on nutrition. Within the food safety area the MZ is specifically responsible for the preparation of legislation and overseeing its implementation with regard to food for specific groups, food supplements and food contact materials. The MZ requests risk assessments from appointed scientific institutions, such as the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) and the National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food (NLZOH).

The National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ, <http://www.nijz.si>) is a national scientific organisation for chemical, nutrition, microbiological and novel food risk assessment and risk communication. The NIJZ works in close collaboration with national and international organisations in food safety area.

The National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food (NLZOH, <http://www.nlzoh.si>) serves as a National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and is responsible for risk assessment of the official control samples.

ZIRS Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Inspection and control

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.zi.gov.si>

The Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (ZIRS) is responsible for the official control of food supplements, foods for specific groups, food contact materials and potable water.

MKGP Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.mko.gov.si>



The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP) is responsible for policy and legislative framework in the area of agriculture, fisheries and forestry including food and feed quality e. g. marketing standards for food, protected designation of origin, protected geographical indication, traditional speciality guaranteed and indication of products of higher quality.

UVHVVR Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Inspection and controls
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.uvhvvr.gov.si>

The Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (UVHVVR) is responsible for legislative framework preparation and implementation, risk monitoring, managing the public, animal and plant health risks, as well as for official inspection and controls along the entire food and feed chain.

The competences of UVHVVR comprise the administrative, technical and inspection tasks in the area of safety, quality and labelling of food (including genetically modified organisms (GMO), natural mineral waters) and feed; food safety in catering sector; animal health and welfare; zoonoses, use of veterinary medicinal products, animal by-products; plant health protection; plant protection products registration and use, residues of pesticides.

Within international trade UVHVVR is responsible for market access with regards to food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary requirements. Import and export controls in these sectors are implemented in close cooperation with customs authority of FURS.

The UVHVVR requests risk assessments from appointed scientific institutions and research organisations, such as:

- ◆ University of Ljubljana, Veterinary Faculty – National Veterinary Institute, Biotechnical Faculty

- ◆ National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food
- ◆ National Institute of Public Health
- ◆ Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
- ◆ National Institute of Biology
- ◆ Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing
- ◆ Slovenian Forestry Institute

IRSKGLR
Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia
for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries

◆ Inspection and controls

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.ikglr.gov.si/en>

Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries (IRSKGLR) is responsible for official controls (on-the-spot checks) of identification and registration of animals.

MF
Ministry of Finance
Financial Administration (FURS)

◆ Inspection and controls

Seat: Ljubljana
<http://www.carina.gov.si>

The Financial Administration (FURS) is subordinate to the Ministry of Finance (MF). FURS is responsible for official import controls regarding:

- ◆ products of animal origin for personal consumption
- ◆ non-commercial movements of pet animals
- ◆ documentary and identity checks on animal feedstuffs of non-animal origin
- ◆ wooden packaging material
- ◆ detection of illegal imports

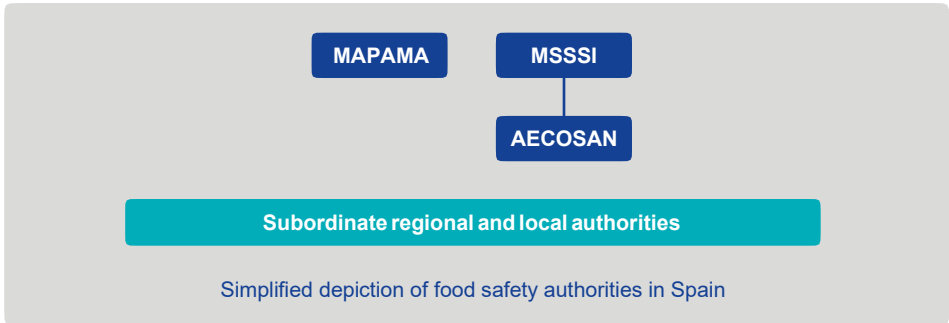
Regional and local levels

The Republic of Slovenia consists of 12 regions and 212 municipalities. Slovenia has a centralised structure. The food supervision activities come under the responsibility of UVHVVR with the inspection for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection, with his head office, ten Regional Offices and two Border Inspection Posts and ZIRS with its head office and seven regional offices.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Institute of Public Health
3. Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
4. Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing
5. University of Maribor (Univerza v Mariboru)
6. Jozef Stefan Institute
7. National Institute of Biology (NIB)
8. National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food (Nacionalni laboratorij za zdravje, okolje in hrano-NLZOH)
9. Slovenian Forestry Institute
10. Nutrition Institute
11. University of Ljubljana

3.25 Spain



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 is the central foundation for food legislation in Spain. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Spain there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

In Spain, overall responsibility at national level for the organisation and operation of control systems is shared between two main ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

The Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality has principal responsibility for food safety. It is responsible, through its Directorate General for Public Health, Quality and Innovation for import and export controls on all food. Most of the Ministry's other food safety responsibilities fall to the Spanish Agency for Consumers, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN). The central authorities in Spain retain overall responsibility for coordinating implementation of controls.

MAPAMA Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Madrid

<http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/>



The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA) deals with agricultural policy, food industry policy, feed safety, the safety of food of animal and plant origin during primary production and food fraud. MAPAMA prepares draft national legislation and is responsible for the coordination of state inspections within these responsibilities; including import and export controls.

MAPAMA is national contact point for food fraud and user of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC system).

MAPAMA is also responsible for the preparation of risk assessments with regard to residues of plant protection products and animal feed. MAPAMA is the regulatory authority for plant protection products.

The MAPAMA portfolio includes genetically modified organisms (GMOs) (seeds, plant propagation material, feed, food industry use and manufacturing)¹, zoonoses and veterinary medicinal products. MAPAMA is the regulatory authority for pesticides, i. e. MAPAMA registers, authorises and monitors the use of pesticides. However, before MAPAMA authorises the use of pesticides, AECOSAN is consulted with regard to residues in food, the MSSSI is consulted to assess the safety of the user, and MAPAMA itself assesses the efficacy of the pesticide in question and its safety for the environment. MAPAMA's area of work extends beyond food safety to plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

Four National Reference Laboratories are attached to MAPAMA pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

MSSSI Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality

- ◆ Health policy, food safety
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Madrid
<http://www.msssi.es>



The Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality (MSSSI) deals with health policy and food safety. The subprogram of residues control at Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at import (falling under the program of residues control at national level implemented by regional authorities) is carried out by the MSSSI (General Subdirectorate of Foreign Health; Directorate General for Public Health, Quality and Innovation). It includes food of animal and plant origin.

The MSSSI's areas of work extend beyond food safety to nutrition. Within the MSSSI, the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AECOSAN) deals with most of food safety issues.

The regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products, a subordinate agency of the MSSSI.

AECOSAN Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Madrid
<http://www.aecosan.msssi.gob.es>



The Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN) arises from the consolidation of the National Consumer Institute (INC) and the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN). The merge of both institutions strengthens the role of the agency responsible for ensuring food safety and consumer protection.

AECOSAN is a subordinate specialist authority within the MSSSI. AECOSAN is the competent authority for all legislative projects with regard to safety of food available in Spain, this includes incorporation of EU directives into national law as well as new national regulations.

¹ The responsibility about the national decisions regarding GMOs falls within the competences of the Spanish Inter-Ministerial Committee on GMOs.

AECOSAN prepares expert reports on risk assessment, particularly in relation to novel foods, residues of plant protection products, food supplements, zoonoses and mineral waters, among others. AECOSAN has the support of a Scientific Committee made up of independent external experts. This Committee has two sections: Consumer Affairs, and Food Safety and Nutrition, issuing the latter scientific reports on biological, chemical, technological and nutritional hazards. AECOSAN prepares recommendations for risk reduction and identifies new health risks. AECOSAN is also responsible for the risk management of biological, chemical and nutritional hazards, including GMOs (food).

Other main AECOSAN remit areas include transparent communication with the public at large, science and other involved or interested circles. AECOSAN is also involved in the coordination of state food inspections, as well as in the coordination and programming of the official controls on food safety. AECOSAN's area of work extends beyond food safety to nutrition, and includes promotion of a healthy diet and consumers' rights.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to AECOSAN pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. AECOSAN has one National Reference Laboratory (National Centre for Food, CNA) and one EU Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins (EURLMB). Besides, the Center for Research and Quality Control (CICC) is also assigned to AECOSAN. The CICC is a group of laboratories where all kind of products on the Spanish market are analysed to ensure that they comply with the Technical-Sanitary regulations and Norms of Quality that regulate them.

Regional and local levels

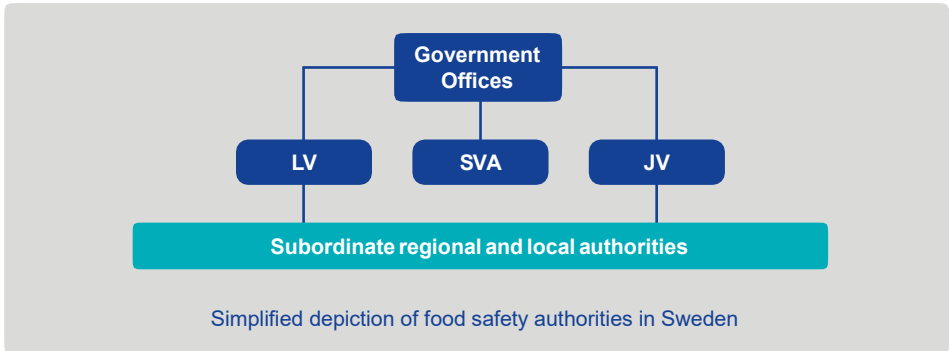
From the administrative point of view, Spain is organised at regional and local level in 17 autonomous regions, two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla) and 52 provinces. Some regional food safety authorities carry out risk assessments at the regional level. The implementation of feed and food inspections is task of regional and local authorities.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Spanish National Research Council (Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC)
3. Agri-Food Laboratory (Laboratori Agroalimentari)
4. Departamento de Nutrición, Bromatología y Tecnología de los Alimentos, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Complutense
5. Universidad Complutense de Madrid
6. Universitat de les Illes Balears
7. Drug Analysis Service – Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (Facultad de Veterinaria)
8. Agència Catalana de Seguretat Alimentària (ACSA)
9. Institute of Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (IRTA)
10. Laboratory of Mycology (UCM)
11. Nutrición y Bromatología, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Murcia
12. Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology (INYTA)
13. Saluvet Group
14. ELIKA – Basque Foundation for Agrofood Safety
15. University of Santiago de Compostela
16. Basque Institute for Agrarian Research and Development (NEIKER)

17. Institute of Health Carlos III
(Instituto de Salud Carlos III, ISCIII)
18. National Institute for the Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA)
19. University of Almeria
(Universidad de Almería, UAL)
20. University of the Basque Country
(UPV/EHU)
21. Universitat Rovira i Virgili
22. University of Valencia
23. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, including:
 - Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario (LAA)
 - Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria (LCV)
24. Fundació Centre de Recerca en Economia i Desenvolupament Agroalimentari UPC-IRTA (CREDA)
25. University of Barcelona (UB)
26. Universidad de Córdoba
27. Universidad de Sevilla
28. University of Vigo
(Universidade de Vigo)
29. Polytechnic University of Valencia
(Universitat Politècnica de València)
30. Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria
31. Canary Health Service
(Servicio Canario de la Salud)
32. University of Castilla- La Mancha
(Universidad de Castilla- La Mancha, UCLM)
33. Universidad de León
34. University Jaume I
(Universitat Jaume I de Castellón)

3.26 Sweden



The Food Act is the central legal foundation in food legislation in Sweden. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Sweden there is no institutional separation of food risk assessment from food risk management as both are performed by the National Food Agency (Livsmedelsverket, LV). However, an in-house separation between risk assessment and risk management is in place to ensure independency.

The National Veterinary Institute (Statens veterinärmedicinska anstalt, SVA) is responsible for carrying out risk assessments and the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket, JV) is responsible for risk management, within their field of expertise.

Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation (Government Offices)

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Stockholm
<http://www.government.se>

Within the Government Offices in Sweden, the Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation is responsible for agricultural policy and matters related to the entire food chain, including food safety. In close collaboration with other Government Ministries, policy issues related to food safety and the entire food chain are handled. As specified by their mandate, public agencies (i. e. LV, JV and SVA) provide support to the ministry.

LV National Food Agency

- ◆ Risk benefit assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Uppsala
<http://www.livsmedelsverket.se>



The National Food Agency (LV) is an independent, non-ministerial government authority. Nonetheless, the LV is accountable to the government and the Government Offices in Sweden.

In the area of food safety, the LV is responsible for risk and benefit assessment, risk communication and risk management. The LV prepares draft legislation on the basis of science-based risk assessments. It is also responsible for state food inspections and for the subsequent information of the outcome of the control and inspection activities.

Within the LV, the Risk Benefit Assessment Department has the task to perform independent food risk assessments for food safety issues including biohazards, novel foods, food supplements and botanicals, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), foodborne infections, contaminants and drinking water. The department also performs risk assessments for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal product residues in food. However, the regulatory authority for plant protection products is the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (Kemikalieinspektionen) and the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the Medical Product Agency (Läkemedelsverket).

The area of the Risk Benefit Assessment Department extends beyond food safety to, i. e. nutrition and dietary surveys.

JV Swedish Board of Agriculture

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Jönköping
<http://www.jordbruksverket.se>



The Swedish Board of Agriculture (JV) is an independent, non-ministerial government authority. Nonetheless, the JV is accountable to the government and the Government Offices in Sweden.

In the area of feed safety, the JV is responsible for risk communication and risk management. It prepares draft legislation on the basis of science-based risk assessments. It is also responsible for state feed inspections and if necessary, subsequent information of the government of the outcome of control and inspection activities.

The remit of the JV includes residues of plant protection products and GMOs in feed and extends beyond food safety to plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

SVA Swedish National Veterinary Institute

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Uppsala
<http://www.sva.se>



The Swedish National Veterinary Institute (SVA) is subordinate to the Government Offices in Sweden and supports the work of the JV with laboratory analytical services and epidemiological and microbiological expertise. The SVA prepares science-based risk assessments particularly in the field of zoonoses and animal health. The area of work of the SVA extends beyond food safety to animal health.

Regional and local levels

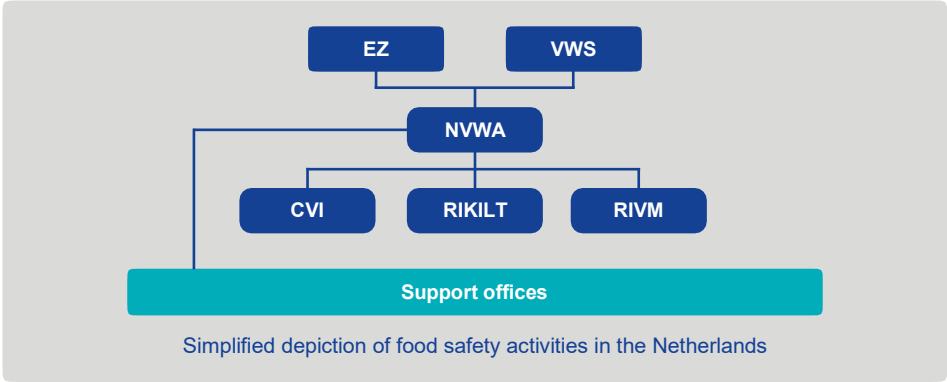
The regional level in Sweden consists of 21 county authorities and the local level of 290 municipal authorities. The county authorities are responsible for the coordination of food inspections at the regional level. However, in some cases, activities of the regional authorities are steered by the government. Municipal authorities also carry out food inspections at farms, and they work and make decisions independently.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. National Food Agency (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Veterinary Institute
3. Swedish Chemicals Agency
4. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
5. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
6. Linneaus University
7. Karolinska Institute

3.27 The Netherlands

The Netherlands



European regulation and the Dutch Food and Commodities Act are the central legal foundation for food legislation in the Netherlands. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment.

Based on the Dutch “Independent Risk Assessment Act” from 2006, risk assessment and risk management are largely institutionally separated. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

VWS
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

◆ Health policy, food safety

◆ Risk management

Seat: Den Haag

<http://www.government.nl/ministries/vws>

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) pursues a “good food” policy mainly based on recommendations and guidelines prepared by the Dutch Health Council. VWS is responsible for health policy and safety of food of non-animal origin and prepares draft legislation in this area. VWS bases risk management measures on risk assessments carried out by the Office for Risk Assessment and Research (BuRO), a department within the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). The VWS portfolio includes food supplements, novel foods, mineral water, drinking water, botanicals, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the field of food of non-animal origin. Its area of work extends beyond the field of food safety to cosmetics and consumer products.

EZ Ministry of Economic Affairs

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety
- ♦ Animal health and welfare
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Den Haag
<http://www.government.nl/ministries/ez>



The Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) is responsible for agricultural policy and safety of food of animal origin (i. e. during primary production by farmers, growers and fishermen). EZ prepares draft legislation in this field and ensures the traceability of food of animal origin.

In the Netherlands, it is the responsibility of the food producer to ensure safe foods and to conduct appropriate day to day quality control. The Government supervises this selfcontrol system ("supervising the supervisor").

EZ bases risk management measures on risk assessments prepared by the Office for Risk Assessment and Research (BuRO), a department within the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).

The portfolio of EZ includes zoonoses, GMOs and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products in animal feed. The area of work of EZ extends beyond food safety to plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare. EZ is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

NVWA Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Utrecht
<https://www.nvwa.nl>



The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) is an independent agency to EZ and VWS. In April 2010, three authorities (VWA, PD and AID) were merged into one authority named NVWA. NVWA has been operating as a single authority since January 2012. The three main tasks of the NVWA are the implementation and supervision of food safety control and inspection activities, risk assessment and risk communication. NVWA is also responsible for incident and crisis management, including technical and scientific support and advising EZ and VWS on risks. Within NVWA risk management is separated functionally from risk assessment.

NVWA has small support offices in the country to provide logistical support to the inspectors. Also the number of laboratories has been reduced to one laboratory in Wageningen for food safety, one in Wageningen for plant health and two laboratories in Zwijndrecht and Groningen for product safety.

NVWA also has an Intelligence and Investigation Service (NVWA-IO) that focusses on organised and international crime.

NVWA has access to several National Reference Laboratories, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of the NVWA extends beyond the field of food safety to animal health, animal welfare, plant health and non-food consumer products.

The independent Office for Risk Assessment and Research (BuRO) conducts risk assessments and advises the ministers of EZ and VWS on food and consumer product safety and on animal health and welfare. BuRO is a scientific unit that is independent and its scientific opinions are free of political, social or scientific interests. BuRO also identifies new health risks, prepares risk reduction recommendations and recommends preventive measures to ensure food and feed safety. Another main area for BuRO is the transparent communication with the public. BuRO is active in the areas of food safety, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, animal feed, animal health, veterinary medicinal products, animal welfare, residues of plant protection, plant health and non-food consumer products.

CVI – RIKILT – RIVM
Central Veterinary Institute (CVI)
Institute of Food Safety (RIKILT)
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk research

Seat: Lelystad, Wageningen, Bilthoven
<http://www.cvi.wur.nl>
<http://www.rikilt.wur.nl>
<http://www.rivm.nl>

The Central Veterinary Institute (CVI), the Institute of Food Safety (RIKILT) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) are independent research organisations. CVI operates in the field of veterinary science and contributes to protecting the health of animals and humans by undertaking research and making recommendations on animal diseases (zoonoses). RIKILT is an organisation in the field of food

and feed safety and human health. RIKILT conducts research on substances in food of plant or animal origin and animal feed. CVI and RIKILT are part of Wageningen UR. RIVM is a recognised leading centre of excellence in the area of health, nutrition and environmental protection.

Several National Reference Laboratories and a European Reference Laboratory are hosted by CVI and RIKILT.

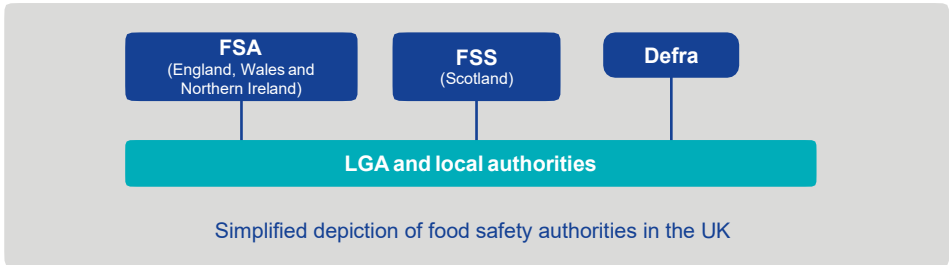
Regional and local levels

The Netherlands is divided in 12 provinces and 390 municipalities. Food and feed inspections are coordinated from the central seat in Utrecht and supported by regional offices of NVWA.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
3. Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit
4. Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb)
5. DLO Foundation (Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek)
6. Utrecht University – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
7. Wageningen University
8. Erasmus University Medical Centre Rotterdam

3.28 United Kingdom



United Kingdom

The central legal foundation in food legislation in the United Kingdom (UK) is the Food Safety Act 1990. In England, this is supplemented by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 that bring the Food Safety Act 1990 into line with Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 and allow enforcement of the food safety requirements of this Regulation as well as enforcement of European food hygiene legislation. In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, there are separate General Food Regulations and Food Hygiene Regulations that achieve the same ends as the Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations in England.

Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In the United Kingdom there is no institutional separation of risk assessment, risk communication and risk management. Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

FSA Food Standards Agency (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Research

Seat: central office in London; regional offices in London, York, Wales, (Cardiff), & Northern Ireland (Belfast)

<http://www.food.gov.uk>



The Food Standards Agency (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) (FSA) is the central authority in the field of food safety in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is an independent non-ministerial Government Department, governed by an independent Chair and nonexecutive Board responsible for overall strategic direction of the Agency and for ensuring it meets its legal obligations. FSA is accountable to the UK Parliament in Westminster, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government through Health Ministers. Besides food safety, the FSA is also responsible for meat inspection duties in fresh meat premises in England and Wales (which is the responsibility of the DARD in Northern Ireland). FSA responsibilities also include monitoring of

local enforcement authorities. The FSA has offices in London, York, Belfast and Cardiff to ensure its priorities are delivered in a country-specific context. Each office also has its own distinct areas of work. On relevant issues the FSA cooperates closely with Food Standards Scotland, Defra and local authorities.

The FSA receives information and advice from its expert scientific advisory committees. The FSA normally publishes risk assessments on the Internet, and the main policy issues are decided by the FSA Board in open session in the light of scientific and other evidence. The FSA advises the UK government and the governments in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The FSA's area of work includes food additives and contaminants, microbiological safety of food, feed, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), novel foods and food supplements. The FSA also has a watchdog role in the authorisation and surveillance of pesticides and veterinary medicines.

National Reference Laboratories are appointed by the FSA in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The FSA has posted a list on the Internet of the laboratories that are attached to authorities, hospitals and private companies.

FSS Food Standards Scotland (Scotland)

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Research

Seat: Offices in Scotland (Aberdeen)
<http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot>



Food Standards Scotland (FSS) was set up on 1 April 2015 by the Food (Scotland) Act 2015. FSS is a non-ministerial office and is part of the

Scottish Administration alongside, but separate from, the Scottish Government.

FSS is responsible to the Scottish Parliament through Health Ministers. Their offices are in Aberdeen and their remit in relation to food safety is similar in Scotland to that of FSA in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This includes being responsible for inspection of fresh meat premises. FSS have an independent Chair and non-executive Board as do FSA. FSS has a similar approach to openness as FSA.

Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (England in relation to food safety)

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: London
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (England in relation to food safety) (Defra) is a government department that is responsible – together with its executive agencies – for legislation as well as implementation and monitoring of food safety unless this comes under the remit of the FSA.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is an executive agency of Defra responsible for, amongst other things, assessment, issue and maintenance of all national marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products; surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines and illegal substances in animals and animal products; and coordinating work in the area of anti-microbial resistance. The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) part of the Health and

Safety Executive is the regulatory authority for pesticides on behalf of Defra. With regard to food safety activity, the Directorate carries out an official programme of pesticide residues testing of food in the UK in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 and publishes the results on a quarterly basis. The Directorate is also responsible for taking appropriate enforcement action.

Some of Defra's duties, for instance in the field of legislation, implementation and inspection, are delegated to the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Defra publishes risk assessments in the field of animal health and welfare. Furthermore, it cooperates, where appropriate, with FSA working groups.

Defra is responsible for all aspects of water policy in England and works closely with the Drinking Water Inspectorate, which is responsible for regulating the quality of drinking water. There are similar arrangements in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Defra's remit extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

Regional and local levels

The United Kingdom consists of the four countries Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (each of which has its own parliament/assembly) as well as England (where the UK parliament is based).

The main administrative structure in these countries is a single-tier administration, responsible for all regional and local administrative tasks. England has 120, Northern Ireland 11, Scotland 32 and Wales 22 administrative units. In England there are 27 administrations with a two-tier structure which include 207 district councils. These authorities report to the FSA and are responsible for enforcing the vast majority of food and feed laws and carrying out inspections.

In its capacity as a local government authority, the Local Government Association (LGA) represents the local authorities and coordinates the activities amongst the local authorities and between the local authorities and both the FSA and Defra.

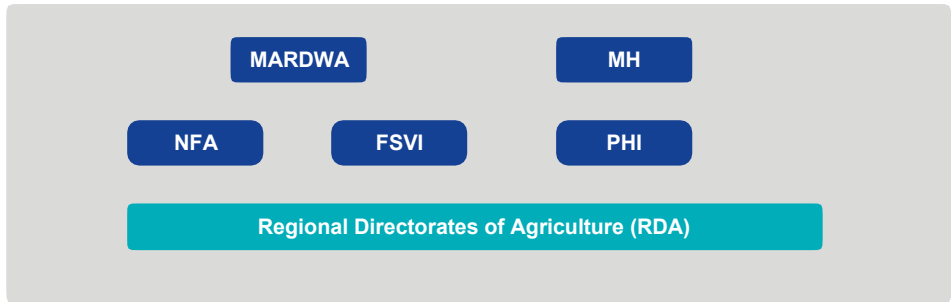
Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. UK Food Standard Agency (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Hampshire Scientific Service
3. Glasgow City Council
4. Staffordshire County Laboratory and Scientific Services
5. Institute of Food Research
6. Aberdeen City Council
7. City of Edinburgh Council
8. MRC Collaborative Centre for Human Nutrition Research
9. Dundee City Council Scientific Services
10. Royal Veterinary College
11. University of Plymouth
12. University of Birmingham, Food Safety and Production Group
13. Cranfield University
14. University of Southampton
15. Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich
16. University of Newcastle upon Tyne
17. University of Glasgow, Research and Enterprise
18. Food and Nutrition for Health Unit, University of Central Lancashire
19. University of Aberdeen
20. Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
21. Public Health England (PHE)
22. Kent County Council
23. LGC Limited
24. University of Liverpool
25. Worcestershire Scientific Services
26. The James Hutton Institute

27. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), including:
 - Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
 - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)
28. Moredun Research Institute
29. University of Hull
30. University of Surrey
31. The Queen's University of Belfast
32. Health and Safety Executive
33. Royal Agricultural University
34. SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
35. Public Health Wales NHS Trust
36. University of Leeds
37. Harper Adams University
38. Fera Science Limited
39. University of Hertfordshire Higher Education Corporation

4 Food Safety in Neighbouring States

4.1 Albania



The adoption of Law “On Food” No. 9863 in 2008, is to a large extend harmonised with the EU Acquis in the field of food safety. It gives the basis and principles for assuring the protection of food safety standards and consumers' interest as well as the requirements for production and trading of food and feed. With this Law, the National Food Authority was established and became operational on 1 September 2010, based on the Decision of Council of Ministers No. 1081 “On the organisation and functioning of the National Food Authority”.

Based on the Food Law, secondary legislation has been adopted in line with EU requirements. Current legislation dealing with food safety in Albania is partially aligned with EU provisions, namely the Food Hygiene Package. Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002, part of the EC Regulation No. 882/2004 on official controls has been harmonised as well as Regulation No. 852/2004, No. 853/2004 and No. 854/2004 that have been adopted through means of Ordinances of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration.

The adoption of the Law No. 10465 on Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania in 2011, transferred the responsibilities for animal health and welfare to the veterinary service.

Based on the Law “On the Veterinary Service in the Republic of Albania”, and Law “On the system of animal identification and registration”, several secondary legal acts have been adopted introducing EU requirements in the veterinary field such as regulation for the control of diseases in animals, regulation for controlling zoonotic diseases, regulations for creation and functioning of the animals identification system, regulations for animal welfare and regulation on national and international trading conditions of all animals.

Phytosanitary activities are based on Law No. 9362 On the Service of Plant Protection from 2005, which has been amended in 2008 with a Law No. 9908. In the framework of the amended Law on the service of plant protection a secondary legislation has been adopted in compliance with the EU Directives on plant protection (mainly of the two basic directives 2000/29 and 91/414).

There is no separation between risk assessment and risk management. They are separates departments within NFA.

Risk assessment publications are not published online.

MARDWA Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

♦ Agricultural, food safety policy

Seat: Tirana
<http://www.bujqesia.gov.al>

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MARDWA) deals with agricultural and food safety policy in Albania. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food and feed safety. The area of work of the MARDWA extends beyond food safety to, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

Regarding Food Safety, MARDWA is responsible for policies, strategies and legislation for food safety and quality of food products. It is involved in risk management and food safety crises management. It formulates policies to control the quality and safety of food products in order to integrate food control as a key function in the protection of consumer's health and interests, providing a fair competition in the national market and the introduction of food products in the international market. In addition, MARDWA is responsible for the fishery sector, including approval of fishery establishments, classification of live bivalve mollusks' production areas and monitoring their sampling plans.

Regarding plant protection, MARDWA is responsible for policies and legislation, implementation of procedures related to the registration of plant protection products, monitoring of the service of plant protection and representing the international authority in the field of plant protection. The responsible veterinary authority is the Veterinary Directorate within the General Directorate of Agriculture Service. In addition to representing Albania in OIE this directorate is responsible for the policies, strategies, legislation and monitoring of the implementation of the legislation in the field of veterinary service. The regional veterinary services

are part of the Regional Agriculture Directories (RAD) technically accountable for all its activity to the Veterinary Directorate in MARDWA. Private veterinarians are contracted by the Regional Agriculture Directories to carry out veterinary activities such as vaccination campaigns for national programs and ear tagging of animals in accordance with the legislation.

Based on the current veterinary and food legislation in Albania, duties and competences of the MARDWA State Veterinary Services are being carried out at farm level, focusing on the primary production only. Once leaving the farm, the primary products are under the competence of the National Food Authority inspection services.

NFA National Food Authority

- ♦ Risk assessment
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Scientific committee
- ♦ Scientific panels
- ♦ Management board
- ♦ RASFF Contact Point
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Tirana
<http://www.aku.gov.al>

Pursuant to the Law No. 9863, dated 28.01.2008 "On Food", amended, that regulates the food safety system in Albania, and the National Food Authority (NFA) is responsible for risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. 13 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) are under NFA in charge of the control of plants and plant products, livestock, animal by-products and food of animal and non-animal origin at the borders. National Food Authority is an integrated part of the program to create and guarantee a food safety system and consumer protection in the Republic of Albania. It was established with a Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 1081 date

21.10.2009. NFA is an institution under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration. NFA has as part of its organisational structure 9 Regional Laboratories which performs lab analyses for food and feed official controls, as well as plant protection to verify law implementation in the country, according the legislation into force. These labs are categorized into:

- ◆ food safety lab: Physic – Chemical;
- ◆ microbiology lab;
- ◆ animal health and welfare lab;
- ◆ plant protection lab.

The status of play of NFA labs' is defined in Law No. 9863, dated 28.01.2008 "On Food", amended, where their authorisation is granted by the Minister of Agriculture after an evaluation performed from the Reference Laboratory FSVI.

The field of operation of NFA

- ◆ leads the risk assessment process in food, feed and plant protection field. Plans, coordinates and realises official controls of food and feed and plant protection;
- ◆ ensures the official control practices unification for food, feed and plant protection at national level;
- ◆ coordinates authorised laboratories activities in food, feed and plant protection official controls;
- ◆ performs preliminary controls to prove if the technical-technological, hygiene-sanitation, phytosanitary and veterinary requirements are met and also to verify the necessary documentation for registering and licensing the food business operators and plant protection;
- ◆ blocks temporarily or permanently the activity of food and feed business operators in stages of production, processing, delivery and marketing of food or feed when is proved that food or feed and respective business operators do not meet food safety standards, determined in the legislation into force;
- ◆ carries out necessary scientific researches on risk assessment in the field of food and feed safety and plant protection;

- ◆ provides technical, administrative and scientific support to enable the activity of scientific committee and scientific panels;
- ◆ informs the public on food and feed safety and plant protection.

FSVI

Food Safety and Veterinary Institute

- ◆ Confirmation of diagnosis
- ◆ Standardisation of analysis methods
- ◆ Training courses
- ◆ Collaboration with European reference centers

Seat: Tirana

<http://www.isuv.gov.al>

The Food Safety and Veterinary Institute (FSVI) is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration. FSVI is a national reference center and laboratory developing scientific research and application activities in areas of animal health and food quality, foodstuff residues and veterinary products registration and plant protection.

FSVI serves as a reference center for:

- ◆ conformation of diagnosis performed in other laboratories;
- ◆ conducting standardisation of methods of analysis;
- ◆ uses and disseminates official methods of analysis;
- ◆ organises training courses for specialists in other laboratories;
- ◆ supplies other laboratories with new regulations and everything related to the field of research;
- ◆ collaborates with reference centres of the European Community;
- ◆ provides the Ministry of ARDWA with assistance and scientific laboratory information and suggests further measures to be taken in the field for issues that arise regarding the scope of FSVI.

FSVI implements the quality management system based on the ISO 17025:2005 standard and has been approved for 6 tests by the General Accreditation Directory and by a foreign accreditation body (Accredia – national accreditation in Italy). The Department of Animals Health in the FSVI is composed by 6 sectors: Bacteriology, Virology, Parasitology, Mycology, Veterinary Epidemiology and the Sector for veterinary medical products. Part of this institute is also the sector for production of vaccines and bio-products.

MH Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health services
- ◆ Drafts legislation
- ◆ Health development strategies
- ◆ Investment programs: infrastructure of health service

Seat: Tirana
<http://www.shendetesia.gov.al>

The mission of the Ministry of Health (MH) is the implementation of health policies of Government programs. The Ministry of Health compiles health policies at the national level and determines the development and planning of health services nationally and regionally. The MH is responsible for public health, nutrition and control of water and specific food products (Nutritional purposes).

PHI Public Health Institute

- ◆ Planning/verification of food supply
- ◆ Research plans in food sectors
- ◆ Monitoring of nutrition of population
- ◆ Surveillance/laboratory diagnosis data

Seat: Tirana
<http://www.ishp.gov.al>

Food Safety Sector:

- ◆ Development and application of plans for the verification of food supply.

Nutritional Sector (Food):

- ◆ Development and application of research plans in food sectors: macro- and micro-nutrients.
- ◆ Monitoring of nutrition of population.

The enforcement of the legislation for public health and nutrition is carried out by the sanitary inspectors who are responsible for the issuing of health certificates for workers in the industry, the inspection in the working environment and the control of water up to the final consumer. The Public Health Institute (PHI) collects surveillance and laboratory diagnosis data from regional public health structures. The PHI reports the number of cases of infectious disease to the Food Safety and Epidemiology Section at the PHI on a monthly basis. The disease categories relevant to food-borne disease are: non-typhoid salmonellosis, botulism, shigellosis, *E. coli* enteritis, cholera, brucellosis, infection with hepatitis A virus, giardiasis, amebiasis, food poisoning (unknown aetiology, including food toxic-infections), unspecified gastro enteric illness, and outbreaks associated with contaminated food and water.

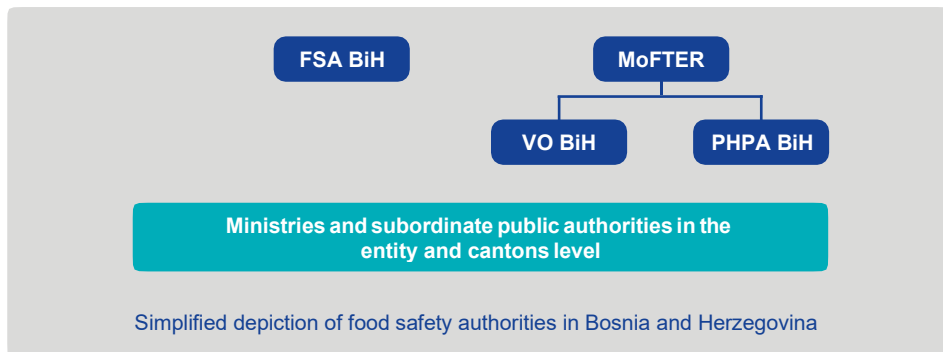
RDA Regional Directorates of Agriculture

- ◆ Collection of agricultural information
- ◆ Support of farmers
- ◆ Support of Agroindustry/-market
- ◆ Statistical information

Seat: 12 RDAs in 12 regions

The Regional Directorates of Agriculture (RDA) are one per region and are involved in the enforcement of the legislation under the competence of MARDWA at field level. In addition, plant protection specialists, part of the RDA, are responsible for advising, informing and educating farmers for plant protection issues.

4.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)



The Food Safety Law (Official Gazette B&H, No. 54/04) is the central legal foundation for food safety in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This act transposes Regulation No. 178/2002. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, however the Final decision rests with the courts.

The “Hygiene Packet” is transposed in legislation BiH with four rulebooks and which defines the responsibilities of individual institutions BiH, entity and cantons involved in the food safety chain.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina risk assessment is still being developed, therefore there is no institutional separation between risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are not published on the Internet.

FSA BiH Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ◆ Food and feed safety policy
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ WHO INFOSAN Contact Point
- ◆ Codex Contact Point

Seat: Mostar

<http://www.fsa.gov.ba>



The Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSA BiH) in collaboration with competent authority of entity and Brčko distrikt BiH, is responsible for drafting legislation in the area of food and feed safety, quality and hygiene.

The FSA BiH is an independent and science – based authority and provides scientific and technical support on all matters with regards to food and feed safety. It is responsible for risk assessments in this area and communication of results of risk assessments.

Food Safety Agency of BiH is the contact point for DG SANTE EU RASFF system, INFOSAN network and Codex alimentarius pursuant to the provisions of the Food Law (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 50/04).

FSA BiH works in close communication and cooperation with several national institution in all level.

MoFTER Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

♦ Agricultural policy

Seat: Sarajevo
<http://www.mvteo.gov.ba>

At central level, two institutions within the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER), the Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VO) and the Administration Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection BiH (PHPA BiH), have responsibilities in relation to food safety, animal health/welfare and plant protection. The Department for Agriculture, food, forestry and rural development within MoFTER is responsible for the coordination and oversight of the relevant State Agencies.

VO BiH Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ♦ Food of animal origin and feed safety policy
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ Animal health and animal welfare
- ♦ OIE Contact Point

Seat: Sarajevo
<http://www.vet.gov.ba>



The Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VO BiH) is subordinate specialist authority within the MoFTER tasked with animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, veterinary drugs, ensuring a system for risk management in the production and circulation of food of animal origin and in accordance with the competent authority of entity and Brčko District prepare drafting legislation in the area of animal health, welfare and feed and veterinary public health.

The VO BiH monitors and control animal welfare including zoonosis. The Veterinary Border Inspection is an integral part of the VO BiH and border veterinary inspection perform official controls of food animal origin and animal feed at the border. The VO BiH is responsible for the cooperation and coordination with the veterinary authorities of other countries in terms of international certification.

PHPA BiH Administration Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection

♦ Plant health including plant protection

Seat: Sarajevo
<http://www.uzzb.gov.ba>



The Administration Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection (PHPA BiH) has been established as a separate administrative organisation within the MoFTER to determine policy in the area of plant health protection, develop draft regulations and ensure the protection of plant health on the entire BiH territory. The PHPA BiH is an independent administrative organisation within MoFTER of Bosnia and Herzegovina and represents a National Organization for Plant Protection in accordance with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The PHPA BiH is responsible for plant health protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina and information exchange/cooperation.

tion with international organisations dealing with phytosanitary matters such as: IPPC/FAO, EPPO, WTO/SPS, UPOV, OECD, ISTA etc. The PHPA performs administrative and related technical tasks in line with the Law on Plant Health Protection. It is also responsible for the controls over plant protection products, their residues, and registered suppliers/users.

Phytosanitary inspectors carry out obligatory control on consignments of plants, plant products and regulated objects in accordance to the Annex I part B section I at border crossings (Border Inspection Posts, BIPs) in order to determine the presence of harmful organisms or compliance with phytosanitary regulations, as well as phytosanitary inspections of plants, plant products and regulated objects in the interior (where the plants produced, processed, stored, transported, distributed or otherwise used).

Regional and local levels

Bosnia and Herzegovina consist of two entities, Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko district. Entities have a high level of responsibility in the area of agriculture policy, food and feed policy and quality and official control. Each governmental level of BiH (entity/district, canton and municipality), has an administration for food safety, animal health/welfare and plant health.

Official controls on food of non-animal origin at border crossings and food and feed in the internal market carried out by the Entities inspectorates and the Inspectorate of the Brčko District of BiH as follows:

1. Republic of Srpska – Administration for Inspection Affairs of Republic of Srpska
2. Federation of BiH – Federal Department for Inspection Affairs-sanitary and market inspection service, and cantonal inspection service

3. Brčko District of BiH – sanitary and market inspection service.

Institutions of the Republic of Srpska Government involved in the drafting and implementation of legislation on food and feed safety, agriculture policy are as follows:

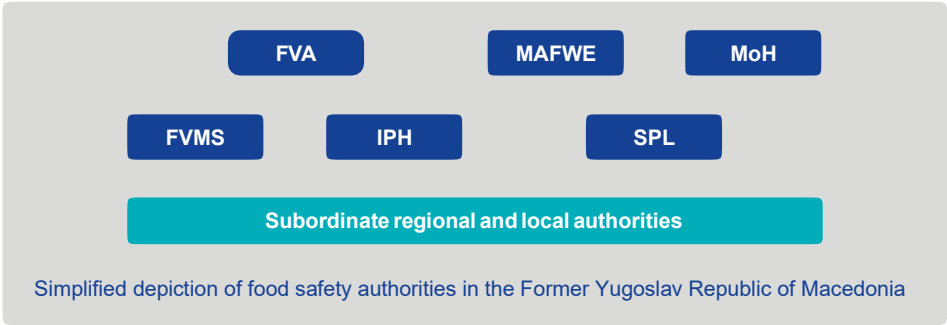
1. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srpska
2. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republic of Srpska

The governmental institutions of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina involved in the drafting and implementation of legislation on food and feed safety, agriculture policy as follows:

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of FBiH
2. Ministry of Health of BiH

Within the Brčko District, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, has functions broadly similar to those of the entity.

4.3 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK)



The legal framework for food safety in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK) is the Food Safety Law. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Governmental measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. In 2015, a National Council for food and feed safety has been established by the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Council has a total number of 19 members, representatives from relevant governmental institutions and NGOs.

The National Council provides scientific advices and support related to the policies governing the food and feed safety, animal health and welfare. It is also responsible to give independent opinion and recommendations as well as to notify information related to existence of risk in order to improve the harmonisation between the functions for risk assessment and risk communication.

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there is a functional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Risk assessments are not published on the Internet.

FVA
Food and Veterinary Agency

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Veterinary policy, public health policy
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ OIE, DG SANTE, WTO SPS Enquiry Point

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.fva.gov.mk>

The Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) is an independent governmental authority having established quality management system in accordance to ISO 9001:2012 and is responsible for performing activities related to:

- ◆ food and feed safety;
- ◆ implementation, control, surveillance and monitoring of the veterinary activities in the field of animal health, their welfare, veterinary public health, food contact materials;
- ◆ control on National Reference Laboratories and authorised laboratories supporting the needs of the FVA;

- ♦ control of the quality of food with exception of the primary agricultural production of non-animal origin;
- ♦ other activities significant for the veterinary health, food and feed safety.

The FVA supervises official controls of feed and food of animal and non-animal origin – during production, processing, storage, transport, trade, import and export. The FVA is also responsible for control and inspection activities of food business operators.

MAFWE Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy

- ♦ Agricultural policy, food safety in primary production
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.mzsv.gov.mk>



The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) is responsible for the development and implementation of agricultural policy and the safety of food and feed of plant origin during primary production.

The MAFWE prepares draft legislation and is responsible for the implementation, inspection and control in following areas: plant health, plant protection products, establishing and operating the “plant passport system”, recognition, approval and protection of plant and seed varieties, and laboratory analysis of plants and plant products.

As part of the MAFWE, the State Agriculture Inspectorate (SAI) conducts inspection and control during primary protection of fruit and vegetables.

MoH Ministry of Health

- ♦ Health policy
- ♦ Risk management

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.moh.gov.mk>



The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for all aspects of public health and healthcare. This includes the preparation of draft legislation as well as the subsequent implementation and control of consumer protection against fraud. The MoH actively participates in the harmonisation of Macedonian legislation with EU legislation.

FVMS Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

- ♦ Laboratory analysis
- ♦ Risk assessment

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.fvm.ukim.edu.mk>

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVMS) laboratories (Food Institute and Veterinary Institute) are authorised to perform laboratory analysis of samples collected during official controls conducted by the FVA. FVMS laboratories are accredited according to MKC ISO/IEC 17025:2006. The FVMS is also involved in FVA risk assessment activities. FVMS laboratories cover the area of microbiology, biology and biochemistry, more specifically the analysis of food products, beverages, water, feed, and the examination of animal diseases.

IPH
Institute of Public Health

- ◆ Laboratory analysis
- ◆ Risk assessment

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.iph.mk>

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) is authorised for laboratory analysis of food and feed samples collected by state food inspectors. The IPH is accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025. The IPH also supports the FVA and MAFWE in risk assessment activities.

SPL
State Phytosanitary Laboratory

- ◆ Laboratory analysis

Seat: Skopje
<http://www.mzsv.gov.mk>

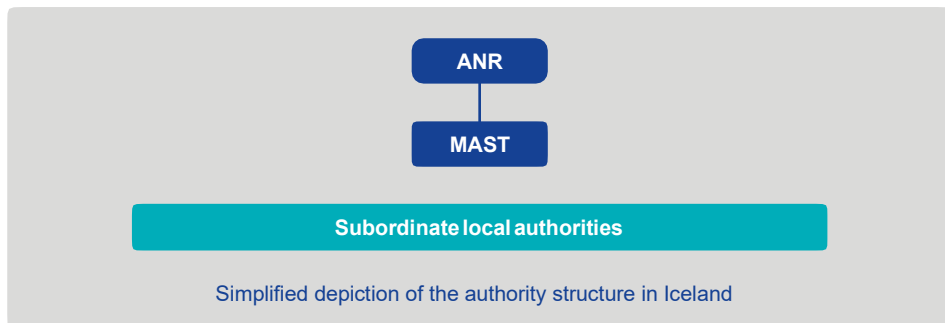
The State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL) ensures advanced and qualitative laboratory services for the purposes of the entire agriculture sector, in the part of harmful organisms control of the quality of the seeds and seedlings, control of the phyto-pharmaceutical products, control of the residues of pesticides and all for the purposes of production of safe food.

Regional and local levels

Ten regional independent laboratories perform chemical, toxicological and microbiological analysis of food and water. Control and inspection activities are coordinated and supervised by the FVA. 28 regional offices of the FVA operate at the regional and local level to inspect food of non-animal and animal origin, animal health and welfare, and the import and export at border inspection posts.

- Institutions involved in the food safety system in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:
1. Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) (EFSA Focal Point)
 2. Phytosanitary Directorate, MAFWE
 3. State Agricultural Inspection, MAFWE
 4. Directorate for Seeds and Seedling Materials, MAFWE
 5. Veterinary Institute, Faculty of Veterinary medicine-Skopje
 6. Food Institute, Faculty of Veterinary medicine-Skopje
 7. State Phytosanitary Laboratory, MAFWE
 8. Institute for Public Health of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje and 10 Regional Centres for Public Health
 9. Laboratory for biochemistry and molecular biology, Faculty of agricultural sciences and food
 10. Research Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, MASA
 11. Centre of Preventive Medicine – Military Medical Centre
 12. Faculty of Pharmacy, University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje
 13. Faculty of Medicine, University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje

4.4 Iceland



The Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Iceland. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Iceland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. Some risk assessments are published on the Internet.

ANR Ministry of Industries and Innovation

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Reykjavík
<https://eng.atvinnuvegaraduneyti.is>



The Ministry of Industries and Innovation (ANR) is responsible for fisheries and agricultural policy and food safety in Iceland.

It prepares legislation in the field of fish and agricultural products, foods of animal and plant origin and other food and feed, and is responsible for state food inspections.

The portfolio of the ANR includes drinking water, plant health, animal health, feed animal welfare, seeds, fertilisers and fishing catches.

Matís Ltd.
Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Reykjavík
<http://www.matis.is>

The Icelandic Food and Biotech (Matís Ltd.) is an independent research institute owned by the Icelandic government. Matís Ltd. provides laboratory services as well as risk assessments in the area of food safety.

MAST
Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Selfoss
<http://www.mast.is>



The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) consists of a head office, an office for import and export control and regional offices. MAST supervises food control activities of the municipalities. MAST is subordinate to the ANR and is the central authority in the field of food safety, animal health and animal welfare. MAST carries out risk assessment in the area of food and feed, contaminants in drinking water, residues of veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products. MAST is also involved in risk communication as well as preparatory work for legislation (in support of ANR activities).

MAST is responsible for inspection and control during the import and export of food, feed, plants and live animals. In the area of food of animal origin, MAST conducts controls and inspection during primary production, in slaughterhouses, during processing of meat and fish, in dairies and egg production.

MAST cooperates with the Institute for Experimental Pathology in Keldur, University of Iceland, with regard to risk assessment in the area of animal disease. The Institute for Experimental Pathology in Keldur also provides scientific advice and support in the area of animal and human disease, monitoring of human health, as well as laboratory diagnostic services in the field of animal disease.

MAST also cooperates with several other scientific and governmental institutions within Iceland, e. g. the Chief Epidemiologist of the Directorate of Health on topics regarding communicable diseases, the Directorate of Customs regarding import and export and the Icelandic Medicines Agency regarding evaluation and registration of veterinary medicinal products.

Regional and local levels

Iceland is divided into six veterinary districts, each with a regional office of MAST. Ten independent municipal Environmental and Public Health Offices are responsible for food safety controls at the retail level and are supervised by MAST.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. [The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority \(EFSA Focal Point\)](#)
2. [Matís Ltd.](#)
3. [Unit for nutrition research, Landspítali-University Hospital and University of Iceland](#)

4.5 Kosovo



The legal framework for food safety in Kosovo is the Law on Food 03/L-016. Infringement on the provisions of the law on food and other food safety legal acts can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, in which case the final decision rests with the courts.

In Kosovo risk assessment is still being developed. Institutional separation between risk assessment and risk management does not exist, and risk assessments are not being published on the Internet.

FVA Food and Veterinary Agency

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Veterinary policy, public
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Prishtina
<http://www.auv-ks.net>



The Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) is executive agency under the Prime Minister's Office. Within Food Law 03/L-016 the FVA is referred to as competent authority for food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary issues.

The FVA develops, coordinates and implements food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy in order to protect public health, animal health, plant health and the environment.

The FVA activities also include approval and registration of food business operators and ensures that official controls are conducted within risk based annual planning. Risk based assessment is used for controls at border inspection posts when food and feed is imported from other countries.

The Unit for media relation of the FVA deals with risk communication on a regular basis and also in emerging crisis situations.

The Food and Veterinary Laboratory (FVL) is part of FVA, and performs laboratory tests for food, feed and animal diseases.

MAFRD Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development

- ◆ Agriculture policy, food safety in primary production
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Prishtina
<http://www.mbpzhr-ks.net>



The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) is responsible for the development of agricultural policy, legislation and programming for agriculture, food and feed safety.

MAFRD prepares legal basis for achievement of infrastructure, development and strategic planning for implementation of safety of food and feed, plant protection and aquaculture.

Additionally, MAFRD prepares planning for rural development related to food security and environmental protection.

Within MAFRD the Agency for Rural Development is responsible for financial support for farmers and producers in order to increase production capacities and implement food safety standards.

Part of MAFRD are the Kosovo Agriculture Institute (KAI) and the Wine Institute. These institutes are accredited by ISO 17025, which enables high performance on laboratory analyses of plant, feed, soil and wine.

MoH Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health Policy
- ◆ Risk assessment

Seat: Prishtina
<http://www.msh-ks.org>



The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for aspects of public health and health care. This includes the development of legislation for food-borne and waterborne diseases. The MoH actively participates in the harmonisation between Kosovo's national legislation and EU legislation.

MoH is authorised by the National Institute for Public Health (NIPH) to perform laboratory analysis of samples collected during official controls conducted by the FVA.

NIPH laboratories are accredited according to ISO17025:2006 and cover the area of microbiology, biology and biochemistry, in particular the analysis of food products, beverages and water.

4.6 Montenegro



MARD
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Veterinary and phytosanitary policy

Seat: Podgorica
<http://www.mpr.gov.me/ministarstvo>



food and feed and other programmes in accordance with this Law); organises conducting of official controls in the field of food safety; adopts a multi-annual national control plan of official controls for food and feed in accordance with this Law; submits annual reports on food and feed safety to the Government of Montenegro and the European Commission in accordance with this Law; cooperates with international organisations and competent authorities of other states in the field of food and feed safety and performs other activities in accordance with this Law.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the competent authority for the field of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy. Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs (AFSVPA) was established by the Decree on amendments to the Decree on the Organisation and Functioning of Public Administration (Official Gazette of Montenegro 80/15). This Administration has been established by merger of the existing Veterinary and Phytosanitary Administrations and the Division for Food Safety of the Ministry of Health.

AFSVPA
Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs

- ◆ Agriculture policy, animal health, animal welfare and plant health
- ◆ Food and feed safety policy
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Podgorica
<http://www.minpolj.gov.me/ministarstvo>



The Law on Food Safety (Official Gazette of Montenegro 57/15) lays down the following:

The MARD is in charge of proposing food and feed safety policy; adopts regulations for the enforcement of this Law, adopts annual monitoring programmes (residues in food of animal origin and feed, pesticide residues in food, zoonoses, microbiological criteria in food, contaminants in

The Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs (AFSVPA) – the Sector for food safety, in the area of food safety, is in charge of: establishing the compliance with the requirements and issuing approvals for carrying out business operations in establishments for

production, processing and distribution of food and feed; registration of food and feed establishments; setting up and keeping the Central Register of Approved and Registered Establishments carrying out food and feed business operations; preparation and implementation of the multi-annual national control plan of official controls for food and feed; preparation of annual reports on the implementation of the multi-annual national control plan of official controls as well as preparation of technical bases for the development of programmes and legislation.

Laboratories

There are three public laboratories in Montenegro: the Institute for Public Health (IPH), the Centre for Ecotoxicological Research (CETI) and the Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory.

The IPH carries out analyses of food, materials and items coming into contact with food: microbiological, parasitological, chemical, biological, toxicological, biochemical and other laboratory analyses, analyses of drinking water, surface and waste waters, etc.

The CETI is an institution authorised for the control and safety of food and objects in general use as of 1998, for the control of agricultural and food products in foreign trade as of 1999, as well as for the examination of physico-chemical properties of pesticides.

The Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory has accredited a larger number of methods in the following fields:

- ◆ microbiological analyses of food of animal origin: meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, eggs and egg products;
- ◆ parasitological testing of meat and meat products.

Official controls

Official controls over the implementation of the Law on Food Safety are carried out by food inspectors, official border veterinarians and border phytosanitary inspectors

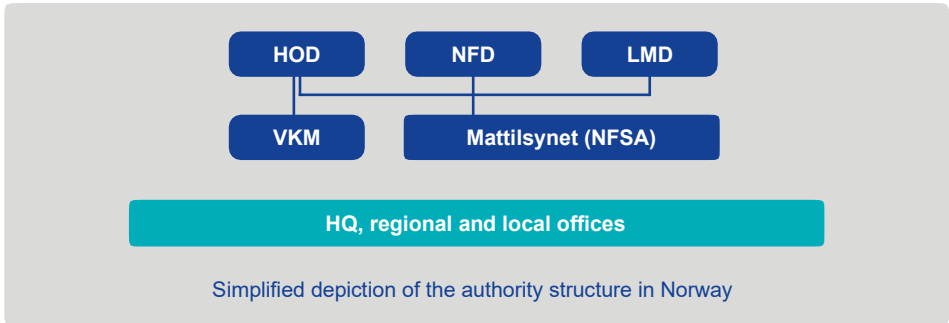
According to the Veterinary Law, veterinary inspectors carry out the control of trade in live animals, products of animal origin on the territory of Montenegro, checks at the places of dispatch or final destination of consignment and in quarantine facilities.

Currently, border veterinary control in Montenegro is carried out in 10 veterinary Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) (8 at land borders, one in the Port of Bar and one at the Airport in Podgorica).

Official controls in the field of placing on the market of food and feed are carried out by food inspectors, veterinary and phytosanitary border inspectors, while the control of animal by-products is carried out by veterinary inspectors.

Official controls over the implementation of laws in phytosanitary field are performed through phytosanitary inspectors.

4.7 Norway



In Norway the central legal foundation for food legislation is the Food Act. The EU Food Law is incorporated in the Norwegian Food Act. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment.

In Norway, risk assessment and risk management are separated institutionally. Risk assessments conducted by the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM) are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions prohibiting this.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (LMD), the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (NFD) and the Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD) share responsibility for shaping food policy and for the management of foodstuffs from production to the consumer. Mattilsynet (Norwegian Food Safety Authority, NFSA) is a joint subordinate agency under these ministries.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment (KLD) bears special responsibility for environmental policy issues.

HOD Ministry of Health and Care Services

- ◆ Food issues, food safety and nutrition policy
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Oslo

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dep/hod/id421>



The Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD) deals with health policy, including nutrition and food safety. It is responsible for legislation in the field of health protection, food safety and food, except primary production. The HOD's responsibilities include drinking water and cosmetics. The HOD is responsible for the Norwegian Directorate of Health which deals with public health, including nutrition, as well as for the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The HOD finances and appoints the otherwise independent Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM).

NFD
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Oslo
<https://www.regjeringen.no/en>


The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (NFD) is responsible for legislation in the field of primary production in aquaculture, both wild and farmed fish and shellfish as well as fish feed. The NFD portfolio also includes feed for marine animals, fish health and welfare and sustainable use of marine resources.

LMD
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Food: primary production

Seat: Oslo
<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dep/lmd/>


The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (LMD) is the main ministry in charge of Mattilsynet (NFSA). It deals with agricultural policy in Norway. It is responsible for draft legislation within the primary (agricultural) production of food and feed. The area of work of the LMD extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health as well as animal health and welfare.

KLD
Ministry of Climate and Environment

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Oslo
<http://www.regjeringen.no/no/dep/kld>


The Ministry of Climate and Environment (KLD) has the main responsibility for ensuring integrated governmental climate and environmental policies. In addition to initiating, developing and implementing its own measures and actions, the Ministry also acts as promoter and coordinator to ensure that the authorities in the various sectors implement the environmental policies in their particular areas.

Miljødirektoratet
Norwegian Environment Agency

- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Trondheim
<http://www.miljodirektoratet.no>


The Norwegian Environment Agency Miljødirektoratet is the KLD's advisory and executive body in the field of nature management. The Agency's primary tasks and responsibilities are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving nature and preventing pollution.

VKM Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Oslo
<http://www.vkm.no>



The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM) is an independent risk assessment body, consisting of a secretariat and a scientific committee. 120 experts constitute the committee which is organised in a Scientific Steering Committee and eleven Scientific panels, similar to the EFSA structure. The secretariat is organised as an independent unit within the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The VKM is financed and appointed by the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The VKM carries out risk assessments at the request of Mattilsynet (NFSA) across the authority's field of responsibility. Further, on behalf of the Norwegian Environment Agency, VKM carries out environmental risk assessments of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), microbiological products and alien organisms, as well as endangered species assessments related to the CITES-regulations.

Mattilsynet Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA)

- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Oslo
<http://www.mattilsynet.no>



The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) is a governmental body, whose aim is, through regulations and controls, to ensure that food and drinking water are as safe and healthy as possible for consumers, and to promote plant, fish and animal health. The NFSA's regulations cover ethical keeping of animals and encourage environmentally friendly production. It also regulates and controls cosmetics and animal health personnel. The NFSA's role is to draft and provide information on legislation, to perform risk-based inspections, to monitor food safety as well as plant, fish and animal health, to provide updates on developments within its area of responsibility, and to plan for emergencies. The NFSA advises and does preparatory work for legislation under the three main food ministries LMD, NFD and HOD.

The NFSA is the regulatory authority for pesticides, and it is responsible for residues of veterinary drugs. However, the Norwegian Medicines Agency is responsible for the approval of veterinary drugs.

The NFSA is organised in two administrative levels: The Head office in Oslo, and 5 regions: The Northern region, the Central region, the Southern and Western region, the Eastern region, and the Greater Oslo region. The regional level includes 32 district offices.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network
pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

Norway

1. Norwegian Institute of Public Health
2. Bioforsk – Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, Plant Health and Plant Protection Division
3. National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research (NIFES)
4. Norwegian Veterinary Institute
5. Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
6. Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)
7. Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)
8. Norwegian School of Veterinary Science
9. Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Department of Animal- and Aquacultural Sciences
10. Department of Nutrition, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo
11. Norwegian Food Safety Authority

4.8 Serbia



Simplified depiction of the authority structure in Serbia

The Law on Food Safety is the central legal act which prescribes rules on food and feed safety, responsibilities of food and feed business operators, rapid alert system, emergency measures and crisis management. This Law is harmonised with Regulation EC, No. 178/2002. The food safety by law is in line with EU Hygiene package.

Two Ministries and their related services share overall responsibility for food safety: Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP) and Ministry of Health (MH).

There is no clear separation between risk assessment and risk management. The risk assessment authority has not established yet and the finished assessments are not publicly available.

MAEP Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

- ♦ Agricultural policy
- ♦ Animal health and animal welfare
- ♦ Plant health including plant protection products and residues
- ♦ Food and feed safety policy
- ♦ Risk management
- ♦ Risk communication
- ♦ EFSA Focal Point
- ♦ OIE Focal Point
- ♦ Codex Focal Point

Seat: Belgrade

<http://www.minpolj.gov.rs>



The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP) is the central competent authority for policy and legislation on the enforcement of law on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary matters. Veterinary Directorate (VD), Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) and Sector of Agricultural Inspection (SAI) of MAEP have overall responsibility for animal health, animal welfare, food and feed safety and phytosanitary matters. The official controls, depending of delegated tasks, are performed by three inspections: Veterinary Inspection, Phytosanitary Inspection and Agricultural Inspection; each of them covering the responsibilities within their competence in accordance with the Law on Food Safety.

VD**Veterinary Directorate**

- ◆ Animal health and welfare
- ◆ Residues of veterinary medicinal products
- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Belgrade

<http://www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs>

The Veterinary Directorate (VD) is responsible for safety of food of animal origin throughout all stages of production, processing and distribution, including import and export. It is also responsible for: animal health, animal welfare, animal reproduction, animal feed, veterinary medicinal products and residues, as well as animal by-products. Legislation and cooperation with other relevant competent authorities in these fields are the competence of VD.

The Veterinary Inspection is an integral part of the VD and veterinary inspectors carry out official controls on holdings and of food and feed of animal origin.

The VD carries out all necessary measures to protect spreading of animal diseases and zoonoses, foodborne diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

The Veterinary Institutes throughout the entire country support the work of the VD, as well as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

The scientific and expert support to VD has been done by the Veterinary institutes, as well as by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, which performs diagnostic test on animal health, food and feed testing and participate in scientific work and trainings.

Beside these institutions, there are designated state and private laboratories involved in official testing of food of animal origin.

PPD**Plant Protection Directorate**

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Plant health
- ◆ Plant protection products and residues
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Belgrade

<http://www.uzb.minpolj.gov.rs>

The Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) of MAEP is competent authority for phytosanitary matters, including: plant health (harmful organisms), seed and propagating material, plant breeders' rights, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), plant protection products, plant nutrition products and soil improvers, establishing of residues of plant protection products (PPP's) in food and feed of plant and animal origin, control of residues of PPP's in food of plant and composite origin, control in the field of safety of non-processed and processed food of plant origin on import and feed of plant origin on import.

The PPD monitors the implementation of legislation and the enforcement of official controls in these areas.

The Phytosanitary Inspection is an integral part of the Plant Protection Directorate and phytosanitary inspectors perform official controls of plant origin products in primary production. Plant protection institutes and agricultural services throughout the country support the work of the PPD.

DNRL Directorate for National Reference Laboratories

- ◆ Plant health
- ◆ Food safety

Seat: Belgrade
<http://www.dnrl.minpolj.gov.rs>



The Directorate for National Reference Laboratories (DNRL) is established in aim to perform tasks within the field of food safety, plant health, residues, milk and plant gene bank. The DNRL has established to perform cooperation with the reference laboratories of other countries, establish uniform criteria and methods and implementation of standards for the operation of authorised laboratories and training of authorised laboratories staff. The phytosanitary testing and plant gene bank are in place but the other departments are not fully operational.

MH Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy
- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Public health

Seat: Belgrade
<http://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/>

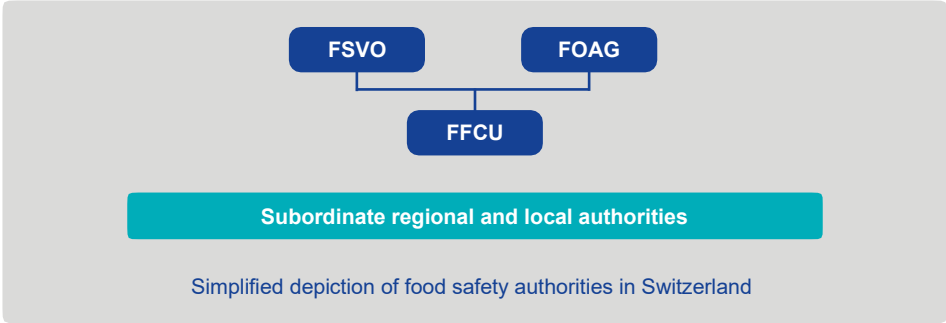


The Ministry of Health (MH) is the competent authority for policy, and adoption and implementation of regulations for enforcement of legislation in the area of novel food, dietary products, infant formulae, dietary supplements and salts for human consumption, additives, flavorings, and enzymatic preparations and supplements of non-animal origin, food contact material, drinking water and public water supply systems. The

sector of Public Health and Sanitary Inspection (SPHSI), Unit for Sanitary Inspection of MH, performs official controls within listed food safety tasks and in the case of food outbreak/epidemiology investigation. Public Health Institutes are designated in official testing of food and water.

4.9 Switzerland

Switzerland



The Federal Act on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles is the central legal foundation for food law in Switzerland. Also relevant in this area is the Federal Act on Agriculture and related ordinances on feed, animal health, animal welfare, as well as the import, transit and export of animals and food of animal origin.

Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Switzerland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management. In specific cases, risk assessments are published on the Internet.

FSVO
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point

Seat: Bern
<http://www.blv.admin.ch>

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) is a new office of the Federal Department of Home Affairs since January 2014. The office is responsible for risk assessment and risk management in the area of animal health and welfare, food safety and consumer protection and has its own laboratory research facilities. Risk assessments focus on chemical, microbiological and biotechnological risks in food and utility articles. This includes safety of novel foods, food supplements, mineral water and drinking water, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), residues of plant protection products, residues of veterinary medicinal products, food additives and contaminants, and the prevention of zoonoses.

The FSVO is also responsible for the safety of utility articles such as food contact materials, toys and cosmetics. The FSVO remit extends beyond food safety to animal health and animal welfare; it monitors and controls the import, export and transit of livestock and domestic animals, animal products, food of animal origin and internationally protected flora and fauna (CITES Convention). In close collaboration with the Swiss Federal Customs Administration the FSVO is responsible for control of foodstuffs at the border. The Border Inspection Posts (Zurich and Geneva airports) are responsible for the import control of animals and animal products.

In cooperation with importing countries, the FSVO also issues veterinary documents for the export of animals and animal products.

The regulatory authority for veterinary drugs is the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic), while risks associated with residues of veterinary drugs in food of animal origin are covered by the FSVO.

FOAG Federal Office for Agriculture

- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Bern
<http://www.blw.admin.ch>



The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) is an office of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research and responsible for agricultural policy, safety of food of plant origin during primary production and safety of animal feed. Together with the cantons and farmers' organisations, the FOAG implements decisions by the people, the parliament and the government.

The FOAG is responsible for risk assessment and risk management in the field of animal feed. Actual control and inspection activities are carried out by the research institute Agroscope.

The FOAG remit includes residues of plant protection products, GMOs and plant health. The FOAG is the regulatory authority for pesticides while risks associated with pesticide residues are covered by the FSVO.

FFCU Federal Food Chain Unit

- ◆ Risk management

Seat: Bern
<http://www.blk.admin.ch>

On behalf of the FOAG and FSVO, the Federal Food Chain Unit (FFCU) audits the implementation and enforcement of national legislation by federal and cantonal authorities in the area of feed safety, food safety, animal health and animal welfare. The FFCU also prepares and coordinates the implementation and evaluation of the multi-annual national control plan.

Regional and local levels

The federal government of Switzerland is responsible for the enforcement in relation to import, export and transit of foodstuffs and utility articles. The federal government of Switzerland is also responsible for the inspection and control of feed safety. The government is supported by the FFCU and the Federal Customs Administration.

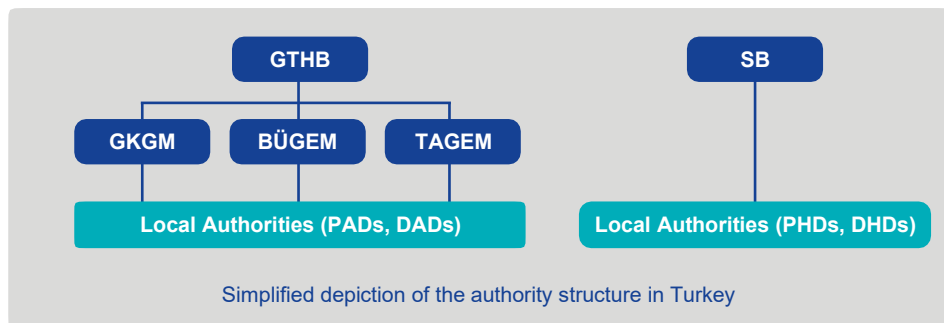
The cantons (i. e. the individual federal states of Switzerland) are responsible for the enforcement of food safety and agricultural legislations. Cantonal food control authorities are responsible for food safety inspections. Cantonal veterinary offices are responsible for the enforcement of

legislation on animal health, animal welfare and veterinary medicinal products. They inspect livestock prior to slaughtering and carry out meat inspections. Both cantonal authorities report to FSVO.

Institutions involved in the EFSA network: Switzerland has observer status for various EFSA working groups, the Focal Point Network and some of the Scientific Networks, where delegates mainly of the FSVO participate.

Access to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is limited to notifications concerning food of animal origin.

4.10 Turkey



The legal foundation for food safety in Turkey is Law No. 5996 addressing Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed. Law No. 5996 covers provisions described in Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002, No. 852/2004, No. 853/2004, No. 854/2004, No. 882/2004 as well as relevant provisions in various other EU legislation with regard to veterinary and phytosanitary issues.

Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims (under the Law No. 4077) whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures with regard to food safety are often based on scientific risk assessment. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

Although there is no institutional separation in Turkey, risk management is procedurally separated from risk assessment which is undertaken by the Scientific Committee and Scientific Commissions. Risk assessment outputs are not yet regularly published.

GTHB Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

- ◆ Agricultural policy, food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary tasks
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Ankara
<http://www.tarim.gov.tr>

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (GTHB) is responsible for food and feed safety, including veterinary and phytosanitary aspects. The GTHB aims to protect public health, plant and animal health, animal welfare and consumer interests taking into consideration the protection of the environment. The GTHB is responsible for official control and inspection at all stages of the food and feed chain.

To protect human and animal health, the GTHB cooperates with the Ministry of Health (SB) and other relevant institutions with regard to the monitoring of certain zoonotic diseases and agents and antimicrobial resistance. Another reason for the GTHB cooperation with other institutions is to jointly conduct epidemiological research projects to investigate foodborne zoonotic diseases.

The GTHB in Ankara consists of eight units, three of them are involved in the development and enforcement of food and feed safety, veterinary policy and phytosanitary policy (i. e. GKGM, BÜGEM, TAGEM).

SB
Ministry of Health

- ◆ Health policy, foodborne outbreaks
- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Ankara
<http://www.saglik.gov.tr>



The Ministry of Health (SB) is responsible for specific aspects in the area of food safety. The SB prepares the legislation and is responsible for inspection and control of the quality of water intended for human consumption, natural mineral water, dietary foods for special medical purposes for babies and adults respectively, as well as products which do not require prescription but have been scientifically and clinically proven to be used as drugs, including enteral nutritional products. Also epidemiologic research are coordinated by the Turkish Public Health Institute of the SB. The SB is represented by Provincial Public Health Directorates (PPHD) in provinces and Public Health Centers (PHCs) at districts level.

GKGM
General Directorate of Food and Control

- ◆ Food and feed safety
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Codex Contact Point
- ◆ EFSA Focal Point
- ◆ RASFF Contact Point

Seat: Ankara
<http://www.gkgm.gov.tr>



The General Directorate of Food and Control (GKGM) is a unit of the GTHB and responsible for developing policies and preparing legislation, as well as the subsequent enforcement, control and inspection of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health at the central level. The GKGM is the regulatory authority for food safety, animal health and plant health.

Laboratory services for animal health, plant health as well as food and feed safety are provided by 8 veterinary control and research institutes, 8 plant protection research institutes, 4 quarantine laboratories, 39 provincial control laboratories, 1 food control and central research institute, and 1 national food reference laboratory under the supervision of the GKGM. There are also 93 private laboratories operating with the authorisation of the GKGM. Most of the practical implementation and enforcement activities are carried out by 81 Provincial Agricultural Directorates (PADs) and 887 District Agricultural Directorates (DADs) with a vertical chain of command between the two.

BÜGEM

General Directorate of Plant Production

- ◆ Organic production of agricultural products
- ◆ Risk management
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Ankara

<http://www.bugem.gov.tr>

The General Directorate of Plant Protection (BÜGEM) is a unit of the GTHB and responsible for determination and inspection of standards and the convenience of use of the agricultural inputs and the production technologies such as the organic production of agricultural products.

TAGEM

General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy

- ◆ Agricultural researches
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Risk communication

Seat: Ankara

<http://www.tagem.gov.tr>



The General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy (TAGEM) is a unit of the GTHB and involved in agricultural research in the field of plant health, animal health, food and feed safety, animal husbandry, fishery, horticulture and field crops to identify the priorities and strategies of agricultural research and development taking into account the national development plans and to prepare and implement in those areas.




Some specific areas such as residues of plant protection products and veterinary drugs, heavy metals and other contaminants, mycotoxins, additives, microbiological criteria are studied in research institutions and laboratories, such as the Plant Protection Central Research Institute and the Veterinarian Central Research and Control Institute.





Some of the laboratories associated with TAGEM carry out laboratory analysis of samples collected during food, feed, animal health and phytosanitary control and inspection under GKGM supervision. TAGEM is also secretariat of the Biosafety Board which is responsible for the authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for food and feed use and also secretariat of its Scientific Commissions which are responsible for risk assessment.




Regional and local levels

There are 81 provinces and 919 districts in Turkey. The GTHB is represented by local GTHB offices (PADs and DADs) in all provinces and 914 districts. PADs consist of seven units responsible for food, feed, animal health, breeding, fishery, plant production and plant health. Three of them are involved in the enforcement of food and feed safety, veterinary policy and phytosanitary policy.

5 Glossary

Biocide or biocidal product		Active substance (or preparations containing one or more active substances) intended to destroy, deter or exert a controlling effect on harmful organisms by chemical or biological means. The term biocide (or biocidal product) implies that the active substance(s) are present in a form or product which can be supplied to the user (cp. Directive 98/8/EC).
Codex Alimentarius		(Latin for “food code”) Collection of internationally adopted food standards, guidelines and codes of practice. Although the standards described in the “Codex Alimentarius” are not binding, they serve as a guideline for national food-law regulations. Codex Alimentarius follows the principle that consumers have a right to expect their food to be safe, of good quality and suitable for consumption. The Codex Alimentarius is prepared by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a workinggroup of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), consisting of 188 Codex Members and 219 Codex Observers.
Codex Contact Point		Codex Contact Points act as the link between the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat and member countries. Codex Contact Points receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries.
Competent authority		An organisation that has the legally delegated authority to perform a designated function.
Contaminant		Any substance not intentionally added to food which is present in such food as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food, or as a result of environmental contamination. Extraneous matter, such as, for example, insect fragments, animal hair, etc, is not covered by this definition (Regulation (EEC) No. 315/93).
Drinking water		Water from the tap, intended for human consumption.
EFSA Focal Point		EFSA Focal Points act as link between the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and EU Member States and neighbouring countries.
EU Directive		EU Directives are legislative acts of the EU, which have to be implemented into national law by the Member States.
EU Regulation		EU regulations apply directly in all Member States of the EU without the Member State having to enact national laws.
Feed or Feedingstuff		Any substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals (Commission Recommendation 2011/25/EU).
Food or Foodstuff		Processed, partially processed or unprocessed product or substance intended or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans (Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002).

Food hygiene		Five keys of food hygiene defined by WHO: 1) Prevention of contaminating food with pathogens spreading from people, pets and pests; 2) Separation of raw and cooked foods to prevent contaminating the cooked foods; 3) Cooking of foods for the appropriate length of time and at the appropriate temperature to kill pathogens; 4) Storage of food at the proper temperature; 5) Use of safe water and raw materials.
Food safety		Food safety ensures that food consumption (according to its intended use) does not cause harm and/or foodborne illness to the consumer. Appropriate food hygiene contributes towards food safety; however the term food safety also includes the absence of harmful substances such as environmental contaminants or residues of veterinary medicinal products.
Food supplements		Nutrients or other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect aimed to supplement the normal diet. Food supplements are usually on the market as capsules, pastilles, tablets, pills, sachets of powder, ampoules of liquids, drop dispensing bottles, and other similar forms of liquids and powders designed to be taken in measured small unit quantities (Directive 2002/46/EC).
Genetic engineering		All modern molecular biology techniques used to isolate, manipulate and transfer genes from one organism to another.
Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002		Organisations which are approved to undertake work on behalf of EFSA (i. e. data collection, preparatory work for the development of scientific opinions or other scientific and technical support). EFSA distributes “calls for proposals” which describe EFSA’s research questions that need to be answered, and “Article 36 Organisations” can apply for the “job”. An up-to-date list of the institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002 is available in the internet at: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/art36listg.pdf
Mineral water		Bottled water for human consumption either a) natural mineral water, b) natural spring water or c) processed tap water. Natural mineral water is groundwater that has emerged from the ground and contains a certain amount of minerals. Spring water is also groundwater that has emerged from the ground but contains a lower amount of minerals. The icon does not refer to bottled water that is intended for medicinal purposes.
Multi-annual national control plans		A multi-annual national control plan describes how certain aspects of governmental control and inspection in the area of food and feed safety are organised, conducted and/or implemented. This includes the frequency of inspections, the distribution of inspections amongst business sectors and operators and number of samples to be analysed.
Novel food		Novel foods are foods and food ingredients that have not been used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997. In order to ensure the highest level of protection of human health, novel foods must undergo a safety assessment before being placed on the EU market. Only those products considered to be safe for human consumption are authorised for marketing.

Plant protection products or Pesticides		Active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances intended to protect plants (or plant products) against harmful organisms. The term plant protection product (or pesticide) implies that the active substance(s) are present in a form or product which can be supplied to the user. Active substances in plant protection products may also destroy undesired plants or influence life processes of plants in a way other than as a nutrient (for example growth regulators).
Primary food production		Growth, cultivation, harvesting, collection or catching of food, for example harvesting, slaughter, milking or fishing. The term primary food production does not include substantial transformation of food, for example manufacturing or canning, or sale or service of food directly to the public.
RASFF Contact Point		The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is an information exchange tool for national control authorities within the EU. RASFF has 35 members. Each member has an RASFF Contact Point. When a RASFF member has any information about a serious health risk from food or feed, it must immediately notify the European Commission using RASFF. In particular, Member States have to notify the Commission if they take measures such as withdrawing or recalling food or feed products from the market in order to protect consumers' health and if rapid action is required. The Commission immediately transmits the notification to all members of the network through the contact points.
REACH		Regulatory framework for the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals to ensure greater safety in the manufacture and use of chemical substances.
Residue		Substance present in or on plants, plant products, edible animal products or drinking water resulting from the use of plant protection products or veterinary drugs, including their metabolites, breakdown or reaction products.
Residues of veterinary medicinal products		Substances contained in plants, plant products, edible animal products or drinking water which originate from the use of veterinary medicines, including metabolites, decomposition and reaction products.
Risk assessment		Scientific activity consisting of hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation.
Risk communication		Interactive exchange of information of risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, feed and food businesses, academic community and other interested parties with regard to risks, hazards and risk perceptions. Risk communication also includes explanation of scientific risk assessment and risk management decisions.
Risk management		Process of weighing policy alternatives, taking decisions and implementing control and inspection procedures to handle risk associated with the food chain.
Zoonosis		Any disease and/or infection which is naturally transmissible directly or indirectly between animals and humans.

6 List of Abbreviations

Albania	FSVI	Instituti i Sigurise Ushqimore dhe Veterinarise	Food Safety and Veterinary Institute
	MARDWA	Ministria e Bujqesise, Zhvillimit Rural dhe Administrimit te Ujrave	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration
	MH	Ministria e Shendetesise	Ministry of Health
	NFA	Autoriteti Kombetar i Ushqimit	National Food Authority
	PHI	Instituti i Shendetit Publik	Public Health Institute
	RDA	Drejtorite Rajonale te Bujqesise	Regional Directorates of Agriculture
Austria	AGES	Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety
	BAES	Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit	Federal Office for Food Safety
	BMGF	Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen	Ministry of Health and Women
	BMLFUW	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Belgium	CODA-CERVA	Centre d'étude et de recherches vétérinaires et agrochimiques	Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre
	FASFC	Agence fédérale pour la sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire	Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
	FPS	Service public fédéral, santé publique, sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et environnement	Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
	WIV-ISP	Institut scientifique de santé publique	Scientific Institute of Public Health
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)	FSA BiH	Agencija za sigurnost hrane BiH	Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
	MoFTER	Ministarstvo vanjske trgovine i ekonomskih odnosa BiH	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
	PHPA BiH	Uprava BiH za zaštitu zdravlja bilja	Administration Bosnia and Herzegovina for Plant Health Protection
	VO BiH	Kancelarija za veterinarstvo BiH	Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bulgaria	BFSA	Българска агенция по безопасност на храните	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
	MAF	Министерство на земеделието и храните	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
	MH	Министерство на здравеопазването	Ministry of Health
	MOEW	Министерство на околната среда и водите	Ministry of Environment and Water
	NCPHA	Национален център по обществено здраве и анализи	National Centre for Public Health and Analysis
	RAC	Център за оценка на риска	Risk Assessment Centre
Croatia	HAH	Hrvatska agencija za hranu	Croatian Food Agency
	MA	Ministarstvo poljoprivrede	Ministry of Agriculture
	MH	Ministarstvo zdravlja	Ministry of Health
Cyprus	MOA	Υπουργείο Γεωργίας, Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Περιβάλλοντος	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
	MOH	Υπουργείου Υγείας	Ministry of Health
Czech Republic	MZ	Ministerstvo Zdravotnictví České Republiky	Ministry of Health
	MZE	Ministerstvo Zemědělství	Ministry of Agriculture
Denmark	AgriFish	NaturErhvervstyrelsen	The Danish AgriFish Agency
	DTU	Fødevareinstituttet, Danmarks Tekniske Universitet	National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
	DCA	Nationalt Center for Fødevarer og Jordbrug, Aarhus Universitet	Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA), Aarhus University (AU)
	DCE	Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi, Aarhus Universitet	Danish Centre for Environment and Energy (DCE), Aarhus University (AU)
	DVFA	Fødevarestyrelsen	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
	MEFD	Miljø- og Fødevareministeriet	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
	UCPH	Københavns Universitet	University of Copenhagen
Estonia	MEM	Maaeluministeerium	Ministry of Rural Affairs
	PMA	Põllumajandusamet	Agricultural Board
	SM	Sotsiaalministeerium	Ministry of Social Affairs
	TA	Terviseamet	Health Board
	VTA	Veterinaar- ja Toiduamet	Veterinary and Food Board

Finland	Evira	Elintarvikeeturvallisuusvirasto	Finnish Food Safety Authority
	–	Tulli	Finnish Customs
	MMM	Maa- ja Metsätalousministeriö	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
	STM	Sosiaali- ja Terveysministeriö	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
	Tukes	Turvallisuus- ja kemikaalivirasto	Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency
	Valvira	Sosiaali- ja terveysalan lupa- ja valvontavirasto	National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK)	FVA	Агенција за храна и ветеринарство	Food and Veterinary Agency
	FVMS	Факултет за ветеринарна медицина	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
	IPH	Институт за јавно здравје	Institute for Public Health
	MAFWE	Министерство за земјоделство, шумарство и водостопанство	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
	MoH	Министерство за здравство	Ministry of Health
	SPL	Државна фитосанитарна лабораторија	State Phytosanitary Laboratory
France	ANSES	Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail	French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety
	HCB	Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies	High Council for Biotechnology
	MAAF	Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt	Ministry for Agriculture, AgriFood and Forestry
	MAS	Ministère des Affaires sociales et de la Santé	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
	MEF	Ministère de l'économie, de l'industrie et du numérique	Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs
Germany	BfR	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
	BMEL	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
	BMUB	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
	BVL	Bundesamt für Verbraucher-schutz und Lebensmittel-sicherheit	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety
	RKI	Robert Koch-Institut	Robert Koch Institute
	UBA	Umweltbundesamt	Federal Environmental Agency

Greece	EFET	Ενιαίος Φορέας Ελέγχου Τροφίμων	Hellenic Food Authority
	EOF	Εθνικός Οργανισμός Φαρμάκων	National Organization for Medicines
	YAAT	Υπουργείο Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Τροφίμων	Ministry of Rural Development and Food
	YY	Υπουργείο Υγείας	Ministry of Health
Hungary	EMMI	Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma	Ministry of Human Capacities
	FM	Földművelésügyi Minisztérium	Ministry of Rural Development
	ME	Miniszterelnöki Hivatal	Prime Minister's Office
	NÉBIH	Nemzeti Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Hivatal	National Food Chain Safety Office
	NFM	Nemzeti Fejlesztési Minisztérium	Ministry of National Development
Iceland	ANR	Atvinnuvega- og nýsköpunar-ráðuneytið	Ministry of Industries and Innovation
	MAST	Matvælastofnun	Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority
	Matís Ltd.	Matls Ltd.	Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D
Ireland	DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
	DoH	Department of Health	Department of Health
	HSE	Health Service Executive	Health Service Executive
	FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
	MI	Marine Institute	Marine Institute
	NSAI	National Standards Authority of Ireland	National Standards Authority of Ireland
	SEPA	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
Italy	ISS	Istituto Superiore di Sanità	National Institute of Health
	MdS	Ministerio della Salute	Ministry of Health
	MiPAAF	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali	Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies
Kosovo	FVA	Agjencia e Ushqimit dhe Veterinarisë	Food and Veterinary Agency
	MAFRD	Ministria e Bujqësisë, Pylltarisë dhe Zhvillimit Rural	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Policies
	MoH	Ministria e Shëndetësisë	Ministry of Health

Latvia	BIOR	Pārtikas Drošības Dzīvnieku Veselības un Vides Zinātniskais Institūts	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment
	PVD	Pārtikas un Veterinārais Dienests	Food and Veterinary Service
	SPKC	Slimību Profilakses un Kontroles Centrs	Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
	VAAD	Valsts Augu Aizsardzības Dienests	State Plant Protection Service
	VM	Veselības Ministrija	Ministry of Health
	ZM	Zemkopības Ministrija	Ministry of Agriculture
Lithuania	NMVRVI	Nacionalinis maisto ir veterinarijos rizikos vertinimo institutas	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute
	SAM	Sveikatos Apsaugos Ministerija	Ministry of Health
	SMLPC	Sveikatos mokymo ir ligų prevencijos centras	Health Education and Disease Prevention Centre
	VAT	Valstybinė augalininkystės tarnyba prie Žemės ūkio ministerijos	State Plant Service
	VMVT	Valstybinė maisto ir veterinarijos tarnyba	State Food and Veterinary Service
	ŽŪM	Žemės ūkio Ministerija	Ministry of Agriculture
Luxembourg	ASTA	Administration des Services Technique de l'agriculture	Agricultural Technical Services Administration
	ASV	Administration des services Vétérinaires	Veterinary Service Administration
	DIR SAN	Direction de la santé	Directorate of Public Health
	MAVDR	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement rural	Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development
	MS	Ministère de la Santé	Ministry of Health
	OSQCA	Organisme pour la Sécurité e la Qualité de la Chaine Alimentaire	Organisation for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain
Malta	FSC	Food Safety Commission	Food Safety Commission
	MCCAA	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority	Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority
	MHEC	Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care	Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care
	MSDEC	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change
Montenegro	AFSVPA	Uprava za bezbjednost hrane, veterinu i fitosanitarne poslove	Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs
	MARD	Ministarstvo Poljoprivrede i Ruralnog Razvoja	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Norway	HOD	Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet	Ministry of Health and Care Services
	KLD	Klima- og miljødepartementet	Ministry of Climate and Environment
	LMD	Landbruks- og matdepartementet	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
	Mattilsynet	Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler	Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA)
	Miljødirektoratet	Miljødirektoratet	Norwegian Environment Agency
	NFD	Nærings- og fiskeridepartementet	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
	VKM	Vitenskapskomitéen for mattrygghet	Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety
Poland	CS at MF		Customs Service at the Ministry of Finance
	GIS at MZ	Główny Inspektorat Sanitarny	Chief Sanitary Inspectorate at the Ministry of Health
	IZZ	Instytut Żywności i Żywienia	National Food and Nutrition Institute
	MRiRW	Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	NIZP-PZH	Narodowy Instytut Zdrowia Publicznego – Państwowy Zakład Higieny	National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene
	PIWET	Państwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy	National Veterinary Research Institute
	UOKiK	Urząd Ochrony Konkurencji i Konsumentów	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection
Portugal	ASAE	Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica	Economic and Food Safety Authority
	DGAV	Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária	Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary
	MAFDR	Ministério da Agricultura, Florestas e Desenvolvimento Rural	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
	ME	Ministério da Economia	Ministry of Economy
Romania	ANPC	Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția Consumatorilor	National Authority for Consumer Protection
	ANSVSA	Autoritatea Națională Sanitară Veterinară și pentru Siguranța Alimentelor	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
	MADR	Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale	Ministry of Agriculture and Development of Rural Areas
	MMAP	Ministerul Mediului, Apelor și Padurilor	Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests
	MS	Ministerul Sănătății	Ministry of Health

Serbia	DNRL	Direkcija za nacionalne referentne laboratorije	Directorate for National Reference Laboratories
	MAEP	Ministarstvo poljoprivrede i zaštite životne sredine	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
	MH	Ministarstvo zdravlja	Ministry of Health
	PPD	Uprava za zaštitu bilja	Plant Protection Directorate
	VD	Uprava za veterinu	Veterinary Directorate
Slovak Republic	MPRV-SR	Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka Slovenskej republiky	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
	MZ-SR	Ministerstvo zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
	ŠVPS-SR	Štátna veterinárna a potravinová správa Slovenskej republiky	State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic
	ÚKSÚP	Ústredný kontrolný a skúšobný ústav poľnohospodársky	Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture
	ÚVZ-SR	Úrad verejného zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky	Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
	VÚP	Výskumný ústav potravinársky	Food Research Institute
Slovenia	FURS		Financial Administration
	IRSKGLR	Inšpektorat RS za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo, lovstvo in ribištvo	Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries
	MF	Ministrstvo za Finance	Ministry of Finance
	MKGP	Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
	MZ	Ministrstvo za zdravje	Ministry of Health
	UVHVVR	Uprava za Varno Harno, Veterinarstvo in Varstvo Rastlin	Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
	ZIRS	Zdravstveni inšpektorat Republike Slovenije	Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia
Spain	AECOSAN	Agencia Española de Consumo, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición	Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety & Nutrition
	MAPAMA	Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment
	MSSSI	Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad	Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality
Sweden	JV	Jordbruksverket	Swedish Board of Agriculture
	LV	Livsmedelsverket	National Food Agency
	SVA	Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt	Swedish National Veterinary Institute

Switzerland	FFCU	Bundeseinheit für die Lebensmittelkette	Federal Food Chain Unit
	FSVO	Bundesamt für Lebensmittelsicherheit und Veterinärwesen	Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office
	FOAG	Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft	Federal Office for Agriculture
The Netherlands	CVI	Central Veterinary Institute	Central Veterinary Institute
	EZ	Ministerie van Economische Zaken	Ministry of Economic Affairs
	NVWA	Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
	RIKILT	Instituut voor Voedselveiligheid	Institute of Food Safety
	RIVM	Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
	VWS	Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
Turkey	BÜGEM	Bitkisel Üretim Genel Müdürlüğü	General Directorate of Plant Production
	GKGM	Gıda ve Kontrol Genel Müdürlüğü	General Directorate of Protection and Control
	GTHB	Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
	SB	Sağlık Bakanlığı	Ministry of Health
	TAGEM	Tarımsal Araştırmalar Ve Politikalar Genel Müdürlüğü	The General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy
United Kingdom	Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
	FSA	Food Standards Agency (England, Wales & Northern Ireland)	Food Standards Agency (England, Wales & Northern Ireland)
	FSS	Food Standards Scotland (Scotland)	Food Standards Scotland (Scotland)

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