

ENHANCED RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITIES: ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

IPA BENEFICIARIES



INTRODUCTION

Risk Assessment, EFSA and IPA Beneficiaries

- EU food safety system - risk assessment is the scientific foundation for food safety decisions, official controls and risk communication
- The EU model is based on risk analysis: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.
- EFSA acts as the EU's independent scientific risk assessor, providing scientific advice on risks linked to food and feed safety, while the European Commission and national authorities are responsible for risk management and enforcement
- For IPA countries, strengthening risk assessment capacity is essential for alignment with Chapter 12 – Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy.
- This includes building national capacity for data collection, laboratory evidence, risk-based controls, EU reporting, crisis preparedness and cooperation with EFSA and EU Member States.

RISK ASSESSMENT IN IPA BENEFICIARIES

- Law on Food Safety-harmonized/partially harmonized with EU legislation
- National RASFF contact point
- EFSA Focal point
- WOHF Focal point
- Cooperation with EU institutions (EFSA, ECDC, WOHF etc.)



Montenegro

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary (sectors)
- **Risk Analysis** (Aricals 12-17 – According Food Safety Law)

- Reliance on EFSA risk assessments

Activities mainly carried out by:

- Institutes: Veterinary, Food and Phytosanitary tasks
- Faculties: Biotechnical and Food, Technology, Food Safety and Ecology
- **Risk Communication and Risk Management**
 - handled by Administration and Ministry





Republic of Serbia

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Ministry of Health - Risk Management
- **Council for Food Safety-Risk Assessment**
 - Specially Groups/Panels of the Council - contaminants in the food chain, biological hazards in the food chain, animal health and welfare, residues in food chain, etc
 - Reliance on EFSA risk assessments
 - Submitting questions through the EFSA Request for Information Network
 - Meetings: on regular basis - approval of noval food and aflatoxin
 - Members: University experts, experts from Veterinary and Public Health Institutions, experts from National Authorities (Veterinary, Plant, Agriculture, Ministry of Health)



Current capacities and achievements

- **Current state**

- Risk assessment capacities are limited and developing
- Activities mainly carried out by:
 - Institutes: Veterinary, food and phytosanitary tasks
 - Faculties: Veterinary, Agriculture, Pharmacy, Food Technology etc
 - Working groups on burning issues (AI, FMD, RASFF notification)

- **Achievements**

- Reliance on EFSA risk assessments
- Participation in EFSA networks and cooperation
- Results on official controls and research data used for monitoring planning or introducing new hazards

- **Support**

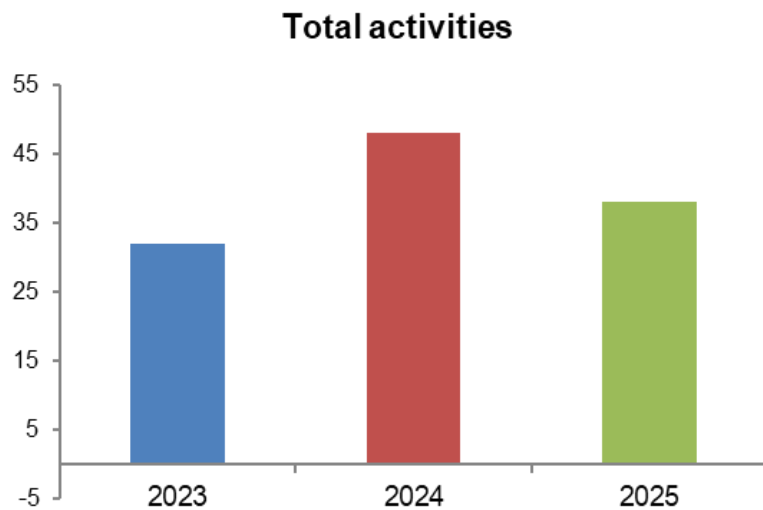
- Basic elements of a risk-based system are in place, supported by EFSA cooperation:
Scientific Network, Working Groups, Trainings, meetings





North Macedonia

- Food and Veterinary Agency
- Sector for Risk Assessment and Risk Communication
- Risk Assessment activities 2023-2025



2023 - 32 activities: 22 food/feed safety, 4 animal disease risk analyses, 6 expert opinions /procedures/IPA/regulatory support

2024 - 48 activities: increased scientific risk assessments, toxicological/nutritional analyses and EU RASFF data processing.

2025 - 38 activities: 15 food/feed safety outputs, 11 ADIS/WAHIS analyses and tools, 12 import and veterinary-health opinions



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Food Safety Agency

- responsible for RA, RC, Official controls of food of non-animal origin, GMO, Quality schemes
- 13 Initial RA activities performed in 2025 by Agency, i.e.:
 - RA on chlorpyrifos in tangerine
 - RA on mercury in canned tuna
 - RA on lead in ginger powder
- Use of EFSA's models for Risk Assessment
 - EFSA PRIMO 3.1 model (pesticide residues)
 - Use of data obtained through -
“National dietary survey in compliance with the EU MENU methodology-The adults’ survey including subjects from 10 to 74 years old”
(OC/EFSA/DATA/2016/03)





Türkiye

- Directorate General for Food and Control
- Department of Risk Assessment and Laboratories

Current state

Department of Risk Assessment and Laboratories

7 Scientific Commission

>70 Scientists from different cities, universities, faculties, institutes

11 technical staff (under risk assessment unit)

Risk assessment capacity is still developing

Achievements (since 2011)

169 Scientific and 22 Technical Opinions

9 Guidance (3 guidance ongoing)

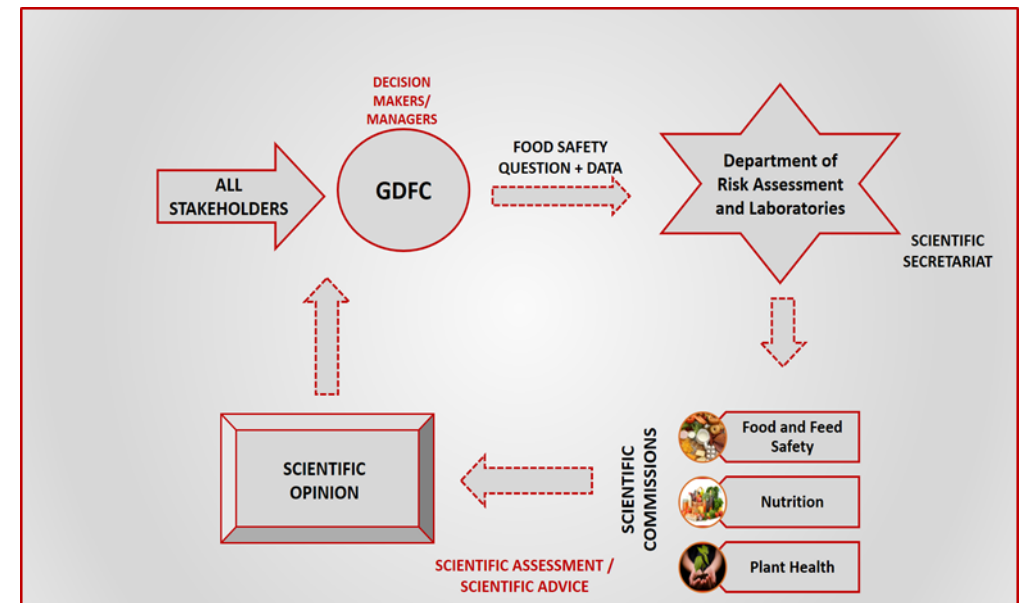
7 Scientific report

Reliance on EFSA risk assessments

Participation in EFSA networks and cooperation

28/5/2026

SCIENTIFIC OPINION – FROM QUESTION TO ANSWER





Kosovo

Kosovo – Risk Analysis and EFSA Cooperation

- **Risk assessment** based on hazard identification and laboratory evidence.
- **Risk management** through official controls, recalls and administrative measures.
- **Risk communication** based on transparency, scientific accuracy and rapid response.
- **EFSA cooperation strengthened capacities** through trainings, crisis exercises and scientific networking.
- Safe2Eat, PlantHealth4Life and RASFF cooperation improved awareness, stakeholder engagement and crisis communication.
- **Impact:** stronger institutions, better preparedness and more trust-oriented communication.



Albania

How EFSA strengthened national risk assessment capacity:

1. **Risk based sampling** - Inspections and samples: risk-based versus random, TMA. Strengthened AKU's capacity to target controls according to risk rather than routine/random allocation.
2. **ImproRisk tool**: Open-access risk assessment tool introduced in 2023. Supported practical modelling, documentation of assumptions, and transparent comparison of scenarios.
3. **Scientific networks** - widening the national expertise base by making national risk assessment more multidisciplinary, linking food safety, veterinary, plant health, public health, academia and risk communication specialists.
4. **ASF awareness campaign 2022–2024**, crisis preparedness exercises and EFSA scientific cooperation jointly strengthened Albania's ASF surveillance planning, early detection, risk communication, coordination mechanisms, sampling, alerts and escalation procedures toward a more EU-compatible crisis response system.

EFSA's RA Capacity Building programs

EFSA's and MS Training Programs

- **Risk Assessment from A-Z**
 - 11/12/ December 2024, Belgrade
 - 19/20 March 2025, Podgorica
 - 11/12/ June 2025, Skopje
 - Follow up - 3/4 February 2026, Parma
- **Crisis-Preparedness Exercise on Food and Feed Safety**
 - 26/27 June 2024, Sarajevo
 - 15/16 May 2025, Ankara
 - 25/26 March 2026, Pristina
- IPA Autumn School 2024/2025, Osijek , Croatia
- Training Workshop on the ImproRisk model, Larnaca , Cyprus 2022,2023, 2024 and Mostar 6 June 2024
- Training course on probabilistic (Bayesian) dietary exposure assessment model (BIKE) for microbiological and chemical hazards, Helsinki, Finland, October 2024
- Systematic Reviews training course 3 „Article selection, Data extraction , Synthesis and Interpretation“ , 30sep-02 okt 2024

Follow-up Activities

- Establish an independent national risk assessment system
- Capacity building in administrative and expertise level
- Further cooperation with EFSA, EU MS and IPA countries
- Knowledge transfer and practical application
- Risk communication and awareness
- Further efforts are required to develop a fully functional, science-based national risk assessment system



Conclusion

- **What has been enhanced**

A stronger risk assessment culture is emerging through connected experts, practical tools, data experience and preparedness.

Before cooperation:

- Fragmented capacities ;
- Limited reporting practice;
- Uneven risk communication
- Preparedness gaps

After EFSA cooperation

- Networked experts;
- EU-compatible methods;
- Zoonosis reporting experience
- Improved crisis and campaign readiness

Final message : EFSA collaboration is not only training — it is a practical accession instrument that strengthens IPA Beneficiary's ability to assess, communicate and manage food-chain risks.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION