
National Reference Laboratory for food microbiology

University of Liège
Belgium

Caroline De Backer

Laboratoire National de Référence en microbiologie des denrées alimentaires

Faculté de médecine vétérinaire - Université de Liège

Boulevard de Colonster 20 bât. B43bis

4000 Liège

Belgique

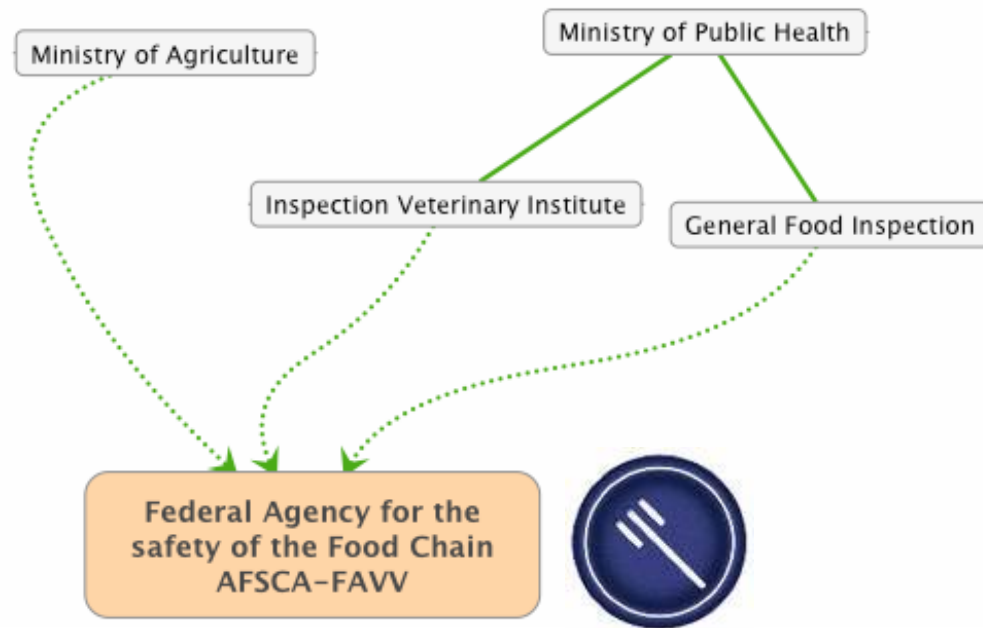
Tél +32 (0)4 366 42 26

Fax +32 (0)4 366 40 44

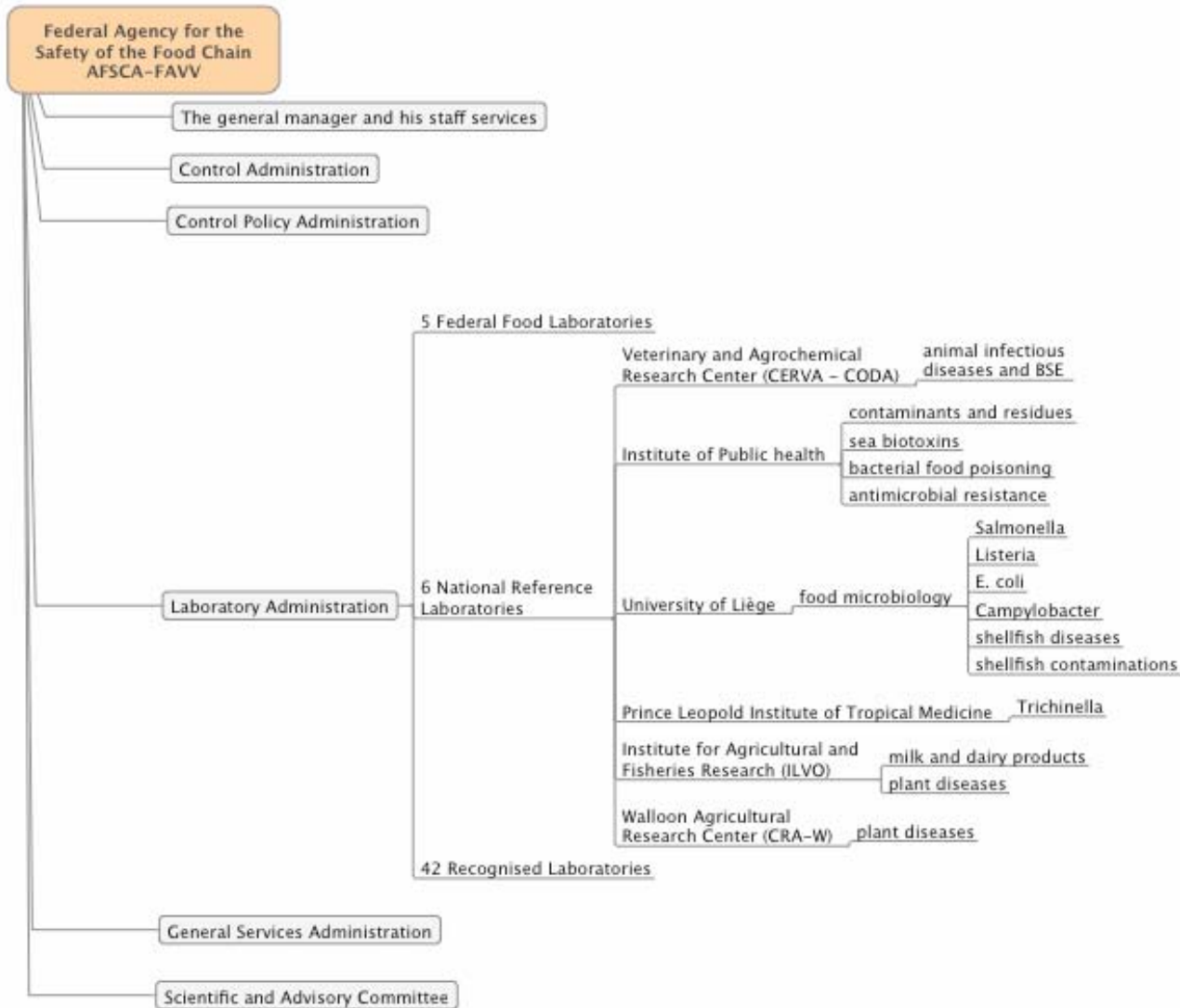
caroline.debacker@ulg.ac.be

Food chain monitoring and control in Belgium

- In 2000, Belgian government decided to integrate all the control services into one Federal Agency for the safety of the Food Chain



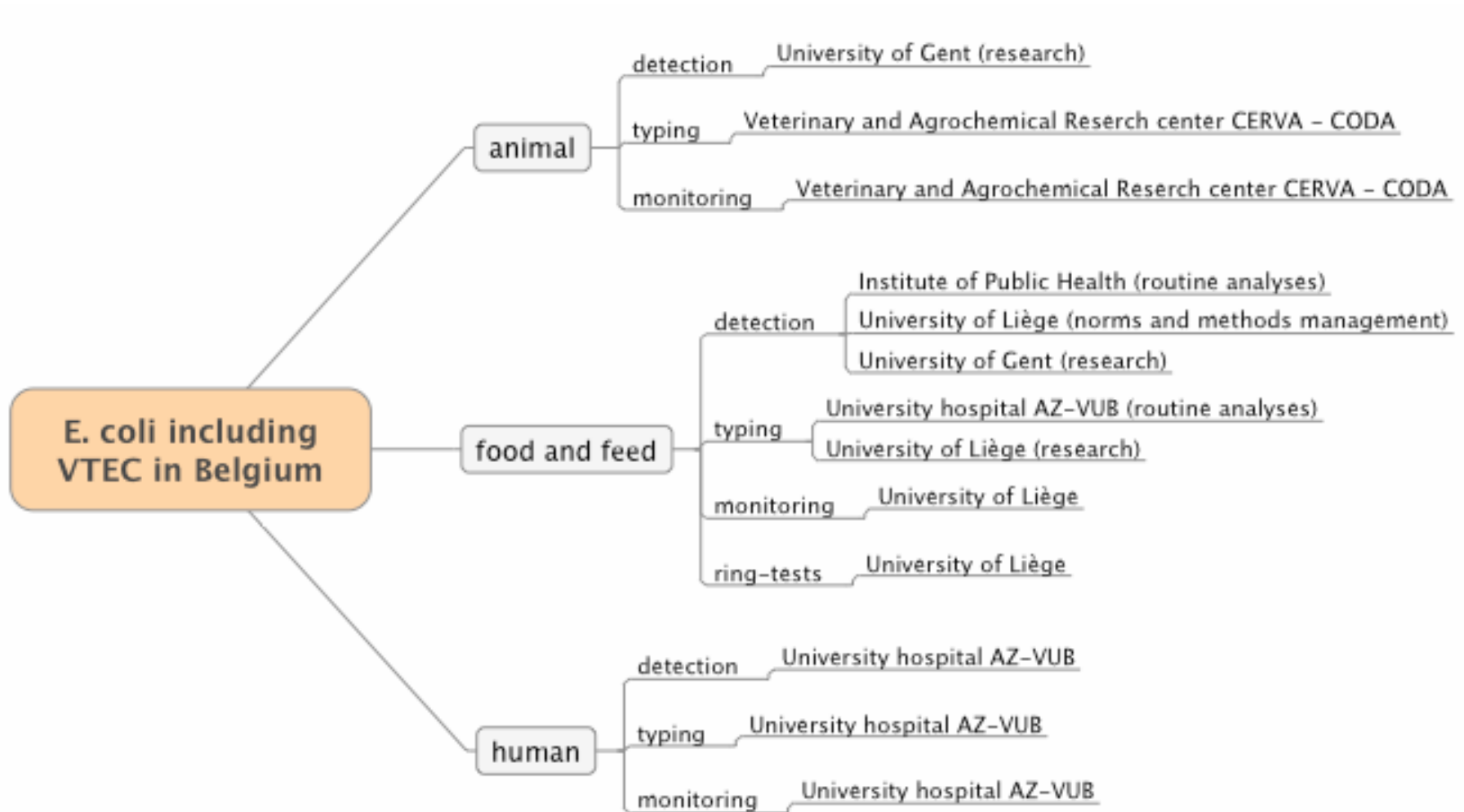
Organization of the Food Agency



Tasks LNR - food microbiology

- Evaluation of the recognised laboratories
 - ring-tests, audits, artificially contaminated samples
- Technical and scientific assistance to the Food Agency
 - keep up to date knowledge and contacts: EFSA, Codex alimentarius, EC, CRL's
 - standardisation activities: AFNOR, CEN, ISO
 - list of the recognised methods in Belgium
- Technical and scientific assistance to laboratories
 - questions, newsletter, annual congress
- Validation of results from the monitoring program
- Organisation of scientific or technical trainings
- Laboratory activities
 - routine analyses : microbiology (Salmonella, Vibrio, E. coli) and virology (Norovirus, Rotavirus, Hepatite A), specialised in shellfish
 - development and validation of methods
- « Following Commission » 4 times a year

E. coli network



Contacts concerning E. coli

- Belgian Food Agency (AFSCA - FAVV): www.afsca.be
- National Reference Laboratory for food microbiology - University of Liège
 - Georges Daube : georges.daube@ulg.ac.be
 - Caroline De Backer : caroline.debacker@ulg.ac.be
- Institute of Public Health (ISP-WIV)
 - Katelijne Dierick : katelijne.dierick@iph.fgov.be
- University hospital AZ-VUB
 - Denis Piérard : denis.pierard@az.vub.ac.be
- Veterinary and agrochemical research center (CODA-CERVA)
 - Hein Imberechts: hein.imberechts@var.fgov.be
- University of Gent
 - Lieven De Zutter: lieven.dezutter@UGent.be