1. Basic Information

1.1 CRIS Number: 2004/016-926.03.01

1.2 Title: Integrated Programme on Food Safety and Risk Assessment to fulfill all requirements of the EU acquis

1.3 Sector: Internal Market

1.4 Location: State General Laboratory, Ministry of Health, Republic of Cyprus

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The overall objective of the project is to bring and keep Cyprus fully in line with the acquis communautaire and its implementation in the field of food safety and risk assessment.

2.2 Project purpose:

- Food safety monitoring and surveillance programs further developed;
- Integration of existing and emerging acquis into Cyprus legislation and practice sped up;
- Risk Assessment and consumer information capabilities developed;
- Adaptation of state of the art analytical methodologies.

2.3 Justification

According to Article 34 of the Accession Treaty, Internal Market is listed in the priority sectors for assistance under Transition facility.

- The Comprehensive Monitoring Report (November 2003) for Cyprus, Chapter 1-Foodstuffs states that “Preparations for participation in the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and for control of genetically modified foods need to be sustained” (page 16).

- The need for strengthening administrative and institutional capabilities for monitoring and surveillance of food contaminants and residues is indicated in the Overview Report of 30 April 2003 –“Main Administrative structures required from implementing the Acquis.” Page 12-14 – Food Safety- Food legislation, page 30-31 – Agriculture –Veterinary plant health and animal nutrition. Furthermore, the need for an integrated approach for monitoring and Risk Assessment – Risk Communication is indicated in the White Paper on Food Safety in particular chapters 2 (Principles of Food Safety), 3 (Essential Elements of Food Safety Policy), 6 (Control) and 7 (Consumer Information). In addition, specific gaps in the existing capacities are identified through the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) missions /audits (FVO Mission Report DG SANCO 1051/2000, p 8-10, 20, DG SANCO 3434/2001 24-25, 30-34, DG SANCO 8712/2002 p 33).

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

The State General Laboratory (SGL) of the Ministry of Health is designated as the Cyprus Official Laboratory for the control of Food Quality and Safety and also the National Reference Lab (NRL) for
Veterinary, pesticides and other contaminants in food of animal origin. It covers all chemical, microbiological and biological aspects of food safety and quality and has special responsibilities on Risk assessment aspects. This is the reason for which support from this project will be almost exclusively extended to State General Laboratory (SGL).

The structure of the SGL allows for an integrated and holistic evaluation of food safety. Under its present structure it has nine well-equipped specialized Food Labs (seven of them are accredited and the two remaining are working under the QA System of the SGL) with experienced and competent personnel. At present 21 different programs (two related to bottled water) are applied in the field of Food Safety and Quality (see annex A1: Existing Food Safety Programmes). Whilst each program addresses a specific area a close interaction and integration is maintained, in particular at the level of planning, prioritization and overall evaluation of food safety. Despite the very good level of the existing activities, there are still needs and problems to be addressed as well as new challenges and goals to be achieved. Cyprus as an EU Member State and also as the east-south frontier of the EU will have more responsibilities in the field of food safety. The SGL is designated as the Official Customs Control Lab and has to control imports according to the Border Inspections (Directive 97/98EC). The SGL must be further developed to its full potential, in order to cope cost-effectively with its growing responsibilities in relation to the Acquis, and also to expand the scope of its accreditat. Needs and deficiencies have been identified in the following areas: Residues (Pesticides and Veterinary drugs), industrial contaminants including heavy metals, PCBs and dioxins, natural toxins, food additives, food contact materials and articles, radioactive nuclides, GMOs, microbiological aspects of food safety and Risk Assessment. More details are provided in the attached Annex A2.

The implementation of this project aims to strengthen the infrastructure and expertise of the SGL to cope time-effectively with these enhanced responsibilities, through complementary measures like training, rendering of services/expertise transfer, cooperation with EU Labs and purchase of equipment. The project will benefit from all available complementary expertise and infrastructure of the 9 Laboratories and make the best usage of available national and EU funded resources (including the EU funded pre-accession projects for SGL in 2001 and 2002).

The project will also benefit the Health Inspectors of the Department of Medical and Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health through training (see point 2(iii) “Training and short term consultancy (including training on sampling for the Health Inspectors)” under section 3.4 “Activities”.

3.2 Linked activities:

a) Previous EU funded SGL projects

The following two projects have been funded from EU pre-accession funds in 2001 and 2002 respectively:

Project: “Upgrading of the State laboratories” (CY 01.01.02.04): 1,530,000 Euro.
Project: “Upgrading of the State General Laboratory” (2002/000-298): 700,000 Euro

The above projects have strengthened the capacities of the Labs of the SGL in terms of equipment, expertise development and accreditation. The equipment acquired through the pre accessions funds will be utilized for the implementation of this project.

b) Project on Risk Assessment funded from national funds

A preliminary “Risk assessment from the dietary intake of additives, contaminants and residues” was prepared in 2000 by experts. It was based on a previously prepared report (again in 2000) on the “Generation of reliable food consumption data and Estimation of dietary intake of additives, contaminants and residues” for the Republic of Cyprus.
3.3 Results:

The project will strengthen Cyprus capabilities for immediate cost-effective implementation of Food Safety Acquis and enable Food Safety to be organised in a more co-ordinated and integrated manner. It will be integrated within the national plans for development (i.e. needs for capacity building in terms of personnel, expertise and equipment have been identified. The proposed project will aim to speed up the process of implementation). This integration will ensure continuous adaptation to the fast changing needs of Food Safety, emerging threats, consumer protection and sustainability beyond project financing. The focus will be on the priorities set by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and EU policy in particular the White Paper on Food Safety.

The tangible results of the project shall be the following:

- Integrated Food Safety Programmes established
- Existing gaps in terms of countrywide coverage of food control as well as gaps in parameters monitored filled. [Most of the gaps have been identified by FVO missions and TAIEX delegations visiting SGL (para. 2.3)].
  - Risk assessment and risk communication expertise developed.
  - Permanent mechanisms and tools for effective communication of unavoidable risks for certain parts of the population e.g. pregnant women, infants, the elderly, etc. put in place.
- Integrated data bank on food safety and appropriate tools for risk assessment and consumer information established (more details in Annex A2)
  - Data transferred into concrete information for decision makers and the public
  - Risk Assessment and pro-active risk management supported
- Capabilities of SGL as the Official Laboratory and advisory body of the Cyprus Government and the Food Safety Board strengthened.

3.4 Activities:

Explicit linkage between the activities presented below and the results listed above is provided in the Logfarme.

The activities will include situation analysis, capacity building, implementation of the food safety programs – risk assessment and communication. The food safety programs will be flexible and continuously evaluated and optimized according to results, emerging needs and priorities. Cost-effectiveness with maximum consumer protection will remain at the focus throughout the entire project implementation.

The specific activities under the project will be the following:

1. Reassessment of identified gaps and priorities according to the latest information

i) Evaluation of the existing programs in relation to acquis, the White Paper and the evaluation reports mentioned under paragraph 2.3 above

ii) Identification of deficiencies of the existing individual (Annex A2) monitoring programs in terms of both the number of samples and parameters analyzed

The contents of ANNEX A2 are related to the deficiencies proposed to be addressed within the project. The deficiencies were identified by the State General Laboratory on April 2004 based on all previous reports mentioned under paragraph 2.3 of the Project Fiche as well as needs arising from EU legislation and policies on Food Safety.
It is not expected that after reassessment major changes on the type of activities will be necessary, rather it might be needed to adjust or extend, to a limited degree, the scope of some of the activities.

iii) Review of existing technical capacities and needs in expertise and manpower

The above will be implemented through Contract 1.

2. Development of a programme to cope with deficiencies

i) Rendering of services: This includes experts in the fields where deficiencies in expertise and full implementation of the acquis have been identified.

ANNEX A2 gives detailed description of the needs and deficiencies in Food Safety and Risk assessment.

Experts are needed
- To assist in method development using high technology instruments such as LC MS-MS
- To aid in the development of a specialized laboratory for the determination of dioxins and dioxins-like PCB’s
- To assist the recently established GMO’s laboratory to develop / validate new methods of analysis and get accredited
- To assist in the establishment of a new laboratory (organization and method development) for the determination of bacterial toxins in food and to carry out a country profile research to define these toxins
- To assist in the development of a comprehensive data bank for Risk assessment.

ii) Purchase of equipment (to be located at the State General Laboratory):

- One Inductive Couple Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP/MS approx. cost 317,000 EURO) for the determination of heavy metals in products of animal origin, food meat and meat products (ANNEX A2) according to the EU Regulations 221/2002, 466/2001 and directive 22/2001. This equipment was not included in the list of equipment purchased by the State General Laboratory under previous projects (CY.01.0102.04 and CY 2002 NP 2002/000 298 NP).
- High Resolution Gas Chromatography (GC High Resolution approx. cost 65,000 EURO). This is required for the analysis of very low levels of Pesticides and PCB’s in foodstuffs according to the requirements of the relevant EU directives (76/895, 86/362, 86/363, 90/642).
- Software for the Data Bank.

This specific software is required for the establishment of integrated data bank on food safety and appropriate tools for Risk Assessment and consumer information. This was not provided by the previous projects mentioned above.

iii) Training and short term consultancy (including training on sampling for the Health Inspectors).

One to two weeks training of personnel is required, on the development of new methods, on method validation, on the use of new high technology instruments (ICP-MS, LC-MS-MS) on Risk Assessment etc.

In addition, approximately four study visits of a maximum duration of 3 days each will be required, mainly concerning risk assessment issues which are a new field for Cyprus. For this reason it is expected that on the field, transfer of knowledge and experience from other more experienced Member States will be of great assistance. The participants will be the Head of the State General Laboratory, the Head of the Pesticides Laboratory and the 4 Section Leaders that are responsible for a number of Laboratories involved in the implementation of the project. Also two Health Inspectors from the Medical and Public Health Services (MPHS) will
participate to two study visits (one study visit for the sampling of aflatoxins and one for pesticides).

(i) and (ii) above will be implemented through Contact 1.
(ii) above will be implemented through Contract 3.

3. Design and Implementation of a National Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance program consisting of the specific programs.

An integrated program based on the needs and deficiencies described in ANNEX A2 will be designed and implemented, that will provide for a more cost effective implementation of food safety, appropriate risk assessment and will reinforce cross sector coordination. This integrated program will be in full harmonization with the relevant EU legislation and will satisfy all the requirements regarding number of parameters, number of samples, frequency of sampling etc.

The above will be implemented through Contract 2.

4. Development of Data Bank and appropriate tools for risk assessment and consumer information

Risk assessment including Microbiological Risk assessment is a completely new field. Training on Risk assessment is required. The assistance of an expert for the development of a data bank is also required (ANNEX A2c).

Comprehensive Data Bank will be developed with expert support to provide for risk assessment focusing on the evaluation of exposure through the food chain and identification of vulnerable population, in particular children and the elderly. To this effect, with the assistance of an expert and specific training, by applying the basic principles of risk assessment expertise will be developed and appropriate mechanisms for risk assessment/management will be established. Furthermore, appropriate communication tools to facilitate effective communication with the public and the authorities will be developed.

The above will be implemented through Contract 2.

5. Evaluation and optimization of the National Monitoring and Surveillance Program and establishment of risk assessment process. The designed National Integrated Monitoring program which will consist of specific programs will be reviewed by the consultants six months before the end of the project for final optimization so that results/information obtained therefrom will enable the establishment of a Risk Assessment Process.

The above will be implemented through Contract 2.

3.5 Lessons learned

The following Pre-accession Funds 2001-2002 projects have been implemented by the SGL:
a) Project: “Upgrading of the State Laboratories – State General Laboratory CY.01.01.02.04 Budget (1,530,000 euro).
b) Project: “Upgrading of the State General Laboratory” 2002/000 – 298 (Budget 700,000 Euro)

Although design of projects was good, a number of problems (not related to project design) were faced during implementation as follows:
Project (a) had two components

- Technical Assistance (Framework contract 100 000 Euro)
- Purchase of equipment (Supply contracts 1,430,000 Euro)

Problems with the Framework contract have been experienced and the contract was not completed by the expiry date. The problems were beyond the responsibility of the Contracting authority and awareness had been raised at early stages. The prepared Terms of Reference were detailed and precise but delays occurred, on behalf of the contractor in implementing the contract.

Regarding the Supply Contracts the Contracting authority signed three supply contracts through three launched tender procedures.

Two contracts from the first procedure (EUROPEAID/114582/D/S/CY) for total amount of 840,155,40 Euro and one contract from a relaunched tender (EUROPEAID/114582/D/S/CY “Relaunch”) for an amount of 412,040 EURO.

The second project was not completed successfully and only a small part of the budgeted amount was contracted (17,056,00 Euro for Lot 2). The European Commission did not endorse the evaluation report for Lot 1 and insisted to this decision.

The above projects and the facing of various problems which arose during their implementation gave the opportunity to the Contracting Authority to gain experience especially regarding:

- Project proposals – Preparation of Project Fiche
- Preparation of Terms of reference
- Preparation of Tender Dossiers – Tender Procedures
- Evaluation of Tenders and Preparation of Contract Dossiers.
- Implementation of contracts according to the provisions of the Contract Dossiers.

Up-to date, only one Interim Evaluation Report for Cyprus was issued in June 2004, covering the National Pre-accession Programmes 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. According to the key achievements and findings project design was considered generally very good and relevance of projects with respect to the acquis requirements and to national needs has been scored highly.

The same approach as the one adopted for Pre-accession aid was followed regarding project design under the Transition Facility and for this reason it is expected that assessment will continue to be positive.

There were no specific recommendations in the Interim Evaluation Report relevant to earlier projects in the field.

4. Institutional Framework

The proposed project will be carried out by the State General Laboratory (SGL) of the Ministry of Health. All monitoring and surveillance activities will be done in close cooperation with Health Inspectors of the Ministry of Health which will undertake the sampling and participate in the programming. According to the norms of the SGL as accredited Lab this cooperation is based on written agreements or protocols.

SGL comprises 22 specialized Labs 9 of which are dedicated to Food Quality and Safety. It has a unique infrastructure in Cyprus to cover chemical, biological and microbiological aspects of food Safety and Quality. The 9 Food related Labs are providing a wide range of highly sophisticated and state-of-the-art analytical services and undertake target-oriented research. Seven are accredited and three have to be accredited in the near future. The SGL is the Official Lab of Food Analysis. The prime goal of the SGL in the field of Food Quality and Safety is to provide state of the art analytical services of the highest quality and expertise, support the development of food related policies, implement the relevant legislation and act effectively as the main advisory body of the Government (in particular Minister of Health) as well as of the Food Safety Board on Food Quality and Safety matters and Risk Assessment.
5. Detailed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract 1</th>
<th>Programme development and TA to SGL</th>
<th>Investment Support</th>
<th>Institution Building</th>
<th>Total EU (=I+IB)</th>
<th>National Cofinancing*</th>
<th>IFI</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Contract 3</td>
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<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.100*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Joint co-financing

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency:

State General Laboratory of the Ministry of Health

Project Authorising Officer (PAO)
Dr Costas Michael
Director
State General Laboratory
Tel.: +357 22 809110
Fax.: +357 22 316434
E-mail: costas.michael@cytanet.com.cy

Project Leader:
Dr Stella Canna -Michaelidou
State General Laboratory
Tel.: +357 22 809140
Fax.: +357 22 316434
E-mail: stellacm@spidernet.com.cy

Project Management and Coordination
Implementation arrangements will comprise 2 bodies, a Steering Committee (SC) and a Project Working Group (PWG)

1. A Steering Committee (SC) will be established. It will be the decision making body as well as the body where scientific outcome from the Project will be evaluated. Members of the Steering Committee will be the Director of the SGL (chair), the Project Leader, the other 4 Senior Chemists, the Officer responsible for the EU matters at the SGL and one representative of the Planning Bureau. The Project Leader will have the overall responsibility for the project and will be the project’s contact point for the EU Commission.

The SC will supervise the overall progress and implementation of the project according to timeframe, will define priorities, provide guidance for different components of the project will approve final reports and will decide on necessary changes or optimization.
2. The Project Working Group (PWG) comprises the Project Leader, the Officer responsible for the EU matters at the SGL and the leaders of the individual participating Laboratories. The PWG will deal with more technical and practical aspects of the project.

6.2 Twinning - Not applicable

6.3 Non-standard aspects – Not applicable

6.4 Contracts

The execution of the project will require two service and one supply contracts.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals: October 2004

7.2 Start of project activity: April 2005

7.3 Project Completion: April 2007

8. Sustainability

- The State General Laboratory is a well-established government organization with adequate and highly skilled administrative personnel capable of maintaining administrative function of the project. This has been proved through successfully implemented projects financed by EU and Organizations of the UN System. Expenditure related to administrative function is covered through the annual National Budget.

The required maintenance and update agreements will be covered by national funds through separate contracts that will be signed by the contracting authority. Adequate financial provisions will be included in the relevant financial year’s Government Budget.

9. Conditionality and sequencing

Tendering procedures for all contracts will start simultaneously and the contracts will be running in parallel.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)
2. Detailed implementation chart (compulsory)
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period) (compulsory)

ANNEX A1 on Existing Food Safety Programs

ANNEX A2 Needs and deficiencies in Food Safety and Risk Assessment
### LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR
**INTEGRATED PROGRAMME ON FOOD SAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider Objective(s)</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>How (H), When (W) and By Whom (BW) Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The overall objective of the project is to bring and keep Cyprus fully in line with the Acquis Communautaire and its prompt implementation in the field of food safety and risk assessment. | Full compliance with the related acquis. | • (H) Cyprus progress report on the development and implementation of the Food Safety Acquis  
• (W) Reports will be provided on annual basis  
• (BH) European Commission’s Opinion on the status of Cyprus institution capacity as regards Food safety Acquis |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Objective (Purpose)</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>How (H), When (W) and By Whom (BW) Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| - Food safety monitoring and surveillance programs further developed and integrated into the Food Safety System  
- The emerging acquis integrated into Cyprus legislation. All Acquis can be timely implemented .  
- Risk Assessment and consumer | Food safety monitoring and surveillance programmes in place  
New Legislation-Timely implemented Acquis  
Effective risk assessment mechanisms operational- | • (H)  
Draft legislation documentation Communication papers (or other media tools) for public use  
Reports of consultants  
Measurement statistics  
(W) On annual basis or when requested | The project is able to follow the developments in EU legislation, ie. no major new risk areas discovered |
information capabilities developed;
- Adaptation of state of the art analytical methodologies.

Consumers informed regularly
SGL able to efficiently perform all necessary analyses

( BW) DG SANCO and FVO Reports

### Results (Outputs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Achievement*</th>
<th>How (H), When (W) and By Whom (BW) Indicators Will Be Measured</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Establishment of an integrated Food Safety Program (Activity 1,3,5)</td>
<td>Monitoring and assessment reports On the spot controls at SGL Project Reports SGL Reports (W) At least annually</td>
<td>Existing food safety programmes provide a good basis for further work. SGL staff motivated and ready to accept changes to implement new procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>1a. Filling in the existing gaps in terms of countrywide coverage of food control as well as gaps in parameters monitored.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Establishment of integrated data bank on food safety and appropriate tools for risk assessment and consumer information (Activity 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Strengthened capabilities of SGL as the Official Laboratory and advisory body of the Cyprus Government and the Food Safety Board (Activity 2,5)</td>
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### Activities

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<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reassessment of identified gaps and priorities according to the latest information 2. Program development to cope with deficiencies</td>
<td>Staff in place Timely tendering and contracting procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 service contracts - duration 2 years as follows: - Programme development and Technical Assistance to the State General Laboratory</td>
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</table>
3. Design and Implementation of integrated monitoring and surveillance programs. Promotion of cross sector coordination
4. Development of data bank and appropriate tools for risk assessment and consumer information

- Implementation of the Integrated Food Safety Programs and Risk Assessment
  **1 Supply contract** for the acquisition of specialised equipment by the State General laboratory
  Equipment
  ICP-MS
  HRGC
  Software

**Technical Assistance**
8 Consultants
Total: 12 weeks / 2 years / 8 consultants

**Trainings:**
Number of trainees: 12
Total No. of weeks: 15

**Study visits**
Total: 4
No. of persons: 7
Duration: 3d/study visit

**European Workshops**
Total: 14
No. of persons: 14

**Specialist for analysis:**
No. of persons: 11
No. of months/year: 11 months
Total: 22 months/2 years/11 persons
## DETAILED TIME IMPLEMENTATION CHART FOR THE PROJECT

Project number:
Project title: Integrated Programme on Food Safety and Risk Assessment to fulfill all requirements of the EU acquis

<table>
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<th>COMPONENT</th>
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<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
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- a) Program development and TA to SGL (service contract 1)
- b) Implementation of the monitoring/surveillance and Risk assessment – development of the data bank (service contract 1)
- c) Specialized equipment (Supply contract 2)

D = Design  
C = Contracting  
I = Implementation  
X = Closure
## Annex 3

### Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule

*All figures in million EURO*

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*All contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and must be completed within 24 months of signature of the FM.*

*All disbursements must be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM.*
ANNEX A1

Existing FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMMES

1. National Monitoring Programme and Preventing Control of Nuts, Cereals etc for Aflatoxins and other Mycotoxins.
2. Aflatoxin M1 in Milk and Dairy Products.
3. Monitoring & Control of Fish/Fish Products and Food of Animal Origin for Mercury and other Heavy Metals.
5. Monitoring and Control of Food for Heavy Metals (Lead and Cadmium). (Other than fishes)
6. Monitoring and Control of additives in Foods (coloring agents, preservatives, sweeteners etc).
7. Monitoring and Control of Milk and Dairy products.
8. Control of Alcoholic Beverages and Wines.
10. Control of Fishes for Volatile Bases and Histamine.
11. The Official National Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and PCBs
   • In products of Plant origin, in products of Animal Origin including Fish and Fish products and in baby foods
12. Special Surveillance studies for Pesticide Residues on target food: grapes, potatoes, and baby food
13. Gems Environmental monitoring of OCL in milk and target vegetables
15. Control of Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food.
16. Monitoring Radionuclides in Food
18. Microbiological Control of Pasteurised Milk and Fresh Cream.
19. Control of Food for GMO’s.
20. Microbiological Control of Mineral and Bottled Water.
21. Chemical Control of Food Mineral and Bottled Water.
ANNEX A2
Needs and deficiencies in Food Safety and Risk Assessment

a) Monitoring and surveillance programs

1. Monitoring of products of animal origin (Labs 05, 08 and 14): This program is implemented according to Council Directive 96/23/EC by 3 labs: i.e. Veterinary drug residues (Lab 05), Pesticides Residues (Lab 08), and Environmental, other contaminants and natural toxins (Lab14). This program is not fully implemented (degree of implementation 30-40%). New methods need to be developed and validated. Substantial gaps are existing both in the number of samples and parameters in all Labs. Upon installation of necessary equipment Liquid Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometer – Mass Spectrometer (LC MS/MS) in 2004, experts & rendering of services will be needed to develop further the expertise and support the full harmonization with the Directive 96/23/EC and the effective border control. Monitoring of heavy metals needs to be substantially expanded. Expertise development and a new instrument Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) are needed.

2. Veterinary Drugs (Lab 05)
To fulfill the requirements of the Directive 96/23/EC in relation to National Residue Plan the Laboratory has to a) implement more sensitive methods to reach the Minimum Required Performance Limits (MRPL’s) for the prohibited substances (such of Nitrofurans, chloramphenicol and Malachite green, b) to expand these methodologies to other animal products (meat, eggs, honey, milk etc.), and water. In relation to Border Inspections priority will be given to metabolites of Nitrofurans.

3. Pesticides Residues (Lab 08): Needs to expand substantially the scope of pesticides investigated are identified by Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission. This requires to address more compounds including polar ones. In addition, the scope of products monitored will expand to cereals and oil. Sensitive methods need to be developed for baby foods. The lab needs also to expand the scope of accreditation. Introduction and validation of new methods and expertise development are needed. This implies experts/training/rendering of services.

4. PCBs – Dioxins like Polychlorimated Biphenyls PCBS (D-l-PCBs) –Dioxin/furans: At present only 14 conventional PCBs are monitored. Through the project it is aimed to develop infrastructure and expertise to address the screening level of D-l-PCBs and Dioxin/furans. This infrastructure will be developed within the Pesticide Residues and PCBs Lab. A pilot study will be done within this project. The screening will be done at the SGL whilst the definite level of investigation will be carried out on target products in cooperation with a specialised lab in Greece or Germany. Expert/training/rendering of services and additional equipment are needed. The expert is needed to aid in the development of this specialized laboratory.

5. Environmental & Other Contaminants and Natural Toxins (Lab14): Areas to which the lab needs to address immediately a) to cope with deficiencies in the control of products of animal origin (see 1), in b) expand the control and the scope of heavy metals in imports and exports, in particular sea food, meat and meat products etc b) PAHs in smoked food and grilled meat c) biotoxins. d) In addition acrylamide, a potent carcinogen, found recently in fried potatoes and chips as a processing contaminant (EC Acrylamide workshop 20-21/10/2003) have to be analyzed in Cypriot products for risk assessment. Expert/training/rendering of services and the above ICP/MS are needed.

6. Food additives (Lab 13): method development and expertise in the field of flavours. It should be noted that Lab 13 which is responsible for the analysis of Food additives and other specialised analysis of Foodstuffs, has to develop also methods for the analysis of flavorings in order to cover the respective acquis.
7. **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs Lab) (Lab21):** The recently established lab will become a member of European Network of GMOs Lab and need expert advice and support to get accredited.

8. **Food Microbiology** (Lab13): The microbiological control of food in Cyprus does not at the moment include testing for bacterial toxins in food, even though their presence in food accounts for a significant percentage of food poisoning outbreaks and some EU legislation call for the absence of toxins in food products i.e the Milk and Milk products regulation – 92/46. An expert is needed to aid in the development of a specialized laboratory within the microbiological section that will be able to undertake this type of analysis and provide a more holistic approach in the investigation of the microbiological safety and quality of food produced or sold in Cyprus. Further to this, linked also to the aim of Risk Assessment, is the development of microbiological risk assessment (MRA). This is a significant tool that can be used in the management of the risks posed by foodborne pathogens and in the elaboration of standards for food in international trade. MRA and in particular the quantitative part, should be the means by which food safety authorities use their resources, often limited, to assure a safe food supply. Cyprus has participated in various WHO/FAO meetings where the concept of MRA has been introduced and is interested in gaining additional knowledge in the predictive microbial modeling part, so as to be able in the future to apply the concept of MRA in all its decision making concerning microbiological food safety decisions.

b) **Expertise development needs for Health Inspectors**

Under technical assistance two study visits are scheduled for the Health Inspectors of the Ministry of Health on sampling. One for the sampling of aflatoxins and the other on pesticides. Issues related to the customs control will also be included. will also indirectly benefit and gain new experiences.

c) **Establishment of integrated data bank on food safety and appropriate tools for Risk Assessment and consumer information**

A data bank needs to be developed as the basis of Risk Assessment. Expertise for the development of data bank and tools for transferring data to information for policy makers and the public is needed. Training on Risk assessment will be provided. The Comprehensive Data Bank will provide for a system where relevant information can be generated in a timely manner to support decision-making but also to monitor and evaluate impact of policy interventions. This data bank will support primarily Risk Assessment and informed decision making at all levels technical, management and policy making level. It will provide the tools and information for better Risk management and Communication by the Ministry of Health. A set of technological tools for data acquisition and analysis and for producing indicators and concrete information will also be developed to provide adequate information to the Public and various Agencies. The data bank will be set up under the structure of the SGL to support its function as the advisory body of the Government and in particular the Minister of Health on all aspects of food safety and risk assessment and also as member of the Food Safety Board. Closely linked to this function is the development of Risk Assessment expertise. A precise risk assessment needs to be done based on all data on food quality and safety and the dietary intake of several contaminants and residues.