




The 'Better Training for Safer Food' initiative

BTSF INFO-DAY

Luxemburg, 16 March 2018

What is BTSF?

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- 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**

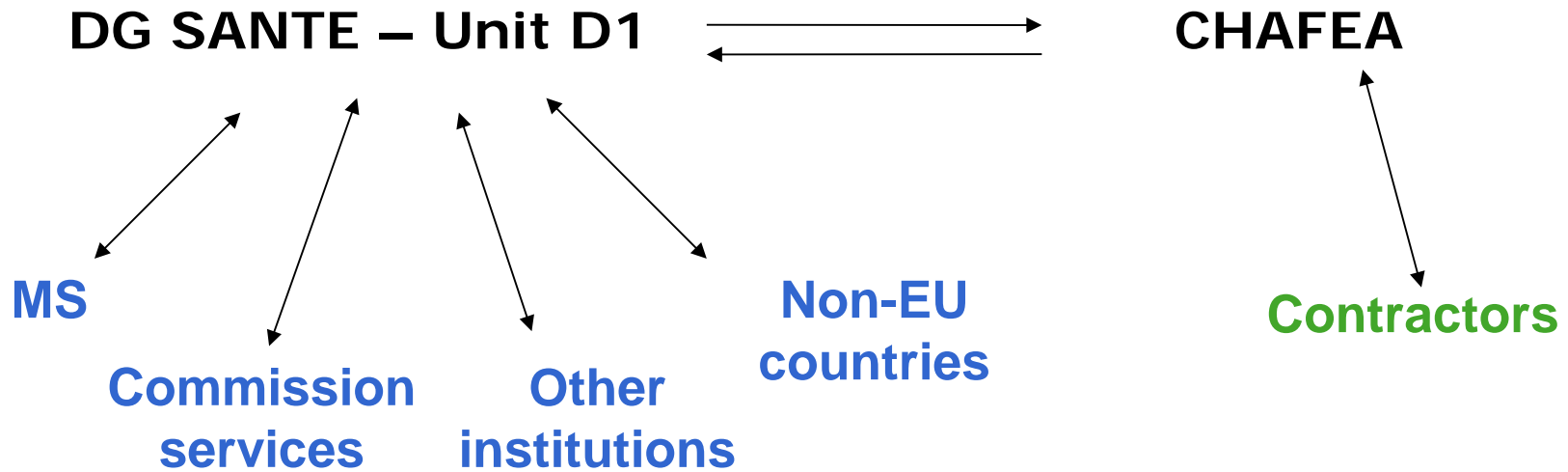
BTSF objectives



- 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



Cost-effectiveness study

- **Conclusions**

- the current training model (key performance indicators and robust cost /benefit model) is cost-effective,
- SWOT analysis of different training strategies revealed that a blended training model will enable meeting the objectives of BTSF.

- **Next steps:** a BTSF Academy is being developed and will soon be launched



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

- 10 E-learning modules now readily available for EU MS officials
- Video recording of the most interesting sessions during face-to-face training



BTFSF main challenges for the future

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



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 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



European
Commission

BTSF activities

Calls Chafea/2017/BTSF/10-15



Plant Protection Products

General features (1,270,000€)

- 8 courses of which 2 two-day trainings on field a(i) and (ii), 2 four-day trainings on field b(i) and (ii)
- In two cycles of 4 workshops with a total of 240 participants (30 per course), one cycle in the first year

Objectives

- a: To focus on the assessment of efficacy of PPP (i) and on toxicological risk assessment (ii)
- b: To train on eco-toxicological RA for terrestrial and aquatic environment (i) and on environmental fate and behaviour in soil, air and water (ii)

Target

- Staff of competent authorities of EU MS countries, CC, potential CC, EFTA and EEA



Food Improvement Agents

General features (2,480,000€)

- 14 four-day courses (10 course A, 4 course B)
- 420 supported participants in total (30 participants per course)

Objectives

- A: To train control staff on harmonised implementation and enforcement of EU law on food improvement agents,
- B: To train on planning of monitoring and official controls of food improvement agents

Target

- Course A: Staff of competent authorities of EU MS countries, CC, potential CC, EFTA and EEA, and ENP
- Course B: Staff of competent authorities of EU MS countries, CC, EFTA and EEA.



Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and Animal by-products

General features (1,500,000€)

- *8 three-day courses*
- *320 supported participants in total (40 participants per course)*

Objectives

- *Advanced course*
- *To promote a common understanding and deep knowledge of certain EU ABP and TSE rules among officials*
- *To further harmonise approaches and practices of EU MS*

Target

- *Staff of competent authorities of EU MS countries, CC, potential CC, EFTA and EEA, and ENP, involved in planning and designing of control activities and field inspectors*



Sustainable use of pesticides, with a focus on Integrated Pest Management

General features (2,100,000€)

- *14 three-day courses*
- *420 supported participants in total (30 participants per course)*

Objectives

- *Theoretical and practical training*
- *Legal requirements, IPM general principles and crops specific schemes, IPM assessment at farm level*

Target

- *Staff of competent authorities of EU MS countries, CC, EFTA and EEA*
- *Northern and Central zone: 3 field crops, two greenhouse production, two field vegetable and fruit tree production*
- *Southern zone: 3 field vegetable production, 2 fruit tree, 1 greenhouse production and 1 field crops*



Principles and methods of food safety risk analysis

General features (1,660,000€)

- 8 three-day courses
- 300 supported participants in total (35-38 participants per course)

Objectives

- To develop cooperation activities on risk analysis at international level,
- To demonstrate the robustness of the EU system and ensure convergence of approaches between EU and beneficiaries,
- To internationally promote the EU approach to RA.

Target

- Staff of competent authorities of non-EU countries
- Preferably from public institutions involved in food safety risk analysis at central level



Antimicrobial resistance

General features (2,220,000€)

- *11 three-day courses*
- *335 supported participants in total (around 30-31 per course)*

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 non-EU countries involved in developing, planning and coordinating control activities (preferably at central level) to tackle AMR*

OLD 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



Thank you for your attention

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

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