

## Better Training for Safer Food

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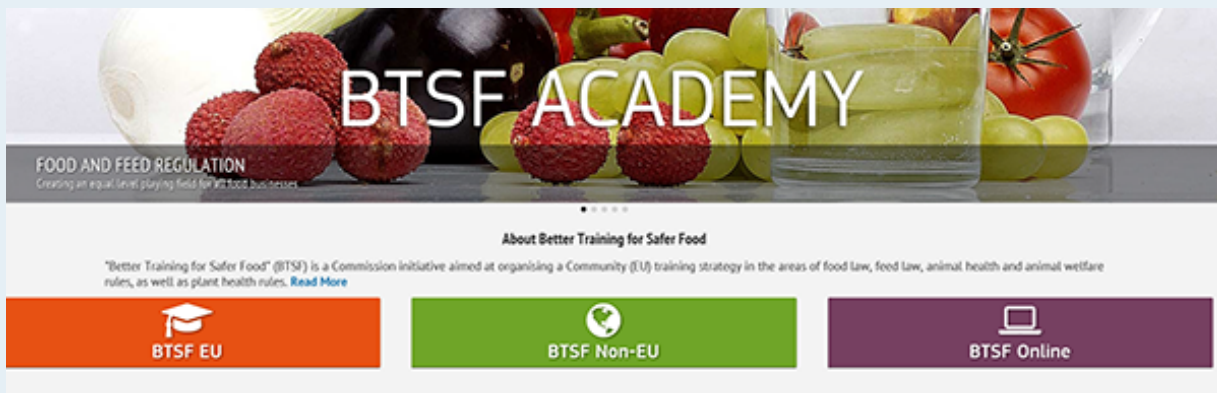
*In this newsletter edition of May 2020, Donata Meroni talks about the EU's response to COVID-19 and in particular, the impact of the crisis on the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.*

#### **How has the Commission responded to COVID-19?**

*The Commission is responding on all fronts to the outbreak of COVID-19. Every Department is involved, from health to transport, from social and human rights to research and innovation. In particular, the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) has been actively working in crisis management and preparedness to protect the public, to contain the spread of the virus and to help EU countries to provide the healthcare to those who have been infected and are in critical condition. Several guidance documents have been issued in this respect, economic and other measures have been put in place, such as direct support to EU healthcare sector, supply of personal protective equipment, supporting research for treatment, diagnostic and vaccines and fighting disinformation. The Commission's Agencies are also on board, including the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea) that manages the Health Programme and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative in collaboration with DG SANTE.*

#### **How has the pandemic impacted the Better Training for Safer Food initiative?**

*A wide variety of training sessions are held both in and outside the EU, and these face-to-face courses on site have had to be cancelled or postponed until 1 September 2020, for the time being. Like many other organisations, the forced shift to digitalisation has prompted Chafea, with the support of DG SANTE, to also consider the organisation of online courses in the form of webinars for the next months.*



FOOD AND FEED REGULATION  
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About Better Training for Safer Food

"Better Training for Safer Food" (BTSF) is a Commission initiative aimed at organising a Community (EU) training strategy in the areas of food law, feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules, as well as plant health rules. [Read More](#)

BTSF EU      BTSF Non-EU      BTSF Online

Fortunately, through the [BTSF Academy](#), people can follow eLearning courses such as for animal welfare, animal health (Aquaculture animals and TSEs), HACCP, food hygiene of fishery products, RASFF, Feed and Food contact materials whenever and wherever, especially now. These courses are available in 5 languages.

In addition to eLearning courses, BTSF Academy has almost 50 titles offered in a format of Learning Resources. This format of on-line learning is covering the entire sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) field, from food safety law to animal disease preparedness and animal welfare rules, up to sustainable use of pesticides and plant health controls. These Learning Resources have been built up from the pedagogical material from Face to Face-training material. Learning resources in the Academy, and offer presentations in PPT and videos of the recorded lectures from each Face to Face training held since 2016 up to today.

Since the start of the confinement the BTSF Academy has registered 1944 participants in nine weeks, thus offering a possibility to train participants even in these circumstances.

#### **How the Better Training for Safer Food initiative proves its importance during this crisis?**

*The global pandemic underlines the need for food safety and conformity to standards. Through this ordeal, people have become more sensitive about the safety of what they consume, even of the packaging of these consumables and the delivery chain and sales points. The value of the European single market also became even more evident, and the invaluable connection between the EU and other parts of the world who we trade with from farm to fork.*

COVID-19 reminded us of our need to work together, to respect and support each other. That has always been the philosophy behind BTSF. The initiative safeguards people's health and helps businesses to compete on a level-playing field. The months and years to come may prove challenging for business, especially smaller and midsize producers – but it will be important not to cut corners on quality and safety. BTSF initiative will be there to provide all the assistance and support we can to everyone involved from the beginning to the end of the food chain.

## **On-location BTSF training courses suspended during Coronavirus pandemic**

Face-to-face BTSF training courses are suspended until 1 September 2020. For the time being training sessions are being postponed to a later date or replaced by webinars where possible.

[Read more](#)

## **BTSF Academy continues to offer training on-line**

<https://btsfacademy.eu/training/>

[Read more](#)

## **All European Commission efforts now geared toward COVID-19 response**

The European Commission is working across various sectors to respond to COVID-19. See what the EU is doing in cross-cutting areas including health, transport, research and the economy on the Commission's dedicated website.

[Read more](#)

## **Four calls for tender published- deadline for offers 14 August 2020**

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!

- [Organisation and implementation of training activities on investigation techniques to be deployed during official controls to deter potential fraud along the agri-food chain and on the e-commerce under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative](#)
- [Organisation and implementation of training activities on the new EU Animal Health Law under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative](#)
- [Organisation and implementation of training activities on Plant Health Surveys under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative](#)
- [Organisation and implementation of training activities on the legislation and control of geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative](#)

[Read more](#)

## **BTSF financing 2020 decision published 26 February**

This is the financial document that allocates 19 million euro of the EU funding to the BTSF initiative for 2020.

[Read more](#)

## **Stay one step ahead! Information on eight upcoming BTSF calls now published**

Stay ahead of things by checking out the postings on upcoming new calls. Information about eight new upcoming calls was published in April 2020.

[Read more](#)

## **8 prior information notices for BTSF open calls published**

1. [BTSF open calls 167894](#)
2. [BTSF open calls 167895](#)
3. [BTSF open calls 167896](#)
4. [BTSF open calls 167897](#)
5. [BTSF open calls 167898](#)
6. [BTSF open calls 167899](#)
7. [BTSF open calls 167900](#)
8. [BTSF open calls 167901](#)

## Better Training for Safer Food 2018 Annual Report now published online in English, French, German and Spanish

[Read more](#)

### The BTSF Course in the Spotlight

Principles and methods of risk assessment in the food chain: Plant and pest protection risk assessment



#### What is this course about?

This course, currently offered in Austria and Spain, is a 4 day session that provides an introduction to plant pest risk assessment and its legal framework. Among the topics covered there are the different steps of risk assessment, pest risk assessment at national and at international level, identification of appropriate risk management options. So far 16 people have taken the course, where they've gained knowledge on a range of topics including the probability of a risk's spread, its impact on crop yields, and the environmental side effects. This course is addressed to staff from public institutions involved in food chain risk assessment and is part of a wider training programme focussing on 8 different areas of risk assessment. It is planned to organise within this programme 16 courses (2 per technical areas) with 320 participants in total.

#### Reactions from participants



"The course helps us to gain a common understanding of problems, processes and management options in plant and pest protection risk assessment" says B.H. from Germany, who took the course

in Vienna. "It also helps to connect internationally with other experts. Participants also gain insights into risk communication."

"It provides a comprehensive view of PRA writing as well as a great opportunity to network and share experiences with EU colleagues." M.A., Spain

"Different perspectives shared on dealing with the same problems, in this case pests of plants." A.B, Ireland

"Helps to develop common methodology for the PRA for plant health and to implement the right management measures." C.P, Greece

**How can I participate?**

The course is scheduled to be given next in December 2020 in Valencia, Spain. For more information or for registration read [here](#).

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