



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE (CCEURO) 2014-2019

Introduction

The Codex Region for Europe has in 2013 51 members, including 50 countries and one member organization, the European Union. The majority of countries with economies in transition have been actively pursuing WTO accession after early 90s, most of them becoming members, while others being still in the process of negotiating the accession. Due to the increasingly globalized food and feed supply, both WTO member and candidate countries are interested in Codex standards and work for protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

The particularity of the Codex Region of Europe is the heterogeneity of countries in terms of capacity to comply with Codex requirements in food safety area and experience of participation in Codex work. 23 out of 50 Codex member countries (what makes about 50%) have 20 years and less of Codex membership, including one country joining the Codex in 2012, one country in 2011 and two countries in 2009. This explains the great need in capacity development to increase the level of participation and the technical quality of contributions to Codex work, as well to raise capacity for the utilization of Codex standards, recommendations and codes of practice for strengthening food safety control systems, for ensuring efficient protection of consumers of both domestic food markets and those of importing countries.

The Strategic Plan for CCEURO responds with basic actions to the need of ensuring more even technical inputs and participation of CCEURO countries to Codex work, fostering the collection and provision of regional data for standard setting purpose taking into account production practices used throughout the food chain in CCEURO countries, increasing regional cohesion for more efficient control of food safety hazards and competitiveness on international market. The Strategic Plan for CCEURO builds on and is aligned with the global Codex Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, seeking to achieve better coordination and interaction among member countries for strengthening national food safety systems, promoting harmonization of standards and equivalence of practices in ensuring food safety.

Goal

The goal of this Strategic Plan is to enhance the effectiveness of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe in achieving its responsibilities to its Member countries and the Region's contribution to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Strategic Objectives

Objective 1: To develop and strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees

Actions

- 1.1. Identify the capacity development needs of the Codex structures at the national level;
- 1.2. Conduct national and or regional workshops on Codex for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members;
- 1.3. Develop a mentoring program between experienced and less experienced countries of the region to enhance the knowledge of Codex issues, structures and processes.

Objective 2: To strengthen communication and coordination amongst CCEURO members, with other regions and the Codex Secretariat

Actions

- 2.1. Hold pre-session meetings with all CCEURO members at relevant Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups;
- 2.2. Focus the CCEURO agenda on Codex issues of particular interest to the region;
- 2.3. Develop a regional strategy on issues of mutual interest arising from regional discussions.
- 2.3. Develop a communication platform for CCEURO members.

Objective 3: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst experienced and less experienced countries in the region

Actions:

- 3.1. Identify and prioritize regional issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis;
- 3.2. Develop a list of specialists and institutions which can provide scientific/technical expertise;
- 3.3. Establish scientific and technical networks amongst the experts and institutions.

Objective 4: To promote use of Codex standards as a basis for national legislation and regulations

Actions:

- 4.1. Train technical personnel and policy makers on the need to consider Codex standards;
- 4.2. Increase awareness on the importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders;
- 4.3. Assist member countries to harmonize national legislation with Codex standards.

Objective 5: To develop and/or review Codex standards taking into account regional interests

Actions:

- 5.1. Identify specific food products of interest to the region that require standards to be developed;
- 5.2. Establish national mechanisms for the standard development process;
- 5.3. Submit all proposals for new standards for products of interest to the region to the CCEURO for consideration prior to submission to the Commission.