



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
Thirty-second Session
Virtual 16 – 20 May 2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Report of the in-Session Working Group

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. An in-session working group was established by CCEURO32 to consider working document CX/EURO 22/32/07 and other relevant information¹ when preparing recommendations for consideration by the Plenary on the activities to be implemented in the region in the period 2022-2023 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

1.2. The working group was chaired by Germany. The Chairperson recalled the importance of the Codex core values and that all Members had a responsibility for implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at global, regional and national level. The Chairperson further highlighted that the plan should be ambitious yet realistic and allow for sufficient flexibility while the region would need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The discussions was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Identification of the priority goals for CCEURO

2.2. Members were asked to consider prioritizing Strategic Goals 3 and 4 as Goals 1 and 2 were addressed in the regional work plan 2020-2021. Goal 5 was not considered as CCEURO is not identified as one of the responsible parties for this goal.

2.3. The WG agreed to focus the work plan on Goals 3 and 4, and highlighted the need to also address emerging work related to “new food sources” which relates to Goal 1.

Phase 2: Identification of activities

2.4. Members considered the proposed activities contained in CX/EURO 22/32/CRD2. In the discussion, Members highlighted the need to connect with other international organizations as regards to the promotion of food safety and Codex standards when working on the transformation of food systems (priority objective 3.3) and the importance of facilitating broader participation of Codex Members in the European Region in Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) (priority objectives 4.2 and 4.3). This can be facilitated when discussing the future of Codex working modalities at CAC45.

2.5. Members noted that there were no specific activities related to communication in the proposed regional work plan but that the regional communications work plan for the period 2020-2025 was still valid (Table 2).

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The WG considered that Table 1 represented an achievable and impactful regional contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

3.2. CCEURO32 is invited to:

- i) consider and agree with the priority goals and objectives identified by the working group;

¹ CX/EURO 22/32/CRD2 and CX/EURO 22/32/CRD6

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- ii) consider the activities identified by the working group and provide feedback on any refinement and revision needed (Table 1); and
 - iii) recommit to the regional communications work plan 2020-2025 contained in Table 2.

TABLE 1: ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE EUROPEAN REGION IN 2022-2023 UNDER THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2023	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible party and collaborators	Expected output by 2023	Reporting mechanism/
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues	1.2.1. Monitor developments in relation to “new food sources” and contribute to related Codex work	The activity is expected to improve the ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of Members	Regional coordinator, FAO and WHO, Members, Codex Secretariat	Members provide input to the work related to new food sources	Report at CCEURO33
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards	3.2.1. Conduct a regional event dedicated to 60 th Anniversary of CAC and encourage national events 3.2.2 Encourage multi-stakeholder events (food business operators, politicians, civil society, scientists, academic & research) to promote use of Codex standards 3.2.3 Promote implementation of the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Food borne Antimicrobial Resistance and the Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance	The activities are expected to raise the level of awareness of the Codex Alimentarius and increase knowledge about priority standards for the region	Regional Coordinator, Members, Observers, Codex Secretariat, FAO, and WHO	Increased recognition of Codex Alimentarius and priority standards for the region (specifically on AMR)	Codex webpage (main page and regional page) Report at CCEURO33 and National Action Plans on AMR

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2023	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible party and collaborators	Expected output by 2023	Reporting mechanism/
	3.3. Recognize and promote the impact of Codex standards	<p>3.3.1. Conduct a regional event to support participation in the new Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards</p> <p>3.3.2. Promote the inclusion of food safety as well as the most recent Codex standards in the national actions on the transformation of food systems, including through international bodies</p>	The activities are expected to contribute to gaining better knowledge about the level of use of Codex standards and to obtain high level support and /or recognition of Codex standards	Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat, Members, Observers, FAO and WHO	<p>Participation of Members in the global survey on use and impact of Codex standards</p> <p>Mentioning of food safety and Codex standards in the national pathways for sustainable food systems</p>	Report at CCEURO33 on the regional workshop related to participation in the Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards and on inclusion of food safety/Codex standards in national food systems pathways
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	<p>4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members</p> <p>and</p> <p>4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.</p>	<p>4.2.1. Continue to support capacity building via trainings, webinars</p> <p>4.2.2. Develop opportunities for mentorship, and for sharing experience and knowledge among countries of the region</p> <p>4.2.3. Promote establishment of National Steering Committees in Member countries as required</p> <p>4.2.4 Promote participation in Electronic Working Groups (EWGs)</p>	The activities are expected to increase Members knowledge and confidence in articulating positions and stimulate greater participation in Codex work	Members, FAO and WHO Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat	Increased or sustained participation in CAC, CAC subsidiary bodies, WGs and responses to Circular Letters from across the region	Report at CCEURO33 on the number of member countries by economic status participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as identified in the lists of participants, WG reports and Online Commenting System statistics

TABLE 2: Regional Communications Work Plan 2020-2025

The table shows the proposed objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCEURO Regional Communications Work Plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”, in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards”.

Objective	Activities	Responsible party	Targets	Indicators
1. Establish clear, communication channels	1.1. Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and Codex Secretariat (CS) 1.2. Establish simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. WhatsApp communications group, or discussion group on Codex EWG forum)	1.1 Countries and CS 1.2 Countries and CS	By CCEURO32 (2021) 75% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of survey responses rating regional communications “excellent” or “good”
2. Communicate the value of Codex standards in the region	2.1. Provide CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region 2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO 2.3. Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects	2.1 Countries 2.2 CS, RC, FAO/WHO 2.3 RC, Countries, FAO/WHO	By CAC43 10 news items from countries in the region published By CCEURO32 30 news items from countries in the region By CCEURO32 50% of countries in the region have made a contribution to Codex news on the regional webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of CCEURO news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution