



## Dražen Knežević

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(Work)

### ● ABOUT MYSELF

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More than 30 years in the service of public health protection by preventing foodborne diseases.

### ● WORK EXPERIENCE

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01/08/2020 - CURRENT - OSIJEK, CROATIA

#### **DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY**CROATIAN AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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**Governance & Compliance:** Ensure the Center for Food Safety meets legislative obligations, corporate governance standards, and performance metrics.

**Organisational Development:** Direct operational planning, budgeting in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, lead strategic HR planning, driving financial efficiency and resource allocation to build a highly adaptable and high-performing agile organisation.

**Strategic Leadership in Food Safety Risk Assessment:** development and implementation of national food safety risk assessment strategies in line with applied science principles and EU and international standards.

**Innovation & Research:** Steered institutional science-based, data-driven, decision-making processes and food safety research initiatives, leveraging quantitative analytics and modern risk-modeling tools to enhance consumer protection.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Providing scientific support to risk managers, policy makers, creators of official control plans, coordinating the national network of institutions in the field of food and feed safety, connecting EU, national institutions and food business operators.

**Public Communication:** Representing the Center for Food Safety in the public through flagship nation-wide initiatives by communicating complex science-based outputs to delivers clear, actionable, and science-backed information to help Croatian citizens to make confident and healthy food choices.

01/01/2019 - 31/07/2020 - OSIJEK, CROATIA

#### **SENIOR EXPERT ADVISER**CROATIAN AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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Scientific risk assessment in relation to hazards within the food chain

Preparation of scientific opinions

One Health

Food and Feed Safety, Veterinary Medicine, Zoonotic Diseases, Foodborne Outbreaks

Member of European Food Safety Authority Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data

Member of European Food Safety Authority Scientific Network for Animal Health and Welfare

Croatian Reporting Officer responsible for coordination of reporting data on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance to European Food Safety Authority in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC.

Cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, the United States, Canada and EU Member States (EFSA, ECDC, FDA, CFSAN, JIFSAN, RSI) in the field of food safety and veterinary medicine

Preparation and implementation of projects in the EU

Initiating and coordinating scientific research projects

01/03/2008 - 31/12/2018 - OSIJEK, CROATIA

**SENIOR EXPERT ADVISER** CROATIAN FOOD AGENCY

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Food and Feed Safety, Veterinary Medicine, Zoonotic Diseases, Foodborne Outbreaks

Croatian Reporting Officer responsible for coordination of reporting data on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance to European Food Safety Authority in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC.

Cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, the United States, Canada and EU Member States (EFSA, ECDC, FDA, CFSAN, JIFSAN, RSI) in the field of food safety and veterinary medicine

Scientific risk assessment in relation to hazards within the food chain

Preparation and implementation of projects in the EU/USA framework

Initiating and coordinating scientific research projects

Preparation of scientific opinions

19/03/2003 - 29/02/2008 - OSIJEK, CROATIA

**OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN** DELEGATED VETERINARY BODY

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Planning and supervising of Official Veterinary Service tasks

Validation and verification of food and feed safety management procedures

Official controls and audit of food and feed business operators

01/10/1994 - 18/03/2003 - OSIJEK, CROATIA

**OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN** DELEGATED VETERINARY BODY - OSIJEK

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Planning and supervising of Official Veterinary Service tasks

Validation and verification of food and feed safety management procedures

Official controls and audit of food and feed business operators

11/10/1993 - 31/08/1994 - OSIJEK, CROATIA

**HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER** AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY HIGH SCHOOL OSIJEK

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Education – veterinary classes

● **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

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14/07/2011 - 10/12/2012 - CROATIA

**DOCTOR OF SCIENCE**- FACULTY OF AGROBIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES OSIJEK, JOSIP JURAJ STROSSMAYER UNIVERSITY OF OSIJEK

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08/12/2004 - 15/06/2009 - CROATIA

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**- FACULTY OF AGROBIOTECHNICAL SCIENCES OSIJEK, JOSIP JURAJ STROSSMAYER UNIVERSITY OF OSIJEK

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30/11/1995 - CROATIA

**VETERINARY INSPECTOR** - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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01/09/1986 - 02/11/1993 - CROATIA

**DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**- FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

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- WORK EXPERIENCE - EFSA EMISSARY IN PRE-ACCESSION COUNTRIES**

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2017

**SERBIA - EFSA's pre-accession cooperation development - implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

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Development of national food safety and animal health systems for management of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks

2017

**ALBANIA - EFSA's pre-accession cooperation development - implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

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Development of national food safety and animal health systems for management of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks

2017

**MONTENEGRO - EFSA's pre-accession cooperation development - implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

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Development of national food safety and animal health systems for management of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks

2017

**BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA - EFSA's pre-accession cooperation development - implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

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Development of national food safety and animal health systems for management of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks

2017

**NORTH MACEDONIA - EFSA's pre-accession cooperation development - implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents**

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Development of national food safety and animal health systems for management of zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks

- LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Mother tongue(s): **CROATIAN**

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	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
<b>ENGLISH</b>	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2

- SKILLS**

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Data Analytics, Data Visualizataion | Data management and Data Mining | Microsoft Power Platform (Power BI, Power Apps, Power Automate) | Risk Assesment | Microsoft Office | MicroStrategy BI Design Reports/Dashboards

**Organisational / managerial skills**

Team-work oriented | Strategic Planning | Organizational and planning skills | Critical thinking | Decision-making | Analytical skills | Research and analytical skills | Conflict resolution

## Soft skills

Written and Verbal skills | Good listener and communicator | Reliability | Responsibility | Creativity | Motivated

## ● NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

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01/02/2025 - 30/06/2026 Via Carlo Magno 1A 43126 Parma - ITALY  
**European Food Safety Authority Advisory Group on Data**

30/11/2021 - 30/06/2026 Via Carlo Magno 1A 43126 Parma - ITALY  
**European Food Safety Authority Scientific Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Network - Country Officer**

01/07/2013 - 30/06/2026 Via Carlo Magno 1A 43126 Parma - ITALY  
**European Food Safety Authority Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare**

01/03/2008 - 30/06/2026 Via Carlo Magno 1A 43126 Parma - ITALY  
**European Food Safety Authority Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data - Croatian Reporting Officer**

## ● PROJECTS

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01/01/2024 - 31/12/2026  
**Establishment of a coordinated disease surveillance system (in Croatia) in accordance with the One Health approach**

06/03/2024 - CURRENT  
**Evidence-informed policy-making for One Health (OH-EVI) in Croatia**

01/11/2024 - 31/10/2026  
**Artificial Intelligence Dietary Assistant (AIDA: platform for intelligent nutrition)**

07/02/2024 - 07/02/2025  
**Data flow mapping and analysis**

29/11/2024 - 31/07/2025  
**REBUILD Data Framework**

18/04/2023 - 31/10/2023  
**Presence of THC and other cannabinoids in different types of industrial hemp foods on the Croatian market**

30/11/2018 - 30/11/2021  
**Risk-based meat inspection and integrated meat safety assurance - COST Action**

30/11/2014 - 30/11/2018  
**Aquatic microbial ecology as an indicator of the health status of the environment - AQUAHEALTH**

2017 - 2018  
**Porcine epidemic diarrhoea: disease prevalence and genomics of isolates**

30/11/2016 - 30/11/2017  
**TWINNING PROJECT - MK 12 IPA AG 01 2016 - NORTH MACEDONIA**

2015 - 2017  
**Implementation and testing of electronic submission in XML format of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data**

2015 - 2016  
**Relationship between animal-based welfare indicators and the presence of Yersinia enterocolitica as**

## **an indicator of food safety**

2014 - 2015

**Presence of mercury, lead, cadmium and arsenic in aquatic organisms in the Croatian market**

2010 - 2011

**Animal Welfare Assessment Concepts**

2010 - 2011

**G2G Project - Implementation of EC Directives on Animal Welfare**

## ● **SPECIALIZED TRAININGS**

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**Read-Across course, European Food Safety Authority**

**Nutrition for health and sustainability, EIT Food**

**Workshop on Risk Ranking of Hazards in Foods, Swedish Food Agency, Finnish Food Authority, European Food Safety Authority**

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**EIT Food Government Executive Academy**

**European Food Safety Authority - Animal health and welfare**

**TAIEX - Incident Management - RASFF Procedures, Traceability, Withdrawal and Food Recall**

**Food safety system based on HACCP principles**

**TAIEX - Control, monitoring and diagnosis of Trichinella and other foodborne parasitic diseases**

**Food safety and emergency response, United States Ministry of Agriculture, University of Missouri, Columbia**

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**Implementation of EC directives on animal protection and welfare, Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit-VWA; Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Voedselkwaliteit-LNV, Den Haag, Zwolle, Barneveld, Rhenen, The Netherlands**

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**Identification and traceability along food chains**

**A simulation of a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak**

**Farm animal protection, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)**

**Implementation of the quality system in the veterinary practice - advantages and disadvantages in terms of consumer protection and food safety**

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**Food safety, Wageningen University and Research Centre for Development Innovation. Wageningen, Den Haag, The Netherlands**

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**Antimicrobial resistance in the food safety perspective, World Health Organization**

**TAIEX - Food traceability and RASFF**

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## **Food safety and animal health**

**Antimicrobial resistance in animals, food and humans in the EU, Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Stockholm, Sweden**

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**European Food Safety Authority - Risk assessment methodology of food-related hazards**

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**TAIEX - Microbiological standards for food**

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**European Food Safety Authority - Zoonoses Reporting**

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**Animal health and welfare, Wageningen University and Research Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen, Den Haag, The Netherlands**

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**Food safety risk analysis, Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition University of Maryland, College Park**

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**Food Safety, Animal Health, Food Standards Agency, London, United Kingdom**

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**TAIEX - Microbiological standards for food**

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**Risk Assessment, Food Safety, Animal Health, Magyar élelmiszer-biztonsági hivatal (Hungarian Food Safety Agency), Budapest, Hungary**

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**TAIEX - Control of residues in food**

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**Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and other transmissible encephalopathies, European Food Safety Authority**

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**Assessment of food safety - food of animal origin**

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**Meat quality**

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**Food Safety, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic**

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**Issues in veterinary and sanitary control of foodstuffs of animal origin**

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**Desinfection in food production facilities - food of animal origin**

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**Food sampling for laboratory testing - food of animal origin**

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**Postmortem diagnosis of Trichinellosis in pigs, horses and wild animals**

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**Sampling of food of animal origin for laboratory diagnosis**

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**HACCP principles**

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