

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Delegation trip to Moscow**

In September 2018, a delegation from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, including employees of the BfR and other bodies, travelled to Moscow. In addition to discussions with representatives of agriculture and consumer protection, visits were made to the Skryabin Moscow State Academy for Veterinary Medicine, the Russian Academy of Science and the Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural University to discuss opportunities for future cooperation.

**Cooperation with Chile**

In August 2018, the BfR signed a cooperation agreement with the Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA). The cooperation focuses on risk assessment and the revision of expert opinions for non-professionals. BfR president Professor Andreas Hensel visited the Scientific Committee of ACHIPIA and the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICY) in Chile and also held discussions with the FAO representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Julio Berdegué.



**Crisis exercise in Sarajevo**

How do you prepare for a crisis? At the end of 2018, 32 participants from food safety authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) practiced the investigation of a foodborne disease outbreak in an interdisciplinary plan game. The strengths and weaknesses of the existing structures in BiH were analysed as the basis for applying for a partnership project with authorities in the EU. The BfR organised parts of this practical workshop.

**Cooperation with China**

The BfR conducted a workshop on the subject of food safety with the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ) in Beijing in April 2019. At the same time, the CAIQ and BfR renewed a memorandum of understanding with the goal of intensifying future cooperation in the field of risk assessment. The CAIQ is a public research institute which officially supervises markets in China and conducts research in many areas, including inspection methods for the control of foods and products.

### Project Safe Pork – courses in Vietnam

Within the scope of a project sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the BfR held training workshops in Vietnam at the end of 2018. Together with participants from monitoring authorities and control laboratories from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, specialists from the BfR prepared strategies at the National Institute of Veterinary Research on how to optimise local detection methods for trichinae in meat samples.

### DAAD scholarship student from Kenya

Kenyan DAAD scholar Martin Wainaina Kimari started his three-year PhD project at the BfR in December 2018. He is to examine the epidemiology of brucellosis in humans and animals in Kenya: findings on prevalence, molecular typing of isolates, determination of outbreak sources and identification of risk factors for brucellosis infections. This is being done in cooperation with the International Livestock Research Institute, which has its head office in Nairobi, Kenya, and Freie Universität Berlin.



## EVENTS



### Consumer protection forums at the BfR

The tried and tested “BfR Consumer Protection Forum” is set to run three times in 2019, starting off on 6/7 June with the subject of microplastics, continuing on 13/14 June with “Generation 65+” and ending on 7/8 November with a discussion on the subject of bacteriophages. The focus on the first day is on the level of available scientific knowledge, as well as risk assessment and aspects of regulation. Stakeholders such as associations, science, politics and NGOs take centre stage on the second day.

You can find out more about this and other events at: [www.bfr-akademie.de](http://www.bfr-akademie.de)

## INTERNAL

### Fresh wind

By focusing on research and further academic qualification, new structures have been created within the BfR: five junior research groups have been established since 2017. Three new study centres dealing with the topics of total diet studies, genome sequencing and One Health were set up at the end of 2018. In addition to this, several new specialised units have been built up within the departments hand in hand with the increase in personnel since 2014.

More information:  
[www.bfr.bund.de/en](http://www.bfr.bund.de/en) > The Institute