

# EFET's National Foodstuff Sampling Plan: criteria for a risk based approach

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Food Safety Directorate  
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# Role - competences

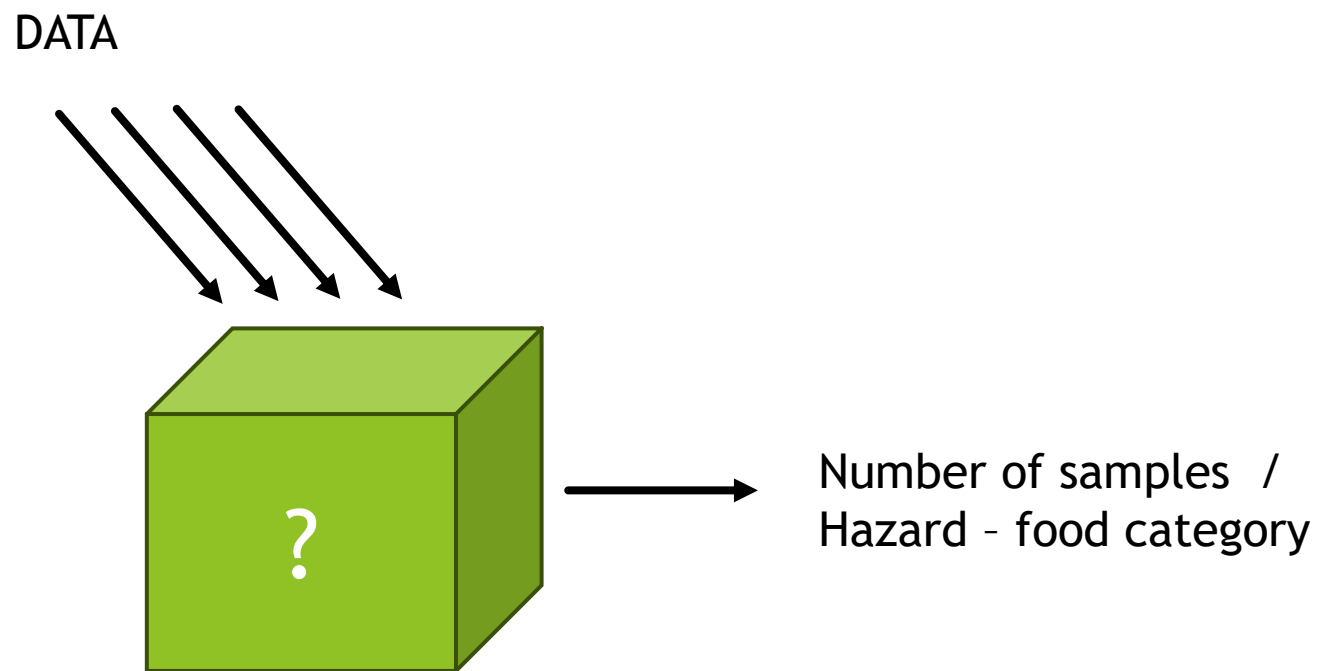
(P.D. 71/2018, art. 6 §2c)

- ▶ “Highlighting and supporting national priorities in the field of food safety by planning official control programs based on risk assessment”

# In practice

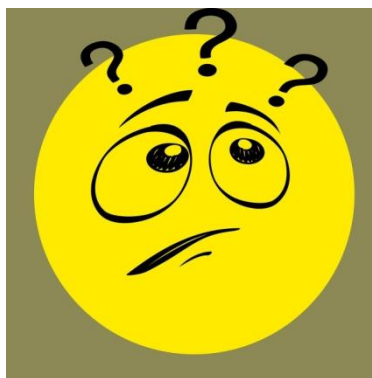
- ▶ Which hazard - food category
- ▶ How many samples
  
- ▶ Distribution of samples throughout the country

We wish...



# We need / take into consideration

- ▶ Legislative requirements
- ▶ Food Business Operations
- ▶ Food products
- ▶ Results of previous years  
(percentages of compliances/non compliances)
- ▶ Trends from i-RASFF (annual report)
- ▶ Other annual reports (e.g. EFSA/ECDC), new scientific data
- ▶ Recommendations of DG SANTE audits
- ▶ Foodborne diseases (information from the primary sector/animal health).
- ▶ Consumption data
- ▶ Consumer complains
- ▶ Distribution of population
- ▶ Ad hoc events
- ▶ Political - social concerns



Number of samples /  
Hazard - food category

different importance /  
different coefficient factors  
→ Highly complex equation

*LET'S DO IT AS SIMPLE AS IT CAN BE*



ΕΝΙΑΙΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ

# We can use

## ▶ **Legislative requirements**

- ▶ Food Business Operations
- ▶ Food products
- ▶ Results of previous years  
(percentage of compliances - non compliances)
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## ▶ **To define hazard / food category**

Specific legislative requirements, e.g.

### ▪ **Pesticide control**

at least 15 samples for each food category (GR)

### ▪ **Contaminants on food of non-animal origin in the internal market**

at least 500 samples (GR)

# Classification

## Inspections

Establishments / Businesses

6 - 18 months



○ **High** Risk

12 - 24 months

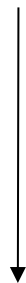


○ **Medium** Risk

18 - 36 months



○ **Low** Risk



Frequency of  
**Inspections**

## Sampling and analysis

Food categories



?



?



?



Number of  
**Samples**

Decision 1408/2020



# We can use

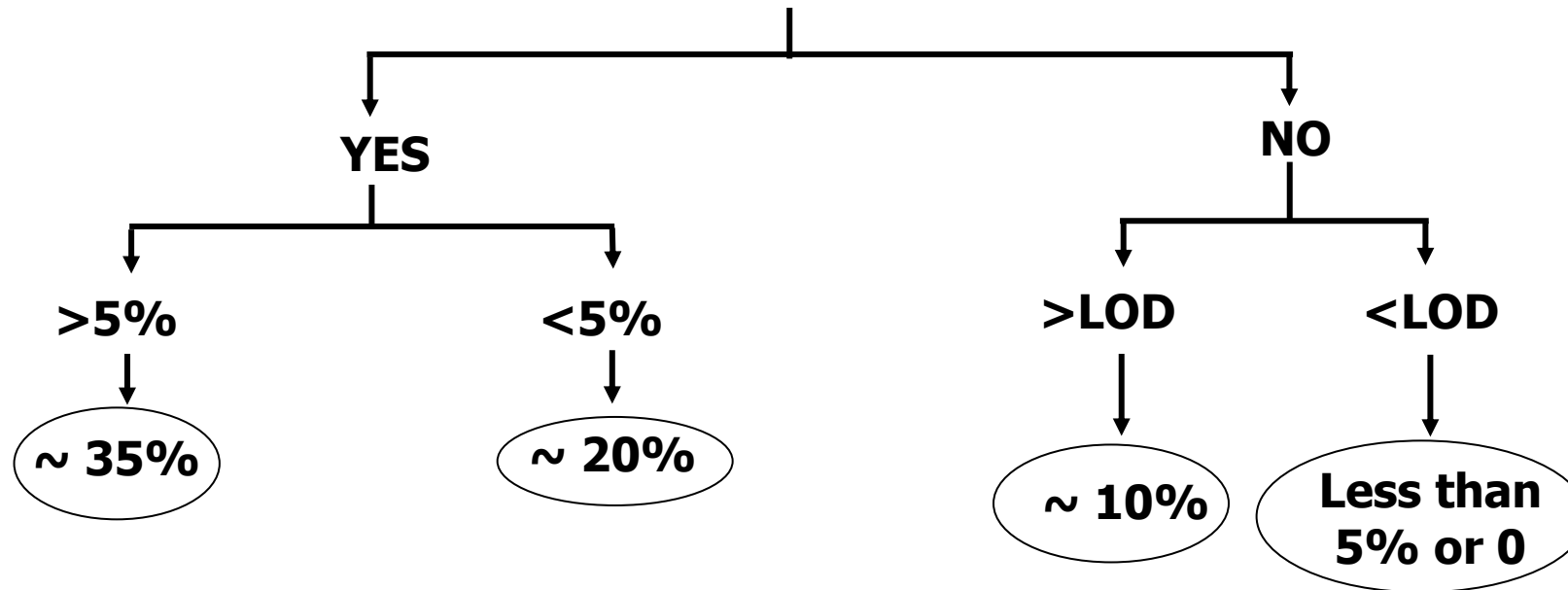
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- ▶ **To decide on appropriate number**

# Decision trees on chemical hazards (e.g. contaminants)

Maximum levels (e.g. heavy metals) or action limits (e.g. acrylamide)

**Non compliances** during the *last five years*

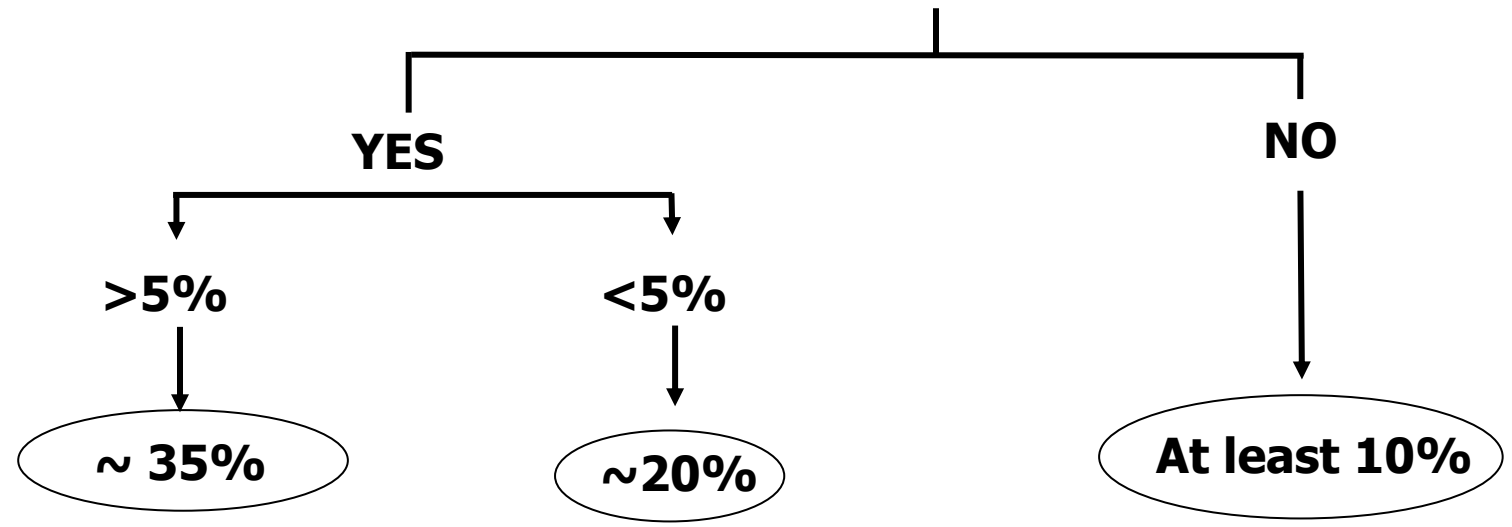


Annual official controls of **foodstuff** in the market

# Decision trees on microbiological hazards, prohibited substances

Detection of hazards (e.g. *Listeria monocytogenes*)

**Non compliances** during the *last five years*



Annual official controls of **foodstuff** in the market

# We can use

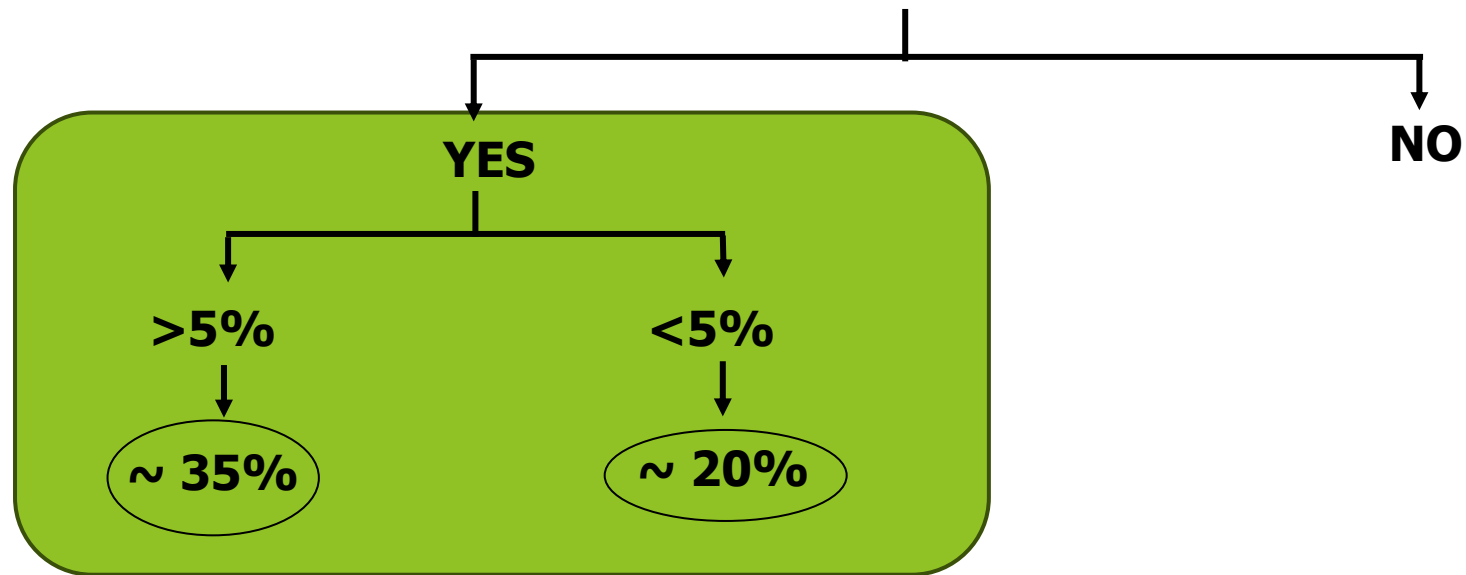
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▶ To decide on appropriate number

# Decision trees

Compliances during the *last five years* national control programs

Non-compliances / data from other sources



Annual official controls of **foodstuff** in the market

# What is still missing

- ▶ Precise total number of different products under each food category
  - produced in the country
  - produced in the E.U
  - imported from third countries

Possible solutions / approaches

Use the number of FBOs instead of the number of products (e.g. for animal products)

# Obstacles / Constraints

- ▶ Availability of official Laboratories / methods
- ▶ Financial resources
- ▶ Human resources



# Thank you for your attention!

Acknowledgments to: Kondylia Sotiriou



ΕΝΙΑΙΟΣ ΦΟΡΕΑΣ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ