Design of a New Integrated Risk Analysis Approach for Foods

SAFE FOODS aims at improving the integration of risk analysis. This also fits into the EU-policy framework of strengthening confidence in food safety.

Why a new Risk Analysis Framework is needed:
- Integration of the outcomes of the different research tasks in the SAFE FOODS project
- Integration of human health aspects of foods with consumer preferences and values
- Active consumer participation in the risk analysis process
- Improved functional and structural risk management procedures
- Improved risk communication with consumers

SAFE FOODS Stakeholder Consultations:
- Collaboration with a wide range of professional stakeholders through a series of consultation events
- Optimisation of the SAFE FOODS risk analysis draft framework in a first large stakeholder consultation event in Athens in October 2005

Novel elements in the SAFE FOODS risk analysis framework:
- Identification and active involvement of stakeholders
- The evaluation of new methods for risk assessment of food safety issues (probabilistic risk assessment, genomics, profiling methods)
- Identification of Quality of Life parameters in the risk-benefit analysis of food and food production systems
- Inclusion of economical factors in the risk analysis process
- Criteria and strategies for risk-benefit analysis of novel foods and food production technologies

Inclusion of Quality of Life Criteria:
- Human physical and psychological health
- Animal welfare
- Sustainability
- Health benefits
- Social impact
- Economical impact (costs-benefits)

THE SAFE FOODS risk analysis framework builds on:
- Risk Assessment: Hazard identification, Hazard characterization, Exposure assessment, Risk characterization
- Risk Management: Assess policy alternatives, Select and implement appropriate options
- Risk Communication and Stakeholder Involvement: Interactive exchange of information and opinions

Segmented, Expert driven, Low public participation, Transparent?

(After WHO, 1998)