



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE**

30th Session, 3 – 7 October 2016

Astana, Kazakhstan

**MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019
(STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCEURO 2014-2019) - STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

(Prepared by CCEURO Coordinator)

Introduction

1. The 36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC36) adopted in 2013 the General Strategic Plan 2014-2019. When it was adopted some members indicated that the Strategic Plan could serve as the basis for the development of regional Strategic plans e.g. for CCNASWP and CCASIA.
2. During the FAO Regional Consultation on Strengthening Capacities for Food Safety Risk Analysis and enhancing participation in Codex work on 18 September 2013 in Pulawy, Poland an informal document containing the goals of a draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO was presented by the Coordinator for Europe. The goal of a Strategic Plan was to enhance the effectiveness of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe. This draft was informally discussed at the Pulawy meeting.
3. After the Pulawy meeting written comments on the draft were invited and provided by the CCEURO members.
4. For the 29th CCEURO in The Hague in 2014 a draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO was presented on the basis of written comments. The draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO was built on and is aligned with the global Codex Strategic Plan for 2014-2019. It seeks to achieve better coordination and interaction among member countries in order to strengthen national food control systems, promote harmonization of standards and equivalence of practices in ensuring food safety and fair practices in food trade.
5. The document was discussed and changes were agreed upon during the 29th CCEURO. In order not to deviate too much from the General strategic Plan, it was agreed to link the objectives of the Strategic Plan for CCEURO to the General Strategic Plan for Codex. The Committee proposed to establish an electronic working group, working in English and Russian, and to be chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by Ukraine, to further elaborate the document and also take into account the issues raised by the Committee for consideration at its next session.
6. The CAC38 endorsed these conclusions in 2015.
The Netherlands and Ukraine distributed an adapted concept and invited comments of CCEURO-members on their regional plan. The comments received were posted on the CCEURO website. They are still accessible in [CCEURO](#)¹ (in English) and [CCEURO](#)² (in Russian).
7. The Netherlands and Ukraine have, on the basis of these comments, made an adapted draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO. It is added as Annex I to this document.

Considerations

8. The discussion resulting in Annex I served its purpose in making all CCEURO members familiar with the General Strategic Plan and it stimulated thoughts and discussion about the relation between the General Strategic Plan and a plan for our European Region.

¹<https://www.codexalimentarius.nl/sites/codexalimentarius.nl/files/bijlagen/ENG%20Comments%20Draft%20Strategic%20Plan%20CCEURO.pdf>

²<https://www.codexalimentarius.nl/sites/codexalimentarius.nl/files/bijlagen/RU%20Comments%252%20on%20Draft%20strategic%20Plan%20after%20CCEURO%20w97.pdf>

9. During the 29th CCEURO it seemed feasible to, with the help offered by WHO, produce a document as promised in Action 3.2. After exploration of the possibilities, this proved to be a too ambitious undertaking, given the confidentiality under which FAO and WHO invite its experts and compose existing platforms and data collections.
10. During the CAC38 in 2015, under the agendaitem on Revitalisation of regional committees, some delegations questioned the usefulness of regional strategic plans while others saw them as necessary tools for addressing regional priorities and for supporting the global strategic plan. The need for regional plans to be coherent with the global one was broadly appreciated.
11. During the CAC39 in 2016 the General Strategic Plan was referred to regularly. Regional Strategic Plans are not needed to keep the goals of the General Strategic Plan on the agenda.

Recommendation

12. In the light of the above mentioned considerations the recommendation is:
 - To use Annex I for our internal discussion on development of the European region.
 - To not present a Draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO in parallel with the General Strategic Plans to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
 - To not invite comments on Annex I from outside the CCEURO-membes (In order to comply with the rules for electronic Working groups, Annex I should now be sent to the rest of the world in order to invite comments)
 - To discontinue the development of an official Strategic Plan for CCEURO.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCEURO

	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Connection to General Strategic Plan	Strategic Objectives CCEURO	Actions	Output	Indicators
Goal 3 Facilitate effective participation of all Codex members	Objective 1: To develop and strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees Actions	1.1 Identify the capacity development needs of the Codex structures at the national level; Identify resources and funding needs.	Overview of the capacity building-needs in the various countries of the region. To be achieved by 1. questionnaires 2. interviews 3. workshops	(to be determined)
		1.2 Conduct national, sub-regional and/or regional workshops on Codex subjects for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members;	1. FAO/WHO training courses 2. Other courses (e.g. Better Traing for Safer Food by the European Commission; on-the-job trainings etc.)	Number of relevant workshops or training courses for the region
		1.3 Develop a twinning program between CCEURO members ³ to enhance the knowledge of Codex issues, structures and procedures.	1. Twinning agreements 2. Twinning activities	Number of twinning agreements and activities in the region

³ CCEURO members in this document also refers to “Member Organisation”(i.e. the European Union).

	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Connection to General Strategic Plan	Strategic Objectives CCEURO	Actions	Output	Indicators
Goal 4 Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practises	Objective 2: To strengthen communication and coordination amongst CCEURO members and other regions	2.1 Hold pre-session meetings with all CCEURO members prior to relevant Codex Committees, Task Forces, Working Groups and the CAC;	Enhancement of the opportunities for pre-session meetings to maximize use of the resources of members	Number of meetings organised in the margins of Codex meetings
		2.2 Focus the CCEURO agenda on Codex issues of particular interest to the region;	1. Ongoing Communication between the CCEURO- host country secretariat and CCEURO-members, esp. previous to CCEURO-meeting 2. CCEURO host country secretariat will ask CCEURO-members if there are issues of particular interest to the region. 3. CCEURO-secretariat to provide a summary of issues of interest to CCEURO on the Codex agenda.	CCEURO agenda that reflects the particular interests to the region
		2.3 Develop a regional strategy on key issues of interest	1. An eWG in which regional strategy on key issues of interest can be developed	Number of issues for which a CCEURO-strategy was developed
		2.4 Develop a communication platform for CCEURO members.	1. Use of CCEURO-website 2. Use of CCEURO-environment on Codex-website	Functioning interactive CCEURO-platform
		2.5 Participation of CCEURO representatives as observers in meetings of other regional Codex committees.	1. Exchange of information between the CCEURO region and other regions 2. Visibility of CCEURO in other regional Codex committees	Number of regional committees attended by CCEURO-secretariat or CCEURO-representative

	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Connection to General Strategic Plan	Strategic Objectives CCEURO	Actions	Output	Indicators
Goal 2 Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards	Objective 3: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst CCEURO members	3.1 Identify and prioritize regional and global issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis;	Overview and prioritization of the regional and global issues in need of scientific research/analysis To be achieved by 1. questionnaires 2. interviews 3. workshops 4. training courses	(to be determined)
	<i>[(To be determined: Discussion on what we aim to achieve here and for what purpose)]</i>	<i>[3.2 Develop a list of specialists and institutions which can provide scientific/technical expertise; 3.3 Establish scientific and technical networks amongst the experts and institutions.]⁴</i>	<i>[An overview of specialists, institutions and networks providing scientific and technical expertise, to promote a functioning network]</i>	<i>[(To be determined: Discussion on what we aim to achieve here and for what purpose)]</i>
		3.4 Promote the participation of experts from the CCEURO region in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and provide data in response to call for data	1. Analyse the current participation of experts in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies 2. Stimulate participation of experts 3. Stimulate the provision of data in response to calls for data	Increase in number of meetings where CCEURO-experts took part in Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies Increase in Number of CCEURO-countries responding to FAO/WHO calls for data

⁴ 3.2 and 3.3 were considered very ambitious. Therefore these actions were placed in brackets for further development. REP 15/EURO on this:

“56. The representative of WHO informed the Committee that these two actions fed into the work of scientific advice of FAO/WHO. WHO had a number of databases and networks that needed to be taken into account relating to roster of experts, data collection, etc.

57. The Committee agreed to further develop these two Actions taking into account the need for building synergies of already existing platforms and requested FAO and WHO to work with the Coordinator to further refine these actions. The WHO Representative offered to draft a document that could be discussed in an electronic working group (see paragraph 66).”

	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
Connection to General Strategic Plan	Strategic Objectives CCEURO	Actions	Output	Indicators
	Objective 4: To promote use of Codex standards as a basis for national legislation and regulations	4.1 Increase awareness on the importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders and policy makers	Increase awareness and visibility by 1. co-hosting of CCEURO-meetings 2. communication 3. workshops 4. twinning-activities 5. capacity building to assist policy makers to actively consider the use of Codex standards as basis for national regulations	Relevant stakeholders and policy makers are more aware of the importance of Codex
		4.2 Assist member countries to take Codex standards into account for national legislation	1. Technical assistance in the drafting of legislation and capacity building 2. Communication on Codex standards through: 1. workshops 2. twinning	National legislation based on Codex standards
Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues	Objective 5: To develop and/or review Codex standards and other Codex texts taking into account regional interests	5.1 Identify specific food products of interest to the region that require standards to be developed;	Identification through: 1.spin-off from workshops, interviews, twinning-activities, questionnaires 2. Standing item on CCEURO agenda	Overview of specific food products of interest to the region that merit standards to be developed. Number of –regional-standards developed for products of interest to the region
		5.2 Submit all proposals for new Codex standards for products of interest to the region and other issues to the CCEURO for consideration prior to submission to the Commission at any appropriate time.	Proposals for new Codex standards for products of interest to the region and other issues to the CCEURO- host country-secretariat for distribution	Number of proposals for new Codex standards submitted