



Health and food safety

Setting Up a National Food Reference Laboratory

Turkey

"This laboratory is the most concrete project which illustrates the efforts to harmonise our food safety and control system with the relevant EU standards. This project is of great importance in terms of having reliable food procurement, control and monitoring standards."

Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs



Project Partner

Twinning programme with the UK

Facts and Figures

- Total budget: € 6.4 million
- EU Contribution: € 4.8 million
- Duration: 2005 - 2009

Context

Designation of National Reference Laboratories is one of the requirements of EU legislation on official food and feed controls. In Turkey there was a need for a National Reference Laboratory to provide a higher quality food safety system and guidance for alignment with the relevant standards. The project was launched in 2005 to fill this gap and meet EU accession requirements.

Objectives

- Meet membership requirements for official food control.
- Develop a sustainable laboratory strategy for effective implementation and enforcement of the food control system.

Impact **National Food Reference Laboratory up and running**

- The construction of the modern laboratory building began on 29 May 2007 and was completed on 24 November 2009.
- The laboratory was equipped with technological equipment capable of conducting highly sophisticated analyses in line with EU standards.
- The laboratory staff was trained on new analytical methods and operation of the equipment.
- A new organisational structure was defined for food laboratories.