

## Communication 52/2023

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### **Knowledge transfer for more food safety** **Northern Macedonian delegation visits the BfR**

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From 9 to 10 October 2023, experts from the North Macedonian Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA) visited the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR).

The visit was about knowledge sharing and the practical application of expertise. How are risk assessment, risk communication, and risk management related? This was one of many issues raised during the visit. The aim was to find out through discussions and workshops how certain aspects of risk assessment can be implemented in North Macedonia.

Applying and expanding knowledge was the focus of the delegation visit of the Northern Macedonian Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA), which took place within the framework of the EU project “Improved animal disease control and implementation of the food safety system”. The FVA’s risk assessment department was only recently formed and is in the early stages of practical implementation.

What does successful interplay between risk assessment, risk communication, and risk management look like? In discussions and workshops, the processes of consumer health protection were analysed – always with a focus on identifying aspects which could be implemented in North Macedonia.

The visitors received a comprehensive introduction to the topics and working methods of the BfR. The work of the BfR for consumer health protection is characterised by its independent, scientific, and research-based approach. The health assessments and options for action of the institute can be accessed by the authorities responsible for risk management. With its science-based risk assessment, the BfR provides important stimuli for consumer health protection – both in Germany and internationally.

In the morning, the visitors had the opportunity to ask questions during presentations by BfR scientists. Topics included the risk assessment of plant protection products, microbiological risk assessment using the example of salmonella, and the nutritional exposure of the German population within the framework of the BfR-MEAL study. Workshops took place in the afternoon. In addition, the aim was to find out together how certain aspects of risk assessment can be implemented in North Macedonia.



## About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The BfR advises the Federal Government and the German federal states (“Laender”) on questions of food, chemicals, and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

This text version is a translation of the original German text which is the only legally binding version.

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