

**Farmhouse and  
Artisan  
Cheese & Dairy Producers  
European Network**

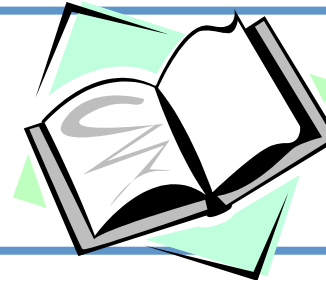
# **European Guide for Good Hygiene Practices in the production of artisanal cheese and dairy products**

*Target: Farmhouse and Artisan producers*



22 11 2017 - Brussels

## Why this project of « European guide »?



Farmhouse and  
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- Hygiene Package (see Regulation 852/2004-art.5) requests the realisation and application of permanent procedures based on HACCP principals for all the food operators.
- Guides for good hygiene practices are presented as useful tools to help the operators to fulfill this regulation (see Regulation 852/20014 – art.1§1)

## Why this project of « European guide »?



- ▶ Many problems, in different countries with the implementation of the hygiene package in small dairies
- ▶ National administrations “putting the blame” on European Union
- ▶ In many cases, a clear choice to keep us in a derogative status
- ▶ Not enough implementation of flexibility
- ▶ We wanted to be totally in the field of the EU regulation
- ▶ Recognition of our specific knowledge on food safety management in our sector
- ▶ A simple tool to help the producers to improve their Food Safety Management
- ▶ Flexibility and adaptations...

# The objectives of this GGHP

Our aim was to provide to the producers a reference document:

- to help them to prepare their Food Safety Management System (risk analysis, HACCP based procedures, ....)
- taking into account their real practices
- giving practical examples regarding flexibility, derogations, adaptations

The specificity and the strength of the GGHP:

- drafted by producers and specialists of the sector
- endorsed by the public authorities of the 28 Member States, and European Commission

## Back to the history of the project: « from the idea... .. to the endorsement »



- 2010: first exchanges within FACENetwork about this project.
- 2010 – 2014: several contacts/meetings with the European Commission, and with the European Parliament to explain the project and ask for subsidies.
- March 2015: thanks to the support of several European Deputies, DG SANTE granted **subsidies** to FACENetwork (« pilot project »).
- **March 2015 – March 2016: writing of the GGHP.**
- March 2016 – December 2016: assessment by EC and the 28 MS > amendments, negotiations
- 16th September 2016: Standing Committee PAFF (with FACE's participation).
- **13th December 2016: official endorsement.**
- 2017: translation into the 23 official languages of EU.
- **22th November 2017: conference in Brussels - official presentation.**

# The spirit of the GGHP



- ▶ The **expertise of technicians and producers** is the basic principle
- ▶ The overall approach is **preventive** and **based on good practices** implementation
- ▶ The **HACCP principles** are completely applied and adapted to our products, through:
  - ▶ a generic hazards analysis
  - ▶ HACCP-based plans: they make the link between the hazards and each type of products.

The GGHP is a PRACTICAL TOOLS for the producers

# The spirit of the GGHP

## ► Other pillars of the GGHP:

- **No CCP** (not adapted to our type of production)
- **Flexibility examples** (presented as references)
- **“Records” only if non conformity**
- **Responsibility of the producer = the producer is the “skilled person”** > No fixed standard plans or indicative values, in order to let the producer decide of his own practices

# What is the meaning of an « officially endorsed guide »?

« Officially endorsed » means that:

- The GGHP is a **highly relevant reference** on food safety management in small scale cheese and dairy making
- The GGHP has been approved by each of the 28 MS of EU:
  - It is not possible to prevent a european producer from using the GGHP if he wants to
  - During inspections, the **local inspectors must take into account the GGHP** if it is applied
  - The inspections must consist in checking the efficiency of the implementation of the FSMS, but should not question the practices
- The GGHP is public > **published in 24 languages** on the web site of European Commission and in the Official Journal of EU



# What is the meaning of an « officially endorsed guide »?



**BUT**

- It is **not** « a **Regulation** » (its recommendations are not enforceable before a court)
- The GGHP is not compulsory, but **voluntary**

**AND**

Each producer or producers' organisation can use it according to its needs

- To replace or complete a previous national guide
- To argue with their competent authorities for the implementation of flexibility provisions or specific regulation in their country

**In each country, the producers must decide HOW they want (or need) to use the GGHP**

**In resume:**

**What we wanted?**

**What we obtained !**

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**FACE-GGHP** 

- ▶ To be totally in the field of the EU regulation
- ▶ A recognition of our specific knowledge on food safety management in our sector

▶ **The FACE GGHP has been endorsed!**



**In resume:**

**What we wanted?**

**What we obtained !**

Farmhouse and  
Artisan  
Cheese & Dairy Producers  
European Network  
**FACE-GGHP** 

- A simple tool to help the producers to improve their Food Safety Management

► **More or *less obtained...***

*The GGHP is not so easy to understand and to use for the producer.*



**We will create more adapted tools with the**

**“Teacheesy” program**

FACEnetwork's new program funded by Erasmus+ to prepare the diffusion of the GGHP to European producers all over Europe through trainings



**In resume:**

**What we wanted?**

**What we obtained !**

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European Network  
**FACE-GGHP** 

► **Flexibility and adaptations...**



► **Flexibility has been set in the stone of FACE-GGHP!...**

*... But still, it has to be asked for in each member state*



**Teacheesy and FACEnetworks actions will help for that**

[www.face-network.eu](http://www.face-network.eu)



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- **European Network**