

**Please find below the history of the document that now serves as the basis for the Draft Strategic Plan. It went through three stages.**

- 1. Draft strategic Plan as presented for the meeting in The Hague in 2014 on the basis of written comments.**
- 2. During the meeting in The Hague in september 2014 the tekst was discussed. Changes were agreed upon.**
- 3. The result of these textual changes can be found under heading 3. below.**

**On this new text, sent to you in a separate file, we now invite comments.**

#### **[1. Old Introduction for the Draft Strategic plan CCEURO as presented for REP 15/ CCEURO 2014:]**

##### **“Introduction**

1. During the FAO Regional Consultation on Strengthening Capacities for Food Safety Risk Analysis and enhancing participation in Codex work on 18 September 2013 in Pulawy, Poland an informal document containing a draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO (see Annex I) was presented by the Coordinator for Europe. This draft was informally discussed at the Pulawy meeting and on request by the Coordinator written comments on the draft were provided by the CCEURO members (see Annex II).

##### **Goal**

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

##### **Expected outcome**

3. The objective and expected outcome of the discussion is consensus amongst the CCEURO members on the content and the adoption of the Strategic Plan by the 29<sup>th</sup> CCEURO.

##### **Back ground**

4. The Codex Region of Europe entails in 2014 the greatest number of members – 51, including 50 countries and one member organization, 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 their accession. Due to the increasingly globalized food and feed supply, both WTO members and candidate countries are interested in Codex standards and work for protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

5. The particularity of the Codex Region of Europe is the heterogeneity of countries in terms of socio-economic level, capacity to comply with Codex requirements in the food safety area and experience in participating in Codex work. 23 out of 50 Codex member countries (about 50%) have 10 years or less of Codex membership, including one country joining Codex in 2012, one country in 2011 and two countries in 2009. This fact supports the great need in capacity development to increase the level of participation and the technical quality of contributions to Codex work, as well as to raise capacity for the utilization of Codex standards, recommendations and codes of practice for strengthening food safety control systems and ensuring efficient protection of consumers of both domestic food markets and those of importing countries.

6. 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 purposes 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. It seeks to achieve better coordination and interaction among member countries in order to strengthen national food control systems, promote harmonization of standards and equivalence of practices in ensuring food safety and fair practices in food trade.”

#### **[2. New Conclusion drawn by REP15/ EURO]**

**“66. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group, working in English and Russian, and to be chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by Ukraine, to further elaborate the document and also take into account the issues raised by the Committee for consideration at its next session.”**

**[3. Textual changes that were agreed upon during REP15/ CCEURO 2014 result in the following basis for a Strategic Plan for CCEURO:]**

### **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, sub-regional and or regional workshops on Codex for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members;
- 1.3 Develop a twinning program between CCEURO members<sup>1</sup> of the region to enhance the knowledge of Codex issues, structures and procedures.

#### **Objective 2: To strengthen communication and coordination amongst CCEURO members and other regions Actions**

- 2.1 Hold pre-session meetings with all CCEURO members at relevant Commission's sessions, 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 and global discussions.
- 2.4 Develop a communication platform for CCEURO members.
- 2.5 Participate as an observer in the meetings of other regional committees.

#### **Objective 3: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst CCEURO members in the region Actions:**

- 3.1 Identify and prioritize regional and global 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.]<sup>2</sup>
- 3.4 Promote the participation of experts in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and provide data in response to call for data.

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

- 4.1 Increase awareness on the importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders and policy makers;
- 4.2 Assist member countries to take Codex standards into account for national legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> CCEURO members in this document also refers to “Member Organisation” (i.e. the European Union).

<sup>2</sup> 3.2 and 3.3 were considered very ambitious. Therefore these actions were placed in brackets for further development. REP 15/EURO on this:

“56. The representative of WHO informed the Committee that these two actions fed into the work of scientific advice of FAO/WHO. WHO had a number of databases and networks that needed to be taken into account relating to roster of experts, data collection, etc.

57. The Committee agreed to further develop these two Actions taking into account the need for building synergies of already existing platforms and requested FAO and WHO to work with the Coordinator to further refine these actions. The WHO Representative offered to draft a document that could be discussed in an electronic working group (see paragraph 66).”

**Objective 5: To develop and/or review Codex standards and other Codex texts 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 Submit all proposals for new standards for products of interest to the region and other issues to the CCEURO for consideration prior to submission to the Commission at any appropriate time.

**[4. During the meeting it was agreed to link the objectives of the Strategic plan for CCEURO to the General Strategic Plan for Codex. This has been done in the new text, sent to you in a separate file, on which we now invite comments.]**

Strategic Plan CCEURO to be linked to:	Strategic Plan General
Objective 1	Goal 3 (facilitate effective participation of all Codex members)
Objective 2	Goal 4 (Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practises.
Objective 3	Goal 2 (Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards)

COMMENTS ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

**COMMENTS BY FYROM:**

I would like most kindly to thank you for distribution of the draft Strategic plan for CCEURO

I had detailed review of the proposed text and would like to inform you that I agree with all points of the document and have no comments/remarks thereof.

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**COMMENTS FROM SLOVAKIA:**

Comment on the Draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO\_ The Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic would like to appreciate very well specified outputs and indicators connected to CCEURO objectives/actions agreed at the last regular CCEURO meeting. The Slovak Republic considers them concise, clear and fully compatible with the defined actions and they also cover goals of Codex and the Regional Committee.

However please find below only minor editorial remarks and some other specific ones.

Editorial notes

The Slovak Republic would like to draw attention to some inaccuracies regarding transmission of textual changes that were agreed upon during CCEURO conclusions into the first draft of strategic plan for CCEURO (REP15/EUR)

1. Action 1.3 (para 45 REP15/EUR; CX/EURO 14/29/6 Annex I): the wording should be, *“Develop a ~~mentoring~~ twinning program between CCEURO members’ ~~experienced and less experienced countries of the region~~ to enhance knowledge on Codex issues, structures and ~~processes~~ procedures”*.
2. Action 2.5: text “where appropriate” is missing. Action 2.5 should be read *Participate as an observer in meetings of other regional committees **where appropriate***.
3. Objective 3: CCEURO (REP15/EURO para 52) deleted the reference to “experienced and less experienced countries in the Region” and *replaced* them with *“CCEURO*

*members*” for consistency with previous decision in this regard (that means like in the action 1.3).

Furthermore, words, "in the Region" appears redundant in the context of “amongst CCEURO members”, because we believe it means “in the Region”.

So, the wording should be: *To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst ~~experienced and less experienced countries in the Region~~ CCEURO members.*

Some other remarks:

Output of action 2.1

the notion “**resources**” in, “...to maximize use of the *resources* of members”) is not clear, so we would like to ask for having the term “resources” clarified. Does it referred to all kinds of resources such as finance, knowledge, experience and practice base of members or only some of them? (e.g “...to maximize use of e.g. *knowledge and experience* of members”)?

Output 2 of action 2.2

The notion “**Question**” in, “*Question* by CCEURO – secretariat” seems unclear. Please clarify what is meant by this output – does it comprise gathering information by questioning/inquiring or formulating and raising CCEURO issues/interests by CCEURO secretariat to other Committees/the Commission or something different?

Indicator of action 4.1. – The notion “**well aware of**” in, “Relevant stakeholders and policy makers are *well aware of* the importance of Codex”. We are not sure whether “well aware of” represents a *measurable* indicator. It would be better to formulate indicator/s more specifically (e.g. by inserting, “Overview of activities contributed to enhance awareness and importance of Codex to relevant stakeholders and policy makers” or “Overview of activities that could enhance awareness of the relevant stakeholders and policy makers” or something similar.

Thank you for very reasonable framework of CCEURO Plan again.

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On behalf of

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#### **COMMENTS FROM GERMANY**

Thank you very much for all your preparatory work on the CCEURO draft strategic plan. We appreciate this very much and we are very grateful for all the effort you put into this.

We are particularly pleased with the synopsis which is very clear and gives a very good overview of the strategic objectives of CCEURO, the relevant actions, output as well as the indicators of the

implementation of the strategic plan. Moreover, it indicates the links to the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 of the CAC which is also very useful.

So for the time being we do not have any further comments.

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#### **COMMENTS FROM POLAND**

We would like to thank The Netherlands for preparing the proposals of complementing the Draft Strategic Plan for CCEURO.

In general we agree with the proposed "outputs" and "indicators" with a minor comment:

##### Ad. Action 2.2 column "output" and action 2.5 column "indicators"

We propose to replace the wording "CCEURO-secretariat" with "CCEURO hosting country secretariat", as well as to replace "CCEURO representative" with "representatives of CCEURO countries. This will more specifically reflect the factual situation.

Additionally, we propose to bind Objective 5 of the CCEURO Strategic Plan with Goal 1 of the global Strategic Plan. It seems that for example indicator proposed for action 5.1 "# of regional standards developed for products of interest to the region..." corresponds to indicator for action 1.1.1 of the global Strategic Plan.

As it concerns Objective 4, the idea of Codex as a source of inspiration for developing national legislations is important not only for CCEURO, but for all the Codex Member Countries. However, this idea does not seem to be reflected in global Strategic plan, thus we cannot propose any linkage.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

EU COMMENTS (01/04/2015):				
	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT	DRAFT
<b>Connection to General Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Strategic Objectives CCEURO</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
Goal 3 Facilitate effective participation of all Codex members	<b>Objective 1: To develop and strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees Actions</b>	1.1 Identify the capacity development needs of the Codex structures at the national level; <b>Identify resources and funding needs.</b>	Overview of <b>the capacity development building</b> needs in the various countries <b>in of</b> the region; to be achieved by 1. questionnaires 2. interviews 3. workshops	Overview of <b>the capacity development building</b> needs in the various countries <b>in of</b> the region. <b>(to be determined)</b>
		1.2 Conduct national, sub-regional and/or regional workshops on Codex <b>issues</b> for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members.	1. FAO/WHO training courses 2. Other courses (e.g. Better Training for Safer Food by the <b>European Commission; on-the-job trainings, etc.</b> )	# of relevant workshops or training courses for the region
		1.3 Develop a twinning program between CCEURO members <sup>3</sup> of the region to enhance the knowledge of Codex issues, structures and procedures.	<b>1. A framework for twinning activities</b> 1. Twinning agreements 2. Twinning activities	# of twinning agreements and activities in the region
Goal 4 Implement effective and efficient work management systems	<b>Objective 2: To strengthen communication and coordination amongst CCEURO members and other regions</b>	2.1 Hold pre-session meetings with all CCEURO members <b>prior to relevant Commission's sessions</b> , Codex Committees,	Enhancement of the opportunities for pre-session meetings to maximize use of the resources of members	# of meetings <b>hosted organised</b> in the margins of Codex meetings

<sup>3</sup> CCEURO members in this document also refers to "Member Organisation" (i.e. the European Union).

and practices		<b>Task Forces and Working Groups; and the CAC.</b>		
		2.2 Focus the CCEURO agenda on Codex issues of particular interest to the region;	1. Ongoing Communication between the CCEURO-secretariat and CCEURO-members, esp. <b>prior previous</b> to CCEURO-meetings <b>2. Question by CCEURO-secretariat (to be clarified)</b> 3. <b>Evaluation by the CCEURO-secretariat of discussions in Codex Committees to provide a summary of issues of interest to CCEURO on the Codex agenda.</b>	CCEURO agenda that reflects the particular interests to the region
		2.3 Develop a regional strategy on <b>key</b> issues of <b>mutual</b> interest arising from regional and global discussions.	<b>1. An eWG in which Regional strategy on issues of mutual interest arising from regional and global discussion can to be developed</b>	# of issues for which a CCEURO-strategy was developed
		2.4 Develop a communication platform for CCEURO members.	1. Use of CCEURO-website 2. Use of CCEURO-environment on Codex-website	<b>A-f</b> Functioning interactive CCEURO-platform
		2.5 Participation of <b>CCEURO representatives</b> as <b>an</b> observers in the meetings of other regional <b>Codex</b> committees.	1. Exchange of information between the <b>European CCEURO region</b> and other regions; 2. <b>Visibility</b> of CCEURO in other regional <b>Codex</b> committees.	# of regional committees attended by CCEURO-secretariat or CCEURO-representative
Goal 2 Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the	<b>Objective 3: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst CCEURO</b>	3.1 Identify and prioritize regional and global issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis ;	<b>Overview and prioritization of the regional and global issues in need of scientific research/analysis.</b> To be achieved by 1. questionnaires 2. interviews	<b>Overview and prioritization of the regional and global issues in need of scientific research/analysis</b> <b>s</b> (to be determined)

development of Codex standards	members in the region		3. workshops 4. <b>training courses</b>	
	<b>The EU remains concerned on the feasibility and appropriateness of these two actions. For example the EU questions on what ground specialists and experts will be chosen (independence, conflict of interest, etc.). However, the EU would support that the two proposed actions should take into account the synergies of already existing platforms (para. 57 of the CCEURO Report). This should be included into the table, under outputs and indicators rather than being reported in a footnote.</b>	[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.] <sup>4</sup>	[An eWG in which a list is developed of 1. specialists and institutions which can provide scientific/technical expertise and 2. scientific and technical networks amongst the experts and institutions.]	[An overview of specialists, institutions and networks providing scientific and technical expertise, to promote a functioning network]
		3.4 Promote the participation of experts <b>from CCEURO region</b> in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and provide data in response to call for data.	1. Analyse the current participation of experts in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies 2. Stimulate participation of experts 3. Stimulate the provision of data in response to calls for data	Increase in # of meetings where CCEURO-experts took part in Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies Increase in # of CCEURO-countries responding to <b>FAO/WHO</b> calls for data
	<b>Objective 4: To promote use of</b>	4.1 Increase awareness on the	Increase awareness and visibility by	Relevant stakeholders and

<sup>4</sup> 3.2 and 3.3 were considered very ambitious. Therefore these actions were placed in brackets for further development. REP 15/EURO on this:

"56. The representative of WHO informed the Committee that these two actions fed into the work of scientific advice of FAO/WHO. WHO had a number of databases and networks that needed to be taken into account relating to roster of experts, data collection, etc.

57. The Committee agreed to further develop these two Actions taking into account the need for building synergies of already existing platforms and requested FAO and WHO to work with the Coordinator to further refine these actions. The WHO Representative offered to draft a document that could be discussed in an electronic working group (see paragraph 66)."

	<b>Codex standards as a basis for national legislation and regulations</b>	importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders and policy makers;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. co-hosting of CCEURO-meetings</li> <li>2. communication</li> <li>3. workshops</li> <li>4. twinning-activities</li> <li>5. <b>capacity building to assist policy makers to actively consider the use of Codex standards as basis for national regulations.</b></li> </ol>	policy makers are well aware of the importance of Codex
		4.2 Assist member countries to take Codex standards into account for national legislation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical assistance in the drafting of legislation and capacity building</li> <li>2. Communication on Codex standards through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. workshops</li> <li>2. twinning</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	National legislation based on Codex standards
<b>Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues</b>	<b>Objective 5: To develop and/or review Codex standards and other Codex texts taking into account regional interests</b>	5.1 Identify specific food products of interest to the region that require standards to be developed;	<p>Identification through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. spin-off from workshops, interviews, <b>twinning</b>-activities, questionnaires</li> <li>2. Evaluation of past products of interest to the region, considered to merit a standard. <b>(to be clarified)</b></li> </ol> <p><b>3. Standing item on CCEURO agenda</b></p>	<p>Overview of specific food products of interest to the region that merit standards to be developed.</p> <p># of <del>(regional)</del> <b>Codex</b> standards developed for products of interest to the region <b>as a result of this action</b></p>
		5.2 Submit all proposals for new <b>Codex</b> standards for products of interest to the region and other issues to the CCEURO for consideration prior to submission to the Commission at any appropriate time.	<b>Action for all: Submit all pP</b> Proposals for new <b>Codex</b> standards <b>submitted.</b>	<b># Consideration</b> of Proposals <b>made</b> for new <b>Codex</b> standards <b>submitted. by CCEURO-members prior to submission to the Commission</b>

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