



FOOD SAFETY COOPERATION BEYOND BORDERS

Working alongside the European Food Safety Authority

Programmes for EU Pre-Accession countries

■ What is EFSA?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is Europe's food safety watchdog. Its task is to scientifically assess and communicate the risks associated with the food chain, helping to ensure that Europe's food is safe. The Authority's work covers all areas of the food chain - food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and plant protection.

EFSA delivers independent high-quality scientific advice and evaluations, based on the latest scientific information, for Europe's decision-makers - the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States - to act on. This helps Europe's risk managers take the informed decisions, they need to, to improve EU food safety.

By close cooperation with partners and stakeholders, EFSA contributes to ensuring there is a high level of consumer protection, while maintaining confidence in the EU food supply.



■ Why cooperate with EFSA?

In today's global society, food crises do not respect national borders: food from one country can be processed in another, and then consumed elsewhere. The drivers of change - globalisation, climate change, emerging risks, advances in science and technology, new policies and laws - reinforce the need for countries to share information, and to work and act together.

■ What support is available?

National food safety authority representatives from Pre-Accession countries can join forces with EFSA to better meet the food safety challenges of today thanks to a key EU initiative.

The Pre-Accession Programme aims to:

- Prepare food safety authorities in beneficiary countries for future participation in EFSA networks.
- Transfer knowledge of areas covered by EFSA.
- Develop communication and information exchange systems.
- Support national risk communication activities.



■ What are the benefits?

The programme will allow national food safety authorities to participate in EFSA's work before and after accession. In addition, it will lead to:

- Greater mutual confidence.
- Acceptance of research data and food safety measures among EFSA and pre-accession countries.
- Better understanding between national food safety authorities in current and potential future EU Member States.
- Future cooperation and harmonisation of food safety approached across the enlarged EU.

■ Who can participate?

Pre-Accession countries: Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 and Serbia.

■ How can I get involved?

There is a range of possible practical activities open to food safety representatives from your country. These include:

- Training seminars e.g. on risk assessments, data collection and food safety crises.
- Study tours to food safety institutions in EU Member States.
- Information sharing and networking by participating in EFSA's Advisory Forum, Focal Points and other groups as observers.
- Meeting participation such as EFSA's scientific colloquia.
- Share in risk communication activities via participation as observers in EFSA communication working groups.
- Sign up to the expert database to potentially join the pool of experts assisting EFSA in its work.
- Apply to new calls for EFSA panel membership (duration 3 years).
- Apply to calls for seconded national experts within EFSA.



■ Want to know more?

Simply visit the EU enlargement area of the EFSA website at:
www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks.htm