



Better Training for Safer Food

Animal Health: *Prevention is better than cure*

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Extracted from a presentation by Laszlo Kuster, Unit G2 Animal Health, Brussels



Better Training for Safer Food:

A DG SANCO training initiative for EU and third country officials who undertake controls on food safety and veterinary issues.

Legal basis: Article 51 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

Areas covered:

- Food law
- Feed law
- Animal health rules
- Animal welfare rules
- Plant health rules



General aims

- High levels of competence and awareness of EU rules amongst official control staff
- Harmonised approach to EU and national control systems
- High levels of consumer protection, animal health and welfare and plant health
- Level playing field for food businesses
- Enhance trade of safe food and other commodities



BTSF cycle

planning - implementation - follow up - evaluation

SANCO policy units: "client," technical specifications

SANCO BTSF Unit

Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

Contractor: organises

Training coordinator: content, tutors

SANCO policy units: on-site verification, etc.

Figures 2006-2010:

Around 660 events

More than 29.000 participants

EUR 68 million budget

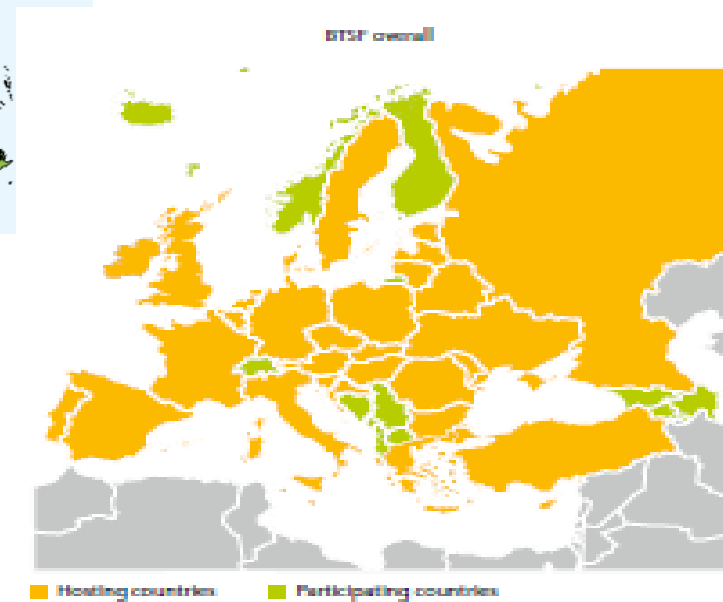
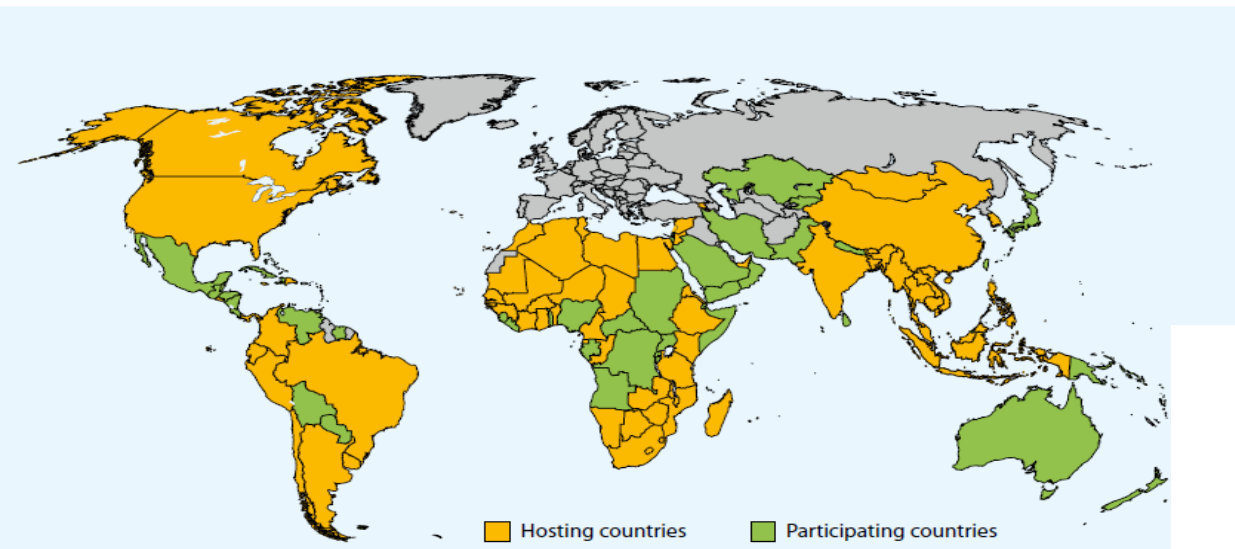
Approx. 35% of these activities for
third countries

Programmes so far (EU vs third countries)

1. HACCP
2. Animal by Products
3. Animal Welfare
4. BIPs Airport/seaport/roads/rail
5. Zoonoses/microbiological criteria
6. Food Hygiene and Control
7. Food Contact Materials
8. Plant Protection Products
9. Plant Health Control
10. TSE
11. Food/feed of non-animal origin
12. Feed law
13. Animal Health Controls (Aquaculture)
14. Animal Health Controls (bees/zoo animals)
15. TRACES for EU Member States
16. Quality schemes
17. Audit systems
18. Support for EU controls
19. Food additives
20. Veterinary medicinal residues
21. Food contact materials
22. Contingency planning/animal disease control
23. Emerging animal diseases
24. Risk assessment
25. EU food standards
26. Avian Influenza
27. Food Testing/SPS issues
28. GMO analysis
29. RASFF and TRACES
30. Feed rules and import requirements
31. International standard-setting bodies

Hosting/participating countries 2006-present

BTSF overall



BTSF 2012

≈ 150 events
≈ 31 activities
≈ 7,000 participants
Budget ≈ €15 million

Courses: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/calendar.html>

EU Animal Health Strategy

Animal production needs economic sustainability

In 2007, agricultural goods output in the EU: € 335 billion
42.5 % came from animal products
13.7 million animal holdings

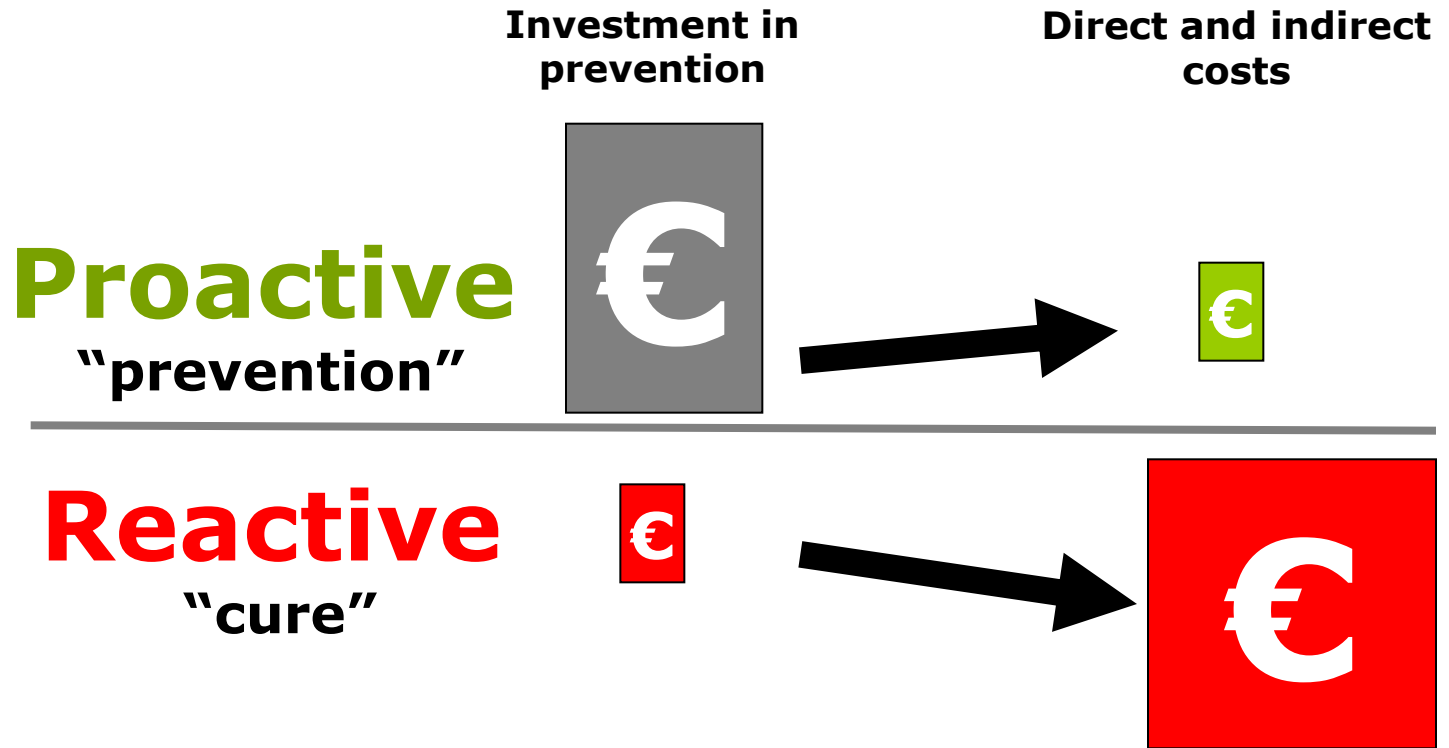
Importance of Animal Health

Animal and human health are linked
Reduce diseases to support farming
Competitiveness by free circulation
Implications on wider environment

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/action_en.htm

EU Animal Health Strategy

“Prevention is better than cure”



**Competent
authorities**

**Animal
keepers**

Interactions

**Other
stakeholders**

**Consumers,
citizens**

ANIMAL HEALTH LAW

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS

BASIC RULES:

- MOVEMENTS
- IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
- DISEASE CONTROL

AQUATIC ANIMALS

BASIC RULES:

- MOVEMENTS
- IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
- DISEASE CONTROL

Delegated /
implementing

MOVEMENTS:
Animals &
Products

IMPORT:
Animals &
Products

DISEASE
CONTROL

MOVEMENTS:
Animals &
Products

IMPORT:
Animals &
Products

DISEASE
CONTROL

Two levels of protection

EU

Disease control directives

Veterinary checks
directives

Safeguard decisions

Member States

Implementation,
contingency plans

Perform checks at
origin and destination

Implementation of
restrictions

EU rapid response network 2012

Evaluation of the network by an external consultant

Covered all 27 Member States

10 case (country) studies

- To evaluate the current legislative and non-legislative framework
- To clarify which aspects need to be improved
- To identify potential options for improvement

Some of the conclusions

- *Well developed, tested and up to date Contingency Plans can help prevent an emergency from becoming a crisis*
- *The overall effectiveness extends to factors well beyond simply having effective Contingency Plans in place*
- *The comprehensive set of legislation in place can be considered as a valuable shield against "traditional" contagious animal diseases*
- *The legislation appears also to be quite effective in triggering the relevant steps and control measures to fight against emerging diseases or new "profiles" of known diseases*
- *FVO missions to Member States: most effective and cost-efficient for ensuring that appropriate and up-to-date Contingency Plans are in place*



European
Commission



Health and
Consumers

Key messages

- ✓ **We have a valuable shield**
- ✓ **Evolution of Animal Health Law, not revolution**
- ✓ **The Commission: framework and assistance**
- ✓ **Member States: fill with substance**
- ✓ **Expect the best but prepare for the worst**
- ✓ **Communicate**