



Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2021

Abstract

This document contains a short description of the activities of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission during the year. It includes information on main deliverables and outcomes of each Network and the relevant budget.

List of EFSA Networks included in the report

Communications Expert Network (CEN).....	1
Pesticide Steering Network (PSN).....	7
Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	11
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	14
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH)	18
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Food and Feed & Environmental Risk Assessment).....	20
Scientific Network on BSE/TSE.....	22
Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection	24
Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)	26
Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM).....	29
Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data.....	30
Scientific Network on Novel Foods	32
Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO).....	34
Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data.....	38
ANNEX I – Analysis of quantitative data and graphic overview	43



Report of Activities of the Communications Expert Network (CEN)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

Risk communication is one of the mandates in EFSA's founding regulations and includes working closely with the Member States to promote coherence in the risk communication process as well as ensuring appropriate cooperation regarding public information campaigns. The Communications Expert Network (CEN), in alignment with the Advisory Forum (AF), focuses on co-operation between EFSA and the Member States in support of strategic priorities and the Transparency Regulation.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the CEN are:

Objective 1 – Seamless coordinated communication in the EU

- Strategic alignment with the heads of national competent authorities on issues relating to EU food safety;
- Improved coordination, preparedness and consistency in communications between EFSA and Member States on all areas within EFSA's remit, particularly in case of diverging views, food outbreaks, and emerging risks;

Objective 2 - Shared Best Practice

- Share best practices and guidelines in communications harnessing collective expertise and promoting harmonised ways of working

Objective 3 - Skills and knowledge developed across Member States to facilitate and optimise Targeted Risk Communication

- Acquired of knowledge and shared experiences in communications and risk communications to understand better the risk perceptions of target audience;
- Developed methods to meet their information needs through targeted communication methodologies and tools;

Link to current ToR: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cen/cen_tor.pdf

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the CEN for 2021 were:

1. Coherence in risk communication - EFSA's communication materials on its scientific outputs are shared with CEN members ahead of publication to allow time for Member States to prepare their own activities to ensure that messages to audiences are aligned and consistent. For particularly complex issues or where there is high public concern, these efforts are further supported through pre-publication teleconferences with the CEN.
2. Pan-EU campaign on food safety – partners in the CEN were instrumental in the development and delivery of a public-facing communication campaign called **#EUChooseSafeFood** to raise awareness about the science behind food safety and to give consumers more confidence about the food choices they make.

Based on a pool of communication material and messages on 11 food safety topics, CEN members from nine countries developed national communication plans tailored to the needs of their audiences. The campaign was disseminated to national audiences via digital and social media channels, as well as via traditional media and through a wide range of events and initiatives with their national partner institutions and other stakeholders.

3. Transparency Regulation - Main activities focussed on the development of three reports to inform a future General Plan for Risk Communication: Technical assistance in the field of risk communication; Mapping the coordination and cooperation mechanisms of risk communication on feed/food safety in the EU and Catalogue of Communication Tools and Dissemination Guidelines: benchmarking current practice in EU and Member State bodies. While the CEN provided input to all three reports, their contribution to the latter two reports was most pronounced. All CEN members, in close collaboration with Focal Point colleagues, provided the core and essential information on national networks and communication practices by completing surveys and participating in interviews. CEN members from Croatia, Germany and the Netherlands were members of a Joint Steering Committee for Coordinated Communications that reviewed and help shape the latter two reports.
4. Update of 'Best Practice for Crisis Communicators' guide – contributed to the update of how to best communicate during food and feed safety incidents by attending an online Information Session and commenting on the draft guidance to be published in 2022.
5. Co-creation of Practitioners' checklist on how to communicate on uncertainty – the development of this checklist arose from a proposal from the German CEN member and benefitted from input from several CEN members during 2021. Finalisation is due in Q1 2022.

6. International Risk Communication Liaison Group – several CEN members are active participants in this international network coordinated by EFSA, participating in twice-yearly meetings and bringing their perspective and expertise to the group.

7. Social Science – development of several important initiatives:
 - Dietary sugars survey – capturing perceptions & areas of interest in all Member States. Reports shared with the CEN via the SharePoint Portal.
 - Hazard and risk project – exploring ways to present the difference between the two concepts through products tailored to the perceptions and needs of national audiences. CEN participation in focus groups with PR experts to shape concepts. Work ongoing in 2022.
 - EFSA study to strengthen its communication of scientific information - CEN supported to identify of risk managers to target for the study sample . Work ongoing in 2022.
 - Eurobarometer questionnaire - review of the draft 2022 survey launched in Q4. To be finalised in 2022.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 5

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- Two plenary meetings:
 - **9th Meeting of the CEN - 17-18 March** - lasting 1.5 days the meeting with the full CEN covered a wide range of topics including:
 - Standing items – update of relevant Advisory Forum and Focal Point activities, update on the work plan, EFSA communication activities over the next six months, and analysis of media relations activities, an update on EFSA work in the field of social science and Key Country Issues- where Member Stated highlighted major communication initiative undertaken.
 - Ad hoc items – Joint campaigns (#EUChooseSafeFood and African Swine Fever, World Food Safety Day (WHO/FAO), update on work to support implementation of the Transparency Regulation, Proposal to include Member State publications in the EFSA Journal; EFSA’s ONE Conference.

[Meeting Minutes](#)

- **10th Meeting of the CEN - 6–7 October** - lasting 1.5 days the meeting with the full CEN covered a wide range of topics including:
 - Standing items – (as above)
 - Ad hoc items – Pan-EU campaigns, communication analytics, EFSA multilingualism project, informing the General Plan for Risk Communication, risk profiles in risk communication, Roadmap for a Pan-EU web platform on food safety, Crisis Communication Roadmap.

[Meeting Minutes](#)

- Three support meetings
 - **22 June - Analytics workshop**
 - EFSA and CEN members shared knowledge, methodologies and tools on assessing the impact of their own communication activities and analysing relevant data to inform communication and reputation management activities. Initial discussion on sharing access to analytic tools.
 - **21 October - Workshop on co-creation of EFSA’s new brand identity**
 - An interactive session in which members brainstormed and agreed on key elements that would help inform the development of EFSA new brand identity.
 - **28 October – Information Session - Analysis of EFSA’s crisis communication guidelines**
 - Information-sharing and discussion on the current guidelines, recommendations for updating them with current best practice and explanation of how CEN members would be able to comment on a draft. Finalisation of the revised guidelines in 2022.

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the CEN were:

1. Coordinated communication on 19 of EFSA’s scientific outputs via prenotification of materials ahead of publication. This included five pre-publication teleconferences and ongoing collaboration and communication through a shared working space with the CEN.
2. Campaign outcomes – the #EUChooseSafeFood campaign delivered against its objectives of raising awareness that science - delivered by EU and national bodies – underpins food safety in Europe. The surveys were conducted across Member States and confirmed the importance of national efforts in delivering the campaign. Some key findings:

- 25% (against a target of 15-20%) of the target audience (25–45-year-olds) said they were aware of the campaign, with 32% of those surveyed recalling the message (against a target of 15-20%).
 - Almost one third (32%) said they were aware of food safety and science to guarantee food safety
 - 21% said they were aware of EFSA (against 19% in the 2018 Eurobarometer); 31% said they were aware of their national food authority
 - 28% confirmed an increased awareness of EFSA and national food authorities following the campaign
3. Supporting the implementation of the Transparency Regulation / General Plan for Risk Communication – The CEN made an important contribution to three reports published by EFSA in April 2021 that aim to support the European Commission in implementing the Transparency Regulation. These reports are:
- [Technical assistance in the field of risk communication](#)
 - [Mapping the coordination and cooperation mechanisms of risk communication on feed/food safety in the EU](#)
 - [Catalogue of Communication Tools and Dissemination Guidelines: benchmarking current practice in EU and Member State bodies](#)
4. Practitioners’ checklist on how to communicate on uncertainty – draft checklist developed in 2021. To be finalised in 2022.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: EUR 0.00 (due to COVID restrictions there were no in-person meetings)
2. Total cost of activities: EUR 0.00

6. Overall Assessment

The CEN has made an important contribution towards coordinated communications across Europe, in support of the General Food Law and Transparency Regulation, through:

- Implementation of the core work of ensuring coherence, consistency and clarity in communication of risks in the food chain in 2021 through information sharing and cooperation. Examples include coordinated communications of high-profile scientific outputs such as titanium dioxide, the draft opinions on dietary sugars and nutrient profiles.

- Campaigns – the CEN – and particularly the nine ‘focus countries’ that developed national communication plans - played a significant role in the success of the pan-EU **#EUChooseSafeFood** campaign in 2021. These campaigns are a core pillar in the development a coordinated approach to risk communication with Member States.

The professional skills present in EFSA and Member States and the demonstrated willingness to collaborate are fundamental to the success of coordinated risk communications across Europe. Coordinated EU communications efforts are carried out by national organisations in addition to many other national duties. EFSA’s funding mechanisms should be reviewed to ensure better support from Member States in the context of a sustainable, comprehensive and coherent framework for coordinated communication in the EU.

7. Supporting document(s)

Plenary 17-18 March - [Meeting Minutes](#)

Plenary 6-7 October - [Meeting Minutes](#)



PESTICIDES PEER REVIEW UNIT (former PESTICIDES UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The Pesticide Peer Review (PREV) Unit is responsible for the EU peer review of risk assessments of active substances used in plant protection products, in close cooperation with EU Member States (complying with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and relevant Regulations).

The Pesticide Residues (formerly PRES; PLANTS after being joined to Plant Health as of Jan 2022) Unit provides scientific advice to the European Commission on possible risks related to the presence of pesticide residues in food treated with plant protection products and makes proposals regarding the setting and reviewing of MRLs (complying with Regulation (EC) No 396/2005).

Both units work in cooperation with the Panel on Pesticide Products and their Residues and are providing scientific advice on pesticide risk assessment on ad-hoc cases or by self-tasking.

The Pesticide Steering Committee (PSC) was established in 2008. The PSC has highly contributed to the coordination of the activities of EFSA and the Member States regarding the risk assessment of pesticides. Following the discussion at the EFSA Joint Science Meetings, a renaming of the PSC network to Pesticide Steering Network was proposed in June 2014.

In March 2021, following the entry into force of the Transparency Regulation (TR), EFSA has new requirements for capturing, managing, handling and distributing Plant Protection Products (PPP) data and the IUCLID tool is used for data preparation, electronic submission and management of active substance and MRL dossiers. Therefore, a new task related to the governance of IUCLID was added to the existing Terms of Reference.

Link to current ToR: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Terms-of-Reference-Pesticide-Steering-Network.pdf>

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the PSN for 2021 were of administrative and scientific nature: on one side, aspects related to e.g. the update of the ToR, the implementation of new TR measures (including IUCLID), the revision of the Administrative Guidance Document on submission of dossiers and assessment reports, the proposal of piloting a PSN open to stakeholders; on the other side the PSN has been updated on new scientific developments which would impact on the work of MSs and stakeholders in general.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 4

During 2021 the following 4 meetings took place (2 Plenary sessions and 2 subgroups):

- **29 March 2021, plenary meeting**, coordination of the activities of EFSA and the Member States regarding the risk assessment of pesticides.
- **06 July 2021 subgroup meeting**, coordination of the activities and governance for IUCLID for pesticides
- **01 October 2021, subgroup meeting**, coordination of the activities and governance for IUCLID for pesticides
- **13 October 2021, plenary meeting**, coordination of the activities of EFSA and the Member States regarding the risk assessment of pesticides.

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the PSN were:

1. 29 March 2021 plenary meeting:

Administrative activities

- outcome of the consultation on the Administrative guidance on submission of dossiers and assessment reports for the peer-review of pesticide active substances and on the MRL application procedure and state of the art on Transparency Regulation;
- Pesticide Steering Network agreement on Terms of Reference for mandate renewal;
- outcome high Level Meeting between Competent authorities, European Commission and EFSA (follow up on collaboration activities with MSs and on improvement areas in the peer review);
- Guidance documents (preparation and updates, medium- and long-term planning);
- proposal to open PSN to stakeholders to increase transparency;

Scientific activities

- Outcome of the consultation on Scientific criteria for grouping chemicals into assessment groups for human risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals;
- update on the draft Guidance on Non-Dietary Exposure to Pesticides;
- presentation of PPR Opinion on Comparative In Vitro Metabolism Studies
- update on EFSA working group on Endocrine Disruptors; update on IUCLID and Hyper-care programme;
- outcome of the Commission workshop on Specific Protection Goals/Environmental Risk Assessment and general update from Commission

2. 06 July 2021, subgroup meeting:

- overview on the IUCLID implementation progress
- presentation of manual and training material
- proposal for topics for Hypercare Rapporteur Member States sessions

3. 01 October 2021, subgroup meeting:

- EFSA's, Applicants' and Member States' feedback on first IUCLID submissions
- presentation of IUCLID features (validation assistant and report generator),
- confidentiality rules and filtered dossiers
- IUCLID 6.6 release and main changes to PPP working context

4. 13 October 2021, plenary meeting:

Administrative activities

- preparation, updates and medium- and long-term planning of guidance documents;
- feedback on the implementation of Transparency Regulation and pre-submission activities,
- updates on PSN IUCLID subgroup meeting on 01 October 2021,
- publication of Pesticide Peer Review meeting minutes,
- revision of the EU-RAR template

Scientific activities

- updates on the assessment of Endocrine Disrupting properties;
- presentation of EFSA Guidances on Aneugenicity and on the assessment of nano materials,
- new data requirements on Microorganisms

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 1,350.00€
2. Total cost of activities: 0.00€ (all the meetings have been organised via tele-web conference).

6. Overall Assessment

The operations of the PSN in 2021 consolidated the positive outcomes as in the previous years. The network demonstrated to be an essential forum to proceed with improvement actions in the context of pesticide risk assessment. In particular, the involvement of MSs in the understanding the implementation of the new TR measures (including IUCLID) has been difficult, though adding a lot of value

in increasing partnerships and sharing activities. The activity on the general overview of Guidance Documents to be revised in the medium and long term has represented an important milestone to set the workplan in the next years, increasing the accountability of EFSA, EC and MSs for this common activity.

7. Supporting document(s)

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Pesticides-Steering-Network-Members.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/list-members-iuclid-psn.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-03/27th-meeting-efsa-pesticide-steering-network-agenda.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-04/27th-meeting-efsa-pesticide-steering-network-minutes.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/1st-meeting-pesticide-steering-network-iuclid-sub-group-agenda.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/1st-meeting-pesticide-steering-network-iuclid-sub-group-minutes.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/28th-meeting-efsa-pesticide-steering-network-agenda.pdf>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-11/28th-meeting-efsa-pesticide-steering-network-minutes.pdf>



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT (former BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS & CONTAMINANTS UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA Network) strengthens the scientific cooperation in the remit of microbiological risk assessments. It aims at anticipating and reducing the duplication of activities and hence avoiding divergence of opinions. The Network is a privileged and confidential environment to share data and methodologies facilitating harmonisation of assessment practices and to assist in anticipating emerging risks in the EU.

The main overall goals of the MRA Network are:

- to improve dialogue and exchange of information among participants;
- to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles;
- to enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU;
- to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA;
- to raise the harmonisation level of the risk assessments developed in the EU.

The specific objectives of the MRA Network are:

- Identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
- Identifying and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- Identification of experts in specific areas and on special issues;
- Sharing of data availability and quality;
- Strengthening cooperation amongst risk assessors and managers;
- Exchanging information between EFSA, the EU Member States and other stakeholders;
- Strengthening communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States and among risk assessors, risk managers and stakeholders; including national AF and FP members.
- Focusing attention on and streamlining of common research needs;

Identifying potential emerging risks when addressing current issues.

Link to current ToR: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazmra-networktor.pdf>

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the MRA Scientific Network for 2021 were:

1. Annual meeting
2. Continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meeting took place:

- **5-6 October 2021**, plenary meeting. Multiple topics discussed

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the MRA Scientific Network were:

1. Minutes of the annual meeting of the MRA Network
2. Annual report of the meeting of the MRA Network

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 52,000 € for both BIOCONTAM networks
2. Total cost of activities: 900 €

6. Overall Assessment

Currently, 25 European Union Member States and two observer countries (Switzerland and Norway) are participating in the MRA Network. During the annual meeting, a wide range of activities related to microbial risk assessment were presented including risk ranking of pathogens in different foods, *Salmonella* in wild boar meat, STEC in flour, bacterial pathogens on fresh fruit and vegetables, *Campylobacter* and *E. coli* in broiler meat and *Anisakidae* in fish, date marking as well as EFSA activities. The Network participants expressed their interest in two annual meetings (one of them virtual) to enhance the networking and exchange of information.

7. Supporting document(s)

Link to the minutes of the annual meeting of the MRA Scientific Network

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/21st-meeting-efsa-network-microbiological-risk-assessment-minutes.pdf>

Link to the Annual Report of the meeting of the MRA Scientific Network

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7027>



Report of Activities of the

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The overall objectives of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment (RA) in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) is to install and enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, to build a mutual understanding of RA principles of animal health and welfare in a transparent way. It is expected to promote the harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies, including harmonisation of the data collection (SIGMA), and reduce the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities. Overall, this applies within the framework of the following provisions: Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ animal health law¹, Council directive 98/58/EC², Council Regulation No. 1099/2009³ and Council Regulation No. 1/2005⁴

Different subgroup meetings (networks) were organised in 2021 and are related to specific topics on animal health and welfare: African Swine Fever Workshop (ASF), *Echinococcus multilocularis* (EM) Working group and the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for scientific support under Article 20 of Council Regulation No. 1099/2009³, Annual meeting ENET Wild project, Annual meeting VectorNext (ECDC-EFSA).

- **Link to current ToR:**

TORs Network on animal health and welfare: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/ahawnetwork.pdf>

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the AHAW network, NCP network, ASF workshop and Echinococcus Network for 2021 were:

1. Annual meeting AHAW network: Animal Welfare
2. Annual meeting AHAW network: Animal Health
3. Annual meeting NCP under Article 20 of Council Regulation No. 1099/2009³

¹ REGULATION (EU) 2016/429 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law')

² Council Directive (EC) No 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

³ Council Directive (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

⁴ Council Directive (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97

4. Network on *Echinococcus Multilocularis*
5. Annual workshop African Swine Fever (ASF) 2021 (Epi Report-5)
6. Annual meeting ENET Wild project
7. Annual meeting VectorNext (ECDC-EFSA)

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 7

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- **7-8 January 2021**, Annual workshop African Swine Fever (ASF) 2021 (Epi Report-5, surveillance activities in different EU MSs, Risk Factor analysis)
- **1 June 2021**, Annual meeting AHAW network, topic Animal Health & Sigma data collection (Sigma project, Focal Points & country cards, Animal Health Law Regulation 2016/429, Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, ENET Wild project, VectorNext project, Covid-19 in animals, Brucella Canis in IT, Salmonella Cholerasuis in wild boar in SE)
- **28-29 June 2021**, Annual meeting AHAW network, topic Animal Welfare (Farm2fork mandates EC, Animal welfare indicators project EC, Animal Based measures at slaughter/Pigs, Animal Based measures at slaughter/Calves)
- **6 October 2021**, Network on *Echinococcus Multilocularis* (finalising report on *Echinococcus multilocularis* in the context of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772, Epi report EM)
- **6-7 October 2021**, Annual meeting NCP under Article 20 of Council Regulation No. 1099/2009³ (update on AWelfare activities Farm2Fork and killing and slaughtering of sheep and goats, EURCAW poultry & small farmed animals, CO2 stunning in pigs SE, poultry on-farm welfare , DE national animal welfare monitoring, BE measuring welfare at slaughterhouse)
- **5-6 October 2021**, Online Annual meeting ENET Wild project (workshop 1: harmonised national and international wildlife monitoring in EU; workshop 2: from data collection to policy; workshop 3: wild boar management in the EU)
- **30 November-1 December 2021**, Annual meeting VectorNext (ECDC-EFSA). VectorNet is a project of ECDC and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which aims to contribute to improving preparedness and response for vector-borne diseases, following a 'One-Health' approach.

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the AHAW Network were:

1. Annual meeting AHAW network, topic Animal Health: output is minutes of the meeting see <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-06/18th-meeting-scientific-network-risk-assessment-animal-health-and-welfare-minutes.pdf>
2. Annual meeting AHAW network, topic Animal Welfare, output is minutes of the meeting <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-07/scientific-network-risk-assessment-animal-health-and-welfare-minutes.pdf> and 2 event reports: 1. The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of pigs on farm: EFSA's AHAW Network exercise doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7028 2) The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of calves on farm: EFSA's AHAW Network exercise doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7042
3. Annual meeting NCP, output is minutes <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/6th-meeting-national-contact-points-established-under-art-20-council-regulation-ec-minutes.pdf> and 2 event reports: 1. The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of laying hens on farm (M-2020-0119; EFSA-Q-2021-00758) <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7055>. 2. The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of broiler chicken on farm: scientific NCPs Network exercise (M-2020-0116 ; EFSA-Q-2021-00761). 3. The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of pigs on farm: EFSA's AHAW Network exercise (EFSA-Q-2021-00713) <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7028> 4. The use of animal-based measures at slaughter for assessing the welfare of calves on farm: EFSA's AHAW Network exercise (EFSA-Q-2021-0074) <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-7042>
4. Network on *Echinococcus multilocularis* output is minutes <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/11th-meeting-network-echinococcus-multilocularis-infection-animals-minutes.pdf> and report <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6945>
5. Annual meeting ENET Wild project output is event report and reports see <https://enetwild.com/>
6. output is minutes of the meeting see and EPI-report (period September 2019-August 2020) see <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6572>
7. Annual meeting VectorNext (ECDC-EFSA) event report, newsletters and maps see: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/vector-net>

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 0 (meetings online)
2. Total cost of activities: 0

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met. The annual network meetings on Animal health and welfare were very useful to obtain input for ongoing mandates (e.g. Farm2Fork mandates, exercises on Animal based measures in slaughterhouses for pigs, calves, laying hens and broilers) Awareness is raised to the new terms of references and expected deliverables.

The SIGMA project identified a set of new data providers 1. Data providers submitting data on livestock 2. New data providers on laboratory data. In addition, an important role is foreseen in the SIGMA framework which is represented by the data validators. There will be the need of being in close contact with these people for different reasons: training, update, feedback, collaboration. Given the nature of the activity, it is under discussion whether this would deserve a new network and who would be the leading unit (eventually DATA unit).

7. Supporting document(s)

Links to meetings' agenda and meeting minutes as above.



Report of Activities of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The overall aim of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment on Plant Health is to install and enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, to build a mutual understanding of RA principles in plant health in a transparent way. It is expected to promote the harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies, including harmonisation of the data collection, and reduce the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities. This applies within the framework of the new EU plant health rules, adopted in October 2016 by the European Parliament and the Council (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against plant pests ("Plant Health Law").

Link to current ToR: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/plhranetworktor.pdf>

2. Work programme for year 2021

The main topics discussed by the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health in 2021 were:

1. An update by DG SANTE on the implementation of EU Plant Health Law
2. Update and discussion on EFSA PLANT Health Risk assessment activities: Horizon Scanning (including results of PeMoScoring) and identification on new and emerging plant pests; commodity risk Assessment for High-Risk plants and derogations; pest categorisation and quantitative pest risk assessment for new and emerging plant pests; climate suitability for new and emerging plant pests and EFSA Project on Spatially explicit environmental data (SEED), including demonstration of EFSA Scanclim tool.
3. Update and discussion on EFSA Pest survey toolkit: achievements and work in progress.
4. Presentation and discussion of the EFSA Art. 36 Partnering Grant project: "Assessing the confidence in pest freedom gained in the past pine wood nematode surveys".
5. Presentation and discussion of the EFSA Art. 36 Partnering Grant project: EU Hotspots for plant pests introductions: an integrated analysis to better prepare for pests' invasion (HoPPI).
6. Discussion on cooperation between EFSA and the European Union Reference Laboratories EURLs.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meeting took place:

- **9-10 December 2021**, 17th meeting of the EFSA Network on Risk Assessment in Plant Health

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the EFSA Network on Risk Assessment in Plant Health were:

1. The 17th meeting EFSA Network on Risk Assessment in Plant Health minutes ([Minutes](#))

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 20,000
2. Total cost of activities: 0 (no cost web meeting)

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met. The annual network meetings on Risk Assessment in Plant Health were very useful to obtain input for ongoing mandates and share information to the stakeholders.

7. Supporting document(s)

[EFSA: 17th-meeting-efsa-scientific-network-risk-assessment-plant-health](#)

[Agenda, Minutes](#)



NUTRITION & FOOD INNOVATION UNIT (former GMO UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Food and Feed & Environmental Risk Assessment)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The main objective of the GMO network is to build mutual understanding of the principles underlying the risk assessment of GMOs between Member States and EFSA.

The specific objectives of the GMO Network are enhancing risk assessment practices and methodologies, and the exchange of information between EFSA and Member States by:

- sharing best practices in GMO/GM food & feed risk assessment expertise and experiences.
- discussing issues regarding GMO risk assessment such as EFSA guidance documents, adopted EFSA opinions and risk assessment of specific GMOs or GM food & feed.
- discussing new scientific developments in GMO risk assessment and discussing their implications on risk assessment practices, such as the development of GMOs with new genomic techniques.
- sharing information on the development of GMOs using transgenesis and other techniques, and the consequences regarding risk assessment.
- discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for GMO risk assessment.
- sharing regular information on forthcoming EFSA consultations and other scientific cooperation activities in the field of GMO risk assessment.

EFSA may also entrust to the GMO Network certain tasks, namely preparatory work for scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and/or data collection.

Link to current ToR: GMO Network ToRs available [here](#).

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the GMO Network for 2021 were:

1. To discuss partnerships in the EFSA Strategy 2027
2. To present and discuss the draft GMO Network Terms of Reference document
3. To present and discuss the Transparency Regulation
4. To provide information on the mandate on *in vitro* random mutagenesis in plants
5. To inform on the GMO Science development projects
6. To present and discuss the EC Study on the status of new genomic techniques

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- **12th Meeting of the GMO Network** – 10 June 2021 (9.00-12.30/14:00-16.30, TELE meeting)

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the GMO Network were:

1. 12th Meeting of the GMO Network: [minutes](#) and presentations available at [this EFSA webpage](#)

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 5000 euro
2. Total cost of activities: 0 euro

6. Overall Assessment

The meeting was successful held in fully remote setting due to the Covid situation. More than 50 people from 26 Member States were connected. The meeting was important to engage and inform the MS about EFSA's activities in the GMO area, with particular emphasis on the changes introduced by the Transparency Regulation. Breakout sections (chaired by EFSA staff) were also organized to improve and fuel the discussion, and to collect feedback on the draft document of the GMO Network Terms of Reference. The feedback received were integrated in the final document which was adopted later in October 2021. More feedback was received on the best way to improve dialogue and cooperation between the NIF(GMO) Unit and the Member States. Items were also proposed ahead of the meeting by some Member States which were duly discussed. Finally, the European Commission presented the study on the status of new genomic techniques. The presentation and the following discussion informed the MS representatives on the ongoing activity at the EC level to review the status of GMO produced by new genomic techniques.

7. Supporting document(s)

Agenda, minutes and presentations delivered by the participants can be found at [this EFSA webpage](#).



Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The Scientific Network on bovine spongiform encephalopathies and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (BSE-TSE) strengthens the scientific cooperation in the remit of risk assessment of BSE-TSE. It aims at anticipating and reducing the duplication of activities and hence avoiding divergence of opinions. The Network is a privileged environment to share data and methodologies facilitating harmonisation of assessment practices and to assist in anticipating emerging risks in the EU.

The main overall goals of the BSE-TSE SCIENTIFIC NETWORK are:

- to improve dialogue and exchange of information among participants;
- to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles;
- to enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU;
- to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA;
- to raise the harmonisation level of the risk assessments developed in the EU.

The specific objectives of the BSE-TSE SCIENTIFIC NETWORK are:

- identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
- identifying and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- identification of experts in specific areas and on special issues;
- sharing of data availability and quality;
- strengthening cooperation amongst risk assessors and risk managers;
- exchanging information between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders;
- strengthening communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States and among risk assessors; risk managers and stakeholders; including national AF and FP members.
- focusing attention on and streamlining of common research needs;
- identifying potential emerging risks when addressing current issues.

Link to current ToR:<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazbsenetworktor.pdf>

2. Work programme for year 2021

The main activities planned for the BSE/TSE Network for 2021 were:

1. Annual meeting
2. Continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meeting took place:

- **18-19 October 2021**, plenary meeting. Multiple topics discussed

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the BSE/TSE Scientific Network were:

1. Minutes of the annual meeting of the BSE-TSE Scientific Network
2. Annual Report of the meeting of the BSE-TSE Scientific Network

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 52,000 € for both BIOCONTAM networks
2. Total cost of activities: 900 €

6. Overall Assessment

The annual meeting had a good turnout: 32 representatives of the 25 countries, plus observers, invited speakers, the EC, the OIE and EFSA staff. The topics discussed were well received by the attendees and there was a good feedback at the end of the meeting.

There were some exchanges and sharing of information in Microsoft Teams during the year, not always initiated by EFSA, but there is room for improvement.

7. Supporting document(s)

Link to the minutes of the annual meeting of the BSE-TSE Scientific Network

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-11/16th-meeting-efsa-biocontam-biohaz-bse-tse-network-minutes.pdf>

Link to the Annual Report of the meeting of the BSE-TSE Scientific Network

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6949>



INTEGRATED DATA UNIT (former EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The role of the Network on chemical monitoring data collection is to advise and assist the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in cooperation with the European Commission on all scientific and practical matters related to the collection, analysis and reporting of data on the results of chemical monitoring in food and feed where EFSA compiles the data and assess the results of monitoring programmes conducted by the Member States and performs exposure assessment.

Link to current ToR: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Chemical_Monitoring_Network.pdf

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the Chemical Monitoring Network for 2021 were:

1. Consultation and agreement on data reporting guidelines
2. Agreement on reporting timelines for 2022 and 2023
3. Data reporting and data validation annual activity cycle
4. Agreement on data publication formats

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021:1

During 2021 the following meeting took place:

- **24-25 November 2021:** 4th annual meeting of the Scientific Network on chemical monitoring data collection

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the Chemical Monitoring Network were:

1. Chemical monitoring reporting guidance: 2021 data collection <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6420>
2. Meeting minutes 2021

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021:0
2. Total cost of activities: 0

6. Overall Assessment

The objective of publishing minutes was achieved for 2021. The draft terms of reference for the next mandate of the scientific network on chemical monitoring data collection – shared with the Network and consultation completed on 10 December 2021 - has increased the expected deliverables for this network to reflect the networks maturity and seek further improvements in data collection, data quality and data visualisations.

7. Supporting document(s)

Composition of chemical monitoring network available at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/chemmonnetworklist.pdf>

Agenda: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/4th-efsa-scientific-network-chemical-monitoring-data-collection>



Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The main objectives of the EREN are:

To provide a platform for the scientific cooperation between risk assessors of the EU Member States, EFSA, the European Commission, and observers from other interested parties to assess newly identified emerging issues/ risks and to enhance emerging risk identification methodologies.

Specifically, the Network aims to:

1. Present information, data and knowledge concerning newly identified emerging issues/ risks or drivers identified through their respective scanning systems.
2. Support EFSA to characterise and prioritise emerging risks in the fields of its mission;
3. Give access to these data and justify the reported emerging issues/risks based on scientific evidence. The data shall be presented and assessed using a standard briefing note/short issue template developed by EFSA;
4. Provide recommendations for follow up actions e.g further research needs and possible joint projects among EREN members;
5. Follow up on prioritised issues/ risks and drivers and provide additional data on issues/risks discussed previously by EREN;
6. Commit to liaise on a confidential basis at national level by circulating meeting background documents (e.g briefing notes and short issues) before and after each EREN meeting with relevant national stakeholders in order to collect additional evidence on the emerging issues identified;
7. Collaborate with the EFSA national focal points to facilitate exchange of information on emerging issues among MS and to keep the link with the EFSA AF;
8. Avoid duplication of work to ensure complementary activities between Member States, EFSA, the Member States and other existing EU systems involved and observers in emerging risk identification process;
9. Analyse possible emerging issues brought forward by EFSA satellite activities aiming at the identification of emerging risks in specific areas of interest for EFSA (e.g. emerging chemicals,

circular economy, new food/feed sources and production techniques, food frauds and food safety, food supplements);

10. Provide advice on and share experiences on emerging risk identification methodologies and systems used at national level to identify emerging issues and risks;

Link to current ToR: [link](#)

2. Work programme for year 2021

The main activities planned for the EREN for 2021 were:

1. Hold two yearly meetings and published meeting minutes and preparing detailed secretariat notes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives as well as briefing notes and short issues on emerging issues.
2. Annual reports for the Advisory Forum as per the template for all networks jointly, including resulting activities as well as the examination of the criticalities found.
3. Invitations to the network for participating in relevant surveys.
4. Provided expertise in specific areas for cooperation when needed.
5. Organised meetings with interested and relevant stakeholders.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 2

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- **15-16 April 2021**, the 25th meeting took place by WEB-conference on Teams as two plenary sessions of 7.5 and 4 hours with topic/content of meeting according to the agenda and covering the objectives of the network as described in section 1. (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-03/25th-emerging-risks-exchange-network-meeting.pdf>).
- **21-22 October 2021**, the 26th meeting took place by WEB-conference on Teams as two plenary sessions of 7.5 and 3.5 hours with topic/content of meeting according to the agenda and covering the objectives of the network as described in section 1. (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-09/26th-Emerging-Risks-Exchange-Network-meeting-Agenda.pdf>)

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the EREN were:

1. Detailed secretariat notes capturing the information shared on emerging issues and discussion

2. The meeting minutes of the 25th and 26th meeting of the network in line with its objectives were published on the EFSA website: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-04/25th-emerging-risks-exchange-network-meeting-minutes.pdf> , <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-11/26th-emerging-risks-exchange-network-meeting-minutes.pdf>
3. Briefing notes (BN) on emerging issues on the meetings' discussed subjects and follow ups on previously published BNs to be found in DMS.
4. Short issues on emerging issues
5. The present annual report for the Advisory Forum, includes the resulting activities of the EREN.
6. Invitations were sent to the network for participation in relevant surveys as follows: 3rd and 4th Survey on Short Issues to be discussed at EREN meetings. <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26thEREN> , https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26th_ERENsubmission.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 0 (meeting online)
2. Total cost of activities: 0

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives are met. Awareness is raised to the new terms of references and expected deliverables.

7. Supporting document(s)

Links to meetings' agenda and meeting minutes as above.



Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The FCM Network aims to enhance cooperation between risk assessors and to support harmonisation of risk assessment practices in the FCM area.

Link to ToR of 2017:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/fipnonplasticsnetworktor.pdf>

2. Work programme for 2021

The networking on FCM was initiated in October 2013 covering a work programme of three years. To continue this cooperation, the Network was renewed in December 2016 for a period of three years. The FCM Network was intended to be renewed early 2020, but this was postponed due to other priorities and Covid situation. No work programme for 2021 was therefore defined.

3. Meetings

During 2021 no meetings took place.

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

Not applicable

5. Budget

Not applicable

6. Overall Assessment

Not applicable

7. Supporting document(s)

Not applicable



INTEGRATED DATA UNIT (former EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The aim of the Network on food consumption data is to support EFSA in carrying out its mission in accordance with the established standards of scientific excellence, transparency and responsiveness foreseen in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. In particular, the network shall facilitate EFSA in the collection of high quality, up-to-date and detailed national food consumption data, as well as the collation of this information into a pan-European food consumption database hosted by EFSA.

The main objectives are to provide a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption and related data and act as a contact point between EFSA and the Member States in order to coordinate the collection of and accessibility to high quality, up-to-date and harmonised food consumption information

Link to current ToR: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_TOR_FoodConsumption_2018.pdf

2. Work programme for 2021

There were no activities planned for the FCD network for 2021, as the network is planned to be organised physically or virtually every one or two years as needed and the last one took place in December 2020. However, a significant exchange of messages took place among members through the TEAMS Group space related to:

1. Communication on the publication of scientific reports where the food consumption data has been used by EFSA
2. Information on running and upcoming projects in the area of relevance across different Member States
3. Information on EFSA calls for tender/grants, where Member States could apply to provide support in the area of food consumption and food composition data collection
4. Communication on the release of new version of the food consumption database, as well as of tools useful for facilitating both data collection but also exposure estimates based on those.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 0

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 no deliverables or outputs of the FCD were foreseen

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 0
2. Total cost of activities: 0

6. Overall Assessment

The network members were active to share information and participate in EFSA's calls. The draft terms of reference for the next mandate of the scientific network on food consumption data collection was shared with the Network and consultation completed on 27 September 2021.

7. Supporting document(s)

Composition of food consumption network available at:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/dcmfoodconsnetworklist.pdf>



NUTRITION & FOOD INNOVATION UNIT (former NUTRITION UNIT)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network on Novel Foods

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The role of the NF Network is to provide a platform for the scientific cooperation between risk assessors of the EU Member States and EFSA in collaboration with the European Commission (EC), and to enhance risk assessment practices in the areas of novel foods (NF) including traditional foods from third countries in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. Specifically, the NF Network aims to: facilitate the exchange of information, the discussion and the consultation, and to enhance collaboration in the area of novel foods; harmonise the methodology for searching for information and commenting on notifications for traditional foods from third countries, and to harmonise the approach to streamline the submission of duly reasoned safety objections for notifications of traditional foods from third countries; avoid duplication of work. The NF Network will involve Member State representatives with experience in dealing with the safety assessment of novel foods, as well as representatives of the EC DG SANTE.

- **Link to current ToR:** [LINK](#)

2. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network on NF for 2021 were:

1. Strengthen the collaboration with Member States on the assessment of Novel Foods.
2. Exchange of information with Member States on the evaluation of Traditional Foods.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meeting took place:

- **12 January 2021**, tele-conference.

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network on NF were:

1. Novel Food Network meeting (tele-conference) on 12 January 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to describe opportunities for collaboration on the EU risk assessment of Novel Foods. See the minutes of the output of the meeting: [LINK](#).

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: €5K
2. Total cost of activities: €0 (meeting held as a web conference, in compliance of EFSA measures for the Covid-19 pandemics – no reimbursement costs incurred)

6. Overall Assessment

The objectives as reported in the Terms of Reference are met.

7. Supporting document(s)

Agenda ([LINK](#)) and minutes ([LINK](#)) of the meeting held on 12 January 2021.



Report of Activities of the

Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

The main objectives of the Nano Network are to:

- facilitate **harmonisation of methodologies** by sharing:
 - best practices and guidance,
 - ongoing issues that could lead to duplication or divergent opinions between EU risk assessment bodies,
- **exchange information and data** between EFSA and MS by
 - enhancing availability and quality of data,
 - sharing data collections and surveillances from national applications,
- **providing expertise** in specific areas
- **achieve synergies** in activities by identifying
 - priorities for the national and EU level,
 - new relevant scientific developments,
 - priority research needs, or gaps in expertise and analytical capacity
 - areas for mutual cooperation.

EFSA may entrust certain tasks to the network, such as collection of data and identification of emerging risks, or some preparatory work for future guidance development.

Link to current ToR: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Nanonetwork.pdf>

2. Work programme for year 2021

The main activities planned for the Nano Network for 2021 were:

1. Hold one yearly meeting and published meeting minutes detailing the discussions of the network in line with the objectives.
2. Annual reports for the Advisory Forum as per the template for all networks jointly, including resulting activities as well as well as the examination of the criticalities found.
3. Invitations to the network for participating in relevant surveys.
4. Possibility for network members to attend relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutes.
5. Provided expertise in specific areas for cooperation when needed.
6. Organised national conferences/trainings/workshops on the EFSA relevant guidance documents with interested and relevant stakeholders.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 1

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- **29 October 2021**, the 11th meeting was held by WEB-conference in Teams as one plenary session of 7.5 hours, topic/content of meeting were according to the agenda and cover all objectives on the Nano Network as in section 1: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/11th-meeting-efsa-scientific-network-risk-assessment-nanotechnologies-food-and-feed-agenda.pdf>

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the Nano Network were:

1. The meeting minutes of the 11th meeting detailing the discussions of the network in line with its objectives were published on the EFSA website: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/11th-meeting-efsa-scientific-network-risk-assessment-nanotechnologies-food-and-feed>. The topics were selected based on the inputs from the Nano Network.
2. The present annual report for the Advisory Forum, includes the resulting activities of the Nanonetwork under this section 4. There were no criticalities found in 2021, except a flag for nano applications of biostimulants and nanofertilizers falling in the remit of MS and DG GROW. The EFSA nano guidances provide a way forward for their safety assessment.
3. Invitations were sent to the network for participating in relevant surveys as follows:

- a. JRC survey on stakeholders' requirements for micro(nano)plastic test materials (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/jrc-survey-stakeholders-requirements-micronanoplastic-test-materials-research-0>).
- 4. Possibility for network members to attend relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutes:
 - a. An online training on EFSA Nano Guidances and nanomaterials risk assessment organised by EFSA c/o Fraunhofer Institute will take place in 2022. Eleven network members registered.
 - b. JRC is leading a project for training MS laboratories for screening and identifying nanoparticles in food for enforcement. Nano Network members were asked to identify interested labs for such trainings.
- 5. The Nano Network was asked to provide expertise in specific areas for cooperation as follows:
 - a. Asked to provide comments on the Draft EFSA Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials (deadline 24 Feb 2021), before finalisation of the Guidance to be adopted by the EFSA Scientific Committee.
 - b. Asked to submit abstract(s) for consideration at EFSA's 25th Scientific Colloquium "A coordinated approach to assess the human health risks of micro- and nanoplastics in food".
 - c. Possible participation in the SOT FDA Colloquia on Emerging Toxicological Science: Challenges in Food and Ingredient Safety: The Toxicology of Nanoparticles (8 April 2021, Live Webcast)
 - d. EFSA asked availabilities of scientists in the national institutes to work for EFSA on dossiers under Tasking Grant contracts.
- 6. Organised national conferences/trainings/workshops on the EFSA relevant guidance documents with interested and relevant stakeholders:
 - a. The Belgian reference laboratory for nanotechnologies in food (BE Nano Network member), will represent EFSA's nano guidances during the "Communication Group Meeting" of the federal agency for food security (FAFS) on November 25, 2021. This meeting is accessible for Belgian appointed (first-line) analytical laboratories working on food analysis for the FAFS and for involved governmental representatives. The presentation will cover "New EFSA guidance regarding applications of nanotechnologies in food and feed and their impact on specification, risk analysis and control of food additives."

5. Budget

- 1. Initial budget for 2021: 0 (meeting online)

2. Total cost of activities: 0

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met. Awareness was raised to the new terms of references and expected deliverables.

7. Supporting document(s)

Links to meeting agenda and meeting minutes as above. There are no other supporting documents to be reported.



INTEGRATED DATA UNIT (formerly coordinated by EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT AND BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNITS)

Report of Activities of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR:

Objectives

The role of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data is to advise and assist the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in cooperation with the European Commission on all scientific and practical matters related to the collection, reporting and analysis of data on monitoring of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, microbiological contaminants and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in food, feed and animals, on food-borne outbreaks as well as on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in bovine animals, small ruminants and species other than bovine animals and small ruminants in the European Union. This applies mainly to the reporting within the framework of following provisions:

- Directive 2003/99/EC⁵,
- Commission implementing Decision 2013/652/EU⁶,
- Regulation (EC) No 999/2001⁷.

Within the three subgroups of the Network on zoonoses, AMR and TSE, coordination is supported between EFSA and the Member States relating to monitoring and data reporting and related information is shared and exchanged across the Member States. The Network also allows to exchange experience and identify best practices, facilitate mutual learning and sharing innovative ideas, as well as foster a common understanding and promote the best implementation of the monitoring.

Data

- The identification of priorities for the harmonisation of fit-for-purpose monitoring approaches and for the collection of data on zoonoses of European and international significance.
- Issues and opportunities for harmonised monitoring and reporting specifications for Member States (MSs) and other reporting countries (RCs).

⁵ Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC; OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 31–40.

⁶ Commission Implementing Decision 2013/652/EU of 12 November 2013 on the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria. OJ L 303, 14.11.2013, p. 26–39.

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1–40

- Updates of data models, related catalogues and reporting specifications for MSs and other reporting countries, in particular in the case of new data reporting requirements of the legislation.
- The participation in the process of enhancing data quality.
- The review and use of data collected and participation in activities related to data access and publication.
- The exchange of information and data between EFSA and MSs.
- Issues and opportunities for development and use of electronic reporting and analysis tools and databases for the data collected.
- National reference points for planning and organising of data collections.

Science

1. The collation, analyses, and summarisation of relevant scientific and technical data in its fields of competence.
2. The review of EFSA outputs related to the Network e.g. annual scientific reports, scientific reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports.
3. The sharing of experience in monitoring and/or surveillance programme design and in laboratory methods.
4. Sharing and discussing cross-cutting issues with other animal and public health networks of EFSA and EU Agencies (e.g. ECDC).
5. The strengthening of international and inter-institutional collaboration and transdisciplinary knowledge transfer in the area of One Health Surveillance data integration and interpretation.

Link to current ToR: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Zoonoses_Network.pdf

8. Work programme for 2021

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data for 2021 were:

1. Review of the reporting guidance (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR)
2. Participation of countries (MSs/RCS) to training on data collection and data reporting (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR)
3. Review of the Third joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of consumption of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals in the EU/EEA (JIACRA III)
4. Data collection and data validation (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR)
5. Review of the One Health draft report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, and the One

Health draft report on AMR in humans, food producing animals and food, as well as the TSE annual report, and of the foodborne outbreaks communication tools (dashboard and story map)

6. Review of the Zoonoses National reports
7. Review of the Rapid Outbreak Assessment draft reports
8. Annual meetings and ad-hoc meeting on AMR data reporting
9. Review of the reporting catalogues (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR)
10. Participation in ad-hoc surveys (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR), such as; "Expert on-line survey on the prevention and control programs for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and antimicrobial resistance - DISCOVER One Health EJP", "Specific Questionnaire Survey on harmonised Baseline Surveys on AMR" "and Survey on feedback from the 2020 data reporting"
11. Continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, TSE, AMR)

9. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2021: 3

During 2021 the following meetings took place:

- **17 June 2021**, subgroup of AMR experts. The objective of the meeting on was to inform the MSs/RCS about the changes and updates in the reporting of 2021 AMR data. The aim of the meeting was also to inform the MSs/RCS about the preparatory activities needed in order to adapt their national reporting systems for the reporting of the 2021 AMR data, in accordance with the new requirements laid down in the New Implementing Decision 2020/1729/EU on AMR monitoring in food-producing animals and food. Minutes available: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/ad-hoc-specific-meeting-antimicrobial-resistance-data-reporting-scientific-network-zoonoses>
- **13-14 October 2021**, the 39th (annual) meeting of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network was held by WEB-conference in Teams as a two-days plenary session of twice 8 hours. Topic/content of meeting were according to the agenda and cover all objectives of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network : <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/39th-meeting-scientific-network-zoonoses-monitoring-data>
- **09-10 November 2021**, the 11th specific meeting on AMR data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data was held by WEB-conference in Teams as a one-day plenary session of twice 3.5 hours : <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/11th-specific-meeting-antimicrobial-resistance-data-reporting-scientific-network-zoonoses>

10. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2021 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data were:

1. Review of the reporting guidance (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
 - a. Zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks guidance for reporting 2020 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6438>
 - b. Prevalence sample-based guidance for reporting 2020 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6439>
 - c. Manual for reporting on zoonoses and zoonotic agents, within the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC, and on some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the year 2020: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6440>
 - d. Guidance for reporting 2021 surveillance data on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE): available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6441>
 - e. Manual for reporting 2020 antimicrobial resistance data within the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and Decision 2013/652/EU: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6442>
 - f. Manual for reporting 2021 antimicrobial resistance data within the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and Decision 2020/1729/EU: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6652>
 - g. Antimicrobial resistance guidance for 2021 data reporting: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-6653>
2. Data on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks (Zenodo repository at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4298993>, Zenodo repository at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5682809>), on AMR (Zenodo repository at <https://zenodo.org/record/3628719#.YfPEHurMKUk>) and on TSE (Zenodo repository at <https://zenodo.org/record/3560100#.YfPBL-rMKUk>)
3. Review of the Third joint inter-agency report on integrated analysis of consumption of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals in the EU/EEA (JIACRA III): available at: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6712>
4. Review of the One Health draft report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, and the draft EU Summary Report on AMR in humans, food-producing animals and food, as well as the TSE annual report;
 - a. EU One Health 2019 Zoonoses report: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6406>

- b. EU One Health 2020 Zoonoses report: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6971>
 - c. The European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2018/2019: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6490>
 - d. TSE 2019 Annual Summary report: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6934>
5. Review of the foodborne outbreaks communication tools; dashboard available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/microstrategy/FBO-dashboard> and story map available at <https://efsa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=8d29138c40494709af52322351ab6d32>
 6. Review of the Zoonoses National reports: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data-report/biological-hazards-reports>

11. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2021: 0 (meeting online)
2. Total cost of activities: 0

12. Overall Assessment

The objectives as reported in the Terms of Reference are met.

13. Supporting document(s)

The agenda and the minutes of the 39th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data are at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/39th-meeting-scientific-network-zoonoses-monitoring-data>

The agenda and the minutes of the 11th specific meeting on AMR data reporting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data are at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/11th-specific-meeting-antimicrobial-resistance-data-reporting-scientific-network-zoonoses>

The composition of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data is at: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/zoonosesdatacollectiontaskforcelist.pdf>



ANNEX I – Analysis of quantitative data and graphic overview

EFSA Networks' overview				
EFSA Unit (former Unit name)	Title of network	No. of meetings held in 2021	Initial budget in 2021	Tot. cost of activities per given year
ENGAGE HoD Office (COMCO HoD Office)	Communications Expert Network (CEN)	5	€0,00	€0,00
PREV (PESTICIDES-PREV)	Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)	4	€1350,00	€0,00
BIOHAW (BIOCONTAM)	Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	1	€52000,00*	€900,00*
BIOHAW (ALPHA)	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	7	€0,00	€0,00
PLANTS (ALPHA)	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH)	1	€20000,00	€0,00
NIF (GMO)	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Environmental Risk Assessment and Food and Feed)	1	€5000,00	€0,00
BIOHAW (BIOCONTAM)	Scientific Network on BSE/TSE	1	€52000,00*	€900,00*
IDATA (DATA)	Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection	1	€0,00	€0,00
KNOW (SCER)	Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)	2	€0,00	€0,00
FIP	Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)	0	€0,00	€0,00
IDATA (DATA)	Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data	0	€0,00	€0,00
NIF (NUTRI)	Scientific Network on Novel Foods	1	€5000,00	€0,00
MESE (SCER)	Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)	1	€0,00	€0,00
IDATA (DATA)	Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection	3	€0,00	€0,00
TOTAL		28	€83350,00	€900,00
TOTAL COST OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INITIAL BUDGET				1,08%
*Initial and final budget covering the MRA and BSE/TSE networks of BIOHAW (BIOCONTAM) unit				



