

Croatia on the way to the EU – challenges and expectations regarding food safety and agricultural policy

Food Safety in Croatia upon accession to the EU

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Outline of the presentation

Introduction

1. Development of food safety system in the EU
2. Development of food safety system in Croatia
3. Evaluating progress and system of food safety/quality in Croatia
4. Challenges and expectations

We chose the EU...let's think globally!

Consumer policy / food safety / food trade

- ❖ Food safety is discussed in relation to:
 - consumer protection (**CONSUMER POLICY** ~ part of the EU's strategic goals)
 - freedom of movement / food trade / animal feed trade
- ❑ **COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)** main principles:
 - single market (free trade, common prices)
 - agricultural products from the EU are favoured over imported products
 - financial solidarity (sharing CAP-related expenses)

„It's not only the lowest prices of agricultural products, but also the establishment model to provide environmentally friendly production and sustainable development.”
(Paul Vandoren)



1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS IN THE EU

Development of legal framework and institutions of food safety in the EU

- from the WTO treaties (SPS, TBT - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade)



To:

- **White paper on food safety (2000)– separating risk assessment from risk management**
- **General Food Law (178/2002)** points out:
 - ✓ consumer protection policies
 - ✓ decisions based on independent scientific advice
 - ✓ founding of EFSA (independent authority) as a response to a drastic decline in consumer trust
- ❖ Most EU provisions are in accordance with the recommendations of Codex alimentarius



Development of the legal framework and institutions of food safety in the EU

-distribution of responsibilities

- **Food safety policy, drafting and enactment of laws, risk management**
- ❑ European Parliament: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety - dealing with food safety issues
- ❑ European Council: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- ❑ European Commission (proposing legislation, implementing decisions) Directorate General for Health and Consumers (Commissioner John Dalli): Public Health, Consumer Affairs

- **Risk assessment and risk communication**
- ❖ European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) – the pillar of the European food safety network
- ❖ Goals : establishment of risk assessment system, gathering and analysis of information, informing on risk assessment results

Food safety – SCIENCE AND DECISIONS

1. EC > RESEARCH & INNOVATION > HORIZON 2020



Main goals of the program:

- The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Excellent science Europe 2020
- Competitive Industries ~~ Public consultation
- Successful EU Research for Better Society

2. EFSA > SCIENCE STRATEGY 2012-2016



Main goals of the Strategy:

- scientific excellence, openness, transparency, independence and quick to act
- optimal use of European risk assessment capacities within the EU
- development and harmonization of risk assessment methodology and various approaches to risk assessment

► strengthening the scientific basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring

The role of EFSA and national agencies in enhancing consumer trust



- ❖ **Science and co-operation—
the keys to consumer safety and trust**
 - **EFSA keeps the contact with agencies from MS, pre-accession countries and third countries, in the interest of European consumers**
- ❖ **significant issues:**
 - **enhancement of consumer trust (public) towards the institutions dealing with food safety**
 - **establishing an efficient dialogue with the main stakeholders in the 'food chain'**
- **the result: a high level of trust of EU citizens in national and European food safety agencies (64%) as sources of information (Eurobarometer 2010)**
- **Establishment of HAH (Croatian Food Agency) is closely related to the Croatian accession to the EU – preparation for future work within EFSA**

Each member state selects their own model of institutional organization



BfR's Almanac (2011) – study of the European food safety system along with public authorities and their jurisdictions within the EU

- Special emphasis on risk assessment (among 6 neighboring countries, including Croatia)
- The Almanac encourages the establishment of responsibility and avoiding overlapping in the work of particular public authorities
- The institutionalization of agencies is an internal issue in each of the 27 member states.
- Some member states prefer conducting risk analysis (all 3 areas) within a public authority, while others prefer a functional / institutional task division among various bodies.
- **Their choice is based on the degree of independence / Europeanization of national agencies in relation to the existing regime.**
- **The choice is also based on tradition, size of the country, number of inhabitants, education – specific knowledge and functional demands of each member state.**

<http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/364/eu-food-safety-almanac.pdf>

<http://regulation.upf.edu/dublin-10-papers/2F3.pdf>

Institute of Political Science, **Regulation of food safety in the EU: Changing patterns of multi-level governance, 2010**

Classification of risk governance regimes (June, 2010)

source: <http://regulation.upf.edu/dublin-10-papers/2F3.pdf>

Bi-institutional, separate model	Structurally more integrated model	Fragmented (chaotic) model
EU Austria Denmark Finland France Germany Hungary *** Netherlands Poland Slovakia,	Belgium Greece Ireland Italy Latvia Portugal Spain Sweden UK	Cyprus** Czech Republic** Estonia* Lithuania* Slovenia** Romania Bulgaria* Hungary (until 2007) Malta Luxembourg

*first signs of separation; ** = countries with no agency

*** (until 2011)

2. DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN CROATIA

EU accession

Development of food safety system in Croatia

December 2002 - the Croatian Parliament accepted the Resolution on the Accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU

2003 – formal application for membership submitted

- ✓ first Food law in accordance with the EU Regulation 178/2002
- ✓ the harmonization of existing Croatian legislation with EU regulations begins
- ✓ reorganization of food safety system in Croatia

2004- Croatia receives full official candidate status

- ✓ the Stabilization and Association Agreement concluded and entered into force
- ✓ Croatian Food Agency (HAH) founded, as an independent authority

2006

- ✓ Screening – Chapter 12, Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy

2007

- ✓ Screening report (4 criteria in order to open negotiations)
- ✓ Food law (**NN 46/07, 84/08, 55/11**) + **strategy of transposition the acquis communautaire**

2008 - 2010

- ✓ Opening of negotiations – drafting of negotiating positions

2010

- ✓ Chapter 12 negotiations closed

2010. -

- ✓ further harmonization legislation/ establishing a system
- ✓ monitoring - continuous monitoring of progress

Alignment and development of food safety systems in Croatia

MAIN TOOL – good communication

**Necessity of close co-operation
between risk assessors and risk managers**

Science based

**Risk
Assessment**

*HAH

Policy based

**Risk
Management**

*Competent
Authority

**Risk
Communication**
MA, HAH, MH

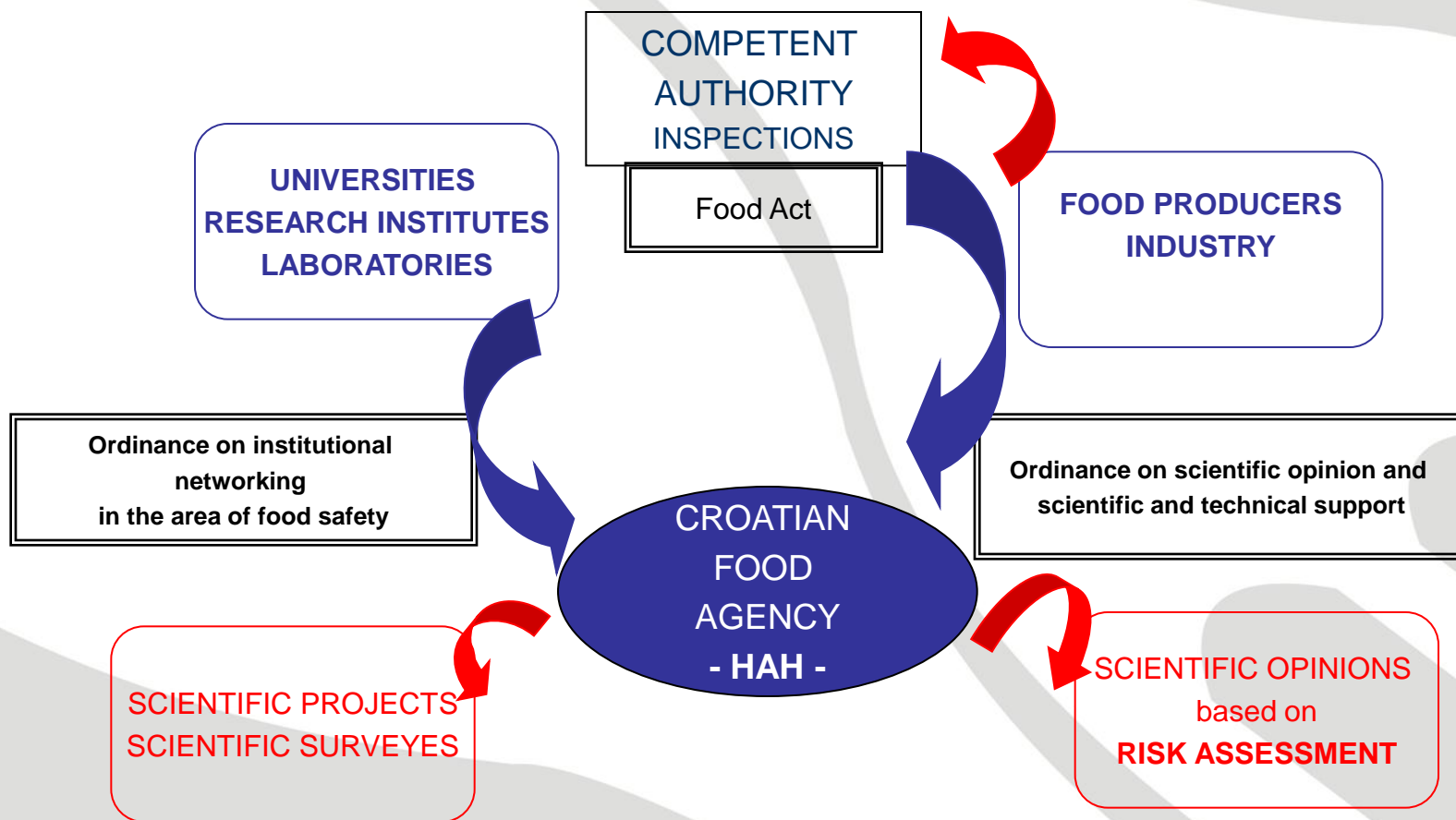
Interactive exchange of information and opinions through the process of risk analysis, related hazards and risks, factors relating to risk and risk perception among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, academia and other interested parties, including an explanation of the findings of risk assessment and risk based decisions.

Institutional organization of food safety systems in Croatia

— DIVISION OF AUTHORITY

GOVERNING BODY	POLICY AND LEGISLATURE	OFFICIAL CONTROL
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Directorate for food safety and phytosanitary policy Veterinary Directorate (veterinary inspection) Directorate for agriculture and food industry (agricultural inspection)	❖ THE CENTRAL STATE ADMINISTRATION BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH SAFETY, HYGIENE AND QUALITY OF FOOD AND ANIMAL FEED ❖ contact point with the European Commission ❖ Development / harmonization of regulations	❖ RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS ❖ Conducting official controls (veterinary, phytosanitary and agricultural inspection)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH Directorate for sanitary inspection	❖ Development / harmonization of regulations (health safety of food and food-related elements, GM food and animal feed)	❖ Health safety control, control of non-animal foods (labelling and sale)
STATE INSPECTORATE		❖ Control of quality and labelling in retail (economic inspection)
HAH SCIENTIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT		
AUTHORIZED LABORATORIES		❖ Analyze samples taken during official controls

HAH IN CROATIAN FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM



HARMONIZATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

- **Ordinance on scientific opinion and scientific and technical support** (O.J. 130/09)
 - Food Act, Art. 33
 - ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Art.29**
- **Ordinance on rapid alert system for food and feed** (O.J. 86/12)
 - Food Act, Art. 39
 - ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Art.35; 50**
- **Ordinance on institutional networking in the area of food safety** (O.J. 43/10)
 - Food Act, Art. 40
 - ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Art.36**
- **Ordinance on Accreditation of Official and Referent Laboratories for Food and Feed** (O.J. 86/10, 7/11)
 - Food Act, Art.81., 82.
 - ✓ **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Art.17**



Databases

- ❑ **Food consumption** 2011, 2012
- ❑ **Official controls:** 2006-2010 monthly reports, 2011 annual report
- ❑ **Monitorings:**
 - heavy metals 2008-2011
 - pesticide residues 2008-2011
 - GMO 2010,2011
 - mycotoxines 2010, 2011
- ❑ **Stakeholders:** data from industry - foods enriched with nutrients 2009,2010
- ❑ **HR RASFF** data
- ❑ Croatian Bureau of Statistics (consumption by household)
- ❑ Chamber of Commerce (growth, breeding, production)

❑ **Documentation**

Databases / documentation

1. Procedural

- Risk assessment (general doc, sorted by contaminants)
- Food consumption
- Scientific opinion
- Terminology

2. Scientific

- Hazard characterization
- Exposure assessment
- Risk characterization
- Risk assessment
- Environmental risk assessment

3. Quality assurance

- Internal ISO procedure
- Experts database, national institution databases, accredited laboratories
- Educations

4. HAH output (by years)

- Initial risk assessment
- Scientific opinion
- Scientific study results
- Presentations
- Other



Pre-accession programs

- ✓ **EFSA contributed to the food safety systems in Croatia, especially to HAH, through Pre-accession programs. It also fortified the role of HAH as a risk assessor.**



Here are the results of the last (almost) 7 years...

- **20 thematic workshops and seminars (452 participators)**
 - **185 scientific and technical meetings of various working groups and EFSA's scientific networks (100 participators)**
 - **2 study tours to EU member states (14 participators)**
 - **a formal visit of Turkish competent authorities to Croatian institutions (5 participators)**
- ❖ **Financial assistance programs prior to IPA also had a great impact; PHARE, CARDS, TAIEX, grant from the Netherlands , Safe fooder, and the World Bank (CAACP)**

3. EVALUATING PROGRESS AND FOOD SAFETY /QUALITY SYSTEM IN CROATIA SYSTEM AND CONSUMERS

Monitoring and evaluation of progress and quality of food safety system in Croatia

- **DG SANCO (FVO)** – the entire system, *annual report*
- **EFSA** – through the realization of the IPA pre-accession program (HAH)
- **Management Bord of HAH** (representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of health, Croatian veterinary institute, the academic community, Croatian Chamber of Economy, consumers)
- **independent certification bodies** (according to ISO standards) (e.g. HAH – Det Norske Veritas (DNV) – conducted annually; recertified every three years) – providing scientific and expert opinions regarding risk assessment of health safety of food and animal feed, creating and participating in the development of scientific projects and legislation, educational publications
- **Consumers – continuously !!**

Consumer in focus!



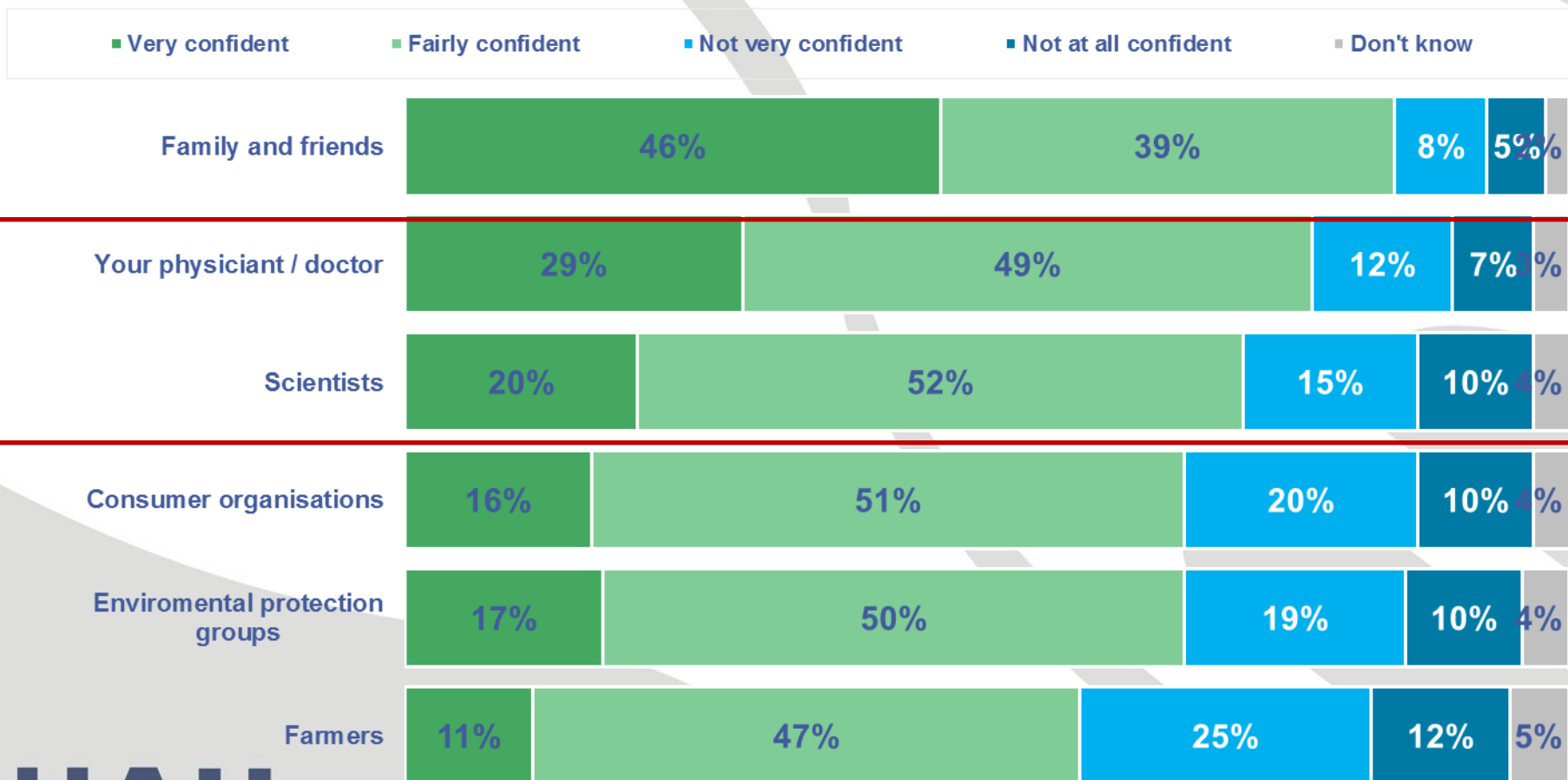
How?

EU: Special *Eurobarometer* 354 was carried out on a representative sample (by age, gender and region) of 26.691 individuals, 27 MS, through *face-to-face* interviews with consumers, in their native language, 9- 30June 2010 (first time in 2005)

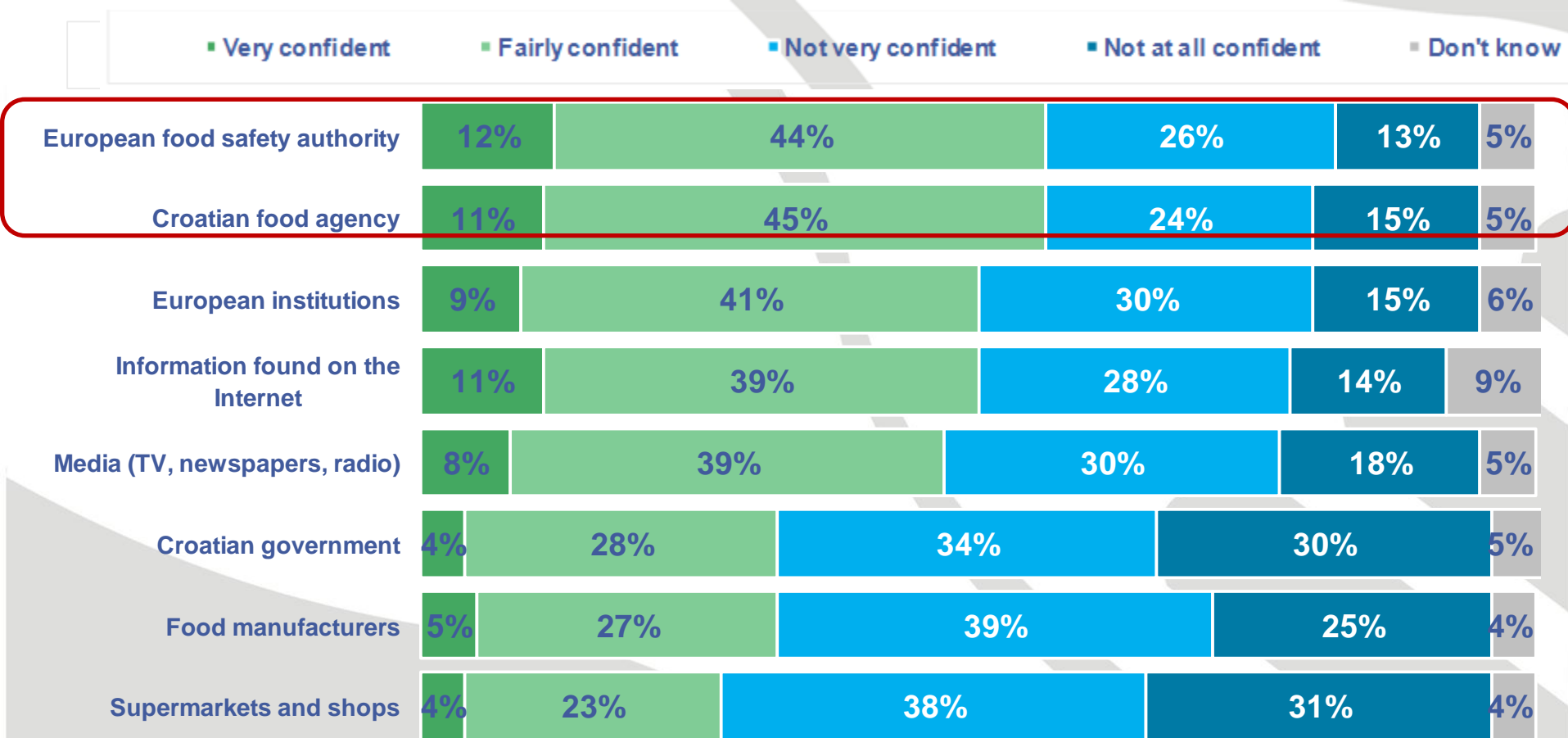
Croatia: same methodology, 1000 individuals, Ipsos Puls (Eurobarometer partner in CRO), 1 – 20 June 2011.

Highest confidence in personal contacts and in health professionals, scientist - a close second...

Suppose a serious food risk were found in a food you eat regularly such as fish, chicken or salad. How much confidence would you have in a following sources to give you accurate information about this risk?



HAH enjoys the same confidence as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) - around 56%



What we have done by now...



Croatia is part of the EU network...

- **Advisory Forum (HAH)**
- **Focal Points :**
 - **EC – DG SANCO (MA),**
 - **EFSA (HAH),**
 - **INFOSAN (CNIPH, HAH, MA)**
- Our scientists are part of **EFSA Expert Database** (18 validated)
- HAH participated in the FP7-KBBE-2011-05 Pan European Total Diet Study (TDS)



Challenges

- !! Increasing the number of scientists included in the European network
- !! Strengthening consumer trust in the food safety system
- !! developing national database



Future plans

➤ **utilizing the available EU funds**

To continue:

- **investing in science and scientific excellence**
- **improving the food safety system**
- **encouraging dialogue with stakeholders**



☺ *Thank you for your attention, see you next year in the European Union...*

