

# Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022

## 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 2022. It includes information on main deliverables, outcomes of each Network and the relevant budget.



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## INTRODUCTION

According to its founding regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), EFSA shall establish a system of Networks of organisations operating in the fields within EFSA's mission, the objective being to facilitate a scientific cooperation framework by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices. The European Network meetings are organised by EFSA scientific units with Member State representatives, nominated by their country, in compliance with the [MB Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission](#).

Since June 2022, the coordination and organisation of meetings of the Networks have been assigned to the RAL Unit . RAL is working closely with the Engagement & External Relations Unit (ENREL), in charge to collect nomination and monitor Terms of References, and with the scientific units in charge of the networks. In 2022, EFSA coordinated 15 Networks, created 1 new network and 2 new network subgroups, discontinued 1 network, organised a total of 29 meetings with a total of 1,423 participants. This year, some network meetings initially planned as physical meetings were held on-line, impacting on the final budget executed for EFSA Network meeting organisation.

This report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022 is the second edition ([Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2021](#)) and contains the main deliverables, main outcomes and the respective budget of each European Network.



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## COMMUNICATION EXPERT NETWORK (CEN)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>1</sup>:

Risk communications is identified as one of the mandates in EFSA's founding regulations and includes acting in close collaboration with the Member States (MS) to promote coherence in the risk communication process as well as ensuring appropriate cooperation regarding public information campaigns. Co-operation in risk communications between EFSA and the Member States is the main focus for the Communications Expert Network (CEN), which is closely aligned with the Advisory Forum (AF) to support its strategic priorities and with the Transparency Regulation.

#### 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, in particular, in case of diverging views, food outbreaks, and emerging risks.

#### Objective 2 - Shared Best Practice:

- To 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.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the CEN for 2022 were:

1. coherence in risk communication – communication materials on 23 of EFSA's scientific outputs were shared with CEN members ahead of publication to allow time for Member States (MS) to prepare their own activities to ensure alignment and consistency of messages to audiences. For particularly complex issues or where there was high public concern, these efforts were further supported through pre-publication teleconferences with the CEN;
2. Pan-EU campaign on food safety – the CEN played an essential role in the development and delivery of the second year of a public-facing communication campaign called #EUChooseSafeFood to raise awareness about the science behind food safety and to foster greater confidence among citizens in the food choices they make.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cen/cen\\_tor.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cen/cen_tor.pdf)



Based on a pool of communication material and messages on 11 food safety topics, national communication plans tailored to the needs of audience were developed by CEN members from 10 countries (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Spain). The campaign was disseminated to national audiences via digital and social media channels, as well as via traditional media and through a range of events and initiatives with their national partner institutions and other stakeholders;

3. coordinated communication - a half-day workshop in May between EFSA and MS networks - the Focal Points (FP) and Communication Expert Network (CEN) - explored the potential to improve coordinated communication of risks in the food chain in Europe. Through a series of plenary and breakout session, around 80 MS members discussed key issues, shared thoughts on shared best practice and made recommendations to highlight key issues facilitate building a framework for coordinated communication in the EU. In the last quarter of the year, CEN members made expressions of interest to participate in initiatives in 2023 to define this framework and pilot other coordinated communication activities;
4. social research – (i) finalised a pan-European research project on "public ambiguity of the differences between hazard and risk" to be used as the basis for a future coordinated communication campaign. CEN members provided input to tailor communication materials to national audiences needs to illustrate this difference. The outputs can be used by MS in communication campaigns to increase awareness.  
(ii) The findings of the 2022 Eurobarometer - an EU-wide survey with 27,000 citizens – delivered important information on food safety awareness and concerns. This report, and tailored summaries and data tools were shared with the CEN to support their own public information and outreach efforts about food safety;
5. International Risk Communication Liaison Group – several CEN members are active participants in this international network coordinated by EFSA and participated in the twice-yearly meetings to bring their perspective and expertise to the group.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

- 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEN – 17 May 2022  
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 States highlighted major communication initiatives undertaken.  
Ad hoc issues – New genomic techniques, EFSA ONE Conference, campaigns (#EUChooseSafeFood & Stop African Swine Fever), update on EFSA's crisis communication roadmap and an update on a prototype pan-EU website on food safety;
- 12<sup>th</sup> CEN Meeting – 26-27 October 2022  
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 States highlighted major communication initiatives undertaken.



Ad hoc issues – coordinated communication – next steps in building an EU framework for coordinated communication; multilingualism, EFSA logo update and campaigns;

- Two support meetings:
  - June 2022 - Member State Publication Platform – EFSA Journal team led an online information session on a proposal to create a dedicated platform where Member States can publish their scientific risk assessments. The platform would be part of the digital eco-system that also contains EFSA’s own scientific work (the EFSA Journal and EFSA Technical Reports);
  - September 2022 – Online information session to present the findings of the 2022 Eurobarometer that sets out awareness and concerns of EU citizens on food safety.

Number of participants invited: 75

#### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the CEN were:

1. Work Plan – completion of all deliverables on the Work Plan across social science, media relations, sharing best practice and targeted risk communication;
2. coordinated communication on 23 of EFSA’s scientific outputs via prenotification of materials ahead of publication. This included three pre-publication teleconferences with the network and ongoing collaboration and communication through a shared working space with the CEN;
3. campaign outcomes – the #EUChooseSafeFood 2022 campaign delivered against its objectives of raising awareness that science - delivered by EU and national bodies – underpins food safety in Europe, as well as triggering critical think and engagement among target audiences. Surveys conducted across Member States found:
  - the campaign messages reached 46.5 million citizen (92% of the target audience 25-45 years old) in the focus countries;
  - 43% of survey respondents understood that EFSA is an independent food safety authority supporting policymakers (compared to 31% in 2021);
  - 40% of respondents agreed the campaign had improved their understanding of how the EU ensures food safety;
  - 42% agreed the campaign had made them think more critically about their food choices and food safety.
4. coordinated communication to support implementation of the Transparency Regulation – important progress was made in 2022 with CEN members contributing to proposals for the development of an EU framework for coordinated communication. Furthermore the CEN has committed to participate in initiatives in 2023 to define them more clearly and begin implementation from 2024 onwards;
5. joint development of communication products – the delivery of infographics tailored to different national audiences jointly developed by EFSA and CEN members to illustrate the difference between the concepts of ‘hazard versus risk’.

#### 6. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 20,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 33,481€



## 7. Overall Assessment

The CEN made an important contribution to upholding and strengthening the trust of citizens in the EU food safety system through:

- implementation of the core work of ensuring coherence, consistency and clarity in communication of risks in the food chain in 2022 through information sharing and cooperation on key risk assessments on sugar, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare;
- contributing to initial activities to define an EU framework for coordinated communication to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Transparency Regulation;
- campaigns – the CEN as a whole and the 10 focus countries in particular made an important contribution to raising awareness of key issues about EU food safety to citizens. Around 40% of those surveyed were now aware that food science in Europe is underpinned by science and that EFSA is an independent food safety body supporting policymakers (compared to 31% in 2021).

## 8. Supporting document(s)

[Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network](#)

[Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT (MRA)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>2</sup>:

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;
- identifying 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.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the MRA Scientific Network for 2022 were:

1. Annual meeting 2022: A wide range of activities related to microbial risk assessment were presented including impact of *Vibrio* infections, activities on *Campylobacter* in broilers, *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*, transfer of anisakid allergens to meat, risk assessment of monkey pox transmission through food and risk-based classification of food establishments as well as an invited presentation on ionophor resistance in poultry.
2. Continuous sharing and exchange of information and best practices

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazmranetworktor.pdf>





### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network – 18-19 October 2022, hybrid meeting.

Number of participants invited: 41

### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the MRA Network were:

1. completion and publication of the Annual report of the MRA Network, reporting on the various activities at Member States level;
2. presentation of the Multi-country outbreak of monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium sequence type 34 linked to chocolate products (EFSA output published on FEB22);
3. presentation of the EFSA One Health WGS system, that interoperates with ECDC Molecular Typing system contributing to foodborne outbreak detection at EU level.

### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 7,460€
2. Total cost of activities: 5,937€

### 6. Overall Assessment

Currently, 25 European Union Member States and two observer countries (Switzerland and Norway) are participating in the MRA Network. A wide range of activities related to microbial risk assessment were presented including impact of Vibrio infections, activities on Campylobacter in broilers, Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes, transfer of anisakid allergens to meat, risk assessment of monkey pox transmission through food and risk-based classification of food establishments as well as an invited presentation on ionophor resistance in poultry. Activities of the EFSA BIOHAZ panel and the BIOHAW Unit were presented. The network members expressed their desire to meet twice a year, one online and one in-person meeting.

### 7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 22nd meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network](#)

[Minutes 22nd meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network](#)

[Annual report of the Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment 2022](#)



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE (AHAW)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>3</sup>:

The overall objectives of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment (RA) in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) are to install and enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, and to build a mutual understanding of RA principles of animal health and welfare in a transparent way. The network is expected to promote the harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies, including harmonisation of the data collections, as well as reducing the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities.

The specific objectives of the network are:

- To facilitate harmonisation of AHAW assessment practices and methodologies by:
  - sharing best practices for animal health and welfare assessment between EFSA and MS;
  - discussing new scientific developments for animal health and welfare RA and their implications on RA practices;
  - discussing ongoing issues of animal health and welfare assessment such as new guidance documents developed or new opinions adopted;
  - focusing attention on, and the streamlining of common research and data needs that support progress in AHAW RA.
- To enhance the exchange of information and data on AHAW areas between EFSA and MS by:
  - discussing issues on quality of data required for AHAW RA purposes (standards for biological agents data collection);
  - promoting harmonised data submission to EFSA by discussing issues related to the availability of the data;
  - sharing information, data and experience in data collection and surveillance;
  - identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and issues.
- To achieve synergies in AHAW RA activities by:
  - identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration between EFSA and MS, and between MS at national and EU level;
  - sharing and discussing ongoing animal health and animal welfare risk assessment activities to avoid duplication;
  - sharing and discussing priorities for AHAW RA at national and EU level;
  - sharing of information related to AHAW RA at national and EU level and AHAW Network through a common digital exchange platform (e.g. Teams and/or SharePoint);
  - identifying emerging risks when addressing current issues in animal health.
- To improve the collaboration between animal health and public health on nonfoodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues by:

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/ahawnetwork.pdf>



- identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health;
  - sharing and discussing on-going non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health networks of EFSA and ECDC;
  - sharing and discussing priorities for joint risk assessments of non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues at national and EU level;
  - sharing of information and data on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health through a common digital exchange platform (SharePoint); EFSA may entrust to the network certain tasks, in particular preparatory work for Scientific Opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and the collection of data.
- The AHAW Network has two groups divided by areas of competence:
    - Animal Health (AH)
    - Animal Welfare (AW)
  - In addition, the AHAW Network includes three other sub-groups:
    - National Contact Points (NCPs) for scientific support under Art 20 of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing;
    - National Contact Points in the framework of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011;
    - One Health (OH).

## 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the AHAW Network for 2022 were:

1. annual meetings of the following groups and subgroups: AH topics, AW topics, AW subgroup of the Scientific NCPs, AH subgroup on *E. multilocularis* surveillance, AH subgroup OH;
2. adaptation of the TORs and creation of a new subgroup on One Health;
3. continuous sharing and exchange of information.

## 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

- AH Network: 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> –28<sup>th</sup> June, hybrid meeting;
- AW Network: on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> (PM-joint session with the scientific NCPs subgroup Network) and 12<sup>th</sup> (AM);
- Subgroup Scientific NCPs: on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> (PM-joint session with the AW Network) and 12<sup>th</sup> (PM);
- Subgroup OH: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> November, online meeting.

Number of participants invited: 174



#### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the AHAW Network were:

1. AH topics: [Annual report of the Scientific Network on Animal Health 2022](#);
2. AW topics: [Annual report of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare 2022](#).

#### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 58,412€
2. Total cost of activities: 16,210€

#### 6. Overall Assessment

The objectives set in the ToRs were met in 2022, with particular emphasis on creating a new subgroup on One Health.

In relation to the AW topics, the participants of both the AHAW (AW) Network and the sub-group of the scientific NCPs appreciated the new format of the Network meetings with a joint session where the recently adopted Scientific Outputs under the Farm to Fork strategy have been presented as well as the ongoing AW activities carried out by EFSA. It was also appreciated to have a separate Day 2 of network meeting to focus on the exchange of information of each Network. Network members compiled ad hoc feedback surveys on the 2022 meetings and suggested to repeat the same format also for 2023.

#### 7. Supporting document(s)

AH topics

[Agenda of the 19th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare](#)

[Minutes of the 19th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare](#)

[Agenda of the 12th meeting of the Network on E. multilocularis infection in animals](#)

[Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Network on E. multilocularis infection in animals](#)

[Agenda of the 1st meeting of the One Health subgroup](#)

[Minutes of the 1st meeting of the One Health subgroup](#)

[Annual report of the Scientific Network on Animal Health 2022](#).

AW topics

[Agenda of the 20th meeting of the AHAW Network \(AW representatives\)](#)



[Minutes of the 20th meeting of the AHAW Network \(AW representatives\)](#)

[Agenda of the annual \(7th\) meeting of the Scientific NCPs subgroup](#)

[Minutes of the annual \(7th\) meeting of the Scientific NCPs subgroup](#)

[Annual report of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare 2022](#)



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON BSE/TSE

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>4</sup>:

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.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE for 2022 were:

1. hold one meeting, preparing detailed minutes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. invitations to the network for participating in relevant pulse check survey;
3. prepare the Annual report year 2022.

### 3. Meetings

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazbsenetworktor.pdf>



Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE – 13-14 October 2022

Number of participants invited: 48

#### **4. Deliverables and Outcomes:**

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE were:

1. minutes and annual report of the annual meeting published at the link in section 7;
2. a pulse survey for Network participants was delivered in 2022 regarding the scientific network format, attendance by members and observers. The majority of the members attended the meeting to catch up with scientific developments in the field, to meet colleagues from other countries and network and to listen to the updates by the EC, WOH and EFSA. Over 90% of the participants want to keep the two sessions in the annual meeting, and about half of them consider sufficient and adequate just attend the annual meeting and not to engage in other activities of the network, whereas approx. 30% recognised this was not sufficient.

#### **5. Budget**

1. Initial budget for 2022: 19,220€
2. Total cost of activities: 9,799€

#### **6. Overall Assessment**

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2022 following the return of the physical presence of some members in the network annual meeting (hybrid format) and the results of the pulse survey in which the majority of the members appreciate this network as one of the few fora available on TSE where to exchange information and knowledge and highlighted the importance of the physical meetings. The members attend the meeting to catch up with scientific developments in the field, to meet colleagues from other countries and network and to listen to the updates by the EC, WOH and EFSA. The EFSA Scientific network on BSE/TSE is identified by its members with the words: knowledge, interaction, scientific, science, exchange and useful.

#### **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE](#)

[Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE](#)

[Annual Report of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE 2022](#)



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIAL (FCM)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>5</sup>:

Taking into account art. 7.3 of the “Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority’s mission”, the main objective of the Network on “Food Contact Materials” is to facilitate scientific cooperation on the risk assessment activities and approaches of mutual interest to the EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, Switzerland and EFSA.

Specifically, the Network on Food Contact Materials aims to:

- provide a platform for discussion, consultation and collaboration;
- enhance cooperation between scientists involved in risk assessment;
- promote exchange of information on activities and risk assessments;
- support and harmonise risk assessment;
- avoid duplication of work and possibly anticipate and prevent divergences.

Areas for cooperation are focused on:

- sharing and discussing on activities and projects related to the safety assessment of FCM;
- exchanging on challenges and experience in the assessment such as on non-intentionally added substances (NIAS);
- promote the exchange of information through a database/table on past, current and future projects related to safety assessment of (substances used to manufacture) FCMs;
- initiate, as far as needed, the setting of small group(s) of MSs with interest in a FCM type (e.g. coatings, paper and boards) to share expertise, build common projects, contribute to and harmonise safety assessment in a FCM type or of substances of interest;
- involve MSs in the preparation of the new EFSA Guidance to take on board their expertise;
- provide training on EFSA’s approaches e.g. advanced risk assessment.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network on Food Contact Material for 2022 were:

1. EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents;
2. Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects;

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/fipnonplasticsnetworktor.pdf>





3. exchange with International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network;
4. organize the annual network physical meeting;
5. launch a survey on the format and content of the network.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FCM Network- 22-24 November 2022, annual plenary physical meeting.

Number of participants invited: 41

### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network on Food Contact Material were:

1. renewal of the Mandate, published at the link provided in section 1, link to current ToR;
2. extensive minutes of the annual meeting, published at the link provided in section 7;
3. presentations made at the annual meeting, published at the link provided in section 7; Thirty presentations were made and published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and 'external' visibility in the public domain including Industry.
4. the annual plenary meeting was held for two days over three days with overall 41 participants other than EFSA. The meeting allowed i) International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network, ii) EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents, iii) Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects. On the latter, the practical usefulness of the EFSA "R4EU database on Member States risk assessment plans" appeared limited. It was highlighted that this useful tool should be better supported by giving access to the Network representatives and improving communication between focal points and stakeholders including Network representatives. The meeting was organized as a physical meeting, 18 participants (mostly MS representatives) joined physically and 23 by teleconference. While teleconference allows more people to join (like alternates), it complicated the discussion between participants. The meeting gathered 28 participants from 24 Member States, 1 representant from International Institution (Council of Europe), several representants from EU sister Agency (ECHA), 2 experts from the EFSA FCM WG and representants from EC JRC and EC DG SANTE. This provided an extensive 'internal' visibility and involvement allowing notably to share the same level of information and discussion at the same time amongst all participants. Thirty presentations were made and published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and 'external' visibility in the public domain including Industry.



The meeting allowed i) International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network, ii) EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents, iii) Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects. On the latter, the practical usefulness of the EFSA "R4EU database on Member States risk assessment plans" appeared limited. It was highlighted that this useful tool should be better supported by giving access to the Network representatives and improving communication between focal points and stakeholders including Network representatives.

## 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 38,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 11,079€

## 6. Overall Assessment

The objectives reported in the Terms of Reference are met. The draft mandate was renewed in April and a physical plenary meeting was held in October. There was a good participation (number of participants, representativity of MSs and other EU and international Institutions) and there were constructive discussions. A survey for Network participants was delivered regarding the annual plenary meeting format (4 criteria as below). MSs were happy with the meeting, in particular the duration, topics discussed and interactions. From the 17 participants who answered, the feedback survey had a score of 4.4 out of 5 points (4.6 overall satisfaction of the meeting, 4.2 for duration, 4.1 for interaction and time allocated for discussion, and 4.5 for items scheduled).

## 7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)

[Minutes of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)

[Presentations of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON CHEMICAL MONITORING DATA COLLECTION (CHEMMON DC)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>6</sup>:

The purpose of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection is to provide advice and assistance to 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 (i.e. pesticide residues, veterinary medicinal product residues, contaminants and food additives) in food and feed where EFSA compiles the data and assesses the results of monitoring programmes conducted by the Member States and other reporting countries. This network was newly created in March 2019.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the ChemMon DC for 2022 were:

1. advise and assist EFSA on issues and opportunities for standardised reporting of occurrence data on chemical contaminants, residues and other regulated substances in food and feed;
2. revise the data model, related catalogues and reporting specifications for Member States and other reporting countries;
3. defining the most optimal ways to analyse the data collected;
4. participate in the process of enhancing data quality on chemical substances in food and feed for the purpose of intake/exposure and compliance assessments;
5. exchange of information and analytical results from chemical monitoring between reporting countries and EFSA, and between the reporting countries;
6. assist in activities related to data access and publication;
7. act as the national reference point for the planning and organising of data collections for chemical substances in food and feed;
8. review EFSA outputs related to the network e.g. annual reports, scientific and/or technical reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports;
9. share experience in national sampling and/or control programme design, laboratory methods, compliance assessment and follow-up actions.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection – 19-20 October 2022, online.

Number of participants invited: 127

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data\\_ToR\\_Chemical\\_Monitoring\\_Network.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Chemical_Monitoring_Network.pdf)



#### **4. Deliverables and Outcomes:**

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the CHEMMON DC were:

1. support to EFSA on the reduction in time from sample planning to the production of annual reports and data publication;
2. support to EFSA on the production of enhanced data visualisations for annual reports and dissemination of data analysis by adjusting to different stakeholder needs;
3. increase of data quality shared among EU MSs on chemical occurrence;
4. review of the chemical monitoring reporting guidelines and reporting timelines;
5. review of the minutes of the network meeting;
6. satisfaction survey on the meeting, as well as examining the criticalities found.

#### **5. Budget**

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

#### **6. Overall Assessment**

All objectives were met creating awareness on the next year harmonised data collection timelines for the first year. Members of the network indicated opportunity for improvements on the proactiveness in sharing the presentations in advance of the meeting. Some highlighted the benefit of having physical meeting where others would rather keep having virtual/on-line ones. Thus, future editions will be hybrid giving the option to attendees to be present in the room. It was welcomed the information received during the Network on the different projects EFSA had launched, so dissemination of information was fully met in this respect.

#### **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 5th meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection](#)

[Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection](#)



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA (FCD)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>7</sup>:

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 of the FCD Network are:

- to provide a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption and related data, in particular:
- to review methods and propose improvements on all issues related to food consumption data;
- to advise and reinforce the reporting and data submission formats proposed by EFSA for the collection of harmonised food consumption data to maintain their suitability for purpose;
- to advise on the integration and use of food composition data with dietary information for the assessment of nutrient intake;
- to act as a contact point between EFSA and the Member States to coordinate the collection of and accessibility to high quality, up-to-date and harmonised food consumption information.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the FCD for 2022 were:

1. to update the network on the food consumption data collection activities performed by EFSA and MSs;
2. to present the suit of exposure tools available;
3. to update the network on four new projects that initiated in 2022;
4. to perform a survey on format and content of the network.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data – 6 April 2022

Number of participants invited: 50

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data\\_TOR\\_FoodConsumption\\_2018.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_TOR_FoodConsumption_2018.pdf)



#### **4. Deliverables and Outcomes:**

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the FCD were:

1. knowledge on whether countries are thinking to apply a rolling system for collecting food consumption data in the future;
2. information for countries that did not apply for an EU Menu funding whether a survey has taken place in the meantime or is planned for the near future and its characteristics in summary;
3. understanding whether countries are using the available EFSA exposure tools;
4. information on whether there are similar initiatives to the Environmental Footprint of food database projects across Europe.

#### **5. Budget**

1. Initial budget for 2022: 6,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

#### **6. Overall Assessment**

The network meeting has proven to be extremely useful for both EFSA and countries participating, characterized by a fruitful information exchange. The feedback survey had a score of 4.8 out of 5 points. Countries were happy with the topics discussed but underlined the limitations of an online meeting. A wish to have a physical meeting for year 2023 was expressed.

#### **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 14th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data](#)

[Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR ZONOSSES MONITORING DATA

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>8</sup>:

The main objective 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 in food, feed and animals, on foodborne outbreaks as well as of data on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine animals, small ruminants, cervids and other species in the European Union.

The network is composed by the main zoonoses network and four specific sub-groups:

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
2. Foodborne outbreaks (FBO)
3. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)
4. Molecular typing, based on whole genome sequencing (WGS)

The Network is specifically asked to advise and assist EFSA on matters related to:

#### Data

The identification of priorities for the harmonisation of fit-for-purpose monitoring approaches and for the collection of data on zoonoses, FBO, AMR and TSE of European and international significance covered by the main network and the four specific subgroups.

- The identification of issues and opportunities for harmonised monitoring and reporting for Member States and other reporting countries.
- Updates of data models, related catalogues and reporting specifications for Member States and other reporting countries, in particular in the case of new data reporting requirements due to changes in the legislation.
- The participation in the process of enhancing data quality.
- The review of data collected and the participation in activities related to data access and publication.
- The nomination of the reporting officer (in the case of the main zoonoses network) and of the data providers (in the case of the TSE and WGS subgroups).
- The exchange of information and data between EFSA and Member States.
- The identification of issues and opportunities for development and use of electronic reporting, analysis and visualisation tools and databases for the data collection.
- Acting as national reference points for planning and organising data collection activities and for ensuring the exchange of information at national level.
- Coordinating at Member States level the call for data related to joint ECDC-EFSA assessments on foodborne events.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data\\_ToR\\_Zoonoses\\_Network.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Zoonoses_Network.pdf)



## Science

- The collation, validation, analyses, and summary of relevant scientific data in its fields of competence.
- The review of EFSA outputs related to the Network e.g. annual scientific reports, scientific and technical reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports.
- The exchange of experiences in monitoring and/or surveillance programme design and in laboratory methods.
- The discussion of cross-cutting issues with other animal and public health networks of EFSA, EU Agencies (e.g. ECDC) and the relevant European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) for this Network and its subgroups.
- The strengthening of international and inter-institutional collaboration and transdisciplinary knowledge transfer in the area of One Health Zoonoses data integration and interpretation.

## 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data for 2022 were:

1. review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks); <List of planned activities>
2. participation of countries (MSs/RCs) to training on data collection and data reporting (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
3. review of the Technical specifications for a baseline survey on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pigs;
4. data collection and data validation (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
5. review of the annual One Health draft report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, and the annual Summary Report on AMR in humans, food producing animals and food, as well as the TSE EU summary report, and of the communication tools (dashboards and story maps);
6. review of the Zoonoses National reports;
7. review of Rapid Outbreak Assessment draft reports;
8. review of the reporting catalogues (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
9. participation in ad-hoc surveys (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE), such as: "Survey on feedback from the 2021 data reporting";
10. continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
11. review of the Terms of References with updated tasks for the new specific subgroup created (Molecular typing, based on whole genome sequencing (WGS)).

## 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022:4

- 1 June 2022, a subgroup meeting of FBO experts. The objective of the meeting was to inform the MSs/RCs about the changes and updates in the reporting of 2022 FBO data. The aim of the meeting was also to inform the MSs/RCs about the preparatory activities needed to adapt their national reporting systems for the reporting of the 2022 FBO data, in accordance with the new requirements.





- 20 September 2022, the 2nd specific meeting on TSE data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data was held online as a 3 hour plenary session.
- 13-14 October 2022, the 40th meeting of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network was held as a hybrid meeting, of two days.
- 09-10 November 2022, the 12th specific meeting on AMR data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data was held as hybrid meeting, of one and a half days.

Number of participants invited: 162

#### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data were:

1. Review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks):
  - Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks guidance for reporting 2021 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7131>
  - Prevalence sample-based guidance for reporting 2021 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7129>
  - 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 2021: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7130>
2. Data on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks (Zenodo repository at [Tables, figures, and country data complementing the European Union One Health Zoonoses 2021 Report | Zenodo](#), on AMR (Zenodo repository at [European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in Zoonotic and Indicator Bacteria from Humans, Animals and Food in 2019/2020 | Zenodo](#)) and on TSE (Zenodo repository cited by [The European Union summary report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSE\) in 2021 - - 2022 - EFSA Journal - Wiley Online Library](#))
3. Review of the Technical specifications for a baseline survey on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pigs: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7620>
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 EU summary report:
  - EU One Health 2021 Zoonoses report: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7666>
  - The European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2019/2020: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7209>
  - TSE 2021 EU Summary report: available at <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7655>
5. Review of the communication tools: dashboards available at [Salmonella dashboard | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#), [Listeria dashboard | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#), [Campylobacter dashboard | EFSA](#)



[europa.eu](http://europa.eu)) and story map available at [Salmonella story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com), [Listeria monocytogenes story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com), [Campylobacter story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

6. Review of the Zoonoses National reports: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data-report/biological-hazards-reports>
7. Review of the Terms of References: available at [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data\\_ToR\\_Zoonoses\\_Network.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Zoonoses_Network.pdf)

## 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 15,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 9,155€

## 6. Overall Assessment

The objectives as reported in the Terms of Reference are met. The network meeting has proven to be extremely useful for both EFSA and countries participating. Many outcomes and deliverables were obtained thanks to close collaboration and fruitful information and data exchange.

## 7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> specific meeting on TSE data reporting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> specific meeting on AMR data reporting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON EMERGING RISKS EXCHANGE (EREN)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>9</sup>:

The Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN) was established in 2010 facilitating the exchange of information, expertise and the coordination of activities among MSs and observers. Furthermore, it built support and commitment of MSs and observers to the emerging risks identification activities of EFSA and EREN members. EREN aims 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.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the EREN for 2022 were:

1. hold two yearly meetings to discuss identification and characterisation of emerging issue signals, collating and organising topic information in relevant templates for briefing notes and short issues, publishing meeting minutes and preparing detailed secretariat notes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. annual reports 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. providing expertise in specific areas for cooperation when needed and engaging with interested and relevant stakeholders.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 27<sup>th</sup> Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (EREN) - 11-12 May 2022, the meeting took place in hybrid format in Vienna, Austria. As reflected in the agenda, the event included core EREN discussions (7.5h) and a thematic session (4.0h) 20 years of development in emerging risk identification and crisis prevention.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (EREN) - 8-9 November 2022, the meeting took place in hybrid format in Parma, Italy. As reflected in the agenda, the event included core EREN discussions (10.5) and extended for participation thematic session (4.0h) on emerging feed sources, technologies & related risks in a circular economy context, which was conducted as a joint event involving members of Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN), The European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and EFSA Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risk.

Number of participants invited: 116

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/emrisknetworksen.pdf>



#### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the EREN were:

1. briefing notes (BN) on emerging issues on discussed subjects and updates on previous BNs in DMS archives;
2. short issues on emerging signals. Processing the identified 56 new emerging signals, suggested as "short issues", and 24 from them were qualified of potential interest and followed up with EREN;
3. two online surveys as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Survey on Short Issues were conducted, and the results discussed at EREN meetings: [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26th\\_ERENsubmission](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26th_ERENsubmission) Discussing the results at 27<sup>th</sup> EREN meeting. [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/27th\\_ERENsubmission](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/27th_ERENsubmission) Discussing the results at 28<sup>th</sup> EREN meeting;
4. EREN's view elicitation, in topic interviews and survey, on desired features of Emerging Risk Analysis Platform (ERAP), integrated in the Interim report on business analysis of ERAP project.

#### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 11,203€

#### 6. Overall Assessment

All objectives are met, and members of the network indicated interests in future cooperation and demonstrated engagement in the development of ERAP. Awareness is raised on the filtering against the criteria for emerging risk on suggested signals from wider areas, and on the potential for utilization some of the broad information to assemble topic factsheets in relation to the new EFSA process 8.1.Environment Scanning and Strategic Options Definition.

#### 7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 27th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Minutes of the 27th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Agenda of the 28th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Minutes of the 28th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON RISK ASSESSMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES IN FOOD FEED (NANO)

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>10</sup>:

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.

The Terms of Reference of the Nano Network were recently approved by the EFSA Advisory Forum.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Nano Network for 2022 were:

1. organise an annual meeting 2022;
2. update the Network on the status of implementation of the recently published Guidance on technical requirements for regulated food and feed product applications to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles (Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements)<sup>11</sup> and Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health (Guidance on Nano – Risk Assessment)<sup>12</sup> and seek feedback from the Network on possible input received by stakeholders;
3. consult the Network during the production of a new Annex on 'Degradation/dissolution rate under acidic conditions' to update the Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements<sup>13</sup>,

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Nanonetwork.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>

<sup>12</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768>

<sup>13</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>



before presenting it for final adoption at the 111<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee<sup>14</sup>;

4. invite the Network to participate to a workshop organised to brainstorm on the design of a new project on the use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to promote data integration in chemical risk assessment, using case studies addressing nanoscale considerations (EFSA NAMs4NANO Project<sup>15</sup>);
5. invite the Network to provide feedback on ongoing or planned activities in the field of Nanotechnology, new scientific developments, and emerging issues of concern to exchange information, facilitate harmonisation of methodologies, and identify areas for mutual cooperation;
6. invite the Network members to attend relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutions.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 12th Annual meeting of the Nano Network - 24-25 October 2022 held by web-conference via the Microsoft Teams platform as two plenary sessions.

Number of participants invited: 49

### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Nano Network were:

1. the present annual report, which includes the work programme and resulting outcome and activities of the Nano Network for 2022;
2. exchange with the Network on the status of implementation of the recently published EFSA Nano Guidances (the new Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements<sup>16</sup> and the updated Guidance on Nano – Risk Assessment<sup>17</sup>) across EFSA regulated areas, discussing a specific example in the context of feed additives risk assessment;
3. provide trainings to interested Network members organised by EFSA or other institutions, such as the online training on EFSA Nano Guidances and nanomaterials risk assessment organised by EFSA c/o Fraunhofer Institute in 2022;
4. contribution from the Network in the production of the new Annex on 'Degradation/dissolution rate under acidic conditions' to update the Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements via an ad-hoc consultation that was organised during the preparation of the document, which is now published in the EFSA journal<sup>18</sup>;

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/111th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/art36grants/article36/gpefsamese202201-nams4nano-integration-new-approach-methodologies-results>

<sup>16</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>

<sup>17</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768>

<sup>18</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>



5. contribution from interested Network members to design the new EFSA NAMs4NANO Project<sup>19</sup> via a dedicated workshop organised in 2022, the dissemination of the publication of the call for tenders, and participation in the call for tenders;
6. active discussion was held at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting with Network members to exchange on ongoing or planned activities in the field of Nanotechnology, new scientific developments, and emerging issues of concern to exchange information, with the aim to facilitate harmonisation of methodologies and identify areas for mutual cooperation. In particular:
7. no criticisms were reported from Network members for 2022;

## 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

## 6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met. Awareness was raised to the recently adopted Terms of References and expected deliverables. In a survey sent to the Network after the meeting, members expressed appreciation for the organisation of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and the topics discussed, including the promotion for the interaction with other regulatory frameworks and international bodies.

## 7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 12th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed](#)

[Minutes of the 12th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed](#)

[GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01 - NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: Case studies addressing nanoscale considerations](#)

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/art36grants/article36/gpefsamese202201-nams4nano-integration-new-approach-methodologies-results>



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT OF GMO<sub>s</sub>

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>20</sup>:

To enhance discussion and scientific exchange between EFSA, the GMO Panel, and Member State experts, EFSA established in 2010 the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (also known as “the GMO Network”). Since then, risk assessment principles and approaches, and several guidance documents were discussed at the network meetings, providing EFSA with valuable input and facilitating harmonization of risk assessment and exchange of knowledge.

On 24 June 2021, the Management Board of the Authority has adopted the “Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority’s mission” to optimise the operational procedures of EFSA scientific networks in accordance with the remit and strategic objectives of the Authority and ensure a greater involvement of Member State expertise in support of EFSA's mission. The terms of reference of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs were revised in accordance with the Decision.

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.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the GMO Network for 2022 were:

1. hold two yearly meetings, preparing detailed minutes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. annual reports 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.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/gmonetworkstor.pdf>





### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 13th Meeting of the GMO Network: 7 April 2022
- 14th Meeting of the GMO Network: 17-18 November 2022.

Number of participants invited: 93

### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

The detailed outcomes for both GMO Network meetings were published on the EFSA website (see section 7). During the year 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the GMO Network were:

1. an update on the EFSA reorganization and on aspects related to the implementation of the Transparency Regulation;
2. several aspects related to the risk assessment methodology were discussed;
3. a discussion with the MS on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) was held. The GMO Network meeting allowed the exchange views and opinions between EFSA and the Member States on the risk assessment of plants obtained by NGTs. Moreover, EFSA received an update on the activity on NGTs carried out by MS which is summarized and available in the outcome (see section 7);
4. the meeting held in November provided the opportunity to present two recently adopted EFSA outcomes on the risk assessment of plants obtained by NGTs and cisgenesis/intragenesis. These two EFSA outcomes were requested by the European Commission to support the Impact Assessment activity on the proposal for a legal framework or plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis and for their food and feed products. This meeting was instrumental to receive feedback from the MSs on the two EFSA outcomes. The summary of the discussion is available in the outcome (see section 7).

### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 15,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

### 6. Overall Assessment

Two GMO Network meetings were organized in 2022 which represents an increase in the interaction with the Member States compared to previous years. Overall, the objectives set in the ToRs were met in 2022, with particular emphasis on the objective *'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, and the consequences regarding risk assessment'*. The publication of two EFSA outcomes on the risk assessment of plants obtained by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and cisgenesis/intragenesis and the concurrent EC Impact Assessment activity on the proposal for a legal framework or



plants obtained by these techniques demanded a closer dialogue between EFSA and the Member States on this topic. Therefore, a discussion focused on plants obtained by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and the implications for the risk assessment of such techniques was carefully planned in both GMO Network meetings in 2022.

The results of the satisfaction survey shared with the participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> GMO Network meeting (17-18 November 2022) indicated that the satisfaction of the overall meeting and its duration ranged from good to excellent, while the level of satisfaction on the interaction and time allocated for the discussion was variable. Considering the received feedback, the priority for the improvement of future meetings is to better define the meeting's agenda with the members proposals and to allow more time for the discussion on the different topics.

## **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Presentation of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Agenda of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Presentation of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)



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## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON NOVEL FOODS

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>21</sup>:

The role of the Novel Food 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 area of novel foods (NF) including traditional foods from third countries (TF) in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Specifically, the NF Network aims to: facilitate the exchange of information and to enhance collaboration in the area of novel foods risk assessment; harmonise the methodology for collecting data on notifications for TF, 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 is composed of Member State (MS) participants with experience in the safety assessment of novel foods, as well as observers from EC DG SANTE.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the NF for 2022 were:

1. EFSA shared information to MS representatives on four TF which were assessed in 2022 (providing them with literature search and informing them on the termination of the evaluation of TF. The information was provided via e-mail). EFSA acknowledges that the same information is shared with MS representatives via the EC submission e-Tool on TF, which is the official channel of communication on TF among EFSA and MS representatives

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 0

Number of participants invited: 0

### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

No deliverables to be reported in 2022.

### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

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<sup>21</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/AF170608/AF170608-ax14.1\\_Terms%20of%20Reference%20of%20the%20EFSA%20Scientific%20Network%20on%20Nov....pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/AF170608/AF170608-ax14.1_Terms%20of%20Reference%20of%20the%20EFSA%20Scientific%20Network%20on%20Nov....pdf)



## 6. Overall Assessment

EFSA acknowledges that the activity of the Network met its objectives when the new Regulation on NF (Regulation (EU) 2015/2283) entered into force in 2018. The meetings held in 2017 and 2018 focused on establishing the approach to assess TF. The meeting in 2019 focused on the experience gained by EFSA and MS on the evaluation of TF. In 2021, the Network meeting was useful to explore collaboration opportunities in the field of Novel food risk assessment; information collected from Network members was used to design and frame the collaboration tasking grant that was implemented in 2022.

EFSA acknowledges that the NF Network in his current composition and expertise is strongly overlapping with the EC NF WG maintained by SANTE E2 unit. In this regard it is worth noticing that due to the transition of EC NF WG meetings from physical to online the EFSA NF team is now able to participate to all the meetings of the EC NF WG. During this participation, in consultation and upon agreement of the EC colleagues managing the WG meeting, EFSA has to opportunity to engage in scientific and methodological discussions with MSs representative that are members of that WG and consult them on specific issues. This is also one of the main reasons why, after the collaboration aimed at defining the methodology for TF assessment up to 2019, there had been little engagement and activity of the NF network.

The new Regulation on NF (Regulation (EU) 2015/2283), has centralised in EFSA the assessment of NFs which, as a consequence, has lead several MSs to reducing their activities on NFs and reprioritizing their expertise and resources earlier inputting in the EU NF assessment process.

Based on the above, the EFSA NIF Unit recommends the discontinuation of the Scientific Network on Novel Foods in its current form. EFSA is considering other types of involvement with Member States (such as consultation platforms, surveys, focus groups, etc), which would be requested "ad hoc" depending on the needs identified in the assessment of NF. Such activities could happen in consultation with the already established EC NF WG where most of the MSs expertise available to the current NF Network is also available, avoiding duplication of activities and increasing efficiency of the engagement and consultation process. The well-established collaboration with EC SANTE E2 colleagues, that participate to every EFSA NF WG and manage the EC NF WG (with meetings happening roughly on a monthly basis), has opened up the opportunity for an EFSA easier and more efficient access to the expertise available at MSs level.

## 7. Supporting document(s)

No supporting documents to be reported for 2022 owing to the limited activities performed in 2022.



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## PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>22</sup>:

The main goals of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN) are:

- to improve dialogue 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 main objectives of the PSN are:

- plan, monitor, develop and improve the risk assessment and peer review process; PESTICIDE PEER REVIEW – PESTICIDE RESIDUES UNITS;
- integrate the risk assessment and Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) setting processes for coordinating and achieving efficiency in the implementation of the provisions of both regulatory frameworks;
- coordinate with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA);
- give advice on prioritisation and risk assessors needs in the development and the updating of risk assessment guidance documents;
- ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

### 2. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network – 28 April 2022, plenary, open to observers;
- 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network – 20 October 2022, plenary, open to observers;

Number of participants invited: 227

### 3. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the PSN were:

1. new data requirements for microorganisms; initial discussion on a possible new template for the EFSA conclusion; RA micro-organisms in light of the new data requirements;
2. presentation of Cumulative Risk Assessment for craniofacial alterations;
3. presentation of OpEx Guidance/Calculator;

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Terms-of-Reference-Pesticide-Steering-Network.pdf>



4. presentation of progress in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT);
5. presentation of the joint mandate for a Scientific Report on the impact of the use of azole fungicides, other than as human medicines, on the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus* spp.;
6. practical experience in Transparency Regulation (TR) implementation and performing Completeness Check;
7. GAP-table (list of uses) in DARs/RARs/LoEP;
8. state of play on endocrine disruptors;
9. assessment of co-formulants: presentation of the EFSA technical report; Risk assessment of second active substance contained in the product for representative uses; way forward;
10. basic substances: Post-Transparency Process.

#### **4. Budget**

1. Initial budget for 2022: 8,540€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

#### **5. Overall Assessment**

The meetings made it possible to maintain and strengthen the exchange with the MSs on topics of common interest, development on risk assessment methodology and to progress in their application. In addition, both meetings were organized with the participation of observers. Around 60 participants registered via the online registration form and were able to submit questions upon registration. Questions were discussed during the meeting, addressed individually as annex to the minute of each meeting. The observers participation pilot is providing helpful results regarding the interest aroused by the event.

#### **6. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Minutes of the 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Agenda of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Minutes of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Presentations of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)



## PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK IUCLID SUBGROUP

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>23</sup>:

The goal of the Pesticides Steering Network IUCLID sub-group is to ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

The main objectives of the PSN IUCLID sub-group are:

- identify issues for IUCLID backlog or IUCLID project work;
- provide input to IUCLID for Pesticides configuration, filtering rules, validation rules and report templates (aligning where possible with Biocides and in future CLH), contributing to the further development of features and tools which could automate pesticide dossier processing;
- consider specific requirements for PPP dossiers;
- participate in testing IUCLID releases;
- channel all requests for changes coming from pesticides submissions to the OECD IUCLID User Group Expert Panel who is the body deciding on the IUCLID changes to be implemented;
- channel all requests for changes and proposal for improvements before the relevant yearly release of IUCLID;
- based on practical experiences using IUCLID, provide input to further refine the EFSA helpdesk support, IUCLID manual and training materials and IUCLID implementation;
- act as point of reference for all IUCLID related issues and proactively share the information within the organisations of their country or organisation;
- share experience on the "on the job practice" to contribute to the further development of common working procedures.

### 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group for 2022 were:

1. establish working party for the optimisation of filtering rules;
2. establishing working party for the optimisation of the update of the Microorganism working context;
3. improve Report generator functionality;
4. support Member States with admissibility check;
5. improve IUCLID functionalities based on input from applicants;
6. collect requests for format changes to IUCLID before the annual release.

### 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/tems-of-reference-iuclid-psn-subgroup.pdf>



- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 31 January 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 4 May 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 22 September 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 5 December\_2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon).

Number of participants invited: 175

#### 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outcomes of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group were:

1. admissibility checklist for pesticide applications;
2. new IUCLID validation rules;
3. new filtering rules;
4. endorsement of the new approach to Personal Data from 01 January 2023<sup>24</sup> ;
5. document "Process and responsibilities for study notification of pesticide dossiers";
6. video tutorials on "*Light check for personal data on pesticide dossiers in IUCLID*"<sup>25</sup> and "*Running the validation assistant tool on pesticide dossiers in IUCLID*"<sup>26</sup>;
7. development of 7 new IUCLID documents and revision of 5 existing documents for the microorganisms IUCLID working context;
8. further development of report generator functionality (Documents L (List of literature references), MRL application report);
9. information to support the transition to the new Microorganism data requirements<sup>27</sup>

#### 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 23,912€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

#### 6. Overall Assessment

Planned activities were achieved thanks to a good overall collaboration between EFSA, ECHA and IUCLID sub-group participants. Positive feedback was received by Member States and Industry representatives during the meetings.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/5-confidentiality-and-filtering-rules.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://zenodo.org/record/6603446#.Y8pmFnbMJPa>

<sup>26</sup> <https://zenodo.org/record/6603483#.Y8pmSxbMJPa>

<sup>27</sup> <https://zenodo.org/record/7427313#.Y8-UEHbMLmg>





## **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)



## SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN PLANT HEALTH

### 1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR<sup>28</sup>:

The overall aim of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in 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<sup>29</sup>.

The Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health aims to contribute to strengthening the scientific cooperation on plant health issues in the European Union. The network represents a privileged environment in which to share data and methodologies. It also enable the anticipation of emerging risks in the EU and the enhancement of the understanding of the current plant health risk assessment priorities that may need to be addressed through EFSA. This platform for cooperation in the field of plant health is based on a dynamic exchange of information among all participants.

The specific objectives of the scientific network for risk assessment in plant health are:

- To facilitate harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies in plant health by:
  - sharing best practices between EFSA and the EU Member States;
  - discussing ongoing issues of plant health risk assessment such as new guidances developed or new opinions adopted;
  - discussing new scientific developments in plant health risk assessment and their implications on risk assessment practice;
  - focusing attention on and streamlining common research needs that support progress in plant health risk assessment;
  - analysing risk assessment needs and planning ahead to support the new EU Plant health law.
- To enhance exchange of information and data between EFSA and MS by:
  - discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for plant health risk assessment purposes;
  - enhancing cooperation in data collection and sharing for plant health risk assessment;
  - identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and on specific issues.
- To achieve synergies in plant health risk assessment activities by:
  - identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
  - sharing and discussing on-going plant health risk assessment activities;

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/plhranetworktor.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against plant pests ("Plant Health Law")



- sharing and discussing priorities for plant health risk assessment at national and EU level;
- identifying new and emerging risks for EU plant health.

## 2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the PLH Network for 2022 were Network meetings.

## 3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 18th meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH RA) – 08-09 December 2022.

Number of participants invited: 45

## 4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the PLH Network were:

1. update on ongoing activities on EFSA Plant health risk assessment activities;
2. results from Art. 36 projects co-funded by EFSA and MSs were presented and discussed with the Network;
3. update on Plant Health: EFSA's social science research and upcoming awareness-raising campaign.

## 5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 29,206€
2. Total cost of activities: 862€

## 6. Overall Assessment

The 2022 Network meeting was still organised virtually to allow maximum participation also with more than one attendant per country.

The main EFSA activities on plant health risk assessment were presented and discussed with the Network, by the EFSA PLANTS unit staff and with participation also by the PLH Panel Chair. Among the topics discussed there are: pest categorisation; quantitative pest risk assessment; climate suitability including climate change scenarios; commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants and derogations requests to provisions of the EU Plant health law; global database on host plants of *Xylella* species. An update was also provided on the EFSA plant health surveillance and monitoring activities (including the new Network on plant health surveillance). The EFSA's social science research and upcoming awareness-raising campaign in plant health were also presented and discussed. Results from Art. 36 projects co-funded by EFSA and MSs were presented and discussed as well:



- “Hotspots analysis of plant pest introductions” (HoPPI) project, an EFSA Thematic Grant Art 36 project by UCSC Piacenza (IT), UNIPD, Padova (IT) and IVIA (ES).
- “NoBa Land Cover Retriever”, a deliverable of an EFSA Partnering Grant Art 36 project by Finnish Food Authority, Estonian Agriculture and Food Board, State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

## **7. Supporting document(s)**

[Agenda of the 18th meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health \(PLH RA\)](#)

Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH RA)



# ANNEXES

## TABLE 1 - ANALYSIS OF QUANTITATIVE DATA AND GRAPHIC OVERVIEW

EFSA Unit	title of the network	no of meetings in 2022	2022 initial budget	2022 total cost of activities
<b>Communication and Partnership Department</b>	Communication Expert network (CEN)	<b>4*</b>	20,000 €	33,481 €
<b>Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit</b>	Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	<b>1</b>	7,460 €	5,937 €
<b>Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit</b>	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	<b>4**</b>	58,412 €**	16,210 €**
<b>Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit</b>	Scientific Network on BSE/TSE	<b>1</b>	19,220 €	9,799 €
<b>Food Ingredients and Packaging Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)	<b>1</b>	38,000 €	11,079 €
<b>Integrated Data Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection (ChemMon DC)	<b>1</b>	0 €	0 €
<b>Integrated Data Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)	<b>1</b>	6,000 €	0 €
<b>Integrated Data and Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Units</b>	Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data	<b>4**</b>	15,000 €**	9,155 €**
<b>Knowledge Innovation and Partnership Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)	<b>2</b>	0 €	11,203 €
<b>Methodology and Scientific Support Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)	<b>1</b>	0 €	0 €
<b>Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit</b>	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs	<b>2</b>	15,000 €	0 €
<b>Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit</b>	Scientific Network on Novel Food	<b>0</b>	0 €	0 €
<b>Pesticide Peer Review Unit</b>	Pesticide Steering Network	<b>2</b>	8,540 €	0 €
<b>Pesticide Peer Review and Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Units</b>	Pesticide Steering Network Iuclid Subgroup	<b>4</b>	23,912 €	0 €
<b>Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit</b>	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health	<b>1</b>	29,206 €	862 €
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>240,750 €</b>	<b>97,726 €</b>

\* Number refers to two network meetings organized, two further meetings were organized as support to the two network ones.

\*\* Number of meetings, initial budget and total cost of activities refer to the main Network and its relevant subgroups.



TABLE 2 - NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN 2022 PER NETWORK

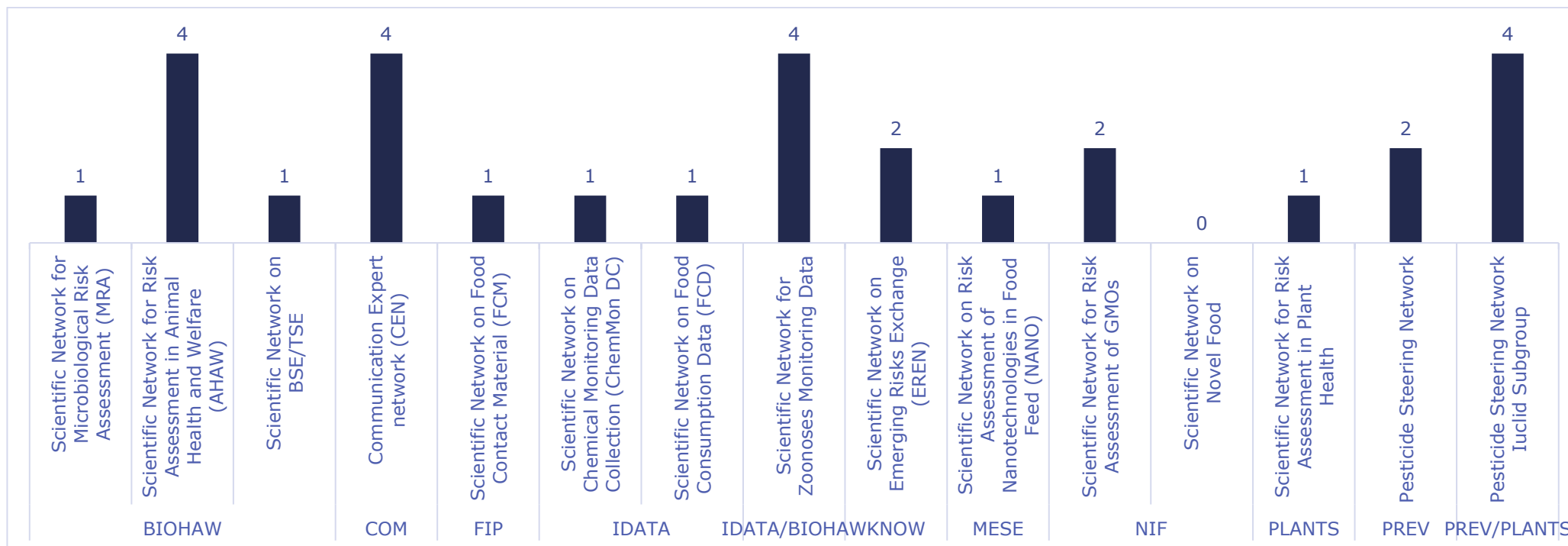
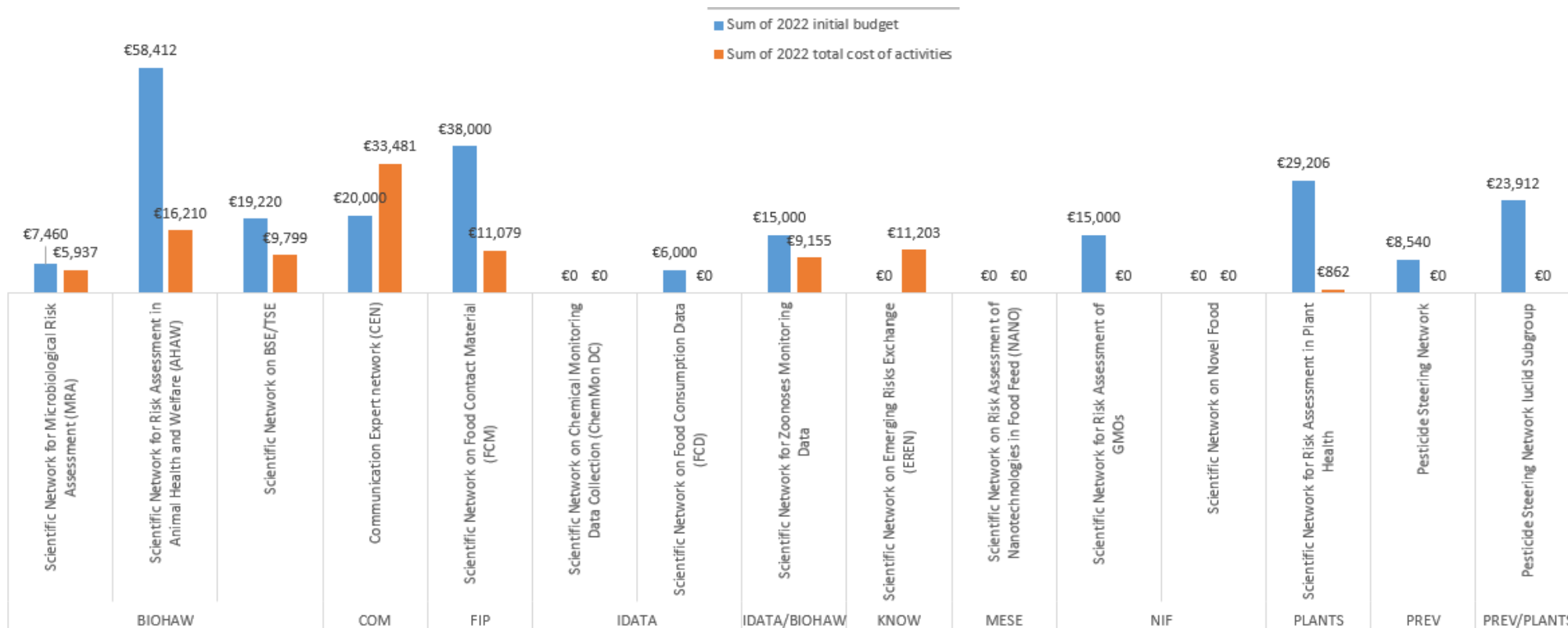




TABLE 3 - INITIAL BUDGET AND COST OF ACTIVITIES IN 2022





**TABLE 4 – NUMBER OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS IN 2023**

