

MODULE 5

An Introduction to Agri-Food Legislation and Regulation

Digital Readiness for Agri-Food Entrepreneurship Training:
Addressing the Digital Competence of VET Educators

VERSION
ENGLISH



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Learning Outcomes

1. Be knowledgeable on general food laws across Europe
2. Understand the role of the Food Safety Authority in Europe
3. Understand the legalities of establishing and developing an Agri-Food business

1. Introduction

This module will focus on general food-related laws and business regulations. Certain laws and regulations are specific to individual businesses and may require modification to fit the needs of a particular business.



2.1 General Food Law

- General Food Law is a regulation that supports food and feed law across Europe. It includes regulations which relate to the food chain, including feed production, primary production, food processing, storage, transport and retail sale.
- This General Food Law Regulation was developed to ensure a high level of protection of human life and access to safe, wholesome food.

2.2 Introduction to Food Safety

- Health protection is the shared aim of all EU laws, standards and regulations in agriculture, animal husbandry, and food production sectors.
- The EU Food Safety Policy is designed to ensure safe nutritious food, high standards of animal and plant health and informative labelling on products.
- EU companies must adhere to European Food Safety standards throughout the development of their business.



([European Union](#), 2018)

3. The European Food Safety Authority

The **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)** are an agency of the European Union which acts as an impartial source of scientific evidence to manage and communicate risks associated with the food chain.



3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) aims to ensure safety in the food chain from farm to fork.
- EFSA gather, appraise and integrate scientific evidence into their guidelines relating to food safety risks.
- A range of publications relating to food safety are available freely on the EFSA website for the public.



EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY



Biological monitoring

EFSA is assigned the tasks of examining zoonoses data and publishing annual European Union Summary Reports in cooperation with the ECDC.

Broccoli



Food composition data

The food composition database gives information on the amount of vitamins and minerals contained in different foods.

3.2 European Commission on Food Safety

- The European Commission aim to ensure a high level of food safety as well as animal and plant health within the EU.
- **Their key activities include;**
 - Ensuring effective control systems and evaluating compliance with EU standards
 - Managing international relations with non-EU countries and international organisations
 - Managing relations with EFSA to ensure science-based risk management



4. Legalities of developing an Agri-Food Business

The European Union has established laws and regulations governing all aspects of the human food and animal feed chain, with a strong emphasis on traceability and safety measures. Foods developed in the EU, as well as foods imported from other countries, must all meet the same food safety level.



4.1 Key Terminology

Legal terminology can be overwhelming and confusing.

To avoid misunderstandings, it is helpful to become familiar with various legal terminology lists available online.

These will serve as valuable reference guides in the future.

Legal terms explained

- [Introduction](#)
- [A - B](#)
- [C - D](#)
- [E - H](#)
- [I - L](#)
- [M - Q](#)
- [R - S](#)
- [T - Z](#)

([Citizens Information](#), ND)

4.2 Naming a Business

- Naming a business is not as simple as giving your business a title.
- Generally, each country has specific legal restrictions on naming a business.
- For example, the Irish regulations are outlined on the following websites:

Irish Legal Guide

Irish Law Explained

**What are the Company Name
Restrictions in Ireland?**

4.2 Naming a Business

For information on naming a business in Poland, visit;



Biznes.gov.pl



[Biznez, 2023](#)

For information on naming a business in Italy, visit;

openAeuropeancompany [OAEC, 2023](#)

4.3 Requirements for Forming a Business

- Similar, to naming a business, the process of forming and expanding a business is regulated by different laws and processes in each country.
- For example, in Ireland the Citizens Information website offers a step-by-step guide for setting up a business.

- [Setting up a business](#)
- [Step 1: Develop your idea](#)
- [Step 2: Write your business plan and choose a business name](#)
- [Step 3: Choose a legal structure](#)
- [Step 4: Understand your tax](#)
- [Step 5: Register employees](#)
- [Grants and other supports](#)
- [More information](#)

4.3 Requirements for Forming a Business

- For information on forming a business in Italy, click [here](#).



CAMERA DI
COMMERCIO
MILANO
MONZABRIANZA
LODI

- For information on forming a business in Poland, click [here](#).

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- [Setting up a business](#)
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4.4 Employment Law

- Employment laws also vary across countries.
- Although many laws often overlap across countries, it is crucial to verify the specific laws relevant to the type of business.
- Citizens Information in Ireland explains employment laws in Ireland.

Employment laws in Ireland

- [Introduction](#)
- [Information about your job](#)
- [Young people at work](#)
- [Terms and conditions of employment](#)
- [Working hours, annual leave and holiday leave](#)
- [Statutory leave](#)
- [Safety at work](#)
- [Equality in the workplace](#)
- [Part-time, fixed-term, agency, and self-employed workers](#)
- [Whistleblowing](#)
- [Business take-overs](#)
- [Redundancy and dismissals](#)
- [Work permits](#)
- [Complaints about a breach of employment rights](#)
- [Further information](#)

4.5 Consumer Rights

- Understanding the consumers rights can help prevent potential issues from arising.
- These laws can also differ between countries, so information should be obtained from the appropriate government sources.
- The Consumers Association of Ireland outlines consumer rights in Ireland.



4.5 Consumer Rights

For more information on consumer rights in Italy, click [here](#).



For more information on consumer rights in Poland, click [here](#).

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Thank You