The Better Training for Safer Food initiative - BTSF -

STDF Working Group
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Isabelle Rollier
European Commission
DG Health and Consumers
Legal background - Objective

The Better Training for Safer Food Initiative is a training programme established by the European Commission in order to contribute to achieve the aims set out in Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directive 2000/29/EC.

➢ To provide high-quality training for EU Member State and Third Country control officials working in areas of food and feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules and plant health rules.
Better Training for Safer Food

The initiative started in 2006. 2015 will mark the 10th year of training within BTSF.

• BTSF is a key element of the European Commission's food safety strategy aiming at ensuring the highest safety standards in the control of food production and at increasing the levels of trade in safe food across the globe.

• BTSF widely contributes to a better understanding of the EU Food Safety legislation and leads to more harmonised official controls across the EU.

• BTSF is a very good tool for networking, for promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience among official control staff within and outside the EU.
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• From its launch the initiative has gradually expanded from 7 programmes in 2006 to training in more than 40 different subjects in 2014, all related to food, veterinary and plant health issues.

• So far approximately 42,000 official control staff have attended BTSF courses and seminars, involving EU Member States and participants from 120 countries in the world.
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Budget and activities

- **Slow start in 2006 with a budget of 3,5 M€ and 1400 participants.**

- **Sharp budget increase from 2009 to 2013 to the level of 15M€ and 6000 participants annually on average (EU training only).**

- **Another 8,5 M€ (2013-2016) allocated for external training actions (BTSF WORLD and BTSF ISSB).**
Better Training for Safer Food—WORLD

Six programmes to enhance food security

Two topics:

1/ food hygiene and plant health
2/ animal health and welfare

Three different geographical areas:

1/ Africa and European Neighbourhood Policy countries
2/ Asia and the Pacific States
3/ Latin America and the Caribbean
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Two types of activities

1/ **regional workshops** during 4 days

2/ **sustained training missions**, several missions carried out consecutively throughout a learning pathway
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In Africa, all BTSF activities are inspired by the first action plan of the new Joint Africa-EU Strategy with focus on strengthening the plant health system and guidance to the process leading to an African Food Safety Coordination Mechanism and RASFF,

Bilateral Agreements (such as in Latin American countries, EPA's etc...) inspire subjects of common interest,

Targeted requests via EU Delegations.
Better Training for Safer Food-ISSB

*International Standards Setting Bodies*

- 2 workshops on Codex
  - *Brussels, September 2014*
  - *Astana, October 2014*

- 2 workshops on OIE
  - *Tunis, October 2014*
  - *Eastern ENP, 2015*

- 1 workshop on IPPC
  - *Casablanca, 2015*
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**Working together**

- Non-EU countries may participate to EU Member States' BTSF trainings, according to certain quota's,

- Coordination with other capacity building activities within and beyond the EU (e.g. EDES and PIP, African Veterinary Governance, etc...),

- Collaboration with the private sector.
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Adjust to new surroundings

• Constant growth of the programme and budget, increase of training subjects and number of the participants, new needs, request continuous adaptations in terms of management, procurement strategy, reporting and accounting systems.

• Several new initiatives have complemented the trainings.
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Looking to the future

• The outcome of previous evaluations confirms the success of BTSF and highlights how the programme contributes to expanding individual and institutional capacity on food safety controls.
• Further possibilities for improvement and future demand for the programme are also identified.
• Differentiating and expanding the training offer by introducing e-learning support, embedding the train-the-trainer approach and developing a better dissemination strategy are key factors for the future success of BTSF.
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Dissemination
**Better Training for Safer Food**

**eLearning**

**Already available**

- Animal Welfare (slaughter and culling for disease control)
- Food Contact Materials rules

This module is dedicated to National Competent Authorities of European Member States, Candidate and Third Countries, as well to all interested stakeholders.
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eLearning

Available soon (end 2014-early 2015)

- Principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point audits (HACCP)
- Animal health for aquaculture animals
- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Feed Law

Available by mid 2015

- Animal welfare at slaughter and culling (poultry)
- Plant quarantine regime for import
- Food hygiene in fishery products and live bivalve molluscs,
- Eradication and Control of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSE)
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**BTSF ePlatform**

- To create a space for professional BTSF related social exchange,

- To improve the knowledge sharing principle throughout the alumni or other BTSF related network,

- To increase the exchange and use of the BTSF training material, blended learning.
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http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

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

Thank you