

# EU Food Safety Almanac



2009

## **Impressum**

EU Food Safety Almanac 2009

Published by: BfR-Press Office

Editors: BfR/EFSA Focal Point

No. of copies printed: 2000

The EU Food Safety Almanac is online available ([www.bfr.bund.de](http://www.bfr.bund.de)) and will be updated regularly.

Graphic: Kaiser Matthies, [www.kaisermatthies.com](http://www.kaisermatthies.com)

Typesetting and Printing: Werbedruck Schreckhase, [www.schreckhase.de](http://www.schreckhase.de)

Reprint allowed with permission of the editor.

ISBN

ISSN

# EU Food Safety Almanac

Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung  
Federal Institute for Risk Assessment



# Table of contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. Consumer health protection and food safety</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Food safety in the European Union</b>	<b>8</b>
European Commission	9
Council of the European Union	9
European Parliament	9
European Food Safety Authority	10
Food and Veterinary Office	10
Community Reference Laboratories	10
<b>3. Food safety in the Member States</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1. Austria	11
3.2. Belgium	14
3.3. Bulgaria	17
3.4. Cyprus	20
3.5. Czech Republic	22
3.6. Denmark	25
3.7. Estonia	28
3.8. Finland	31
3.9. France	34
3.10. Germany	37
3.11. Greece	40
3.12. Hungary	43
3.13. Ireland	46
3.14. Italy	49
3.15. Latvia	52
3.16. Lithuania	55
3.17. Luxembourg	58
3.18. Malta	61
3.19. Netherlands	64
3.20. Poland	67
3.21. Portugal	70
3.22. Romania	73
3.23. Slovakia	76
3.24. Slovenia	79
3.25. Spain	81
3.26. Sweden	84
3.27. United Kingdom	87

<b>4. Food safety in neighbouring states</b>	<b>90</b>
4.1. Iceland	90
4.2. Norway	92
4.3. Switzerland	95
<b>5. List of abbreviations</b>	<b>98</b>

# Preface

## Food Safety in the EU: An Almanac

Dear Readers,

Food safety in the European Union is an important goal in the face of the increasingly rapid globalisation of the economy. The range of foods on offer in Europe is steadily growing. This, in turn, leads to an increase in the requirements that have to be met by European countries and the European Union when it comes to the scientific assessment, reduction and effective communication of food risks.

The EU Food Safety Almanac gives an overview of the competent public authorities and the structures of food and feed safety within the European Union. The emphasis is on risk assessment. This overview of the organisational links and cooperation within the European Union not only facilitates the search for European partners but also avoids duplication of work. Likewise, it promotes the clear setting out of responsibilities.

This brochure is intended for everyone interested in food safety structures and institutions, in particular for experts from everyday practice like parliamentarians, the staff of food safety agencies, the specialist and general interest press, consumer associations, the food industry and science.

The EU Food Safety Almanac provides information on the 27 Member States of the European Union as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.



This brochure does not claim to give a full description of the national structures but is intentionally restricted to consumer protection as an object of legal protection. Other objects of legal protection like environmental protection, animal welfare, health and safety at work are, of course, equally important. However, in the interests of transparency, the subject matter was restricted to the main aspects.

During the preparation of this EU-Almanac the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment benefited from excellent and effective support from the EFSA Focal Points and EFSA itself. I would like to express my sincere thanks for their contributions.

Professor Dr. Dr. Andreas Hensel  
BfR President  
and German Representative on the  
EFSA Advisory Forum

# 1. Consumer health protection and food safety

Europe has common legal regulations that offer European consumers a uniform level of protection. National regulations and risk assessments, on their own, no longer provide sufficient protection in a globalised world. European legislation was enacted, transposed into national provisions and supplemented in many cases. The European Commission's White Paper on Food Safety in 2000 was the driver behind a new structure for food safety. It presented a new concept for effective, comprehensive consumer protection: the guarantee of food safety in all production and processing steps along the supply chain "from farm to fork".

This then led to the establishment of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), an independent centre of scientific excellence for risk assessment, and the extension of European food legislation. It also brought about institutional restructuring culminating in the foundation of the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection within the European Commission. This meant that food safety was removed from the area of agricultural policy and assigned to consumer and health policy.

In step with the changes on the EU level, several Member States undertook numerous reforms of their political-administrative structures on the national level. In some Member States, for instance in Germany, the existing systems underwent sweeping restructuring and new public authorities and institutions were set up whilst other Member States simply modified their established regulatory structures. In particular in the accession states from Central and Eastern Europe there proved to be a major need for reform in order to bring their systems into line with EU legislation. The administrative twinning projects conducted in this context also encompassed the administrative food safety structures.

This led to a network of public authorities and institutions in the field of food safety that is now the link between the national and European levels but also between the institutions themselves in the Member States.

The goals of food safety and, by extension, of effective consumer protection are health protection, protection against deception and impartial information for consumers. Without relieving companies and consumers of their responsibilities and their duty of care, state tasks include protecting consumers in the field of food safety by means of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

The first step involves using scientific methods to estimate a risk (risk assessment). The next step is for risk managers to decide on the risk management measures. In addition to the scientific risk assessment, they also look for instance at social and economic aspects when evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of the proposed measures. As consumers can only take independent purchasing decisions when they have sufficient information at their disposal, transparent risk communication is a must for this target group, too. In this way information about food safety is made available to the public at large in a suitable form. Other stakeholders like scientific circles, political decision-makers, companies in the food chain, professional associations, NGOs and other public authorities are included in this interactive exchange of opinions and information.

The institutional organisation of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication takes on different forms in the Member States. On the EU level risk assessment and risk communication are the task of EFSA whereas risk management, a political task, remains with the





of information between the EU Member States and the European Commission in the field of risk-related food and feed.

However, a BfR study from 2004 revealed that the rapid and efficient exchange of information between the institutions responsible for consumer protection is frequently difficult. This prompted the idea for an EU-Almanac. The project was announced by

the European Commission and the EU Council. In a few Member States all three areas of activity are kept together whereas others prefer a functional or institutional division of labour.

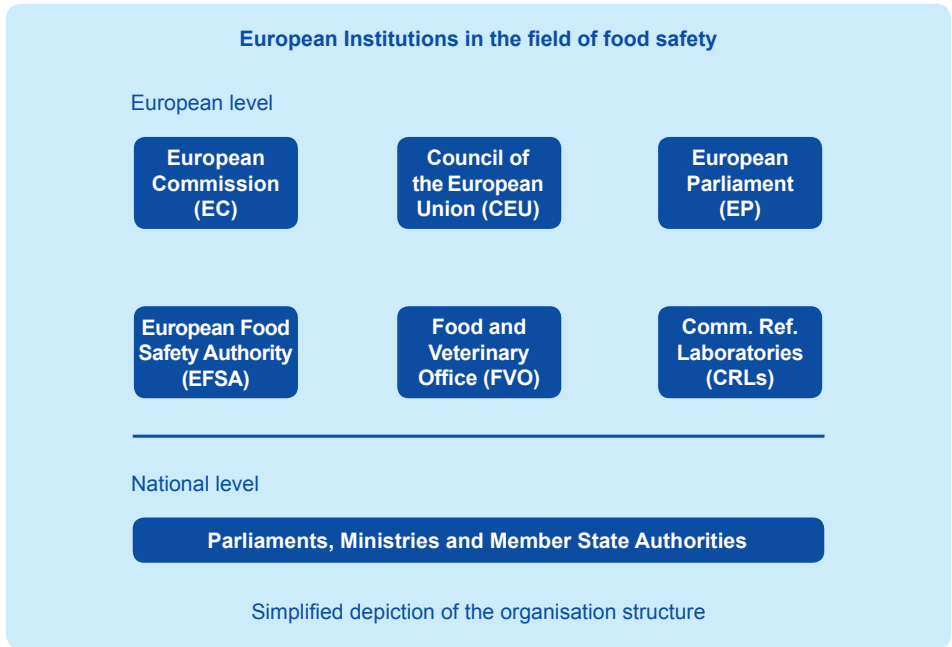
the BfR President, Professor Dr. Dr. Hensel, at a meeting of the heads of the risk assessment authorities within the EU. The goal of the Almanac, a reference work, is to provide clear information on the current food safety structures in the Member States and, in this way, to facilitate the speedier exchange of information, avoid duplication of work, increase transparency and promote effective consumer protection.

It has emerged that sufficient knowledge about food safety and an exchange of information between the various food safety institutions – on the global, Europe-wide and national levels – is becoming increasingly important for consumer protection. On the global level institutions like the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), which publish the Codex Alimentarius, and the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) are involved. On the European level the European Commission, EFSA and the EU Member States engage in cooperation. In particular risk assessments and the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) ensure a steady exchange

The EU-Almanac is an example of constructive cooperation between all the institutions responsible for food safety within the EU. Both EFSA and its Focal Points in the EU are expressly thanked for their contributions to this EU Food Safety Almanac.

Kerstin Heike Kühne  
Klaus J. Henning

## 2. Food safety in the European Union



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 are the central legal foundations for food legislation. Regulations apply directly in all Member States of the European Union (EU) without the Member States having to enact national laws.

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 lays down the general principles and requirements of food law within the EU. It covers all stages of food production and processing along the food chain, “from farm to fork”. In addition it establishes and specifies the remit of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and has created the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) network.

Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 lays down the general principles of official controls performed

to ensure compliance with food and feed law. In particular, it specifies the establishment of Multi-Annual National Control Plans (MNCP) by the Member States and corresponding reporting within the EU.

Within the EU risk assessment is institutionally separated from risk management. While risk assessment of food and feed is undertaken by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), EU risk management is dealt with by the European Commission (EC). Risk communication, the third component in the risk analysis framework, is a shared competence between risk assessors and managers. Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet.

## European Commission (EC)

### Tasks of EC in the areas of food safety

- European law making
- Food safety policy
- Risk management

**Seat:** Brussels  
<http://ec.europa.eu/>



As the “guardian of the treaties”, the EC, together with the European Court of Justice, is responsible for making sure that EU law is properly applied in all Member States. As the EU’s executive arm, the Commission implements the decisions taken by the Council. The Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the EC prepares draft EU legislation in the area of food and feed, animal and plant health. The EC Directorate General Environment deals with the topic drinking water within the EU, the deliberate release of GMOs in the environment, etc

The EC coordinates the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The EC collects, verifies and passes on the information it receives from one Member State to the other Member States and EFSA.

## Council of the European Union (CEU)

### Tasks of the CEU:

- European law making
- Food safety policy
- Risk management

**Seat:** Brussels  
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>



All Member States are represented at Council level. As a co-legislator the Council, together

with the EP, adopts or rejects legislation in the field of food and feed safety. European legislation in the field of public health is adopted by the co-decision procedure, which is the main legislative procedure for the adoption of Community law. The CEU may not submit any draft legislation of its own; the EC has the right to initiate legislation.

One minister from each of the national governments of the Member States attends the meetings of the CEU. He/she represents his/her Member State. The composition of the meetings of the CEU depends on the subjects to be deliberated. In the field of food safety, the CEU meetings “Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs” deal with food safety and the CEU meetings “Environment” with drinking water.

## European Parliament (EP)

### Tasks of EP:

- Food safety policy
- European law making
- Risk management

**Seat:** Strasbourg  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>



The EP is involved to a major degree in the drafting of European law in the field of food safety, too. Many of the European legal provisions are jointly adopted in a co-decision procedure by the CEU and the EP. The EP may not submit any draft legislation of its own; the EC has the right to initiate legislation. However, the EC must take into account the amendments proposed by the EP. The EP monitors the work of the EC, for instance by setting up committees of inquiry.

The EP has 20 permanent committees: the “Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Committee" deals with food safety and drinking water.

### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

#### Tasks of EFSA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Parma

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>



EFSA is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. As a risk assessor, EFSA produces scientific opinions and advice to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation, and to support the EC, EP and EU Member States in taking effective and timely risk management decisions. EFSA's remit covers food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health.

### Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)

#### Tasks of FVO:

- Risk management (inspection and control)

**Seat:** Grange

<http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/>



Based on Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004/EC (article 45 and 46) FVO of the EC ensures effective control systems and assesses how the EU regulations are complied with within the EU and in non-EU countries that export to the EU. This is mainly done by inspections of the competent authorities in the Member States and non-EU countries. FVO provides information on its results and makes recommendations, where appropriate, on remedying shortcomings and monitors their implementation. The FVO inspection reports and the comments of the inspected countries are published on the Internet.

### Community Reference Laboratories (CRL) according to Article 32 Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004

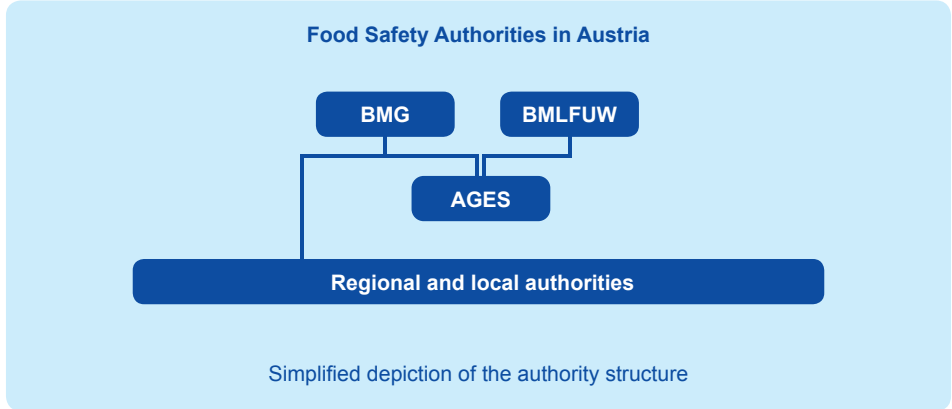
#### Tasks of the CRLs:

- Analytics and diagnostics
- Harmonisation of laboratory methods

CRLs for food and feed contribute to the standardisation of analytical and diagnostic food safety tests. CRLs for food and feed are highly qualified in their specialist area. They contribute to high standards and uniformity of test results within the EU and are responsible for information, co-ordination, initial and continuing training in the National Reference Laboratories in the Member States, and for co-operation with laboratories in non-EU countries. CRLs provide the EC with technical and scientific support in the area of diagnostic and analytical tests. The CRLs for food and feed are listed in Annex VII of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

# 3. Food safety in the Member States

## 3.1. Austria



The Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Austria. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts or administrative authorities decide on measures and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise in the case of measures taken by state authorities, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Austria risk assessment and risk communication are largely separated institutionally from risk management.

Some risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

### Federal level

#### Ministry of Health (BMG)

##### Tasks of BMG:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Vienna

<http://www.bmg.gv.at>



BMG deals with health policy and, more particularly, food safety in Austria. It prepares draft legislation on the basis of risk assessments of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) in the field of food safety, issues ordi-

nances and is responsible for the co-ordination of state food inspections.

The area of activity of BMG includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. BMG is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Austria. Furthermore, it decides on applications for the trial cultivation of genetically modified plants and is also involved in the approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in conjunction with food and feed.

The area of activity of BMG extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and animal welfare.

### **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)**

#### **Tasks of BMLFUW:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety

**Seat:** Vienna

<http://www.lebensministerium.at>



BMLFUW deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food safety in Austria. On the basis of AGES risk assessments it prepares draft legislation and issues ordinances in the fields of food, feed and ground water. The Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES) is the competent specialist authority that supports the work of BMLFUW.

The area of work of BMLFUW extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health and plant protection.

### **Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES)**

#### **Tasks of AGES:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point
- Risk research

**Seat:** Vienna

<http://www.ages.at>



AGES is a GmbH (limited liability company) that is owned by BMG and BMLFUW. In Austria several federal agencies and federal offices from the fields of food inspection, bacteriology and serology, veterinary medicine and agriculture are associated within AGES. AGES is commissioned by the Republic of Austria to undertake risk assessment and communication activities. It assesses risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates risk reduction recommendations independently of any scientific, political or social interests. AGES risk assessments are used by BMG and BMLFUW as the foundation for their management measures. Two other main areas of its work are research and transparent communication with the public at large, sciences and other interested or involved circles. AGES publishes some of its risk assessments.

The area of activity of AGES includes, for instance, feed, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

AGES is the national EFSA Focal Point and the RASFF Contact Point.

21 National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and reference laboratories in the fields of veterinary medicine and human medicine are attached to AGES.

The area of work of AGES extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and plant protection, soil health and fertilisers, seeds and bee health. Another area of its activity is the monitoring and marketing authorisation of medicinal products and medical devices.

### **Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES)**

#### **Tasks of BAES:**

- Risk management

**Seat:** Vienna

<http://www.baes.gv.at>



BAES supports the work of BMLFUW. BAES is integrated into the organisational structure of AGES. Federal agencies like BAES, from various areas along the food chain, are grouped within one company – AGES. BAES is responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of state food inspections in the field of feed.

BAES is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Austria.

The area of work of BAES extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health.

### **Regional and local levels**

The regional and local levels in Austria consist of nine federal states which are broken down into 99 districts (15 urban districts, 84 rural districts). The districts, in turn, are broken down into municipalities. Depending on the distribution of statutory competences, either the federal authorities or the regional and local specialist authorities of the federal states are responsible for implementing food inspections. In the case of the statutory competence of the federal government, the federal government – above all BMG – has transferred the co-ordination and implementation of federal inspections to the federal states in certain specialist areas. By contrast, BMLFUW has assigned the co-ordination and implementation of state food inspections to the subordinate BAES.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Umweltbundesamt GmbH

### 3.2. Belgium

Regulation (EC) No. No. 178/2002 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Belgium. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise, when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Belgium there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk communication from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

A good overview of all Belgian public institutions involved in food policies and controls can be found in the Country Profile of Belgium published by the European Commission.

#### Federal level

#### Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS)

##### Tasks of FPS:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point



**Seat:** Brussels

<https://www.portal.health.fgov.be>



FPS is a ministry on the national level. FPS is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in the field of food policy and legislation.

Several scientific institutional bodies provide risk-based opinions on food safety to FPS: the Belgian Superior Health Council (BSHC), the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council (BBAC), the Commission for Advice on Plant Preparation and, in specific cases, the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAFSC) and external university excellence units.

BSHC is the link between government policy and the scientific world in the field of public health.

The Council provides independent advice and makes recommendations to the Minister and FPS in different areas, in particular in the field of nutrition and food safety.



On the basis of the science-based risk assessments of the Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA) and the Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), which are associated with FPS, it prepares draft legislation in the field of food safety. The risk assessments are the foundation for FPS food policy. There is a regular exchange on specific issues of food safety between FPS and FASFC.

The area of activity of FPS includes, amongst other things, food policy and legislation in the fields of feed, GMOs and novel foods, food supplements, food improvement agents, chemical and microbiological contaminants, allergens, labelling and claims, dietetic products, materials in contact with food, water for human consumption, zoonoses, mineral waters and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. FPS is the regulatory authority for plant protection products. By contrast, the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products is the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP), which is the competent authority responsible for the supervision of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines for human and veterinary use (including homeopathic medicines, herbal medicines, pharmacy-made and officinal preparations) and also of medical devices and accessories, and raw materials for the preparation and production of medicines.

FPS is the national EFSA Focal Point.

The area of work of FPS extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, nutrition policy, animal health, animal welfare, plant protection, environment, cosmetics, biocides and REACH.

### **Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC)**

#### **Tasks of FASFC:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication

- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Brussels

<http://www.afsca.be/home-en>



FASFC is the main inspection authority in terms of food sanitary security and is a relatively new organisation (2000). Its mission is to preserve the safety of the food chain and the quality of food in order to protect the health of humans, animals and plants. The Agency carries out controls of food and its raw materials at all stages of the feed and food chain including production, processing, storage, transport, trade, import and export of food and its raw materials. FASFC organises official controls on the basis of multi-annual control plans which set out the distribution and the number of inspections needed. They are based on the systematic use of checklists, samples and analyses, and determine how official controls are allocated along the production chain. The organisation and implementation of official controls is based on risk analysis, using statistical tools for programming and a uniform distribution amongst business sectors and operators. The frequency of inspections depends on the type of activities, the operator's profile (results of inspections, sanctions) and on whether the operator has its own checking system. It issues certificates, authorisations and permits to carry out activities in the food chain and develops and implements operational legislation. It is also responsible for animal health and plant health controls. To fulfil its tasks the Agency is supported by two consultative committees. The Advisory Committee includes all stakeholders of FASFC and gives opinions on risk management matters (e.g. self-checking, financing, communication). The Scientific Committee is responsible for independent risk assessment and gives opinions on risk management standards and regulations. The FASFC is divided into five sections: the services of the Chief executive officer and four directorates-general.

FASFC is the national RASFF Contact Point.

**Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA) and Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP)**

**Tasks of CODA-CERVA and WIV-ISP:**

- Risk assessment

**Seat:** Brussels

<http://www.var.fgov.be>

<http://iph.fgov.be>

**(CODA-CERVA):**



**(WIV-ISP):**



CODA-CERVA and WIV-ISP are linked to FPS.

By means of scientific research, expert advice and the provision of services, CODA-CERVA contributes to pro-active policies for safe food production, animal health and public health on the federal and international levels.

WIV-ISP, whose main mission is to undertake scientific research with a view to supporting health policy, and to also provide expertise and public services in the field of public health, food safety and the environment.

The area of activity of CODA-CERVA and WIV-ISP includes risk assessments, particularly in conjunction with public health, animal health and the environment. CODA-CERVA and WIV-ISP normally publish their risk assessments on the Internet.

**Regional and local levels**

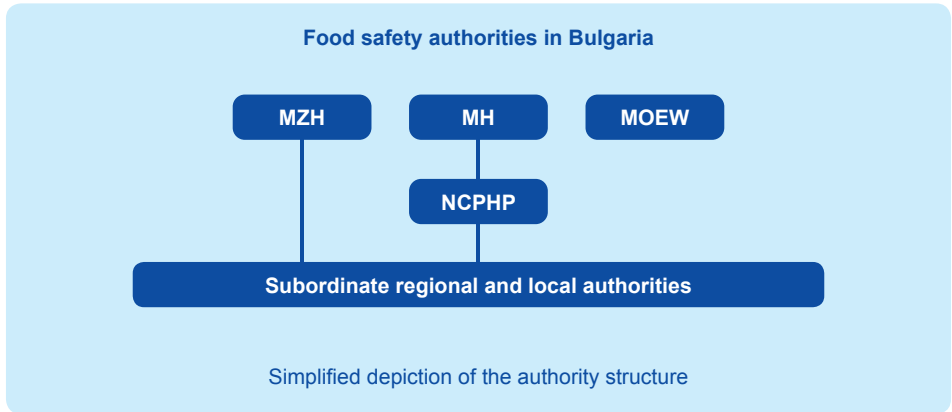
The regional and local levels of the federal country Belgium consist of three regions, 10 provinces and 589 districts. Provincial FASFC

control units are responsible for carrying out food inspections. The central FASFC unit is responsible for co-ordinating the food inspections. The monitoring of drinking water is the responsibility of the regional authorities.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) 178/2002**

1. Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and Scientific Committee of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (Sci Com-FASFC)
2. Belgian Superior Health Council (BSHC)
3. Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council (BBAC)
4. Commission for Advice on Plant Preparation
5. Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP)
6. Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA)
7. Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W)
8. Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
9. Ghent University – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
10. Ghent University – Faculty of Medicine and Health Science
11. Ghent University – Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Food Analysis
12. Ghent University – Laboratory of Phytopharmacy / Fytolab
13. Ghent University – Faculty Bioscience Engineering
14. Centre d’Economie Rurale (CER Group)
15. Gembloux Agricultural University – Laboratory of Ecology
16. Gembloux Agricultural University – GLP Pesticide Science Laboratory
17. Université Catholique de Louvain – Unité de Phytopathologie
18. K.U.Leuven
19. Zootechnical Centre – K.U.Leuven R&D / Laboratory Quality Care in Animal Production
20. University of Liège – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
21. Université Libre de Bruxelles – Biological Control and Spatial Ecology Laboratory

### 3.3. Bulgaria



The Food Law is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Bulgaria. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Bulgaria there is some institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MZH)

##### Tasks of MZH:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Sofia

<http://www.mzh.government.bg>



MZH deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Bulgaria. It prepares draft legislation in the fields of food of animal origin and feed, and is responsible for state inspections. The area of activity of MZH includes, amongst other things, GMOs, zoonoses, veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products and their residues. Risk assessments are mainly conducted by the Expert Council within the Ministry of Health. The main function of the Council is to provide independent scientific advice on matters related to food safety. The Council has committees and working groups that correspond to those of EFSA.

MZH is the national RASFF Contact Point. The Food Safety and Quality Directorate within MZH communicates with the European Commission and coordinates the activities within MZH and the Ministry of Health (MH) for the carrying out of official controls of food and feed. The structure includes the National Veterinary Service, 27 Regional Veterinary Services, eight Border Inspection Posts, the National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Institute, the Central Laboratory for Veterinary Control and Ecology, the National Grain and Feed Service, the Public Health Control Directorate of the MH, 28 RIPH-PCs, the National Centre of Radiology and Radiation and the National Centre of Public Health Protection.

25 National Reference Laboratories are attached to MZH pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of MZH extends beyond food safety to animal health and welfare.

### Ministry of Health (MH)

#### Tasks of MH:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Sofia

<http://www.mh.government.bg>



MH deals with health policy and food safety in Bulgaria. In the field of food safety MH is responsible for the harmonisation of legislation with European provisions, the management and coordination of control activities and inspections performed by the Regional Inspectorates for Public Health Protection and Controls. MH is also the competent authority for monitoring the drinking water intended for human consumption (Directive 98/83/EC).

The area of activity of MH encompasses, amongst other things, food of non-animal origin, including novel foods, GMOs, contaminants and control of plant protection product residues, food contact materials and articles, food supplements, drinking and natural mineral water.

Five National Reference Laboratories are attached to MH pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### Ministry of Environment and Water Bodies (MOEW)

#### Tasks of MOEW

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Sofia

<http://www.moew.government.bg>



MOEW deals with environmental policy and the management and protection of water.

### National Centre for Public Health Protection (NCPHP)

#### Tasks of NCPHP:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Sofia

<http://www.ncphp.government.bg>

<http://www.foodsafety.bg>



NCPHP, that is subordinate to MH, deals with health protection, health education and food safety in Bulgaria. It is responsible for the publication of risk assessments in the fields of food safety and hygiene – chemical con-

taminants (mycotoxins, plant protection products in non-animal products, food additives, nitrates), microbiological hazards, GMOs, FCM, heavy metals, food supplements, novel foods and mineral water. The Food Safety Training Coordination and Support Center is located within NCPHP. It is mainly responsible for the training of health and veterinarian inspectors.

NCPHP is the national EFSA Focal Point.

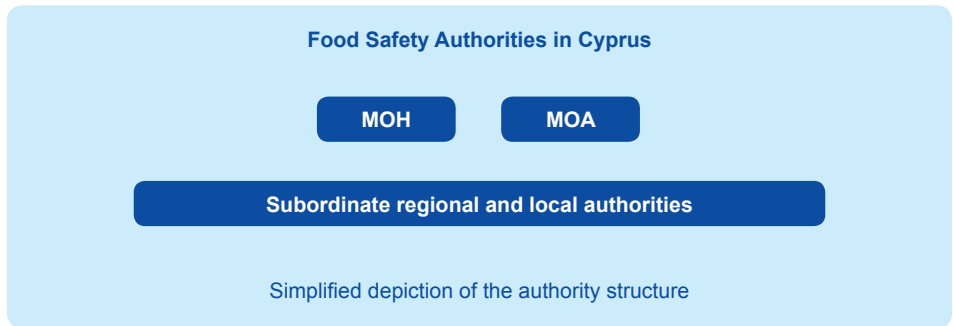
### **Regional and local levels**

Bulgaria is broken down into 28 administrative regions with 264 towns and municipalities. Inspections on the regional and local levels are conducted by authorities that are subordinate to central government. Both MH and MMM have 28 regional services which report their activities to the central level in the Ministries.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. National Centre of Public Health Protection (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Canning Research Institute
3. National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Medical institute
4. Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technology
5. Plant Protection Institute
6. Agricultural University Plovdiv
7. Central Laboratory of Veterinary Control and Ecology
8. University of Food Technologies

### 3.4. Cyprus



The Food Act into line with Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in the Republic of Cyprus. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Cyprus there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published on the Internet.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Health (MOH)

##### Tasks of MOH

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Nicosia

<http://www.moh.gov.cy>

<http://www.sgl.moh.gov.cy>



MOH deals with health policy and food safety in Cyprus. The area of activity of MOH includes, for instance, food hygiene, food of plant origin, ice-cream, honey, drinking and mineral waters, food supplements, GMOs and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.. More specifically, MOH is responsible for sampling, inspection and enforcement, official laboratory food control, drafting of National Multiannual Control Plans in cooperation with MOA, relevant evaluation and risk assessment of the analytical results.

Furthermore, under MOH, a Food Safety Council of Cyprus was established in 2003. Its mem-

bers are representatives of relevant competent authorities and stakeholders.

The State General Laboratory (SGL) of MOH is the national EFSA Focal Point and the Medical and Public Health Service (MPHS) is the RASFF Contact Point.

Six National Reference Laboratories are attached to MOH pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### **Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (MOA)**

#### **Tasks of MOA:**

- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Nicosia

<http://www.moa.gov.cy>



MOA deals with agricultural policy and food and feed safety in Cyprus. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food of animal origin (except ice-cream and honey) and feed, and is responsible for state inspections. The National Residues Plan in animal and animal products is carried out by MOA in cooperation with MOH. The area of work of MOA extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, veterinary medicinal products, plant protection products, zoonoses, plant health, animal health and welfare as well as the registration and approval of establishments and intermediaries.

MOA is the marketing authorisation authority for veterinary medicinal products in Cyprus.

Four National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 are attached to MOH.

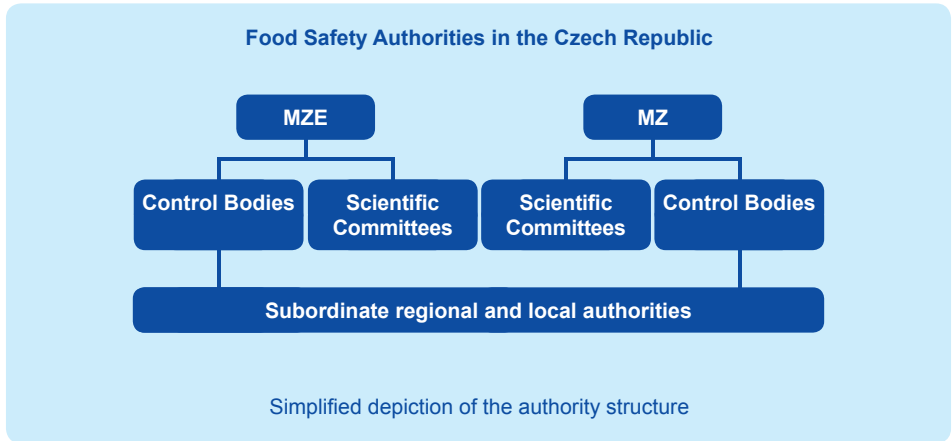
### **Regional and local levels**

The Republic of Cyprus is broken down into six administrative districts. The regional and local levels are subordinate to the central state food safety institutions in a direct chain of instruction and are mainly responsible for the implementation of inspections. Five offices on the regional level and six other local institutions report to MOA. Within the framework of public health five offices have been set up in the administrative districts. 8 out of the 24 autonomous municipalities have their own control competences in the field of food hygiene in the restaurant and catering sector. Their activities are monitored by MOH.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. State General Laboratory, Ministry of Health
2. Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
3. Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
4. Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
5. Public Health Services, Ministry of Health

### 3.5. Czech Republic



Act No. 110/1997 Coll. on food and tobacco products is the central legal foundation for food legislation in the Czech Republic. The government adopted a Strategy to Assure Food Safety in the Czech Republic describing the task in this field. When it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In the Czech Republic there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management. There is procedural separation of risk assessment which is undertaken by five scientific committees.

In principle, risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture (MZE)

##### Tasks of MZE:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Prague  
<http://en.mze.cz>



MZE deals with agricultural policy and food safety in the Czech Republic. It is responsible for foods of animal and plant origin and also for state food inspections.

The area of activity of MZE also includes, amongst other things, food and feed, animal welfare and health, veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products and their residues, drinking water, GMOs and food labeling.



MZE is in charge of supervision especially in the following areas:

### **Czech Agricultural and Food Inspection**

**Authority** – food of plant origin, retail of food products of animal origin

**State Veterinary Administration** – production, processing and distribution of food and feed of animal origin, animal health and welfare, border inspection

**Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture** – hygiene of production, processing, distribution and retail of feedstuffs

**State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA)** – phytosanitary matters, plant protection products

**Czech Breeding Inspection** – animal identification and registration

**Institute for the State Control of Biological and Veterinary Medicinal Products (with SPA)** – veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products in the Czech Republic.

Risk communication is another main area of its work. The Food Safety Information Centre was set up to assume this task. Its aim is to make accurate, generally accessible information covering the entire food production chain from the farm to the consumer (including feed) referred to as “Farm to Fork” available in a timely manner to the general public.

MZE is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to relevant competent authorities, which come within the portfolio of MZE and MZ, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

## **Ministry of Health (MZ)**

### **Tasks of MZ**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- Food hygiene

**Seat:** Prague

<http://www.mzcr.cz>



MZ deals with public health protection and food safety in the Czech Republic. The area of activity of MZ includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food contact materials, contaminants, additives, mineral water and food supplements. Its inspection competence is restricted to food hygiene and, more particularly, the catering trade.

The relevant competent authorities are Public Health Authorities (NIPH National Institute of Public Health, RPHI and Regional Public Health Institutes).

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to the MZ.

### **Regional and local levels**

The Czech Republic is broken down into 14 regions which are, in turn, broken down into districts.

For the food and feed inspections there are regional offices (SVA and PHA in 14 regions, CAFIA and SPA in 7, CISTA in 6 regions).

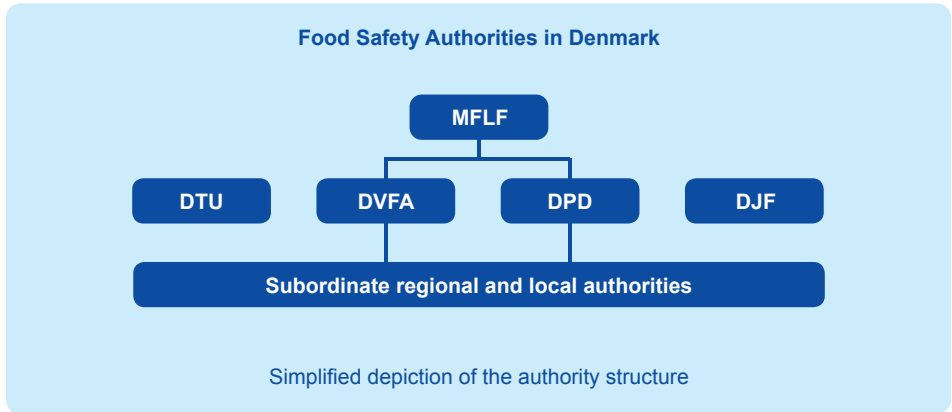
In the field of animal welfare it is the responsibility of the municipalities to take measures to deal with infringements.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36, Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry – Department of Animal Breeding

2. National Institute of Public Health
3. Veterinary Research Institute
4. Research Institute of Crop Production
5. Research Institute of Animal Production
6. Regional Public Health Institute of Hradec Kralove
7. Regional Public Health Institute of Brno
8. Regional Public Health Institute of Kolín
9. Regional Public Health Institute of Jihlava
10. Regional Public Health Institute of Liberec
11. Regional Public Health Institute of Olomouc
12. Regional Public Health Institute of Pardubice
13. Regional Public Health Institute of Prague
14. Regional Public Health Institute of Ústí nad Labem
15. Regional Public Health Institute of Pilsen
16. Department of Quality of Agricultural Products, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague
17. Food Research Institute Prague
18. Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology
19. Institute of Public Health in Ostrava

### 3.6. Denmark



The Danish Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Denmark. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Denmark risk assessment is largely separated institutionally from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (MFLF)

##### Tasks of MFLF:

- Agricultural policy, food safety

**Seat:** Copenhagen  
<http://www.fvm.dk>

MFLF deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Denmark. MFLF prepares draft legislation in the field of food and feed safety. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA), the Danish Plant Directorate (DPD) and the Directorate of Fisheries (DF) are the competent specialist authorities that support the work of MFLF.

The area of work of MFLF extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

#### Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA)

##### Tasks of DVFA:

- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Copenhagen  
<http://www.uk.foedevarestyrelsen.dk>



As the subordinate specialist authority of MFLF, DVFA is responsible for risk management in the field of food safety. DVFA co-ordinates state

food inspections. The risk assessments of the National Food Institute (DTU) of the Danish Technical University (DTU) are used by DVFA as the basis for management measures in the field of food safety.

The area of activity of DVFA includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

DVFA is the national RASFF Contact Point.

The area of work of DVFA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, consumer products.

### Danish Plant Directorate (DPD)

#### Tasks of DPD:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Copenhagen

<http://www.pdir.fvm.dk>



As the specialist authority that supports MFLF, DPD is responsible for feed safety. DPD co-ordinates state feed inspections. The risk assessments of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF) of the University of Aarhus (UA) are used by DPD as the basis for management measures in the area of feed.

The area of activity of DPD includes, amongst other things, residues of plant protection products and GMOs in feed.

Seven National Reference Laboratories are attached to DPD pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of DPD extends beyond the area of feed safety to, for instance, plant health.

### National Food Institute (DTU) of the Danish Technical University

#### Tasks of DTU:

- Risk assessment
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Copenhagen

<http://www.food.dtu.dk>



The area of activity of DTU includes science-based risk assessments and research in the field of food safety and drinking water. The risk assessments of DTU are used by MFLF and DVFA as the basis for management measures and by the Danish EPA for the regulation and management of drinking water.

DTU prepares risk assessments, more particularly in conjunction with novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. DTU normally publishes its risk assessments on the Internet.

DTU is the national EFSA Focal Point. 23 National Reference Laboratories are attached to DTU pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. Furthermore, DTU is also the EU Community Reference Laboratory for Pesticides in Cereals and Feedingstuffs and for Antimicrobial Resistance.

The area of work of DTU extends beyond food safety to, for instance, consumer products and health claims. DTU conducts research, provides education and gives advice on nutrition food safety, food technology, environment and health. Furthermore, DTU undertakes the hazard characterization of chemicals used by the Danish EPA for the risk management of chemicals in the environment, cosmetics and non-food products on the Danish marked.

## Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (DJF)

### Tasks of DJF:

- Risk assessment

**Seat:** Tjele

<http://www.agrsci.dk>



The area of activity of DJF includes science-based risk assessments in the field of feed safety. The risk assessments of DJF are used by MFLF and DPD as the basis for management measures.

DJF prepares risk assessments, more particularly in conjunction with the residues of plant protection products and GMOs in feed. DJF normally publishes its risk assessments on the Internet.

The area of work of DJF extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health.

## Regional and local levels

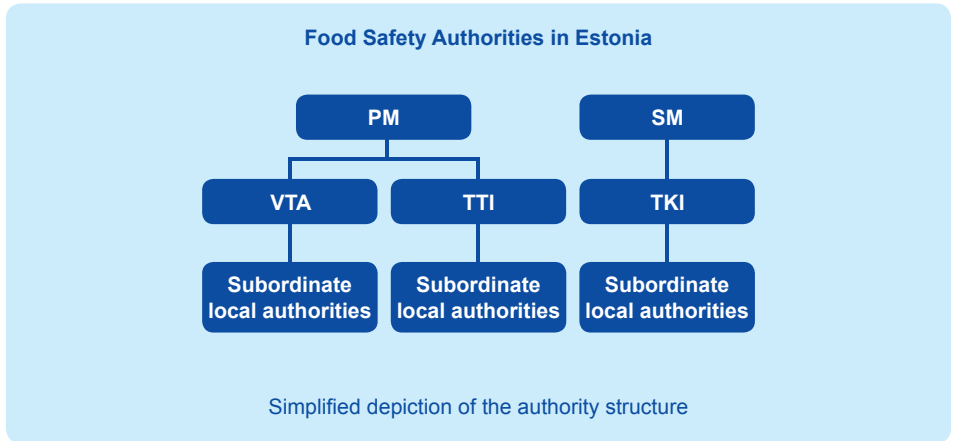
The regional and local levels in Denmark consist of five regions and 98 districts. On the regional level three Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations (RVFA) of DVFA are responsible for food inspections. When it comes to decision-making, the RVFAs are independent of DVFA. The RVFAs have a total of 10 food inspection authorities which carry out food inspections. RVFAs are also information and advice centres for business operators and consumers.

DPD has feed inspections carried out by six local authorities.

## Institutes involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. National Food Institute and National Veterinary Institute of the Technical University of Denmark (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Environmental Research Institute
3. Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen
4. The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Aarhus University

3.7. Estonia



The central legal foundations in food and feed legislation in Estonia are the Food Act and the Feed Act. They contain provisions on hygiene, labelling, control and on the responsible competent authorities or control bodies in the field of food and feed safety. In the case of infringements of food law or reasonable doubt about infringements, the competent authority acts according to the relevant chapters presented in the Food Act and Feed Act. The scale of the implemented measures is frequently based on risk assessments. If a formal provision is not followed or acted upon, then penalties will be imposed. In the case of a food business operator who objects to the measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Estonia there are signs of the institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

There is no routine publishing of the results of risk assessment. They are made available depending on the scale of the result or on the request.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture (PM)**

**Tasks of PM:**

- Agricultural policy and food safety
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Tallinn  
<http://www.agri.ee>

PM deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food safety in Estonia. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food and feed. The main focus of the work of PM is the co-ordination of analysis. It co-ordinates the performance of state tasks in food safety. PM, the Ministry of the Environment (ME) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA) work together in the field of GMOs. The Veterinary and Food Board (VTA) and the Plant Production Inspectorate (TTI) facilitate the work of PM within their remit as the competent authorities and executive bodies. They are responsible for official food and feed control.

PM is the national EFSA Focal Point.

There are two National Reference Laboratories (Veterinary and Food Laboratory, Agricultural Research Centre) attached to PM according to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of PM extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Social Affairs (SM)

#### Tasks of SM:

- Health policy
- Risk management

**Seat:** Tallinn  
<http://www.sm.ee>

SM deals with health policy in Estonia. It prepares draft legislation in the field of drinking water, mineral water and spring water. SM, PM and ME work together in the field of GMOs. The Health Protection Inspectorate (TKI) and the State Agency of Medicines (SAM) support the work of SM in their capacity as the competent authorities. SAM is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Estonia, except for their use by veterinarians and animal keepers.

The area of activity of SM extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition in public institutions in Estonia.

### Health Protection Inspectorate (TKI)

#### Tasks of TKI:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Tallinn  
<http://www.tervisekaitse.ee>



TKI is subordinate to SM. The area of activity of TKI includes risk assessments, risk management measures and risk communication, more particularly in conjunction with drinking water, natural mineral water and spring water. TKI is the responsible authority for natural mineral water recognition and the competent authority for drinking water. In the field of drinking water, mineral water and spring water, it monitors and co-ordinates the tasks of the regional and local authorities that are subordinate to TKI.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to TKI in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### Veterinary and Food Board (VTA)

#### Tasks of VTA:

- Risk management
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Tallinn  
<http://www.vet.agri.ee>



VTA is subordinate to PM. The main focus of the work of VTA is risk management and risk communication. VTA monitors and co-ordinates the tasks of the local authorities which are subordinate to it. Risk assessment is outsourced to research institutes, universities and laboratories.

The area of activity of VTA includes, amongst other things, feed, food supplements, GMOs, food contact materials, zoonoses, novel foods and residues of veterinary medicinal products.

VTA is the national RASFF Contact Point.

The area of work of VTA extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, animal health

and animal welfare, organic production, animal breeding and market control.

### **Plant Production Inspectorate (TTI)**

#### **Tasks of TTI:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Saku

<http://www.plant.agri.ee>



TTI is subordinate to PM. The area of activity of TTI includes risk assessments, risk management and risk communication measures, more particularly in conjunction with plant protection products (PPPs). TTI is the regulatory authority for the authorisation of plant protection products in Estonia. The task of TTI is to promote the availability of PPPs that are safer for users and consumers and to control the use of PPPs in order to ensure that plant production meets the requirements.

The area of work of TTI extends beyond plant protection products to, for instance, plant health.

### **Regional and local levels**

There are 15 Veterinary Centers (VC), the VTA local offices. One VC is, located in every county in Estonia. VCs are responsible for enacting food and feed legislation and carrying out food and feed control.

TTI has 15 regional bureaus, one in each county, responsible for conducting physical inspections. One inspector in every bureau is responsible for controlling the use of PPPs.

TKI consists of a Central Authority and four regional services (Health Protection Services). Regional services have their county divisions.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Estonian Environmental Research Centre
2. Estonian Veterinary and Food Laboratory
3. Health Protection Inspectorate Tartu Laboratory
4. University of Tartu
5. Estonian Research Institute of Agriculture
6. Tallinn University of Technology
7. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences of the Estonian University of Life Sciences



### 3.8. Finland



The Finnish Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Finland.

In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on penalties under the Penal Code (39/1889) or the Food Act. In cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses and when it comes to the legality of state measures the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Finland risk assessments are carried out independently and are organisationally separate from risk management.

Risk assessments are publicly available.

In Finland there are five National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)

##### Tasks of MMM:

- Food and feed safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Helsinki  
<http://www.mmm.fi>

Ministerial responsibility for food and feed safety is centralised in Finland within MMM. It bears policy and legislative responsibility.

The area of activity of MMM includes feed, animal welfare, animal health, plant health and plant protection. Its responsibility for animal products encompasses all processing stages except distribution.

## Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM)

### Tasks of STM:

- Nutrition policy
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Helsinki

<http://www.stm.fi>



In the food sector STM deals with nutrition policy, including the legislation on water for household consumption. The Board of Gene Technology which is responsible for coordinating activities under the EC genetic engineering directives also comes under the STM.

## Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira)

### Tasks of Evira:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Helsinki, several regional seats

<http://www.evira.fi>



Evira operates under MMM. It is the central authority in the field of food and feed safety in Finland. It is responsible for the national food control programme covering the food chain from farm to fork, and also for co-ordinating and implementing state inspections. Evira plays a leading role in the development of inspection plans and their implementation. It carries out some of the inspections itself. Major responsibility for this lies, however, with the regional and municipal authorities.

The area of work of Evira extends to food, food hygiene, novel foods, zoonoses, GMOs, mineral

waters, feed and plant protection products, their residues and consumer safety, as well as food contaminants and supplements.

Evira is responsible for scientific risk assessment and conducts scientific research on food safety. It also acts as the link to consumers and organises risk communication.

Evira is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

The Finnish Zoonosis Centre located within Evira forms a co-operation body between Evira and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). This ensures close co-operation between relevant experts in the field of food and feed safety as well as animal and public health.

The area of work of Evira extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and veterinary medicinal products.

## National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira)

### Tasks of Valvira:

- Risk Management

**Seat:** Helsinki

<http://www.valvira.fi>



Valvira is responsible in the field of food safety for the supervision of tap water. Valvira is also in charge of the implementation and control activities of the national Gene Technology Act.

## Finnish Customs

### Tasks of Finnish Customs:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Helsinki

<http://www.tulli.fi>

Finnish Customs (under the Ministry of Finance) are the competent authority for food of non-animal origin at import.

### **Regional and local levels**

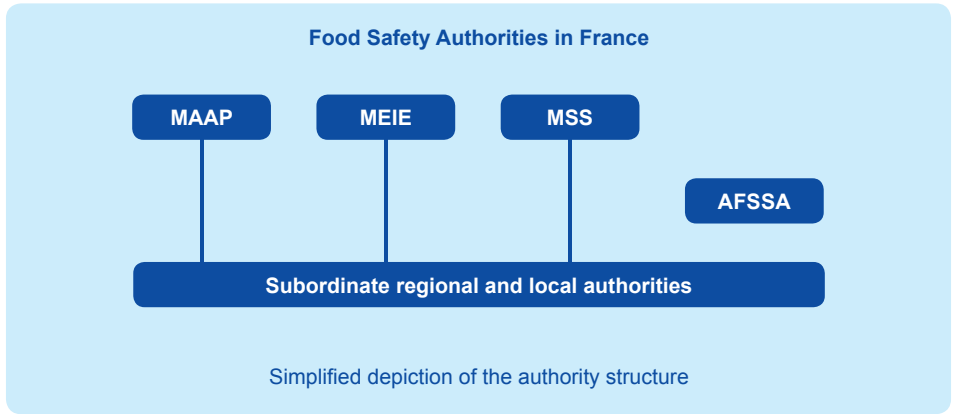
The six administrative provinces in Finland are steered by a Governor appointed by the President. The provinces are broken down into 348 communes.

The regional and local levels (132 units) are integrated into the control of food and feed. In this context the six provincial officers audit the municipal food control authorities. In addition, the 15 regional Employment and Economic Development Centres undertake official controls on behalf of Evira in certain sectors (animal identification and registration and certain animal feed and plant health controls). The reform of the regional level is scheduled for 2010.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority
3. Finnish Environment Institute
4. University of Helsinki (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Food Technology)
5. National Institute for Health and Welfare
6. University of Helsinki, Department of Applied Chemistry and Microbiology
7. University of Kuopio, Institute of Applied Biotechnology
8. Functional Foods Forum, University of Turku
9. Helsinki University of Technology laboratory of Biochemistry and Microbiology
10. MTT Agrifood Research Finland

3.9. France



The Act on the health monitoring and safety control of products intended for human beings is the central legal foundation for food regulation in France. In the case of infringements of the food law or in case of dispute (consumers’ damage claims vis-à-vis food businesses), the final decisions are up to the courts. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessment, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

Risk assessment and communication on risk assessment are separated institutionally from risk management and the related risk communication.

Opinions and statements are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (MAAP)**

**Tasks of MAAP:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Paris

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/>



MAAP deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, with food safety in the agro-food and food businesses. It prepares bills on agricultural products, foods of animal and plant origin and feed. It is responsible for state in-

spections in these fields. Risk assessments of the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) are used by MAAP as the scientific foundation for management measures. Another main area of its tasks is risk communication.

The area of activity of MAAP includes, amongst other things, feed, GMOs, zoonoses, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. MAAP is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in France.

The area of work of MAAP extends beyond food safety to, in particular, plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment (MEIE)

#### Tasks of MEIE:

- Consumer policy, food safety
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Paris

<http://www.minefe.gouv.fr/>



MEIE deals with consumer policy. As such, it is responsible for state food inspections of all products of non-animal origin. Risk assessments of AFSSA are used by MEIE as the scientific foundation for management measures. Another main area of its work is risk communication.

The area of activity of MEIE includes, amongst other things, food supplements, novel foods, mineral waters, residues of plant protection products and GMOs in food of non-animal origin.

MEIE is the national RASFF Contact Point.

### Ministry of Health and Sport (MSS)

#### Tasks of MSS:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Paris

<http://www.sante-sports.gouv.fr/>



MSS deals with health policy and food safety. It prepares bills in the field of mineral and drinking water and is responsible for state drinking water inspections. Risk assessments of AFSSA are used by MSS as the scientific foundation for management measures. MHS is in charge of investigations of food-borne diseases. Another main area of its work is risk communication.

### French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA)

#### Tasks of AFSSA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk assessment communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- Risk research / Scientific and technical support

**Seat:** Paris

<http://www.afssa.fr/>



The area of activity of AFSSA includes science-based risk assessments in the field of food safety. Risk assessments of AFSSA are used by MAAP, MSS and MEIE as the foundation for management measures. AFSSA assesses risks, identifies (re)emerging health risks and elaborates risk control recommendations.

The activity of AFSSA covers food and feed (microbiological and chemical safety, including

drinking and mineral water), nutrition, plant protection products and plant health, animal health and welfare. AFSSA also deals with novel foods, food supplements and GMOs (vis-à-vis food safety only for the latter).

13 collective expertise panels produce opinions according to their respective remits. AFSSA publishes the opinions on the Internet.

Further main areas of its work are research and transparent communication on risk assessment with the public at large, science and other involved or interested circles.

The National Agency for Veterinary Medicinal Products (ANMV), which is part of AFSSA, is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in France.

Eleven National Reference Laboratories are attached to AFSSA pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

AFSSA is the national EFSA Focal Point.

### **Regional and local levels**

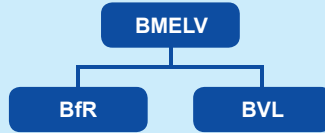
The regional and local levels in France consist of 26 regions and 100 départements (four overseas). The public authorities in the départements are offices of the national ministries and report to the central government. The implementation of feed and food inspections is undertaken by the corresponding regional and local offices of the ministries.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments
2. Agrocampus Ouest
3. Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
4. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
5. Centre national du Machinisme Agricole, du Génie Rural, des Eaux et Forêts
6. Commission du Génie Biomoléculaire
7. Commission du Génie Génétique
8. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort
9. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Lyon
10. Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse
11. Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie et des Industries Alimentaires
12. Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs des Travaux Agricoles Clermont-Ferrand
13. Ecole nationale supérieure de biologie appliquée à la nutrition et à l'alimentation, Laboratoire de Toxicologie Alimentaire, Université de Bourgogne
14. Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer
15. Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
16. Institut Pasteur (Paris)
17. Institut Pasteur de Lille
18. Laboratoire de Toxicologie Alimentaire, EA 3880, Université de Bretagne Occidentale
19. Laboratoire National de la Protection des Végétaux

### 3.10. Germany

#### Food Safety Authorities in Germany



Ministries and subordinate public authorities in the 16 federal states

Simplified depiction of the authority structure

The Food and Feed Code is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Germany. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body

In Germany risk assessment and risk communication are largely separated institutionally from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this. Consumer protection laws are enacted on the federal level. The federal states (regional level) are responsible for control.

#### Federal level

#### Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)

##### Tasks of BMELV:

- Consumer policy and food safety

**Seat:** Bonn, Berlin  
<http://www.bmelv.de>

BMELV deals with consumer policy and, more particularly, food safety in Germany. In the field of food safety BMELV prepares draft legislation and issues ordinances. The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a specialist authority within the portfolio of BMELV. It contributes to the enforcement of legislation by undertaking statutory risk assessments and advises political circles. On management issues, the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) undertakes preparatory work for BMELV. The portfolio of BMELV also encompasses other federal research institutions like, for instance, the Max Rubner-Institute in the field of nutrition.

#### Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

##### Tasks of BMU:

- Environmental policy

**Seat:** Bonn, Berlin  
<http://www.bmu.de>

BMU is responsible for food risks that stem from the anthropogenic effects of air, water and soil (environmental contaminants). BfR and BVL, the competent specialist authorities in this area, support BMU in the field of food safety. The Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the

Federal Office for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) support the work of BMU as the competent specialist authorities in its portfolio. Effective environmental protection contributes to the production of healthy, largely uncontaminated food. BMELV is responsible for the other areas of food safety.

### Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

#### Tasks of BfR:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- Risk research

**Seat:** Berlin

<http://www.bfr.bund.de>



BfR's area of activity encompasses scientifically based risk assessments as part of administrative procedures, for instance marketing authorisations for plant protection products, and policy advice. The BfR risk assessments are used by BMELV, BMU and regional/local public authorities as the basis for management measures. Without being influenced by scientific, political or social interests BfR has the task of assessing risks, identifying new health risks and drawing up risk minimisation recommendations. In this context, it draws on the support of independent expert committees. In its capacity as a scientific body that enjoys independence in respect of the results of its opinions, BfR prepares expert reports on risk assessment.

BfR's area of activity includes, amongst other things, novel foods and food ingredients, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, GMOs food, food supplements, zoonoses, food contact materials and mineral waters. Other main areas of its work are research and transparent communication with

the public at large, scientific circles and other stakeholders. BfR normally publishes its risk assessments on the Internet.

BfR is the national EFSA Focal Point.

14 national reference laboratories are attached to BfR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

In addition to food safety, the BfR sphere of activity also extends, for instance, to consumer products, cosmetics, biocides, chemicals (REACH) and intoxication notifications.

### Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

#### Tasks of BVL:

- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Braunschweig, Berlin

<http://www.bvl.bund.de>



The main focus of the BVL work is on risk management. In the field of food safety BVL supports cooperation between BMELV, BMU and the federal states. Together with the federal states, it coordinates programmes for food surveillance in order to achieve uniform monitoring in all federal states. BVL is the regulatory authority for novel foods and food ingredients, plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products in Germany. In its decision-making process BVL normally draws on the BfR risk assessments. On the basis of BfR risk assessments, BVL also decides on applications for the experimental scientific cultivation of genetically modified plants. Furthermore, it is involved in the marketing authorisation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food and feed. BVL is the National Contact Point for plant protection products.



BVL is the national RASFF Contact Point.

Four national reference laboratories are attached to BVL pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

In addition to food safety, the sphere of activity of BVL also extends, for instance, to consumer products.

### **Federal Environmental Agency (UBA)**

#### **Tasks of UBA:**

- Risk assessment

**Seat:** Dessau

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de>



UBA is a specialist authority within the portfolio of BMU. The Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) is responsible for drinking water in the field of food safety. UBA provides support for the BMG management decisions. Other statutory tasks include informing the public at large about environmental protection.

### **Regional and local levels**

In principle, the federal states are responsible for implementing laws in Germany. The enact-

ment of food and feed legislation, in particular official controls, is also a task of the federal states. The 16 federal states in Germany, with between 1 million and 20 million inhabitants, are independent and are not in principle bound by the instructions of the federal government. Germany has a total of around 430 food inspection authorities and approximately 30 test authorities. The ministry responsible for food safety in each federal state coordinates and controls surveillance. In order to guarantee uniform surveillance practices in all federal states, the federal states coordinate their activities mainly in working groups in which the federal level is also involved.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit
3. Bundesamt für Naturschutz
4. Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut
5. Julius Kühn-Institut
6. Max Rubner-Institut
7. Robert Koch-Institut
8. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ernährung
9. Forschungsinstitut für Kinderernährung

3.11. Greece



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Greece. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise, when it comes to the legality of state measures that are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Greece there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Rural Development and Food (YAAT)**

**Tasks of YAAT:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Athens

<http://www.minagric.gr>

YAAT deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, with the food safety of agricultural products in Greece. In this area it implements horizontal and vertical legislation food and feed and is responsible for the co-ordination of veterinary inspections. The basis for YAAT management measures are the risk assessments undertaken by YAAT itself. Another focus of its work is transparent communication with the public at large.

The area of activity of YAAT includes, amongst other things, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses. In this context it monitors the carrying out of inspections by the local authorities. YAAT is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Greece. By contrast, the National Organisation for Medicines is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products.

15 National Reference Laboratories come under the remit of YAAT pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of YAAT extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, plant protection, animal health, animal welfare and biocides.



## Ministry of Development (YA)

### Tasks of YA:

- Consumer policy
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Athens

<http://www.ypan.gr>

The General Secretariat of Consumers is under YA and deals with consumer policy.

## Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (YYKA)

### Tasks of YYKA:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Athens

<http://www.mohaw.gr>



YYKA deals with health policy. It is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management in the field of mineral waters and drinking water.

## Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)

### Tasks of EFET:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Athens

<http://www.efet.gr>



EFET is under the supervision of YAAT. EFET deals with food supervision and food inspections in Greece. The central EFET authority monitors and co-ordinates the tasks of the regional EFET authorities. Risk assessments undertaken by EFET itself are the basis for management measures and communication by EFET. EFET assesses food risks independently of any scientific, political or social interests. Another focus of its work is transparent communication with the public at large.

The area of activity of EFET includes, amongst other things, novel foods, GMOs and residues of plant protection products. Chemical food risks are assessed by the General Chemical State Laboratory and by EFET.

EFET is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

20 National Reference Laboratories are attached to EFET pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of EFET extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition and labelling.

## The National Organization for Medicines (EOF)

### Tasks of EOF:

- RASFF management

**Seat:** Athens

[http://eof1.eof.gr/eof\\_en/enhome.html](http://eof1.eof.gr/eof_en/enhome.html)



The EOF is responsible for medicinal products for veterinary use, foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses, and food supplements.

## Regional and local levels

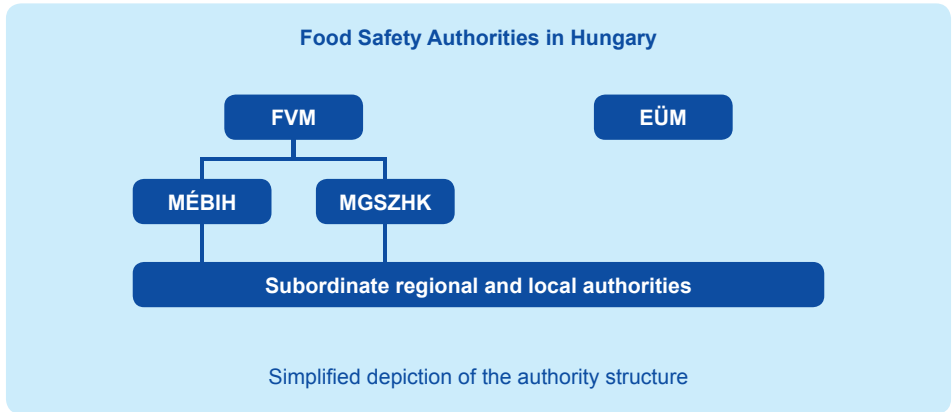
The regional and local levels in Greece consist of 13 administrative districts, 54 prefectures

and 1,000 municipal authorities. Seven regional EFET authorities and local authorities are responsible for the implementation of food inspections. YAAT and the central EFET authority are responsible for co-ordinating the food inspections. The General Chemical State Laboratory (G.C.S.L) with its regional Services (Chemical Services), under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, is mainly responsible for the laboratory analysis of foodstuffs. At central level, GCSL co-ordinates and oversees the Chemical Services that carry out the official analysis. At prefectural level, the Chemical Services mainly deal with the chemical analysis of foodstuffs

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Hellenic Food Authority (EFSA Focal Point)
2. General Chemical State Laboratory
3. National Agricultural Research Foundation – Institute of Technology of Agricultural Products
4. MS and Dioxin Analysis Lab, NCSR DEMOKRITOS
5. Institute of Food Hygiene
6. Food Industrial Research & Technology Development Company
7. Benaki Phytopathological Institute
8. Directorate of Plant Produce Protection, Department of Pesticides
9. University of Athens – Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Public Health Nutrition and Nutritional, Epidemiology Unit, Medical school, National and Kapodistrian, Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry
10. University of Crete/Faculty of Medicine – Laboratory of Clinical Bacteriology, Parasitology, Zoonoses and Geographical Medicine/WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mediterranean Zoonoses
11. Agricultural University of Athens
12. Department of Science of Dietetics-Nutrition, Harokopio University
13. NTUA, School of Chemical Engineering, Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Technology
14. Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
15. Technological Educational Institute
16. University of Thessaly, Veterinary Faculty

### 3.12. Hungary



The Food Chain Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Hungary. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise in the case of the measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Hungary risk assessment and risk communication are largely separated institutionally from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FVM)

##### Tasks of FVM:

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Budapest  
<http://www.fvm.hu>



The Minister of FVM supervises almost all food chain safety activities. The ministry's core tasks are: drafting legislation and international relations in the fields of feed inspections, food safety, food quality and food hygiene and in relation to the approval, distribution and monitoring of veterinary medicines. FVM carries out the coordination tasks relating to food safety monitoring through the Hungarian Food Safety Office.

The area of activity of FVM includes, amongst other things, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products,

GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water and drinking water.

The area of work of FVM extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant and animal health, animal feed, animal welfare, veterinary medicines, and border inspections relating to plant and animal health.

### Ministry of Health (EÜM)

#### Tasks of EÜM:

- Health policy and consumer protection
- Risk management

**Seat:** Budapest

<http://www.eum.hu>

EÜM is responsible for tasks related to public health. The EÜM's area of competence covers legislation on food supplements, dietetic products, infant and follow-on formulae, health and nutrition claims. EÜM supervises the National Office of the Chief Medical Officer which is responsible for nutrition and health claims, food supplements and novel foods and is a partner of EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

### Hungarian Food Safety Office (MÉBIH)

#### Tasks of MÉBIH:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Budapest

<http://www.mebih.hu>



MÉBIH is a central governmental organisation. Its operation is supervised by FVM. One of its core tasks is to liaise with international and Hungarian institutions, to coordinate, to com-

municate and to assess the health risks derived from food and indirectly from feed. The Office is supported by the professional knowledge and activities of its Scientific Committee and nine Scientific Panels – consisting of reputed Hungarian experts. In addition to ministries, authorities and laboratories involved in food control in Hungary, the Office co-operates with scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations and professional associations. MÉBIH is involved in the European novel food authorisation. One of its main tasks is providing risk-based advice for monitoring activities and sampling plans for food and feed control authorities. MÉBIH gathers, analyses and evaluates information about food and feed safety. MÉBIH provides reliable, up-to-date information for both experts and the general public concerning food safety (e.g. via a weekly newsletter and its website).

MÉBIH's area of activity includes, amongst other things, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, novel foods, zoonoses, mineral water and drinking water.

MÉBIH is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

### Central Agricultural Administrative Office (MGSZHK)

#### Tasks of MGSZHK:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Budapest

<http://www.mgszh.gov.hu>

The Agricultural Administrative Office consists of its central and regional institutions. MGSZHK oversees inspection and monitoring in relation to plant health, feed inspections, animal health, animal welfare, border controls, food safety, food quality and food hygiene and the approval, distribution and monitoring of veterinary medi-

cines. In addition, MGSZHK monitors national reference and other official laboratory tasks.

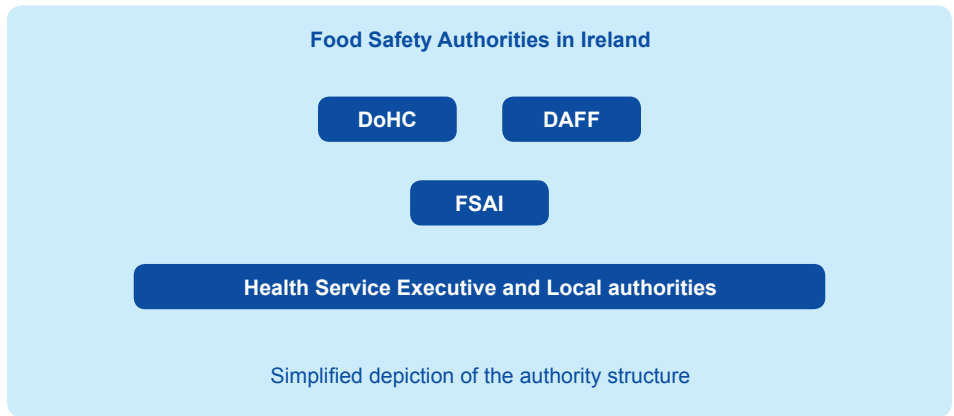
### **Regional and local levels**

The regional and local levels in Hungary consist of the independent capital Budapest and 19 counties. MGSZHK has 19 regional (county) offices. The Food Chain Safety and Animal Health Directorate carries out regional tasks relating to food and feed safety, quality and hygiene, epidemiological issues, animal welfare and transport.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Hungarian Food Safety Office (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Hungarian Authority for Consumer Protection
3. Central Agricultural Office – Food and Feed Safety Directorate
4. Central Agricultural Office – Plant Protection, Soil Conservation and Agri-environment Directorate
5. Agricultural Office of County Fejér, Plant Protection and Soil Conservation Directorate
6. Central Agricultural Office – Veterinary Diagnostic Directorate
7. National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science
8. Institute for National Agricultural Quality Control (Animal Breeding Division)
9. Hungarian Dairy Research Institute
10. Environmental Protection and Water Management Research Institute
11. Central Food Research Institute
12. Szent István University Faculty of Veterinary Science
13. Institute of Material and Environmental Chemistry, Chemical Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
14. Agricultural Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
15. Plant Protection Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
16. University of Debrecen, Centre of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering
17. Cereal Research Non-Profit Company
18. Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Food Science
19. Corvinus University of Budapest Research Institute for Viticulture & Oenology
20. Hungarian Meat Research Institute (Public Benefit Company) /OHKI KHT
21. National Centre of Epidemiology
22. Research Institute for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Irrigation

3.13. Ireland



Most if not all Irish food legislation derives from Ireland's membership of the European Union.

In Ireland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

**Central level**

**Department of Health and Children (DoHC)**

**Tasks of DoHC:**

- Health policy, food safety policy
- Funding FSAI

**Seat:** Dublin

<http://www.dohc.ie>

DoHC is responsible for policy issues in respect of food safety, for formulating and transposing EU regulations and for reviewing national legislation. Its remit covers the retail sectors for food and non-retail processing and distribution of foods of non-animal origin.

DoHC established the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) in 1999.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to DoHC pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

**Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)**

**Tasks of FSAI:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA-Focal Point
- RASFF-Contact Point

**Seat:** Dublin

<http://www.fsai.ie>



FSAI is a statutory, independent and science-based body, dedicated to protecting public health and consumer interests in the area of food safety and hygiene. The principal function of the FSAI is to ensure that food produced in the State and food distributed or marketed in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene that are reasonably achievable.

It is responsible for the enforcement of food legislation in Ireland. It carries out this function



through the management of official control activities through service contract arrangements with other bodies, the provision of scientific and technical support to other bodies through publications and training, and the carrying out of risk assessments to underpin risk management decisions and actions.

FSAI has a remit to carry out risk assessment, risk management and risk communication relating to food safety. The risk assessment and risk management functions are carried out by different groups within the Authority.

FSAI is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) was established by the DOHC as part of the provisions of the Health Act 2004. The HSE was formed as a single body responsible for meeting Ireland's health and social care needs and replaced the prior complex structure of regional Health Boards, the Eastern Regional Health Authority and a number of other different agencies and organisations.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) was also established by DoHC in January 2005 as the single body responsible for meeting Ireland's health and social care needs. The Primary, Community and Continuing Care (PCCC) Directorate of HSE delivers health and personal social services in the community and other settings and the Environmental Health Services from this Directorate provide a range of food safety/food control services under contract to the FSAI

## Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)

### Tasks of DAFF:

- Agricultural policy, food safety policy
- Feed risk assessment
- Food and feed risk management

**Seat:** Dublin

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>



DAFF is responsible for policy development, negotiation at EU level, implementation in national law of EU rules and official controls in the areas of – primary production of food, animal health, welfare, feed safety, plant health, fisheries, slaughtering of animals and processing of foods or animal origin up to but not including the retail level.

DAFF personnel also enforce food law and conduct risk management of food under contract to FSAI whilst DAFF enforcement of feed law and associated risk management activities are a stand alone function.

DAFF also funds a food law enforcement agency that operates under contract to FSAI. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of national and EU legislation that deals with health conditions for the production and placing on the market of fish, shellfish and fisheries products.

DAFF carries out risk assessments in the field of animal feed.

The area of activity of DAFF also includes, feed, GMOs, zoonoses and residues of pesticides and veterinary medicinal products. The Irish Medicines Board is responsible for the marketing authorisation of veterinary medicinal products in Ireland.

Eight National Reference Laboratories are attached to DAFF pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of DAFF extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

### **Regional and local levels**

The Health Service Executive is divided into four geographical regions: Southern Region, Western Region, Dublin Mid-Leinster Region and Dublin North Eastern Region. There are between seven and nine environmental health sections in each region, thirty three nationally.

The DAFF national veterinary service is subdivided into four regional animal health and welfare inspectorates with 28 District Veterinary Offices. There are six regional veterinary public health inspectorate regions.

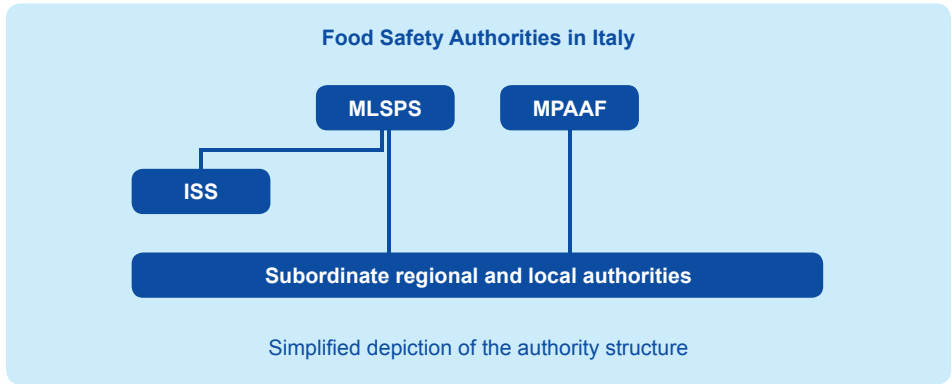
Local authorities (31 in total) who come under the local government structure of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) are multipurpose bodies responsible for an extensive range of services including veterinary services. These are arranged on a county or city level.

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) consists of three regions: the East, the South and the West/North West. Each region includes a number of Fishery Harbour Centres.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Food Safety Authority of Ireland (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Central Veterinary Research Laboratory
3. Department of Agriculture and Food, Pesticide Registration Division
4. Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory
5. Department of Agriculture and Food, Residues Division of the Pesticide Control Service
6. Saferood, the Food Safety Promotion Board
7. Cork Public Analyst's Laboratory
8. The National Food Centre, Teagasc
9. Marine Institute
10. Teagasc, Moorepark Food Research Centre
11. University College Cork
12. University College Dublin
13. National University of Ireland Galway
14. University of Limerick, Department of Life Sciences
15. Athlone Institute of Technology
16. Dublin Institute of Technology

### 3.14. Italy



Regulation No. 190 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Italy. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise, in the case of measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Italy there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central Level

#### Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MLSPS)

##### Tasks of MLSPS:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Rome

<http://www.ministerosalute.it>



MLSPS deals with health policy and, more particularly, food safety in Italy. It prepares draft legislation on food and feed and is responsible for co-ordinating the carrying out of state tasks. Risk assessments carried out by MLSPS and the National Health Institute (ISS) are the basis for MLSPS management measures. Another focus of its work is transparent communication with the public at large. MLSPS normally publishes its risk assessments.

The area of activity of MLSPS includes, amongst other things, feed, novel foods, food

supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. In this area it monitors the co-ordination of the food inspections of the regional authorities. MLSPS is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products in Italy.

MLSPS is the national RASFF Contact Point.

The area of work of MLSPS extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare, biocides and food.

### Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies (MPAAF)

#### Tasks of MPAAF:

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Rome

<http://www.politicheagricole.gov.it>



MPAAF deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, with the food quality of agricultural products in Italy.

In the field of agricultural products the area of activity of MPAAF encompasses, amongst other things, feed and plant protection product residues. In this context it monitors the co-ordination of the food and feed inspections of the regional authorities.

The area of work of MPAAF extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health and plant protection.

### National Health Institute (ISS)

#### Tasks of ISS:

- Risk assessment
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Rome

<http://www.iss.it>



ISS is a public scientific institution of the public health service. ISS undertakes risk assessments on behalf of MLSPS.

The area of activity of ISS encompasses risk assessments, particularly in conjunction with feed, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

ISS is the national EFSA Focal Point.

The area of work of ISS extends beyond food safety to, for instance, biocides.

### Regional and local levels

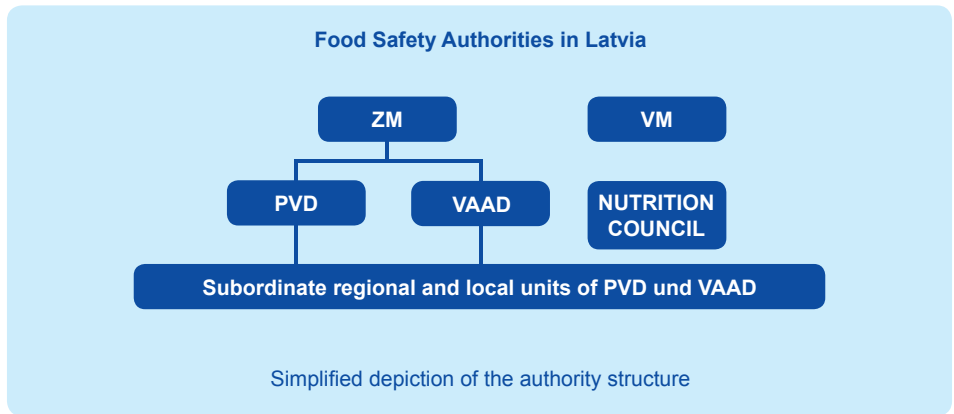
The regional and local levels in Italy consist of 21 regions, 109 provinces and municipalities. The food inspections are co-ordinated by the regional specialist authorities which are monitored by MLSPS and MPAAF in their respective areas. 195 local veterinary services and public healthcare services are responsible for carrying out the food inspections.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA Network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Istituto Superiore di Sanità (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca per gli Alimenti e la Nutrizione
3. Agricultural Research Council
4. Stazione Sperimentale per l'Industria delle Conserve Alimentari
5. Stazione Sperimentale per le Industrie degli

- Oli dei Grassi
6. Centro Internazionale per gli Antiparassitari e la Prevenzione Sanitaria
7. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia-Romagna
8. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Puglia e della Basilicata
9. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia
10. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche
11. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana
12. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
13. National Reference Centre for Animal Encephalopathies
14. National Reference Centre for Surveillance and Monitoring Animal Feed
15. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Piemonte, Liguria e V. d'Aosta – Laboratorio Controllo Alimenti
16. Università di Foggia
17. Università di Milano
18. Università di Parma
19. Università di Pavia
20. Università di Torino e del Piemonte Orientale
21. Università di Torino
22. Università di Perugia
23. Università di Napoli
24. Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
25. University "La sapienza" of Rome
26. CNR Institute of Sciences of Food Production
27. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Mezzogiorno
28. National Reference Laboratory for Toxoplasmosis (Ce.Tox.) IZS Sicily
29. Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie
30. University of Bari
31. Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
32. University of Bologna, Degree Course in Aquaculture and Hygiene of Fish Production
33. University of Bologna, Department of Veterinary Morphophysiology and Animal Productions
34. Università di Bologna – DSPVPA
35. University of Milan
36. University of Napoli „Federico II“
37. Università degli Studi di Palermo
38. „Sapienza“ University of Rome, Medical Physiopathology Department
39. Università La Sapienza di Roma, Dipartimento di Biologia
40. University of Teramo

3.15. Latvia



The Law on the Supervision of the Handling of Food (National Food Law) is the central foundation for food legislation in Latvia. In the case of infringements of the National Food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Latvia there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

National risk assessments are not published yet.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture (ZM)**

**Tasks of ZM:**

- Food safety, quality, hygiene and agricultural policy
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Riga

<http://www.zm.gov.lv>

ZM deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food and feed safety. In this field it prepares national legislation. The competent specialist authorities in this field – the Food and Veterinary Service (PVD) and the State Plant Protection Service (VAAD) – support the work of ZM. Risk assessments carried out by the responsible unit of PVD are used by ZM as the basis for management measures. ZM is constantly involved in risk communication activities.

The area of activity of ZM includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

The areas of ZM competency extend beyond food safety to fields like plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare.

## Ministry of Health (VM)

### Tasks of VM:

- Health care policy, public health policy, pharmacy policy
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Riga

<http://www.vm.gov.lv>

VM is responsible for the development and implementation of state policy in the field of health care, public health and pharmaceuticals (including the authorisation of veterinary medicinal products), and drinking water. VM is responsible for the development and implementation of nutrition policy. VM has, therefore, set up a consultative Nutrition Council. VM approves food-based dietary guidelines for the population of Latvia.

The State Agency of Medicines (ZVA) and the Health Inspection (HI) are subordinate specialist authorities within the portfolio of VM. ZVA is the central authority for the authorisation of medicinal and veterinary medicinal products. HI is responsible for the inspection of medicinal and veterinary medicinal products and the inspection of wholesale distributors. In this area, it undertakes risk assessment and risk management.

Another main area of its work is risk communication.

## Food and Veterinary Service (PVD)

### Tasks of PVD:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Riga

<http://www.pvd.gov.lv>



PVD is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of ZM. PVD is responsible for the monitoring and coordination of state food and veterinary supervision within the framework of the food surveillance concept "from the field to the table". Within PVD risk management is separated functionally from risk assessment.

The Food Centre of Food and Veterinary Service (PVD PC) is an independent institution within PVD that is responsible for risk assessment and risk communication issues. The risk assessments carried out by PVD PC are used by PVD and ZM as the basis for management measures. PVD PC assess risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates risk reduction recommendations. Research and transparent communication activities involving all the stakeholder groups is another high priority work area of PVD PC.

The area of activity of PVD includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters, drinking water and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products.

PVD is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

One National Reference Laboratory is attached to PVD pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of PVD extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and consumer products.

### State Plant Protection Service (VAAD)

#### Tasks of VAAD:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Riga

<http://www.vaad.gov.lv>



VAAD is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of ZM. It is the central authority for plant protection products. In this area, it undertakes risk assessment and risk management. VAAD is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Latvia. In the field of plant protection products and GMOs, VAAD monitors and controls the state inspections. PVD is responsible for the inspection of food of animal and plant origin.

### Regional and local levels

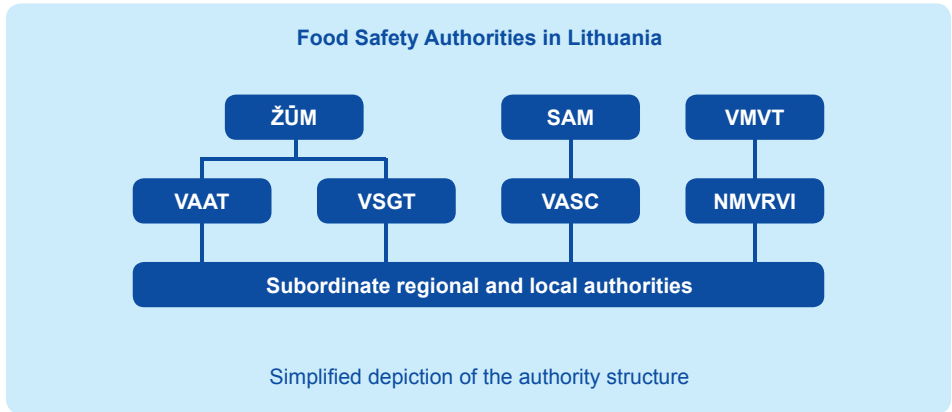
The regional and local levels in Latvia consist of 26 rural districts and the national capital Riga. The implementation of the food and feed inspections is done through 27 regional units of PVD. The implementation of the plant protection products inspections is done through seven regional units of VAAD.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA Network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Food and Veterinary Service (EFSA Focal Point)
2. State Plant Protection Service – Plant Protection Department
3. National Diagnostic Centre
4. Latvia University of Agriculture (Faculty of Food Technology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), Research Institute of Biotechnology and Veterinary Medicine “Sigra”
5. University of Latvia (Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Chemistry)



### 3.16. Lithuania



The Lithuanian Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Lithuania. It covers all food production and processing stages along the supply chain.

In Lithuania there are initial signs of the institutional separation of risk assessment and risk management.

Risk assessments are not published.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Health (SAM)

##### Tasks of SAM:

- Health policy and food safety

**Seat:** Vilnius  
<http://www.sam.lt>

Within health policy SAM focuses, amongst other things, on food safety in Lithuania. SAM lays down the following mandatory requirements for food, taking into account the assessment of risk to human health based on scientific research: maximum permitted levels of plant protection products and contaminants in food, food additives, nutrition, foodstuffs, GMOs, novel foods,

food contact materials, food hygiene and control, hazard analysis, hygiene training; nutrition, and food labelling.

The State Environment Health Centre (VASC), the specialist authority that supports the Ministry of Health, undertakes risk assessments for policy advice purposes.

#### Ministry of Agriculture (ŽŪM)

##### Tasks of ŽŪM:

- Agricultural policy

**Seat:** Vilnius  
<http://www.zum.lt>

Within agricultural policy ŽŪM deals, amongst other things, with quality requirements for food. ŽŪM implements the policy on improved quality of food products and raw materials, production of organic agricultural products, plant protection products and labelling of foodstuffs.

The State Plant Protection Service (VAAT) and the State Seed and Grain Service (VSGT) are the competent specialist authorities that support the work of ŽŪM.

## State Food and Veterinary Service (MVT)

### Tasks of MVT:

- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Vilnius

<http://www.vet.lt/lt>



MVT is the central authority for food and feed safety. As an independent, non-ministerial governmental authority MVT is not bound by any ministerial instructions. However, it is accountable to the government.

The main focus of the work of MVT is risk management. The area of activity of MVT includes, amongst other things, feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products, drinking water and zoonoses. In this context MVT monitors and coordinates the tasks of the regional and local authorities that are subordinate to it.

For its decisions MVT normally draws on the risk assessments of the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (NMVRVI). This Institute also reports to MVT.

MVT is the national RASFF Contact Point.

The MVT area of activity extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and welfare.

## National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute (NMVRVI)

### Tasks of NMVRVI:

- Risk assessment
- Risk research

**Seat:** Vilnius

<http://www.nmvrvi.lt>



The area of activity of NMVRVI includes science-based risk assessments in administrative procedures like, for instance, marketing authorisation procedures for veterinary medicinal products. NMVRVI risk assessments are used by MVT as the foundation for management measures in food safety. NMVRVI reports to MVT. NMVRVI assesses risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates recommendations for risk reduction. NMVRVI prepares risk assessment opinions on the safety and effectiveness of veterinary preparations and veterinary biocides, assessment of biological, chemical and other risk factors in food and feed, assessment of the safety and efficacy of food and feed supplements, the risk assessment of GMOs in food and feed products and for living animals, zoonoses. NMVRVI is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Lithuania.

One National Reference Laboratory is attached to NMVRVI in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of activity of NMVRVI extends beyond food safety, for instance, to animal health.

## State Environment Health Centre (VASC)

### Tasks of VASC:

- Risk assessment
- EFSA Focal Point
- Risk research

**Seat:** Vilnius

<http://vasc.sam.lt>



VASC reports to SAM. VASC co-ordinates the implementation of food safety policies in Lithuania. VASC is responsible for drafting legislation on: hygiene of foodstuffs, food additives, food contaminants, plant protection product residues, microbiological criteria, food labelling, food supplements, novel food and GMOs, food

contact materials, food for special dietary uses, drinking and mineral water, food irradiation. VASC carries out regular monitoring of food consumption in the country. It executes risk assessment procedures and takes part in food standards development and consumer education including science-based risk assessments.

VASC is the national EFSA Focal Point.

One National Reference Laboratory is attached to the National public health research centre in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of activity of VASC extends beyond food safety, for instance, to nutrition.

### State Plant Protection Service (VAAT)

#### Tasks of VAAT:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Vilnius  
<http://www.vaat.lt>



VAAT, which reports to ŽŪM, is the competent authority for plant protection products in Lithuania. VAAT is responsible for the evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products and post-registration control (import, storage, sale, labelling, package and use of PPPs). In this context VAAT monitors and coordinates the tasks of the 22 regional plant protection inspectors.

### State Seed and Grain Service (VSGT)

#### Tasks of VSGT:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Vilnius  
<http://www.vsgt.lt/lt.php>



VSGT, which reports to ŽŪM, is responsible for monitoring the cultivation of the plant propagating material of GMOs. In this context VSGT monitors and coordinates the tasks of the regional and local authorities.

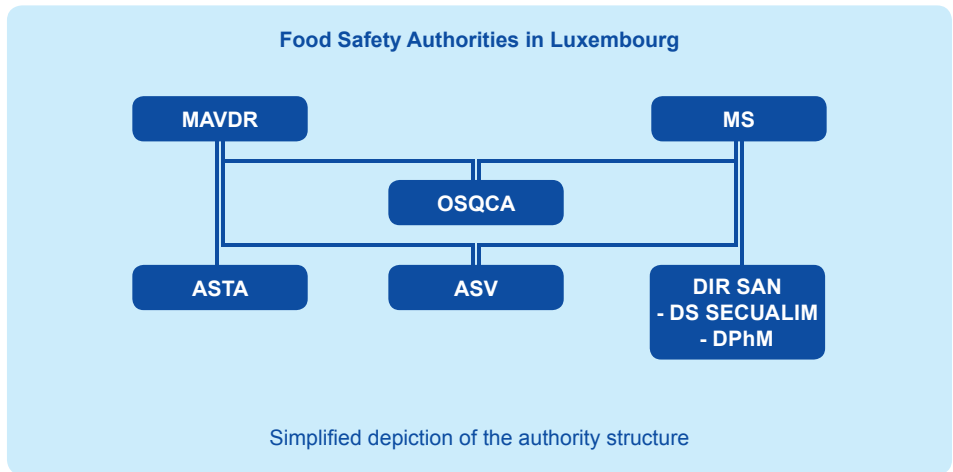
### Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels in Lithuania consist of rural districts, cities and counties. There is the VMVT with a total of 10 county, 5 city and 34 district offices. They, in turn, are responsible for enacting food laws and carrying out food inspections. They are instructed and monitored by VASC, VMVT, VAAT and VSGT in their respective areas of activity.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002

1. National Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health (EFSA Focal Point)
2. State Food and Veterinary Service
3. State Plant Protection Service, Ministry of Agriculture

3.17. Luxembourg



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and national food laws are the central legal foundation for food legislation in Luxembourg. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims to food businesses. Likewise in the case of the measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Luxembourg there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development (MAVDR)**

**Tasks of MAVDR:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.ma.public.lu>

MAVDR deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food safety in the agricultural sector in Luxembourg. It prepares bills in the field of feed. Bills concerning food of animal origin are prepared by Veterinary Service Administration (ASV) which reports to MAVDR but operates in this field under the authority of MS. In their capacity as the competent specialist authorities, the Agricultural and Technical Services Administration (ASTA) and the ASV support the work of MAVDR and MS respectively. The Organization for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain (OSQCA) assures the coordination between these competent authorities and the ones supporting the work of MS. At the same time, OSQCA and ASV work for the Ministry of Health (MS) and for MAVDR.

The area of work of MAVDR extends beyond the area of food safety to plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare.

## Ministry of Health (MS)

### Tasks of MS:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.ms.etat.lu>

MS deals with health policy and, more particularly, food safety in Luxembourg. It prepares draft legislation in the field of all food. MS is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Luxembourg. MS monitors the carrying out of tasks of subordinate specialist authorities in the field of state food safety inspections. In their capacity as the competent specialist authorities, the food safety service (DS-SECUALIM) and the division of pharmacy and medicine (DPHM) of Direction of public health, and ASV support the work of MS. OSQCA assures the coordination between these competent authorities and the ones supporting the work of MAVDR. At the same time, both OSQCA and ASV work for MS and MAVDR.

The area of work of MS extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, biocides, cosmetics and many more.

## Organisation for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain (OSQCA)

### Tasks of OSQCA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu>

OSQCA is a subordinate specialist organism within the portfolio of MAVDR and MS. The risk assessment procedures elaborated by OSQCA are proposed to the authorities of MAVDR and MS as the foundation for policy and management measures. At the request of MAVDR and MS, OSQCA prepares recommendations on food safety. OSQCA is responsible for the coordination of state feed and food inspections. OSQCA undertakes the audits of the competent authorities responsible for the control of the food chain and the coordination of the official training for their agents as laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of activity of OSQCA includes the whole field of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, in particular feed, novel foods, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral waters and drinking water.

OSQCA is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

## Agricultural Technical Services Administration (ASTA)

### Tasks of ASTA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.asta.etat.lu>



ASTA is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of MAVDR. It is responsible for the risk assessment and implementation of state inspections of feed and plant protection products.



**Veterinary Service Administration (ASV)**

**Tasks of ASV:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.asv.etat.lu>



ASV is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of MAVDR and MS. ASV is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state inspections in the field of food of animal origin and of state inspections concerning animal health and animal welfare.

**Direction of Public Health (DIR SAN)**

**Tasks of DIR SAN:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Luxembourg  
<http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu>



**Food safety authority (DS-SECUALIM)**



DS SECUALIM is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of MS. It is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state food safety controls in the area of food hygiene, contaminants, food supplements, special dietary food, food labeling, import of food of non-animal origin and beverages.

**Division of Pharmacy and Medicine (DPhM)**



DPhM is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of MS. It is responsible for risk assessment and the implementation of state food safety controls in the area of medicated feed, GMOs, novel foods and medicinal products.

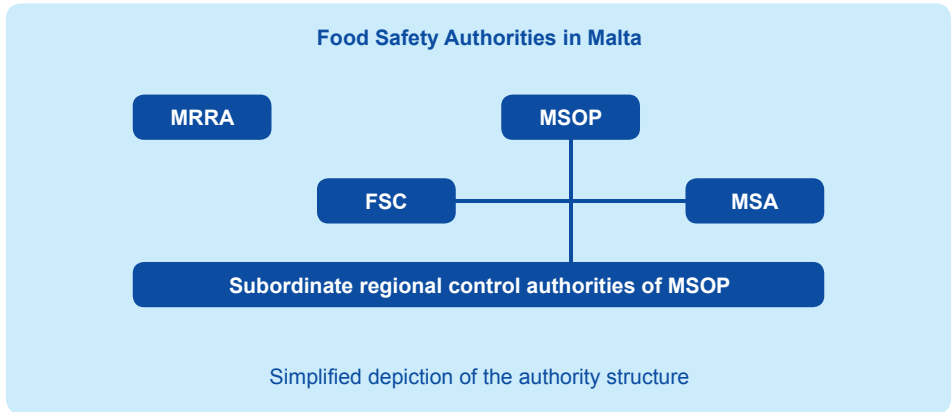
**Regional and local levels**

The regional and local levels in Luxembourg consist of three districts, 12 cantons and 116 municipalities. The co-ordination and implementation of feed, food and other types of inspections is undertaken by the central authorities.

**Institutions involved in EFSA pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Centre de Recherche Public de la Santé
2. Laboratoire National de Santé
3. Centre de Recherche Public-Gabriel Lippmann

### 3.18. Malta



The Food Safety Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Malta. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Malta there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published.

Generally speaking Malta has a national centralised system. Due to the small scale of the services, the offices at central level are responsible not only for policy and co-ordination but also for direct implementation of controls.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRA)

##### Tasks of MRRA:

- Agricultural policy, food and feed safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Valletta  
<http://mrra.gov.mt>



MRRA deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food and feed safety in Malta. It is the competent authority for controls of food of animal origin. MRRA is responsible for guidance, approval and inspection of all types of establishments for food of animal origin and for import controls on food of animal origin and feed.

The area of activity of MRRA includes, amongst other things, feed, GMOs, zoonoses, and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. MRRA is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Malta.

The area of work of MRRA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry for Social Policy (MSOP)

#### Tasks of MSOP:

- Social and health policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Valletta

<http://www.sahha.gov.mt>



MSOP deals with social policy, health policy and food safety in Malta. It is responsible for controls of foodstuffs and food hygiene. MSOP is responsible for supervising and co-ordinating the implementation of controls. Responsibility for controls is assigned to seven regional services.

The area of activity of MSOP includes, amongst other things, hygiene, novel foods, food supplements, mineral waters and drinking water.

The area of work of MSOP extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

### Food Safety Commission (FSC)

#### Tasks of FSC:

- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point
- Risk research

**Seat:** Msida

<http://www.health.gov.mt/fsc/fschome.htm>



FSC is an independent governmental co-ordinating body which reports to MSOP. FSC

is responsible for risk management, risk communication and risk assessment. It is the co-ordination office for MRRA, MSP and MSA and provides a forum for co-operation.

FSC is responsible for the registration of all food establishments.

Technical and scientific advice is provided by the Malta Standards Authority (MSA).

FSC is the national RASFF Contact Point.

In Malta, the Public Health Laboratory is the National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. It draws on the services of National Reference Laboratories in other EU Member States.

### Malta Standards Authority (MSA)

#### Tasks of MSA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Valletta

<http://www.msa.org.mt>



MSA is a government-appointed authority within the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MFIN). The Food Safety Act assigns specific responsibility for risk assessment to MSA. Risk assessments of MSA are used by MRRA and MSOP as the basis for management measures in the field of food safety. MSA assesses risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates risk reduction recommendations.

The area of activity of MSA includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, health and nutrition claims and natural mineral water. MSA is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Malta.



MSA is the national EFSA Focal Point.

The area of work of MSA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, cosmetics, biocides, consumer products, and health and nutrition claims.

**Regional and local levels**

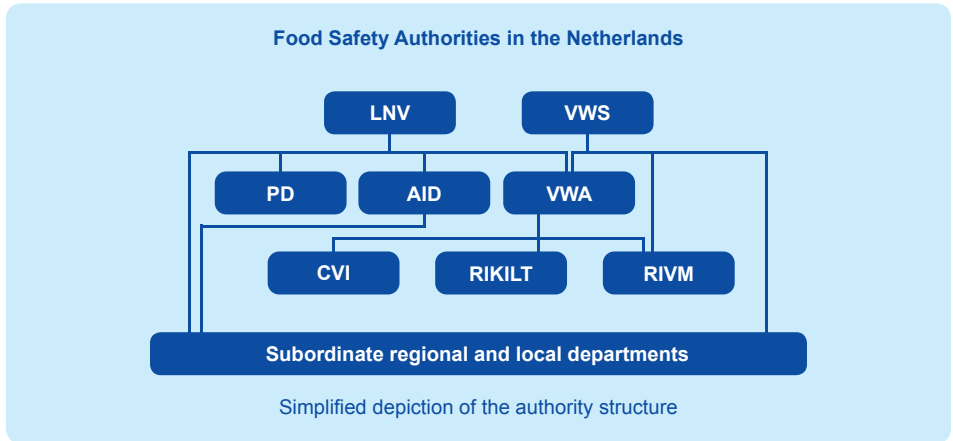
The implementation of food inspections is done through seven regional control bodies which are subordinate to MSOP.

Coordination of food and feed inspection is carried out at the Food Safety Commission level.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

In Malta no institution is currently involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) 178/2002.

3.19. Netherlands



The Framework Commodities Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in the Netherlands. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise in the case of the measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision making body.

In the Netherlands risk assessment and risk communication are largely separated institutionally from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)**

**Tasks of LNV:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Den Haag  
<http://www.minlnv.nl>



LNV deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food safety in the agricultural sector and the easy traceability of the origin of food. LNV places primary responsibility for food production with farmers, growers and fishermen. In the Netherlands, daily checks and inspections of production processes are the responsibility of the industry or the sector itself. The government focuses on supervising the sector's control systems: 'supervising the supervisor'. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food of animal origin and feed. In their capacity as the competent specialist authorities, the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA), the General Inspection Service (AID) and PD support the work of LNV. The risk assessments of the Office for Risk Assessment (BuR), within VWA, are used by LNV as the basis for management measures in the field of food of animal origin.

The area of activity of LNV includes, amongst other things, zoonoses, GMOs and residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products

in feed. LNV is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products in the Netherlands.

The area of work of LNV extends beyond the area of food safety to, for instance, plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS)

#### Tasks of VWS:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Den Haag  
<http://www.minvws.nl>



VWS deals with health policy and food safety in the Netherlands. It prepares draft legislation in the area of food of non-animal origin. The risk assessments of BuR, within VWA, are used by VWS as the basis for management measures in the field of food of non-animal origin.

The area of activity of VWS includes, amongst other things, food supplements, novel foods, mineral waters, drinking water, botanicals, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products as well as GMOs in the field of food of non-animal origin.

The area of work of VWS extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, cosmetics and consumer products.

### Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)

#### Tasks of VWA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point

- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Den Haag  
<http://www.vwa.nl>



VWA is a subordinate independent specialist authority within the portfolio of LNV and a delivery agency for VWS. The three main tasks are: supervision, risk assessment and risk communication. Other important activities are incident and crisis management and policy advice for LNV. VWA is responsible for the inspection of food and commodities, compliance with relevant regulations, communication on food and commodity issues and prevention. The Risk Assessment Division, BuR, is an independent unit within VWA and conducts risk assessments on behalf of LNV and VWS.

The risk assessments of BuR are used by LNV and VWS as the foundation for management measures. BuR assesses risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates risk reduction recommendations independently of any scientific, political or social interests. As a scientific institution that enjoys independence in terms of the results of its opinions, BuR prepares expert reports on risk assessment, particularly in conjunction with novel foods, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, GMOs, food supplements, zoonoses, mineral waters and drinking water. Other main areas of its work are research and transparent communication with the public at large, sciences and other involved or interested circles. BuR publishes its risk assessments.

VWA is responsible for monitoring and, alongside AID, for the co-ordination and implementation of state feed and food inspections. Within VWA risk management is separated functionally from risk assessment.

BuR is the national EFSA Focal Point and VWA is the RASFF Contact Point.

VWA is a National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of VWA extends beyond the field of food safety to, amongst other things, animal health, animal welfare and non-food (consumer products).

### General Inspection Service (AID)

#### Tasks of AID:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Den Haag  
<http://www.aid.nl>

AID ensures that as many people and businesses as possible follow the rules on food safety, animal welfare and conservation. AID is responsible for inspecting consignments of agricultural products both at home and abroad such as livestock, fertiliser or meat.

### Plant Protection Service (PD)

#### Tasks of AID:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Wageningen  
<http://www.minInv.nl/pd>

PD deals with plant protection products and their marketing authorisation.

PD is a National Reference Laboratory pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### Central Veterinary Institute (CVI) / Institute of Food Safety (RIKILT) / National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

#### Tasks of CVI, RIKILT and RIVM:

- Risk assessment
- Risk research

**Seat:** Lelystad, Wageningen, Bilthoven  
<http://www.cvi.wur.nl>  
<http://www.rikilt.wur.nl>  
<http://www.rivm.nl>

CVI, RIKILT and RIVM are independent research organisations. CVI operates in the field of veterinary science. It contributes to protecting the health of animals and humans by undertaking research and making recommendations on animal diseases (zoonoses). RIKILT is an organisation in the field of food and feed safety and health, which carries out research into substances in animal feed and vegetable, animal and compound foodstuffs. RIVM is a recognised leading centre of expertise in the fields of health, nutrition and environmental protection. The Institute mainly works for the Dutch government.

CVI, RIKILT and RIVM are National Reference Laboratories pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

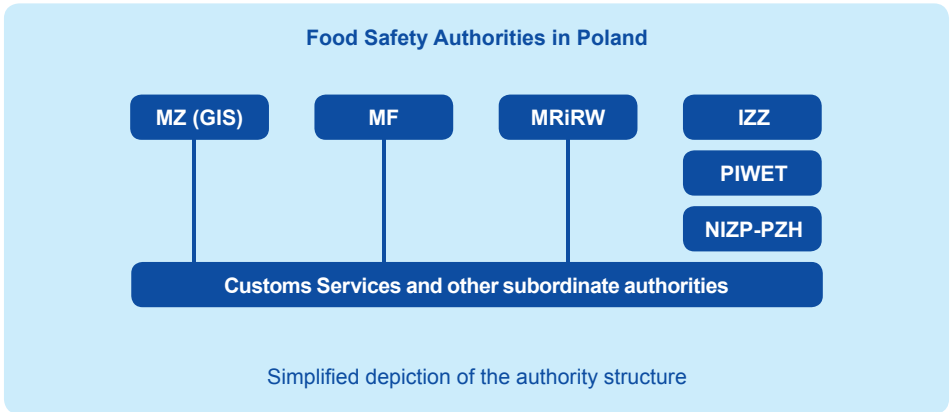
### Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels in the Netherlands consist of 12 provinces and 441 municipalities. Food and feed inspections are co-ordinated and implemented by regional departments of VWA and AID. VWA has five and AID has three regional departments.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (EFSA Focal Point)
2. RIKILT – Institute of Food Safety
3. National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
4. Central Institute for animal Disease Control CIVI-Lelystad
5. Plant Protection Service
6. Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit
7. Board for the Authorisation of Pesticides
8. Alterra B.V.
9. Plant Research International B.V.
10. ASG Veehouderij BV
11. Landbouw-Economisch Instituut

### 3.20. Poland



The central legal foundation for food legislation in Poland is the Food and Nutrition Safety Act of 25th August 2006.

In Poland there are signs of the institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published.

#### Central level

#### Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) at the Ministry of Health (MZ)

##### Tasks of GIS & MZ:

- Health policy and food safety
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Warsaw  
<http://www.mz.gov.pl>  
<http://www.pis.gov.pl>



MZ deals with health policy and, more particularly food safety in Poland. It prepares draft leg-

islation in the fields of food of non-animal origin and implements EU Directives. MZ is responsible for co-ordinating state food safety tasks. The Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (GIS) and its State Sanitary Inspection (PIS) are the specialist authorities that support the work of MZ. They are responsible for food inspections in the area of food of non-animal origin.

The main focus of the work of MZ is risk management. The risk assessments of the National Food and Nutrition Institute (IZZ) and the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIZP-PZH) are used by MZ as the basis for management measures in the field of food of non-animal origin.

The area of activity of GIS includes residues of plant protection products, food supplements, novel foods, GMOs in food, zoonoses, food additives and drinking water. In this area it monitors the activities of the regional and local authorities. MZ is the regulatory body for veterinary medicinal products in Poland. In the field of food safety it cooperates with MRiRW and in the field of GMOs with MRiRW and the Ministry of the Environment (MS). The GIS of MZ is the national Contact Point for Plant Protection Products.

The GIS of MZ is the national EFSA Focal Point and the RASFF Contact Point.

16 National Reference Laboratories are attached to GIS in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of MZ extends beyond food safety to, for instance, consumer products.

### Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW)

#### Tasks of MRiRW:

- Agricultural policy and safety of food of animal origin
- Risk management

**Seat:** Warsaw

<http://www.minrol.gov.pl>



MRiRW deals with agricultural policy in general and with food safety in the agricultural sector in Poland. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food of animal origin. The General Veterinary Inspectorate (GIW), the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service (PIORIN) and the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (JHARS) are the competent specialist authorities that support MRiRW. They are responsible for state food inspections in the area of food of animal origin. The main focus of the work of MRiRW is on risk management. The risk assessments of the National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWET) serve MRiRW as the basis for management measures in the field of food of animal origin.

The area of activity of MRiRW encompasses, for instance, feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products, GMOs and zoonoses. In these areas MRiRW monitors the activities of the regional and local authorities. MRiRW is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Poland.

In the area of food safety, it cooperates with MZ and in the field of GMOs with MZ and MS.

The area of activity of MRiRW extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Finance (MF) / Customs Services

#### Tasks of MF:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Warsaw

<http://www.mf.gov.pl>

Customs Services (SC), under MF, deals with the border control of food. SC cooperates with the GIW on controls of imports of animals, food of animal origin and feed, the PIORIN on controls of exports and imports of regulated plants and plant material, and GIS on controls of imports of food of plant origin.

### Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (UOKiK)

#### Tasks of UOKiK:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Warsaw

<http://www.uokik.gov.pl>

The President of the UOKiK is a central authority of the state administration. He reports directly to the Prime Minister, who appoints him from amongst the members of the State Staffing Pool. The President is responsible for shaping antitrust policy and consumer protection policy.

### National Food and Nutrition Institute (IZZ)

#### Tasks of IZZ:

- Risk assessment
- Risk research

**Seat:** Warsaw  
<http://www.izz.waw.pl>



The area of activity of IZZ encompasses science-based risk assessments and research for policy advice purposes that also serve as the basis for MZ management decisions. IZZ prepares opinions on risk assessment from the nutrition angle.

### National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIZP-PZH)

#### Tasks of NIZP-PZH:

- Risk assessment
- Risk research

**Seat:** Warsaw  
<http://www.pzh.gov.pl>



The area of activity of NIZP-PZH includes science-based risk assessments and research for policy advice purposes that also serve as the basis for MZ management decisions. NIZP-PZH prepares opinions on risk assessment in conjunction with food additives, biological risks, foreign chemical substances, residues of plant protection products and drinking water.

### National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWET)

#### Tasks of PIWET:

- Risk assessment
- Risk research

**Seat:** Puławy  
<http://www.piwet.pulawy.pl>



The area of activity of PIWET includes science-based risk assessments and research for policy advice purposes that also serves as the basis for MRiRW management decisions. PIWET prepares opinions on risk assessment in conjunction with feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products and zoonoses.

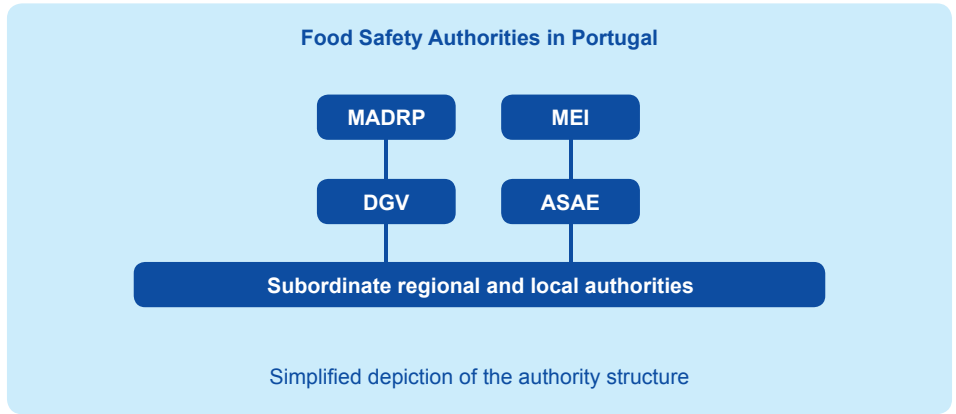
#### Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels in Poland consist of 16 administrative districts, 379 rural regions and 2,478 municipalities. On these regional and local levels the regional specialist authorities of MZ and MRiRW are responsible for enacting food laws and carrying out food inspections. They are instructed and monitored by MZ and MRiRW in their respective areas of activity.

#### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. National Veterinary Research Institute
2. National Research Institute of Animal Production
3. Research Institute of Medicinal Plants
4. National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene
5. National Food and Nutrition Institute
6. Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG – PIB)
7. Sea Fisheries Institute
8. Warsaw Agricultural University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Food Hygiene and Public Health
9. University of Warmia and Mazury
10. Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture

**3.21. Portugal**



Together with European food laws, Regulation No. 113/2006 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Portugal. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Portugal there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk communication from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (MADRP)**

**Tasks of MADRP:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Lisbon

<http://portal.min-agricultura.pt>

Most responsibilities in food controls come under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Fisheries (MADRP). Within this Ministry, the Policy and Planning Office (GPP) is in charge of coordinating legislation, preparing bills and the multi-annual control plan. It is also responsible for the implementation of food safety controls for food of non-animal origin.

The Veterinary Directorate (DGV) is the subordinate specialist authority of MADRP.

MADRP is the national RASFF Contact Point.

Three National Reference Laboratories are attached to an institution which reports to MADRP, the National Institute for Biological Resources (INRB) pursuant to Regulation (EC) 882/2004.

The area of work of MADRP extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health, animal welfare and biocides.



## Ministry of Economy and Innovation (MEI)

### Tasks of MEI:

- Consumer policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Lisbon

<http://www.min-economia.pt>

MEI deals with consumer policy and, particularly, food safety in Portugal. The Economy and Food Safety Standards Authority (ASAE) is the competent specialist authority that supports the work of MEI.

## Economy and Food Safety Standards Authority (ASAE)

### Tasks of ASAE:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Lisbon

<http://www.asae.pt>



As a subordinate specialist authority of MEI, ASAE is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management (food inspection) in the field of food safety.

ASAE operates as the national authority with responsibility to carry out inspections to combat and prevent fraud in all economic areas, including food, feed and residues. It is also responsible for risk assessment and communication in relation to food and feed. This is handled by a Scientific Directorate that coordinates all EFSA-related activities including the Portuguese representation in EFSA's Advisory Forum and Focal Point. The organic structure of this Authority covers the whole country and several Central and Regional Control Services.

The area of activity of ASAE includes, amongst other things, feed, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, residues of plant protection products and mineral water. By contrast, the regulatory authority for water and waste is responsible for drinking water.

ASAE is the national EFSA Focal Point.

One National Reference Laboratory is attached to ASAE pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of ASAE extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

## Directorate-General for Veterinary Issues (DGV)

### Tasks of DGV:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Lisbon

<http://www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt>



DGV is the subordinate specialist authority of MADRP. Based on its own science-based risk assessments, DGV implements state food policy and carries out inspections.

Regarding the operation of control systems for food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare, activities are carried out through five regional authorities, which report directly to DGV.

The area of activity of DGV includes, amongst other things, GMO feed, zoonoses and residues of veterinary medicinal products. DGV is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Portugal. By contrast, the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Develop-

ment (DGRAD) is the regulatory authority for plant protection products.

The area of work of DGV extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal nutrition, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, animal by-products, veterinary medicinal products and animal welfare.

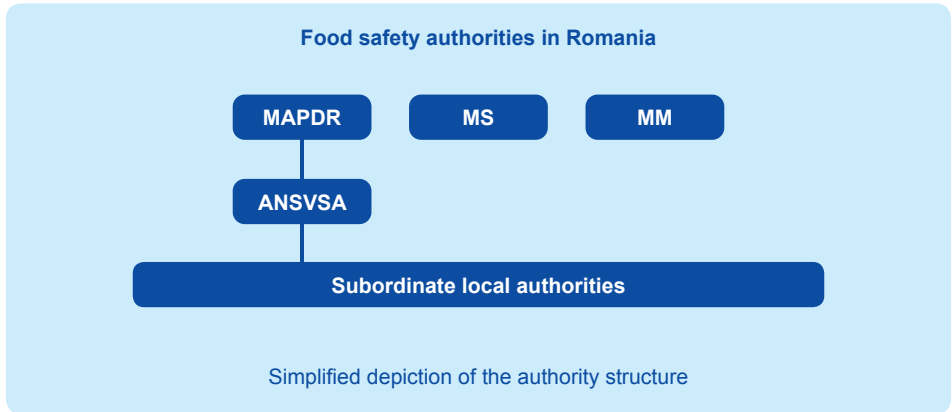
### Regional and local levels

Portugal is administratively divided into five regions on the mainland (North, Centre, Lisbon and Tejo's Valley, Alentejo and Algarve) and two autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira). The regions on the mainland do not have any legislative powers but Azores and Madeira each have an elected assembly with devolved powers to enact legislation.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EU) No. 178/2002

1. Economy and Food Safety Standards Authority
2. Instituto Nacional de Saúde
3. Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas
4. National Institute of Pharmacy and Medicines
5. Direcção Geral de Veterinária
6. Laboratório Nacional de Investigação Veterinária
7. National Institute for Engineering, Technology and Innovation
8. Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa
9. Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
10. Escola Superior de Tecnologia – Universidade do Algarve
11. Universidade de Lisboa
12. University of Coimbra
13. Clínica Universitária de Medicina – Faculdade de Medicina – Coimbra
14. Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Egas Moniz
15. University of Porto, Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences
16. Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto
17. Faculdade de Farmacia da Universidade do Porto
18. ICETA Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias Agrárias e Agro-Alimentares
19. Área Departamental de Ciencia e Tecnologia de Alimentos, Escola Superior Agrária Instituto Politécnico de Beja
20. Instituto Politécnico de Leiria
21. Instituto Politécnico de Santarém
22. Instituto Superior de Agronomia
23. Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologia
24. Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Escola Superior de Biotecnologia
25. ITQB-UNL
26. Escola Superior Agrária – Instituto Politécnico de Bragança
27. University of Aveiro – Food Biochemistry Group
28. Faculty of Sciences and Technology / UNL
29. Universidade do Minho
30. Instituto de Ciências Agrárias Mediterrânicas

### 3.22. Romania



Law No. 150 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Romania. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Romania there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk communication from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published on the internet.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Development of Rural Areas (MAPDR)

##### Tasks of MAPDR:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Bucharest  
<http://www.madr.ro>



MAPDR deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Romania. It prepares draft legislation in the fields of food of non-animal origin and feed. The area of activity of MAPDR includes residues of plant protection products and GMOs. MAPDR also carries out risk assessments in these fields.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to MAPDR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

## Ministry of Health (MS)

### Tasks of MS:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Bucharest

<http://www.ms.ro>



MS deals with health protection and food safety in Romania. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food safety, is responsible for state inspections and supervises numerous laboratories.

The area of activity of MS includes, amongst other things, food additives and flavourings, food supplements, novel foods and mineral water. In these areas MS also carries out risk assessments.

Furthermore, it is responsible for food hygiene control.

MS is the national RASFF Contact Point.

## Ministry of Environment (MM)

### Tasks of MM:

- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Bucharest

<http://www.mmediu.ro>



MM deals with environmental policy in Romania and is responsible for drinking water.

MM is the regulatory authority for plant protection products and GMOs in Romania.

## National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA)

### Tasks of ANSVSA

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management, border controls
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Bucharest

<http://www.ansvsa.ro>



The area of activity of ANSVSA includes, amongst other things, food inspections and food hygiene control, zoonoses, veterinary medicinal products and their residues, and feed. The area of work of ANSVSA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and welfare.

In the field of food hygiene the Scientific Council of ANSVSA conducts risk assessments.

ANSVSA is the national EFSA Focal Point.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to ANSVSA pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### Regional and local levels

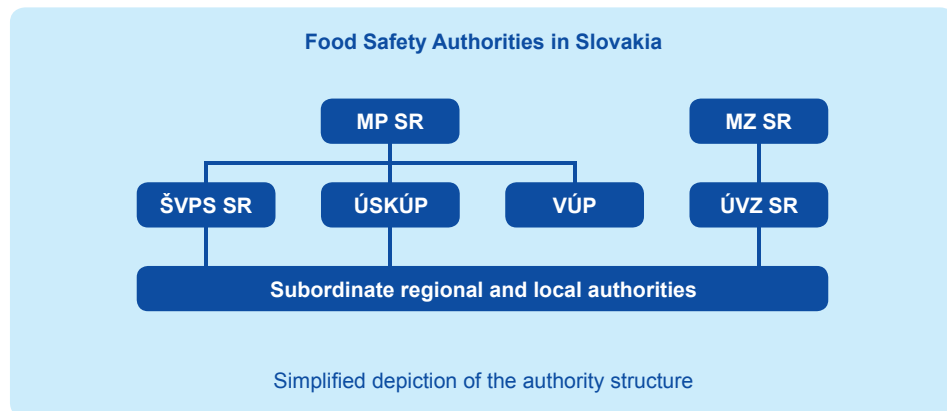
In principle, Romania has a unitary government structure and decentralised administration. The regional level does not possess any autonomous competencies. Most of the decentralised bodies for monitoring the enactment of national legislation report to ANSVSA. It has more than 42 directorates in the administrative districts. They supervise the work of the local authorities. Aside from plant protection and plant health for which MAPDR bodies also assume tasks, the district directorates are responsible for carrying out inspections in all areas of food safety. The individual districts are broken down into veterinary and food safety zones. On this level either private veterinary surgeons with a public service

contract or state veterinarians are responsible for the inspections.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Romanian Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health
3. Ministry of Public Health – Department of Public Health Authority and Department of Sanitary State Inspection
4. Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health
5. Banat's University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine
6. Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of Bucharest – Sanitary Veterinary Laboratory of State
7. University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine – Cluj Napoca
8. University Dunarea De Jos – Faculty of Food Science and Engineering

### 3.23. Slovakia



The central legal foundation for food legislation in Slovakia is Act no. 152/1995 Coll. on food-stuffs. It contains sanctions and penalties for any infringements. The courts are the ultimate decision making body.

Coordination of risk assessment and risk management between the relevant ministries of the Slovak Republic is ensured by the Commission for Food Safety that is appointed by MP SR.

In Slovakia risk assessment is largely separated from risk management. Scientific risk assessments to meet the requirements of state administration and control are undertaken by scientific bodies, research organisations and universities. Coordination is done by MPSR.

In principle, risk assessment results are published on the Internet.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic (MP SR)

##### Tasks of MPSR:

- Coordination of risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Bratislava

<http://www.land.gov.sk/en>



MP SR deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Slovakia. In the field of food and feed safety it prepares the budget and is responsible for the coordination and monitoring of inspections. Another main area of its work is risk communication.

The area of activity of MP SR includes, amongst other things, food of animal and non-animal origin (except the HoReCa sector), feed, plant protection products zoonoses, novel foods and veterinary medicinal products and their residues, and GMOs.

MP SR is the national EFSA Focal Point.

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to MP SR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of MP extends beyond the field of food safety to, for instance, plant health, plant protection, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MZ SR)

#### Tasks of MZ SR:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Bratislava  
<http://www.health.gov.sk>



MZ SR deals with health policy and food safety in Slovakia. In the fields of food (HoReCa sector only), drinking and mineral waters, novel foods, zoonoses and food supplements it draws up the budget, and (together with ÚVZ SR) is responsible for state inspections in these areas.

Some National Reference Laboratories are attached to MZ SR pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

### State Veterinary and Food Authority of the Slovak Republic (ŠVPS SR)

#### Tasks of ŠVPS SR:

- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Bratislava  
<http://www.svssr.sk>



ŠVPS SR, which is subordinate to MP SR, is responsible for risk management and the organisation and staging of state inspections in the areas food (except the HoReCa sector), veterinary medicinal products and residues, and food hygiene (together with ÚVZ SR).

ŠVPS SR is the national RASFF Contact Point.

The area of work of MP SR extends beyond the field of food and feed safety to animal health and welfare. Feed is handled jointly with ÚKSÚP.

### Central Institute for Inspections and Tests in Agriculture (ÚKSÚP)

#### Tasks of ÚKSÚP

- Risk management

**Seat:** Bratislava  
<http://www.uksup.sk>



ÚKSÚP, which is subordinate to MP SR, is responsible for risk management and the organisation and staging of state inspections in the fields of feed, plant protection products, GMOs and ecological agriculture, plant health and protection.

### Research Institute for Food (VÚP)

#### Tasks of VÚP

- Risk assessment

**Seat:** Bratislava  
<http://www.vup.sk>



VÚP, which is subordinate to MP SR, is responsible for the risk assessment of residues of plant protection products, novel foods and GMOs.

## Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚVZ SR)

### Tasks of ÚVZ SR

- Risk management

**Seat:** Bratislava

<http://www.uvzs.sk>



ÚVZ SR comes within the portfolio of MZ SR and is responsible for the coordination and staging of state inspections in the fields of food (HoReCa sector only), food hygiene, drinking and mineral waters, zoonoses, novel foods, food supplements, infant formula and baby food.

### Regional and local levels

Slovakia is broken down into 8 regions and 79 districts. The staging and monitoring of food and feed inspections are coordinated by ŠVPS, SR ÚKSÚP and ÚVZ SR. ŠVPS is supported by 8 regional, 48 local authorities, ÚKSÚP by 16 laboratories and 3 border control units. ÚKSÚP is divided into branches in Bratislava and the regional departments in Zvolen and Košice. Trials and experimental activities of the Institute are performed by 16 test stations. Test stations

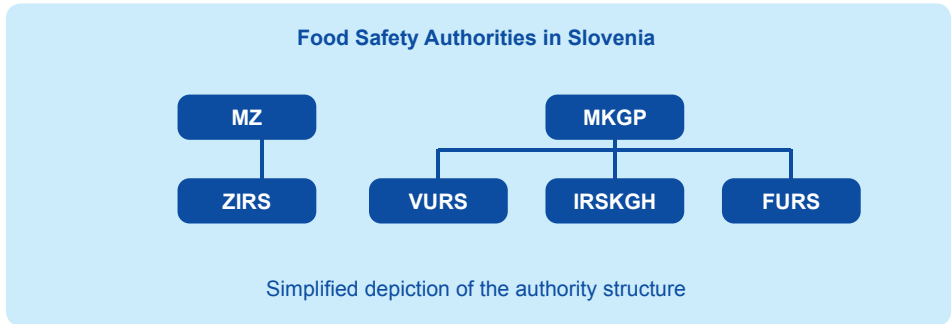
are deployed in various stations in Slovakia. The phytocontrol of plant material for import and export is carried out at 3 border inspection stations. ÚVZ SR supervises 36 regional authorities.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Research Institute for Animal Production
2. Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
3. Regional Public Health Authority in Proprad
4. Central Agricultural Inspection and Testing Institute
5. State Veterinary and Food Institute – Bratislava
6. State Veterinary and Food Institute – Dolny Kubin
7. Food Research Institute
8. State Veterinary and Food Institute – Kosice
9. Slovak Medical University
10. University of Veterinary Medicine
11. Slovak University of Agriculture
12. Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology
13. Comenius University, Faculty of Pharmacy
14. Institute of Neuroimmunology, SAS
15. State Veterinary Institute – Zvolen
16. Institute of Plant Genetics and Biotechnology, SAS



### 3.24. Slovenia



Government Regulation 120/2005 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Slovenia. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise, when it comes to the measures of the state authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Slovenia there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not published on the Internet.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP)

##### Tasks of MKGP:

- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point

**Seat:** Ljubljana  
<http://www.mkgp.gov.si>

MKGP deals with agricultural questions, fisheries, forestry and with food/feed safety and quality. It is responsible for general policy and the legislative framework. The competent authorities with regard to the official control along the entire food chain are the Veterinary Administration of the Republik of Slovenia (VURS), the Inspectorate of the Republik of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food (IRSKGH) and the Phytosanitary Administration of the Republik of Slovenia (FURS). VARS is responsible for official control in the primary production of food of animal origin and for official control of food of animal origin along the entire food production chain. VURS is also responsible for the official control of non-pre-packed fresh meat, fish and aquatic organisms in the retail trade, for zoonoses and residues of veterinary medicinal products. IR-SKGH is responsible for the official control of the quality and labelling of foodstuffs and feed and the safety of foodstuffs of plant origin in primary production, including residues of plant protection products while FURS is in charge of plant health and plant protection products (pesticides), including risk assessment in the approval process of plant protection products.

The area of activity of MKGP also includes feed, residues of veterinary medicinal products and plant protection products, zoonoses and GMOs.

MKGP is the national EFSA Focal Point.



The area of work of MKGP extends beyond food and feed safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

## Ministry of Health (MZ)

### Tasks of MZ:

- Risk communication
- Risk management
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Ljubljana

<http://www.mz.gov.si>



The MZ mission is public health. The Health Inspectorate of the Republik of Slovenia (ZIRS), the inspection body within MZ, is the main competent authority for official food control along the entire food chain except for primary production of food, production, import and wholesale trade of food of animal origin and non-prepacked raw meat and fish in the retail trade.

The area of activity of MZ also includes drinking water, mineral water, food supplements, additives, novel foods, GMOs and veterinary medicinal products.

ZIRS is the national RASFF Contact Point.

In the field of food safety the area of work of MZ also extends to the co-ordination of inter-ministerial and international co-operation.

Official laboratories designated by MKGP and MZ are National Reference laboratories.

Several official laboratories provide technical and science support for the official control framework pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. The National Reference laboratories for food and feed are: National Veterinary Institute, National Institute of Public Health, Regional Institute of Public Health Maribor, Regional Institute of Public Health Nova Gorica, National Institute for Biology and Agricultural Institute.

### Regional and local levels

All authorities responsible for official control operate on two levels – central and regional.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002

1. Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia
2. Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
3. Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing
4. University of Ljubljana – Veterinary Faculty and National Veterinary Institute
5. University of Ljubljana – Biotechnical Faculty: Department of Agronomy, Zootechnical Department, Department of Food Science and Technology
6. University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Medical Faculty
7. Jozef Stefan Institute
8. National Institute of Biology

### 3.25. Spain



Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Spain. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise in the case of measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessment, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Spain there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM)

##### Tasks of MARM:

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Madrid  
<http://www.marm.es>



MARM deals with agricultural policy and, more particularly, food and feed safety in the agricultural sector in Spain. It prepares draft legislation in the field of agricultural products, food of animal origin and feed, and is responsible for the co-ordination of state food inspections. MARM carries out risk assessments in the field of feed and residues of plant protection products.

The area of activity of MARM includes, amongst other things, feed, GMOs, zoonoses, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. MARM is the regulatory authority for plant protection products in Spain.

By contrast, the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products, which is subordinate to MSPS, is the regulatory authority for veterinary medicinal products in Spain.

Four National Reference Laboratories are attached to MARM pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of MARM extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

### Ministry of Health and Social Policy (MSPS)

#### Tasks of MSPS:

- Health policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Madrid

<http://www.msps.es>



MSPS deals with health policy and food safety in Spain. It prepares draft legislation in the field of food of non-animal origin, and is responsible for the co-ordination of state food inspections. The Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN) is the competent specialist authority that supports the work of MSPS.

The area of activity of MSPS includes, amongst other things, residues of plant protection products in the field of food of non-animal origin.

The area of work of MSPS extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

### Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN)

#### Tasks of AESAN:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Madrid

<http://www.aesan.msc.es>



AESAN is a subordinate specialist authority within the portfolio of MSPS. AESAN is responsible for the co-ordination of state food inspections. Furthermore, the risk assessments of AESAN are used as the basis for management measures in the field of food of non-animal origin. AESAN assesses risks, identifies new health risks and elaborates risk reduction recommendations. As a scientific institution that enjoys independence in terms of the results of its opinions, AESAN prepares expert reports on risk assessment, particularly in conjunction with novel foods, residues of veterinary medicinal products, food supplements, zoonoses and mineral waters, drinking water and is responsible for the risk management of GMOs. Other main areas of its work are research and transparent communication with the public at large, sciences and other involved or interested circles. The AESAN risk assessments are normally published.

AESAN is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

Two National Reference Laboratories are attached to AESAN pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004.

The area of work of AESAN extends beyond the area of food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

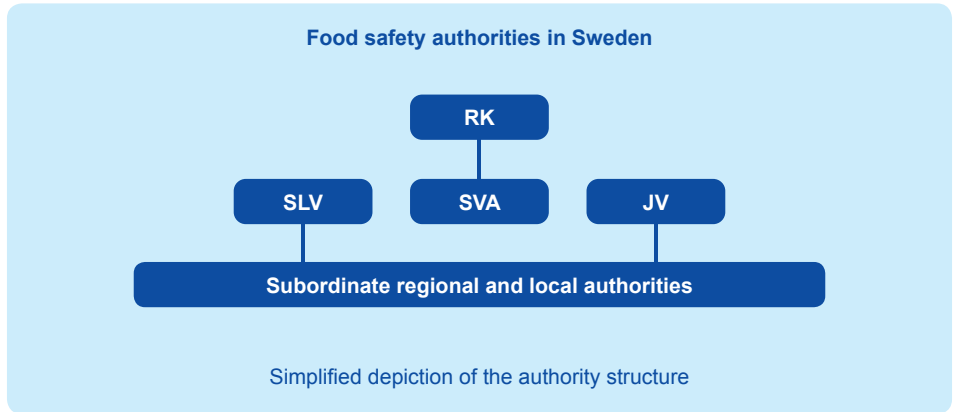
### **Regional and local levels**

The regional and local levels in Spain consist of 17 autonomous regions, two autonomous towns (Ceuta and Melilla) and 52 provinces. The Catalan and Basque food safety authorities carry out risk assessments on the regional level. The implementation of feed and food inspections is done through regional and local authorities.

### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Art. 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. Centro Nacional de Alimentación
2. Consejo Superior Investigaciones Científicas
3. Community Reference laboratory on Marine Biotoxins
4. Laboratorio Regional de Salud Pública de la Comunidad de Madrid
5. Laboratori Agroalimentari
6. Laboratorio de Salud Pública de la Delegación Provincial de la Consejería de Sanidad de Lugo
7. Departamento de Nutrición, Bromatología y Tecnología de los Alimentos, Facultad de veterinaria, Universidad Complutense
8. Universidad de Córdoba
9. Universidad Complutense de Madrid
10. Universidad de las Islas Baleares – Laboratorio de Biología Molécula, Nutrición y Biotecnología
11. Drug Analysis Service – Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona – Facultad de Veterinaria
12. Grupo de Investigación Dh03 – Universidad de León – Facultad de Veterinaria
13. Fundació Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal
14. Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario de Madrid
15. Agència Catalana de Seguretat Alimentària
16. Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries
17. Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria
18. Laboratory of Mycology
19. Nutrición y Bromatología, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Murcia
20. Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology
21. Saluvet Group
22. Elika

3.26. Sweden



The Food Act is the central legal foundation in food legislation in Sweden. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise in the case of the measures taken by the competent authorities in the field of food safety, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Sweden there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

**Central level**

**Ministry of Agriculture (RK)**

**Tasks of RK:**

- Agricultural policy, food safety
- Risk management

**Seat:** Stockholm

<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/1473>

RK deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Sweden. The main focus of RK's work is risk management. It co-ordinates the carrying out of state tasks in the field of food safety. The National Food Administration (SLV) and the Swedish Board of Agriculture (JV) support the work of RK.

The area of activity of RK extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and animal welfare.

**National Food Administration (SLV)**

**Tasks of SLV:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Uppsala

<http://www.slv.se>



SLV is responsible for food safety. As an independent, non-ministerial government authority,

it is not bound by any ministerial instructions. Nonetheless, it is accountable to the government and RK.

SLV is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management. It prepares draft legislation on the basis of its own science-based risk assessments in the field of food. It is responsible for state food inspections and informs the government. SLV normally publishes its risk assessments.

The area of activity of SLV includes, amongst other things, novel foods, food supplements, GMOs, zoonoses, mineral water and drinking water and residues of both plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products. However, the regulatory authority for plant protection products is the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate and for veterinary medicinal products the Medical Devices Agency.

SLV is the national EFSA Focal Point and the RASFF Contact Point.

The area of work of SLV extends beyond food safety to, for instance, nutrition.

### Swedish Board of Agriculture (JV)

#### Tasks of JV:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Jönköping  
<http://www.sjv.se>



JV is responsible for feed safety. As an independent, non-ministerial government authority, it is not bound by any ministerial instructions. Nonetheless, it is accountable to the government and RK.

JV is responsible for risk assessment, risk communication and risk management. It prepares draft legislation on the basis of its own science-based risk assessments in the field of feed. It is responsible for state feed inspections and informs the government.

The area of activity of JV includes, amongst other things, residues of plant protection products and GMOs in feed.

The area of activity of JV extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant and animal health.

### Swedish National Veterinary Institute (SVA)

#### Tasks of SVA:

- Risk assessment

**Seat:** Uppsala  
<http://www.sva.se>



SVA is subordinate to RK and, at the request of JV, carries out analyses.

The area of activity of SVA includes science-based risk assessments particularly in conjunction with zoonoses.

The area of work of SVA extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health.

### Regional and local levels

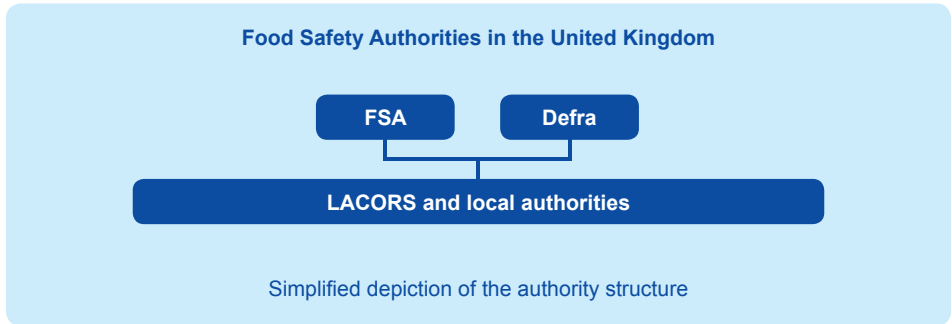
The regional level in Sweden consists of 21 rural district authorities and the local level of 290 municipal authorities. The rural district authorities are responsible for co-ordinating food inspections on the regional level whereby the activities of the regional authorities are in some cases steered by the government. The municipal authorities carry out food inspections. They work and take their decisions independently.

**Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) 178/2002**

1. National Food Administration Sweden (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Veterinary Institute
3. Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate
4. Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology
5. Swedish Museum of Natural History, Contaminant Research Group
6. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
7. Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
8. Karolinska Institute
9. Stockholm University
10. Örebro University Hospital
11. Swedish University of Agricultural Science
12. Göteborg University
13. MTM Research Centre at Örebro University
14. Lund University
15. Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, SLU
16. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU
17. Unit for Agricultural Entomology, SLU
18. Department of Crop Production Ecology, SLU
19. Uppsala University



### 3.27. United Kingdom



The central legal foundations in food legislation in the United Kingdom are the Food Safety Act 1990 and the General Food Regulations 2004. The Food Safety Act 1990 is the framework for all the food laws in Great Britain, with similar legislation in Northern Ireland. The General Food Regulations 2004 bring the Food Safety Act 1990 into line with Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and allow enforcement of the food safety requirements of this Regulation.

In the United Kingdom there is no institutional separation of risk assessment and risk communication from risk management.

Risk assessments are, in principle, published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

#### Food Standards Agency (FSA)

##### Tasks of FSA:

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Risk management
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point
- Risk research

**Seat:** London; FSA offices in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales  
<http://www.food.gov.uk/>



FSA is the central authority in the field of food safety in the United Kingdom. It is an independent non-ministerial Government Department, governed by an independent Chair and non-executive Board responsible for overall strategic direction of the Agency and for ensuring it meets its legal obligations. It is accountable to the British Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly of Wales through Health Ministers. Besides questions about standards for food safety, the responsibilities of FSA also include monitoring the local enforcement authorities. FSA is a UK wide body with its HQ in London and offices in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to ensure its priorities are delivered in a

country-specific context. Each office also has its own distinct areas of work. On relevant issues, FSA cooperates closely with local authorities. The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) operates within FSA and has its main offices in York. It is responsible for meat inspection duties in fresh meat premises in England, Scotland and Wales (Responsibility of DARD in Northern Ireland). FSA receives information, advice and proposals from its expert scientific committees. FSA normally publishes risk assessments on the Internet, and the main policy issues are decided by the FSA Board in open session in the light of scientific and other evidence. FSA informs the government and public at large.

FSA's area of work includes, amongst other things, food additives and contaminants, microbiological safety of food, feed, GMOs, novel foods and food supplements. FSA also has a watchdog role in the authorisation and surveillance of pesticides and veterinary medicines.

FSA is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

FSA's area of activity extends beyond food safety, including areas such as dietary health, food labelling and food product standards.

National Reference Laboratories are appointed by FSA in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004. FSA has posted a list on the Internet of the laboratories that are attached to authorities, hospitals and private companies.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

### Tasks of Defra:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** London

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>



Defra is a government department that is responsible – together with its executive agencies – for bills, implementation and monitoring of food safety unless this comes under the remit of FSA.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the executive agency responsible for, amongst other things, assessment, issue and maintenance of all national marketing authorisations for veterinary medicinal products; surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines and illegal substances in animals and animal products; and co-ordinating work in the area of anti-microbial resistance.

The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive is the regulatory authority for pesticides on behalf of Defra. With regard to food safety activity, the Directorate carries out an official programme of pesticide residues testing of food in the UK in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, and publishes the results on a quarterly basis. The Directorate is also responsible for taking appropriate enforcement action when regulatory breaches of pesticide residue levels occur.

Some of Defra's duties, for instance in the field of legislation, implementation and inspection, are the responsibility of the Agriculture/Rural Affairs Departments in the Devolved Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Defra publishes risk assessments in the field of animal

health and welfare. Furthermore, it cooperates, where appropriate, with FSA working groups.

Defra is responsible for all aspects of water policy in England and works closely with the Drinking Water Inspectorate, which is responsible for regulating the quality of drinking water. There are similar arrangements in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Defra's area of activity extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

### Regional and local levels

The United Kingdom consists of the four countries Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (each of which has its own parliament/assembly) as well as England (where the UK parliament is based). The administrative structure in these countries consists of a single-tier administration. These units are responsible for all regional and local administrative tasks. England has 40, Northern Ireland 26, Scotland 32 and Wales 22 administrative units. (In contrast to other parts of the United Kingdom, England has 354 district authorities within the 40 regional authorities). These authorities are responsible for enforcing the vast majority of food and feed laws and carrying out inspections. They report to FSA.

In its capacity as a local government authority, the Local Authorities Coordinator of Regulatory Services (LACORS) represents the local authorities and coordinates the activities amongst the local authorities and between the local authorities and both FSA and Defra.

### Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002

1. UK Food Standard Agency (EFSA Focal Point)
2. Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland
3. Hampshire Scientific Service
4. Glasgow Scientific Services
5. Veterinary Laboratories Agency
6. Staffordshire Country Laboratory and Scientific Services
7. Leicestershire Country Council Scientific Services
8. Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
9. Somerset Scientific Services
10. Institute of Food Research
11. Aberdeen City Council, Laboratory of the Public Analyst
12. Department of Agriculture & Rural Development for Northern Ireland Science Service
13. Central Science Laboratory
14. City of Edinburgh Council
15. Pesticides Safety Directorate
16. Health and Safety Laboratory
17. MRC Collaborative Centre for Human Nutrition Research
18. Dundee City Council Scientific Services
19. Durham Scientific Services
20. Royal Veterinary College
21. University of Plymouth
22. University of Birmingham, Food Safety and Production Group
23. Institute of Environment and Health, Cranfield University at Silsoe
24. University of Southampton
25. Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich
26. University of Newcastle upon Tyne
27. University of Glasgow, Research and Enterprise
28. Lancashire School of Health & Postgraduate Medicine
29. University of Aberdeen
30. Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
31. Institute of Occupational Medicine
32. Kent Scientific Services
33. LGC Limited
34. University of Liverpool
35. Scottish Crop Research Institute
36. Worcestershire Scientific Services

## 4. Food safety in neighbouring states

### 4.1. Iceland



The Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Iceland.

In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are frequently also based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Iceland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Some risk assessments are published on the Internet.

#### Central level

#### Ministry of Fishery and Agriculture (Slr)

##### Tasks of Slr:

- Food and feed safety
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Reykjavik

<http://www.sjavarutvegsraduneyti.is>



Slr deals with agricultural policy and food safety in Iceland. It prepares draft legislation in the field of agricultural products, foods of animal

and plant origin and feed, and is responsible for state food inspections.

The area of activity of Slr includes, amongst other things, food and feed, drinking water, plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products and their residues, hygiene and GMOs.

Given its high standing in the Icelandic economy, the focus is on fisheries. Slr is responsible for monitoring fishing catches and processing.

### Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST)

#### Tasks of MAST:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication
- EFSA Focal Point
- RASFF Contact Point

**Seat:** Selfoss  
<http://www.mast.is>



MAST is subordinate to Slr and is the central authority in the field of food safety. It carries out risk assessments of food and feed, drinking water, plant protection products, veterinary medicinal products and their residues.

It is responsible for import and export controls of food and drinking water. In the case of food of animal origin, its competence extends to primary production controls. Furthermore, MAST is responsible for monitoring the control activities of the municipalities. Risk communication is another main area of its work.

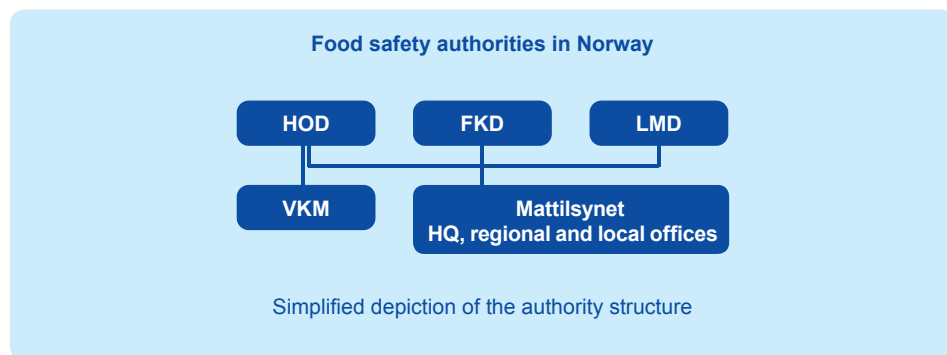
MAST is the national EFSA Focal Point and RASFF Contact Point.

MAST publishes some of its risk assessments and warnings on the Internet.

#### Regional and local levels

Iceland is broken down into 10 health districts, each with a supervisory health authority and 14 veterinary districts, each with a regional office of MAST. MAST has supervisory competences for all these bodies.

## 4.2. Norway



The Food Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Norway. In the case of infringements of food law, the courts decide on measures under criminal law and, in cases of dispute, about consumers' damage claims vis a vis food businesses. Likewise when it comes to the legality of state measures, which are also frequently based on risk assessments, the courts are the ultimate decision-making body.

In Norway risk assessment and risk management are separated institutionally.

Risk assessments are published on the Internet unless there are statutory provisions that prohibit this.

### Central level

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Care Services share responsibility for shaping food policy and for the management of foodstuffs from production to the consumer.

The Ministry of the Environment bears special responsibility for environmental policy issues.

### Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD)

#### Tasks of HOD

- Food issues, food safety and nutrition policy
- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Oslo

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/hod>



HOD deals with health policy, including nutrition and food safety. It elaborates bills in the field of health protection, food safety and food, except primary production. HOD's responsibilities include drinking water and cosmetics. HOD is responsible for the Norwegian Directorate of Health (Helsedirektoratet) which deals with public health, including nutrition. HOD finances and appoints the otherwise independent Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM).

## Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs (FKD)

### Tasks of FKD

- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Oslo

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/fkd>



FKD deals with the sustainable use of marine resources and aquaculture production of fish and other seafood. The area of activity of FKD also includes feed for marine animals and fish health and welfare.

## Ministry of Agriculture and Food (LMD)

### Tasks of LMD:

- Risk communication
- Risk management
- Food: primary production

**Seat:** Oslo

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/lmd>



LMD is the main ministry in charge of Mattilsynet. It deals with agricultural policy in Norway. It prepares draft legislation within the primary (agricultural) production of food and feed.

The area of work of LMD extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health as well as animal health and welfare.

## Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet)

### Tasks of Mattilsynet:

- Risk management
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Oslo

<http://www.mattilsynet.no>



Mattilsynet consists of a Head Office, regional and local offices all part of one large organisation. Mattilsynet is responsible for state inspections including import control and monitoring of the entire production and distribution chain of food, feed and drinking water. Mattilsynet does preparatory work for legislation under the three main food ministries LMD, FKD and HOD.

Mattilsynet is the national RASFF Contact Point.

Its area of work extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health, animal health and welfare as well as cosmetics.

## Ministry of the Environment (MD)

### Tasks of MD

- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Oslo

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md>



MD deals with environmental policies of the Government. It bears responsibility for the Biotechnology Act in Norway.

**The Directorate for Nature Management (DN)**

**Tasks of DN**

- Risk communication
- Risk management

**Seat:** Trondheim  
<http://www.dirnat.no/>



DN is the national governmental body for preserving Norway's natural environment. The directorate is responsible for preparatory work for MD and enactment of the biotechnology legislation.

**Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (VKM)**

**Tasks of VKM:**

- Risk assessment
- Risk communication

**Seat:** Oslo  
<http://www.vkm.no>



VKM is an independent risk assessment body, consisting of a secretariat and a Committee of approximately 85 experts, organized with a Scientific Steering Committee and 9 panels similar to the EFSA structure. VKM is financed and appointed by the Ministry of Health and Care Services. VKM carries out risk assessments at the request of Mattilsynet, throughout Mattilsynet's total remit. VKM is also responsible for the environmental risk assessments of GMOs on behalf of the Directorate for Nature Management (DN).

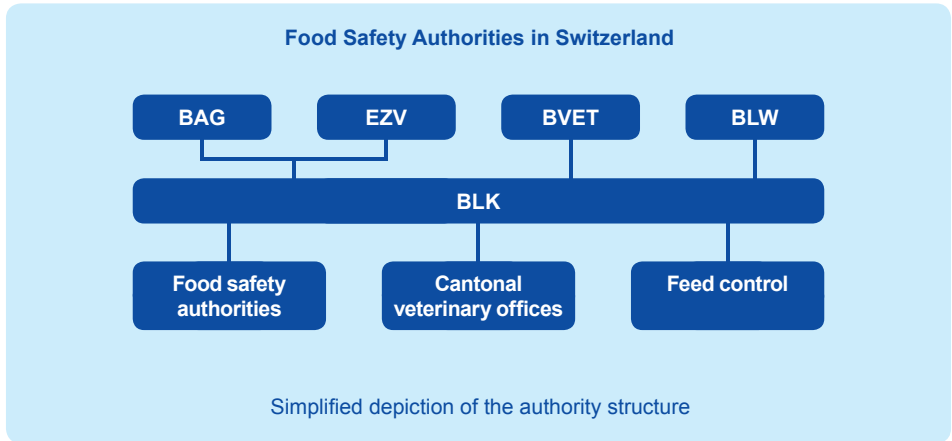
VKM is the national EFSA Focal Point.

**Regional and local levels**

Norway has a centralised structure. The food supervision activities of the communes come under the responsibility of Mattilsynet with its 8 regional and 64 local offices. The local offices in particular are responsible for the enactment of food legislation.



### 4.3. Switzerland



The Federal Food and Consumer Products Act and the related ordinances are the central legal foundation for food law in Switzerland. The Federal Act on Agriculture, the ordinances on feed, animal health, animal welfare and other ordinances concerning the import, transit and export of animals and food of animal origin are the other legislative acts of relevance in this area.

The Federal Government enacts food legislation in conjunction with import, transit and export, and ensures corresponding food control. Furthermore, it oversees enforcement by the cantons. In this work the competent federal offices are supported by the Federal Unit for the Food Chain. The Federal Government also has direct enforcement competences in the field of feed law. The cantons enforce food and agriculture legislation and ensure control within Switzerland. To this end, they draw on the corresponding control bodies who, in turn, monitor food, consumer products, rooms, facilities, production methods, animals, plants, minerals, farm land and hygiene conditions. In cases of dispute, the courts are the decision-making body.

In Switzerland there is no institutional separation of risk assessment from risk management.

Risk assessments are not normally published although some results are.

#### Central level

#### Federal Office of Public Health (BAG)

##### Tasks of BAG:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Bern, Switzerland  
<http://www.bag.admin.ch>



BAG is responsible for food safety and consumer protection in the field of food. The objective of BAG is to promote people's health and a healthy lifestyle. It deals with both the risk assessment and risk management of food. Risk assessment encompasses chemical, microbiological, biotechnological, food and toxicological risks.

The area of activity of BAG includes, amongst other things, novel foods, feed, residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, GMOs, food supplements, zoonoses, mineral waters and drinking water.

The area of work of BAG extends beyond food safety to, for instance, consumer products.

### Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW)

#### Tasks of BLW:

- Risk assessment
- Risk management

**Seat:** Bern, Switzerland

<http://www.blw.admin.ch>



BLW is responsible for primary production including feed. Together with the cantons and farmers' organisations, BLW implements the decisions of the people, parliament and government and plays an active role in shaping agricultural policy. BLW deals with both risk assessment and risk management in the field of feed. Feed control is carried out by the research institute Agroscope Liebefeld-Posieux.

The area of activity of BLW includes, amongst other things, feed, plant protection product residues and GMOs.

The area of work of BLW extends beyond food safety to, for instance, plant health.

### Federal Veterinary Office (BVET)

#### Tasks of BVET:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Bern, Switzerland

<http://www.bvet.admin.ch>



BVET is responsible for the safety of food of animal origin. It monitors and controls the import, export and transit of livestock and domestic animals, animal products and internationally protected flora and fauna (CITES Convention). In cooperation with importing countries, BVET also issues veterinary documents for the export of animals and animal products. The Border Inspection Posts BIP (Zurich, Geneva airports) are responsible for the import control of animals and animal products.

The area of activity of BVET includes, amongst other things, the residues of veterinary medicinal products and zoonoses.

The area of work of BVET extends beyond food safety to, for instance, animal health and animal welfare.

### Federal Unit for the Food Chain (BLK)

#### Tasks of BLK:

- Risk management

**Seat:** Bern, Switzerland

<http://www.blk.admin.ch>

The Federal Unit for the Food Chain carries out work on behalf of BAG, BLW and BVET. BLK monitors cantonal enforcement in the fields of food safety, animal health and animal welfare.

### Regional and local levels

The regional and local levels in Switzerland consist of cantons and municipalities.

The cantonal food control authorities are responsible for food safety inspections. The cantons appoint a canton chemist to whom the food inspectors and food controllers report. BAG monitors these enforcement agencies.

The cantonal veterinary offices are responsible for the enforcement of legislation on animal

health, animal welfare and veterinary medicinal products. They inspect livestock prior to slaughter and carry out meat inspections. The cantonal veterinary offices are monitored by BVET.

EZV, the federal customs authority, inspects food and consumer products that are imported, in transit or exported.

#### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network**

Switzerland has observer status for various EFSA projects. BAG participates in the Advisory Forum (AF) and the Focal Point project. BLW is involved in the activities of the AF Representatives on Plant Health whilst BVET participates actively in the activities of the AF Representatives on Animal Health and Welfare. Access to the RASFF is limited to border rejection notifications and notifications that directly concern Switzerland.

## 5. List of abbreviations

Austria	AGES	Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungs-sicherheit	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety
	BAES	Bundesamt für Ernährungs-sicherheit	Federal Office for Food Safety
	BMG	Bundesministerium für Gesundheit	Ministry of Health
	BMLFUW	Bundesministerium für Landwirt-schaft, Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wassermanagement	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Belgium	FASFC	Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire	Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain Safety
	CODA-CERVA	Centre d'Etude et de Recherches Vétérinaires et Agrochimiques	Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre
	WIV-ISP	Institut scientifique de Santé Publique	Scientific Institute of Public Health
	FPS	Service public fédéral Santé publique, Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire et Environnement	Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
Bulgaria	MH	Министерство на здравеопазването	Ministry of Health
	MOEW	Министерство на околната среда и водите	Ministry of Environment and Water Bodies
	MZH	Министерство на земеделието и храните	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
	NCPHP	Националният център по опазване на общественото здраве	National Centre for Public Health Protection
Cyprus	MOA	Υπουργείο Γεωργίας, Φυσικών Πόρων και Περιβάλλοντος	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
	MOH	Υπουργείο Υγείας	Ministry of Health
Czech Republic	MZ	Ministerstvo Zdravotnictví České Republiky	Ministry of Health
	MZE	Ministerstvo Zemědělství	Ministry of Agriculture
Denmark	DJF	Det Jordbrugsvidenskabelige Fakultet Aarhus Universitet	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Aarhus
	DPD	Plantedirektoratet	Danish Plant Directorate
	DTU	Danmarks Tekniske Universitet Fødevareinstituttet	National Food Institute of the Danish Technical University
	DVFA	Fødevarestyrelsen	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

Denmark	MFLF	Ministeriet for Fødevarer Landbrug og Fiskeri	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Estonia	PM	Põllumajandusministeerium	Ministry of Agriculture
	SM	Sotsiaalministeerium	Ministry of Social Affairs
	TTI	Taimetoodangu Inspektsioon	Plan Production Inspectorate
	TKI	Tervisekaitseinspektsioon	Health Protection Inspectorate
	VTA	Veterinaar- ja Toiduamet	Veterinary and Food Board
Finland	Evira	Elintarviketurvallisuusvirasto	Food Safety Office
	–	Tulli	Finnish Customs
	MAF	Maa- ja Metsätalousministeriö	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
	MSAH	Sosiaali- ja Terveysministeriö	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
	Valvira	Sosiaali- ja terveystalouden lupa- ja valvontavirasto	National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health
France	AFSSA	Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments	French Food Safety Agency
	MAP	Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
	MEIE	Ministre de l'Économie, de l'industrie et de l'emploi	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Employment
	MSS	Ministère de la Santé et des Sports	Ministry of Health and Sport
Germany	BfR	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung	Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
	BMELV	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
	BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
	BVL	Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety
	UBA	Umweltbundesamt	Federal Environmental Agency
Greece	EFET	ΕΝΙΑΙΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ	Hellenic Food Authority
	EOF	Εθνικός Οργανισμός φαρμάκων	National Organization for Medicines
	ΥΑ	Υπουργείο Ανάπτυξης	Ministry of Development
	ΥΑΑΤ	Υπουργείο Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Τροφίμων	Ministry of Rural Development and Food
	ΥΥΚΑ	Υπουργείο Υγείας και Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Hungary	EÜM	Egészségügyi Minisztérium	Ministry of Health

Hungary	FVM	Földművelésügyi és Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	MÉBIH	Magyar Élelmiszer-Biztonsági Hivata	Hungarian Food Safety Office
	MGSZHK	Mezőgazdasági Szakigazgatási Hivatal Központ	Central Agricultural Administrative Office
Iceland	MAST	Matvælastofnun	Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority
	Slr	Sjávarútvegs- og landbúnaðarráðuneytið	Ministry of Fishery and Agriculture
Ireland	DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
	DoHC	Department of Health and Children	Department of Health and Children
	FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Italy	MPAAF	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies
	MLSPS	Ministero de Lavoro, della Salute e delle Politiche Sociali	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
	ISS	Istituto de Superio de Sanità	National Health Institute
Latvia	PVD	Pārtikas un Veterinārais Dienests	Food and Veterinary Service
	VAAD	Valsts Augu Aizsardzības Dienests	State Plant Protection Service
	VM	Veselības Ministrija	Ministry of Health
	ZM	Zemkopības Ministrija	Ministry of Agriculture
Lithuania	NMVRVI	Nacionalinis maisto ir veterinarijos rizikos vertinimo institutas	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute
	SAM	Sveikatos Apsaugos Ministerija	Ministry of Health
	VAAT	Valstybinė Augalų Apsaugos Tarnyba	State Plant Protection Service
	VASC	Vilniaus Arkivyskupijos Šeimos Centras	State Environment Health Centre
	VSGT	Valstybinė Sėklų ir Grūdų Tarnyba	State Seed and Grain Service
	VMVT	Valstybinė maisto ir veterinarijos tarnyba	State Food and Veterinary Service
	ŽŪM	Žemės Ūkio Ministerija	Ministry of Agriculture
Luxembourg	ASTA	Administration des Services Technique de l'Agriculture	Agricultural Technical Services Administration
	ASV	Administration des Services Veterinaire	Veterinary Service Administration
	CRP Santé	Centre de Recherche Public Santé	Public Research Centre for Health

Luxembourg	MAVDR	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement Rural	Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development
	MS	Ministère de la Santé	Ministry of Health
	OSQCA	Organisme pour la Sécurité e la Qualité de la Chaîne Alimentaire	Organisation for the Safety and Quality of the Food Chain
Malta	FSC	Food Safety Commission	Food Safety Commission
	MRRRA	Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs	Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs
	MSA	Malta Standards Authority	Malta Standards Authority
	MSOP	Ministry for Social Policy	Ministry for Social Policy
Netherlands	AID	Algemene Inspectiedienst	General Inspection Service
	LNV	Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
	PD	Plantenziekenkundige Dienst	Plant Protection Service
	RIVM	Rijksinstituut vor Volksgezondheit en Milieu	National Institute of Public Health and the Environment
	VWA	Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit	Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
	VWS	Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
Norway	FKD	Fiskeri- og kystdepartementet	Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs
	HOD	Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet	Ministry of Health and Care Services
	LMD	Landbruks- og matdepartementet	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
	Mattilsynet	Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler	Norwegian Food Safety Authority
	VKM	Vitenskapskomitéen for mattrygghet	Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety
Poland	GIS	Główny Inspektorat Sanitarny	Chief Sanitary Inspectorate
	IZZ	Instytut Żywności i Żywienia	National Food and Nutrition Institute
	MF	Ministerstwo Finansów / Służba Celna	Ministry of Finance / Customs Services
	MRiRW	Ministerstwa Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	MZ	Ministerstwo Zdrowia	Ministry of Health
	NIZP-PZH	Narodowy Instytut Zdrowia Publicznego – Państwowy Zakład Higieny	National Institute of Public Health -National Institute of Hygiene
	PIWET	Państwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy	National Veterinary Research Institute

Poland	UOKiK	Urząd Ochrony Konkurencji i Konsumentów	Office of Competition and Consumer Protection
Portugal	ASAE	Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica	Authority for Food Safety and Economics
	DGV	Direcção Geral de Veterinária	Directorate-General for Veterinary Issues
	MADRP	Ministério da Agricultura, do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
	MEI	Ministério da Economia e da Inovação	Ministry of Economy and Innovation
Romania	ANSVSA	Autoritatea Națională Sanitară Veterinară și pentru Siguranța Alimentelor	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority
	MADPR	Ministerul Agriculturii, Pădurilor și Dezvoltării Rurale	Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Development of Rural Areas
	MM	Ministerul Mediului	Ministry of Environment
	MS	Ministerul Sănătății	Ministry of Health
Slovakia	MP SR	Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva Slovenskej republiky	Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic
	MZ SR	Ministerstvo zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky	Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
	ŠVPS SR	Štátna veterinárna a potravinová správa Slovenskej republiky	State Veterinary and Food Authority of the Slovak Republic
	ÚKSÚP	Ústredný kontrolný a skúšobný ústav poľnohospodársky	Central Institute for Inspections and Tests in Agriculture
	ÚVZ SR	Úrad verejného zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky	Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
	VÚP	Výskumný ústav potravinársky	Research Institute for Food
Slovenia	FURS	Fitosanitarna uprava Republike Slovenije	Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic Slovenia
	IRSKGH	Inšpektorat Republike Slovenije za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in hrano	Inspectorate of the Republic Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food
	MKGP	Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
	MZ	Ministrstvo za zdravje	Ministry of Health
	VURS	Veterinarska uprava Republike Slovenije	Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
	ZIRS	Zdravstveni inšpektorat Republike Slovenije	Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia
Spain	AESAN	Agencia de Espanola de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición	Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency
	MARM	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino	Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs



Spain	MSPS	Ministerio de Sanidad y Política Social	Ministry of Health and Social Policy
Sweden	RK	Regeringskansliet	Ministry of Agriculture
	JV	Jordbruksverket	Swedish Board of Agriculture
	SLV	Livsmedelsverket	National Food Administration
	SVA	Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt	Swedish National Veterinary Institute
Switzerland	BAG	Bundesamt für Gesundheit	Federal Office of Public Health
	BLK	Bundeseinheit für die Lebensmittelkette	Federal Unit for the Food Chain
	BLW	Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft	Federal Office for Agriculture
	BVET	Bundesamt für Veterinärwesen	Federal Veterinary Office
United Kingdom	Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
	FSA	Food Standards Agency	Food Standards Agency



# Legend

The specific areas of the authorities have been denoted as follows:



Plant protection products



Novel foods



Feed



Genetic engineering



Mineral water



Residues of veterinary medicinal products



Drinking water



Zoonoses



Food supplements

Federal Institute for Risk Assessment  
Thielallee 88-92  
D-14195 Berlin  
[www.bfr.bund.de](http://www.bfr.bund.de)

Phone +49-30-8412-0  
Fax +49-30-8412-4741  
[bfr@bfr.bund.de](mailto:bfr@bfr.bund.de)