

The background features a large, stylized star pattern in the upper left corner, composed of various colored triangles (red, purple, dark blue, green, and orange) pointing towards the center. The rest of the background is a light gray field filled with a dense, repeating pattern of small, white, stylized stars.

MT PR Priorities and Food Safety System



MALTAEU2017



Caption of Image 1




Priorities (1)



Build on the EU momentum in tackling the increasing incidence of childhood obesity. Work to identify evidence-based interventions across Europe in tackling childhood obesity and disseminate such as good practice.

Public entities are amongst the largest procurers which have the power to influence eating behaviours. Having this in mind, the Maltese Presidency, together with the High Level Group on nutrition and physical activity and the Joint Research Council, are drafting voluntary guidelines for the procurement of healthy food for consumption in schools. The ultimate aim of this exercise is to encourage healthy eating behaviours at an early stage in life.



Priorities (2)

- The horizontal priority of Emergency Preparedness has been chosen for both the veterinary and phytosanitary sectors.
- The MT PR will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences and improve implementation of the tools by promoting emergency planning with Europe and with its neighbouring regions

Priorities (3)

- Antimicrobial Resistance the Maltese Presidency will build on progress made by previous Presidencies to combat antimicrobial resistance by making concrete and substantial progress on the Regulations on Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feed.



Priorities (4)

- The Presidency will support a Commission initiative intended to deliver an international AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES 41 declaration outlining a way forward for the Mediterranean, by facilitating dialogue between Member States and Third Country partners.



Current Food System in Malta

- A review of the Maltese Food Control System, carried out in the beginning of 2001, established that, although many components of a working system were in place, others were poorly developed or missing.
- Furthermore, there was considerable fragmentation and insufficient co-ordination and data exchange.



Factors taken into account

- The various competent authorities were actively involved in other issues apart from food safety, e.g. public health, animal welfare and animal health, consumer protection.
- Limited resources dictated that the various authorities should pool their expertise and support each other's programmes.

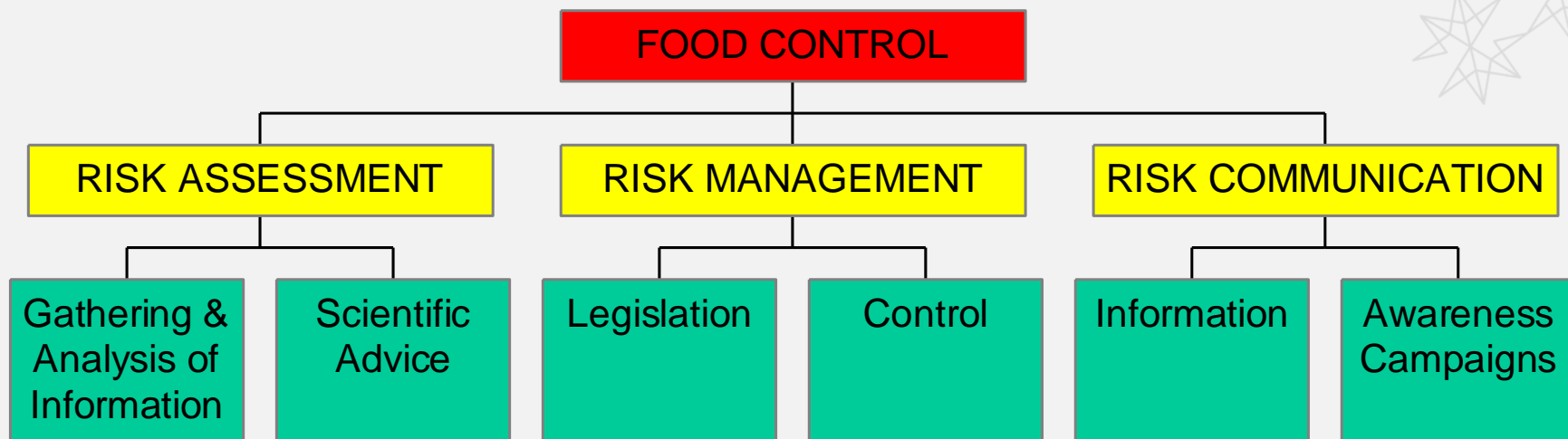
Food Safety Strategy

- The Ministry of Health is the Ministry responsible for food safety.
- The Food Safety Commission is the competent authority
- The Commission exerts its functions through the various competent authorities while exercising an overall co-ordination and programming function.
- Transparency is increased.

Food Safety Strategy

- The Maltese Food Safety Strategy attempted to formally establish an effective food control system while taking into account the reality of a very small country and the need to maximise the use of resources
- The Strategy currently subject to a review in the light of experience and local and European developments

Maltese Food Control System



Food Safety Act

- To provide a general framework for food safety based on the 'Farm to fork' principle.
- An 'umbrella' system
- To establish a Food Safety Commission as the competent authority for food safety .
- To introduce new and improved measures for enforcement in relation to food safety.
- Provisions applicable in conjunction with more detailed provisions in Veterinary Services Act regarding foods of animal origin

Food Safety Commission

- Chairperson appointed by Minister of Health
- 7 *ex officio* Directors
 - public health
 - veterinary services
 - foodstuffs
 - consumer affairs
 - health promotion
 - environment protection
 - plant health
- Up to 3 other members not having any interest in any food business
- Commission invited other experts to assist in its duties: Agriculture, Fisheries, University of Malta.

Duties of the FSC

- Monitor the enforcement of legislation
- Administer rapid alert systems
- Enforce international obligations
- Formulate and implement policies and strategies on all matters concerning food
- Advise the Minister
- Carry out studies and investigations
- Maintain databases

Functions of the Commission

- food hygiene and matters concerning public health,
- veterinary matters and to food of animal origin,
- risk assessment in food
- consumer protection
- nutrition and matters concerning health promotion,
- genetically modified organisms, novel foods and to environmental matters,
- phytosanitary measures and to matters relating to food of plant origin.

Operation of the FSC

- The functions of the Commission are vested in specific members by the Act
- Commission may make public statements on any matter concerning food safety

Some issues we have discussed

- GMOs
- Food Handlers Regulations
- Perchlorate
- MANCP & FVO missions
- Country of Origin
- Folic Acid
- Food Fraud
- Border Inspection Post
- Fruit and Vegetable School Scheme
- Glyphosate
- Home Production of Food

The background features a light gray pattern of small, stylized stars. On the left side, there are large, overlapping geometric shapes in red, purple, dark blue, and teal.

Thank you for your attention



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