EFSA Crisis Preparedness

Lessons learnt from previous exercises and plans for the future

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EFSA and EU food/feed crises

EFSA procedures for responding to urgent advice needs

2 crisis training exercises per year
✓ 1 External training involving Member States, EC & European Agencies, and international organisations
✓ 1 Internal training involving EFSA staff
EFSA’s four-year crisis training strategy

2017-2020 theme: **Connected Capabilities**

Aim: Enhanced collaboration in response to an EU food or feed safety incident, focusing on:

- Understanding the situation
- Scientific collaboration to deliver the most effective response
- Providing information transparently to everyone who is involved or affected
Previous technical domains used for the simulation exercise scenarios:

- 2016: Food safety—microbiological (Salmonella spp.)
- 2017: Plant health—microbiological (vector-transmitted Candidatus Liberibacter spp.)
- 2017: Food safety—bacterial contamination (Bacillus anthracis)
- 2018: Food safety—microbiological (Listeria monocytogenes)
- 2019: Food safety—chemical contamination (pyrrolizidine alkaloids)
- 2020: Food safety—foodborne virus (fictional)
Recommendations from previous crisis exercises cycle

✓ Ensure that all involved parties are kept up to date with EFSA’s Procedures

✓ More frequent simulation exercises to identify further improvement needs in ‘real world’ operational environments

✓ Interdisciplinary trainings to be addressed in a ‘One Health’ approach

✓ Trainings with a stronger regional emphasis and greater accommodation of individual national circumstances

✓ Improve communication during a crisis response:
  - templates for info/data exchange
  - eliminate duplication of requests through different channels
EFSA Strategy 2027 / One Health

- **SO2** “Ensure preparedness for future risk analysis needs”.

- **EOR2.1.2** Participate in a strengthened EU governance on crisis preparedness and support enhanced MS capacity and preparedness to respond to crises.
EFSA’s crisis training theme for the 2021-2024:

“Trusted Transparent Response”: not only “doing the right thing, collaboratively” but also “being perceived to have done the right thing in a very open and transparent way”

2021 -2024 training sessions: reflect this theme by rehearsing behaviors:
- to maintain strong reputations and public understanding- **TRUSTED**
- to comply with the new regulatory environment imposed by *Transparency regulation* - **TRANSPARENT**
- to deliver an effective, prompt and **joined-up** response - **RESPONSE**
EFSA’s crisis training activities 2021-2024:

✓ External trainings: involving MS, EC/EAs and international organizations

✓ Internal trainings: EFSA staff, EC and relevant EAs depending on the scenario

✓ Crisis communication
  ✓ Capacity building
  ✓ Procedures and roles
  ✓ Cooperation with Partners and Stakeholders

✓ Further clarification of the role of the FPs as part of the crisis management process
2021 Crisis Preparedness Exercise

Co-organised: Italia (IZSAM)

Date: 6-8 July 2021

Duration: 3 days

Delivery format: Online

Training approach: E-learning + Crisis exercise

Scenario: Vector–transmitted Rift Valley Fever Virus
2022 Crisis Preparedness Exercise

Co-organised: Bulgaria

Date: Under discussion

Duration: Under discussion

Delivery format: Physical (hopefully)

Training approach: Under Discussion

Scenario: Chemical hazard
2023 (Inter-Agency) Crisis Preparedness Exercise

Co-organised: ANSA Network

Date: 2023 (TBC)

Duration: Under discussion

Delivery format: Physical (preferable) or hybrid options

Training approach: Under Discussion

Scenario: Under discussion
2022 Contribution to the Crisis Preparedness Exercise for IPA countries in cooperation with ENCO unit

2022 IPA Countries Crisis Preparedness Exercise

Date: June/July 2022 (TBC)

Duration: Under discussion

Delivery format: Virtual

Training objective: Ensuring that IPA countries understand their role in a food-feed-safety incident involving EFSA and EU Member States (MSs)

Scenario: Under discussion
SAVE THE DATE!

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