



**QUALIFY – *Quality standards and authenticity to foster competitiveness of agrifood SMEs***

# Action plan for Slovenia



## Introduction (optional)

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia - Chamber of Agricultural and Food Enterprises has 246 members. Our mission is to represent them and to educate them in all areas, that are important: food safety, food fraud, labelling, food production processes...

The largest percentage of registered food companies present micro companies (78 %), most of them are registered in production of bakery products and pasta. This shows that smaller companies represent important part of food industry and since they usually do not have enough resources, we should offer them support by sharing information (through seminars, meetings, email communication...), that is important for their work. By offering them better support, especially in the field of food fraud prevention and food safety, we will also access better competitiveness, that is one of the main goals in project Qualify.



## Part I – General information

**Project**

Qualify-Quality standards and authenticity to foster competitiveness of agrifood SMEs

**Partner organization**

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia - Chamber of Agricultural and Food Enterprises (CCIS-CAFE)

**Other partner organisations involved (if relevant)**

**Country**

Slovenia

**NUTS2 region**

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## Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: **“Resolution: Our food, rural areas and natural resources after 2021” National gazette No.: 8/20** (slo: Resolucija o nacionalnem programu o strateških usmeritvah razvoja slovenskega kmetijstva in živilstva »Naša hrana, podeželje in naravni viri od leta 2021« (Uradni list RS, št. 8/20))



## Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

### Action 1: Educating SMEs through seminars, workshops, and study visits

We realized that the most important action for food fraud prevention is analysing raw materials. Food safety experts in food companies, especially SMEs, usually do not have good connections with R&D institutions and consequently do not know which laboratory does which analyses regarding food fraud. To help them, we will connect them with Slovene R&Ds.

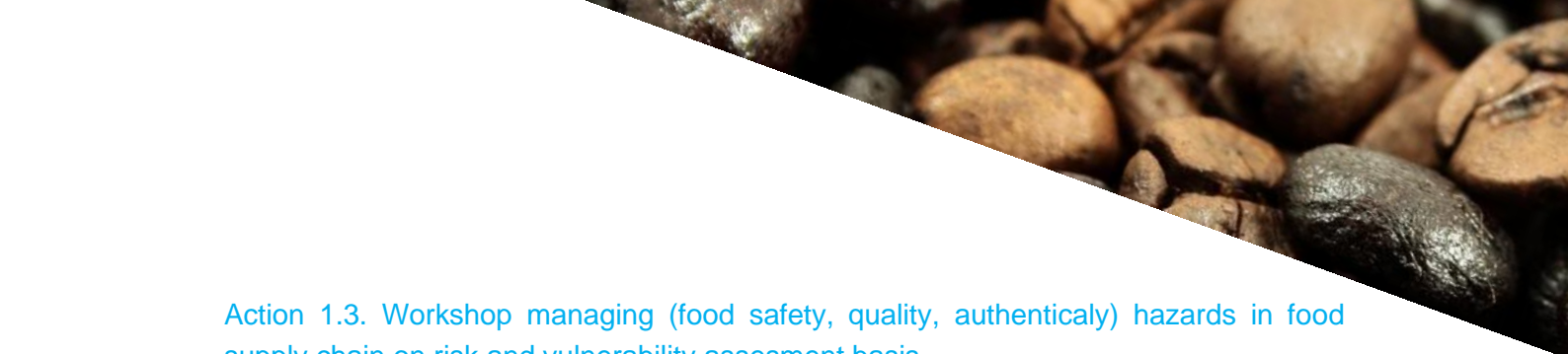
Due to lack of resources in SMEs, we will try to enhance the competences of food companies with current information in the field of food safety, food fraud and other topics. We will educate SMEs through seminars (regarding food safety, food fraud), study visits of Slovenian R&Ds and food fraud news.

#### Action 1.1. Slovene food safety and food fraud conference

We will organize food safety and food fraud prevention conference, for participants from SMEs and other food companies, R&D institutions and representatives from public authorities. Our indicator is list of participants, presentations and key messages from the conference. The benefits for participants will be better communication, better cooperation, acquiring new knowledge.

#### Action 1.2. Workshop on available food fraud detection in Slovenian R&Ds and accredited laboratories

We will collect and update information about food fraud analyses, that Slovene R&Ds perform. The indicator will be list of relevant laboratories and their analyses regarding food fraud. We will organize one day workshop for food safety experts from SMEs and other food companies to present the laboratories and their work. The indicator will be list of participants from SMEs and other stakeholders and prepared presentations.



### Action 1.3. Workshop managing (food safety, quality, authenticity) hazards in food supply chain on risk and vulnerability assessment basis

We will, in cooperation with external experts, organize workshop regarding risk assessment and vulnerability assessment, with focus on supplied raw materials, produced by SMEs. The workshop (6 hours training) will be prepared for food safety experts in food companies. Participants will gain knowledge, which will help them implement more efficient control systems for fraud prevention, which will lead to less rejections of non-conforming raw materials (food safety, food fraud reasons) and consequently less food waste. Our indicator is number of participating SMEs in the course and questionnaire about benefits of delivered knowledge.

### Action 1.4. Three study visits of R&D institutions with SMEs

CCIS-CAFE will organize 3 study visits to Slovenian R&D institutions, like National Institute of Biology, Biotechnical faculty, Institute of Dairy Science and Probiotics. We will invite SMEs and other stakeholders. The main purpose of the visits will be presentation of latest research regarding food safety and food fraud. Indicators will be number of SMEs and other stakeholders, that will attend the study visits and list of participants.

### Action 1.5. Food fraud newsletters

Disrupted supply chains due to Covid pandemic and war in Ukraine are now even in greater danger to receive frauded raw materials. Therefore, we will inform food processing companies in 3 newsletters about the food fraud status based on Knowledge Centre for Food Fraud and Quality ([https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/food-fraud-quality\\_en](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/food-fraud-quality_en)). Food fraud newsletter will be very useful for food safety experts in food companies, since they will get an overview of potential food frauds and they will be able to implement even stricter control of raw materials, that are most likely to be frauded.

“Resolution: Our food, rural areas and natural resources after 2021” National gazette No.: 8/20 includes similar goals, that we set in our action plan. According to resolution, they see increased consumer interest in quality food of Slovenian origin, which is an opportunity to further strengthen the loyalty of domestic consumers and producers to focus on products with higher added value. Our goal is to educate SMEs to implement good food fraud prevention systems and quality control systems, to be more competitive. That also matches another goal in resolution, which is Ensuring high standards of safe, quality and authentic food. With new technologies and good food fraud prevention systems, it will also be less food waste, which is another goal, defined in resolution.

## Players involved

We are involving different stakeholders, such as Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, agricultural inspectors, Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, National Institute of public health, food suppliers, public institutions, Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Cooperative Union of Slovenia... and their policies.

## Timeframe

Action	Activity	Indicator	Sep 2022-Jul 2023
Action 1.1. Slovene food safety and food fraud conference	Organization by CCIS-CAFE. SMEs and other stakeholders will be invited.	List of participants, presentations.	Nov 2022
Action 1.2. Workshop on available food fraud detection in Slovenian R&Ds and accredited laboratories	Collecting information about food fraud detection that Slovenian R&D perform.	List of relevant laboratories and their analyses regarding food fraud will be completed and regularly updated.	Dec 2022 - Feb 2023
	Organization of workshop for SMEs and other stakeholders.	List of participants of SMEs and other stakeholders and presentations.	Mar 2023

<p>Action 1.3. Workshop managing (food safety, quality, authentically) hazards in food supply chain on risk and vulnerability assessment basis</p>	<p>Organization and execution of workshop by CCIS-CAFE and external experts, regarding risk assessment and vulnerability assessment, with focus on supplied raw materials, produced by SME.</p>	<p>Number of SMEs, participating in course. List of participants. Questionnaire about benefits of the delivered knowledge.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>
<p>Action 1.4. Three study visits of R&amp;D institutions with SMEs</p>	<p>Study visits, like National institute of Biology, Biotechnical faculty, Institute of Dairy Science.</p>	<p>Number of SMEs and other stakeholders, attending the visits. List of participants.</p>	<p>Nov 2022 – Jun 2023</p>
<p>Action 1.5. Food fraud newsletters</p>	<p>3 food fraud newsletters about food fraud on EU market (European commission website) send to SMEs and other food companies.</p>	<p>Newsletters, number of recipients.</p>	<p>Nov 2022 – Jul 2023</p>





### Funding sources (if relevant)

Action 1.1. Slovene food safety and food fraud conference-2000 €.

Action 1. 2. Workshop on available food fraud detection in Slovenian R&Ds and accredited laboratories-500 €.

Action 1. 3. Workshop managing (food safety, quality, authentically) hazards in food supply chain on risk and vulnerability assessment basis-2000 €.

Action 1.4. Three study visits of R&D institutions with SMEs-200 €.

Action 1.5. Food fraud newsletters-200 €.

Expenses will be covered by CCIS-CAFE funds.



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### **ENDORSEMENT LETTER**

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QUALIFY project, funded by the Interreg Europe programme, and implemented by Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia - Chamber of Agricultural and Food Enterprises, started in 2019. The main objective of the project was improving the competitiveness of SMEs, through implementation of quality standards, food fraud prevention and promotion of authenticity of food products.

We, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, confirm, that are familiar with Qualify project, since we were informed about some activities. We are also aware of the action Educating SMEs through seminars, workshops, and study visits, that is described in CCIS-CAFE action plan. Under main action, there are multiple activities:

- Slovene food safety and food fraud conference,
- Workshop on available food fraud detection in Slovenian R&Ds and accredited laboratories,
- Workshop managing (food safety, quality, authenticity) hazards in food supply chain on risk and vulnerability assessment basis,
- Three study visits of R&D institutions with SMEs,
- Food fraud newsletters.

The action plan is referring to our "Resolution: Our food, rural areas and natural resources after 2021" National gazette No.: 8/20. We confirm that this action plan supports specific goals in mentioned resolution, especially to increase consumer interest in quality food of Slovenian origin, which is an opportunity to further strengthen the loyalty of domestic consumers and producers to focus on products with higher added value. Another goal, that the action plan is

addressing is Ensuring high standards of safe, quality and authentic food and also less food waste, which will be achieved with new technologies and good food fraud prevention system.

Yours sincerely,

Irena Šinko  
MINISTER