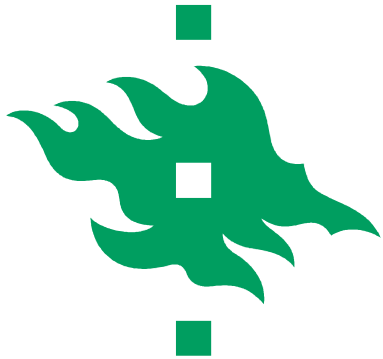


■ Food safety governance on a local level in Finland

Food Safety in China and Finland (Lynet), Helsinki, Finland, 13.9.2013

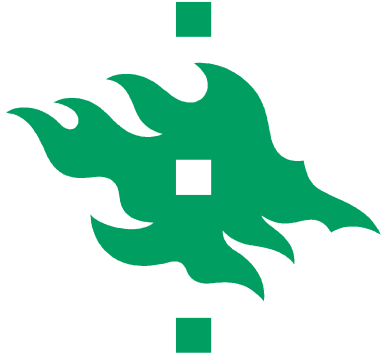
Janne Lundén, DVM, Ph.D
Senior lecturer in food control

Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Helsinki



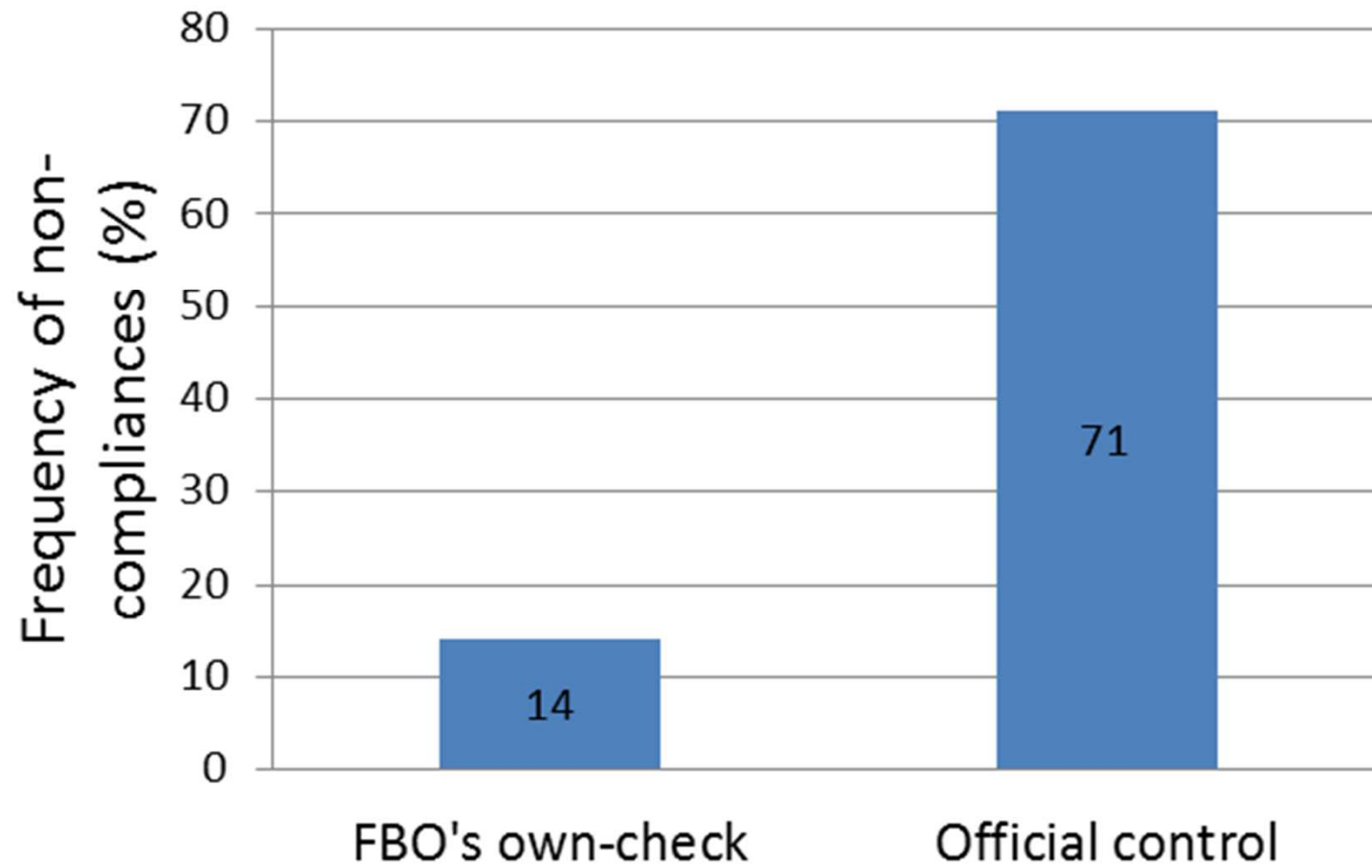
Outline

- Development and challenges of food control at local level in Finland
- Effectiveness of official food control at local level – some research results on food control

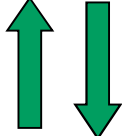


Why food control?

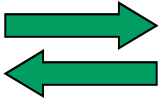
- Everything we eat has been handled at some point by somebody else in a commercial manner..



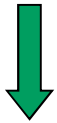
FOOD CONTROL RESEARCH



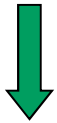
Municipal and regional
food control authorities



EU
National legislator
Central authority

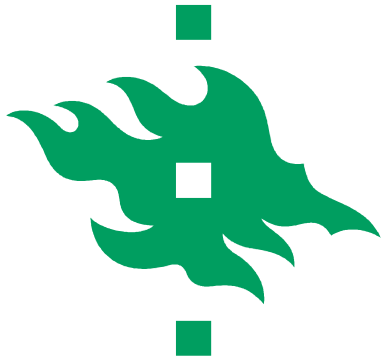


Development of local food control



Legislation, instructions

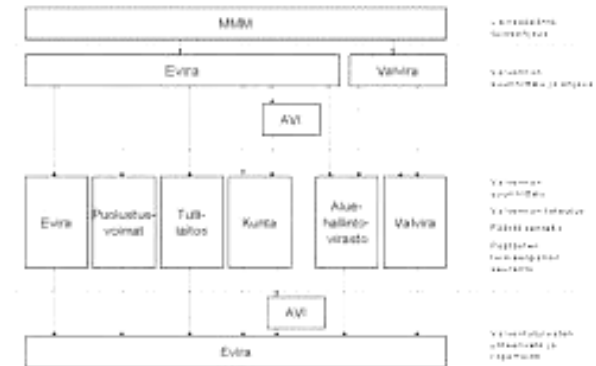
FOOD SAFETY

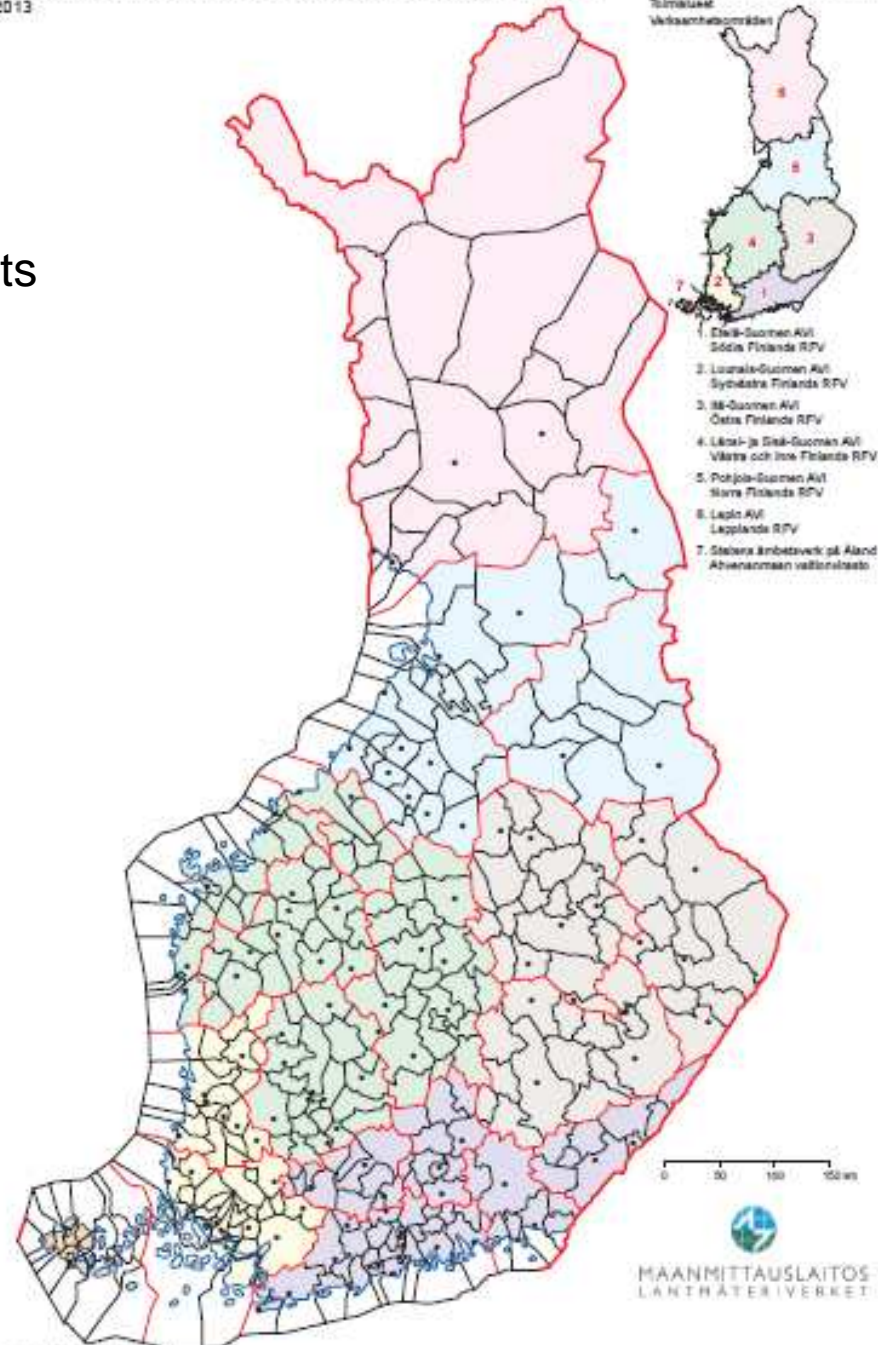


Main focus in food control research

- Functionality of food control organisation
 - Local, regional and/or central level

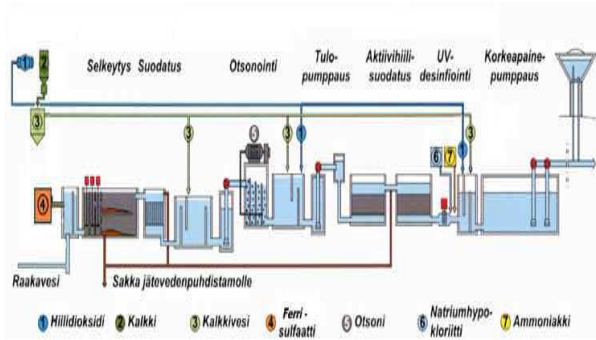
- Efficiency of food control methods – on site
 - Inspections
 - Enforcement measures
 - Recognizing factors predisposing to outbreaks

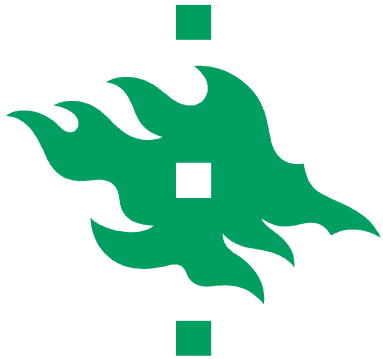




Basic facts 2010-

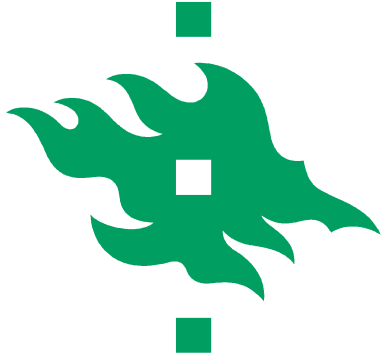
- Food control organised in local units comprised of several municipalities
- 68 local food control units
- 279 person-year (965 persons together in food control)
- Food premises: 51055
- Inspections: 40401
- Control measures: 16234
- Enforcement measures 226





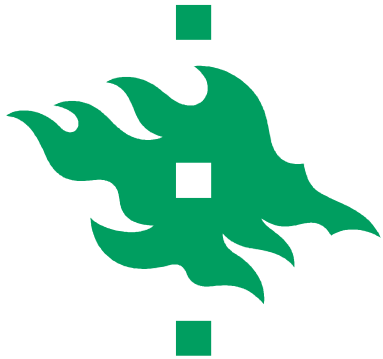
Development and changes in local food control during 2003-2013

- Joining of small local food control units to larger local units (from 277 to 68 units in 10 years)
- Preparation of quality programs and control plans in local food control units
- Control fees introduced for all food premises



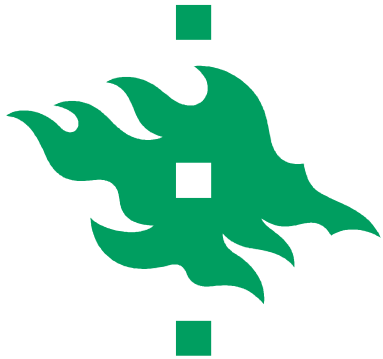
Development and changes in local food control during 2003-2013

- Precontrol reduced (no more approval of food premises)
- Disclosure system (publication of inspection reports)
- Extensive guidance of local authorities (enforcement measures etc.)



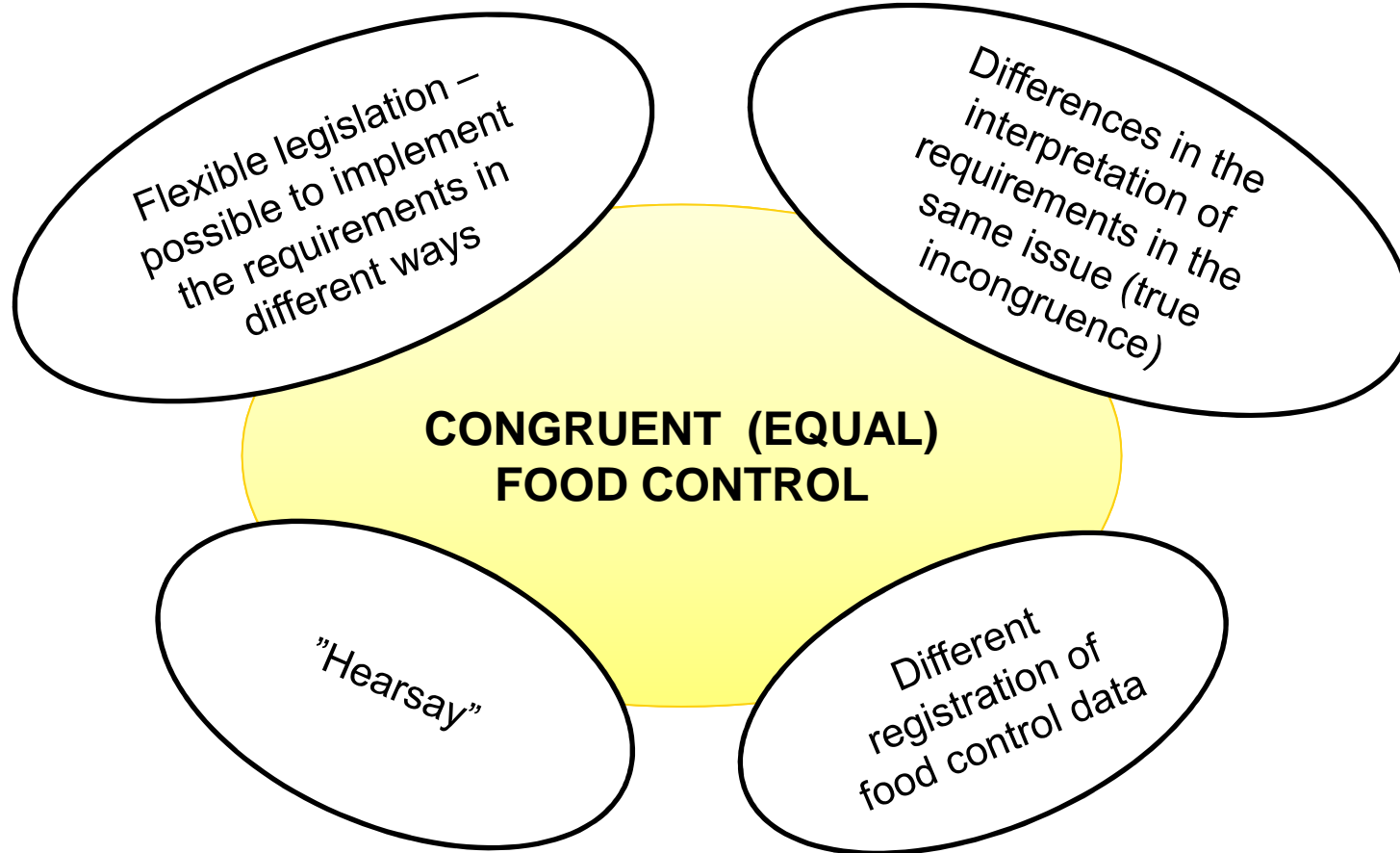
Systematic approach have improved the quality on local level

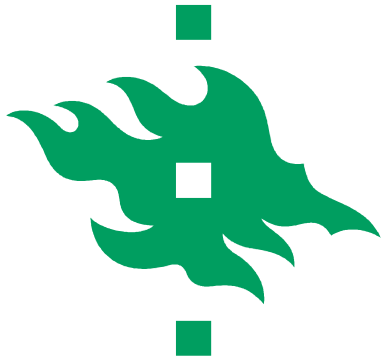
- The larger units have increased the substance knowledge and enabled specialisation
- 88% of the local food control units think that:
 - quality systems
 - control plans and
 - control fees improve the quality of food control (Food Control 2013)



Challenges in local food control

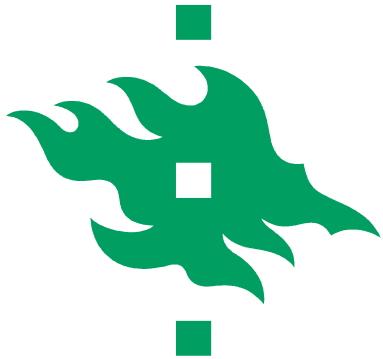
- To cope with too small resources
 - Priorisation is needed
 - 44 % of the local units does not reach the aims set in the control plan (2012)
- To implement changes in the Food Act at local level
 - Changes in control procedures take time and the effects of them can be seen only after some time.
- To prevent and recognize frauds
- To do congruent (equal) food control despite of unit or inspector





Effectiveness of food control at local level – how to measure?

- What is the impact of food control on food safety?
- How to enhance the efficacy of official control?
- What are the most effective measures in controlling food safety and how are they implemented?
- Parameters indicating efficiency of food control



Utilization of official control by FBOs

- The inspection demonstrates that the FBO is controlled - the FBO can use this in marketing in positive way (if the company is compliant)
- Official control needed in export
- The FBOs opinions and experiences of food control?

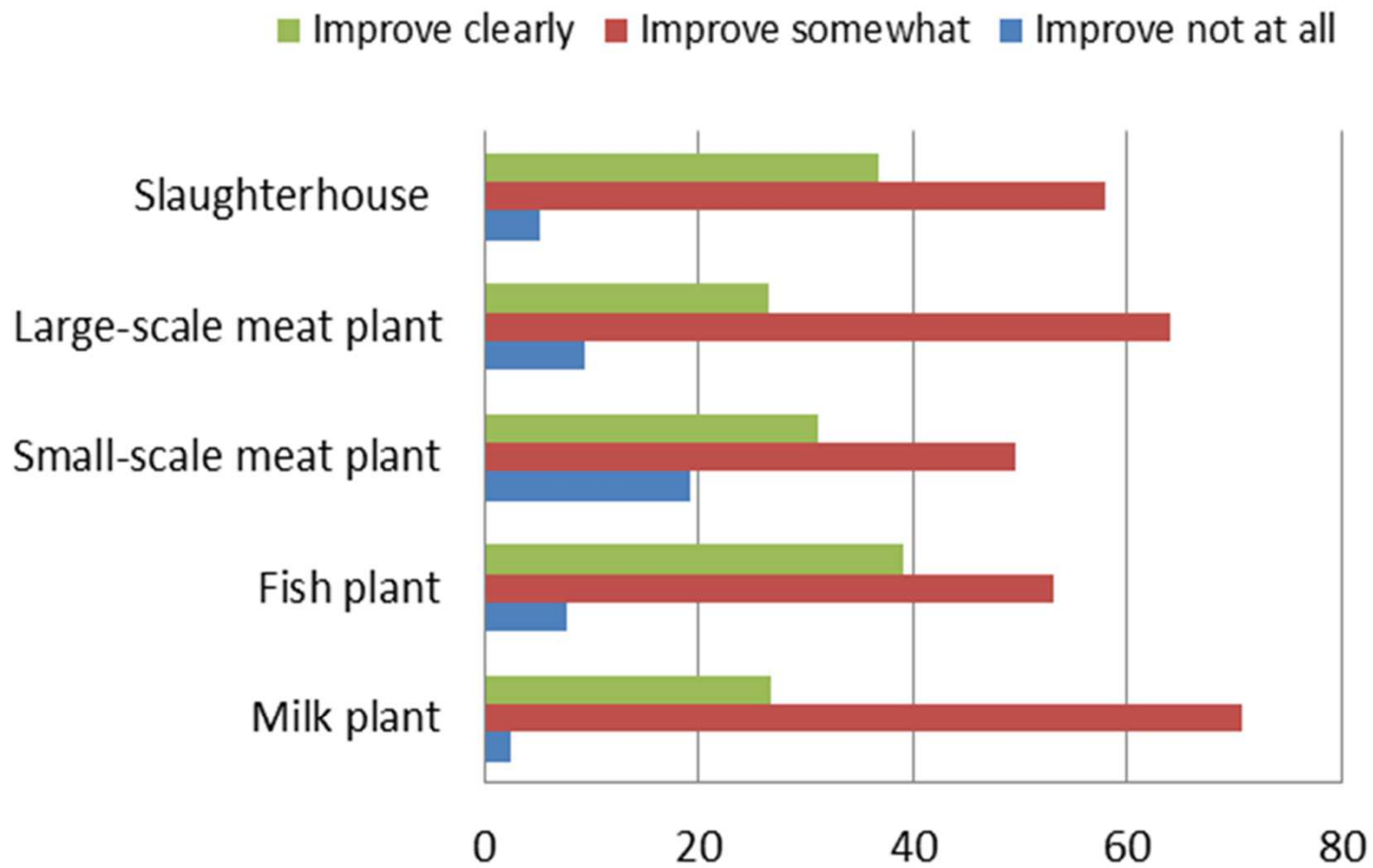


Figure 2. FBOs opinions about the official control improving food hygiene according to production type.

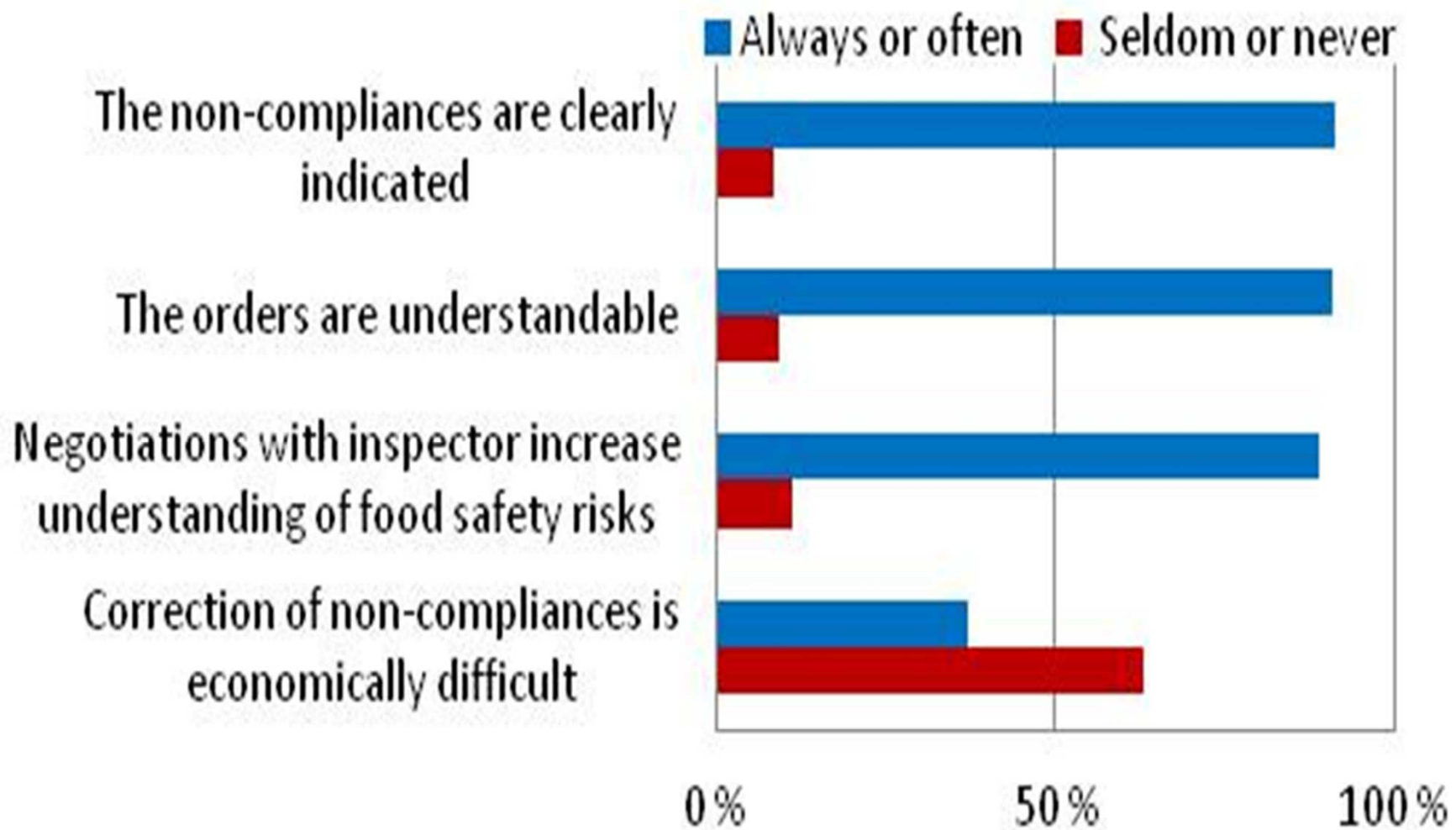
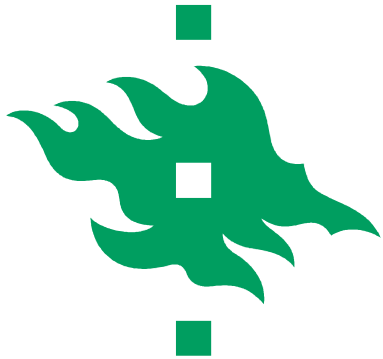
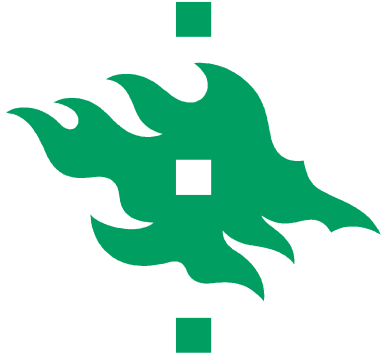


Figure 1. Opinions of the FBOs on the effects of official control



How to reach high quality food control at local level

- Substance knowledge in food safety
- Knowledge in relevant legislation and instructions
- Administrative skills
- Combining substance and legislation knowledge into well argued and justified actions that takes care of the issue (targeted risk management)



Thank you for your attention!

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