



Agenda Item 4

CX/EURO 12/28/4

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

Twenty-eighth Session

Batumi, Georgia, 25-28 September 2012

FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 27th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2. Under their respective mandates, goals and work plans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4.

3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:

- Upgrading the capacity of developing member countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
- Enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
- Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.

4. Since the last session of the Committee, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance on food safety and quality, field projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided in the tables shown in **Annex**. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/home-page/en/>, <http://www.fao.org/europe> and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/>

5. Comprehensive information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 35th Session of CAC and is available in CX/CAC 12/35/14 Add.1

(ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CAC/cac35/cac35_14_add1e.pdf). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials, including guidelines, manuals and online resources, key initiatives, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include ongoing work on dealing with food safety emergencies, risk-based food inspection including imported food control, undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG), adoption of

safe food practices by food chain operators, science based food safety systems, improved guidance on evidence based food safety policy making, assessment and planning for national food safety programmes and consumer education.

Specific focus on regional initiatives

6. Joint FAO and WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners for the period considered appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which are submitted to the 35th Session of the CAC (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CAC/cac35/cac35_13e.pdf).

7. Specific to the CCEURO, FAO and WHO with funding from the CTF, held a sub-regional training course on “Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex process and use of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations” on 6-8 September 2011 in Durres, Albania. 39 participants at the workshop represented institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

8. Also with financial support of CTF, FAO and WHO are holding in Batumi, Georgia on 24 September 2012 a one day pre-CCEURO training workshop “Fifty Years with Codex: Achievements, Lessons Learnt and Challenges in the European Codex Region” and a three day FAO/WHO training course “Developing Capacity on Codex Work in Selected Countries of Europe and Central Asia Region” on 9-11 October 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for countries with most recent membership with Codex - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

9. ***The membership of CCEURO is invited to engage with FAO and WHO*** to provide feedback on:

- Ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region.
- Priority needs at national and regional levels which require further support from FAO and WHO.

EUROPE

REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
National conference and training workshop on quality linked to geographical origin	FAO/ERDB	April, 2011	Zagreb, Croatia
The 6 th Meeting of the UNU/SCN Network for Capacity Development in Nutrition in Central and Eastern Europe (NCDNCEE)	NCDNCEE event supported by FAO, UNU, EC	25-26 May 2011	Belgrade, Serbia
Application of risk analysis in food safety control and foodborne disease surveillance systems	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	14 – 17 June 2011	Almaty, Kazakhstan
National training workshop “Food Safety and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points”	FAO REU/WHO EURO	5-9 July 2011	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
National Workshop “Potential Origin- Linked Quality Products and their Demand in Ukraine” (within TCP/UKR/3201-6 th facility component)	FAO (AGN-REU), Ministry of Agricultural Policy and Food of Ukraine and ICO “Community Wellbeing” (former “Heifer Project International”)	25-26 August 2011	Kiev, Ukraine
Sub-regional Training course “Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex process and use of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations”	FAO REU/WHO EURO	06-08 September 2011	Durres, Albania
Regional training course on Codex Alimentarius	FAO REU/EC-BTSF	27-29 September 2011	Moscow, Russian Federation
GFN training course for Russian speaking countries	WHO EURO	14-18 November 2011	St Petersburg, Russia

National workshop on antimicrobial resistance from a food safety perspective	WHO EURO	24 November 2011	Belgrade, Serbia
National workshop on antimicrobial resistance from a food safety perspective	WHO EURO	14 December 2011	Podgorica, Montenegro
Subregional workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance with emphasis on the food safety perspective for ALB, CRO, MNE, ROM, and SRB	WHO EURO	30-31 May 2012	Durres, Albania
Regional Training Workshop on the development of Good Management Practices for Central Asian Aquaculture	FAO	May 8-9, 2012	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Training workshop “Capacity development in Microbiological Food Safety Risk Assessment for selected CIS countries”	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	14-18 May 2012	Budapest, Hungary
National training course on food and water safety	WHO EURO	11-13 June 2012	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Workshop on development of a national strategy on nutrition and food safety	WHO EURO	28 August 2012	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
National workshop on food safety risk communication with special emphasis on botulism	WHO EURO	31 August 2012	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Regional training workshop “Fifty years of Codex: achievements, lessons learnt and challenges in the European Codex Region”	FAO/WHO EURO	24 September 2012	Batumi, Georgia
Developing Capacities on Codex Work in Selected Countries of Europe and Central Asia Region	FAO REU/WHO EURO	09-11 October 2012	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Regional meeting of agriculture and health sectors representatives on ICN+21 preparation	FAO REU/WHO EURO	03-05 December 2012	Tel-Aviv, Israel

PROJECTS/DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES

Summary of activities (which were referenced in the last paper for 34^F Session)	Countries	Status
FAO/WHO continued their technical assistance activities in the region, in food safety capacity development – strengthening food safety systems in line with international and EU standards and requirements by addressing the following areas: adequacy of food law and harmonized food standards, surveillance of foodborne disease, monitoring of microbiological and chemical contamination in the food chain, preparing FBOs for the implementation of food safety systems based on GMP,GHP and HACCP, antibiotic resistance in a food safety perspective, alert and response to food safety emergencies	Albania, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Ongoing
Sustainable development of aquaculture sector from a postharvest perspective with a focus on quality, traceability and safety (FAO TCP/RER/3301 (D))	Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Turkey	ongoing
New activities of particular importance include:		
Development of national nutrition and food safety strategy	Tajikistan	Draft strategy for comments by stakeholders
Support to strengthening food safety system in Moldova in line with EU and international requirements in selected areas	Republic of Moldova	Project at formulation stage
Capacity development in food safety risk management of food processing enterprises and national authorities	Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan	Project document prepared, at stage of donors funds mobilization
Support to rural development through implementation of Geographical Indications in Ukraine	Ukraine	Project document prepared, at stage of donors funds mobilization