Pre Accession Programme support and Capacity Building

Andrea Gross-Bošković
Director of Croatian Food Agency

64th meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum
Parma, 7 – 8 June 2017
History...

- 2006. – IPA Pre- Accession Project „Preparatory measures for the participation of the Turkey and Croatia in EFSA”
- 2009. – IPA Pre Accession Project „Preparatory measures for participation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Turkey in EFSA”

✓ Activities:
- Attendance on meetings – AF, AF CWG, FP, WG on zoonoses data collection, Expert group on Chemical data collection;
- Attendance on seminars and conferences
- Attendances on study visits
- Secondment
Areas covered by seminars...

Risk assessment methodology

- Consumer organizations

Chemical Contaminants

GMO Risk Assessment

Data collection and analysis

EU Institutions working on Food Safety

Handling crisis

- The EFSA Advisory Forum

BSE and other TSEs

Microbial Risk Assessment

Risk Communication

- Animal Health and Welfare

Emerging Risks

Dietary Reference values

Food Additives and Flavourings

Nutrition and Health Claims
List of EFSA Pre-Accession seminars with Croatia participation

1) Workshop Risk Communication in Croatia, Osijek, 5/6 December 2006
2) EFSA Steering Committee meeting with the Croatian authorities and stakeholders, Zagreb, 13/14 February 2007
3) Handling crisis, Split, 29/30 March 2007
4) Relationship to stakeholders (consumer organizations, NGO's, industry), Dubrovnik, 5/6 July 2007
5) The EFSA advisory Forum, Opatija, 6/7 September 2007
7) Data collection and analysis, Parma, 2/3 October 2007
8) The EFSA 9 panels and their tasks. Part I (AFC, PLH, PPR & Contam), Parma, 16/17 October 2007
9) The EFSA 9 panels and their tasks. Part II (FEEDAP, Biohaz, AHAZ&NDA) Parma, 14/15 November 2007
10) EFSA Steering Committee meeting with the Croatian authorities, Zagreb, December 2007
11) Seminar on BSE and other TSEs, Zagreb, 26/27 March 2008
12) Seminar on Microbial Risk Assessment, Zagreb, 26/27 November 2008
13) Seminar on The EU Institutions working on Food Safety, Bruxelles, 11/12 March 2009
14) Seminar on Risk assessment methodology, Dubrovnik, 14/15 September 2009
15) Seminar on different approaches in Risk Analysis in Food Safety in the EU, Antalya, 14/15 April 2010
16) Seminar on Food Additives and Flavourings, Zagreb, 11/12 May 2010
17) Seminar on Dietary Reference values, Nutrition and Health Claims, Parma, 22/23 September 2010
18) Seminar on Chemical Contaminants and Emerging Risks, Ankara, 6/7 April 2011
20) Workshop on data collection and analysis, Parma, 19/20
EFSA’s Secondment

- Pre-accession Programme enables HAH’s employees, scientists, food safety experts and representatives to participate in the meetings of EFSA scientific networks, where they have the opportunity to discuss and exchange opinions with colleagues from across EU.

- Two employees from HAH, as seconded national experts, completed the practical training in the field of risk assessment, for 1.5 year, and project cycle management, in period of 4 years, at the EFSA seat in Parma.
In 2009 HAH was appointed as a Focal Point for Croatia (as observer)
since 2010 HAH has been involved in the EFSA Focal Point Network
Exchange of scientific data through the National network of institutions
(National network of institutions in the area of food and feed safety; Official Gazette 43/10) -
Established in 2010, in 2012 contains 36 institutions:
- 7 faculties
- 5 institutes
- 18 public health institutions
- other institutions in food safety system

Raising EFSA’s visibility
Promoting EFSA Expert Database
Promoting the EFSA Expert Database

- 18 experts from Croatia are part of the EFSA EDB
Raising EFSA visibility

- **HAH’s website** – **Submenu** dedicated to EFSA:

  - Role and importance of EFSA and link to the EFSA website
  - Focal Point network
  - EFSA *understanding science* video clips
  - Short translation of interesting EFSA news with a link to EFSA website (also on our homepage!)
  - Link to EFSA Expert Database
Raising EFSA visibility

- Organization and participation in national and international seminars and conferences, with EFSA speakers where the importance of cooperation with EFSA and role of Focal Point Network are highlighted

- 5th Anniversary of HAH and conference “Food safety risk analysis”, May 2010
- World Food Day 2010 International Conference „United against hunger“
- World Food Day 2011 International Conference "Food Prices–from Crises to Stability"
- World Food Day 2012 International Conference "Croatia on its way to the EU…..“
- World Food Day 2013 International Conference „Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”
- World Food Day 2014 International Conference „Stop the food waste“
Raising EFSA visibility

- In 2015, HAH organized the 1st International Conference on Risk Assessment and marking the World Food Day within the 10th Anniversary.
- Dr. Url made the opening speech.
- Three EFSA experts supported the conference as well as the experts from Austria (AGES), Denmark (DTU), Germany (BfR), Hungary (MEBIH), Slovenia (NIJZ) and Sweden (NFA).
- Following brochures were distributed at the conference:
  - The European Food Agency at Glance,
  - Scientific Cooperation between EFSA and member states,
  - Food Safety Cooperation beyond Borders.
Advisory Forum

- Attendance from 2006; participation in 39 meetings

- Benefits for RH:
  - Exchange scientific views, data and scientific achievements
  - Co-ordinate risk communications activities and messages
  - Co-ordinate work and avoid duplication
  - Transfer of knowledge

! networking, networking, networking…
Communication Expert Network - CEN

- AF CWG - Attendance from 2006; today – CEN

✓ Benefits for RH:
- Help highlighting core principles of work (openness, transparency, independence and timeliness) and applying in our everyday work
- Building communication strategy in line with EFSA Communication strategy
- Learning from other countries experiences, specially related to crisis communication and experience in social media
- Modeled on Eurobarometer survey on consumers’ perceptions of food-related risks was commissioned by EFSA.

The same research HAH made in 2011.
Participation in several subgroups:
1. Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection
2. Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection - Antimicrobial Resistance
3. Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection - FBO
4. Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection – IT

Attendance from 2008;

Benefits for RH:

In 2016. – Project: OC/EFSA/DATA/2015/01 LOT 1 – CT 1 – Implementation and testing of electronic submission in XML, Excel and CSV formats of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data and updating the historical datasets
- **Main activities**

- Project duration: 1 year

- Project value: 75,000 Euros

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**Lot 1: Implementation and testing of electronic submission in XML, Excel and CSV formats of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data and updating the historical datasets**

Requested main data categories:
1. Isolate-based antimicrobial resistance data
2. Sample based prevalence data or aggregated prevalence data
   - Additional data categories:
     3. Food-borne outbreak data
     4. Animal populations data
     5. Disease status data on tuberculosis and brucellosis
     6. Text form data

**Lot 2: Updating and revising the historical datasets in EFSA’s Zoonoses databases**

Requested main data categories:
1. Isolate-based antimicrobial resistance data
2. Aggregated prevalence data
3. Aggregated antimicrobial resistance data
4. Food-borne outbreak data
5. Animal populations data
6. Disease status data on tuberculosis and brucellosis
7. Text form data

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**PROJECT CONSORTIUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Agriculture – project leader</th>
<th>Croatian Veterinary Institute – project partner</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health – project partner</td>
<td>National Institute for Public Health – project partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatian Agriculture Agency – project partner</td>
<td>Croatian Food Agency – project coordinator</td>
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Expert Group on Chemical Occurrence Data

- Attendance from 2008;
- Information about data collection (occurrence data, consumption data)

☑ Benefits for RH:
  - Useful information about importance food consumption data and chemical occurrence data for exposure assessment
  - In 2015. - Project: OC/EFSA/Data/2015/02-CT 2: “Pilot project on the implementation of SSD2 in the frame of the electronic transmission of harmonised data collection of analytical results to EFSA”
Main activities

- Project duration: 1 year
- Project value: 122,000 Euros

Defining the structure and mapping of received data for entry to the database which is structured according to SSD2 format.

Development of software for automatic mapping data from three domestic repositories (SISSI database, EXCEL spreadsheets and VETLAB database) to the SSD2 standard.

Development of software tools for supporting work of experts in course of data analysis and validation rules.

Transmission of data relating to 2015 for four domains into EFSA based on the developed appropriate web service.

Analysis of difficulties and challenges in development and access via web services for automatic transmission of data to EFSA.

Analysis of difficulties and challenges in testing a variety of dataset operations.

Analysis of difficulties and challenges in testing the retrieval of catalogues from the DCF through web service and synchronisation with a local repository on the data provider’s side.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Domain</th>
<th>Volume of data (n. results)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pesticide residues</td>
<td>33000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Contaminants</td>
<td>6701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residues of veterinary medicinal products</td>
<td>4671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food additives</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expert Group on Food Consumption Data

- Attendance from 2007;

- Benefits for RH:
  - HAH has conducted national food consumption survey based on the information gained on the expert group meetings and the EFSA guidelines General principles for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a pan-European dietary survey
  - In 2016 – Project: Update of the EFSA Comprehensive Consumption Database Croatia 2011-12
    - Duration: 8 months
    - Value: 46 000 Euros
In 2017. – Project: OC/EFSA/2016/02 Support to National Dietary Survey in Compliance with the EU Menu methodology (sixth support) – The children’s survey”, incl. Subjects from three months to 9 years old

Main activities

Project duration: 4 years

Project value: 155,000 Euros
 andere activities

- Two days Member State (Croatia) expert mission to national authorities through the EFSA pre-accession programme; Jan/Feb 2017.
- The aim of the mission - to provide with further understanding and knowledge on how to set up national system for zoonoses and zoonotic agents, AMR and FBOs data collection and reporting to EFSA and to explain benefits of the country participation in the EU wide data collection
- The final aim - to practice national data submission in EFSA’s systems and tools
- Two days MS (Croatia) expert mission on food consumption; July 2017. (TAIEX)
- Two day MS (Croatia) expert mission on risk communication; July 2017. (TAIEX)

✓ LSD – 2016. decision of the Ministry of Agriculture on compulsory vacctination of cattle based on the EFSA opinion and recommendation
...instead of conclusion

PreACCESSion (programme)  EU membership
Croatian Food Agency

Ivana Gundulića 36 b
31 000 Osijek
Croatia
www.hah.hr
info@hah.hr

2nd Croatian Conference on Risk Assessment with the marking of the World Food Day