

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING UNIT

Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection

Minutes of the 28th meeting

Held on 19 April 2013, Uppsala (Sweden)

(Agreed on 21/08/2013)

Participants

• **Network Representatives of Member States:**

Country	Name	Country	Name
Austria	Peter Much	Latvia	Tatjana Ribakova
Belgium	Luc Vanholme	Lithuania	Snieguole Scepnaviciene
Bulgaria	Georgi Chobanov	Luxembourg	Joseph Schon
Cyprus	Christodoulos Pipis	Malta	Fabrizio Rosso
Czech Republic	Zuzana Slamova	Netherlands	Rob Van Oosterom
Denmark	Birgitte Helwich	Norway	Merete Hofshagen
Estonia	Jelena Sogel	Poland	Jacek Osek
Finland	Saara Raulo	Portugal	Patricia Inacio
France	Laurent Montaut	Romania	Ioana Neghirla
Germany	Matthias Hartung	Slovakia	Marta Bedriova
Greece	Tzani Myrsini	Slovenia	Maja Kokalj
Hungary	Marc Harald Hovari	Spain	José Luis Saez Llorente
Ireland	Lisa O'Connor	Spain	Emma Martín Denia
Ireland	Kilian Unger	Sweden	Elina Lathi
Italy	Veronica Cibirin	Switzerland	Jürg Danuser
Italy	Simona Iannetti	United Kingdom	Lesley Larkin
Italy	Patrizia Colangeli		

• **Observers:**

- Artan Gjergji (Albania), Emir Konjic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Greta Nikolovska (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Shaban Golloopeni (Kosovo), Mevlida Hrapovic (Montenegro), Zoran Ivanovic (Serbia), Guzin Sahin (Turkey).

• **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

- Kris De Smet (DG SANCO)

- **EFSA:**

- Pia Mäkelä (BIOMO, Chair), Frank Boelaert (BIOMO), Pierre-Alexandre Belœil (BIOMO), Valentina Rizzi (BIOMO, scientific secretary), Patrizia Oelker (BIOMO), Kenneth Mulligan (BIOMO), Simona Fusar Poli (BIOMO)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force (TF) members and observers. The new observers from the pre-accession countries introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

None of the participants declared an additional interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 27th meeting of the Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection held on 18-19 October 2012, Larnaca (Cyprus).

The minutes were agreed at the present meeting and will be published on the EFSA website.

5. Topics for discussion

5.1 ECDC-EFSA-DG SANCO Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for foodborne outbreak investigations, use and publication of Member States' specific data

The chair summarised the draft EFSA's procedures for the food-borne outbreak (FBO) risk assessments, which describes when and how EFSA will consult the MSs in occasion of an on-going multi-country FBO assessment in EU. The TF is informed about the outbreak investigation / risk assessment by e-mail. In case of publication of the data in a rapid risk assessment document or in another form, the MSs and other reporting countries (the relevant TF members), whose country specific data are to be used (i.e. specifying the country by name), are contacted by EFSA in order to request for their agreement with the publication of the data. In case only aggregated data without any reference to the countries of origin are to be published, the MSs are not contacted. The role of the TF in providing additional information on the outbreak investigated was discussed and still needs to be agreed upon in the context of the general SOP on FBO assessment under preparation between EFSA, ECDC and the European Commission (EC).

5.2 Publication of national zoonoses reports 2011 PDFs

The chair informed the TF that some technical problems were encountered during migration of data from the Data Collection Framework (DCF) to the web applications national reports, making difficult to create complete PDF national reports for some reporting countries. Most of the MSs and other reporting countries supported the publication of their PDF national report on EFSA's web site. Few countries produce by themselves a separate national report and some of them would prefer to see on EFSA's web site the link to their national report on their web site. It was agreed that EFSA will proceed, after MSs' consultation, with the publication of the national reports that are already complete. The countries still having some

issues with data migration will be bilaterally contacted by EFSA to solve their problems and their reports will be published later.

The issue regarding the large number of tables for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) quantitative data at isolate-based level in the national report of some countries was also discussed. EFSA will investigate the possibility to aggregate the tables for *Salmonella* serovars.

5.3 Plans for EU Summary Reports on zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and on antimicrobial resistance in 2012

The proposal for the content of the 2012 EU Summary Reports on zoonoses, FBOs and AMR was presented. It is suggested to produce restricted reports for both fields due to limited resources. The plan is to address the most common and important zoonoses and zoonotic agents as well as those that were not covered in the 2011 EUSR. On the other hand, the idea is to leave out the zoonoses analysed in depth in the 2011 EUSR or for which less data are available. As for the 2012 AMR EUSR, the proposal is to analyse data for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), partly outsourced to an external contractor, and to leave out data on *E. coli* and Enterococci. Comments on these plans were made by the members. It was proposed that the zoonoses report would include data for VTEC, *Echinococcus* in animals and *Salmonella* in feed and would focus on *Salmonella* in turkeys. In case of the AMR report, it was suggested to include data for ESBL *E. coli* in animals instead of MRSA in food. It was also suggested to reflect about the possibility to define specific zoonotic agents and/ or animal populations to be targeted in monitoring programmes in different years. This issue needs to be further discussed with EC.

5.4 Reporting manuals and guidelines for 2012 data reporting

Valentina Rizzi presented the main changes to the reporting of 2012 data as included in the manuals. The data on *Salmonella* in broiler flocks are to be reported separately for food business operators and official authorities. In the prevalence tables there is a new column for information on "Sample origin" which has a pick list of "domestic" and "imported". In addition, the reporting for West Nile virus is now possible, with information on geographical distribution and vaccination status. Some changes concern specifically the reporting on AMR data, including the possibility to report on new bacterial types, animal subcategories and antimicrobials.

The proposals for data collection received from the MSs were also discussed and it was agreed to add the term "preserved" as a subcategory of meat products, and "cheese analogues" under "dairy products".

5.5. DCF data models and data dictionaries for 2012 data reporting; XML/ Excel use and historical data updates Grants and Procurement projects

Kenneth Mulligan gave a presentation on data transmission requirements, including the data structure (revised and new data models) and standard terminology (pick lists and relative domains). Details were also given on XSD schemas and XML files, which can be generated from Excel files, and on business rules for data validation. Specific guidelines have been published in April 2013 to provide MSs with technical details on the submission of data through DCF. Following the TF's request, EFSA will draft a guidance document for data providers on the general use of DCF.

The migration process of data submitted in DCF into the Zoonoses Web Application was also clarified, which allows data visualization and PDF report generation. For records failing to comply with the business rules, warnings and errors are generated by the system: only errors require corrections to allow the migration of the concerned rows.

Some MSs encountered difficulties in reporting aggregated figures for antimicrobial resistance quantitative data at isolate-based level ('Total number of samples tested'; 'Total number of sampling units tested'; 'Total number of isolates available in the laboratory'). EFSA will consider whether these data are necessary and, in order to make easier the reporting, will propose a separate table for reporting these aggregated figures. EFSA will send to the TF a proposal on this issue.

Kenneth Mulligan updated the TF on the 3 grants awarded in 2011 and 2012 to support the preparation and submission via DCF of zoonoses data in compliance with EFSA data models and standard terminology. Details were also given on the new procurement for submitting zoonoses, FBOs and AMR data via DCF and updating/revising the historical data in EFSA's Zoonoses database. Following the request of some MSs, EFSA will evaluate the possibility to extend the deadline of this procurement.

A couple of MSs volunteered for submitting data for the pilot on sample based data for food.

The chair explained that EFSA is not able to support two parallel reporting systems still for many years and suggested to agree on a year for dismissing the zoonoses web application. Some countries supported this proposal, considering this a good incentive for improving the reporting at national level. Nevertheless, other countries are not yet ready for this change and would prefer to wait, unless there are specific legal requirements. The possibility to include in the legislation details on the tool to be used for data submission should be investigated with EC. It was also commented that for some zoonoses, such as tuberculosis and brucellosis, there is a double reporting to EFSA and to EC. This issue will be further discussed with EC.

As for the submission of text forms through DCF, EFSA could support MSs, upon request, by providing the Excel file of the text forms.

5.6 Standard Sample Description working group – update on status of play – proposed pick lists for analytical methods

Valentina Rizzi informed the TF on the WG on Standard Sample Description (SSD2). The guidance document was sent for consultation in February 2013 and the comments received were addressed by the WG in March. The main suggestions concerned the addition of new terms for sampling context, animal and food categories. The timelines for the approval and publication of the guidance on SSD2 and of the Guidance on data exchange (GDE) were also presented.

The chair presented the state of play of the WG on analytical methods, explaining the preliminary proposals for the elements of the section on analytical methods in SSD2. The TF will be consulted on the final proposal from the WG.

5.7 Update on *Listeria* baseline survey analyses and the European *Listeria* Typing Exercise (ELiTE study)

Frank Boelaert gave an overview on the EU-wide *Listeria monocytogenes* baseline survey in RTE foods. The report A will address only analysis of the qualitative and quantitative survey test results and no comparison between food categories will be included. More details, including modelling, will be included in the report B. An external scientific report prepared by a contractor will present descriptive results at the level of the participating countries. During data validation, the WG discussed about a subset of samples not supporting *Listeria* growth that were in principle not eligible for the study, but were included in the analysis anyway. Preliminary results were given on the prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes*, proportion of samples exceeding the level of 100 cfu/g and distribution frequency of enumeration results for the three types of food categories. The EFSA scientific report A and the external report submitted to EFSA will be sent for consultation in May. The final endorsement is foreseen by end of May.

Frank Boelaert presented the European *Listeria* Typing Exercise (ELiTE) project which aims to study the molecular epidemiology of human listeriosis, comparing human typing data to the food data from the European *Listeria* baseline survey. EFSA's task is to connect the EU baseline information with *Listeria monocytogenes* subtypes, and to contribute to the epidemiological analyses of the data.

5.8 Update on the harmonised epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of cattle, small ruminants, solipeds and farmed game

The chair informed the TF that the reports on the harmonised epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of cattle, small ruminants and farmed game will be sent for consultation in May 2013. The report on domestic solipeds was already sent for consultation on 17 April 2013.

5.9 EFSA data warehouse access policy

The chair presented the project on the EFSA's Data Warehouse (DWH) that will allow the publication, analysis and distribution of data collected by EFSA. Zoonoses data collected, either via the DCF or via the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application, as well as baseline survey data will be exported in the EFSA DWH. The intention is that in the future only the most important part of the annual data is analysed and published in the EUSRs and the rest of the data would be available in DWH via pre-defined reports including tables, maps and graphs. DWH could also replace the publication of the annual national reports on zoonoses. A pilot covering most zoonoses, AMR and FBOs data will be run in 2013.

A policy for access to data published via the EFSA DWH is being prepared. Rules differ for different users: full access is granted to EFSA staff members and DG SANCO, whereas limited access (regarding the type of data or the period of accessibility) is granted to Members of EFSA's Scientific Panels and their WGs, EFSA WGs, data providers and all stakeholders. All relevant EFSA data collection networks and the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) were consulted about the policy. The TF members made comments on the need to ensure the data confidentiality, in particular on the update of list of users.

5.10 Progress reports from working groups

Foodborne outbreak reporting specifications

Valentina Rizzi informed the TF about the progress of the new WG on FBO reporting specifications. The first WG meeting took place at the end of March. The aim is to revise the technical specifications which have been used since 2011.

Molecular typing data collection

Pierre Alexandre Beloeil explained the progress of the WG on the molecular typing data. The first WG meeting will take place in April 2013. A pilot will be run in 2014.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Updating the Task Force member and alternate member lists

The chair informed the TF that the updated list of members of the TF on zoonoses has been uploaded on Sciencenet, as well as the lists of members for the specific TF meetings on AMR, FBOs and IT.

The chair proposed to discuss in the future TF meetings the topics suggested at the TF meeting in Cyprus (setting up a WG on data validation; biological monitoring in shellfish; monitoring of zoonoses in companion animals).

The TF members were invited to consider possible topics for the next ECDC-EFSA Joint Networks Meeting.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29-30 October 2013 in Parma.