

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project “Strengthening Food Safety, Food Defence, and Fraud Measures In the South East and Eastern Europe (SEEE) Region” – P114

Key Expert 3 – Food safety defence and fraud countermeasures expert

Titre interne	KE3 – Technical Expert - P114
Type d’offre	Experts
Statut du candidat	Indépendant / Entrepreneur Individuel
Type de contrat	CPS
Thématique	Prévention, Réduction et adaptation aux risques naturels, accidentels et malveillants
Zone géographique de la mission	Europe continentale
Pays principal de la mission	NA
Date limite de réponse	26/04/2026
Titre externe	Key Expert - Food safety defence and fraud countermeasures – Project “Strengthening Food Safety, Food Defence, and Fraud Measures in the South East and Eastern Europe (SEEE) Region”

Important notice: This position is part of a proposal submitted in response to a European Union call for tenders. At this stage, the project is not yet confirmed and remains subject to contract award.

Assignment Description

Under the responsibility of Expertise France and the Project team Leader, the Food safety defence and fraud countermeasures Expert will contribute to strengthening technical and operational capacities related to food safety, food defence, and food fraud prevention in the SEEE region.

The Expert will play a key role in analysing existing technical systems and capacities (including laboratories, detection tools, and control mechanisms), identifying gaps, and proposing recommendations aligned with EU and international standards. He/she will contribute to the development of practical guidelines and operational tools to improve risk assessment, preparedness, and response to food safety incidents.

The Expert will be actively involved in the design and delivery of capacity-building activities, including the development of training programmes, train-the-trainer approaches, and the organisation of simulation and tabletop exercises on food safety crisis management, food defence, and food fraud scenarios.

In addition, the Expert will support the development of concrete response tools such as food defence and food fraud plans, and contribute to strengthening coordination among authorities, laboratories, and other stakeholders involved in food safety control.

Overall, the expert will help enhance the technical readiness and operational effectiveness

of partner countries in preventing, detecting, and responding to food safety risks and fraud incidents.

The Expert will be engaged throughout the entire project implementation period (indicatively 36 months), on a part-time, intermittent basis. The assignment shall be primarily home-based. Regular travel to the countries of implementation will be required throughout the duration of the project.

Project Description / Context

The project, titled “Strengthening Food Safety, Food Defence, and Food Fraud Measures in the South East and Eastern Europe (SEEE) Region”, aims to:

- Strengthen legal, technical, and operational capacities in food safety, food defence, and food fraud
- Enhance national and regional preparedness to prevent, detect, and respond to food-related risks
- Improve end-to-end food safety control systems across the supply chain
- Foster regional cooperation and information exchange mechanisms

The project is implemented under the **EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative**, addressing threats to public health, security, and regional stability.

It will be implemented and structured in two phases:

Phase 1: Analysis

- Legal frameworks
- Technical and operational capacities
- Regional cooperation mechanisms

Phase 2: Capacity building

- Training programmes (including Train-the-Trainers)
- Development of plans (Food Defence and Food Fraud)
- Table-top and simulation exercises

The project covers 10 Partner Countries in the SEEE region and involves a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- National authorities (food safety, veterinary, phytosanitary, customs, law enforcement)
- Laboratories and technical institutions
- Regional and international organisations
- Private sector actors in the agri-food chain

The project is characterised by:

- A multi-country and multi-stakeholder environment
- A high level of technical and institutional complexity
- Strong requirements in terms of coordination, communication, and flexibility

Qualifications and Skills

Qualifications and skills:

- Degree in CBRN, including food safety, veterinary science, food science, agriculture, or a related subject
- Experience in emergency preparedness
- Proven experience in food safety crisis management (e.g., identification of and response to food fraud) and drafting of the response plans and supporting simulation exercises in CBRN)
- Fluency in English is mandatory (both written and spoken) - Ability to speak one of the official languages of one or more SEE countries is an asset;
- Ability to monitor the progress of contract-related activities and reporting
- Ability to travel with a flexible work schedule
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills

General professional experience:

- At least 10-year relevant experience in one or more CBRN areas related to food safety and quality, such as official food supply chain control systems at the borders and State's interior, food control policy, governance, policy analysis, food control programme management, food safety risk analysis, food safety defence and fraud; and food control project activities.

Specific professional experience:

- Proven experience as a lecturer and trainer in the food safety, food defense, and fraud fields;
- Proven experience in emergency preparedness in the food safety, food defense, and fraud fields;
- Proven experience in setting up training modules, maybe also experience in creating e-learning modules;
- Working experience in the South East and Eastern Europe region would be considered an asset.

1. Application procedure:

All applications must include the following:

- CV ;
- Cover letter ;
- At least two professional references (including contact details);
- Proof of previous experience in similar assignments (e.g. list of projects or portfolio);
- Availability date.