Looking at enhanced crisis preparedness and early detection of outbreaks in the EU.

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DDG2.G4.: Food, alert systems and training
Outline

• Legal framework
• Channels for early detection of outbreaks and trends
• Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness
• Communication
• Concluding remarks
Why early detection or crisis preparadness?

- To limit the effects on human health and avoid spread of hazards (E. coli crisis: 46 deaths; 782 HUS patients)

- To limit the need for food re-calls, trade restrictions or other economic consequences (loss during first two weeks: 812 Million EURO, Exports loss: 600 Million EURO, EC market support: 210 Million EURO)

- To agree on responsibilities and procedures beforehand and anticipate possible reactions of press/general public
Multiple EU players with one goal

Parliament

Council

Commission

EFSA

Stakeholders

Member States

DG SANCO

FVO

RASFF

EWRS

ECDC
Legal Framework
Legal framework

Preparedness and Monitoring

• Decision No 2119/98/EC: Epidemiological surveillance of Communicable (human) diseases and Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)
• Directive 2003/99/EC on zoonoses monitoring in food and animals and foodborne outbreak investigations
Legal framework

**Outbreak management & coordination (food)**

- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004: Official controls including drawing up of contingency plans at national level

**Outbreak management & coordination (humans)**

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Treaty of Lisbon)
- Decision No 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border health threats
Contingency planning

• Commission Decision 2004/478/EC concerning the adoption of a general plan for food/feed crisis management (implementing article 55 of Regulation 178/2002)

  ➢ Plan further elaborated in SOPs
  ➢ Creation of a network of crisis coordinators in MS
  ➢ Communication strategy
Channels for early detections and trends
Channels for early detection of outbreaks

- EFSA trend reports on zoonoses and AMR systems: RASFF, EWRS, EPIS, etc.
- EURL network of expertise
- Media screening by ECDC
- International collaboration via WHO and other networks
- EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Group on Emerging Risks
Overall trends

• EFSA figures on outbreaks
### Food-borne outbreaks 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outbreaks due to:</th>
<th>Total number of foodborne outbreaks (%)</th>
<th>Human cases (%)</th>
<th>Hospitalisations (%)</th>
<th>Deaths (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FoNAO</td>
<td>219 (10)</td>
<td>10,543 (26)</td>
<td>2,798 (35)</td>
<td>57 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FoAO</td>
<td>2,065 (90)</td>
<td>30,230 (74)</td>
<td>5,090 (65)</td>
<td>68 (54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,284</td>
<td>40,773</td>
<td>7,888</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Opinion of the EFSA BIOHAZ Panel on Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin (FoNAO): Part 1 (outbreak data analysis and risk ranking of food/pathogen combinations)
Food-borne outbreaks: causative agents

Source: EFSA/ECDC EU Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2012
Overall trends

• EFSA figures on outbreaks
• **EU success story on Salmonella**
EU Salmonella strategy

EFSA figures on confirmed human cases of salmonellosis in the EU

- 2004: 192703
- 2005: 174544
- 2006: 164011
- 2007: 151998
- 2008: 131468
- 2009: 108614
- 2010: 98735
- 2011: 95572
- 2012: 92916
EU rabies control

Rabies cases in animals in 1992 (left) and 2012 (right)
Overall trend

- EFSA figures on outbreaks
- EU success story on *Salmonella*
- **New foodborne challenges:**
  - Food of non-animal origin
  - Global sources of zoonotic agents via food
  - AMR
Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness

- FVO fact-finding series on 'emergency preparedness' to identify best practices
Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness

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• SOPs between EFSA, ECDC and the Commission on procedures for foodborne outbreaks
Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness

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• SOPs between EFSA, ECDC and the Commission on procedures for foodborne outbreaks

• Molecular database on isolates from humans (ECDC), animals, food and feed (EFSA)
Database on molecular testing

- The purpose is to collect molecular typing data and compare isolates from human cases (ECDC), food, feed and animals (EFSA)
- In close collaboration with relevant EURLs
- EFSA self-mandate on the integration of molecular methods in outbreak epidemiology
Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness

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- Molecular database on isolates from humans (ECDC), animals, food and feed (EFSA)
- **SOPs for the RASFF**
Tools for enhanced crisis preparedness

- FVO fact-finding series on 'emergency preparedness' to identify best practices
- SOPs between EFSA, ECDC and the Commission on procedures for foodborne outbreaks
- Molecular database on isolates from humans (ECDC), animals, food and feed (EFSA)
- SOPs for the RASFF
- EU-wide and national exercises on crisis or major foodborne events
Exercises: on EU and national level

- To test contingency plans
- To establish SOPs between different sectors
- To be prepared for major disease events
- To think about scenarios "outside the box", e.g. bioterrorism, etc.

- EU-wide:
  - EFSA crisis exercise in 10/2013
  - Aristaeus in 05/2013

- National exercises
Training

• BTSF training on foodborne outbreak investigations
BTSF

Food borne outbreak investigations

• Teams of public health and veterinary / food safety authorities
• Main subjects:
  • Outbreak preparedness
  • Outbreak management
  • Crisis communication
Training

- BTSF training on foodborne outbreak investigations
- **EURL workshops and special training**
Training

• BTSF training on foodborne outbreak investigations
• EURL workshops and special training
• **ECDC training incl. EPIET-programme**
Training

- BTSF training on foodborne outbreak investigations
- EURL workshops and special training
- ECDC training incl. EPIET-programme
- **MSs: specific training of staff**
Communication
Communication

- Verification of information in RASFF and EWRS by CA essential and shall be based on sound scientific advice or risk assessment
- Advanced announcement to all parties involved
- Development of the iRASFF online platform to increase speed, availability and interactivity of information.
- Communicators network both on the public health side as well as on food incidents to assess and anticipate possible reactions of the press/general public
Conclusions

- Legal tools are in place
- Vigilance of MSs and stakeholders is vital
- Good collaboration between the sectors is beneficial for all
- Constant learning process based on lessons-learned
- An appropriate communication strategy is crucial for success
- Be prepared!
Thank you very much for your attention!

DG Health & Consumers

Europe working for healthier, safer, more confident citizens

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Food safety

Consumer Affairs