



Nacionalni inštitut  
za javno zdravje

# **Better cooperation and networking for safer food in Slovenia and Croatia**

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1st Croatian Food Safety Risk Assessment Conference  
6 - 7 October 2015, Osijek

# If Slovenia were your home instead of Croatia you would...

- be 39.35% less likely to be unemployed
- make 53.93% more money
- spend 2.1 times more money on health care
- use 70.47% more electricity
- consume 60.24% more oil
- be 31.18% less likely to die in infancy
- live 1.42 years longer
- be equally likely to have HIV/AIDS
- have 10,01% fewer babies

# WHO IS WHO ?

# Slovenia & Croatia



Two beautiful countries

# Slovenia & Croatia



Piran, Slovenia



Rovinj, Croatia

# Slovenia & Croatia



- Small countries (limited number of experts)
- Neighbouring countries
- Common history (understand each other)
- Similar system of public institutions
- Similar eating habits

# Slovenia & Croatia



- Members of EU
- Long-term and demanding EU accession procedures (meet the requirements for joining the EU)

# Slovenia & Croatia



- Trade between SI and CRO is increasing in recent years
- Increasing movement of foodstuffs, raw materials, people



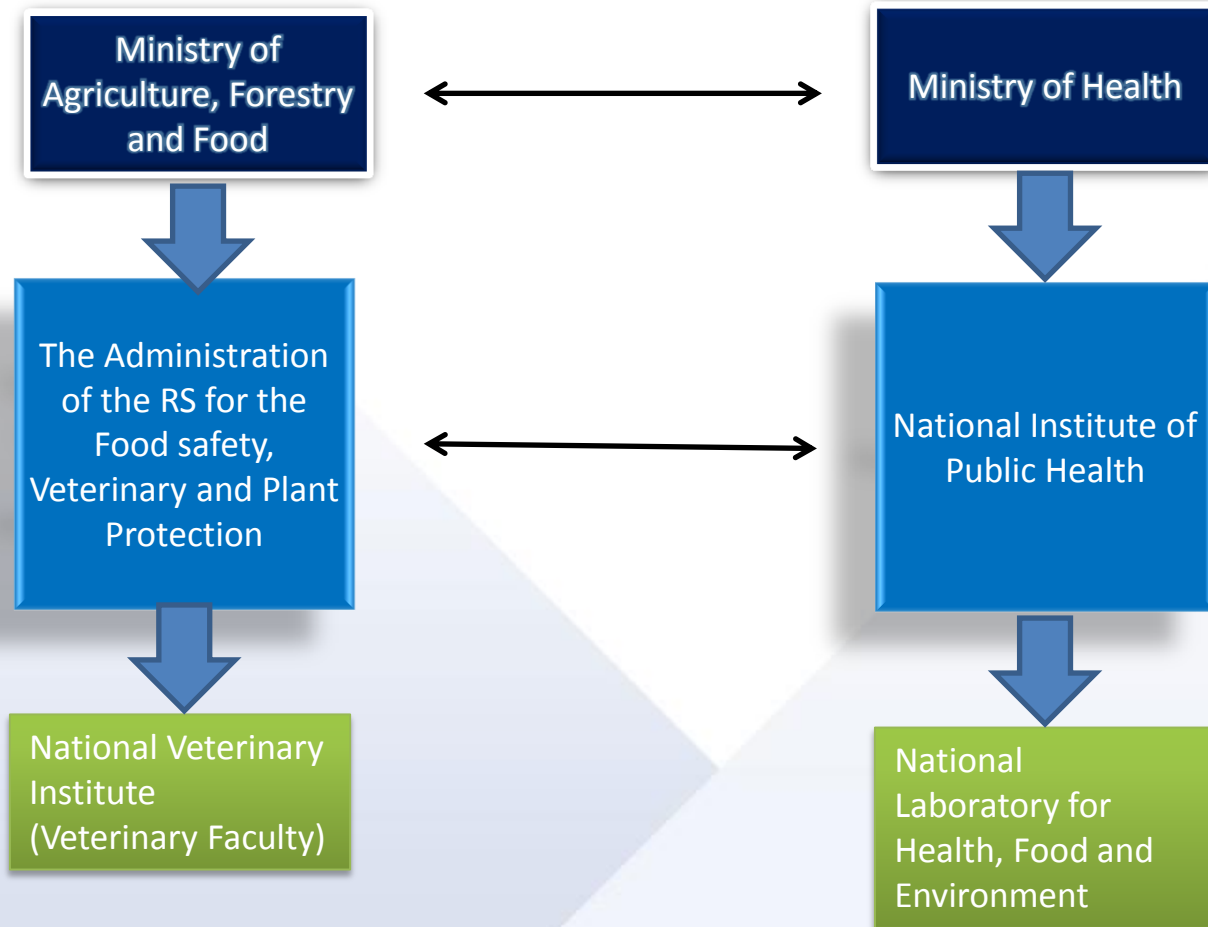
# Slovenia & Croatia



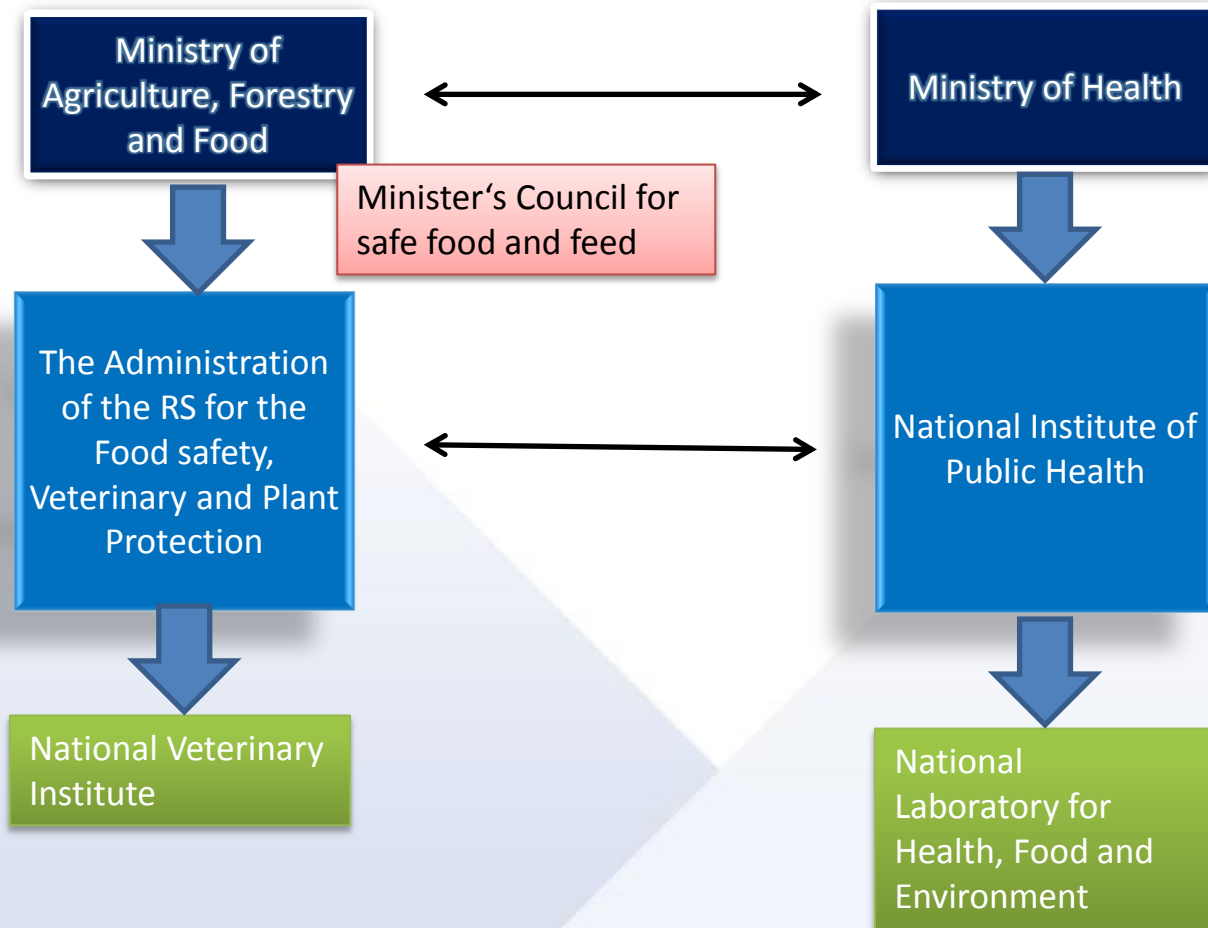
Similar food safety challenges

# HOW DO WE WORK IN SLOVENIA?

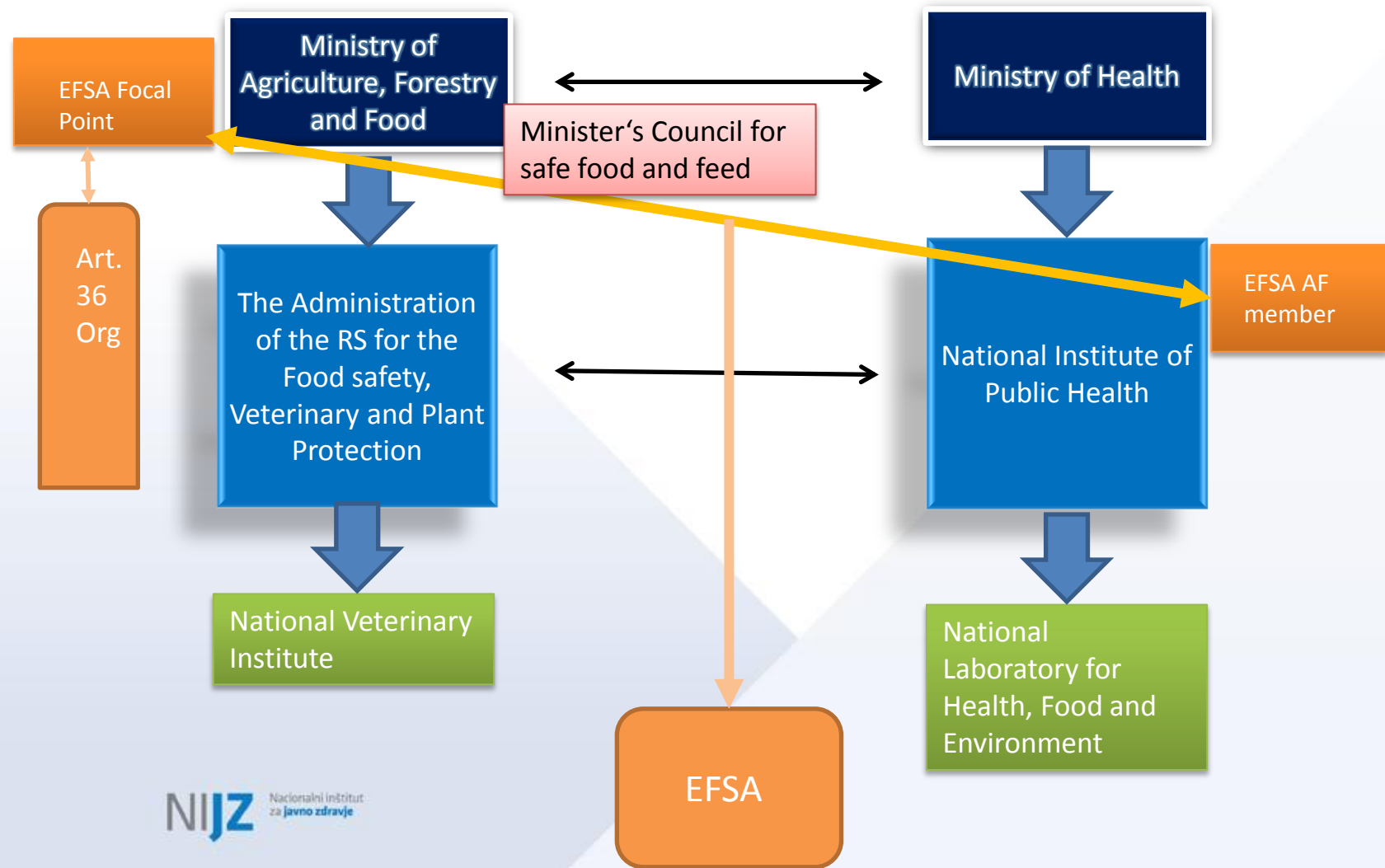
# Slovenia – responsibility in food safety



# Slovenia – responsibility in food safety



# Slovenia – responsibility in food safety



# NIJZ - National Institute of Public Health



- Central Slovenian institution for public health practice, research and education
- Epidemiology of communicable and non-communicable diseases, health promotion, health protection, health system research and national coordination of preventive programmes in primary health care
- Central statistical authority in health

# NIJZ - National Institute of Public Health



- Risk assessment body for food safety
- EFSA AF member
- EFSA Advisory group on risk Communication member
- EFSA Food Consumption data expert group member
- EFSA Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection member
- Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed member

# Cooperation with EFSA

Network	Organisation
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	/
Scientific Network on BSE/TSE	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection - FBO meeting	Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje
Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection - AMR meeting	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection - IT meeting	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Network on Chemical Occurrence Data	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin



# Cooperation with EFSA

Network	Organizacija
Network on food consumption data	<b>Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje</b>
Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN)	/
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Environmental Risk Assessment)	Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Food and Feed)	Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Pesticide Steering Committee	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin
Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed	<b>Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje</b>
Network on the harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies (not existing any more)	Uprava RS za varno hrano, veterinarstvo in varstvo rastlin / <b>Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje</b>

**WE ARE PROUD OF...**

# The Resolution on the National Programme on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Health 2015–2025

**RESOLUCIJA O NACIONALNEM  
PROGRAMU O PREHRANI IN  
TELESNI DEJAVNOSTI ZA  
ZDRAVJE  
2015 – 2025**



1

- First National Programme on Nutrition from 2005 to 2010;
- Food safety was one of the three pillars of the programme, which was the most successful and implemented;
- The National Programme on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Health 2015 – 2025 is based on the evaluation of the first NP;
- National priorities and objectives need to be defined so that available resources could be used in the most reasonable and efficient way.

# Food safety goals/activities

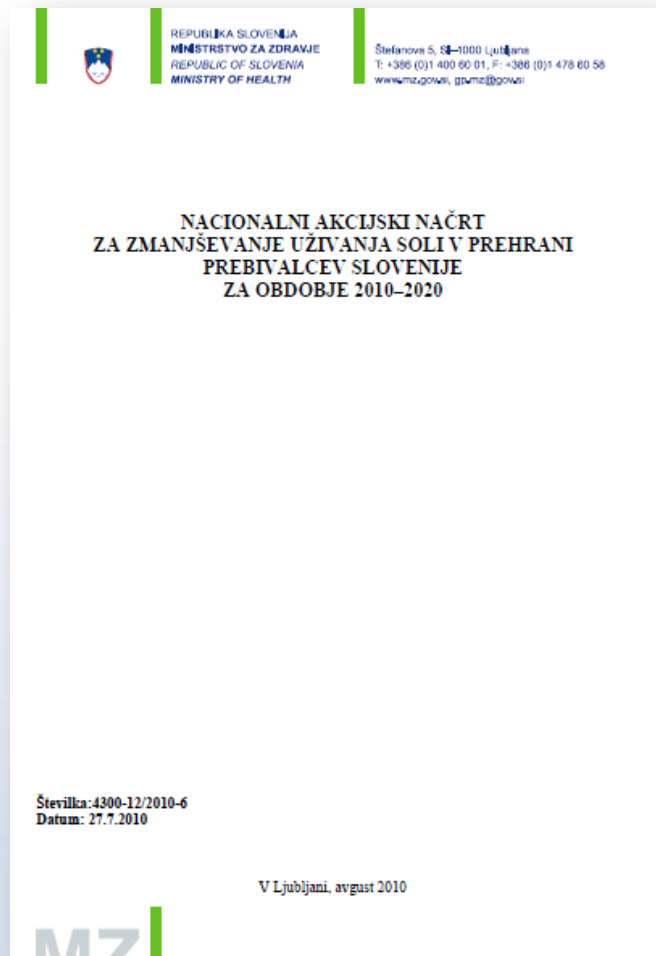
- „National Food Safety Database“ with all national collected data that will allow analysis, distribution and publication.
- Raising awareness, education and training (National Platform for Diet and Food)
- Interdisciplinary RESEARCH programmes

# School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

- Healthy and balanced diet is very important for optimal health, growth and intellectual development of children and adolescents.
- The school environment is where children spend an important part of the day, on most days of the week, and for this reason it is right they are given the opportunity to make healthy choices.
- The School Fruit Scheme is focused on the development of healthy eating habits by promoting food and vegetable consumption through the subsidisation of the free distribution of food and vegetables at school.



# National programme for reducing salt intake



- National action plan to decrease dietary salt consumption in Slovenian population in the 2010–2020 period

# The overall approach

**Reducing salt intake programme  
for the slovene population**



**Healthier food,  
food  
products  
and meals**



**Promoting  
health  
and  
consumer  
education**



**Better  
blood pressure  
monitoring  
in primary  
healthcare  
settings**



# Slovenian National Dietary Survey EU Menu Slovenija (2015-2018)



# Target populations

## Survey among children population – LOT 1

### Population aged 3 month to 3 years

- Infants/mother pairs (from 3 months to below 12 months)
- Toddlers (from one year to below 3 years)

## Survey among adult population – LOT 2

### Population aged 10 to 74 years old

- Adolescents (from 10 to 17 years)
- Adults (from 18 to 64 year)
- Elderly (from 65 to 74 years)

# Results of this study will contribute to

- Detailed and high quality food consumption data (g/day), harmonised with EFSA protocol;
- Data on energy and nutrient intake for evaluating the nutritional status of individual or population;
- Data suitable for exposure assessment within the risk assessment process

# Risk assessment – our customers

- Ministry of Health / Health Inspectorate
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (eg. Food additives, aromas, contaminants)
- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning (eg. Environmental indicators in Slovenia)



# Risk assessment publication

- [www.nijz.si](http://www.nijz.si) (Food safety - „Varnost živil“)
  - Nutrient risk assessment (nutrients, botanicals in food supplements) within Nutrivigilance system (Ministry of Health and Health Inspectorate)

Strokovno mnenje v povezavi z uživanjem prehranskih dopolnil, ki vsebujejo prašek iz korenine He Shou Wu (*Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb.)

1 *Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb.



<http://www.vdeltagoods.com/>

# COOPERATION

# Cooperation so far...

- Informal cooperation has always existed and it is growing in recent years
- 2005, Microbiological Risk Assessment Course (first joint meeting after becoming an independent countries) **FAO/ICD/WHO-EURO Basic Awareness Course on Microbiological Risk Assessment**

# Cooperation so far...

- Publication „Uvod u sigurnost hrane/Introduction in Food safety“ (basis for harmonized approach in food safety), Inštitut za sanitarno inženirstvo, Ljubljana, 2014



# Hand in hand – role of EFSA

- Working together to ensure food safety
- Scientific Cooperation/  
Roadmap activities
- Workshops /training





# CHALLENGES

# Cooperation in the future...

- Joint projects (EFSA, Horizon 2020...)
- Exchanging experiences and good practice  
(i.e. EU MENU sharing tools, (Slovenia 2015 – 2019))
- Joint Scientific conferences
- Links between national networking members (role of Focal points)



Scientific Conference on Diet and Exercise, Ljubljana, October 2016, First announcement

# Cooperation in the future...

- Risk communication
- Sharing expertise (e.g. Hemp, Botanicals)
- Bilateral meetings, study visits...
- Informal exchange of knowledge between experts



**LAST BUT NOT LEAST**

# HAH – 10 years

Congratulations!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**