



Sebastian Hielm

Nationality: Finnish



Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Gender: Male

Email address: [REDACTED]

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Specialist Qualification in Management (JOKO Senior management program)

Markkinointi-instituutti [2013 – 2014]

Address: (Finland)

English language proficiency exam (level 6/6)

National foreign language certificate committee (Kielitutkintotoimikunta) [10/11/2007]

Address: (Finland)

Diplomate

European College of Veterinary Public Health [25/11/2005]

Address: European Board of Veterinary Specialisation,

Proficiency in Finnish exam (highest level)

National foreign language certificate committee (Kielitutkintotoimikunta) [2005]

Address: (Finland)

Food Hygienist's examination (Veterinary Public Health)

Helsinki University / Tampere University [2000]

Address: (Finland)

Official Meat Inspector's examination

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry [2000]

Address: (Finland)

PhD in Food Hygiene

Helsinki University [01/05/1994 – 22/09/1999]

Address: (Finland)

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

College of Veterinary Medicine, Helsinki [01/09/1987 – 01/03/1994]

Address: (Finland)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **Swedish**

Other language(s):

Finnish

LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 SPOKEN INTERACTION C2

English

LISTENING C2 READING C2 WRITING C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 SPOKEN INTERACTION C2

French

LISTENING B1 READING B1 WRITING B1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION B1 SPOKEN INTERACTION B1

Italian

LISTENING B1 READING B1 WRITING B1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION B1 SPOKEN INTERACTION B1

Norwegian

LISTENING C1 READING C1 WRITING C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

DIGITAL SKILLS

Zoom / Facebook / Google Docs / Twitter / Skype / Instagram / LinkedIn / Written and Verbal skills / Good listener and communicator / Organizational and planning skills / Team-work oriented / Analytical skills / Decision-making / Microsoft office (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, Teams)

PUBLICATIONS

40 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals (list available on request)

A wide selection of scientific papers, published in high-quality journals 1996-2021. The bulk of the articles are on food hygiene and molecular epidemiology of pathogenic bacteria. In the new millennium the focus of the research shifts towards HACCP, risk management of food businesses, and most recently, to public health administration.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Riddartecknet av I klass av Finlands Lejons Orden

The President of Finland [06/12/2019]

A 'knighthood' customarily bestowed on government officials when reaching some maturity of a successful career

WORK EXPERIENCE

Food safety director

Ministry of agriculture and forestry [01/08/2016 – Current]

Address: Government (Finland)

Country: Finland

Head of the Finnish government's Food safety unit, with a staff of 16. Responsible for elaborating national food safety policies, in particular in relation to EU and national legislation. Duties include steering of the Finnish Food Authority, which sees to the practical implementation of the food and feed safety legislation, including nutrition policies.

In 2017-2020, I chaired the National Nutrition Council (continuing as vice-chair 2020-2023), a horizontal body of 20 nutrition scientists and experts. The council takes an active part in the formation of our national nutrition policy, mainly by issuing dietary guidelines for the general population as well as for more specific groups. I am also a member of two other similar national councils, both led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health: the Advisory Board for Public Health and the Advisory Board for Infectious Diseases.

Since 2016 I have headed the Finnish delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH; since 2003). I also participated in the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC) in 2021, as advisor to Germany (member elected on geographical basis). Since 2008 I am the head of the Finnish delegation on food issues to the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Senior food standards officer (P-5)

Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations [14/12/2014 – 31/07/2016]

Address: Rome (Italy)

Country: Italy

Working as deputy to the Secretary of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Secretariat. Responsible for communications and policy strategies of the Secretariat. Participation in secretariat duties in various Codex Committee meetings, including the Commission and Executive Committee. Direct supervision of 8 employees.

Ministerial adviser

Ministry of agriculture and forestry, Food safety unit [01/01/2008 – 13/12/2014]

Address: Government (Finland)

Country: Finland

The main body of my work dealt with developing and enacting both national and EU-legislation concerning food safety, with an emphasis on food hygiene (i.e., the food law 178/2002/EC and the hygiene package regulations 852-853/2004/EC and 882/2004/EC). As part of this work, I led a project in 2009-11 which slimmed down and rationalised all our national pieces of legislation concerned with food hygiene (6 decrees and one law). Last year, I was the principal author of the Government's Food Safety Report (with a majority of recommendations being on nutrition), which is given to Parliament every four years.

In my work, I was in charge of preparing the Finnish views on all matters related to Codex Alimentarius's CCFH-work, which entails a substantial amount of liaisoning with stakeholders in the entire field of food safety. I also engaged myself in Codex more directly: I chaired the CCFH-led revision of the Guidelines for the Application of Microbiological Criteria in Foods in 2010-2013 and chaired an international scientific colloquium in Finland in June 2014, which will lay the foundation for a proposal to update the General Principles of Food Hygiene (including the HACCP annex - arguably the crown jewel among Codex standards).

I was (and still is, in 2020) the Secretary of the steering committee for the Finnish Zoonosis Centre, with a particular responsibility to monitor, assist and analyse food and waterborne outbreaks. Legislation concerning outbreak analysis is also a part of my job in this area, as well as closely monitoring AMR trends, Infosan and IHR/Global Health Security Agenda developments in food safety.

I was also a member of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Executive committee on fisheries, agriculture, food and forestry; in this work I am responsible for coordinating the Ministry's Nordic policy cooperation in these areas. I reported directly to our director of international affairs, and often represented her in Nordic-Baltic meetings.

Senior health officer

Ministry of social affairs and health [01/01/2003 – 31/12/2007]

Address: Government (Finland)

Country: Finland

Legislative and advisory work in the fields of food safety and hygiene. Head of national expert groups, e.g., 'Dioxins and POPs in fish', 'Food-borne epidemic follow-up' and 'Food hygiene'. The last-mentioned acted as the national coordinating committee for Codex Alimentarius CCFH-meetings. National WHO contact person for food emergencies and the INFOSAN communication system. Member of the government's preparatory committee for EU common agricultural policies (EU-18). Preparation of hygienic and animal by-products regulation management codes of practice for the food industry. Member of the Commission working group for developing Regulation 2073/2005/EC on microbiological criteria for foods. Ministry of Health expert representative at the annual Geneva meeting rounds on the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons and their Destruction.

Project researcher

Finnish Technology Centre Tekes / Helsinki University [01/01/2000 – 31/12/2002]

Country: Finland

Teaching process risk management (HACCP, GHP) to food manufacturing SMEs, following the FAO/WHO/ICF 5-day teaching package. Consulting individual companies on HACCP development and implementation. Co-developing HYGRAM, a published risk analysis software tool for FBO risk managers. Teaching and research at the Veterinary Faculty, Helsinki University.

Veterinarian

Various municipalities and veterinary clinics [15/05/1992 – 31/12/2001]

Country: Finland

Farm animal and small animal practice, official meat inspection, approving food establishments according to the EU hygiene directive, supervising health inspectors, etc.

Senior lecturer

Department of Food and Environmental Hygiene [01/03/1994 – 31/12/1999]

City: Helsinki University

Country: Finland

Research in molecular epidemiology of food pathogens, fish hygiene and risk management in food production. Teaching food hygiene and food safety to veterinary and food technology undergraduates and post-graduates. Administrative tasks within the university.