**Introduction of HACCP in Macedonia key way to healthy population**

Consuming safe and quality food is the key for the health of everyone because this is an important aspect of the global market. Part of the safe food production process, better known as “Hazard analysis and critical control points” or HACCP, as legislation is rapidly introduced in all developing countries, while Macedonia introduced it as a bylaw in 2002. HACCP as the management system is dealing with the food safety through analysis and control of biological, chemical and physical hazards from raw material, procurement, production, distribution and consumption of the finished product. HACCP is a preventive, structured and systematical technique for managing food safety.

The purpose of this study is to examine the existing situation in terms of implementing HACCP system in small and medium companies in the municipality of Probishtip (Eastern Macedonia) which have a major impact on the local and regional economy and potentially significant impact on the health of the local consumers, and thus the overall national health.

This study is based on the analysis made on the basis of given answers to questions from a questionnaire attached to 40 food business operators, and also based on general observations and suggestions by the Agency for Food and Veterinary in Probishtip. In this study is applied descriptive – analytical method. The survey covers the following food businesses: production of milk and dairy products, meat products, mill and bakery products, inns, stands, pizzerias, butcher shops, food shops etc.

From the results it can be concluded that the harmonization of the Macedonian with the European legislation, standards implementation and introducing an integrated control system for food safety will ensure high level of health protection of animals and people and the interests of the consumers in terms of food. This also represents solid scientific basis and support for decision making about food hygiene. The favorable effects of implementing the standard inevitably lead to the efficient functioning of the companies on domestic and external market.