

VIEWPOINT OF MANAGEMENT ABOUT THE APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOOD COMPANIES

Igor Grujić^{1*}, Branko Latinović¹, Radoslav Grujić²

¹Faculty of Information Technology, Paneuropean University Apeiron,
Vojvode Pere Krece 13, 78102 Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

²State College School of Medicine - Prijedor,
Nikole Pašića 4A, 79000 Prijedor, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*e-mail: igor.r.grujic@apeiron-edu.eu

Abstract

The authors present the attitudes of management and business owners in the food sector regarding the implementation of management systems (MS) through the implementation of Quality Management Standards - QMS (ISO 9001: 2015), Environmental Management Standards - EMS (ISO 14001), Occupational Health and Safety Management Standards - OHSMS (OHSAS 18000) and Food Safety Management Standards - FSMS (ISO 22000, HACCP, IFS) in food companies in four Balkan countries. The aim of the research was to determine the current situation and plans for the application and integration of management standards in the next five years. Particular emphasis is placed on the organizational and technical capabilities of enterprises to integrate multiple management systems (QMS, FSMS, EMS, OHSMS) into an integrated management system (IMS).

The views of company representatives were collected through a survey conducted in four Balkan countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro). For the needs of the research, a specific e-questionnaire was designed. The distribution of e-questionnaires and the collection of answers from companies covered by the survey was conducted via Microsoft Forms. The survey covered 92 companies. Based on the Cronbach's alpha coefficient, the reliability and internal compliance for this sample were tested. Data processing was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 26.

According to the survey results, most companies have certificates for the following standards: QMS (ISO 9001 - 81 companies), FSMS (HACCP - 82, and ISO 22000 - 50), and EMS (ISO 14001 - 59). 43 companies have a certificate for the OHSMS standard (OHSAS 18000 - 30 or ISO 45000 - 13). IFS (32), BRC food safety (11), Halal (51), organic (21), Kosher (8) and other standards are also used. Most companies apply the standards separately, i.e. they have certificates for each standard individually. Less than 20 companies stated that they apply some of the combinations of several standards in an integrated way. Only three (3) companies apply all four observed standards (ISO 9001 + ISO 14001 + OHSAS 18001 + ISO 22000). According to the companies, 35 of them apply QMS and some of the FSMS in an integrated way. Representatives of the companies stated that in the next 5 years, activities will focus on the integration of different MS, including the simultaneous integration of all four observed MS (65 companies). To facilitate the implementation of MS, companies will employ experts in this field (51), develop and implement a support information system (60) or hire a consulting agency (65).

The results showed that companies in the food sector in the 4 Balkan countries apply more MS. The most commonly used are FSMS (82), QMS (81), and EMS (59). The success of the application of MS companies is also proven through certificates for appropriate standards. It was noticed that companies use little of the benefits of integrating more MS into a single system, but plan to do so in the next 5 years.

Key words: QMS, FSMS, EMS, OHSMS, Integrated management systems, Food sector, Balkan countries