

Study Visit to the Danish Food Institute

Copenhagen, 15/16 June 2011

REPORT

Background information:

This study visit was organised as a part of EFSA Pre-Accession Programme 2009-2011 for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries. Representatives from different institutions involved in the food safety system from one Candidate country, Montenegro and four Potential Candidate countries, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSCR1244) and Serbia took part in the study visit.

The overall objective of the Programme was to promote the understanding of EFSA's work, share expertise and create information exchange mechanisms in order to ensure that the national authorities of the beneficiary countries can participate effectively in the activities of EFSA both prior to accession and following accession to the EU.

The participation in this Programme may contribute to the beneficiaries in familiarising themselves with the EU policies and working methods particularly focusing on "from field to plate" integrated approach to food safety.

In particular, the study visit to the Danish Food Institute gave the participants good knowledge on how the food safety authorities in the EU MS work and by that give them possibilities to improve their own work and also a good starting point for networking and sharing of information.

Draft agenda enclosed as Annex I

Relevance of the Study Visit to objectives of the Programme:

- The study visit aimed to provide the participants with an overall knowledge on the role of the Danish Food Institute in the area of risk assessment and risk communication.
- Experts from the Danish Food Institute and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration presented the risk analysis approaches.
- In particular following topics of interest for the five beneficiary countries were addressed: General organisation of food safety system in Denmark, Registration/record of food products, both animal and non animal, registration/cord on

food products, specially for mineral waters and food for particular nutritial use, GMO, Health claims, food supplements, RASFF, SCIRI and Risk Communication.

- This study visit provided a starting point for networking and creation of information exchange systems as the first step in preparation of the beneficiaries for their future participation in the EU networks.

Participants:

15 participants attended the study tour (3 participants from each of the 5 beneficiary countries) representing competent authorities at national level.

Detailed list of participants enclosed as an Annex II.

Conclusions:

This Study visit brought participants responsible for food safety policies together for two days intensive exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise. It was an excellent opportunity for the experts from the 5 beneficiary countries to meet experts and specialists from Denmark, to learn about and discuss issues of common interest, establish contacts for future cooperation and take ideas back home.

The objective of this study tour was to support the competent authorities of the 5 beneficiary countries in acquiring the necessary knowledge, information and contacts for possible future partnership with the Danish authorities who might support the achievement of goals and targets for deployment of their national food safety systems.

The study tour provided a comprehensive overview on the regulatory and administrative aspects of the Danish Food Institute and also comprehensive information on the scientific work of the Institute and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

The study visit provided a forum for discussion, exchange and learning on themes of common interest and on Danish and national priorities enriching the flow of information between participating countries and the hosts.

Results of the evaluation questionnaire:

All 15 representatives answered to the survey. Hotel and meeting venue were found being excellent by 80% and good by 20% of the participants. Presentation skills of the speakers were found to be excellent or very good of 93% of the participants. The content of the speeches and the responsiveness to questions were found being excellent or very good by 100%. There was 93% finding the presentations being on the right level. 87% of participants felt they had enough opportunity to express their opinion. 93% of the participants considered that this study tour was an excellent or very good opportunity for improving their knowledge on this topic and 100% found the overall value excellent or very high.

Additional topics they would like to see addressed in possible future study visits include topics such as risk assessment of additives, risk communication and microbiological criteria in food, programmes for monitoring of Zoonoses, burden of food borne diseases, MRL's of pesticides, practical examples on risk management, official control methods and activities.

The participants found this study visit a good opportunity for networking and information exchange.

Study tour for IPA countries to Denmark

15-16 June 2011

15 June 2011		
Time	Topic	Presented by
9:30	Arrival at the National Food Institute	
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and introduction to the National Food Institute and its recent history	Henrik C. Wegener, PhD, Director, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
10:00 – 10:25	Introduction to the National Veterinary Institute	Flemming Bager, PhD, Head of Division, National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark
10:25 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 11:10	Introduction to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	Knud Østergaard, Head of Division for International Coordination, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
11:10 – 11:35	Cooperation between Danish risk managers and risk assessors	Arne Büchert, Chief Consultant at the National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
11:35 – 12:00	Activities at the Danish Focal Point for EFSA	Arne Büchert, Chief Consultant, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:25	Principles of risk analyses in a global and national perspective	Jørgen Schlundt, PhD, Deputy director, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
13:25 – 13:50	Risk communication at the national food institute	Gitte Inselmann Frandsen, Communication officer, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
13:50 – 14:15	Risk assessment of plant health	Jørgen Søgaard Hansen, Chief Plant Health Officer”, Danish Plant Directorate
14:15 – 14:35	Coffee break	
14:35 – 15:00	Data collection: Cost consumption data	Ellen Trolle, Deputy Head of division for Nutrition, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
15:00 – 15:25	Data collection: Chemical contaminants	Jens Hinge Andersen, Senior Advisor, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
15:25 – 15:50	Data collection: Microbiological pathogens and zoonosis	Birgitte Helwich, Senior Scientist, PhD, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
15:50 – 16:15	Transfer of data to EFSA	Tue Christensen, Scientist,

		National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
16:15 – 16:30	Questions and discussion of the presentations during the day	
16:30	Departure to Hotel	
16 June 2011		
Time	Topic	Presented by
9:15	Arrival at the National Veterinary Institute at Bülowsvej	
9:15 – 10:15	Visit to the National Reference Laboratory for microbiological control of food	Dorte Lau Baggesen, PhD, Acting Head of Division, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
10:15 – 10:45	Travel to National Food Institute in Mørkhøj	
10:45 – 11:10	Examples of EU models for microbial risk assessment	Tine Hald, PhD, Head of Section, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
11:10 – 11:35	Food control and monitoring plans - microbial pathogens	Niels L. Nielsen, PhD, Scientific Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
11:35 – 12:00	Food control and monitoring plans - chemical contaminants	Anne D. Rasmussen, Chief Consultant, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 13:25	EU Rapid Alert System (RASf)	Kim Vandrup Sigsgaard, Head of the Danish Alert Unit for Food, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
13:25 – 13:50	Assessments of health claims	Heddie Mejborn, Senior Advisor, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
13:50 – 14:15	Risk assessment of plant protection products	Annette Petersen, Senior Advisor, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
14:15 – 14:45	Coffee break	
14:45 – 15:10	Risk assessment of Novel Food	Morten Poulsen, PhD, Senior Scientist, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
15:10 – 15:35	Mixture effects of endocrine disrupters	Ulla Hass, PhD, Head of Section, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
15:35 – 16:00	Risk assessment of Nano-materials	Mona-Lise Binderup, PhD, Senior Scientist, National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
16:00 – 16:15	Questions and discussion of the presentations during the day	
16:30	Departure from the National Food Institute	

List of Participants

ANNEX II

No.	<i>FAMILY NAME</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>INSTITUTION</i>
THE PARTICIPANTS FROM ALBANIA ON THE STUDY VISIT			
1	Ktuupi	Rezart	National Food Authority of Albania
2	Belegu	Artan	National Food Authority of Albania
3	Dajko	Elva	National Food Authority of Albania
THE PARTICIPANTS FROM BOSNIA&HERZEGOVINA ON THE STUDY VISIT			
4	Mackic	Sejad	Food Safety Agency
5	Hajric	Dzemil	Food Safety Agency
6	Ahmetovic	Nihada	Food Safety Agency
THE PARTICIPANTS FROM KOSOVO (UNDER UNSCR 1244) ON THE STUDY VISIT			
7	Zymberaj	Ilirjana	National Food and Veterinary Agency
8	Kingji	Ajshe	National Food and Veterinary Agency
9	Rrustemaj	Fillojete	National Food and Veterinary Agency
THE PARTICIPANTS FROM MONTENEGRO ON THE STUDY VISIT			
10	Vukosavljevic	Svetlana	Ministry of Health
11	Popovic	Spasa	Fitosanitary Directorate
12	Lausevic	Dejan	Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory
THE PARTICIPANTS FROM SERBIA ON THE STUDY VISIT			
13	Godjevbac Obradovic	Dragana	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
14	Celebicanin	Sanja	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
15	Savcic-Petric	Snezana	Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
THE PARTICIPANT FROM EFSA ON THE STUDY VISIT			
17	Sheye	Finn	Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit, EFSA