

Better Training for Safer Food

BTSF Newsletter is prepared by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) and issued six times a year.

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New BTSF newsletters are here. This edition is bringing to us:

- New calls for tender for training from 2014
- Call on International Standard-Setting Bodies training
- Info Day
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EAHC publishes 16 calls for tender for training from 2014



The EAHC BTSF team has been hard at work over the summer, publishing 16 calls for tender aimed at identifying contractors for the BTSF training programmes starting from 2014. For all calls, the deadline for submission of tenders is 27 September 2013. All 16 programmes are mainly for EU Member State control officials.

Implementation of each contract should take place over two phases of 24 months, with initiation of the second phase subject to budget availability, training needs and first phase outcomes. The first phase involves preparation of materials, organisation of training and all other tasks described in the specifications. The second phase involves the same tasks except for preparation of materials, although updates may be needed.

Some of the calls concern subjects which have featured in BTSF in past years. These are: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles (HACCP); health of bees and zoo animals; food additives, flavourings and enzymes; veterinary medicinal product (VMP) residues; food safety risk assessment; contingency planning and animal disease control; transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE); plant protection products (PPP); and the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

Others cover new areas or areas which have been covered before but have been substantially modified for 2014. These are: animal identification, registration and traceability; new and emerging plant health risks; strengthening Member State responses to EU audits; food hygiene at primary production; food hygiene and flexibility; new investigation techniques for official food chain controls; and supervision of semen, ova and embryos.

Continuing subjects

The HACCP programme includes 24 five-day courses for around 25 participants each and a total budget of EUR 3 860 000. That on bees and zoo animals comprises three three-day sessions each on bee diseases and on diseases affecting zoo animals and zoo approval procedures, for 40 participants each and a global budget of EUR 1 010 000. Twelve four-day courses for around 35 participants each are to take place on food additives, flavourings and enzymes for a budget of

EUR 2 170 000.

Training on VMP residues includes 12 three-day courses for 35 participants each and a budget of EUR 1 710 000. Food safety risk assessment training comprises eight courses of two four-day workshops each, each catering for around 20 participants for a total budget of EUR 1 780 000. The courses cover risk assessment in relation to microbiology, chemicals in food, pests, nutrition, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and other biotechnology, animal health and welfare and the environment. The contingency planning contract is worth EUR 2 180 000 and comprises 14 four-day sessions for 30 participants each.

The TSE contract includes a budget of EUR 1 030 000 and eight three-day courses, each for about 30 trainees. Workshops on PPP cover authorisation procedures and sustainable use, with eight three-day workshops taking place on the former for 25-30 participants each, and 12 on the latter for 30 participants each. The global budget is EUR 2 260 000. Training on the RASFF is made up of two three-day sessions for 55 participants each on strengthening collaboration between EU and non-EU countries through the RASFF and five sessions on better RASFF use and implementation of the online iRASFF application. The first iRASFF workshop should be attended by 55 people and subsequent events by 30. The overall budget is EUR 1 200 000.

New subjects

Of the new programmes, animal identification comprises 10 four-day workshops for 25-30 participants each and a contract worth EUR 1 510 000. The plant health risks programme consists of eight four-day courses for 25-30 participants each and a budget of EUR 1 200 000. That on strengthening Member State responses to EU audits includes 18 two-day courses for 35-40 participants each to take place at the Food and Veterinary Office premises for an overall budget of EUR 1 710 000. Each course focuses on a specific issue from among food of animal or non-animal origin, animal health or welfare, plant health, residues, import controls, animal nutrition/animal by-products/TSE, organic farming and quality schemes.

The food hygiene at primary production programme comprises: four three-day sessions on hygiene provisions for primary production and associated operations; three three-day sessions each on primary production activities dealing with domestic land animals and derived products and with aquatic animals and derived products; and six three-day sessions on primary production activities linked to plant products. Each session caters for around 30 participants and the contract is worth EUR 1 950 000. The hygiene and flexibility course entails organisation of 12 workshops for 30 participants each and a global budget of EUR 2 330 000.

Training on investigation techniques for food chain controls includes five three-day sessions each on investigation and control techniques for detecting food fraud and on e-commerce in food. Each workshop trains 30 participants and the total budget is EUR 1 230 000. Semen, ova and embryo training comprises 10 four-day courses for 20-25 participants each and a budget of EUR 1 290 000.

EAHC is looking forward to receiving positive responses to all of the calls. Once the offers are received they will be subject to a rigorous evaluation process carried out by EAHC officials and experts from various European Commission departments. This will ensure identification of the most suitable contractors and even more successful BTSF training from 2014 onwards.

All documents relevant to the calls are available at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/tenders.html>.



Call on International Standard-Setting Bodies training relaunched

As well as the 16 new calls, EAHC has relaunched the call for tender, first launched in late-2012, on training to strengthen third countries' capacity to participate in International Standard-Setting Bodies. The programme has a budget of EUR 500 000 and runs over two years. The call has been modified by cutting the foreseen number of supported participants from 200 to 160, resulting in a larger available budget per participant.

The training is for third country delegates to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Targeted regions include the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Policy countries, the Far East and Central and South America.

Seven workshops are planned of which three are on Codex issues and two on each of OIE and IPPC matters. They should help to improve delegates' capacity to draft SPS standards and elaborate scientific arguments.

The deadline for submission of offers is 20 September 2013.

All tender documents are available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/tender_2012_btsf_11.html.

Info Day to take place on 2013 calls for tender



EAHC is organising an Info Day on the 2013 calls for tender to take place in Brussels on 10 September, starting at 10am and running for the full day. All organisations interested in implementing training activities arising from the calls published in summer 2013 are invited to attend.

Participants will be able to ask any technical questions regarding the calls - either related to the subjects of the calls or the administrative execution of the resulting contracts. Officials from the European Commission and EAHC will be present throughout the day to answer questions and provide any further information and clarification.

For more information about the BTSF Info Day, please visit the [dedicated page](#).

The Info Day takes place at:

Martin's Central Park Hotel
Boulevard Charlemagne 80
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. : +32 (0)2 230 85 55

Fax : +32 (0)2 230 56 35

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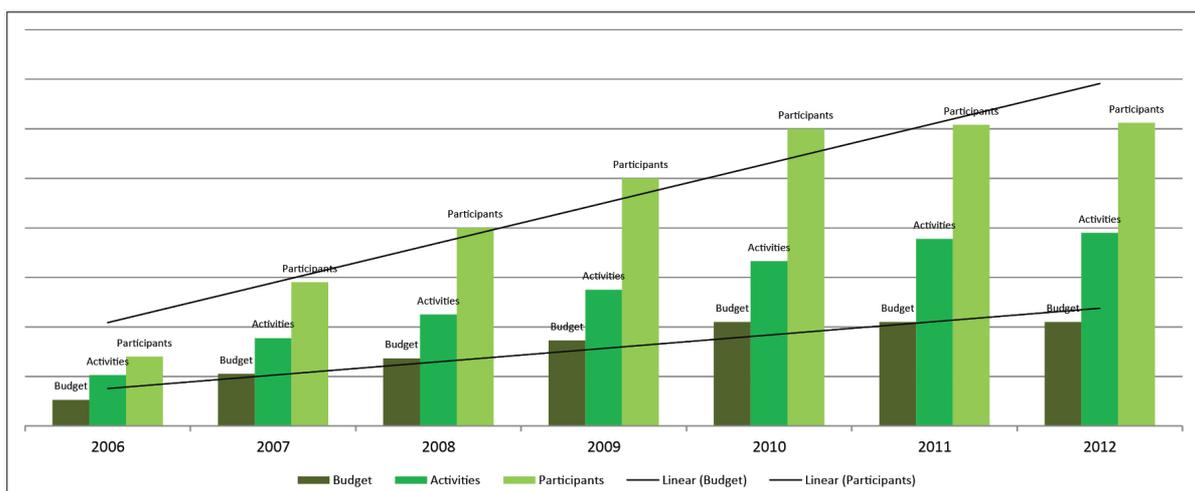
Do you know where this is?

Send your answer with the reference "August newsletter" to the EAHC-BTSF-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu and participate to win BTSF USB key card.

Annual report shows encouraging signs for EAHC's management of BTSF

Another important task carried out by EAHC in recent months has been publication of the 2012 BTSF Annual Report. The Report provides information on a range of aspects, including the training organised in 2012 and that planned for 2013, e-learning, communication and dissemination, the BTSF interim evaluation and contact details of national contact points and contractors.

A particularly interesting part of the report is the graph showing the evolution of BTSF during 2006-12 in terms of numbers of participants and activities and available budget. The graph shows that in 2012 BTSF was, for the first time, able to increase numbers of people trained and activities held, while operating on a lower budget than in previous years.



Over 6 300 participants, mostly EU Member State officials, were trained in 2012 over 156 workshops and sustained training missions. Workshops in EU-based programmes were organised throughout the Union. Programmes for non-EU countries such as those on EU food and feed rules and RASFF and TRACES enabled BTSF to reach participants worldwide in locations across the globe.

An additional point underlined in the Report is that EAHC is now responsible for the execution of almost all BTSF programmes, with only that on GMO analysis still managed by the Commission DG for Health and Consumers. Also, in spite of the steady rise in numbers of training subjects and events and the increased workload this brings, EAHC has improved participant satisfaction levels to over 85% a year ahead of schedule.

Aside from the Annual Report, further encouraging news for BTSF has come from the Interim Report on the evaluation of the impact of BTSF. This shows that more than 96% of participants see the knowledge gained from the training as greatly beneficial to their daily work.

While welcoming these findings, EAHC is determined to further increase the standards and practical relevance of BTSF training and ensure even higher levels of participant satisfaction in the years to come.

The 2012 BTSF Annual Report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/documents/food/BTSFAnnualreport2012_en.pdf.

A new colour for BTSF

The contents of the 2012 Annual Report are not the only interesting thing about it. Readers may also notice the prominence of orange on the front cover and page borders, replacing the green of past editions. This marks a change in the visual presentation of BTSF, with orange to be the colour used to represent the initiative from now on.

In many ways, this change reflects the evolution of BTSF under EAHC's management. Green was an appropriate colour to depict the smaller-scale, ad-hoc nature of BTSF during its early years. Orange represents the ripening of the initiative into a broad-based and structured training instrument which forms a permanent part of the EU's efforts to ensure safe food and feed and high levels of public, animal and plant health.

Upcoming Courses

For up-coming training sessions please check [BTSF calendar](#).