




The 'Better Training for Safer Food' initiative

BTSF INFO-DAY

Brussels, 12 December 2017

What is BTSF?

- 
- A DG SANTE training initiative for EU and non-EU country official control staff
 - Launched in 2005
 - Covering food safety, plant health and animal health and welfare



BTSF principles

- Not to replace initial training for inspectors
 - ⇒ **MS responsibility for initial training**
- To complement initial training in areas where difficulties exist at EU level
 - ⇒ **EU message / Mix of tutors team**
- To favour knowledge sharing and networking to increase compatibility of control procedures throughout the EU
 - ⇒ **Mix of tutors and participants**
- To follow a train-the-trainer approach
 - ⇒ **Dissemination is a key factor for BTSF success**

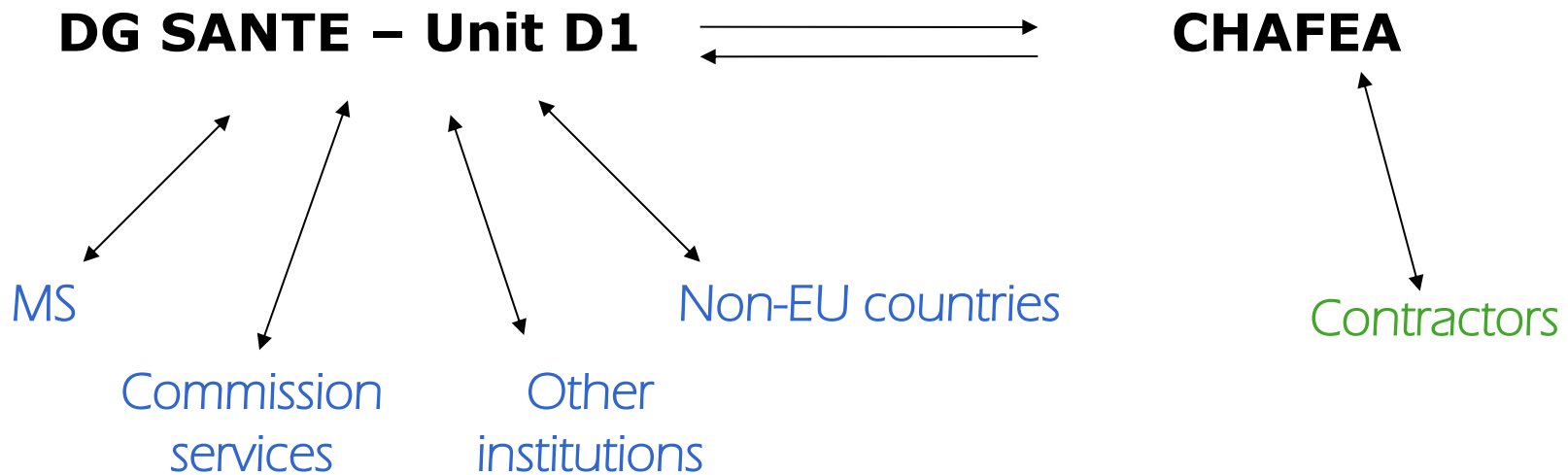
BTSF objectives



- High levels of competence and awareness of EU rules amongst official control staff
- Harmonised approach to control systems
- High levels of consumer protection, animal health and welfare and plant health
- Promote the EU food system and build confidence with trade partners
- Enhance SPS regulatory cooperation with non-EU countries



Two main actors





Organisation of training

- Training is organised by external contractors
- Training consists of workshops and secondment of individual experts
- Tuition by experts from the Commission, Member States, non-EU countries and international organisations

BTSF: more than 10 years already

- Set up in 2005 on the basis of the OFFC Regulation
- Modest beginnings in 2006

NOW

- at the **very heart** of the DG SANTE mission
- a **key player** in SPS enforcement
- a solid **capacity building programme** in the EU and across the world



BTSF in figures from 2006 to 2016

A comprehensive programme

- **More than 1500 events**
- **Around 61.000 participants**
- **Budget of approx. € 140 million**

Approx. 33% of this activity covers non-EU countries

BTSF today

- A comprehensive programme
- Based on a traditional learning model with
 - (Regional) training workshops where tuition is provided by EU experts
 - Ad hoc assistance missions (STMs) where an EU expert is seconded to a specific country to solve a specific issue

= Face-to-face training courses



BTSF monitoring and supervision

- At the end of each training day/seminar
 - Participants (Satisfaction + Learning)
 - Commission observers
- Some months after each training seminar
 - Participants (Behaviour + Dissemination)
- At the end of each training programme
 - MS National Contact Points, Commission services
- Regular general assessment
 - 2009: first BTSF ex-post evaluation
 - 2013: second BTSF ex-post evaluation



BTSF main challenges in future

- Better respond to demand
- Improve networking
- Better identify and target priorities
- Ensure greater participant homogeneity
- Improve training quality
- Increase dissemination



Cost-effectiveness study

- **Objectives**

- to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the current training model (key performance indicators and robust cost /benefit model)
- SWOT analysis of different training strategies in order to see how best the objectives of BTSF can be achieved by which model.

- **Final report:** End 2017



BTSF tomorrow

- BTSF has the potential to continue to provide knowledge and expertise which contributes to increasing consumer protection and fostering trade within and outside the EU,
- Stronger collaboration with competent authorities is desirable for identifying needs, ensuring quality, impact and dissemination,
- Moving to a more blended learning model is the only way to respond to the huge training demand and improve participant homogeneity.



Towards a closer coordination

Actions already developed or under development

- Ad-hoc assistance missions
- New BTSF cycle with regular consultation on needs
- Creation of a common platform for an easy and regular communication of MS training plans and priorities

Proposed improvements

- Co-financed and co-organised training with MS
- Creating a database of highly qualified MS tutors



Reinforcing dissemination efforts

- Better selection of participants (e.g. involvement of national trainers)
- Systematic mandatory information sharing process upon return
- Possible development of dissemination plans

= key factors in training success



Towards a blended learning model

General features

- To continue with face-to face training (advanced courses, practical courses, trainers training, etc.)
- To diversify the training offer by including new technologies (e-learning, tutorials, etc.)

Actions already developed or under development

- E-learning pilot project
- Video recording of most interesting sessions



European
Commission

BTSF activities

Calls Chafea/2017/BTSF/6-9



Food Contact materials

General features

- *10 three-day courses*
- *300 participants in total (around 30 participants /session)*

Objectives

- *provide a consistent and high level of understanding of EU legislation on FCM*
- *ensure effective implementation of FCM control activities*
- *develop a consistent approach across the Member States*

Target

- *field inspectors involved in control activities in food establishments and food contact materials premises.*
- *officials from Competent Authorities involved in planning and control activities*

Audit systems and internal auditing

General features

- *10 four-day-courses with 2 fields:*
 - *Setting-up and implementation of an audit system and basics for performing a detailed audit (6)*
 - *Developing advanced skills to conduct a detailed audit to verify the effective and suitable implementation of official controls (4)*
- *300 participants in total (around 30 participants/session)*

Objectives

- *To disseminate best practices for auditing procedures*
- *To improve knowledge of this complex area of work*
- *To ensure consistent and high implementation standards across the EU*

Target

- *Member State staff operating or involved in NAS*



Information management systems

General features

- *12 three-day courses on TRACES with 360 supported participants in total (30 participants per course)*
- *100 mission days in a maximum of 20 countries*

Objectives

- *To continue cooperation activities on information management systems at international level*
- *To contribute to a better understanding and more efficient use of existing EU SPS information management systems*
- *To facilitate their integration as active users in these systems*

Target

- *Staff of competent authorities of non-EU countries*
- *Possibly also to the private sector (e.g. operators, business associations, etc.) and other relevant stakeholders*



Antimicrobial resistance

General features

- *12 three-day courses*
- *420 supported participants in total (around 35 par courses)*

Objectives

- *To develop cooperation activities on AMR at international level*
- *To internationally promote EU policies on AMR, and particularly the 'One-Health' approach*
- *To ensure the convergence of AMR policies between the EU and the beneficiary countries..*

Target

- *officials from Competent Authorities in the beneficiary countries involved in developing, planning and coordinating control activities (preferably at central level) to tackle AMR*



Thanks for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.html

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/food/index.html>