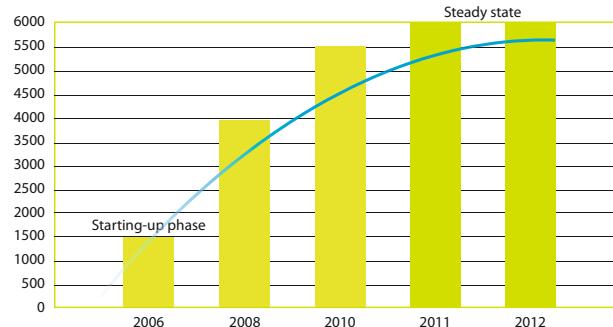


Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) is an initiative of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission. BTSF organises training in the areas of European food and feed law, plant and animal health and welfare regulations. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) has been implementing the BTSF initiative since 2009.

Growing number of participants of BTSF training courses 2005 – 2012



Based in Luxembourg, Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) implements the EU Health and Consumer Programmes and the BTSF initiative. Set up in 2005 as the Public Health Executive Agency, it was transformed into the EAHC in 2008.



Further information:

Contact

For more information, including a calendar of training courses, the National Contact Points, calls for tender and guidelines for contractors, please visit:

www.btsf.eu

**Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
DRB A3
L-2920 Luxembourg**

For questions related to calls for tender:

EAHC-BTSF-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

For ongoing projects, trainings and general enquiries related to BTSF: EAHC-BTSF-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu

www.btsf.eu



Better Training for Safer Food



About the Initiative



The challenges of consumer protection in the internal market revealed the need to build up a common body of EU law in the area of food safety and to ensure that it is complied with. Officials checking for compliance – in the EU and outside – must not only have a broad expertise in food safety and relevant standards, they must be able to execute these rules in a uniform fashion. Hence, Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 empowered the European Commission to develop training for competent staff engaged in verification of compliance with food and feed law.

The Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission (DG SANCO) directs the activities of BTSF by setting its policies and overall strategy. EAHC then manages all phases of the projects, from calls for proposals, to awarding of contracts for training courses and dissemination of information on the EAHC website. EAHC also feeds back information to DG SANCO for policy making.

The BTSF training courses are designed for staff of competent authorities of EU Member States involved in official control activities. The trainings are also available to non-EU countries, including local training in developing countries, to ensure world-wide familiarity with EU standards and import requirements.



Supervision and policymaking by DG SANCO

Learning how to apply EU legislation Interaction with colleagues from other countries

BTSF training courses

For public officials involved in food and feed safety By contractors through public procurement

Programme managed by the EAHC

The objectives

The main objective of BTSF is the organisation and development of an EU training strategy to:

- Ensure and maintain a high level of consumer protection and of plant and animal health and welfare
- Promote a harmonised approach to the operation of EU and national control systems
- Ensure that there is a level playing field for all food businesses
- Enhance the trade of safe food
- Ensure fair trade with non-EU countries, and in particular, developing countries.



National Contact Points

BTSF National Contact Points (NCP) have been designated for EU Member States and certain other countries. NCPs are involved in coordination of the BTSF initiative on national level. They provide country-specific information on training courses to contractors and propose participants.

The Training Courses

BTSF training courses are organised by service providers who are contracted by EAHC, through public procurement, to organise and manage training sessions in EU and non-EU countries. These contractors provide specialist scientific knowledge combined with up to date information on the legal regulations and their practical implementation. They also take care of organising the events.

Participants learn how to apply EU legislation and also have an opportunity to interact with colleagues from different countries. Training courses are offered on a wide range of topics, with increasing emphasis on expanding the global coverage of BTSF training courses. The areas covered include: food law, animal health and welfare, food hygiene and controls, border inspection, plant health and plant protection products, and microbiological criteria in foodstuffs.

Who can participate?

Places on BTSF training courses are offered for public officials from Member States' competent authorities involved in food and feed controls. Some places may be offered to participants from non-EU countries. Business operators may also attend when appropriate, but they must cover their living and transport expenses.

For developing countries, funding is given to competent authority staff of countries in the global regions for which the activity is intended.

How to Register?

To locate and register for the relevant training course, please visit the BTSF website www.btsf.eu to:

1. Check the calendar of forthcoming training courses
2. Contact the National Contact Point to apply



Providers

Companies that are interested in running a BTSF training course should check the latest calls for tender and guidelines for contractors, published on the BTSF website.