

# PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS BY MICROBIAL RISK MITIGATION THROUGH COMBATING SEGREGATION OF EXPERTISE (PROMISE)



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Protection of consumers by microbial risk mitigation through combating segregation of expertise (acronym **PROMISE**) is name of the EU funded project which strategic objective is to improve and increase the integration, collaboration and knowledge transfer between the Member States, through a collaborative workplan of exchange of expertise and dissemination actions, to tackle common food safety threats and hence to protect the European consumer.

Microbial food safety is a major concern in many EU countries due to repeated outbreaks and contamination problems. Due to global influences and the growing European market the food supply chain structure has become more and more complex and requires professional risk management systems in order to ensure consumer protection.

Now with the 28 member states, it has become more of a challenge because of the increased number of national authorities, different cultures and regulatory approaches to ensure food safety.

**PROMISE** project deal with the elucidation of neglected sources of transmission of pathogens and the respective modeling of data streams. While legal imports are well monitored for contaminations and alerts are registered through the RASFF notification systems, illegal personal food imports from all continents are not monitored at all. These uncontrolled imports present the risk that new strains of traditional pathogens will be transferred from third countries into the European Union. Analyzing, assessing and interpreting this risk of introducing new strains of pathogens are one of the main objectives of **PROMISE**. Total of 2500 illegally imported food samples will be tested at different entrances into EU.

**Diseases don't respect borders\***



If you bring in meat or dairy products from outside the EU, you risk importing animal diseases.

If you do not declare such items, you may be fined or face criminal prosecution.

These products will be seized and destroyed on arrival.

However, you may bring in small quantities for personal consumption from Andorra, Croatia, the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Croatia** was included in sampling of 100 illegal food imports on Croatian borders with third countries, with focus on ready to eat food of animal origin. Samples will be tested for the presence of **Salmonella**, **Campylobacter**, **Listeria**, **VTEC/EHEC**, **MDR E. coli** and **S. aureus**. To describe the risk associated with food samples from neglected sources, the prevalence data collected throughout the project will be plotted against the data that are collected by the national monitoring and related programs. These data will be compiled and disseminated to risk managers (national food safety authorities) and policy makers (at a national and international level).



Ministry of Agriculture  
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\*COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 206/2009 of 5 March 2009 on the introduction into the Community of personal consignments of products of animal origin and amending Regulation (EC) No 136/2004