



Executive Summary
Annual Report (2018) on the Hungarian MANCP

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Introduction

This document is an executive summary of the annual report of the Hungarian MANCP for 2018.

The Food Chain Safety Strategy determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety until 2022. The *Strategy* defines 4 strategic objectives and 11 programs to achieve the main goals. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy in the first place, in cooperation with the National Food Chain Safety Office (Nébih) and the county government offices.

With the establishment of Nébih the Hungarian Government adapted such a modern approach that is exemplary not only in Europe but most likely in the world as well. As a result of the persistent work carried out in the last 7 years, Nébih is now a well identifiable central authority. The awareness of Nébih – mostly the due to the active communication activities – is also confirmed by the results of consumer surveys. In several respects the Hungarian food chain safety supervision is at the forefront at EU level.

The efficiency of centralised controls carried out by Nébih is still over 90%. The co-workers of this unit (Directorate of Priority Cases) carried out 581 controls and withdraw circa 1 800 tons of products from the market in 2018. During the controls against unfair commercial practices about 120 million HUF fee was imposed as sectoral supervisory fee.

In 2018, African Swine Fever (ASF) was identified in Hungary in wild boar that constrained the market opportunities of the establishments exporting to the Far East. Because of this the NÉBIH's advisory and control system to support the success of third country exports of food business operators (FBO) producing food of animal origin has an even greater economic importance. In 2018, 73 FBOs indicated their intention to export products to 19 countries outside the EU, and 36 of them acquired the export privileges during the year.

In 2018, the project of quality driven mass catering was continued in order to improve the quality and safety of mass catering. By the end of 2018, 4 283 public kitchen where the preparation of meal is also performed, and further 3 052 catering establishment where the meal is only heated or kept at the right temperature, were rated based on publicly available and uniform food safety and quality aspects. The results of the ratings are published on the website of Nébih.

It is important to emphasise that the food chain players can achieve food safety only through joint efforts. Conscious consumers, responsible FBOs, credible authority and conscientious media – they all interact. In order to increase the knowledge of the public, Nébih operates several social awareness campaigns in different topics. The advocating role of Nébih is still evolving but there are remarkable results already. The purpose of Good Hygiene Practices is to collect the risk-proportionate, feasible measures based on rationality and industrial practice. The guidelines help the FBOs in the interpretation of regulations, in the establishment of rules directly linked to their activities and they can serve as reference in disputes.

We hope that this summary is detailed enough to represent the main observations of our official control work in the year 2018.

1 Overall effectiveness of controls

1.1 Results of main performance indicators

The Food Chain Safety Strategy, accepted in 2013, determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety for the next 10 years and it establishes the new, modern basis of the relationships between food chain safety stakeholders.

The main priority of the food chain control is the protection of human health, plant and animal health and national economy. The primal principle of control activities is minimizing food chain risk by using human resources in the most efficient and effective way. The main purpose of the product sampling and control system is the improvement of the quality of life of the society and the reduction of potential economic damages along with the Strategy.

The majority of controls were carried out on risk basis, however in several periods, depending on the activity of FBOs and consumers' habits, special controls were carried out as well. In the course of risk-based planning we differentiate 2 types of control: the intertwined system of the control of establishments (procedure control) and product samplings (product control).

The number of controls slightly increased compared to the previous year. Trend analysis of the effectiveness of controls is presented below by sectors.

Food chain supervision fee

In 2018 the amount of 13.56 billion HUF was collected as supervision fee and out of that 10%, 1.36 billion HUF could be allocated for development by NÉBIH.

Partners not having supervision fee declaration were controlled also in 2018, and during thematic controls milk and milk product distributors were investigated. A total of 304 investigations were initiated. Some of the partners misinterpreted the legislation when calculating the supervision fee and applied the discount for small businesses, thus completed their declaration and paying obligations inadequately. As a result of the controls the inspectors uncovered 505 million HUF as supervision fee discrepancy and imposed about 23.6 million HUF as fine, surcharge and procedural costs.

Soil conservation

In 2018 338 non-compliances were identified during 2 082 controls on soil conservation. The number of obligations and sanctions was 175 and 133, respectively.

774 lots of yield enhancing substances and EC fertilizers were inspected during 632 on-site visits and in 46 cases infringements were found. Altogether 54 non-compliances were detected during the controls. 262 samples were investigated in laboratory and in 39 cases non-compliances were identified.

The amount of 18 million HUF fine was imposed thereof the amount of more than 8.5 million HUF was soil conservational fine.

Plant health

There are altogether 309 plant health control tasks: investigations are carried out in 15 types of objects (including closed cultivation plants, open-air crops, forests, parks, warehouses,

crossing points), for 11 cultures (e.g. open-air, grapes, vegetables, ornamentals, forestry), for 15 activities (e.g. production of goods, production of propagating materials, distribution, wood processing), and in relation to 75 pests.

The Flavescence dorée disease in grapes did not spread notably in 2018. The disease occurred sporadically in the western and middle parts of the country.

In 2018 19 715 plant health and pest detection investigations were conducted. In relation to imports 4 962 lots were investigated and in 87 cases the consignment failed. The non-compliant items were rejected or destroyed. In relation to export 16 587 lots were investigated, non-compliance was not detected.

In summary, regarding the whole sector, the number of non-compliances detected during plant health controls increased, and the number of businesses closed decreased compared to last year. In 2018 no warning or plant health fine were imposed.

Plant protection

In 2018 the required 3600 controls were performed. Out of them 2 698 official controls were carried out at producers and further controls were implemented in relation to cross compliance. Non-compliances were identified in 56 cases.

303 on-site investigations related to 312 complaints were carried out. 59 infringements were revealed and the amount of 2.6 million HUF fine was imposed. Most infringements were related to bee mortality (13 cases) and drifting of plant protection products (43 cases).

In PPPs producing and packaging establishments 10 controls were carried out and no infringement was discovered.

1 481 out of the 1 758 PPP retailers and wholesalers were investigated in 2018. A total of 1 377 controls were carried out, 25 infringements were identified and the amount of 2.4 million HUF plant protection fine was imposed.

Altogether 108 322 PPP lots, including the visual investigation of 41 688 PPP lots were carried out and the amount of 55 million HUF plant protection fine was imposed.

In 2018 in the frame of controls on PPP residues, 2 267 official samples of fresh fruit, vegetables and grain were analysed. 52.2% of the official samples contained PPP residues at detectable level, but none of them exceeded the maximum residue levels. The proportion of 0.8% of the samples (18 products: apple, cucumber, walnut, lettuce, kohlrabi, kale, tomato, strawberry) the amount of residues exceeded the maximum residue level and 0.7% of the samples, 18 products of national origin contained PPP residues that were non-authorized in that particular crop in Hungary, thus they were disapproved. An additional 303 samples were analysed in laboratory in relation to harmful events caused by plant protection actions.

Regarding ragweed control activity 3 887 ragweed contaminated spots were discovered in the periphery in 2018. In 9 counties aerial surveillance were carried out with helicopters. The size of controlled areas was bigger than in 2017. A total of 4 025 fines were imposed at the amount of more that 200 million HUF.

Control of products of plant origin

12 632 lots were inspected during the control of fresh fruits and vegetables. 1 025 lots were disapproved and the total amount of 36 million HUF fine was imposed. The proportion of non-compliances (8.1%) is very similar as in the previous year. 93 lots (93 tons) were destroyed, in most cases because of the infringement of traceability or unknown origin.

During the enhanced official controls on imports of certain food products of non-animal origin 5 861 items were inspected and 1 non-compliant batch was identified.

Control of plant propagation materials

In 2018 981 screenings were carried out for GMOs and 11 lots of seed were identified to be positive. As in the previous years, GMO contaminated seed lots marked out for trade were not planted in 2018.

Controls related to vegetable planting materials (113), seed potato (36), fruit (545), forest (89) and grapevine propagation materials (871) at producers and retailers did not reveal any serious infringements.

Veterinary medicinal products

20 controls were carried out in relation to the production of veterinary medicinal products and the amount of 1.2 million HUF fine was imposed. 28 controls were implemented at the wholesalers and approximately 1.2 million HUF fine was imposed. Altogether (controls on the production and trade of VMP) 25 infringements were identified, 13 warnings and 12 sanctions were imposed, and in 9 cases businesses were also closed.

1 549 lots were inspected in 2018. Laboratory examination of 497 lots was carried out.

The authority received 14 notifications through the rapid alert system of the EU. The products concerned (quality defects or fraud) were not traded in Hungary, thus action was not taken either. Hungary did not initiate any RAS notification in 2018.

Animal health and welfare

In 2018 19 787 controls were carried out in relation to animal welfare, 142 non-compliances were detected and 15.5 million HUF fines were imposed.

In the frame of the annual disease control plan, risk-based controls were carried out on 16 215 holdings. During the controls 111 non-compliances were found, 15 warnings were issued and in 7 cases fine was imposed.

In 2018 the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratories of NÉBIH received 1 075 322 samples and 2 337 798 examinations were carried out.

Hungary is still officially free of *Brucella melitensis* and classical swine fever. No bluetongue outbreaks were identified in Hungary in 2018. If the monitoring results of the coming years will be satisfactory, Hungary can get back its officially free status of bluetongue in January 2021, at the earliest.

Bovine tuberculosis was detected in 2 bovine populations in 2018, but despite these cases Hungary still holds its official free status of bovine tuberculosis.

99.9% of Hungary's bovine populations are free of bovine brucellosis, No disease outbreak was identified in 2018.

Lumpy skin disease has not reached Hungary in 2018.

Classical scrapie and bovine BSE were not identified in any cases, thus Hungary is still among the negligible BSE risk countries. In 2018 atypical scrapie was identified in 13 cases.

In 2018 the PRRS eradication program was continued and since November 2017 the whole territory of the country counts as area declared for eradication. As a result 120 districts out of the 174 (69%) earned the PRRS-free status by 31 of December 2018. Further 17 districts have met the criteria of the PRRS-free status, thus waiting for their approval. Altogether 79% of the districts have met the official requirements of the PRRS-free status. Each small pig populations (more than 22.000 sows) are also free of PRRS in Hungary.

In April 2018 African swine fever (ASF) was detected in Hungary in wild boars. In the frame of ASF surveillance programme the virological testing (PCR) of 31 179 wild boars were performed, whereof 214 were found to be positive. In the frame of the enhanced passive surveillance programme 18 606 PCR tests of domestic pigs were carried out in the Nébih's laboratories, all of them with negative results.

On the common border with Ukraine disease control measures were applied by the authority continuously to reduce the risk of introducing African swine fever to Hungary, including the disinfection of incoming vehicles and the confiscation and sampling of non-commercial foods of animal origin from personal luggage.

In 2018 there was no avian influenza epidemic in Hungary.

Food and feed safety

In 2018 53 184 establishment controls were carried out in the frame of food chain safety supervision. The total amount of 535.2 million HUF fines was imposed in 2 846 cases. During the implementation of the monitoring plan and other official controls 116 038 lots were investigated whereof 8 671 lots were withdrawn.

The total number of 5 261 lots of feeding staff was investigated. Infringements were identified in case of 198 lots. During 893 controls 29 warnings were issued. The overall amount of 2.9 million HUF fine was imposed in 16 cases. One business was closed.

Suspected cases of food-borne diseases were reported in 83 cases with 2 616 affected consumers. According to the results 43 cases were related to foodstuff and 1 654 consumers were affected, whereof 73 consumers were hospitalized, none of them died. Compared to 2017, both the number of food-borne events and the number of affected consumers increased. The proportion of events occurring in mass catering decreased, but the number of mass events increased.

In 2018 the project of "Quality driven mass catering" was continued in order to improve the quality and safety of mass catering. By the end of 2018 4 283 public catering establishments (where the preparation of meal is also performed), and further 3 052 establishment (where the meal is only heated or kept at the right temperature) were rated based on uniform and publicly available food safety and quality aspects.

Via the RASFF system 162 notifications were received in 2018 and out of that 146 were related to foodstuffs, 10 were related to feedstuffs and 6 were related to food contact

materials. Hungary initiated notifications in 28 cases, out of them there were 16 alerts, 10 information and 2 border-rejections. Hungary was addressed by other Member States in 2 cases and initiated bilateral requests in 1 case.

Via the AAC system Hungary was involved in 70 notifications in relation to administrative assistance and in 17 notifications regarding counterfeiting issues in 2018. Out of these in 20 cases Hungary initiated the notifications. The reasons of non-compliances were: labelling infringements in 27 cases, microbiological non-compliances in 15 cases, non-authorized substances, illegal production and traceability issues in 10-10 cases, false documents in 4 cases, illegal distribution in 3 cases, and quality problems in 2 cases. In 6 cases legal assistance was also provided.

Winery products and other alcoholic drinks

Nébih – together with the county government offices – performed 2 892 inspections of winery products and other alcoholic drinks and 2 437 official samples were collected. Altogether 17 529 laboratory samples were investigated.

According to the results of laboratory tests 539 unissued products were non-compliant (3.6%) and public proceedings were initiated in case of 137 issued winery and 21 other alcoholic drinks lots. During the controls altogether 158 lots were non-compliant.

The overall amount of 3.3 million HUF administrative fees was imposed as examination and procedural costs and further 64.6 million HUF fine was imposed. Because of producing counterfeited wine, serious food-hygiene deficiencies identified during controls, storing of non-authorized materials for wine production and other infringements, the authority ordered the temporary closing of 3 plants.

Priority Cases

581 inspections were carried out by the co-workers of Nébih in 2018, whereof 218 inspections identified non-compliances and entailed public proceedings. The amount of 154 million HUF fine, 14.4 million HUF procedural costs and 22.4 million HUF supervision fee discrepancy were imposed during the initiated procedures that affected 2 448 live animals and 1 789 tons of foods were withdrawn from the market. The efficiency of the centralised controls is still above 90%.

Control activities of livestock holdings continued in 2018. In 22 holdings, 2 448 animals were subject to traffic restrictions, either because the holdings or the movements of animals were not reported.

The control activities on the retail of PPPs also continued in 2018.

As new activity, controls of dietary supplements were carried out, primarily focusing on potency-enhancing, fat burner, etc. products. Non-authorized and active substances were identified in 5 products. In several cases traceability and labelling infringements were found, that resulted in the withdrawal and recall of products worth 668 million HUF and also the imposition of fees worth several million HUF.

The production and sales of so-called matured bovine meat and meat products, and the sales of “mangalica” products were also controlled.

In 2018 the control of traceability requirements were investigated by small producers in 3 cases.

In 2018, a non-authorised, illegal slaughtering of cattle was unveiled, that was carried out in a garage. Furthermore, unlabelled, non-traceable and expired products were withdrawn from the market, altogether in quantities of one ton.

Organic production

The control of organic production, processing and distribution and the issuance of certifications are carried out by two certifying bodies in Hungary, namely Biokontroll Hungária Nonprofit Kft. and Hungária Öko Garancia Kft.

In 2018 5 268 inspections were carried out during the control of organic production and 900 controls were planned based on risk analysis. The number of sanctions was 348.

2 Key data on controls

2.1 Significant developments in relation to main priorities

The *Food Chain Safety Strategy* that was accepted in 2013 by the Government decree 1703/2013 determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety for the next ten years. There are two base concepts in the strategy: in the first one, the government will be responsible for organizing and coordinating the knowledge management in the food chain, and in the other one, we have to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the government's traditional law enforcement function. The *Strategy* defines 4 strategic objectives and 11 programs to achieve the main goals.

The National Food Chain Safety Office has a substantial role in the implementation of the above detailed goals. The objectives of the Strategy and the NÉBIH can only be achieved by the systematic share of information within the organization, as well as by the unambiguous definition of tasks and responsibilities. Goals that are going far beyond the daily tasks related to administration can be fulfilled effectively in the frame of projects.

The first projects connected to strategic goals were initiated in 2014, but their implementation does not exclude the launching and implementation of new projects in the future. In 2018 there were no significant changes regarding the main priorities of the strategy.

2.2 Significant developments in relation to risk assessment criteria

Reconstruction of the risk assessment system is closely related to the product sampling and control system that has a main goal of improvement of the quality of life of the society and the reduction of potential economic damages along with the Strategy. Besides, the improvement of the acceptance of NÉBIH by consumers and the reduction risks related to policy of occur as separate objectives. Consequently, both short and long term objectives can be identified. The two target systems cannot be merged, they have to be operated separately to enhance each.

Activities related to the reconstruction of the risk assessment system were continued in 2018. The most important one is the 'Intelligent Food Chain Safety Analysis System' (INTEL) project that aims for the further development of the existing IT systems. As part of the project a new data warehouse (DWH) will be developed as well. The DWH collects data from the IT systems of the different sectors and enables the combined analysis of these data, and therefore more data can be included in the risk assessment system.

In July 2016 the Centralized Product Sampling Project (CPSP) was launched in NÉBIH. To support the project a new electronic sampling system was developed that enables to change from paper-based to electronic sampling. As a result, data can get to the (online) database and via internet can be reached, searched and analysed immediately, administration is reduced, and the hand-written reports are replaced by printed, readable reports.

In the 2018 monitoring year the CPSP continued. The samplings of more than 20.000 products were planned, whereof 95% were also performed. 150 non-compliant products were found. The highest levels of non-compliances were identified in products taken in the frame of fight against honey counterfeiting, microbiological and quality sampling plans. In 4 cases the products were also reported in RASFF.

2.3 Main trends in intensity and type of controls

Controls are mostly carried out on risk basis, but the authority also has performed special controls in certain periods of the year, characterized by the FBO activities and food consumption trends.

The overall number of controls slightly increased compared to the previous year. Data of controls compared to the previous years' results are shown in [Annex 1](#).

3 Trend analysis of non-compliance

3.1 Statement of overall trends in compliance

The number and proportion of non-compliances decreased compared to the previous years' (in 2017 5.5%, in 2018 4.8%). The number of lots investigated on-site did not change, while the number of non-compliances related to on-site investigations, and the rate of non-compliances slightly increased (in 2017 4.5%, in 2018 4.9%).

The number of laboratory tests and the number of detected non-compliances have not changed notably. In the case of laboratory tests, product lots or samples are tested for different contaminants thus the number of lots investigated in laboratory cannot be summarized.

3.2 Main types of non-compliance

Non-compliances detected by the authority are mostly traceability and general hygiene shortcomings. Infringements regarding expired goods (both use-by and best before dates), as well as the usage of unlabelled commodities or ingredients of unknown origin in high quantities are still the most frequent reasons of non-compliance among food producers.

Product controls and analyses showed microbiological, organoleptical and quality (analytical problems including food additives) failures and non-compliances in the first place.

3.3 Identified causes

The main reasons of non-compliance did not change significantly compared to 2017. As in previous years, traceability and hygienic shortcomings were identified most frequently. Main cause of a high number of warnings is still inappropriate administrative discipline and documentary shortages of FBOs.

Hygienic and quality management shortcomings, e.g. lack of cleaning, inadequate storing conditions, noncompliant HACCP systems or bad personal hygiene, are also usual in several sectors. In fewer cases, lack of required licenses or identifiers can be also a cause for non-compliance.

In mass catering most quality problems are due to the usage of unfit ingredients, shortcomings in kitchen technology and the long food delivery times between the places of cooking and serving.

It is difficult to analyse control results covering the whole food chain since the legal background of controls, the costs of FBOs and their law-abiding behaviour, as well as the cooperation with authorities differ from sector to sector. Thus trend analysis of non-compliances is presented below by action fields of the NÉBIH.

Soil conservation

In 2018 the number of soil conservational inspections decreased compared to the previous year. The number of inspections connecting to yield enhancing substances and EC fertilizers also decreased remarkably. The number and proportion of non-compliances decreased compared to the previous year.

It can be concluded that regarding the whole sector in 2018 the number and proportion of warnings decreased, however, the number of fines did not change compared to 2017.

The amount of fines imposed decreased. (23 million HUF fine was imposed in 2017 and 18 million HUF fine was imposed in 2018).

Plant health

The number of inspections related to exported products did not change compared to 2017, while the number of inspections related to imported products slightly increased. The number of inspections conducted at retailers and wholesalers is somewhat less than in 2017.

The number of non-compliances related to imports increased, therefore more lots were rejected. On the other hand, no warnings or fines were issued in 2018. The number of businesses closed did not change compared to 2017. During the export inspections non-compliances were not detected.

The number of lots inspected on-site increased, but the number of laboratory diagnostic tests slightly decreased. The amount of infected samples greatly increased mostly due to the producers of wood propagation materials compared to last year's results.

Plant protection

The number of inspections carried out at producers increased and the number of related infringements decreased. The number of warnings and fines imposed did not change compared to the previous year, but less businesses were closed.

The number of inspections initiated by complaints increased, the number of non-compliances and warnings did not change, but the amount of plant protection fines have slightly decreased compared to 2017.

PPP producer and packaging plants complied with legal requirements in both years since only a few infringements were discovered.

The number of infringements and warnings related to controls of PPP distributors decreased. Although the number of fines imposed slightly increased, the total amount of fines is significantly less than in 2017 (in 2017: 9.1 million HUF, in 2018: 2.4 million HUF).

In 2018 the number of visual controls of PPPs and the number of noncompliant lots decreased.

Based on the results of the inspections of ragweed areas, the proportion of violations did not change, however, the number and the amount of plant protection fines have increased remarkably compared to 2017.

Controls of products of plant origin

The number of lots investigated during fruit and vegetable controls has been at same level for years, but it slightly increased compared to 2017. In case of the lots inspected on-site the number of non-compliant lots reduced greatly compared to 2017. Although the number of warnings and fines did not change, the amount of fines decreased compared to the previous year (in 2017 47 million HUF, in 2018 37 million HUF).

In 2018 infringements were mainly related to products of unknown origin and the violation of traceability.

Control of plant propagation materials

The number of controls related to seed corns and the number of lots investigated in laboratory were slightly less than in the previous year. However, during controls more infringements were detected than in 2017.

Regarding the whole sector it can be concluded that generally the actors still show law-abiding behaviour.

Veterinary medicinal products

In 2018 the number of controls related to production and distribution of VMPs did not change compared to 2017. However, the rate of non-compliances related to production and distribution of VMPs slightly increased in 2018.

The proportion of warnings did not change, but the number and amount of fines slightly increased. In 2018 fewer businesses were restricted than in 2017.

Animal health and welfare

The rate of infringements decreased, but the proportion of warnings and fines related to animal welfare did not change compared to 2017. The amount of fines imposed reduced than in 2017.

The number of animal health controls, the proportion of related non-compliances and sanctions are similar than in the previous years. An increase can be detected in the number of controls related to the export of live animals.

The number of controls related to animal by-products shows a greater increase, but the number of related non-compliances and warnings did not change notably compared to the previous year.

Food and feed safety

The number of food chain safety inspections and the number of infringements slightly decreased compared to 2017. The number of warnings did not change. Although the number of fines imposed decreased notably compared to 2017, the total amount of fines did not change. In 2018 significantly fewer businesses were closed than in the previous year. However, the disapproval rate of food lots increased (in 2017: 5.3%, in 2018: 7.5%).

The most common non-compliances related to establishment controls were hygienic or traceability shortcomings.

According to product controls the most common infringement was the trade of expired goods (regarding both use-by and best before dates) just as in 2017. It was followed by traceability and labelling failures.

Product controls and analyses showed organoleptical failures in the first place, followed by microbiological and quality failures (analytical problems including food additives). Non-compliances related to food safety requirements were identified as well (e.g. chemical contaminants, residues of VMPs, etc.), however the number of these infringements were much lower.

The number and rate of non-compliances revealed during establishment controls related to feedstuffs were smaller compared to previous year. The number of fines was less than halves of the 2017 value, and the amount of fines decreased even more remarkably. The non-compliances revealed by laboratory examinations of feedstuffs were typically quality issues. The rate of non-compliances decreased regarding both the lots investigated on-site (in 2017: 9.1%, in 2018: 7.3%) and in case of laboratory investigations (in 2017: 2.9%, in 2018: 1.5%).

Winery products and other alcoholic drinks

2 437 samples were taken during the inspection of winery products and other alcoholic drinks, that shows a slight decrease compared to 2017. The disapproval rate shows a continuous decrease compared to previous years (in 2016: 12.9%, in 2017: 7.7%, in 2018: 6.5%). The total number of samples investigated shows a 2.5% increase compared to 2017.

The number of issued licenses continuously increases since 2012, in 2018 by 4.3% compared to the previous year.

The number of licence related disapproves affected 3.6% of the related samples that shows a 0.9% point reduction compared to 2017.

Priority Cases

The number of inspections stayed at the same level as in 2017; and the rate of infringements also did not change notably. The amount of fines imposed decreased significantly compared to 2017. On the other hand, the number of businesses closed doubled compared to the previous year.

The most common non-compliances were still shortcomings related to traceability and food-hygiene as in the previous years.

Food producing FBOs often use expired commodities or high quantity of substances of unmarked, unknown origin.

Investigations of traceability at small producers were carried out in several cases. According to these investigations it can be concluded that small producers often exceed the limitations of the producing volume and overstep the territorial marketing limits.

Organic production

According to the control results of Biokontroll Hungária Nonprofit Kft. the number of infringements decreased by one third compared to the previous years. In case of agricultural producers the most common infringements were shortages in documentation that can influence the certification and violation of the rules of parallel farming.

In the case of controls carried out by Hungária Öko Garancia Kft. number of sanctions did not change compared to 2017. The most frequent sanctions were requests for replacement of documents.

4 Enforcement trends: Actions taken in cases of non-compliance

Data compared to them of the previous years are presented in [Annex 2](#). Generally, in 2018 the number of warnings and businesses closed decreased, but the number of fines imposed increased.

5 The National Audit System

5.1 Number of audits and sectors covered

Nébih's responsibilities are to direct, control and supervise the implementation of the official control tasks in relation to its competencies at the county and district government offices.

Furthermore, Nébih is responsible for the certification, control and supervision of the certifying bodies for organic production, for the supervision of the food chain safety control bodies and the contributing agricultural administration bodies, and for auditing the Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Centrum Nonprofit Kft.

Supervision is carried out in forms of technical verifications/audits and independent internal audits. Since January 1st 2016 the technical audits carried out by NÉBIH are implemented based on the control plan and the provided Guideline of the Prime Minister's Office. Since 9th December 2013 the audit system of NÉBIH is certified according to MSZ EN 9001:2009, and since 16th October 2017 according to MSZ EN ISO 9001:2015 – with respect to ISO 19011:2011 Guideline. ,

Audits and technical audits

The preparation of Nébih's annual audit programme is preceded by a one-month long planning procedure. During this planning process the relevant stakeholders and their requirements and other risk factors are identified that can have an effect on the audit process, programme or on the implementation of the audits and based on the risk analysis it can be decided for which factors risk management actions have to be introduced.

In 2018 out of the 96 planned investigations (audit and technical audit) 81 were realized, 15 were cancelled. 3 out of the 3 planned audits were performed, while 78 were realized out of the 93 planned technical audits.

During the technical audits, the entire territory of the country was covered apart from 2 counties. In 2018, beside the annual audit of certifying bodies for organic production, the laboratory activities of Nébih were supervised, Altogether 36 laboratories were audited. 18 days were spent outside the office during the on-site audits.

Type of investigation	Number of investigations	Investigated area	Executive bodies
Audits	3	-	System Management and Supervision Directorate
Technical audits (special, target and follow-up audits)	5	animal health, animal welfare	Animal Health and Animal Welfare Directorate
	4	animal breeding	Directorate of Animal Breeding
	4	veterinary medicinal products	Directorate of Veterinary Medicinal Products
	3	food	Directorate of Oenology and Alcoholic Beverages
	6	food, feed	Food and Feed Safety Directorate
	50	forestry	Directorate of Forestry
	4	plant, soil	Directorate of Plant, Soil and Agri-environmental Protection;
	2	seed corn, propagation materials	Directorate of Plant Production and Horticulture
Total number of technical audits	78	-	-
Total (audits + technical audits)	81	-	-

Table 1: The summary of audits by executive bodies in 2018

5.2 Results

Annual audit of certifying bodies for organic production

In 2018 office and witness audits were carried out to supervise the activities of the certifying bodies. The audits investigated the fulfilment of requirements necessary for the implementation of delegated official tasks, and also the control of organic plant producers at vegetable producing plants.

The audits confirmed that the certifying bodies possess the necessary operational conditions for the implementation of the delegated official tasks. In 2018 the certifying bodies implemented further developments in their electronic systems that support the administration of their control and certifying procedures.

The certifying bodies implemented the annual comprehensive controls of all their partners and performed additional risk-based controls and samplings as well. The management of non-compliances was partially carried out during the on-site audits, and after the closure of the audits further measures are to be expected.

Based on the audit results, it can be stated that the certifying bodies fulfil the requirements needed for the implementation of the delegated official tasks.

Audit on the operation of laboratories

In 2018 documentary check was carried out on the operation of the National Reference Laboratories operated by Nébih and ÉLBC Kft and the official laboratories, investigating the fulfilment of requirements set by Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

The following aspects were investigated at 39 laboratories, by involving the laboratory and professional managers: the validity of accreditation, the assessment of all the methods and testing activities, the operation of internal control systems, the assessment of resources, available IT systems. The purpose of the audit was to assess the efficacy of the laboratories in relation to how well the laboratories fulfil their supporting function of official tasks.

6 Resources

6.1 Funding for programmes

In 2012 the Act XLVI of 2008 on food chain and its official control (henceforth Act XLVI.) 47/B. § introduced the food chain supervision fee and the preparation of an annual report on the utilization of the food chain supervision fee was ordered.

In 2018 the amount of 13.56 billion HUF was collected as supervision fee and 10% of that, 1.36 billion HUF could be allocated for development by NÉBIH. The collected amount is 6% more than the amount of 2017. The whole amount of the supervision fee was used for the financing of the food chain control activities. The development budget was used to finance acquisition of assets and developments.

In 2018 7.14 billion HUF was transferred as shared public revenue to the CGOs. The remaining 6.24 billion HUF was utilized by the NÉBIH. 505 million HUF out of the CGOs' revenue was transferred only in 2019, following the year-end accounting closure, due to the new deadlines declared by the legislation.

6.2 Staff

The staff of NÉBIH for 2018 is given in the following table. At the NÉBIH only staffing of directorates responsible for tasks regulated by 882/2004/EC is presented.

	Authority	Laboratory
Central level	361	381
Total	742	

6.3 Laboratories network & NRLs

From November 2018 there were significant changes in the laboratory network of Nébih: under the supervision of the President of Nébih the Food Chain Safety Laboratory Directorate was established. The Directorate operates all laboratories except for the veterinary diagnostics and oenology.

The Directorate for Veterinary Diagnostics operates 1 central and 2 regional laboratories; the Directorate for Oenology and Alcoholic Drinks operate also 1 laboratory. The laboratories are all accredited according to ISO 17025.

7 Actions taken to improve performance of control authorities

7.1 Proposed changes to MANCP

As a strategic document the MANCP covered the development of the food chain (safety) control bodies for the period 2010-2014 as well. The most important change related to the MANCP was the ratification of the Food Chain Safety Strategy and the reform of the product control system in 2013. As a result of the cooperative preliminary work of the Ministry of Rural Development and the National Food Chain Safety Office the Food Chain Safety Strategy 2013-2022 has been accepted by the Government Decision 1703/2013. (X.8.). The Strategy determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety and it provides guidance on the achievement of these desired goals for the next ten years.

The current professional objectives are presented in the Food Chain Safety Strategy, in which there were not any changes in 2018.

7.2 Changes in legislation

In 2018 32 sectorial decrees were published and 20 new directives and orders regulate the activity of authorities.

7.3 Organisation

According to Act V of 2018 on the list of ministries in Hungary and modification of the relating legislation the Ministry of Agriculture continues its work as a separate ministry. Based on the Government Decree 94/2018 the Minister of Agriculture is responsible for issues related to food safety.

The Minister of Agriculture issued the 3/2018 Ministerial ordinance on the Organisational and Operational Rules of Nébih that regulates the operation of the authority along with its organisational structure and tasks.

The 3/2018 ordinance of the president of Nébih on the organisational structure of Nébih regulates the organisational structure of the independent organisational units and the definition of non-independent units of Nébih.

The new organisational structure of Nébih, valid from 01.11.2018., is presented on the following organigram.

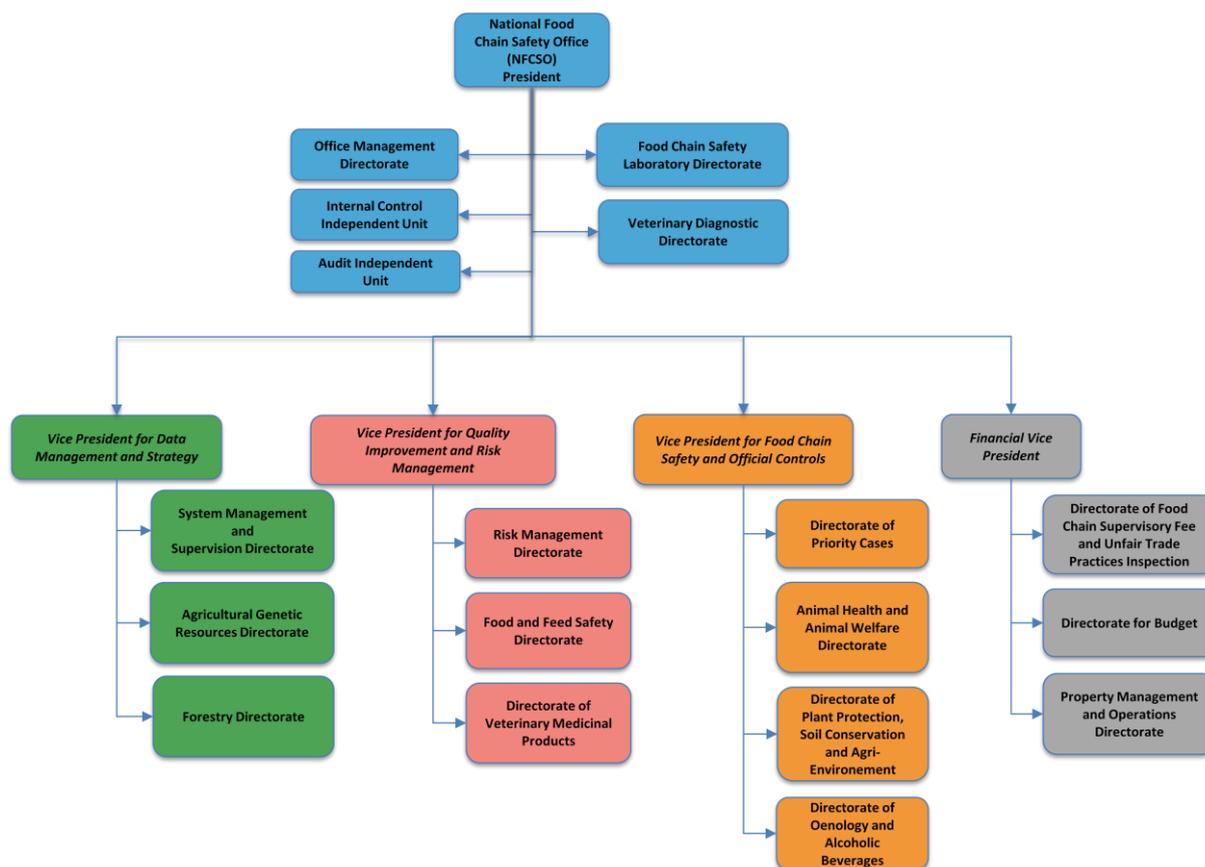


Chart 1: The new structure of NÉBIH

7.4 Procedures

Altogether about 91 documented procedures and circulars regulate official actions in different sectors.

Sector	Number of procedures	Sector	Number of procedures
Soil conservation	2	Animal health	9
Plant protection, plant health	12	Animal welfare	6
Plant propagation materials	14	Winery and alcoholic beverages	11
Food safety	23	Other	16

Table 2: Number of procedures in 2018

7.5 Information system

According to the Act XLVI of 2008 38/A§ (1) NÉBIH established and operates a new IT system, namely the FELIR system that provides a uniform IT background for the authority.

The ‘Intelligent Food Chain Safety Analysis System’ (INTEL) project started in 2017 and its implementation continued in 2018. The new system will play an important role in the fight against fraud black economy. The expected time for completion of the project is early 2019.

In 2018 the implementation of the Priority Project on the Control of Aquaculture Activities in the frame of the Hungarian Fisheries Operational Programme continued, including the launch of IT developments. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capabilities of NÉBIH in the fight against FBOs engaging in criminal activities.

7.6 Training

To take appropriate action to improve the knowledge of the staff, the NÉBIH is responsible for organizing professional trainings, and uses the "training the trainers" principle accompanied by the e-learning system reaching all the staff. The trainings are coordinated centrally (in the framework of annual objectives breakdown) at national level. The training needs are assessed / monitored through several tools: the usual audit process, during the live trainings, as well as with the help of the dedicated e-learning system (evaluation of test results, discussion groups, etc.).

The effectiveness of the trainings is assessed through tests (obligatory in the e-learning system) and questionnaires (satisfaction evaluation) at the end of the trainings (live trainings as well as electronic ones), and of course the regular audit process gives feed-back on this issue as well.

NÉBIH also organizes so-called regional trainings for the co-workers of the regional competent authorities carrying out official controls and for law enforcement personnel. During these trainings NÉBIH draw their attention to the current food chain safety tasks and problems by providing detailed technical information on them.

In 2018 trainings were held for the regional and local colleagues in each sector. Altogether about 2 600 regional and local co-workers and professionals took part in more than 70 training events.

8 Actions taken to improve performance of food business operators

8.1 Training Programmes

NÉBIH organized different training programs for FBOs, the most important areas were: proper law enforcement practices, changes in regulation, food chain safety and traceability issues, food and plant protection product frauds, the legal requirements and control of indoor big game farming, the official control of food producing establishments with US export license, etc.

8.2 Guides to Good Practices

In 2018 the Guide to Good Hygiene Practices for catering services (2012) was updated and amended, and now it contains information on the allergens as well.

Annex 1.**Control data 2016-2018.**

Sector	Number of inspections			Non compliances		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Soil protection	2 057	4 087	2 778	298	739	395
Plant health	24 106	25 838	26 570	47	98	146
Plant protection	9 367	9 078	11 154	2 610	3 118	4 029
Vegetable & Fruit control	19 509	21 549	21 796	1 147	1 389	1 085
Plant propagation materials*	-*	12 610*	11 444*	-*	266*	311*
Feed safety	1 171	1 120	893	64	68	46
Veterinary medical products	67	44	48	25	18	25
Animal health	71 633	48 454	69 649	103	354	122
Animal welfare	18 078	15 706	19 787	186	210	142
Animal by-products	1 941	1 869**	2 834	17	8	7
Food production	13 728	13 419	12 874	1 179	870	887
Food distribution	26 046	26 279	23 276	2 371	2 633	2 246
Catering	20 323	20 813	18 741	1 859	1 636	1 601
First place of storage	4 174	4 523	3 745	101	231	137
Food products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winery and Alcoholic beverages	4 187	3 940	2 892	368	342	216
Imported plant products	4 950	5 341	5 861	1	1	1
Imported livestock	8 369	6 934	8 707	22	7	17
Priority controls	705	597	581	316	233	218
Total	230 411***	222 201***	243 630	10 714***	12 221***	11 631

* Due to a new reporting structure, data reported on 2018 were significantly different from the data on previous years. Data on 2016 - 2017 were modified according to the new reporting structure.

** Data revised and corrected in 2019.

*** Due to the modified data on Plant propagation materials, the Total numbers have changed as well.

Sector	Lots inspected on-site			Non-compliant lots			Lots inspected in laboratory			Non-compliant lots		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Soil protection	1 795	1 253	982	65	103	85	297	289	262	55	37	39
Plant health	19 573	15 735	19 638	233	1 145	473	16 290	20 192	19 019	581	929	1 900
Plant protection	55 178	50 276	41 688	850	880	663	2 286	2 630	2 906	32	28	55
Vegetable & Fruit control	19 386	21 549	21 796	1 014	711	300	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plant propagation materials*	-*	15 798*	14 047*	-*	266*	311*	-*	10 890*	9 650*	-*	14*	11*
Feed safety	2 447	2 548	2 029	97	231	149	2 820	2 891	3 232	147	85	49
Veterinary medical products	0	0	0	13	11	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal health	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal by-products	221	206	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	134 785	116 759	116 038	5 887	6 212	8 671	-	-	-	-	-	-
First place of storage	3 910	4 096	4 817	14	27	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food products	71 937	45 852	53 751	3 209	2 772	2 896	53 994	51 892	50 429	0	0	-
Winery and Alcoholic beverages	4 187**	3 940**	2 892	358**	342**	216	2 852	2 519	2 437	368	194	158
Imported plant products	4 950	5 341	5 861	1	1	1	354	368	389	1	1	1
Imported livestock	6 176	421	-	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Priority controls	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	37	40	0	0	0
Total	324 545**	283 774**	283 539	11 741**	12 701**	13 827	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Due to a new reporting structure, data reported on 2018 were significantly different from the data on previous years. Data on 2016 - 2017 were modified according to the new reporting structure.

** Data was revised and modified in 2019.

Annex 2.**Sanction data 2016-2018.**

Sector	Warnings			Fines imposed			Businesses closed		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Soil protection	165	451	205	110	162	164	130	82	54
Plant health	0	6	0	2	1	0	23	82	71
Plant protection	89	81	66	2 667	2 907	3 929	49	53	8
Vegetable & Fruit control	91	343	364	803	684	661	0	0	0
Plant propagation materials*	-*	0*	0*	-*	0*	0*	-*	0*	0*
Feed safety	27	25	29	18	40	16	9	3	1
Veterinary medical products	9	11	13	16	7	12	0	12	9
Animal health	124	50	21	24	6	9	13	0	2
Animal welfare	40	70	99	59	40	52	-	0	0
Animal by-products	15	4	5	6	2	1	1	-	1
Food production	346	345	381	742	449	427	91	76	79
Food distribution	392	597	629	1 865	1 864	1 529	114	172	88
Catering	647	491	505	1 089	963	944	123	182	152
First place of storage	71	215	124	25	14	12	5	2	1
Food products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winery and Alcoholic beverages	117**	113**	61	102**	224**	211	4	9	3
Imported plant products	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imported livestock	21	0	0	1	0	-	1	-	0
Priority controls	2	0	0	316	233	218	33	21	45
Total	2 156**	2 802**	2 502	7 845**	7 596**	8 185	596	694	514

* Due to a new reporting structure, data reported on 2018 were significantly different from the data on previous years. Data on 2016 - 2017 were modified according to the new reporting structure.

** Data was revised and modified in 2019.

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