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# Activities performed during the implementation period of the EU- funded Twinning Project



TWINNING PROJECT AZ 17 ENI AG 01 20

“STRENGTHENING SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES IN AZERBAIJAN”

Closing Conference  
Baku, 9 February 2023





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**Project:** Twinning project "Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in Azerbaijan" financed by the European Union

**The overall goal of the project** is to contribute to the improvement of food and feed safety and to expand export opportunities in accordance with improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

**The special purpose of the project** is to provide support to the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the improvement and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary legislation on plant-based food and feed.

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**Implementation period:** November 16, 2020 - February 15, 2023

**Budget:** 1,500,000 euros



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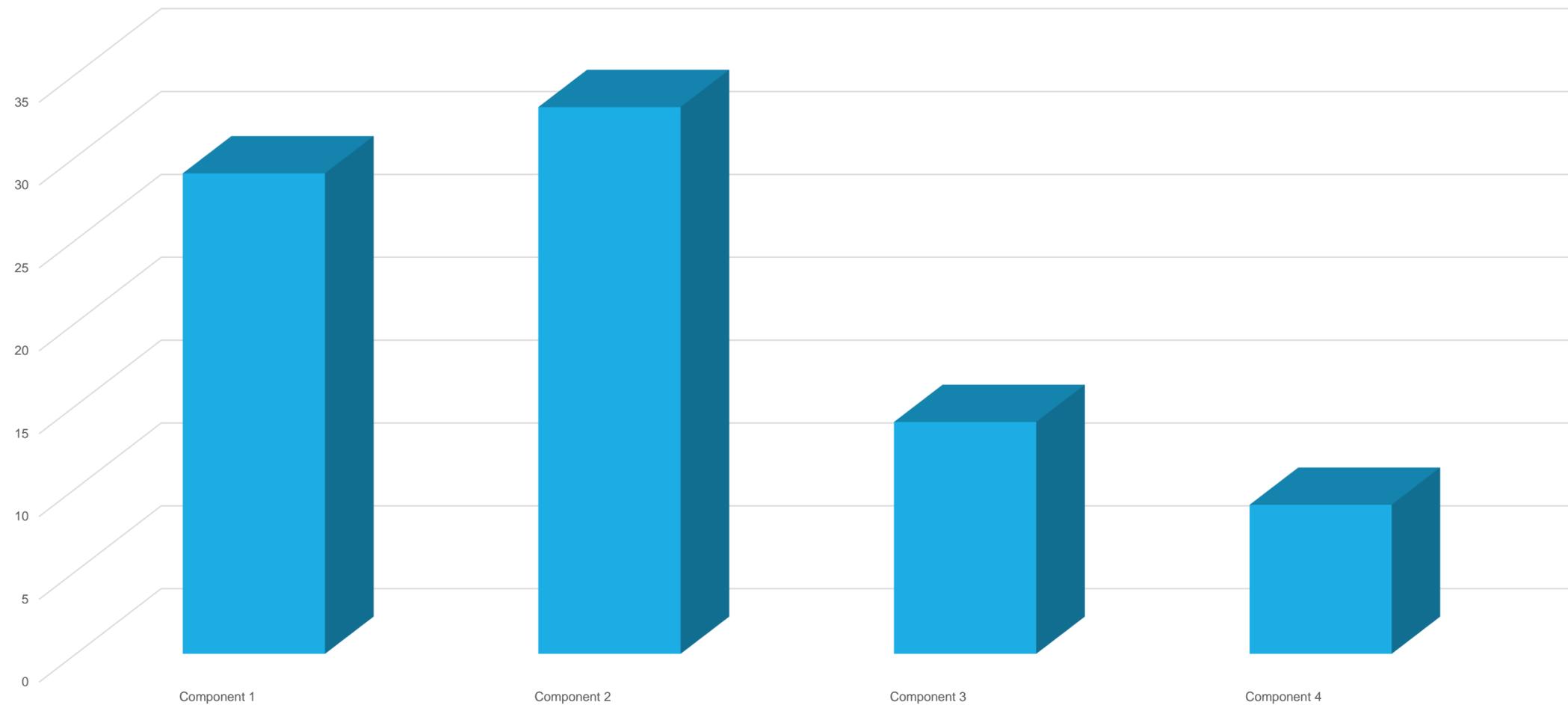
# Statistics



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# Number of missions during the Project – in total - 85

Number of missions under Components



Component 1 - 29

Component 2 - 33

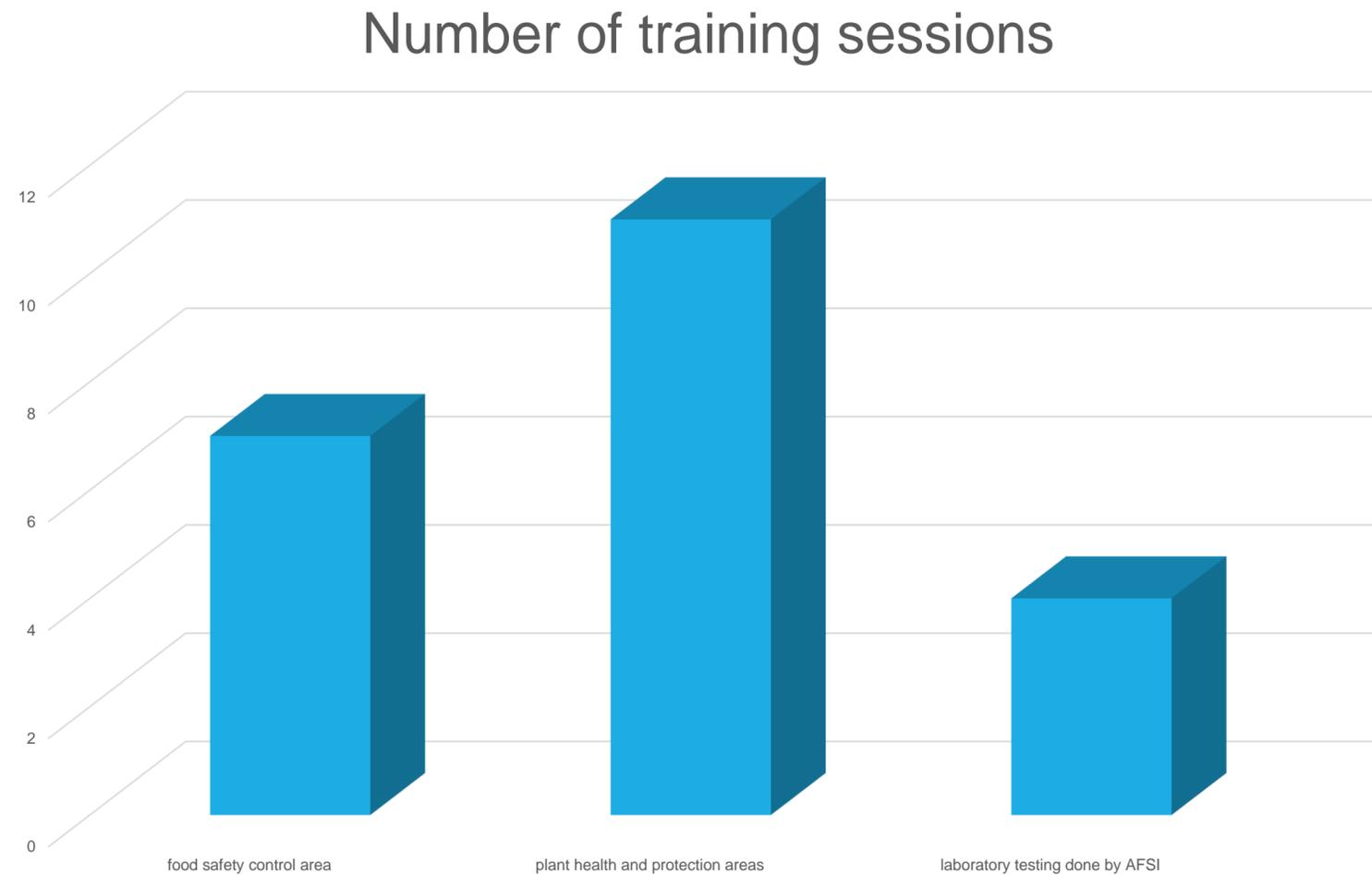
Component 3 - 14

Component 4 - 9



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# Number of training sessions - 22



<b>food safety control area</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>plant health and protection areas</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>laboratory testing done by AFSI</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>



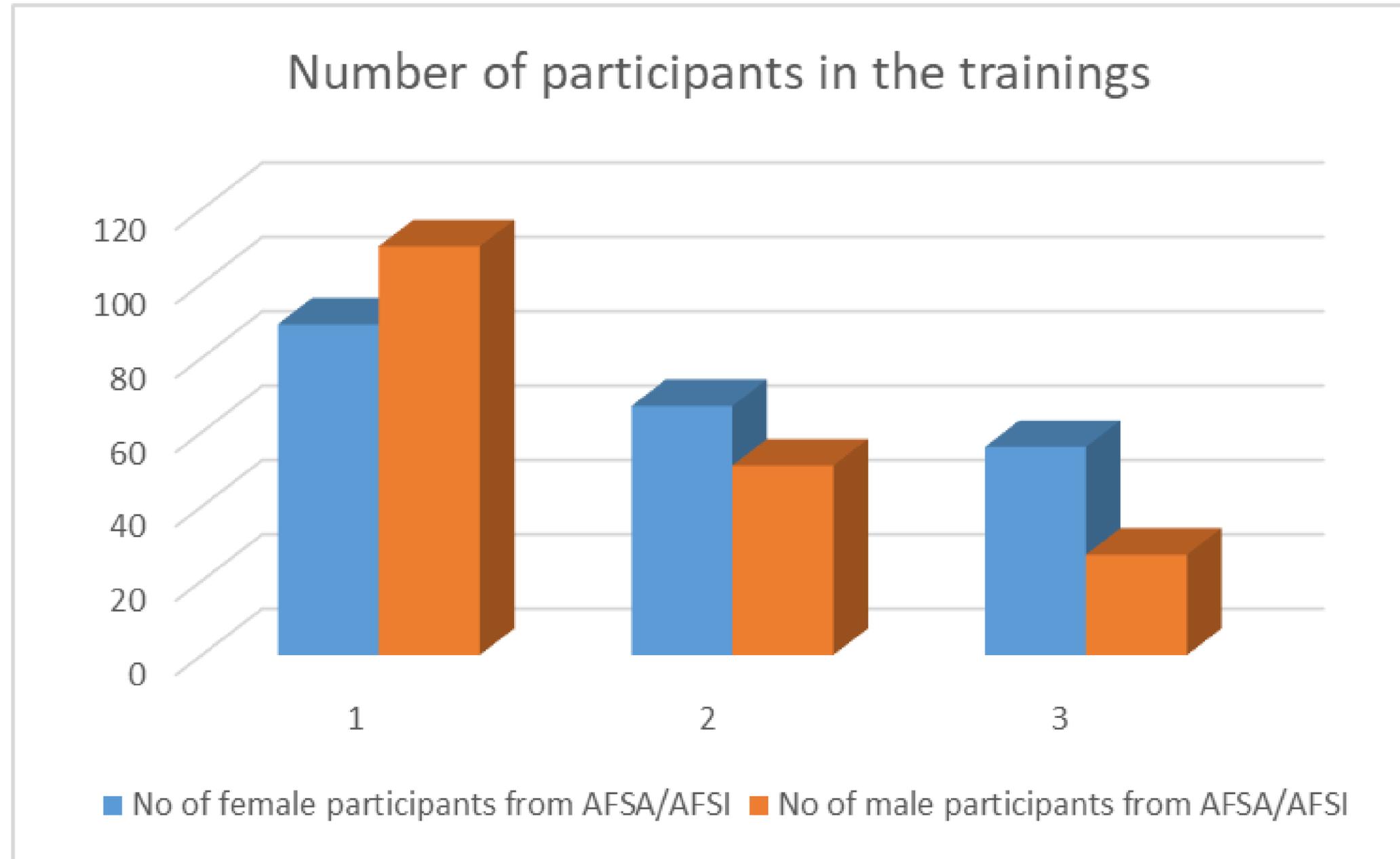
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Components	1	2	3
No of female participants from AFSA/AFSI	89	72	56
No of male participants from AFSA/AFSI	110	51	27
<b>Total number of participants from AFSA/AFSI</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>83</b>

Number of Training participants from AFSA/AFSI



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# Component 1

## Food Safety Legislation



# Activity 1.1.: Report on the current status of food safety legislation and gap analysis in the context of approximation to EU Acquis for food hygiene conditions and official controls

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The Activity was completed in the 2nd quarter (16 February – 15 May 2021). As a result, GAP analysis report was prepared and submitted to the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AFSA).



# Activity 1.2.: Development of 10 priority food safety secondary legislation drafts

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The Activity was  
completed in the 7th  
quarter

All of the agreed legal acts  
(11) were prepared,  
shared with AFSA and  
translated to Azerbaijani.  
They are currently under  
finalization by the BC side.



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# List of draft Legal acts

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1. Official control on import of goods of plant origin into the customs territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. Registration and approval of (i) food and (ii) feed business operators ([divided to two separate regulations](#));
3. Control of the novel food;
4. Control of the genetically modified feed;
5. Provision of food information to consumers and review of nutrition and health claims made on foods;
6. Recall, removal, utilization and destruction of food and feed products that do not meet the requirements of the legislation in the field of food safety;
7. Control of pesticide residues in food and feed of plant origin;
8. Issuing official health certificates for food and feed products;
9. Control of food additives;
10. Control of food contact materials.

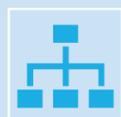
## Activity 1.3: 100% of risk management and legal staff of AFSA trained on and familiar with legal basis and implementation on the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact materials, food additives and contaminants and related official controls



1. Evaluation of current system of the official control of food and feed products of plant origin on 28 March – 1 April 2022;



2. Training on “The official control of the entire chain of food and feed of plant origin” of 10 (7 female, 3 male) risk management and legal staff of AFSA;



3. Training on “The official control of the entire chain of food and feed of plant origin with specific focus on the control of pesticide residues and other contaminants, food additives and food contact materials” with participation of 12 (10 female, 2 male) risk management and legal staff of AFSA.

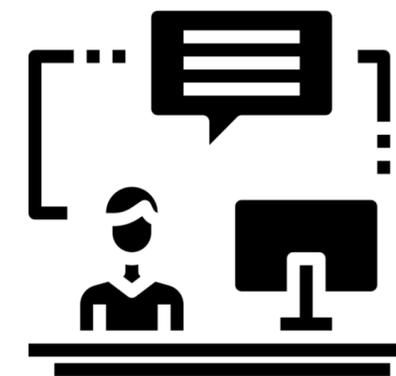


4. One more expert mission was carried out in January 2023, and it focused on the consultations with the respective employees of AFSA on the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

Activity 1.4: 10 % of inspectors trained on and familiar with legal basis and implementation of the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT

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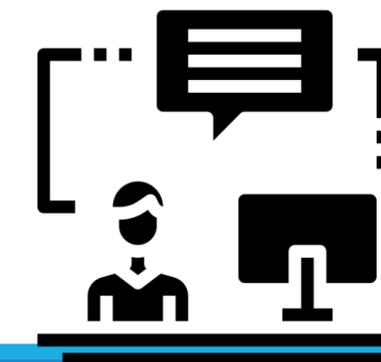
1. “The official control of food products of plant origin” with participation of 32 (15 male and 17 female) employees of AFSA;
2. “The official control of the entire chain of food and feed of plant origin with specific focus on the control of pesticide residues and other contaminants, food additives and food contact materials” with participation of 31 (10 male, 21 female) employees of AFSA;



Activity 1.4: 10 % of inspectors trained on and familiar with legal basis and implementation of the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT

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3. “The food products’ traceability, the recall, collection, disposal and destruction of food products that do not comply with the requirements of the legislation” with participation of 53 (33 male, 20 female) employees of AFSA;
4. “The prerequisite programs and HACCP system in the field of safety of food products of plant origin” with participation of **149 (89 male, 60 female)** employees of AFSA.





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# Study tour to Latvia



A study tour focused on building capacities of six staff members of AFSA dealing with Food Safety issues, as well as IT issues was organized and hosted by the Food and Veterinary Service of Latvia.







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Component 2:  
Proposal for  
legislative  
framework and  
system of PPPs  
marketing  
authorization and  
control developed  
and approved by  
AFSA



# Activity 2.1.: Report on the current status of marketing authorization of PPPs in Azerbaijan

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The Activity was completed in the 2nd quarter



GAP analysis report was prepared and submitted to AFSA.



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## Activity 2.2: 1 legal draft aligning the national legislation on marketing authorization of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009

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1. The list of draft legal acts were prepared and shared with AFSA in 2 languages, including:

(i) The new draft Law on Plant Health;

(ii) The draft Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on approval of the rules "On Authorization, Renewal of Authorization and Amendment of Authorization of Plant Protection Products";





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## Activity 2.2: 1 legal draft aligning the national legislation on marketing authorization of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009

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(iii) The draft Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the approval of the regulation on training of persons, dealing with the plant protection products, establishing requirements for import, storage, distribution and use of plant protection products including inspection of plant protection products' application equipment, integrated pest management";

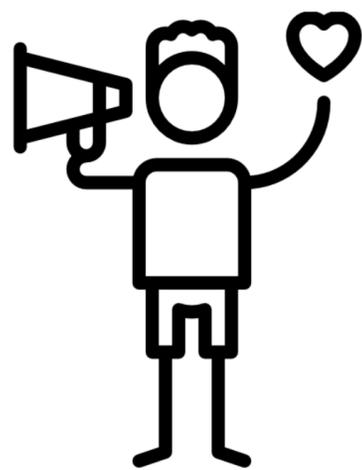
(iv) The draft Decision of the Cabinet of the Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Identification, Quality Conformity Assessment and Sale of Fertilizers and Substrates".



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## Activity 2.2: 1 legal draft aligning the national legislation on marketing authorization of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009

The Plant Health Forum with invitation of representatives of involved Government entities (including the Ministries of Agriculture, of Ecology and Natural Resources, of Emergency, of Health, etc.) and the other stakeholders was organized on 24 May 2022. Main upcoming conceptual changes in the Plant Health and Protection systems of Azerbaijan were presented to a wider public.



# Activity 2.3: Proposal for a system for granting marketing authorization of PPPs

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A number of standard operational procedures (SOPs) and supporting documents were prepared and shared with AFSA in 2 languages. These include:

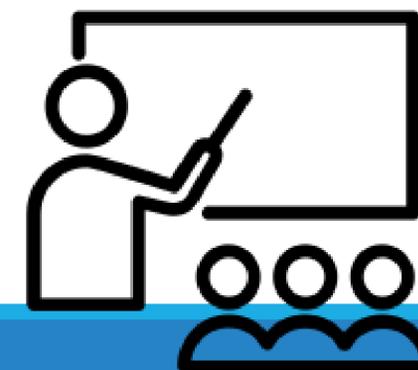
1. SOP on marketing authorization of PPPs;
2. SOP on requirements for sale of PPPs (including the checklists);
3. SOP on requirements for use of PPPs (including the checklists);
4. SOP on the training system related to PPPs;
5. SOP on the control of the PPPs' application equipment;
6. Recommendations and materials for sustainable use of PPPs.



## Activity 2.4: 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for authorization of PPPs familiar with EU legislation and procedures on authorization of PPPs

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1. “Marketing authorization of PPPs” with participation of 13 (8 male, 5 female) representatives of the Plant Health Department of AFSA and the Expert Council on approval of PPPs in Azerbaijan (AFSI and the other involved Government entities);
2. “Control of sale and use of PPPs” with participation of 45 (20 male, 25 female) employees of AFSA and its regional departments (32 participants) and the Agrarian Services Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan ASA (13 participants).
3. “The integrated pest management” for the risk management staff of AFSA and ASA.





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## Activity 2.5: 10% of inspectors are familiar with EU legislation on pesticides and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach

As a result:

1. “Control of marketing of fertilizers” - with participation of 45 (21 male, 24 female) representatives of AFSA and its regional offices (37) and ASA (8);
2. “Integrated pest management” with participation of 70 (44 male, 26 female) representatives of AFSA and its regional offices (47) and ASA (23).





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## Activity 2.5: 10% of inspectors are familiar with EU legislation on pesticides and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach

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Six more training sessions for inspectors on the below-mentioned topics took place:

- (i) Import control procedures;
- (ii) Control of wood packaging materials and implementation of ISPM 15;
- (iii) Control of sale and use of PPPs and the PPPs' application equipment;
- (iv) Surveillance on relevant pests in Azerbaijan, as well as IPM measures;
- (v) Plant passports and traceability of PPPs;
- (vi) Integrated pest management.



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# Study tour – Plant Protection



A study tour for 6 participants from different departments of AFSA to Lithuania was hosted by the State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania on 3-9 October 2021.





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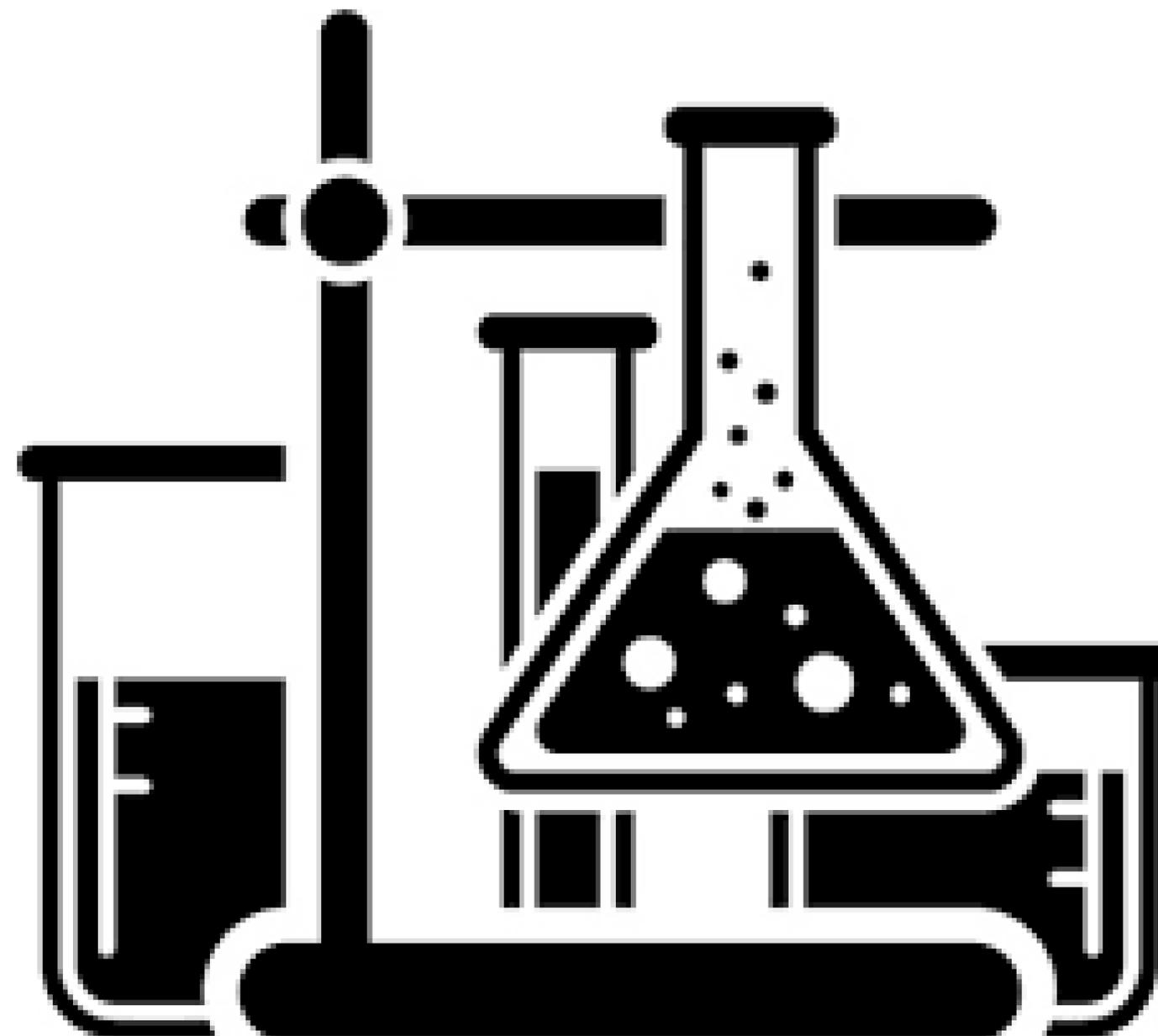


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## Component 3

Development of residue  
monitoring programs based on  
legislation developed under  
component 1 and 2



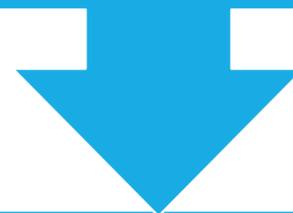
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## Activity 3.1: Proposal for a national monitoring plan compliant with EU provisions on pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in fruits and vegetables

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The Activity was completed in the 5th quarter



A proposal for a national monitoring plan compliant with EU provisions on pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in plant origin products, as well as the recommendations on adaptation and implementations of it were provided to and accepted by AFSA.



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## Activity 3.2: 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for preparation of monitoring plans familiar with EU legislation and procedures

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The Activity was completed in the 6th  
quarter

Two training sessions on preparation and application of the national monitoring plans for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in plant origin products were organized for 30 (22 female, 8 male) responsible staff of AFSA and the Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute (AFSI).

## Activity 3.3: Three new methods for analysis of pesticide residues in or on food and feed of plant origin developed and validated

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In total, three STE missions focused on elaboration of analytical methodologies and explanation of the analytical protocols for the determination of pesticides (covering both Baku and Lankaran laboratories of AFSI) were organized.

As a result:

- (i) Two analytical methods based on HPLC-MS/MS (glyphosate in plant origin products and aflatoxin M1 in food products) were successfully elaborated and implemented;
- (ii) Analytical method for determination of dithiocarbamates has been developed and fully optimized;
- (iii) Analytical method for determination of mycotoxins was elaborated and the sample preparation procedure was optimised by using different modifications of the QuEChERS procedure.

A full validation and practical application of these methods should be undertaken by AFSI experts.

## Activity 3.4: Competences and capacities of Central Food Safety Laboratory in Baku and Regional Laboratory in Lankaran upgraded with focus on ISO 17025 requirements, validation of methods, calibration of laboratory equipment, and proficiency testing

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1. Training session on “The analysis of pesticide residues and mycotoxins” was performed on 14-15 April 2021 with participation of 22 (9 male, 13 female) representatives of Baku and Regional laboratories of AFSI;
2. Seminar on “Validation and quality assurance measures for three diagnostic methods and the quality system requirements” was organized on 14 July 2022 with participation of 43 (30 female, 13 male) representatives of Baku and Regional laboratories of AFSI;
3. Analytical methods for identification of pesticide residues were explained and realized in both Baku and Lankaran laboratories;
4. Recommendations for further strengthening of the capacities of AFSI laboratories (both in terms of staff and equipment) were made during the meetings with the management of AFSI.

# Study tour – Improving capacities of the laboratory staff of AFSI



A study tour focused on building capacities of six staff members of AFSI was organized and hosted by the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”.





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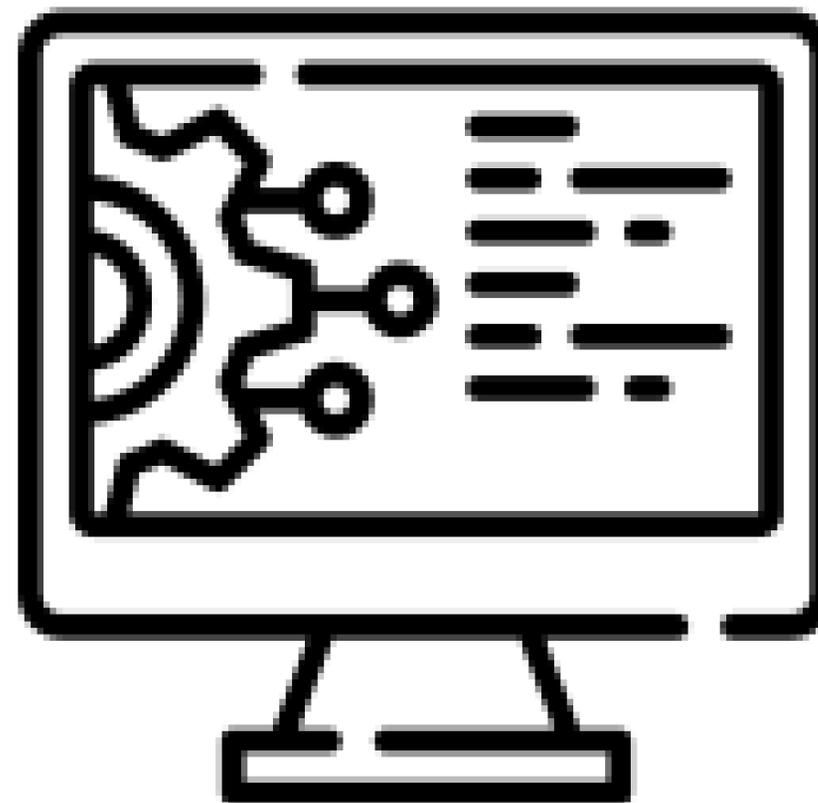




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# Component 4: IT based phytosanitary information system





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Activity 4.1: Proposal of the content and structure of IT data collection system to be used by AFSA relevant staff for collection of plant health data, PPPs marketing authorization and control of PPPs use including requirements for the hardware platform developed and approved by AFSA

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As a result, the content and structure of the requested updates for the Automated Food Safety Information System (AFSIS) were prepared by the Project, submitted to AFSA.

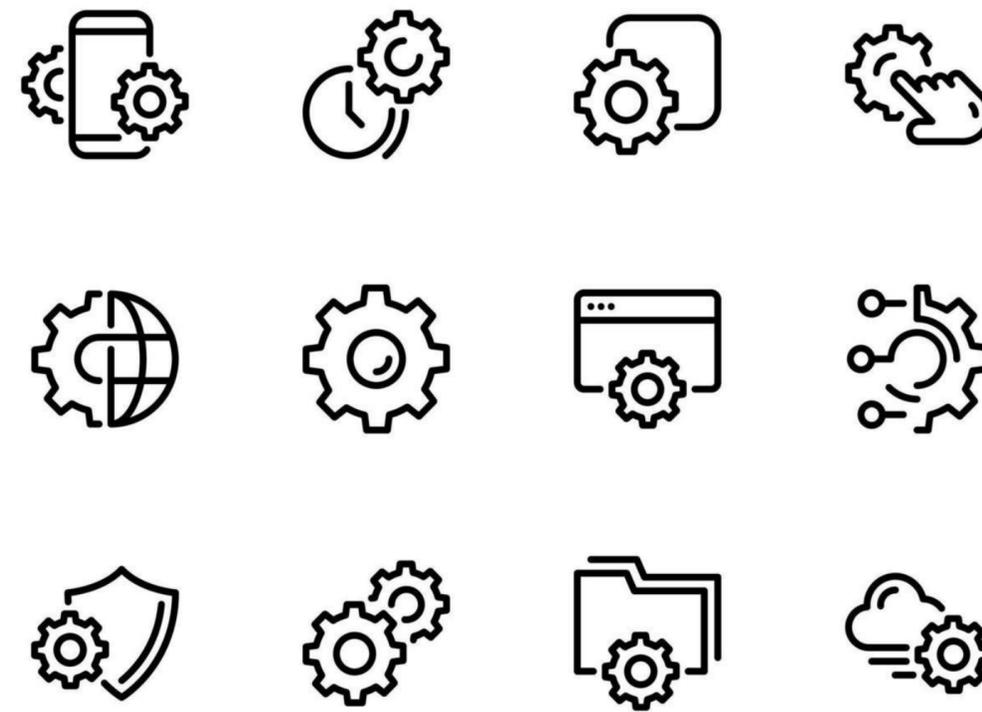


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## Activity 4.2: Functional specifications of IT data collection system drafted, approved by AFSA and presented to AFSA IT department for implementation

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Draft technical specifications for AFSIS were prepared and shared with AFSA in 2 languages





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