

# BALTIC COUNTRIES WORKSHOP ON CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

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# HISTORY

- June 2015 – during the EFSA executive director Bernhard Url visits to Baltic countries a proposal for a project on «Crisis preparedness training» came from Latvia
- December 2016 – grant agreement with Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment «BIOR» was signed
- Baltic countries workshop on crisis preparedness – March 15-17, 2016, Riga (Latvia)
- Future – the report will be published on EFSA's website

# THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- To build capacity in the Baltic countries on crisis preparedness for food crisis and to stimulate collaboration needed during outbreak investigation
- To enhance the food safety crisis preparedness for the Baltic countries
- To bring key players of Baltic countries involved in food crisis together to improve cooperation and communication channels between Baltic countries, EFSA, the EC and key stakeholders during food crisis
- To exchange experience and promote scientific cooperation
- EFSA has an interest to get countries prepared in case it need the support of MSs for data collection during outbreak investigation

# CONTRIBUTORS

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Lithuania: Rima Zivatkauskaitė, Ona Sužiedelytė

Germany (BfR): Armin Weiser, Katja Alt

Facilitator: Andrew Vincent

EFSA: Tilemachos Goumperis, Giusi Amore, Shira  
Tabachnikoff, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

ECDC: Johanna Takkinen, Andrea Nilsson

EC: Jan Baele



# PARTICIPANTS

- Key players who could be involved in a case of a foodborne outbreak – risk assessors, managers and communicators, investigators, public health managers
- Institutions represented
  - National Institute of Public Health-National Institute of Hygiene (PL)
  - Estonian University of Life Sciences
  - Ministry of Rural Affairs (EST)
  - Ministry of Agriculture (LV)
  - Veterinary and Food Board (EST)
  - Health Board of Estonia
  - State Food and Veterinary Service (LT and LV)
  - National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (LT)
  - Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (LV)
  - Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment «BIOR» (LV)

# WORKSHOP – AGENDA AND TOPICS

## Day One:

1. EFSA's role for responding to urgent request and crisis preparedness training
2. Methodology of tracing food and feed items in outbreak situations





# WORKSHOP – AGENDA AND TOPICS

## Day Two:

Simulation exercise on multi-national outbreak and crisis communications

- how to get from the 1st case to reason what caused crisis
- how to understand where to start to look for crisis reason
- how to communicate on national level
- with who to communicate on international level
- how to react on and answer to tough questions from journalists and public



# WORKSHOP – AGENDA AND TOPICS

## Day Three:

1. Debrief and key learnings from Day Two
2. Principles of crisis communications/ guidelines and discussion
3. The use of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) during multinational outbreaks
4. ECDC: the story of a multinational outbreak





# CONCLUSIONS

1. The workshop has reached its aim to improve Baltic countries preparedness for food crisis situation through new skills, knowledge and new communication networks made
2. Active discussions between participants during crisis simulation highlighted possible problems that could rise during crisis situation and that need to be solved
3. Trainings have to be continued on national and international level to prepare more experts and to simulate more various crisis situations

# PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

- I thought the meeting was quite successful from my perspective. The dynamics of the group exceeded the expected: starting shy, moving to interactive with an ending on the dancefloor! The contents of the lectures were good and what I really liked was the interactive approach with participants from all fields as well as lecturers from EFSA, ECDC and COM. We lived up to the One Health spirit. This was perfectly supported by excellent logistics from your side.
- In today's global economy, there is an ever-increasing possibility that crisis situations relating to food outbreaks will occur with increasing frequency. This workshop gave us possibility to exchange our experience and to gain new learnings from other participants, to meet colleagues from different agencies who will be involved in a case if multinational outbreak happens. The workshop was very informative. Excellent organisation, professional lecturers and hospitality of organisers made it even better.

# PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

- From Estonian health Board I would like to thanks for the very necessary, useful and interesting Workshop. This Workshop gives as a new knowledge's. Important was multisectoral and crisis communication inside our country team and with other participated countries' teams. Positive moment is, that after this Workshop we communicate quite closely with country team members.
- I would like to say that it was a great workshop, very nicely organized. Very useful and interesting (amazing) part was the investigation of the outbreak! I have got a great knowledge and it was very useful to bring different people and neighbor countries and organizations together and to give us the possibility to know each other better when investigating the outbreak!
- Great organizatoring work. But it was at the first moment not easy to understand what is wanted to be done during simulation, what kind of the we have to deliver. It was my the 1st time in training like this and it was confusing.





# Thank You for Your attention

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