



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of BTSF News. The last few months have seen important changes within the Better Training for Safer Food, an initiative aimed at informing and training officials from EU Member States and from third countries about European food and feed law, animal health and welfare, and plant health regulations. I'm delighted to report that the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) now shares responsibility for implementing the BTSF programmes in collaboration with DG SANCO. EAHC manages all phases of the projects, from calls for tender to awarding training contracts and dissemination of information, while DG SANCO sets BTSF policies and is responsible for overall strategy. This combined strength of EAHC and DG SANCO will ensure the BTSF initiative continues to be robust and effective at supporting the drive to safeguard consumer health and welfare across Europe.

Luc Briol,
Director of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

Info Day

On 7 June the EAHC organised the first annual Info Day to raise awareness of the BTSF initiative and to disseminate practical information to stakeholders on how to participate in calls for tender.

Salvatore Magazzù, Head of the Training Unit at the EAHC, officially welcomed the 30 participants, who represented public institutions and private companies from across Europe, before handing over to Lauro Panella (DG SANCO Training Sector) who spoke about the role of DG Health and Consumers.

Markus Brunner and Andras Badacsonyi (BTSF Project Officers, EAHC) then led a series of in-depth discussions on the BTSF working programme and practicalities of submitting a tender, including an introduction to the operational guidelines and how to deliver a good tender offer. Participants were particularly keen to discover the best logistical methods for tender submission.

Following the success of the Info Day, the EAHC plans to hold the event every year in the run up to calls for tender. The whole experience proved to be an excellent opportunity to meet, share information and make new business connections for those who are contemplating tendering for contracts.

More information on the topics can be found at www.btsf.eu

Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) is a European Commission's initiative. BTSF organises training in the areas of European food and feed law, animal health and welfare, and plant health regulations. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) has been implementing the BTSF initiative since 2009.

This newsletter provides information on activities organised within the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative. You'll find the latest news and views about BTSF training and issues related to the initiative as well as upcoming dates for your diary.

Calls for tender 2010

Within the framework of the BTSF initiative, the EAHC has launched **three calls for tender** to organise and implement training activities that inform staff involved in food product control on updates to Community law. These calls for tender are split into lots, with each lot covering a specific training course.

Call for tender EAHC/2010/BTSF/01 on veterinary legislation

Mainly for EU Member States, this call is divided into the following 4 lots for organising training sessions on:

- Lot 1:** Microbiological criteria and control of zoonoses
- Lot 2:** Veterinary and food safety control checks in Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)
- Lot 3:** Prevention, control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)
- Lot 4:** Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) in Member States

Call for tender EAHC/2010/BTSF/02 on Official Controls on Food

Mainly for EU Member States, this call is divided into the following 5 lots for organising training sessions on:

- Lot 1:** Quality schemes (organic farming and geographical indications)
- Lot 2:** Best practices on increased level of official controls on certain feed and food of non-animal origin
- Lot 3:** Audit systems and internal auditing
- Lot 4:** Support to Union controls in Member States and third countries
- Lot 5:** Evaluation and registration of plant protection products and the control of their proper use and marketing

Call for tender EAHC/2010/BTSF/03 for training sessions to be held predominantly for third countries:

This call is divided into the following 2 lots for organising training sessions on:

- Lot 1:** EU food rules and food import requirements
- Lot 2:** Diagnosis and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza and other animal diseases

The main features of each training activity (length, number of sessions, location, content, etc.) are explained in the specific call for tenders.

For more information on the specifications, procedures and deadlines and to apply to these calls for tenders, please visit www.btsf.eu.



From farm to fork

Border Inspection Points



Monika Marks is the Director of Border Office at the General Veterinarian Inspectorate, Poland. She is responsible for organising some of the BTSF training courses on border inspection points and took a few moments to talk to BTSF News about why this training is so vital to Inspectors across Europe and in Third Countries.

"Before the BTSF initiative was set up there was no formal consistent training for BIP inspectors. Consequently, many competent officials in their respective countries had become isolated and lacked the support needed to give them 100% confidence about the decisions they made every day, especially when it came to interpreting the regulations during complex situations.

Feedback about BIP training is always very positive from the participants. The opportunity to meet their peers and share experiences and information is greatly appreciated, as is the attitude of the tutors. Being former BIP Inspectors, they have developed a unique ability to understand and engage the participants on the issues that really matter, and many course attendees have commented on how friendly they are, as well as their willingness to discuss any issue at any time even after the course has finished and they have returned home.

Each course is a balance of theory and practical opportunities, and over the last 18 months they have evolved based on the feedback of participants. There are now more opportunities for practical field-work, not to mention plenty of social events so participants can relax and enjoy the company of their peers. This is something they might never have had the opportunity to do before. We also encourage this atmosphere of collaboration and support continuing after the course by ensuring participants have the contact details of all of the course tutors and other attendees."

What's new on the website

The BTSF website is regularly updated in order to provide you with the most accurate and hands-on information you may need on the BTSF programme. For example, a **new BTSF Guideline for tenderers** and an **updated BTSF Guideline for operators** are now available online.

Do you want to know more about a specific training course, on how it is organised and what subjects are taught? Check out the very latest **videos on BTSF training courses!**

Practical information: BTSF News is published six times a year. To receive the newsletter in digital form, please go to www.bstf.eu For current and past editions of the newsletter, please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/newsletters.html> For further information on all issues related to BTSF please visit: www.bstf.eu

Upcoming events

- HACCP**
6–10 September 2010, Portugal – Advanced Course
6–10 September 2010, France – Advanced Course
13–17 September 2010, United Kingdom – Advanced Course
- Feed Law**
6–10 September 2010, Brussels, Belgium
- Plant Health Controls**
6–10 September 2010, Lisbon, Portugal
Plant Health Import Quarantine - Wood Packaging Materials 1
- Zoonoses and Microbiological Criteria in Foods**
13–17 September 2010, Berlin, Germany
Control and eradication of Salmonella in poultry and pigs
- BSE/TSE**
12–16 September 2011, Brescia, Italy – Milk
- Food Contact Materials**
13–15 September 2010, Tallinn, Estonia
Training course 2 on FCM for Administrators level 2 with more than 3 years experience
15–17 September 2010, Tallinn, Estonia
Training course 3 on FCM for Inspectors
- Animal Health of Bees and Zoo Animals**
6–10 September 2011, Prague, Czech Republic – Bees
- EU Food Standards in Third Countries**
14–16 September 2010, Canada – Animal welfare
- RASFF/Traces**
14–16 September 2010, Italy – RASFF

For training courses organised after mid-September, please visit the complete BTSF training calendar at www.bstf.eu



A balance of theory and practical opportunities