

## Israel embarks upon a professional training program for a reform of the overseeing of edible fish in Israel

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The European Union invested 250,000 euros in full funding of a new training program for the development of the official guidelines for the inspection of fish and fish products and the overseeing thereof, starting from the rearing stage, the entry of the fish into Israel, the laboratory tests and the marketing methods.

The purpose of the program, piloted by the Veterinary Unit of the Food Service at the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, is to improve the overseeing of the safety and quality of raw fish for food and fish products, throughout the shelf life thereof, which includes importing, marketing and exporting and this in accordance with the study of the work procedures applied and accepted in the European Union.

The program will commence this week. The program will last eight months, during which there will be professional training for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture staff, the drafting of the guidelines, trainings as part of symposiums for practitioners in the field, and according to the need for legislative updates.

Pnina Oren Schneider, Head of the National Food Service at the Ministry of Health, stated. "Inspecting the food products that arrive in Israel, including fish and fish products, is intended to protect public health and ensure that the imported food that reaches the consumer will be of high quality and safe for consumption. The need to draw up uniform procedures and guidelines based on internationally accepted norms, will improve the procedures for receiving shipments to Israel and make it easier for all those involved in the field, whether veterinarians or importers and marketers."