

Better Training for Safer Food

Two thumbs up and positive feedback: Participants find BTSF training courses have real value

Recent Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) newsletters have featured Peter Bokor, Head of Unit responsible for the Better Training for Safer Food initiative (Unit D1, Food chain science and stakeholder relations) and the team at the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea) that manages all the contractual, financial and administrative aspects of the initiative. National Contact Point representatives were also interviewed in the past, to give the Member States' views of the BTSF initiative.

Now it's time to hear from the participants themselves, from the people who took part in BTSF training courses. These participants are among the 5 500 people who benefit from BTSF training in 2019.

Since 2005, BTSF has been providing training for EU and non-EU officials on EU Food law. Back when BTSF first started offering these courses in 2005, there were less than 1,000 participants, so today's figures give an indication of how popular the trainings have proven to be. Over the years, more than 70,000 participants have enrolled in 1700 courses, and the number of thematic areas covered also grew from 7 in 2006 to 73 in 2019. This has warranted an increase in the budget allotted to BTSF from 3.5 million Euro as it started out, to over 18 million Euro now. The total expenditure invested into the programme has been 155 million Euro, 20% of which went toward activities in non-EU countries.

The initiative's train-the-trainer approach empowers participants to be able to go back to their home countries and communities and to share when they have learned, so the benefits of these trainings goes far beyond reaching the participants. There is an added value of BTSF training in people's daily work.

"BTSF Courses are important to ensure the common understanding of the legislation and its main purpose", said Jane Sundelius, from Norway, who participated in the 8-12 April 2019 training in Helsinki on Food Hygiene and Flexibility.

Angela Marie Pacheco de Aquiar, from Portugal, who participated in the same training said the training " allowed intercommunication between members of the various countries , linked food security and learning different realities in the food sector."

While participants get feedback on how well their country or region is complying with EU food safety regulations, they also provide feedback to Chafea on the utility of BTSF trainings. And while their growing numbers that reflect the programme's steady growth speak for themselves about BTSF's success, it's nice to hear directly from the participants themselves.

Eilias Dahlster, from Finland, found that "discussing face to face with representatives from quite different Member States really brings the examples of national approaches to flexibility into life", and Karl McDonald, from Ireland, also appreciated the "sharing of experience and knowledge, which helps solve problems "

Asked what he appreciated about his training the most, Christian Seiringer of Austria said the "distribution of a harmonised knowledge to whole Europe, a practical feedback of the application of the regulation."

One participant even took the time to jot down a little something extra on her feedback form that warmed the hearts of the trainers and training organisers too. "On a personal note," she wrote, "you've added to my level of happiness. Thank you EU."

Get first-hand information and meet the BTSF team at the September 2019 Infoday

Chafea will organise a BTSF Info Day, presenting up-to-date, useful information on the BTSF initiative and explaining the technical, administrative and financial aspects of the published calls for tenders.

Potential tenderers and other stakeholders – come find out more! The precise date of the info day will be published on the BTSF website.

[Go to related site](#)

New calls for tender published – deadline 7 October 2019

Learn more about the latest calls for tenders launched under the Better Training for Safer Food Initiative and send in your bids before the deadlines close!

Call for tender n° Chafea/2019/BTSF/01

Organisation and implementation of training activities on food hygiene and controls of meat, including derived products under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative

Call for tender n° Chafea/2019/BTSF/02

Organisation and implementation of inter-sectoral simulation exercises on crisis management coordination and response in the food and feed, animal and plant sectors under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative

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Keep up on the latest news about the Better Training for Safer Food Initiative

Visit the BTSF website, which is updated regularly with new calls for tender and other news worth knowing about. You will also find guidelines for tenderers, information on how to register for training courses, previous editions of this newsletter and more!

[Go to related site](#)

Do you know where to find your National Contact Point?

Designated competent authorities in EU Member State and certain other non-EU countries are responsible for coordinating participant selection in BTSF training courses. Competent authority staff from these countries who are interested in participating should contact their National Contact Point.

[Get this document](#)

First-ever 'World Food Safety Day' held on 7 June 2019

The event was organised by WHO in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is intended as an annual event to help raise awareness about food safety issues and everyone's responsibility in ensuring the food we consume will not harm our health.

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BTSF Annual Report for 2017 now available in French, German and Spanish

Find these linguistic versions in addition to the original report in English, as well as all of the BTSF annual reports online – you won't just find figures, you'll discover more about BTSF training courses, its accomplishments and goals.

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BTSF Activity Report 2018 just published !

The original English-language report is now online and other linguistic versions will be available in the near future. The report is far from just an accounting report, it provides background information, descriptions of all the trainings and an overview of the programme's goals and achievements.

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Publication of prior information notices BTSF 2019

Read the prior information notice published on the Tender Electronic Daily, the electronic public procurement journal, providing you with more information on the calls for tenders to be published in 2019.

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BTSF financing decision and work programme 2019 published

Read the Commission Implementing Decision of 26 March 2019 on the financing of the 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme and the adoption of the work programme for 2019. All of the financing decisions for BTSF initiative dating back to 2009 are available online and accessible to the public.

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Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency - Chafea