



# The 'Better Training for Safer Food' initiative

BTSF INFO-DAY  
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# **DG SANTE Policy Unit**

**Formerly D1  
now F6 from 1 Sept 2020**

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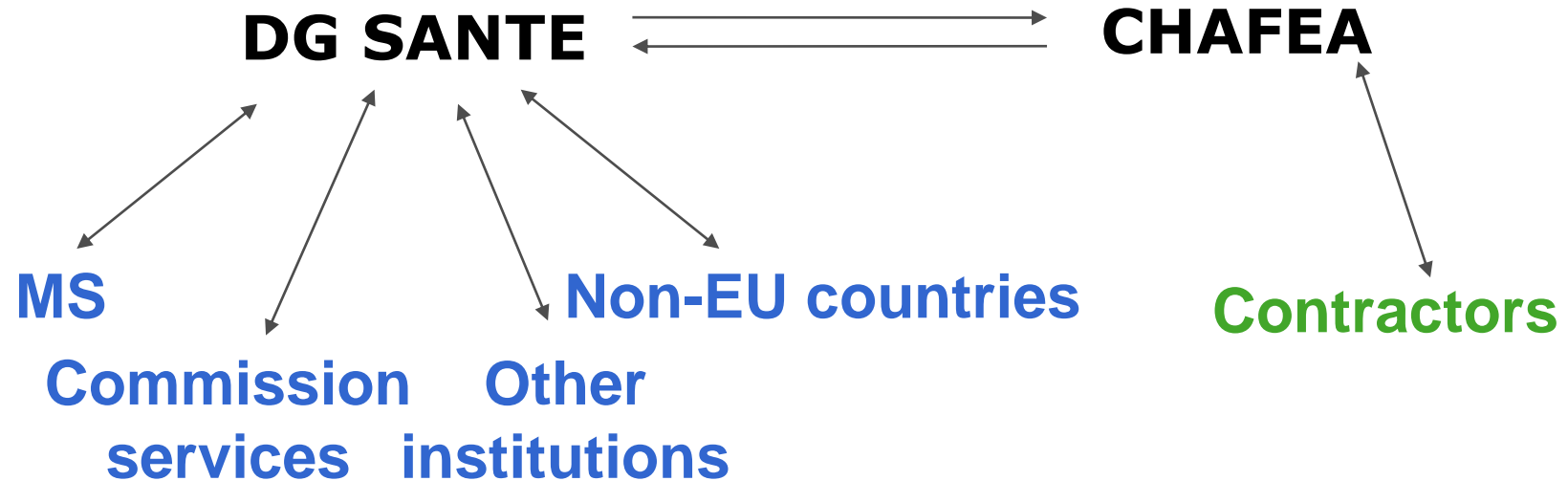
# Background and evolution

# What is BTSF?



- A DG SANTE training initiative for EU and non-EU country official control staff
- Launched in 2005
- Covering food safety, plant health and animal health and welfare
- Aims: High levels of competence and awareness of EU rules leading to harmonised approach to control systems

# BTSF management

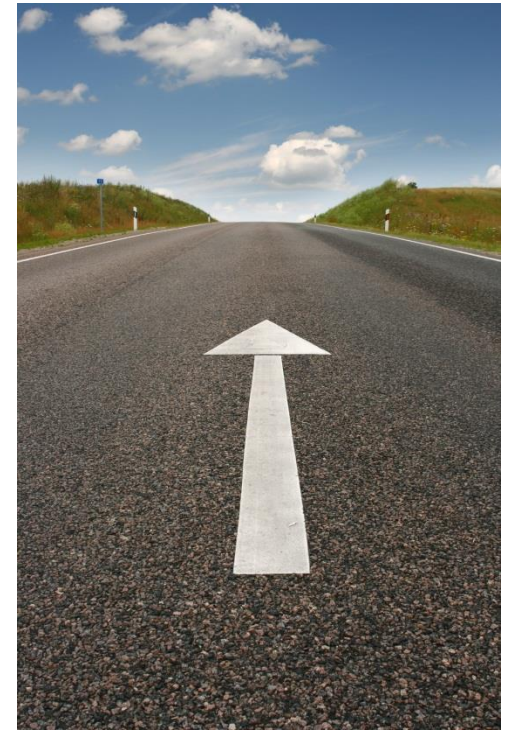


# BTSF: 15 years already

- Set up in 2005 on the basis of the OFFC Regulation
- Modest beginnings in 2006

**NOW**

- at the **very heart** of the DG SANTE mission
- a **key player** in SPS enforcement
- a solid **capacity building programme** in the EU and across the world



# BTSF today

- A **blended learning model**

## Face-to-face training courses

- (Regional) training workshops
- *Ad hoc* assistance missions (STMs)

## On-line training courses

- BTSF Academy
- E-learning courses, training material, videos
- Virtual Classroom training



# BTSF in figures from 2006 to 2019

- **More than 40 programmes running**
  - **More than 2000 events**
  - **Around 76.000 participants**
  - **Budget of approx. € 185 million**



**Approx. 20% of this activity covers non-EU countries**



# Organising training activities under BTSF

# BTSF principles

- *Not to replace initial training for inspectors*
  - ⇒ **MS responsibility for initial training**
- *To complement initial training in areas where difficulties exist at EU level*
  - ⇒ **EU message / Mix of tutors team**
- *To favour knowledge sharing and networking to increase compatibility of control procedures throughout the EU*
  - ⇒ **Mix of tutors and participants**
- *To follow a train-the-trainer approach*
  - ⇒ **Dissemination is a key factor for BTSF success**





## Main features

- Training is organised by external contractors
- Training consists of workshops and/or secondment of individual experts
- Training may be through virtual classrooms
- Tuition by experts from the Member States, non-EU countries and international organisations

# Requested training services

- To recruit a qualified tutoring team
- To develop a training programme meeting the objectives of the course and the requested technical coverage
- To ensure a balanced mix of theoretical and practical sessions using interactive learning methodologies, including virtual classrooms
- To develop the training material
- To promote the course and ensure appropriate participation through NCP network
- To identify appropriate training locations and organise all logistical aspects for participant attendance
- To test the understanding of the trained subjects and measure the impact of the training

# Open BTSF Calls

# ***EU-SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) STANDARDS (Chafea/2020/BTSF/04) - 1***

***General features (1,900, 000€, two phases)***

## **Task 1: training workshops**

- 18 three-day training workshops (+ VC option)
- 540 participants (around 30 participants per course)

## ***Objectives***

- To provide a detailed overview and a clear, better and harmonised understanding of EU legislation in the relevant areas having regard to recent developments of the legislation,
- To deliver targeted training and information tailored to the needs of beneficiary countries in order to improve their knowledge in a specific area and increase their efficacy to verify compliance with legal requirements in this specific area,
- To disseminate best practices for control procedures in order to increase the compatibility of these procedures across and outside the EU, based, if available, on overview reports of EU audit activities,
- To ensure consistent and rigorous implementation of EU rules.

## ***Target***

- Officials from competent authorities in EU Member States and neighbouring non-EU countries (upon specific request and where appropriate, activities may be implemented jointly with international organisations or other stakeholders)

# ***EU-SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) STANDARDS (Chafea/2020/BTSF/04) - 2***

## ***General features***

**Task 2: Sustained training and technical assistance missions (STMs) 300 working days in total:**

- +/- 8 days/STM (2 days preparation, 5 days on-the-spot, 1 day for reporting activities)

## ***Objectives***

- to assess the implementation and control of measures (through meetings with competent authorities and visits on-the-spot) as a prerequisite for future remedial intervention,
- To support competent authorities in the development of an action plan aimed at improving compliance,
- To mentor competent authorities throughout a learning process,
- To support competent authorities in the development of information tools, information campaigns, documented control procedures/manuals to be implemented later at regional level and setting-up of effective verification mechanisms in the fields covered by the contract,
- to provide hands-on training in the fields covered by this tender.

## ***Target***

- Officials from competent authorities in EU Member States and neighbouring non-EU countries (upon specific request and where appropriate, activities may be implemented jointly with international organisations or other stakeholders).

# **Border Control Posts** *(Chafea/2020/BTSF/05)*

## **General features (1 620 000€, two phases)**

- 8 four-day courses (+ VC option)
- 240 participants in total (30 participants per course)

## **Objectives**

- To raise knowledge and awareness of EU laws on BCPs;
- To ensure their correct enforcement;
- To promote a harmonised approach to the operation of EU and national control systems;
- To train staff of competent authorities of EU Member States involved in official control activities to keep them up-to-date with all aspects of EU law in this field;
- To ensure that controls are carried out in a more uniform, objective and efficient manner in all Member States.

## **Target**

- Control staff operating or involved in BCPs control systems.



# ***New Official Control Regulation***

## ***(Chafea/2020/BTSF/06)***

### ***General features (1 330 000 €, two phases)***

- 8 three-day courses (+VC option)
- 240 supported participants in total (30 participants per course)

### ***Objectives***

- To spread knowledge and disseminate best practices for official controls among competent authorities involved in control activities and other relevant enforcement actions along the entire agri-food chain,
- To exchange experience to increase the level of expertise on the rules introduced by the new legal framework, the level of consistency of their implementation across the EU and the level of cooperation between relevant authorities.

### ***Target***

- Officials from competent authorities involved in policy making, planning and control activities (central or regional)
- Field inspectors involved in control activities, including border control post staff.

# **Organic farming** (*Chafea/2020/BTSF/07*)

## **General features (1 640 000 €, two phases)**

- 10 three-days courses (+ VC option)
- 300 participants in total (30 participants per course)

## **Objectives**

- To improve knowledge of the control requirements
- To allow the exchange of experience
- To disseminate best practices for control activities and procedures
- To ensure consistent and rigorous implementation of the regulatory requirements
- To contribute to increase the effectiveness of the competent authorities/control authorities/control bodies' verification of compliance with the requirements

## **Target**

- Staff performing official controls and other official activities on organic production and labelling of organic production

# COVID-19 impact

# BTSF and COVID19

- BTSF face to face trainings suspended until 1 September 2021 (suspension under regular review)
- Resume BTSF activities through virtual classrooms from 1 January 2021
- BTSF approach:
  - Providing sufficient flexibility to contractors (extension)
  - Exploring alternative options (virtual classrooms)
  - Developing adequate IT tools (BTSF Academy)



**Thank you for your attention**

**[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf_en)**

**<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/food/index.html>**