



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# Action Plan for the Implementation of the **Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030**





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for the Implementation  
of the Food Safety  
and Nutrition Strategy 2030**

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# I. Introduction

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The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030 (hereinafter referred to as the “Action Plan”) elaborates on the Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030 (hereinafter referred to as the “Strategy”) approved by Government Resolution No 323 of 29 March 2021. The document aims to define specific measures to deliver the Strategy in the monitored period.

## Background

Food safety has long been declared by the Government of the Czech Republic as one of the priorities of the Czech Republic. Nutrition is crucial for long-term improvement of health of the population and, as a matter of fact, impacts the production of agricultural raw materials and their processing into food.

Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030 is the key document of the Czech Republic on food safety and nutrition and follows from the previous strategic document of 2014. It was drawn up in close cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, with the contribution of other entities involved in implementing the food safety system in the Czech Republic.

The Strategy describes the current state of affairs in ensuring food safety and nutrition in the Czech Republic in the Europe-wide context, outlines the vision, basic strategic direction and priorities of the Czech Republic. Ensuring the health safety of food, maintaining and strengthening the functionality of the food safety system, further development of communication with consumers and other stakeholders, and nutrition issues are defined in the document as priorities. Moreover, this strategic document should also contribute to enhancing public trust in the food safety system, food safety and quality, and in food nutritional value.

The strategic objectives and priorities in food safety and nutrition defined by the Strategy are long-term in their nature, which also applies to a larger part of tasks to be accomplished in both the areas. Elaboration of the timetable of the respective activities, subsequent implementation of specific tasks and activities, and inter-ministerial communication between the institutions in charge of the accomplishment of individual objectives are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and other cooperating ministries and organisations.

## Elaboration of the document

The elaboration of the Action Plan was officially launched by announcing the approval of the Strategy by the Government of the Czech Republic to the members of the Food Safety Coordination Unit (hereinafter referred to as the “FSCU”) during its meeting held on 27 April 2021. At the same time, the FSCU members were asked to appoint the representatives of their respective organisations who will become involved in the elaboration of the document.

The document as such was drafted by the working group composed of the representatives of relevant ministries and other organisations, led by the Ministry of Agriculture. The draft Action Plan was discussed and commented on by the FSCU.

## 2. Action Plan – Measures and Recommendations for the Implementation of the Strategy

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### Strategic Objective I

*In respect of the choice of safe, quality and affordable food, the first strategic objective is to enable production and placing on the market of safe food only, to provide verified information on food safety and quality, and thus to improve the protection of consumers, their rightful interest and trust in food safety system and its sustainability.*

#### I. Food products in the market do not pose a risk to human health

##### I.1. Load of chemical substances in food chains has been decreasing

###### **Problem identification**

The total human exposure to chemicals is very high. It comes mainly from the environment, which is contaminated by human activities. Foods, in which chemicals may occur naturally or as contaminants from the external environment, also contribute to this burden.

###### **Description of the current state of affairs**

We avail of rather robust mechanisms to prevent food containing undesirable chemical substances from being placed on the market. This applies particularly to substances that enter food mainly from the external environment (contaminants, including natural toxins, pesticide residues and veterinary and human medicinal products or substances migrating from food packaging), or also substances formed in food during processing (process contaminants) as well as those that are intentionally added to food (food additives).

Nonetheless, it is hardly possible or realistic to eliminate all harmful substances from the food chain. The growing population and consumerism call for intensive farming that cannot do without certain chemical substances, for which we do not have adequate substitutes, and exert pressure on food producers, whom the society expects to be creative and innovative. At the same time, there is an ever-growing pressure on sustainability of agricultural production and on increasing food production.

###### **What do we want to achieve**

The aim is to reduce the total load of chemical substances in food chains. This is obviously achievable particularly in the case of pesticide residues, veterinary medicinal products and process contaminants.

###### **Prerequisites for achievement**

The EC's Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) is the key policy document defining a number of ambitious EU-wide objectives that can help reduce the total load of pesticide residues and also veterinary medicinal products (especially antimicrobials, growth promoters for farm animals and other veterinary medicinal products with an effect on endocrine regulation) in food chains. The national targets derived from this strategy must be both ambitious enough and achievable, with a minimum negative impact on the agri-food sector. The key prerequisite is the provision of effective biological and non-synthetic alternatives to pesticides. Effective reduction in high-risk pesticides and the load of pesticide residues in food of plant origin can be attained through innovations in cultivation technologies and protection systems, particularly in fruit and vegetables, and by increasing the share of organic farming. A significant positive role in this respect can also be played by wider application of biotechnology. Improving farm animal welfare results in improved animal health and thus in reduced consumption of veterinary medicinal products.

### Risks to implementation

Setting unambitious national goals in relation to the F2F Strategy. Failure to ensure sufficient funding for monitoring and official controls of contaminants in the food chain. Unavailability of adequate alternatives to pesticides to reduce their application.

### Performance indicators

The number of samples identified during the official controls and monitoring of contaminants as exceeding the maximum limits or the maximum limits of residues has been on a decrease. The share of samples with simultaneous presence of residues of several active substances has also been decreasing. Monitoring of the dietary exposure of the population in the Czech Republic.

### Timeline

It is an ongoing process: 2021–2030.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
I.1_1	To support the implementation of objectives of the F2F Strategy in the field of pesticides and VMPs	MoA	MoH, MoE	continuously
I.1_2	To support research, development and use of biological and non-synthetic plant protection products	MoA	MoE, MoH	continuously
I.1_3	To support research, development, innovation and introduction of cultivation technologies and plant protection systems reducing pesticide residues in food	MoA	MoE	continuously
I.1_4	To support improvement of animal welfare resulting in their better health condition and thus reducing the use of VMP	MoA		continuously
I.1_5	To implement the NAP measures (PPP,VMP) related to food safety	MoA, MoH, MoE		continuously – in line with the NAP
I.1_6	To support research and detection of process contaminants and their formation in food	MoA		continuously
I.1_7	To fully finance the monitoring of contaminants	MoA		continuously
I.1_8	To increase the focus of state inspection bodies on online sale of food and food contact materials	MoH		immediately
I.1_9	To support national reference laboratories, the use of the latest analytical methods in line with scientific knowledge, the introduction of new analytical methods relevant for detection of food adulteration and for food safety control	MoA		continuously

## I.2. Microbial hazards are effectively reduced

### Problem identification

Biological hazards in food consist not only of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, but also of their products or metabolites. It takes constant vigilance, inspection of compliance with the good hygiene practice and procedures based on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) at food business operators (FBO) and control of food imported from the third countries to identify such hazards, particularly with the globalisation of the food market. The control and monitoring systems are demanding (both in terms of financing and human resources) and balanced legal support provided to FBOs is necessary. The society also expects high effectiveness and efficiency of the funds spent.

### Description of the current state of affairs

The phenomenon of globalisation is often associated with the main reasons behind the current rise in bacterial infections. They are mainly the intensification of international trade in commodities and food products, expansion of travel and tourism, an increasing number of people affected by immunodeficiency, and the growing antibiotic resistance of bacteria.

The issues of diseases and infections directly or indirectly transmissible between animals and humans (zoonoses) and reduced incidence of zoonotic bacteria and parasites in farm animals are subject to inspections of the veterinary administration bodies. Only a healthy animal has the potential to produce safe food. Of major concern is the emergence and rise of antimicrobial resistance, an indicator that should be intensively monitored. It would be appropriate to monitor particularly the indicator organisms. Such organisms represent a reservoir of resistance genes that can be transferred to pathogenic bacteria. The monitoring should be carried out at the level of primary production and/or at other stages of the food chain, including food and feed. The use of probiotics, prebiotics and non-antibiotic antimicrobial agents in livestock nutrition is also an effective way of limiting the growing antimicrobial resistance.

Apart from bacteria, viral pathogens are becoming increasingly important and have caused several major outbreaks across Europe in recent years. They are often spread through contaminated food of plant origin, which is monitored to a limited extent only (since no limits are set by the relevant legislation) during the inspections of such food products.

Measures should be adopted to monitor microbial contamination, including zoonotic agents and other agents such as *Toxoplasma gondii* and other parasites, but also viruses and bacterial toxins provided they pose a threat to public health. In general, food of plant as well as animal origin directly consumed without prior heat treatment (ready-to-eat, including raw foods) can pose a significant risk.

The monitoring of pathogens is done by a number of organisations under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. Apart from direct communication between experts, there is also a very well-functioning inter-ministerial working group on zoonoses.

### What do we want to achieve

Collection of data on the occurrence of zoonoses and their agents in animals, food, feed and humans is essential to identify the trends and sources of zoonoses. While monitoring the situation, priority should be given to zoonoses posing the greatest risk to human health. The monitoring system shall, however, also allow detection of emerging or recently emerged zoonotic diseases, new strains of zoonotic organisms, and shall operate at both national and international level (data sharing – data-warehouse, application of the “One Health” approach). The incidence and prevalence of foodborne diseases of microbial origin is a useful and already established indicator. Nonetheless, the adequacy (in terms of capacity and speed) of diagnostics and its ability to specify the foodborne pathogens shall be reviewed for the purpose of objective assessment (also in the international scope).

An obvious prerequisite is the implementation of future changes to the EU law in this area, including their early incorporation into national methodologies to ensure the continuity of testing, and thus also the protection of consumers and food producers.

It is also necessary to further improve the inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination. This can be done by establishing a national platform for sharing and collecting data on zoonotic agents in isolates from food (including identification and keeping of food isolates), which will facilitate efficient data sharing between all inspection bodies.

### Prerequisites for achievement

The control and monitoring mechanisms are in place, sharing of relevant information at the level of national competent authorities as well as the rapid alert systems (RASFF, EWRS) at the international level have been introduced. Based on the evidence, intervention measures shall be taken to reduce the risks of human infection (e.g. measures in livestock holdings, modification of operating conditions at slaughterhouses,



organisation of slaughtering). Education and awareness of consumers are essential in achieving the objective. Furthermore, it is also necessary to ensure a sufficient number of experts who avail of necessary knowledge, but mainly practical skills and experience in identifying less frequently occurring dangerous agents. Attention is paid to foods not only of animal but also of plant origin.

### **Risks to implementation**

Underfunding of the existing systems, halting/slowing down of investments in laboratory technology innovations, limitation of professional capacities. Inadequate education of consumers, who through their inappropriate behaviour and food handling strongly affect the occurrence and spread of infectious agents in food, can also contribute to the risks (link to food literacy – see Priority area 3.2.).

### **Performance indicators**

In the field of public health protection, reduction of incidence and prevalence of food-borne zoonoses and other human diseases caused by pathogens. With respect to safe food production and mass catering, reducing the frequency of non-compliant findings revealing the presence of pathogenic microorganisms, viruses and bacterial toxins during regular monitoring and control activities in food of animal and plant origin and in meals.

The benefits are clearly identified by the improved indicators of compliance with the existing as well as future criteria of microbiological food safety and hygiene for the food manufacturing process, which constitute an adequate guarantee of food safety. The actual compliance with measures can be found in the ISID (Information System of Infectious Diseases) and in the annual reports of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

### **Timeline**

It is a continuous process: 2021–2030.

### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
I.2_1	Setting up a platform for zoonoses from food isolates	MoA	MoH	2025
I.2_2	To encourage discussion on dangers of antimicrobial resistance and on importance of taking measures to its containment	MoH	MoA	continuously
I.2_3	Support to national reference laboratories, use of the latest analytical methods in line with scientific knowledge, introduction of new analytical methods	MoA	MoH	continuously
I.2_4	Support to the development of standardised screening methods to detect viruses in food of plant origin, but also to the development of a suitable system to distinguish living from dead viruses	MoA		continuously
I.2_5	To continue monitoring the antimicrobial resistance	MoA, MoH		continuously
I.2_6	To support the drafting of national legislation ensuring high microbiological safety of meals in catering establishments	MoA		2023
I.2_7	To support the introduction of detection of bacterial toxins (such as <i>Bacillus cereus</i> , <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> , <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> ) in food in the accredited official laboratories	MoA	MoH	continuously
I.2_8	To support the development and use of probiotics, prebiotics and non-antibiotic antimicrobial agents in livestock nutrition	MoA		continuously



### 1.3. Current data on food are available

#### **Problem identification**

Available up-to-date data on food are necessary as a basis for making informed decisions in the risk management process. If no data are available, the competent authorities have no information on the situation in food chains and can only respond to a problem when it arises.

In the Czech Republic, there is no system for collection of data on individual food consumption that would guarantee long-term functioning. Availability of detailed and up-to-date data on food consumption is a necessary prerequisite for relevant dietary exposure assessment with respect to food safety as well as for estimation of nutrient intake with respect to nutrition.

The absence of a shared (single) repository of data describing food safety and usable in prediction health risk assessment of diverse biological, chemical and physical agents at the national level.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

As to the data, the situation differs in the Czech Republic from domain to domain. A very good situation prevails in monitoring the load in food chains. The monitoring and control of contaminants have consistently been performed over a long period of time and data are available. Similarly, regular monitoring of dietary exposure has been carried out.

In the case of food consumption data, the situation is much worse. The availability of detailed and up-to-date food consumption data is crucial for relevant determination of dietary exposure to harmful substances with respect to food safety as well as for estimation of nutrient intake with respect to nutrition. The last individual food consumption survey was conducted in 2004 (SISP04). The data collection and assessment of individual food consumption are highly desirable also for the sake of international cooperation. Pursuant to Article 33 of Regulation 178/2002, the EFSA shall search for, collect, collate, analyse and summarise relevant scientific and technical data, including the data on food consumption in the Member States. Such information at the EU level is necessary not only for the preparation of opinions issued by EFSA, but also for drafting new food legislation or for communication on health risks.

As concerns the food composition data, they are collected in the national Food Composition Database of the Czech Republic (FCD), the operation and update of which is entrusted by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information and performed in cooperation with the European

Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR). New Foods are continuously added to the FCD. Its expansion and update are vital for long-term usability of data included in the database.

The aforementioned data are transmitted by the Czech Republic to EFSA. There is a lot of pressure exerted by EFSA to improve the quality and timeliness of data transmission.

Ever since 2011 the Czech Republic has been providing data on chemical substances in a coordinated manner as part of the DATEX CZ activity, but simultaneously it has also been providing e.g. data on pesticides to the Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (the data are also entered in the DATEX CZ system). The entity charged with collection, archiving, control and bulk transmission of data from monitoring of contaminants in the Czech Republic is the National Institute of Public Health in Prague. These data are accessible to the members of the system only, whereas they are not accessible to any third parties, including the public. The data on zoonoses or antimicrobial resistance are provided by the State Veterinary Administration. In this situation, the MoA started building a “Data Warehouse” on the SAS Visual Analytics platform for the data from the monitoring of contaminants, with the aim to assume the role of a data collection authority.

### **What do we want to achieve**

The Czech Republic avails of an up-to-date, high quality and sufficiently broad set of data on food composition and consumption, which allows an objective assessment (based on the internationally accepted methodologies) of risks arising from food consumption. The data collection system across the domains is fully harmonised and good quality data are transmitted to the EU level within the required deadlines. There is a shared repository of data that can be used for health risk assessment, allowing both the data providers and, in an appropriate format, the general public, an online access to data compatible with the EFSA system, including the application of an appropriate software tool for data handling, as a necessary starting point for exposure assessment and characterisation of health risks for day-to-day food safety and nutrition management and communication at the national level and for collaboration with EFSA. The following benefits are anticipated:

1. online access to data provided by all producers at a single point (already in place)
2. possibility of making the data, in an appropriate format, available to third parties, including the general public
3. simplifying the provision of data to EFSA

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Ensuring adequate staff capacity and funding from the resources of the MoA, or also MoH is the key prerequisite. Support for the implementation of monitoring and control of contaminants. Conducting a national study on individual food consumption using the EFSA methodology. Inter-ministerial consensus on the establishment of a national data repository that will collect data from all domains, and support provided to all entities (data producers, data owners). The establishment of a FCD coordination working group could help better balance the requirements of respective groups of database users, e.g. to decide on the selection of foods required for inclusion in the database and on the spectrum of required nutrients.

### **Risks to implementation**

Underfunding of this area affecting the staffing. Another risk is the reluctance of food producers to provide reliable data on food composition of their products.

### **Performance indicators**

Transparent setup of the data collection and provision system, especially in case of data obtained directly from producers. Publicly available, continuously updated reference National Food Composition Database of the Czech Republic. The existence of a shared repository. Improved data quality and timeliness of their transmission to EFSA (according to EFSA). Independent national monitoring of dietary exposure of the population in the Czech Republic in line with the EFSA/EC methodology, including a new nutritional and epidemiological study.

### Timeline

Data consolidation is a long-term and continuous task.

#### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
1.3_1	To support the implementation of monitoring and control of contaminants	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.3_2	To improve data quality and timeliness of their transmission to EFSA	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.3_3	To restore and support the collection system of data on food consumption of the population in the Czech Republic and to ensure its long-term functioning	MoH		continuously
1.3_4	To describe and harmonise the collection of data transmitted to EFSA	MoA	MoH	2025
1.3_5	To establish a national database of data for health risk assessment allowing both the data providers and, in an appropriate format, also to the general public, the online access to data compatible with the EFSA system, including the application of a suitable software tool for data management.	MoA	MoH	2025
1.3_6	To ensure rapid exchange of primary data needed for health risk assessment between state inspection bodies and institutions responsible for health risk assessment	MoH	MoA	continuously
1.3_7	To cooperate in the development and national implementation of methods for food consumption monitoring, laboratory data collection and dietary exposure assessment, as a contribution to the developing pan-European health risk assessment, including the development of assessment of chemical mixtures	MoH		continuously
1.3_8	To ensure the implementation of dietary exposure monitoring and biological monitoring (of biomarkers) as a necessary indicator of the intake of selected nutrients and xenobiotics from food and the environment as a basis for scientific risk assessment and management and follow-up measures and recommendations to protect the public health	MoH		continuously
1.3_9	To establish the coordination group for the Food Composition Database	MoA	MoH	2023
1.3_10	To digitise the public services related to FBO obligations	MoA	MoH	2023
1.3_11	Involvement of higher-education institutions (e.g. as part of bachelor's, master's or dissertation theses or other projects) in professional cooperation with state administration organisations	MoA, MoH		continuously

### 1.4. Attention is paid to new hazards

#### Problem identification

In the context of trade globalisation and climate change, new food safety hazards and risks are emerging. Therefore, the potential impacts of climate change on emerging food safety risks need to be identified and taken into account. Thanks to the advances in scientific knowledge, it is possible to identify new hazards - research, for example, detects the presence of microplastics, entering the food chains, in all components of the environment. The impact of these new hazards on health and their mechanism of action are not fully understood. The Czech Republic should also be adequately prepared to identify and address

the emerging risks associated with the presence of hazardous physical, biological and chemical agents in food.

Nevertheless, the scope of the new risks is so broad that cooperation is needed at the international level, where similar programmes are already under way, and also at the EFSA level. The Czech Republic is rather conservative in its approach to the emerging food risks, relying heavily on external (EU) assistance and on voluntary activities of universities and institutions. The information is discussed ad hoc by the inter-ministerial Food Safety Coordination Unit (FSCU), but to speak of any consistent attention paid to this issue is impossible as yet. It would require certain systemisation and reporting that would make it possible to allocate well ahead necessary capacities to institutions capable of addressing these new risks (e.g. diagnostics, science-based communication with experts and the public).

### **Description of the current state of affairs**

The Czech food market is widely open in terms of food imports and exports, within the EU in particular. The EU accession as such has led to the commitment of all countries to cooperate in every way in food control as this would have been an undoable task for individual countries. There is a fairly good division of labour. There is, for example, the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) with 24-7 service. Through this system, the Member States communicate to each other the necessary information triggering control activities. There might, of course, be new findings that are not yet commonly reflected in the performance of controls. In that case, the Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN) group is activated within EFSA, in which the Czech Republic has its own representative. This group deals with forecasting the potential risks globally and initiates targeted investigations in which also the Czech Republic often participates. The examples of activities performed in some EU countries include: statistical modelling identifying the methods to reduce the risk of mycotoxins in the food chain, specific surveillance programmes to search for the hazards/risks in relation to food, zoonotic disease surveillance, scientific projects focusing on the prevalence of antibiotic resistance (Austria); application of quantitative risk models for pesticides, mycotoxins, morphine in poppy seed (Hungary); invasive non-native plant species, diagnostics of plants and their classification, building wildlife health centres and monitoring of vectors, zoonoses and their early identification and warning thereof, joint activities carried out by the state authorities and research institutions to improve animal health (Netherlands), etc.

As a consequence of the opening of the Czech market and pressure for innovation, the number of foods available on the market in the Czech Republic has dramatically increased. We have no experience with many of these foods and their consumption can cause unexpected adverse reactions in sensitive individuals, which can result in serious damage to human health. In some countries (e.g. in France and Italy), systems have been in place for some time gathering information on adverse reactions after consumption of such food, namely thanks to the notifications from the professional public (medical doctors, pharmacists...). In the Czech Republic, this system has been operated since 2015 by the National Institute of Public Health under the name Nutrivigilance CZ.

### **What do we want to achieve**

The emerging food risks are regularly discussed at the newly established ad hoc inter-ministerial working group. This group should at least once a year produce a report that would be later used, where necessary, by the FSCU. It would undoubtedly help improve the ability of the state administration to respond to new risks, fund their research, diagnostics or drafting timely recommendations. The report should mainly build on EFSA EREN information, it should clearly advise which of the new risks appears to be relevant for the Czech Republic and for what reasons. At the same time, it should indicate the direction of measures recommended for the Czech Republic.

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

The activity can only be completed if the establishment of an “emerging risks” group is approved in the Czech Republic, which should be composed particularly of experts from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, and if the group starts working. Ensuring support and publicity for the Nutrivigilance CZ project. Linking the Nutrivigilance CZ system to the Regional Public Health

Authorities that carry out controls to identify the causes of harm to health or health risks and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases or any other food-borne damage to health. In the case of market controls synergy with other inspection bodies.

**Risk to implementation**

Lack of interest on the part of relevant organisations, inadequate sharing of information. The financial support for the implementation of tools to monitor new hazards and for the Nutrivigilance CZ project.

**Performance indicators**

There are no metric indicators. The work of the proposed working group will result in the elaboration of regular reports/description of the state of play submitted for information to the FSCU, which will be able to further exploit the information, including when setting the priorities for grant schemes, determining the focus of institutional research, etc.

The success of the Nutrivigilance CZ project can be measured e.g. by the number of visitors to the [nutrivigilance.szu.cz](http://nutrivigilance.szu.cz) website and by the number of notifications of adverse reactions, including cooperation with the EU Member States which operate complementary vigilance systems.

**Timeline**

The decision on establishing the working group can be adopted before 2023. Support and publicity of the Nutrivigilance CZ project is a continuous activity, similarly as the monitoring of new hazards as such.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
1.4_1	Establishing the group on monitoring new hazards	MoA, MoH	MoE	2023
1.4_2	To further develop the Nutrivigilance CZ project and to develop cooperation within the network of EU Member States	MoH	MoA	continuously
1.4_3	To support the implementation of tools to monitor new hazards	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously



## 2. Food safety system has for a long time been functional and sustainable

### 2.1. Further development of the system with the application of risk analysis principles

#### **Problem identification**

Where government policies neglect food safety, it can result in high social, health, economic and environmental costs.

Long periods with no substantial issues may suggest that food safety has already been resolved in the Czech Republic. The basic parameters remain unchanged, but the environment undergoes dynamic development and changes. Generally, an emphasis is put on food quality, while a number of shortcomings can still be observed in food safety, e.g. in mutual cooperation and communication. Overall, the biggest issue, in our opinion, is the risk assessment, which has long been underfunded. Its practical impact is the lack of staffing capacity to carry out risk assessments and the dependence on the outputs of EFSA, or national authorities of other Member States which, however, cannot take into account the national specifics of the Czech Republic.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

The food safety system in the Czech Republic is consistent with the system at the European level. In recent years, the European Commission has carried out a review of effectiveness of general food law aimed to assess the adequacy of the applicable food safety legislation and its ability to withstand systemic failures. The EU food safety standards are internationally recognised. It was concluded that the food safety system was functional and fulfilled its role very well. At the same time, it was noted that the system lacked transparency and was ineffective in risk communication. The same conclusions apply to the national level, where there is also a need to meet the EC requirements.

On the other hand, cooperation between the organisations in the Czech Republic is generally very good and attention should only be paid to specific areas.

The key role in consumer health protection is played by national official controls. Regular review and strengthening of national food controls throughout the food chain from farm to fork are necessary for efficient management aimed at food safety. The national food controls are essential to prevent and control food-borne diseases.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

Food safety continues to be considered one of the priorities of the Czech Republic. The system is being developed in all three parts of risk analysis. The risk assessment is not underfunded. The Czech Republic is a partner of the EC, EFSA, national authorities of the other EU Member States.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Sufficient amount of funds. Staffing capacities and ongoing education and training. Renewal of laboratories and laboratory equipment.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Considering food safety matters resolved, and thus marginalising them.

#### **Performance indicators**

There are no indicators enabling quantitative assessment. The outputs will consist in regular reports/description of the state of play submitted for information to the FSCU. Cooperation between the ministries, EU Member States, EFSA and with other countries of the world.

### Timeline

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.1_1	To support activities of institutions designated to conduct health risk assessment	MoH		continuously
2.1_2	To optimise the network of laboratories based on the carried-out analysis of needs, including laboratories for dietary exposure of population groups	MoA, MoH		continuously
2.1_3	To further develop activities of the Focal Point as a follow up to EFSA requirements	MoA		continuously
2.1_4	To strengthen cooperation with producers, importers and distributors of articles and materials intended to come into contact with food	MoH		continuously
2.1_5	To develop networks of cooperating experts and organisations, including ensuring of professional and technical assistance, at the national level	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.1_6	To support the involvement of national experts and institutions conducting risk assessment in cooperation with EFSA	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.1_7	To provide system support to laboratories of sectoral public research institutions	MoA		2025
2.1_8	To continue supporting activities of scientific committees	MoA		continuously
2.1_9	To support the activity of the Executive Committee of Inspection Bodies of the Ministry of Agriculture	MoA		continuously

## 2.2. Effective inter-ministerial cooperation

### Problem identification

Food safety is an issue addressed by several ministries, while the competences of individual ministries and organisations are complementary (and also overlapping). For this reason, cooperation between all the organisations involved is crucial for the functioning of the system. Over the past ten years, there has been a shift of responsibilities between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

### Description of the current state of affairs

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health are defined primarily by the Competency Act (No 2/1969 Coll., on the establishment of ministries and other central state administration bodies of the Czech Socialist Republic, as amended) and by Act No 110/1997 Coll., on food and tobacco products and on amending and supplementing certain related acts, as amended, in the field of food, and by Act No 258/2000 Coll., on the protection of public health and amending certain related acts, as amended, in the field of control of food/feed and materials and articles intended for contact with food.

The specific areas of interest are also stipulated in the respective EU regulations, particularly in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council



of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, and other provisions of the so-called “Hygiene Package”, official controls are regulated by Regulation (EU) 2017/625<sup>1</sup>.

The inter-ministerial platform that enables the involvement of all stakeholders is the FSCU at the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **What do we want to achieve**

Strengthening cooperation between all the participating organisations and involvement of non-governmental non-profit organisations and the public to increase transparency.

Increasing the quality and effectiveness of inspection activities by targeting inspections at the hygiene standard of establishments, technology and manufacturing processes, products and related potential health risks, audits of food safety management systems (HACCP procedures), and matters regarding substances or products causing allergies and intolerance, misleading consumer, including labelling.

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Thanks to common legislative framework and long-term cooperation between the individual organisations, the objectives are very likely to be achieved.

### **Risks to implementation**

Inability to cooperate and communicate.

### **Performance indicators**

There are no indicators facilitating quantitative assessment. The outputs will consist of regular reports/ description of the state of play submitted for information to the FSCU. Cooperation with the EC, WHO/ FAO, OECD and other national and international organisations.

### **Timeline**

Continuously throughout the monitored period.

### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.2_1	To increase the effectiveness of the FSCU activities and to enhance its function as a platform for the exchange of precise and reliable information between ministries/ government institutions	MoA	members of the FSCU	continuously
2.2_2	To support activities of thematic inter-ministerial working groups addressing the shared issues	MoA	members of the FSCU	continuously
2.2_3	To support communication and exchange of information between the MoA and MoH	MoA, MoH		continuously

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)



### 2.3. Adequate staffing capacities for functioning and development of the system

#### **Problem identification**

Shortage of qualified manpower, especially in the field of risk assessment. No interest in civil service career. Systemic deficiencies that make it difficult to employ university graduates with adequate erudition, including the mandatory certification requirements for healthcare professionals.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Salaries offered by state administration organisations, together with requirements for high-level qualification, cause labour shortage in lots of organisations. In regions with low unemployment, it is difficult to recruit quality workforce to fill in the vacancies since they prefer more lucrative jobs in private sector. In some organisations, on the other hand, there are no systematised posts for university graduates.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

Filling the posts with qualified staff. The number of job seekers in food safety sector exceeding the number of vacancies. Qualified applicants with adequate experience and appropriate education are applying for vacant posts. Organisations avail of tools to recruit, retain and motivate staff.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

There are incentives available helping retain the existing quality staff and attract new quality staff. The respective higher education institutions and universities have educational programmes in place providing education in the relevant fields. Administrative conditions are in place enabling foreign traineeships of staff in the EU working bodies and agencies and in the Member States' authorities.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Salaries in state administration vs. in the commercial sphere, situation at the labour market, macroeconomic situation in the Czech Republic (EU). Interest of students to studying the relevant programmes at higher education institutions.

### Performance indicators

Posts filled with workforce with adequate education. Existence of relevant educational programmes. Permanent support for the training of food safety and nutrition experts provided by the MoA, MoH, MoE and other governmental and non-governmental organisations.

### Timeline

A rapid change in the situation cannot be expected, therefore this will be a long-term process.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.3_1	To ensure professional and technical assistance to experts and organisations involved in cooperation with EFSA	MoA	MoH, MoE	continuously
2.3_2	To develop a network of cooperating experts and organisations at the national level	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.3_3	To support communication between non-governmental non-profit organisations	MoA	MoE, MoH	continuously
2.3_4	To include risk assessment in undergraduate education	MEYS	MoH	2025
2.3_5	To ensure adequate number of systemic posts in laboratories conducting the analysis of official samples of food for the MoA	MoA		2023
2.3_6	To encourage traineeships of national experts abroad	MoA, MoH		continuously
2.3_7	To include risk assessment in postgraduate education	MoH		2025

## 3. Educated consumer can make an informed choice

### 3.1. Timely communication of precise and verified information

#### Problem identification

In recent years, an increase in the consumers' interest in food-related information has been observed. Consumers usually have to rely on information from various credible sources (specialised sources, food business operators, national authorities, but also professional public – medical doctors, scientists, qualified persons such as nutritionists, etc.). At the same time, however, there is a lot of unsubstantiated and misleading information produced and disseminated about food, which oftentimes undermines consumer confidence in officially provided information. Although there are successful websites sharing information on food (e.g. [www.potravinynapranyri.cz](http://www.potravinynapranyri.cz), [www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz](http://www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz)), they fail to cover all aspects of food, i.e. ranging from its health and nutritional benefits to successful disproving of food myths. Moreover, the communication activities of individual ministries are not aligned. It is also clear that not all the information is easy to understand for the consumers.

In addition, the European Commission has concluded that the existing risk communication is mostly not efficient enough, which affects the consumer confidence in results of the risk analysis process. Thus, based on Regulation (EU) 2019/1381<sup>2</sup>, a general plan on risk communication will be presented by the European Commission which should support an integrated framework for risk communication on all matters related to the food chain.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain



### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Ever since 2002 the Food Safety Information Centre (FSIC) has been operating at the Ministry of Agriculture. Education of public interest groups in the field of food safety and nutrition in particular is one of the main activities of the FSIC. Consistent support has been provided to activities raising awareness of the general public on hygiene and food handling, including food waste prevention, healthy diet as an integral part of healthy lifestyle and prevention of chronic noncommunicable diseases, namely both in the traditional form (health promotion projects, printing of information leaflets, popular science lectures, articles in the press, etc.) and with the use of the latest electronic teaching tools (e-learning). Concurrently, there is a plethora of communication activities carried out by other organisations, which are usually thematically focused and time-limited. Education using new information tools is being developed.

### **What do we want to achieve**

Consumers have access to up-to-date, precise and verified food safety information. Consumers actively seek information. A general plan on risk communication adopted in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 is fully implemented and accepted at the national level.

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Financial support for the development of communication activities. Active approach of organisations to communication with consumers. Interest of consumers in verified information from relevant sources.

### **Risks to implementation**

Underestimating the importance of communication. Insufficient funding of communication activities.

### **Performance indicators**

The number of unique visitors to the relevant information websites of state organisations has continuously been increasing. Activities of the FSIC are fully supported. Similarly, the National Health Information Portal (NHIP, "Nutrition" chapter) system can continue to exist. The outputs will consist in regular reports/description of the state of play submitted for information to the FSCU.

### **Timeline**

Throughout the period.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
3.1_1	To develop effective and open communication on food safety issues targeted at the public	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.1_2	To ensure implementation of the general plan on risk communication adopted pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 at the national level	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.1_3	To effectively use social networks and modern means of communication for communication with consumers on food safety	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.1_4	To promote quality products under the already established schemes (KLASA, Regional food, Know your farmer) through providing information or to provide another support to quality products	MoA		continuously
3.1_5	To support further involvement of non-governmental non-profit organisations in the process of communication on food safety and nutrition	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.1_6	To develop activities of the Food Safety Information Centre	MoA		continuously

### 3.2. Educating laymen, deepening the knowledge of professionals

#### Problem identification

Professional competence of food safety staff means the ability to apply knowledge and skills in order to achieve the required performance of state inspection. Lifelong learning is one of the essential prerequisites for success. In the field of education and training, food safety inspection bodies strive to respond systematically and promptly to new hazards and risks, but at present the needs for effective and efficient education and training are not always met. The education and training should be more systematic, based on long-term planning and structured so as to ensure that the set objectives are verifiable in practice. Harmonisation of the training systems of all food inspection bodies that, due to changes in competences, appears to be absolutely necessary.

Foodborne diseases are largely caused by improper food handling by consumers. Hence, consumer education is an important preventive measure. Food literacy, however, has been improving only very slowly despite the growing interest in food information. On the one hand, there is a lack of comprehensive information on consumer knowledge, while, on the other hand, there is a lack of targeted and systematic education intended for all age groups, namely including the professional public, which would lead to sufficient food literacy, i.e. to such consumer behaviour that shall not compromise the safety of food originally purchased as safe, and thus have a positive effect on consumer health (safety and nutritional value).

#### Description of the current state of affairs

The need for uniform training is required by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls<sup>3</sup>. An obligation is imposed upon the competent authorities in the Member States to ensure that all staff performing official controls receive appropriate training so that they can carry out their duties in a professional manner and carry out official controls in a uniform manner. The staff carrying out controls is also required

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)

to keep up-to-date in their area of competence and to receive regular additional training as necessary. The mandatory subject matters for the training of staff are listed in the Annex to the Regulation, based on which the training is organised at both the European and national level. Moreover, the requirement for lifelong learning of professional staff of public health authorities is laid down in Act No 258/2000 Coll., on the protection of public health and amending certain related acts, as amended.

Since 2006, the training at the European level has been organised by the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative. All costs incurred in connection with the participation in a training course are covered by the EC. However, some places allocated to the Czech Republic remain unfilled and are subsequently offered to another Member State. Better coordination and a more responsive approach by organisations whose staff attend the training courses would help increase the occupancy of training courses.

At the national level, the training of professional staff of organisations under the Ministry of Agriculture is carried out in the form of e-learning courses. The training courses for staff of public health authorities are organised by two training centres: The National Centre of Nursing and Other Health Professions in Brno and the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education in Prague.

Training is also provided to staff of food business operators. It is organised by regional public health authorities (“Regional Hygiene Stations”), the Federation of the Food and Drink Industries of the Czech Republic, private training agencies and often in cooperation with universities and research institutes.

Consumer education is provided by state organisations (e.g. through the Food Safety Information Centre, regional public health authorities where possible, the National Institute of Public Health), and to a limited extent also by consumer organisations (e.g. the Czech Consumer Association, dTest), or by university and research centres as part of their activities aimed at popularisation of science and research. A number of interest associations and initiatives are also active in the field of education.

### **What do we want to achieve**

The main objective is to improve the quality of work. It is essential that appropriate experts are involved and a suitable structure is applied to ensure a balanced mix of training topics and courses. It is necessary to support a broader portfolio of forms of training, the application of active learning methods, the use of distance learning, e-learning, audio-visual teaching aids, IT-equipped classrooms to solve model situations of field practice, etc. Harmonisation of training provided by inspection bodies of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health and better inter-ministerial communication aimed at uniform application of legislation by the competent inspection bodies seem to be crucial. This concerns particularly the implementation and application of the legislation in force due to the overlaps of various types of control activities in practice. In the case of training courses organised by the European Commission (BTSF), it is desirable to achieve 100% occupancy of training and e-learning courses. This will help increase the effectiveness of (harmonised) training, which will ultimately contribute to improved consumer protection, but also to fair and non-discriminatory approach to food business operators.

Consumer education is primarily about arousing the interest in information on food among all age and social groups of inhabitants.

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Thanks to the experience of inspection bodies, theoretical prerequisites for meeting the objectives are good. As concerns the consumers, it will all depend on how the existing demand for information is met, i.e. particularly on the form of education chosen and on the clarity of the information presented.

### **Risks to implementation**

The risk to implementation may consist in the shortage of funds to expand the forms and methods of training and in the willingness to cooperate.

### **Performance indicators**

Maximum use of places allocated for experts from the Czech Republic in the BTSF programme and other

training courses. Number of training events held at the national level. Outputs will be regular reports/ description of the state of play submitted for information to the FSCU.

### Timeline

Training and education must be provided annually and continuously.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
3.2_1	To raise the level of awareness of experts on risk assessment methods	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.2_2	To encourage involvement of staff of state inspection bodies in the BTSF training programme and to implement training activities at the national level	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_3	To educate consumers on hygiene and food handling, labelling and food quality	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.2_4	To improve vocational training and education of staff active in food industry	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_5	To encourage the involvement of national experts in international training programmes	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_6	To support the development of vocational training of staff of all organisations involved in food safety system	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_7	To ensure regular update of e-learning courses of uniform training of staff of inspection bodies	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_8	To improve inter-ministerial communication aimed at the uniform application of legislation by competent inspection bodies	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_9	To develop e-learning courses for consumers	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_10	To organise events intended for the general public as part of education on food safety and healthy diet	MoA, MoH		continuously

## Strategic Objective 2

*The strategic objective in the field of nutrition is the priority focus on healthy diet supporting health of the population and selected groups of population at risk with increased effectiveness of health promotion and protection, health education and prevention of nutrition and diet-related diseases.*

Poor nutrition and lack of physical activity are lifestyle risk factors that contribute to the development of chronic noncommunicable diseases. They develop gradually over many years. The typical symptoms of a disease appear only later, usually in the medium to long term horizon. The lack of consistent primary prevention of diet-related chronic noncommunicable diseases has a significant economic impact on the society. It results in higher costs of treatment and healthcare. According to the general estimates, primary prevention, including nutrition, helps reduce the costs of acute medical care and long-term treatment to one fourth. The key population groups that may be affected by nutritional intervention are children, adolescents, young people and middle-aged people. In the elderly, on the other hand, nutritional intervention is needed to prevent potential malnutrition.

Currently, the main causes of death in the Czech Republic are the two main groups of diet-related chronic noncommunicable diseases, namely cardiovascular diseases and cancer. In international comparisons, the Czech Republic is below the EU average, which is reflected in lower life expectancy and, at the same time, in a lower number of healthy life years.

Poor nutrition is characterised mainly by energy and nutritional imbalance of the diet, with excessive intake of salt, saturated fats, simple sugars (mono- and disaccharides), a lack of omega-3 fatty acids, and insufficient

fruit and vegetable intake associated with low fibre intake. There is a high proportion of industrial (highly-processed) foods in the diet at the expense of staple food. Such a diet increases the risk of developing overweight and obesity. The result is an increasing risk of chronic noncommunicable diseases.

The available data on high consumption of salt, alcohol, some animal fats and simple sugars on the one hand and on low intake of vitamins and minerals on the other hand are alarming. The Czech Republic ranks among the countries with a relatively low consumption of fruit and vegetables. At the time of growing “obesity pandemic”, we can hardly say, based on the facts above, that the foods offered on the market are equal in terms of their impact on health. Food can be considered suitable if, when consumed in usual amounts, it does not increase the known risk of chronic noncommunicable diseases.

The risk of poor nutrition is faced to a higher degree by certain vulnerable groups of population. These include children who are easily influenced by commercial interests. Another group is represented by socio-economically disadvantaged groups of population who cannot afford healthy diet. Another specific group consists of sick people and people who are not self-sufficient and depend on others.

Improper, nutritionally unbalanced diet generally leads to manifestations of malnutrition. On the one hand, people suffer from overweight, obesity and onset of chronic noncommunicable diseases, while on the other hand malnutrition is manifested in the form of a lack of energy and certain nutrients, especially protein, iron, vitamin D, folic acid, n-3 polyenoic fatty acids (omega-3), vitamin A, but unfortunately also other nutrients, including a spectrum of minerals and other biologically important substances.

Changing these trends requires consistent efforts in the form of strategic activities and implementation of some aspects of Health 2030. Overall, the strategic objectives proposed in this chapter for the next period until 2030 rely on the principal recommendations of WHO (Better food and nutrition in Europe, 2018)<sup>4</sup>, which follow from another WHO declaration of the European ministers of health (e.g. Vienna, 2013).

## I. Creating a healthy eating environment

### I.1. School meals and nutrition

#### **Problem identification**

The environment we live in has a significant impact on the development of our food preferences, food choice and overall nutritional value of our diet. The current environment is characterised by high energy intake and excessive nutrients from widely available, cheap and highly-processed products.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Producers and retailers influence the purchase and consumption of food. Food available in facilities such as all types of schools, hospitals and public institutions influence our diet. For example, children spend most of their day in school. School food policy is an important platform for promoting healthy eating.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

Efforts are exerted to identify the ways how to improve food environment through measures and regulations in a wide range of areas, including regulating the sale of food to children, using simpler front-of-pack labelling, introducing healthy eating policies in schools and in the public sector, banning trans-fatty acids and highly-processed foods, reducing sodium levels in food and limiting consumption of high-fat products or sugar-sweetened beverages.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Schools can provide an important environment for acquiring healthy eating habits. Appropriate measures

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/nutrition/publications/2018/better-food-and-nutrition-in-europe-progress-report-2018>



should therefore be taken to ensure availability of a more nutritionally balanced daily diet. Specific measures to promote healthy eating in schools and school catering establishments include, for example, provision of free (or subsidised) fruit and vegetables, food and nutritional standards for food and meals available in schools, changes in the presentation of food choices at the point of sale, and nutrition education and nutrition literacy skills.

School food and nutrition policy should be robust, can improve knowledge, preferences, attitudes and behaviours in relation to food. Evidence suggests that nutrition education is most effective when it involves teaching practical skills such as cooking or increasing and training nutritional literacy rather than merely providing information. This applies to school canteen staff, teachers, but also to parents and pupils themselves.

### **Risks to implementation**

Insufficient education of teachers, pupils, lack of cooperation on the part of the MEYS, shortcomings in the education and training of educational staff and parents.

### **Performance indicators**

Monitoring of the offer of free (or subsidised) fruit and vegetables, compliance with or correction of the Nutrition Standards for School Meals (Decree No 107/2005 Coll., as amended), metrics of nutritional parameters of school meals (epidemiological study), mandatory control activities of regional public health authorities and inspection of the MEYS. Monitoring of excessive sodium content in meals, disaccharides (carbohydrates), levels of triglycerides, microelements and vitamins.

### **Timeline**

No rapid change can be expected, all depends on the financial situation and understanding of the society. Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
I.1_1	School meals in line with nutrition standards	MoH	MEYS	continuously
I.1_2	Restrictions on certain foods in schools, labelling	MoH	MEYS	continuously
I.1_3	Support for education of children, school canteen staff and teachers on nutrition	MEYS	MoH	continuously

## **I.2. Nutrition labelling**

### **Problem identification**

The European Food and Nutrition Action Plan calls upon the Member States to increase the use of consumer-friendly labelling, namely by introducing clear and easy-to-interpret front-of-pack labelling systems. Such labelling should help choose more suitable packaged food within the respective food group. It can also influence diets by encouraging food manufacturers and retailers to reformulate their products or to develop new ones with a lower content of high-risk nutrients.

### **Description of the current state of affairs**

The back-of-pack nutrient content information is mandatory, but can sometimes be difficult to understand, especially for consumers of low socio-economic status. The front-of-pack labels with explanatory information on nutrient content (words, symbols and colours) have been found to be the easiest for consumers to understand and correctly interpret. Labels that are more difficult to interpret are generally not preferred by the public. There is evidence that people who buy food with certification and summation

logos (e.g. Keyhole, Finnish Heart, Choices, Nutri-Score) eat healthier. Regulation (EU) 1169/2011<sup>5</sup> allows for the use of the new front-of-pack nutrition labelling and sets out uniform harmonised rules for their use in the EU. Now, these labelling systems can already be used by food business operators.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

The use of a simple nutrition labelling system on the front of the package can ensure that consumers better understand nutrition labelling. Producers and retailers can become important partners in these efforts. Experience gained across Europe confirms its feasibility. However, it is important to inform the public about the use of the system. Consumers more often demand information on the front of the package and this trend will be further strengthened by ongoing education.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Use of simple systems of nutrition labelling by food producers.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Lack of clarity for consumers – choice of an inappropriate FOPL system may have a negative impact on food choice, inconsistent communication towards consumers.

#### **Performance indicators**

Monitoring (studies) of nutritional behaviour of the population following the decision to introduce front-of-pack nutrition labelling.

#### **Timeline**

Continuously, as a follow up to addressing the issues at the EU level.

#### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
1.2_1	Implementation of legislation allowing the use of simple front-of-pack nutrition labelling systems	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.2_2	Communication and education of operators and consumers, methodological assistance provided by national authorities	MoA	MoH	continuously

### **1.3. Measures to support reformulation of food and beverages**

#### **Problem identification**

In lots of food, reformulation constitutes one of the key mechanisms for improving nutrient intake in the population. We have many traditional foods that are already part of a healthy diet. There is also room to improve the nutritional profile of many existing foods. More appropriate food choices can be achieved by changes in the composition of produced foods (reformulation) in order to remove certain harmful ingredients (e.g. partially hydrogenated oils, industrial trans-fats) or to adjust levels of nutrients (e.g. reducing free sugars, salt, saturated fats) that contribute to the onset of chronic diseases.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Food industry responds to the demands of experts and consumers in terms of food composition

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004

by continuously reformulating the food produced. In the Czech Republic, this activity has long been supported also by the government.

**What do we want to achieve**

Further and continuous food reformulation, which is ongoing, leads to a gradual improvement of the situation. Efforts need to be consistently supported. Development cannot happen in leaps, the consumer needs to get used to changes in the taste of food. A good example of that is the gradual reduction in the salt content of certain meat products, cereals and spice.

**Prerequisites for achievement**

Support for activities provided by the MoA and MoH.

**Risks to implementation**

Economic problems, costs of reformulation, expectations of consumers.

**Performance indicators**

Nutritional-epidemiological study evaluating food reformulation. Data from the Federation of the Food and Drink Industries on the results of reformulation of foods by food producers in the Czech Republic.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
I.3_1	To support activities of the Platform for reformulation at the Czech Technology Platform for Foodstuffs	MoA	MoH	continuously



#### 1.4. Eliminating trans-fatty acids

##### Problem identification

Trans-fatty acids (t-FA) are a type of unsaturated fatty acids that can occur naturally or can form during industrial processing (e.g. during partial hydrogenation – solidification of oils, which improves their sensory profile and texture and increases their shelf-life and ability to withstand repeated heating). Most trans-fatty acids in the diet are industrially produced.

##### Description of the current state of affairs

Currently, the legislation restricts the presence of t-FA in certain food.

##### What do we want to achieve

To control food due to significant health risks of t-FA.

##### Prerequisites for achievement

Inclusion of these matters in the Single Integrated Multiannual National Control Plan of the Czech Republic.

##### Risks to implementation

Ensuring controls by inspection bodies, financing, employees.

##### Performance indicators

Monitoring of compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/649<sup>6</sup> through organisations carrying out food control in the Czech Republic.

##### Timeline

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

##### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
I.4_1	Control activities of inspection bodies	MoA		continuously

#### 1.5. Marketing food to children

##### Problem identification

There is evidence that the marketing of products high in fat, simple sugars and salt influences children's food preferences, their eating behaviour and food intake and contributes to childhood obesity.

##### Description of the current state of affairs

Marketing of highly-processed food targeted at children is very common. Various techniques are used to reach children in mass media, including TV broadcasting and online media. These foods, including fast food, chocolate and confectionery, sugary drinks and breakfast cereals as well as spreads and sauces high in fat, simple sugars or salt, should not dominate healthy diet.

##### What do we want to achieve

To reduce the impact of marketing and advertising targeted at children, promoting nutritionally unsuitable, highly-processed industrial foods, namely across all media. Advertisements for these products should not

<sup>6</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/649 of 24 April 2019 amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards trans fat, other than trans fat naturally occurring in fat of animal origin

appear in any mass media in which children make up more than 30% of the audience. Advertisements for these products should not be part of any publicity and promotion involving, for example, licensed characters or celebrities popular among children. The advertisers can promote healthier options.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Societal consensus regarding the marketing of fast food, chocolate and confectionery, sugary drinks and breakfast cereals as well as spreads and sauces high in fat, simple sugars or salts.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Political unwillingness to cut down on the marketing of these specific foods, consumers.

#### **Performance indicators**

An evaluation study of marketing and ads targeted at children, promoting nutritionally unsuitable, highly-processed industrial food.

#### **Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the entire period until 2030.

#### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
1.5_1	Proposal to restrict advertisements for selected food for children	MoH	MoA, MIT, MoC	continuously

### **1.6. Competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy foods**

#### **Problem identification**

The price of food plays an important role in food choice. There is a growing interest in improving diet (thus preventing noncommunicable diseases associated with poor nutrition). Since consumers respond to price changes, price discounts of healthier food options can be considered. This step could help achieve healthier eating and prevent weight gains, thus ultimately contribute to the overall prevention of noncommunicable diseases, including savings in healthcare costs.

For example, the WHO analysis of systematic reviews of effectiveness of tax interventions revealed that well-designed taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages lead to reduction in their consumption if their price rises by 20% or more. Conversely, fresh vegetables and fruit subsidies reducing their price by 10–30% encourage their higher consumption by the population.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Currently, competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy food is not applied in the Czech Republic.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

The goal is to launch a debate on competitive pricing for healthier foods such as fruit and vegetables, thus making them more affordable for consumers.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Political will to debate this issue, or other support instruments.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Economic situation of the country.

**Performance indicators**

Public outputs from the debates on the topic of competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy foods such as fruit and vegetables.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
1.6_1	Launching and holding a professional debate on the topic of competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy foods	MoH	MoA, MoF	continuously

**2. Promoting healthy eating throughout the life**

Health and disease are present throughout all life stages. The whole life cycle approach is targeted, among other things, at promoting the creation of a healthy environment. It starts with maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy. And it continues with promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first months of life. The next phases focus on appropriate transition to solid foods in babies, on healthy eating in the school environment and later at the workplace, and also on the specific nutritional requirements of older adults.

**2.1. Nutritional needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women****Problem identification**

An increasing importance is being attached to the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding women, due to the potential risk of noncommunicable diseases and obesity in their children. These biological mechanisms are not yet fully understood. However, the importance of prenatal and neonatal period of life is clear. The WHO data suggest that attention should be paid to all forms of malnutrition during pregnancy. The conducted studies have revealed an increased risk of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in obese women. Similarly, obesity and comorbidities in pregnancy pose an increased risk to offspring, which in turn translates into social differences in the prevalence of obesity. Of concern is also overnutrition (from excess energy intake) and undernutrition (from micronutrient deficiencies) in some pregnant women.

**Description of the current state of affairs**

Increased maternal obesity has been reported. Pregnancy is therefore considered an appropriate period for monitoring nutritional status and targeting prevention. Programmes promoting the intake of vitamins and other dietary supplements are an important component of preconception care for women, care for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

**What do we want to achieve**

To provide women with support and advice on healthy eating and weight changes during pregnancy as well as proper weight loss after childbirth. To continue promoting breastfeeding, which has indisputable health benefits not only for babies, but also for their mothers.

**Prerequisites for achievement**

Support programme for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

**Risks to implementation**

Funding, qualified healthcare professionals.

**Performance indicators**

An epidemiological study of the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women regarding the possible risk of noncommunicable diseases and obesity in their children.



### **Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.1_1	Support programme for pregnant and breastfeeding women	MoH		continuously

## **2.2. Early childhood nutrition**

### **Problem identification**

Nutrition of young children in the earliest years of life is essential since it affects the proper growth and development, taste preferences and eating habits. Children who have been breastfed are less likely to suffer from overweight, obesity or diabetes in adulthood. Therefore, for optimal development, exclusive breastfeeding from birth to 6 months of age and continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond is recommended.

### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Breastfeeding should be encouraged at all levels. In the Czech Republic, there has been a steady decline in the share of exclusively breastfed babies leaving the maternity hospital (78.9% in 2019 compared to 90% in 2003). The highest rates of exclusive breastfeeding discontinuation were observed between the fourth and sixth month of age and further on in the following months. It is also noticed that children who are overweight or obese before puberty are at an increased risk of overweight or obesity in adulthood. Pre-school age is therefore most fitting for prevention, when children can be encouraged to be active and to develop healthy eating habits.

### **What do we want to achieve**

To promote breastfeeding education and to reduce obesity in pregnant and breastfeeding women and offspring. To promote initiation and maintenance of exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age and then breastfeeding with complementary feeding up to 2 years and beyond.

### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Information campaigns targeted at pregnant women and women after childbirth.

### **Risks to implementation**

Economic restrictions.

**Performance indicators**

Number of exclusively breastfed babies leaving the maternity hospital, at 6 weeks, at 3 months and 6 months (and 50% exclusively breastfed in the first 6 months of life by 2025 in line with the WHO targets). Epidemiological study of breastfeeding status and reduction of obesity in pregnant and breastfeeding women and their offspring.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.2_1	Support programme for breastfeeding women	MoH		continuously

**2.3. Communication with the public****Problem identification**

In the age of digital mass media, the public has an easy access to a vast amount of information about health, nutrition and food, which is positive. However, verified information from respected authorities competes with the advice of self-proclaimed experts, and controversial statements made in the media can be taken out of context or based on questionable data.

**Description of the current state of affairs**

Dietary recommendations from a reliable source can help the public recognise which information is correct. Dietary recommendations should be communicated in a way that is easy to understand (appropriate choice of words, use of symbols) and provide information on commonly consumed foods, portion sizes and consumption patterns. They can also be used in other ways, e.g. as a basis for food purchasing in schools or in educational programmes promoting healthy eating habits. Dietary recommendations include also the issue of industrially processed foods and food eaten away from home, which may not be nutritionally balanced. Hence, attention should be paid to the intake of nutrients that increase the risk of noncommunicable diseases.

**What do we want to achieve**

To encourage consumers to consume more plant-based foods and to reduce the consumption of highly industrially processed foods. The public should be informed about the importance of moderate consumption and reducing food waste. The general recommendations are well known. To continue innovating nutritional recommendations that should take into account also the sustainability aspect.

**Prerequisites for achievement**

Information campaigns on the principles of healthy living, on how to combine foods appropriately, how to handle them properly in order to preserve their quality and minimise food waste.

**Risks to implementation**

Lack of funds to implement information campaigns, educational programmes in media, schools, etc.

**Performance indicators**

Updated and supplemented nutritional recommendations for population groups in the Czech Republic, information on recommendations based on food groups (FBDG).

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.



### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.3_1	Support programme for communication with the public	MoA, MoH	members of the FSCU, MEYS	continuously

## 2.4. Nutrition and lifestyle in ageing

### Problem identification

The population in the Czech Republic is ageing due to increasing life expectancy and a fairly low birth rate. The current structure of the EU population is characterised by a high share of post-war baby-boomers, i.e. people born between the mid-1940s and the late 1960s. A part of this generation is now retiring. This means major demographic changes in the population and a shift towards much older population structure. The population aged 65 and over is anticipated to increase.

### Description of the current state of affairs

Active and healthy ageing is the process of optimised healthcare, which apart from the lifestyle and social well-being also includes economic self-sufficiency and security with a view to ensure quality of life in old age. This applies to individuals as well as to groups of population. The lifestyle encompasses several factors, proper nutrition and regular, adequate exercise in particular. The determinants of active ageing are known, but little support is provided for their translation into practice, which exacerbates economic problems and problems faced in the systems of health and social services.

Ageing is characterised by an increased number of noncommunicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, musculoskeletal problems (mobility), psychological problems (including depression) and other diseases. A serious issue of the elderly is also malnutrition, especially the lack of proteins, MUFA/PUFA (including long-chain omega-3 oils), fiber, vitamins, minerals, and “phytochemicals” in the diet. On the other hand, they show an increased consumption of simple sugars (carbs), salt, saturated fats. A common problem in old age is oral health, with dental problems leading to reduced intake of certain important foods (vegetables, fruits). As we age, appetite decreases, thirst disappears, the gut microbiome changes, and cognitive functions and vision deteriorate. All this results in a lower quality of life and, in nutrition, the difficulties may lead to “anorexia of ageing”. By active aging and taking care of oneself many problems can be prevented, thus ensuring not only the comfort of each aging person, but also lower burden on the entire system.

### What do we want to achieve

To encourage consumers to strive for active ageing by consuming more plant-based foods, e.g. the tried and tested Mediterranean diet, active lifestyle (regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, abstaining from smoking, reducing alcohol consumption, socialising, attending regular medical checks and compliance with medical doctors’ recommendations, etc.).

### Prerequisites for achievement

Specific information campaigns promoting the principles of healthy living during ageing.

### Risks to implementation

Inadequate information campaign, underfunded educational programmes in media, in the community of seniors, influence of employees, etc.

### Performance indicators

Surveys of individual food consumption in ageing population (50+) and nutritional recommendations, including food groups.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
2.4_1	Support programme for nutrition and healthy ageing	MoH	MoA, MoLSA	continuously

**3. Strengthening health systems to promote healthy diet****3.1. Nutrition education and counselling in primary health care****Problem identification**

Primary health care aimed at promoting proper nutrition, including education and weight management, helps patients make useful changes in their diet and appropriately control their weight. The best results are achieved if the intervention is tailored to each person's needs and if the intervention encompasses both the diet and physical activity. Of major importance is the initial detection of risk factors (higher body weight, hypertension, etc.) by the primary care physician, including suggestions for improvement, and subsequent monitoring of compliance with recommended changes. Follow-up and support by other healthcare professionals (nutritional therapists, physiotherapists...) are crucial in lifestyle change to engage the patient in a long-term strategy towards the desired change and conducive to better outcomes.

**Description of the current state of affairs**

There are multiple issues faced in the provision of primary care. Many studies have identified a lack of clear guidance in clinical guidelines. The division of tasks in interdisciplinary teams (physicians, nurses, nutritional therapists and other healthcare professionals) is not always clear and sometimes the client is not referred to a non-medical healthcare professional with the appropriate expertise who can provide more targeted help, motivate the client and work with the client over a longer period of time.

**What do we want to achieve**

To ensure that nutrition and healthy lifestyle are set as priorities already in the primary health care and social care systems. The aim is to prevent the treatment of preventable diseases, i.e. to provide quality

nutrition services, namely through nutritional therapists and assistants, general practitioners for children and adolescents or adults, specialists in outpatient departments, including general nurses, public health protection and promotion assistants, epidemiologists and physiotherapists with appropriate knowledge and skills.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

Staffing by qualified personnel.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Funding.

#### **Performance indicators**

To implement and continue to provide training programmes for nutritional therapists and assistants, general practitioners for children and adolescents or adults, specialists in outpatient departments, including general nurses, public health protection and promotion assistants, epidemiologists, physiotherapists with relevant knowledge and skills. To increase the number of students of the above-mentioned fields of study at universities.

#### **Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

#### **Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
3.1_1	Education, training and counselling in the field of nutrition	MoH, MEYS		continuously

### **3.2. System capacity for nutrition-related issues**

#### **Problem identification**

Nutrition and weight control are inadequately integrated in the primary care. Instead of focusing on primary prevention with respect to nutrition, the consequences of poor nutrition are often times addressed. A prerequisite for improvement is the provision of “nutrition-related capacity”, i.e. the availability of experts with adequate knowledge, skills and expertise in the field of nutrition.

#### **Description of the current state of affairs**

Higher-education institutions offer study programmes focusing on nutrition, but the number of practitioners is not very high. Also, there is a high number of various experts on nutrition (“nutrition counsellors”) who do not avail of adequate knowledge of human physiology and nutrition physiology and can easily cause damage to people’s health.

#### **What do we want to achieve**

Increasing the expertise of qualified staff engaged in nutrition, epidemiology and related health disciplines.

#### **Prerequisites for achievement**

System of education and training, healthcare professionals, imposing restrictions on trade activities in the field of nutrition provided by other than healthcare professionals.

#### **Risks to implementation**

Funding and organisation-related issues.

### Performance indicators

Increasing the expertise of qualified personnel engaged in nutrition, epidemiology and related health disciplines. It is provided by secondary schools, universities, the National Institute of Public Health, public health authorities.

### Timeline

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2030.

### Specific measures to accomplish the objective

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
3.2_1	Education and training of experts in nutrition	MoH, MEYS, MIT	MoA	continuously

## 4. Surveillance, monitoring and evaluation

Reliable information is necessary for planning and implementing the nutrition policy. To ensure adequate political response and to provide necessary information for timely reaction, a thorough and comprehensive assessment of severity of the problem concerned is essential.

The European Food and Nutrition Action Plan explicitly calls upon the Member States “to strengthen and expand nationally representative diet and nutrition surveys” and to make sure that anthropometric data are available (especially for children).

It is advisable:

1. To consolidate existing national monitoring and surveillance systems, such as the childhood obesity surveillance and health behaviour in school-aged children surveys;
2. To maintain nutrition and anthropometric monitoring by socioeconomic status and gender;
3. To keep food composition database;
4. To monitor and to evaluate in a comprehensive way the carried-out activities and adopted measures with a view to assess the efficiency and design of methodology.

Surveys assessing food and nutrient intake are essential to assess dietary patterns in the population. They allow trends to be monitored, problem areas and imbalances to be identified and the impact on society to be assessed, which has an economic impact on health.

### 4.1. Growth monitoring in children – anthropometric measurements

#### Problem identification

Child growth monitoring programmes are crucial for assessing the prevailing situation among population. The most commonly monitored indicators are the height and weight, which are used to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity. The frequency of monitoring of these parameters is not very high and inconsistencies persist both in methods and data collection. Monitoring of children under 5 years of age should be strengthened to ensure timely, regular and high quality data for designing policies and interventions.

#### Description of the current state of affairs

Growth monitoring is currently being carried out in the Czech Republic.

#### What do we want to achieve

Availability of data describing the population.

**Prerequisites for achievement**

Organisation.

**Risks to implementation**

Funding.

**Performance indicators**

Monitoring of anthropometric measurements of children population.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2025.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
4.1_1	Monitoring of children, anthropometric measurements	MoH		2025

**4.2. Food consumption and nutrient intake surveys****Problem identification**

Measuring individual food consumption is of key importance for nutrition policy at the level of population and population groups. It is not only about the description, but also about the data which essential for health risk assessment and administrative proceedings in case of food safety violations.

**Description of the current state of affairs**

The latest epidemiological study of individual food consumption was carried out in 2004. Thus, the data are already obsolete. The requirement to survey food consumption is laid down in the EU legislation.

**What do we want to achieve**

A new population-wide survey shall be organised in line with the EFSA methodology.

**Prerequisites for achievement**

Funding and professional staff.

**Risks to implementation**

Funding.

**Performance indicators**

Implementation of the national survey on individual food consumption and creation of a database for health risk assessment and health prevention programmes.

**Timeline**

Continuous activity throughout the period until 2025.

**Specific measures to accomplish the objective**

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
4.2_1	National survey on individual food consumption in the Czech Republic	MoH		2025

## 3. Action Plan Implementation and Evaluation

### 3.1. Hierarchy of strategic activities

The Strategy is an umbrella document dealing with a broad portfolio of issues covering both the strategic areas, which are elaborated in detail in its analytical and strategic parts, laying down the hierarchy of objectives and the basic implementation framework.

The Action Plan for each strategic and specific objective set out in the Strategy proposes measures for its implementation. The specific activities and steps as well as the costs of their implementation and a detailed implementation schedule are the responsibility of the ministries and organisations identified as the sponsors and co-sponsors of the measures.

### 3.2. Action Plan Implementation

The Strategy has been approved by the Government of the Czech Republic, which considers both these areas to be a priority. The implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, which coordinates the actions in cooperation with the responsible ministries, especially the Ministry of Health and other ministries and organisations.

The platform for an ongoing consultation about the progress attained in the implementation of measures stipulated by the Action Plan is the FSCU, an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture, bringing together the representatives of all relevant ministries and state, governmental as well as non-governmental non-profit organisations.

Through the specialised departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture performs the management function in the process of preparation and implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan and is responsible for the revision and evaluation of both the documents. The FSCU discusses interim outputs and progress achieved in the implementation.

The cooperating ministries are in charge of the implementation of those parts of the Strategy which fall within their remit, first and foremost by implementing the measures set out in the Action Plan. Therefore, they perform an executive function. The ministries are also tasked to designate the responsible unit and to ensure intra- and inter-ministerial coordination of the implementation through a member of the FSCU.

As concerns the costs associated with the implementation of measures, in view of the current economic situation, the measures have been designed so as not to put more pressure on the state budget. The organisations responsible for the implementation of measures should be able to cover the costs from their own budgets. Despite this limitation, the measures proposed in the Action Plan are feasible and will be instrumental in accomplishing the strategic objectives set out in the Strategy.

### 3.3. Changes and evaluation of the Action Plan implementation

Food safety and nutrition are affected by a number of factors that have particularly in recent years caused significant changes of the environment. These may also be reflected in the strategic or specific objectives of the Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030, with a subsequent impact on the Action Plan measures. It is therefore vital that the Action Plan is reviewed and updated, where appropriate, and that these interventions are linked to changes and amendments to the strategic framework. The amendments to the Action Plan will be discussed by the FSCU and submitted to the Government by the Minister of Agriculture, in close collaboration with the Minister of Health.

Taking into account the long-term nature of most of the proposed measures, it seems justified to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan in the middle of the defined period. An interim evaluation and an updated document applicable to the second half of the monitored period will therefore have been

submitted to the Government by the end of 2025, together with information on the implementation of the Food Safety and Nutrition Strategy 2030.

It is difficult to assess the fulfilment of measures implemented over a long-period of time or continuously as there are no objective indicators quantifying the achieved progress. In these cases, the evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan will be based on verbal assessment of the progress made (see “What do we want to achieve”).

A number of measures, especially those with specific implementation deadlines, can be evaluated based on an objective assessment. This applies to priority areas with quantifiable performance indicators. Here, it will be possible to assess the change achieved during the implementation of the Action Plan. The related data will be collected continuously in cooperation with the data providing organisations.

## 4. List of Abbreviations

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BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food (EC training activity)
CAFIA	Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority
CISTA	Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture
CR	Czech Republic
DG SANTE	EC Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
EC	European Commission
EC	European Communities
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EP	European Parliament
EREN	Emerging Risks Exchange Network
EU	European Union
EuroFIR	European Food Information Resource Network
EWRS	Early Warning and Response System of the EU
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FBDG	Food-Based Dietary Guidelines
FCD	Food Composition Database of the Czech Republic
FCM	food contact materials
FSCU	Food Safety Coordination Unit
FSIC	Food Safety Information Centre
F2F	Farm to Fork
GDC	General Directorate of Customs
GMO	genetically modified organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
IAEI	Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information
IFCS	Individual Food Consumption Survey
ISID	Information System of Infectious Diseases
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MUFA	monounsaturated fatty acid
NAP	National Action Plan
NIPH	National Institute of Public Health
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PHA	Public Health Authorities
PPP	Plant Protection Products
PUFA	polyunsaturated fatty acid
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SVA	State Veterinary Administration
VMP	veterinary medicinal products
WHO	World Health Organisation



# Annex: Overview of Measures

## Strategic objective I

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>I. Food products in the market do not pose a risk to human health</b>				
<b>I.1. Load of chemical substances in food chains has been decreasing</b>				
I.1_1	To support the implementation of objectives of the F2F Strategy in the field of pesticides and VMPs	MoA	MoH, MoE	continuously
I.1_2	To support research, development and use of biological and non-synthetic plant protection products	MoA	MoE, MoH	continuously
I.1_3	To support research, development, innovation and introduction of cultivation technologies and plant protection systems reducing pesticide residues in food	MoA	MoE	continuously
I.1_4	To support improvement of animal welfare resulting in their better health condition and thus reducing the use of VMPs	MoA		continuously
I.1_5	To implement the NAP measures (PPP,VMP) related to food safety	MoA, MoH, MoE		continuously – in line with the NAP
I.1_6	To support research and detection of process contaminants and their formation in food	MoA		continuously
I.1_7	To fully finance the monitoring contaminants	MoA		continuously
I.1_8	To increase the focus of state inspection bodies on online sale of food and food contact materials	MoH		immediately
I.1_9	To support national reference laboratories, the use of the latest analytical methods in line with scientific knowledge, the introduction of new analytical methods relevant for detection of food adulteration and for food safety control	MoA		continuously
<b>I.2. Microbial hazards are effectively reduced</b>				
I.2_1	Setting up a platform for zoonoses from food isolates	MoA	MoH	2025
I.2_2	To encourage discussion on dangers of antimicrobial resistance and on importance of taking measures to its containment	MoH	MoA	continuously
I.2_3	Support to national reference laboratories, use of the latest analytical methods in line with scientific knowledge, introduction of new analytical methods	MoA	MoH	continuously
I.2_4	Support to the development of standardised screening methods to detect viruses in food of plant origin, but also to the development of a suitable system to distinguish living from dead viruses	MoA		continuously
I.2_5	To continue monitoring the antimicrobial resistance	MoA, MoH		continuously
I.2_6	To support the drafting of national legislation ensuring high microbiological safety of meals in catering establishments	MoA		2023
I.2_7	To support the introduction of detection of bacterial toxins (such as Bacillus cereus, Clostridium perfringens, Clostridium botulinum) in food in the accredited official laboratories	MoA	MoH	continuously
I.2_8	To support the development and use of probiotics, prebiotics and non-antibiotic antimicrobial agents in livestock nutrition	MoA		continuously

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>I.3. Current data on food are available</b>				
1.3_1	To support the implementation of monitoring and control of contaminants	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.3_2	To improve data quality and timeliness of their transmission to EFSA	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.3_3	To restore and support the collection system of data on food consumption of the population in the Czech Republic and to ensure its long-term functioning	MoH		continuously
1.3_4	To describe and harmonise the collection of data transmitted to EFSA	MoA	MoH	2025
1.3_5	To establish a national database of data for health risk assessment allowing both the data providers and, in an appropriate format, also to the general public, the online access to data compatible with the EFSA system, including the application of a suitable software tool for data management.	MoA	MoH	2025
1.3_6	To ensure rapid exchange of primary data needed for health risk assessment between state inspection bodies and institutions responsible for health risk assessment	MoH	MoA	continuously
1.3_7	To cooperate in the development and national implementation of methods for food consumption monitoring, laboratory data collection and dietary exposure assessment, as a contribution to the developing pan-European health risk assessment, including the development of assessment of chemical mixtures	MoH		continuously
1.3_8	To ensure the implementation of dietary exposure monitoring and biological monitoring (of biomarkers) as a necessary indicator of the intake of selected nutrients and xenobiotics from food and the environment as a basis for scientific risk assessment and management and follow-up measures and recommendations to protect the public health	MoH		continuously
1.3_9	To establish the coordination group for the Food Composition Database	MoA	MoH	2023
1.3_10	To digitise the public services related to FBO obligations	MoA	MoH	2023
1.3_11	Involvement of higher-education institutions (e.g. as part of bachelor's, master's or dissertation theses or other projects) in professional cooperation with state administration organisations	MoA, MoH		2022
<b>I.4. Attention is paid to new hazards</b>				
1.4_1	Establishing the group on monitoring new hazards	MoA, MoH	MoE	2023
1.4_2	To further develop the Nutrivigilance CZ project and to develop cooperation within the network of EU Member States	MoH	MoA	continuously
1.4_3	To support the implementation of tools to monitor new hazards	MoA MoH	MoE	continuously

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>2. Food safety system has for a long time been functional and sustainable</b>				
<b>2.1. Further development of the system with the application of risk analysis principles</b>				
2.1_1	To support activities of institutions designated to conduct health risk assessment	MoH		continuously
2.1_2	To optimise the network of laboratories based on the carried-out analysis of needs, including laboratories for dietary exposure of population groups	MoA, MoH		continuously
2.1_3	To further develop activities of the Focal Point as a follow up to EFSA requirements	MoA		continuously
2.1_4	To strengthen cooperation with producers, importers and distributors of articles and materials intended to come into contact with food	MoH		continuously
2.1_5	To develop networks of cooperating experts and organisations, including ensuring of professional and technical assistance, at the national level	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.1_6	To support the involvement of national experts and institutions conducting risk assessment in cooperation with EFSA	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.1_7	To provide system support to laboratories of sectoral public research institutions	MoA		2025
2.1_8	To continue supporting activities of scientific committees	MoA		continuously
2.1_9	To support the activity of the Executive Committee of Inspection Bodies of the Ministry of Agriculture	MoA		continuously
<b>2.2. Effective inter-ministerial cooperation</b>				
2.2_1	To increase the effectiveness of the FSCU activities and to enhance its function as a platform for the exchange of precise and reliable information between ministries/ government institutions	MoA	members of the Coordination Group	continuously
2.2_2	To support activities of thematic inter-ministerial working groups addressing the shared issues	MoA	members of the Coordination Group	continuously
2.2_3	To support communication and exchange of information between the MoA and MoH	MoA, MoH		continuously
<b>2.3. Adequate staffing capacities for functioning and development of the system</b>				
2.3_1	To ensure professional and technical assistance to experts and organisations involved in cooperation with EFSA	MoA	MoH, MoE	continuously
2.3_2	To develop a network of cooperating experts and organisations at the national level	MoA	MoH	continuously
2.3_3	To support communication between non-governmental non-profit organisations	MoA	MoE, MoH	continuously
2.3_4	To include risk assessment in undergraduate education	MEYS	MoH	2025
2.3_5	To ensure adequate number of systemic posts in laboratories conducting the analysis of official samples of food for the MoA	MoA		2023
2.3_6	To encourage traineeships of national experts abroad	MoA, MoH		continuously
2.3_7	To include risk assessment in postgraduate education	MoH		2025

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>3. Educated consumer can make an informed choice</b>				
<b>3.1. Timely communication of precise and verified information</b>				
3.1_1	To develop effective and open communication on food safety issues targeted at the public	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.1_2	To ensure implementation of the general plan on risk communication adopted pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 at the national level	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.1_3	To effectively use social networks and modern means of communication for communication with consumers on food safety	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.1_4	To promote quality products under the already established schemes (KLASA, Regional food, Know your farmer) through providing information or to provide another support to quality products	MoA		continuously
3.1_5	To support further involvement of non-governmental non-profit organisations in the process of communication on food safety and nutrition	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.1_6	To develop activities of the Food Safety Information Centre	MoA		continuously
<b>3.2. Educating laymen, deepening the knowledge of professionals</b>				
3.2_1	To raise the level of awareness of experts on risk assessment methods	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.2_2	To encourage involvement of staff of state inspection bodies in the BTSF training programme and to implement training activities at the national level	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_3	To educate consumers on hygiene and food handling, labelling and food quality	MoA, MoH	MoE	continuously
3.2_4	To improve vocational training and education of staff active in food industry	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_5	To encourage the involvement of national experts in international training programmes	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_6	To support the development of vocational training of staff of all organisations involved in food safety system	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_7	To ensure regular update of e-learning courses of uniform training of staff of inspection bodies	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_8	To improve inter-ministerial communication aimed at the uniform application of legislation by competent inspection bodies	MoA, MoH		continuously
3.2_9	To develop e-learning courses for consumers	MoA	MoH	continuously
3.2_10	To organise events intended for the general public as part of education on food safety and healthy diet	MoA, MoH		continuously

## Strategic objective 2

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>1. Creating a healthy eating environment</b>				
<b>1.1. School meals and nutrition</b>				
1.1_1	School meals in line with nutrition standards	MoH	MŠMT	continuously
1.1_2	Restrictions on certain foods in schools, labelling	MoH	MŠMT	continuously
1.1_3	Support for education of children, school canteen staff and teachers on nutrition	MŠMT	MoH	continuously
<b>1.2. Nutrition labelling</b>				
1.2_1	Implementation of legislation allowing the use of simple front-of-pack nutrition labelling systems	MoA	MoH	continuously
1.2_2	Communication and education of operators and consumers, methodological assistance provided by national authorities	MoA	MoH	continuously
<b>1.3. Measures to support reformulation of food and beverages</b>				
1.3_1	To support activities of the Platform for reformulation at the Czech Technology Platform for Foodstuffs	MoA	MoH	continuously
<b>1.4. Eliminating trans-fatty acids</b>				
1.4_1	Control activities of inspection bodies	MoA		continuously
<b>1.5. Marketing food to children</b>				
1.5_1	Proposal to restrict advertisements for selected food for children	MoH	MoA, MoC, MIT	continuously
<b>1.6. Competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy foods</b>				
1.6_1	Launching and holding a professional debate on the topic of competitive pricing (price discounts) for healthy foods	MoH	MoA, MoF	continuously

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>2. Promoting healthy eating throughout the life</b>				
<b>2.1. Nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding women</b>				
2.1_1	Support programme for pregnant and breastfeeding women	MoH		continuously
<b>2.2. Early childhood nutrition</b>				
2.2_1	Support programme for breastfeeding women	MoH		continuously
<b>2.3. Communication with the public</b>				
2.3_1	Support programme for communication with the public	MoA, MoH	members of the FSCU, MEYS	continuously
<b>2.4. Nutrition and lifestyle in ageing</b>				
2.4_1	Support programme for nutrition and healthy ageing	MoH	MoA, MoLSA	continuously

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>3. Strengthening health systems to promote healthy diet</b>				
<b>3.1. Nutrition education and counselling in primary health care</b>				
3.1_1	Education, training and counselling in the field of nutrition	MoH, MEYS		continuously
<b>3.2. System capacity for nutrition-related issues</b>				
3.2_1	Education and training of experts in nutrition	MoH, MEYS, MIT	MoA	continuously

Code of the objective	Measure	Sponsor	Co-sponsor	Deadline
<b>4. Surveillance, monitoring and evaluation</b>				
<b>4.1. Growth monitoring in children – anthropometric measurement</b>				
4.1_1	Monitoring of children, anthropometric measurements	MoH		2025
<b>4.2. Food consumption and nutrient intake surveys</b>				
4.2_1	National survey on individual food consumption in the Czech Republic	MoH		2025





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**Published by**

Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic  
Těšnov 17, 110 00 Praha 1

[www.eagri.cz](http://www.eagri.cz)

[www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz](http://www.bezpecnostpotravin.cz)

**Photos:** [www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com)

Cover: Tatjana Baibakova;

Text: Microgen (8), Alexander Rath (12),  
elmar gubisch (16), Syda Productions (18, 29),  
Yulia Davidovich (25), TZIDO SUN (32)

Prague 2022

1st edition

ISBN 978-80-7434-662-0

