

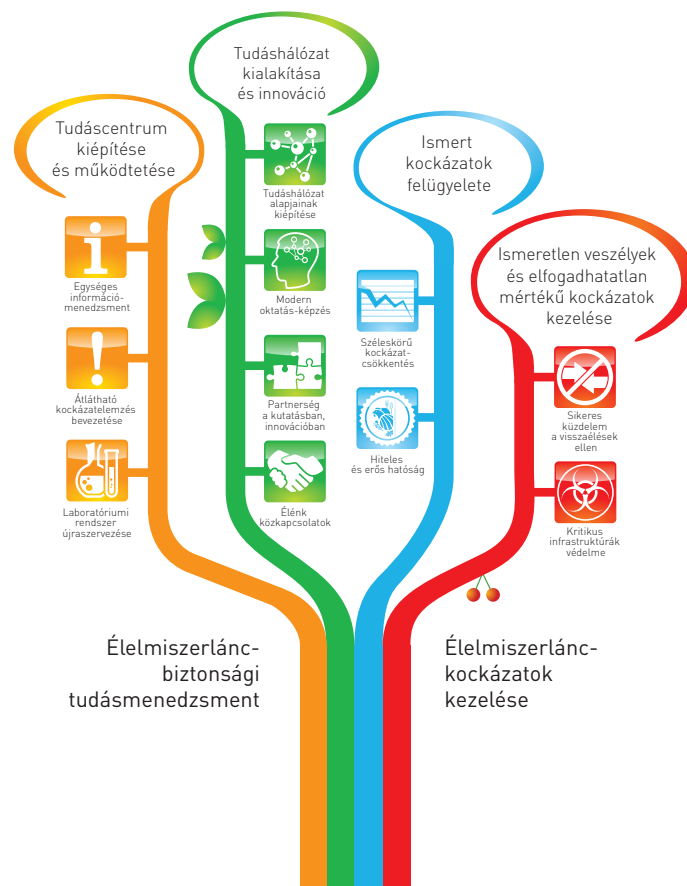
## The food chain monitoring information system

The food supply chain monitoring information system (FELIR) has been created in order to provide data and insight for the supervision of the food supply chain, and to comply with the requirements of the European Union. The goal is for the authority to have a unified register of all the participants of the food supply chain, from plant growers, through animal breeders to food processors and distributors. This register allows the authorities to operate an effective monitoring system for data analysis. It also makes it easier for businesses to fulfil their registry obligations.

For further information on the NFCSSO please visit our website:

[portal.nebih.gov.hu](http://portal.nebih.gov.hu)

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# Brochure

National Food Chain Safety Office



## ***A trustworthy and competent authority***

The Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office (NFCSO) is the supervisory authority of the Hungarian food supply chain. The NFCSO has been operating successfully under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary since March 2012.

The Office is responsible for ensuring that everyone involved in the production, processing, distribution and preparation of food acts in compliance with legal regulations so that consumers can be provided with high quality, healthy and safe food. As a trustworthy and competent authority the NFCSO is responsible for co-ordinating the official controls both on national and local levels.

A new Food Chain Safety Strategy document and a Food Chain Safety Policy Programme were created in 2013 with the aim of further developing the competitiveness of the Hungarian food sector.

## ***The Hungarian food sector participants***

The food sector involves a complex network of processes, products and participants which make a direct or indirect impact on food. According to the Hungarian regulation, the key participants of the food supply chain include food and feed business operators, consumers and the authority. However, several other factors, such as science, education, the media and politics also affect safety of the food chain.

## ***What is food chain safety?***

The food chain is safe if none of its components pose any unacceptable health or economic risks to individuals or society. Protection is of appropriate level when the state is able to protect the health and lives of its citizens, animals and plants.

## ***The mission of the NFCSO***

The mission of the NFCSO is to protect and constantly improve safety in the Hungarian food chain, the entire distance from farm to fork. To this end, it strives to improve the efficiency of official measures, such as control and monitoring. In addition, the NFCSO pays particular attention to gathering, processing and sharing information. Integration of this information and knowledge into daily practice and sharing them with all stakeholders in a transparent way helps reduce risks to acceptable levels.



## ***The foundations of a knowledge network***

Each participant of the food chain can be regarded a knowledge hub in itself. The task of the state is to coordinate the participants and to develop a knowledge network. In addition to operating and controlling this knowledge network the authority works in close partnership with each participant of the food chain.

## ***Official controls***

In order to mitigate microbiological and chemical risks to human, animal or plant health, an extensive sampling and sample testing program is being developed for the entire food chain. The program will rely on the analysis of national and international experience, practices and trends. The plan for controlling the operations of food and feed business operators is based on similar principles. In addition to these planned activities, the NFCSO continuously monitors current tendencies and incidents and it operates a flexible monitoring and sampling system to prevent and mitigate against risks.

## ***Integrated, modern network of laboratories***

A key component of the NFCSO is the network of certified laboratories which provide data and test results for administrative procedures and risk analyses. This network cooperates with private laboratories, academic and research institutions, as necessary.

## ***Successful fight against food fraud***

Counterfeit and adulterated food and other products in the food chain pose increasing risks to the public, both on national and global levels, while such fraudulent activities have in addition political, economic and criminal consequences.

Fraud in the food sector undermines consumer confidence and eventually compromises Hungary's international reputation and competitiveness.

Therefore, Hungary has announced a “zero tolerance” policy with regard to food fraud and adulteration, which the NFCSO implements through coordinated and targeted monitoring and inspection in cooperation with partner authorities.