



FoodSafety4EU

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM
FOR FOOD SAFETY IN EUROPE

Include, shape, act!

Mapping risk assessment and management
status of food safety issues in Europe
at a national/regional level

a FS4EU Key Exploitable Result for

- EU and Member State Policy-makers
- International Organisations
- Research and Technology Organisations
- Academia/ Universities

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FS4EU project and platform

23 project partners and 50+ supporting partners of the Horizon 2020 funded project “**FoodSafety4EU**” are generating value to shape the EU Food Safety System (FSS) of the future by consolidating the network in the **EU Food Safety platform**, and gathering major actors from different levels from the EU FSS: institutions, authorities, EU Agencies, policy makers, research and academia, industry, enterprises, consumers, citizens and umbrella organizations.

The overall mission of the platform is to become a **Knowledge/Competence Centre for Food Safety in Europe** supporting the transformation towards a SAFE and SUSTAINABLE food system, by facilitating connections and cooperation among the platform members in a multi-level interactive participatory process.

This platform aims at participating in the EU dialogue on food safety by providing updated knowledge and toolkits, by joining high level expert groups, by sharing tested multi-actor approaches developed by the FS4EU project partners, using digital tools, and hosting any pilot action. It is open to collaboration and to enlarge its network, through available membership options for organizations and individuals (contact form).

Thanks to facilitated collaboration, communication, and co-creation among scientists, policymakers, and various societal stakeholders, the platform is expected to grow further in the next future, by valorizing the FS4EU Key Exploitable Results (**KER**), as the one described in the following pages.





Include, shape, act!

SURVEY TO MAP RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STATUS

Nowadays, there is an increasing need for risk assessment and management because as pressures like climate change and the need for the transition towards circular systems induce (re)emerging food safety issues. Within the European Union, there are large differences in experience with and available data for food safety issues. Within FS4EU, a survey has been designed to generate data to map the status of risk analysis and management of a predefined food safety issue or group of food safety issues (such as recycled packaging hazards, (re)emerging mycotoxins). These maps can be specified for (inter)national or regional use, by allowing the option for regional differentiation in the questions.

The overall objective for the users of the toolkit is to assist in the generation of baseline maps to generate:

- Maps showing the risk assessment status for a specific issue, and/or
- Maps showing the risk management status for a specific issue

MAIN CONTENT OF MAPPING SURVEY TOOLKIT

1

Identification of food safety issue(s) for the mapping

Identification of food safety issues can be done through e.g., literature search, expert interviews (see also KER 3.3). The survey is designed to assist in the mapping of the risk assessment and management status of particularly circularity-related food safety issues. Within FS4EU, two surveys have been elaborated i.e., recycled packaging issues (i.e., MOSH/MOAH, Phthalates, Bisphenols, heavy metals) and mycotoxins (T2/HT2, DON varieties, Alternaria toxins, and Enniatines).

2

Survey structure and question database

The survey is structured as follows:

- Questions pertaining to background information; these questions are used to limit the questions to specific expertise and nationality. Questions are only asked if the survey participant indicates this as part of their expertise.
- Case study questions for the national level to determine the risk assessment and/or risk management status for each issue (case study example: migration of several specific compounds from food contact materials recycling).
- Case study questions for regional level (NUTS-2 or NUTS-3, depending on the size of the country and/or regions) to determine the risk assessment and/or risk management status for each issue (case study example: Mycotoxins).
- Questions on harmonization stance and suggestions for harmonization potential.
- Expected impact of case study issues to give insight into urgency.
- Background questions for statistics; age and gender.

The questions can be adjusted to the circularity-related food safety issues at stake by replacing the topic of the questions. The survey is suitable for all EU27 countries, plus several others including Turkey and the United Kingdom. The regions have been defined at the NUTS-2 or NUTS-3 level. Questions were created for Lime Survey but are in an open-source format that can be read by other software packages.

3

Data processing manual

After data collection through the survey, data must be processed to create the geographical maps visualizing the status of risk assessment or risk management per specific food issue being investigated. A manual is available to aid in the different processing steps.

Several factors are stressing the risk analysis networks within the European Union. Many countries are facing similar food safety issues, some are unique to specific regions. In some cases, this is due to geographically-specific issues, such as climate impact, while for others it is due to the status of the risk analysis. In both cases, it can lead to a situation where in one country the focus is still on gathering data for risk assessment, while in others it has already been completed. The nature of European Union legislation can also cause the reverse, where an issue is regulated without ever being risk assessed.

To map these differences, the survey supports in determining the status of risk assessment and management. The survey allows for the assessment of regional differences within European countries up to the level of NUTS 3 (i.e., a classification of small regions specific for diagnosis).

Identified differences between countries regarding the status of risk assessment and/or management for (re) emerging food safety issues can be used as a starting point for collaboration, preventing the need to do the same research multiple times, or can serve as potential templates for new regulations and/or regulatory alignment.

The potential users of this toolkit are researchers/academia, risk assessors and managers.

The [Mapping Survey Toolkit](#) contains the questions in an open-source format that can be used by multiple software packages (including Lime Survey); a guidance document explaining how to adjust the questions for other food safety issues and explaining steps in data analysis to generate the maps.



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