



**Delegation from Region Västerbotten  
EFSA, Parma, 16 October 2019**

# **EFSA** **Trusted science for safe food**

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(ENCO)

Trusted science for safe food

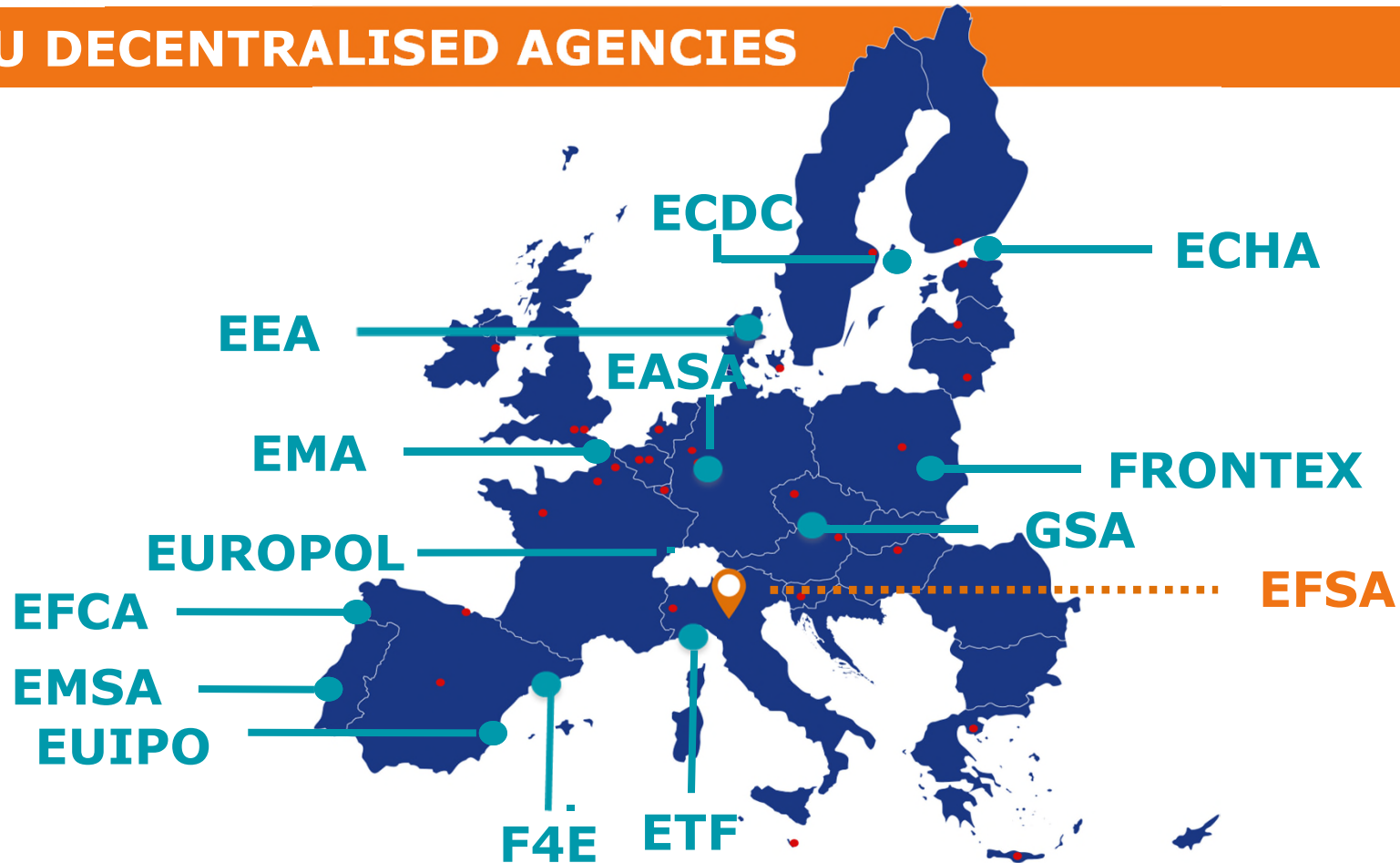


EFSA and the  
EU Food  
safety system

How EFSA  
works

Future  
perspectives

## EU DECENTRALISED AGENCIES



## GENERAL FOOD LAW - EU REG. 178/2002

Established in 2002, following a series of food crises as part of a programme designed to:

- **ensure** a high level of consumer protection and **restore** confidence in the EU food supply
- **clearly separate** risk assessment and risk management functions

**Principles and approaches:** Science-based decisions, Integrated approach, Precautionary principle, Transparency, Industry responsibility, Traceability

**New institutions, tools and procedures:** EFSA, RASFF



# EU FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM

## RISK ASSESSMENT

SCIENTIFIC ADVICE



Member states



### STAKEHOLDERS



## RISK MANAGEMENT

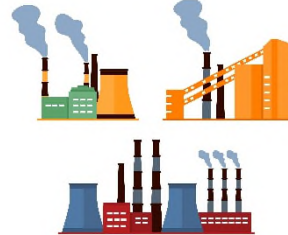
### FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION



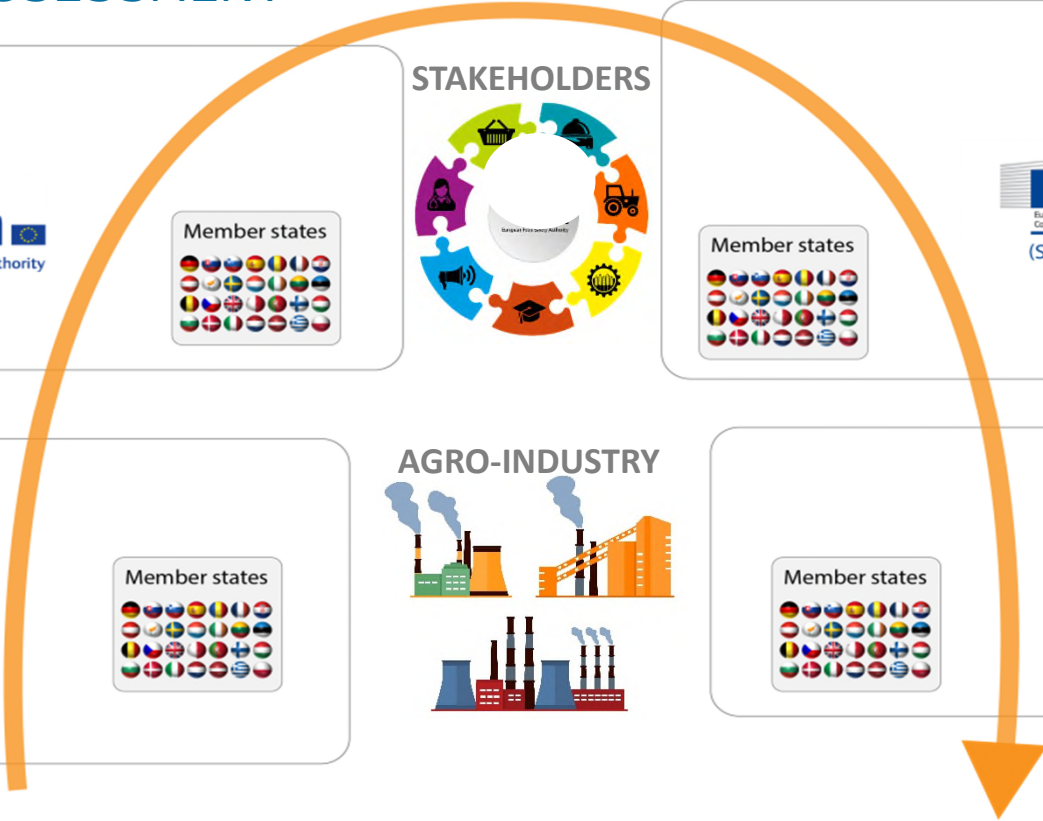
### RESEARCH



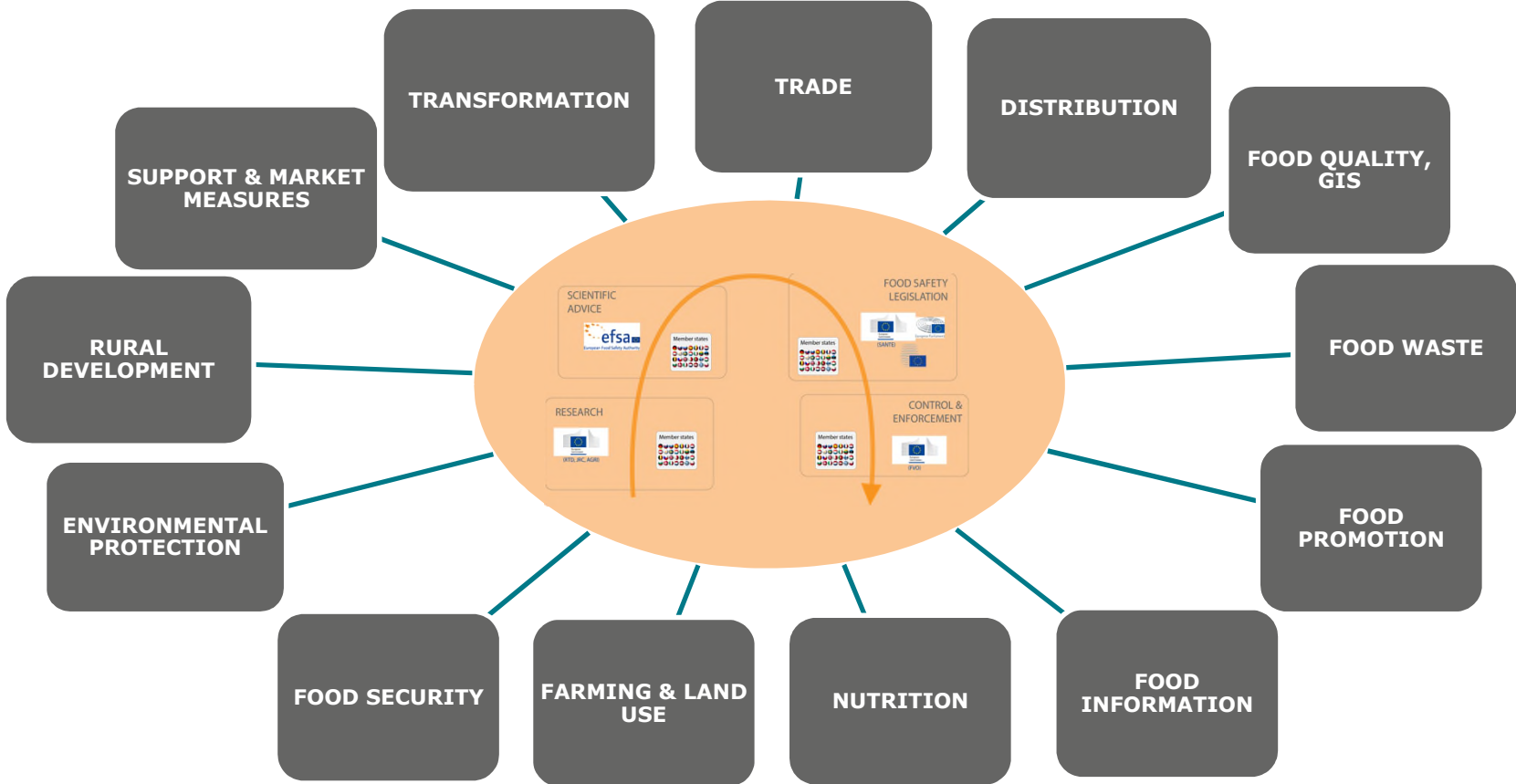
### AGRO-INDUSTRY



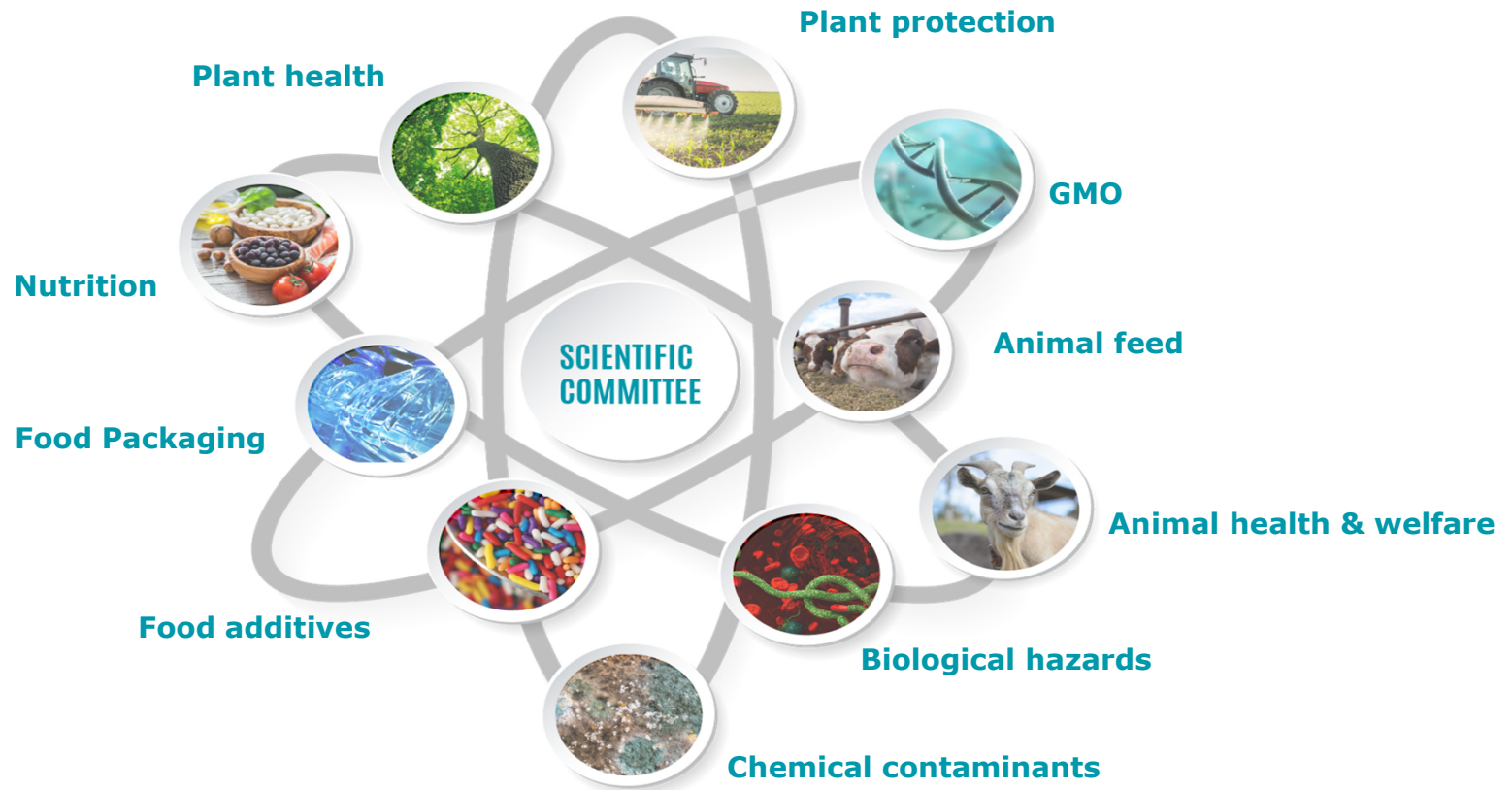
### CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT



# EU FOOD POLICIES



# FOOD SAFETY FROM FARM TO FORK



# EFSA AT A GLANCE



**445** Permanent staff  
**78** Trainees, interim staff



**920** External experts



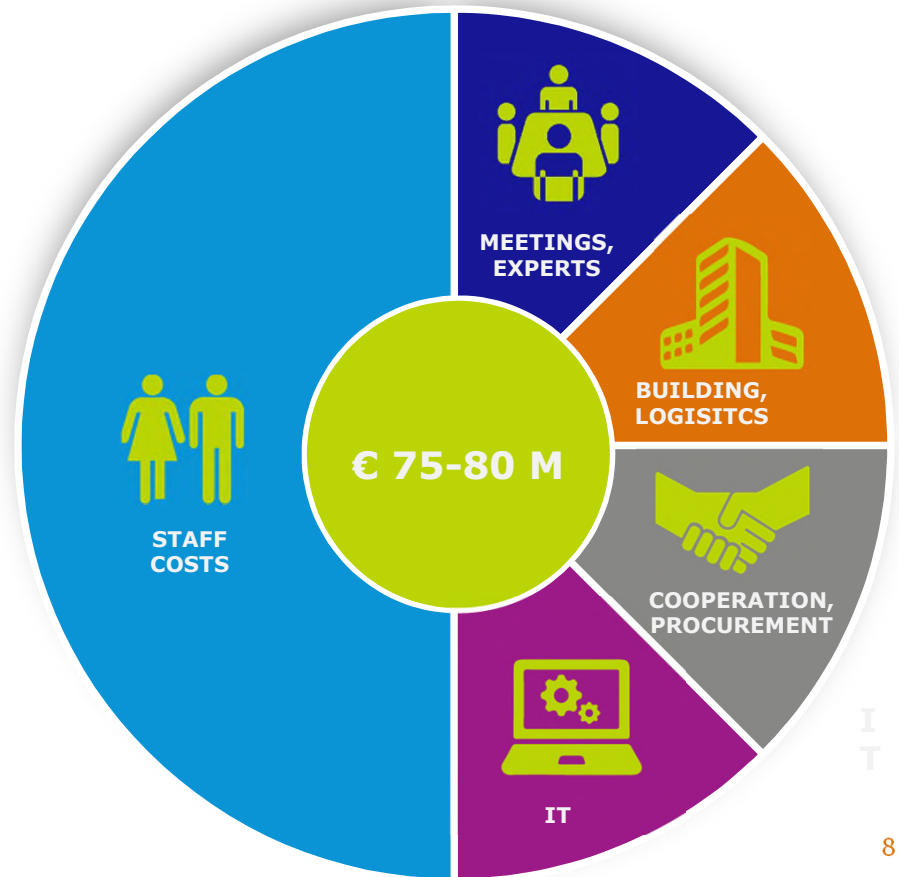
**1150** Meetings/year



**7500** Scientific outputs since 2003



**410+** Partner organisations



IT



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**EU  
Commission**



**EU  
Parliament**



**Member  
States**



**EFSA self  
mandate**



**EFSA receives  
a question**



**EFSA's  
scientists  
evaluate,  
assess, advise**



**Adoption and  
communication**

## SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS



### Opinions/Advice on:

- Generic Health Issues
- Regulated Products
- Emerging Risks



### Tools for Risk Assessment:

- Guidance
- Methods
- Databases



### Reports & Urgent Advice (crisis response)



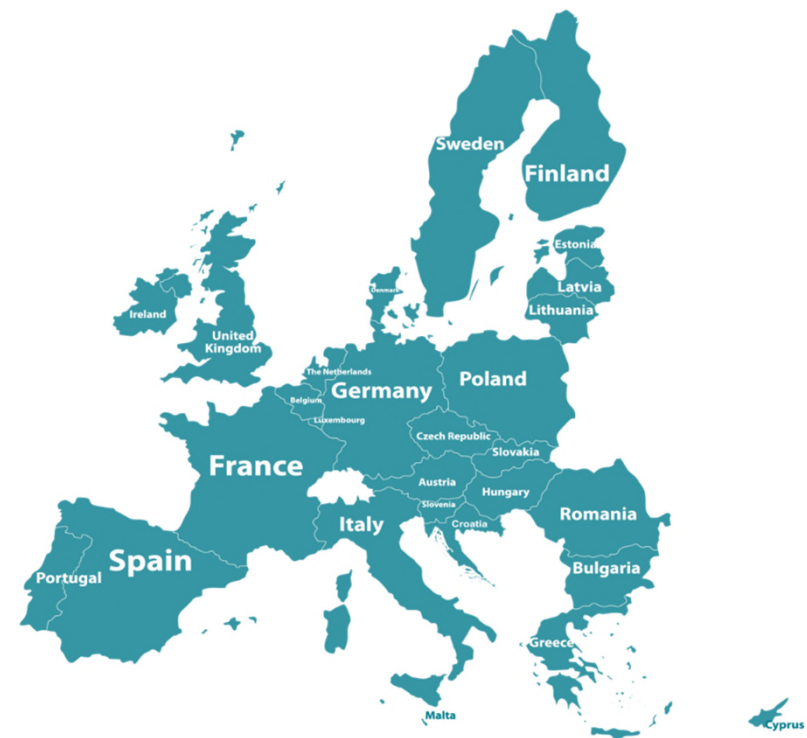
## SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE | COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

- 28+ Member States' food safety agencies:

- Advisory Forum
- Scientific Networks
- Focal Points



- 310+ Universities/Research institutes (Grants and Procurement)



**Slide 11**

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**AF2**

**we'd also skip this one**

AVANZINI Francesca, 11/06/2019

# RISK ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY

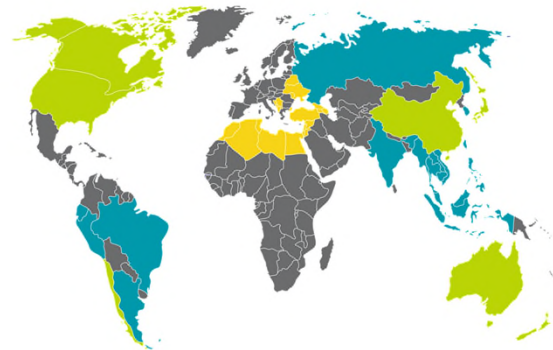
- *Member states' food safety agencies*
- *Universities/Research institutes*
- *Experts (panels and working groups)*
- Other EU Agencies and institutions



EU Stakeholders



- International Partners
- Established cooperation
- IPA/ENP countries



## INDEPENDENCE OF SCIENCE

- From risk managers (EU Commission, Member States)
  - From private interests
- 

Guaranteed through a policy covering all actors and working processes:

- **Organisational governance:** Management Board (no MS representatives)
- **Governance of scientific processes:** mandates, selection of experts, collegial decision making
- **Transparency and stakeholder engagement**
- **Management of interests:** strict control and conflict avoidance

## REVISION OF REG. 178/2002 - GENERAL FOOD LAW

### New tasks and responsibilities

Sustainability and  
governance

Quality of studies

Risk communication

Transparency

## RISK COMMUNICATION

Bridging **the gap**  
between science and  
the consumer

Promoting and  
disseminating  
**consistent** and  
**compelling** messages

Understanding and  
addressing **consumer  
perception** of food  
and food safety risks





# 2019 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU | Key features

## Why?

To understand views and perceptions of EU citizens

**Trust** in sources of information

Food safety as a **concern**

Food-related **choices**

**Perceived** food-related **risks**

Risk comms and **behaviour change**

**EU** food safety **system**

Sources of **information**

## How?

28 Member States

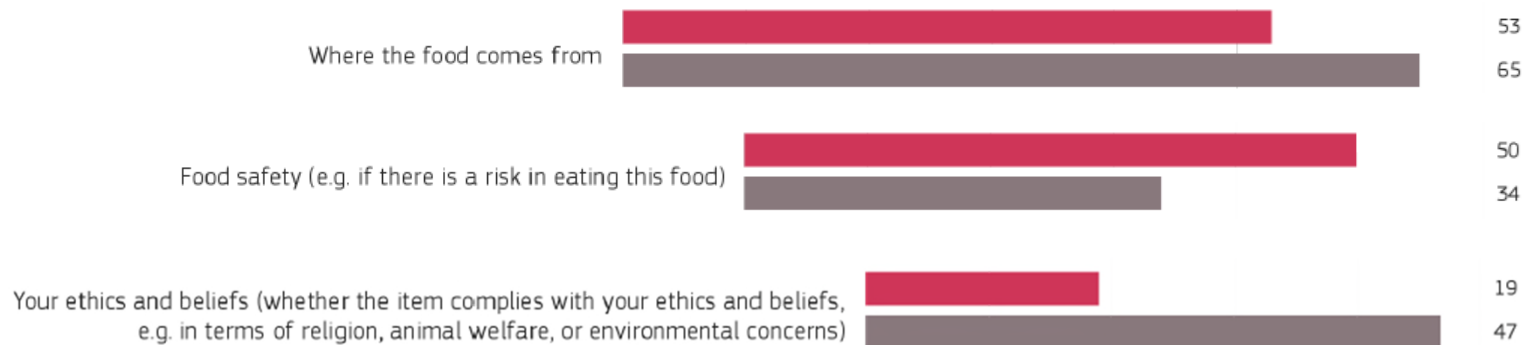
27,655 interviews

## Topic #1 | Food-related choices



Compared to the **EU average**, **Swedes** are significantly **less** concerned by food safety. Rather, they consider **origin** and **ethics and beliefs** more important

**QD1T** When you buy food, which of the following are the most important to you? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)  
(%)



## Topic #2 | Information sources



**Swedes** use **newspapers and** magazines to learn about food risks much more than the **rest of EU citizens** who mainly resort to **television**

**QD5T** Which of the following are your main sources of information about food risks? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)  
(%)



## Topic #3 | Risk perception



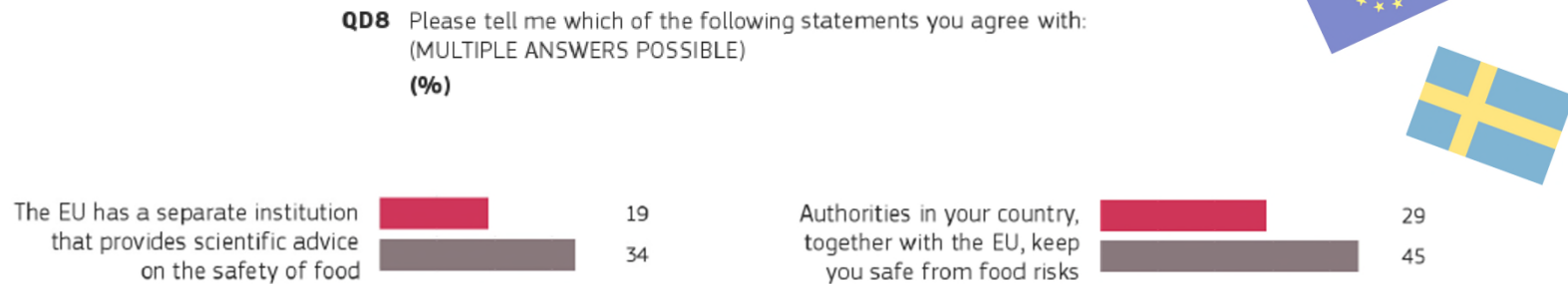
**Swedish respondents** are far more concerned than **EU average** when it comes to **antibiotic, hormone or steroid residues in meat, environmental pollutants in fish, meat or dairy and pesticide residues in food**

**QD4T** Please tell me which of these topics you have heard about concern you most when it comes to food? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 5 ANSWERS)  
(%)



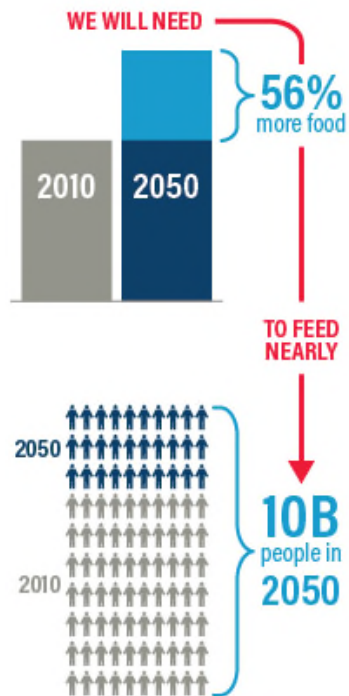
## Topic #4 | Awareness of food safety system

**Sweden** has a **higher awareness** of EFSA and of the food safety system in general, compared to the **EU average**

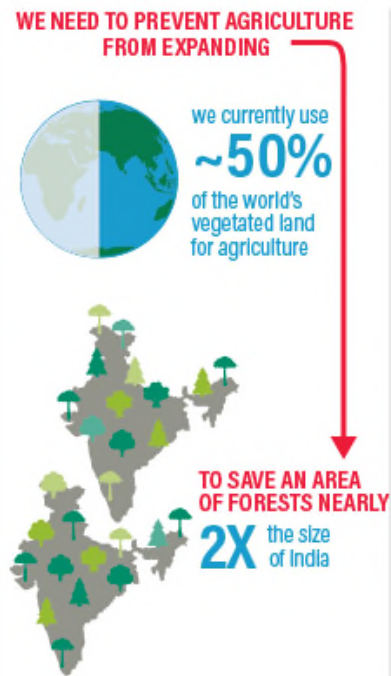


# SUSTAINABLE FOOD BY 2050 (WRI)

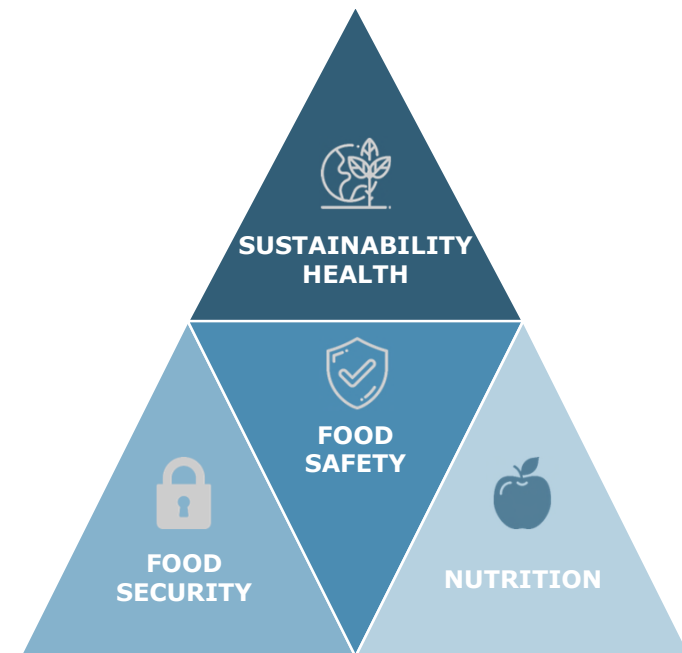
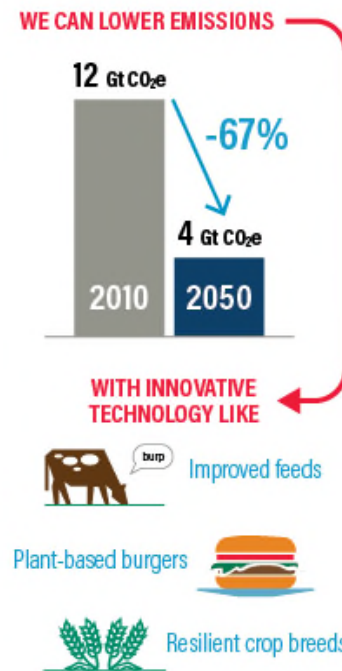
How do we feed 10 billion people...



...without using more land...



...while lowering emissions?



# FUTURE SCENARIOS (JRC)

Regional Food



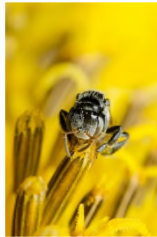
Global Food



Pharma Food



## FOOD SAFETY - EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES



Holistic approaches (e.g. multiple stressors and bees)



Innovation and new products

- biotechnology
- novel foods
- nanotechnology



New scientific methods:

- '-omics', less animal testing
- comparative risk assessment
- risk/benefit assessment



Chemical mixtures/ combined toxicity of substances in food  
Endocrine active substances



Antimicrobial resistance



Hazards linked to globalisation:  
- plant pests  
- animal, vector-borne diseases



## STAY CONNECTED!



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