

Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data Minutes of the 32nd meeting

**Held on 17-18 March 2015, Parma
(Agreed on 24 April 2015)**

Participants

■ **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

Country	Name
Austria	Peter Much
Belgium	Luc Vanholme
Bulgaria	Teodora Georgieva
Croatia	Dražen Knežević
Czech Republic	Petr Satran
Denmark	Anna Irene Sørensen Vedel
Estonia	Jelena Sõgel
Finland	Saara Raulo
France	Nathalie Lacour
Germany	Matthias Hartung
Greece	Tzani Myrsini
Hungary	Anna Luca Vecsei
Iceland	Vigdís Tryggvadóttir
Ireland	Kilian Unger
Ireland	Eileen O'Dea
Italy	Simona Iannetti
Italy	Veronica Cibin
Latvia	Tatjana Ribakova
Lithuania	Snieguole Scepaviciene
Luxembourg	Joseph Schon
Netherlands	Rob Van Oosterom
Netherlands	Olaf Stenvers
Malta	Chris Inguanez
Poland	Jacek Osek
Portugal	Maria Fatima Cordeiro Silva
Romania	Ioana Neghirlă
Slovakia	Marta Bedriová
Slovenia	Maja Kokalj
Spain	José Luis Sáez Llorente
Spain	Emma Martín Denia
Sweden	Elina Lathi
Norway	Berit Heier
Switzerland	Jürg Danuser
United Kingdom	Lesley Larkin

■ **Hearing Experts**

NA

■ **European Commission:**

NA

■ **EFSA:**

Biological Hazards and Contaminants (BIOCONTAM) Unit: Frank Boelaert (Chair), Krisztina Nagy, Giusi Amore*, and Valentina Rizzi who participated in agenda points 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio and Pietro Stella who participated in agenda points 4.6 and 4.7.

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Anca Stoicescu (Scientific secretary), Cristina Rodríguez Pinacho, Doreen Dolores Russell*, Enikő Varga*, and Luca Pasinato who participated in agenda point 6.1 and Francesca Riolo who participated in agenda point 6.2.

Animal and Plant Health (ALPHA) Unit: Frank Verdonck who participated in agenda point 4.8 and 4.9.

Risk Communication (RISKCO) Unit: Isabelle Hubert who participated in agenda point 7.1.

(*attended only partly to the meeting)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 32nd meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Apologies were received from Christodoulos Pipis – Cyprus representative.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes. No further items were added.

3. Minutes of the 31st meeting of the Network held on 21-23 October 2014

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 2 December 2014 and published on the EFSA website on 10 December 2014. There were no pending action points.

4. Topics for discussion(first day)

4.1. Publication of 2013 EU Summary Report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks

Frank Boelaert presented the lessons learnt from the production of the 2013 EU Summary Report on zoonoses and food borne outbreaks (EUSR). It was underpinned by a very intense collaboration year, within EFSA and with the Network. New data validation procedures were set up and the EU overview table production was automated. The resulting EUSR is fit-for-purpose, much more concise and all summary tables and figures are published as downloadable only files. Member States (MSs) representatives appreciated the new format and contents and the improved readability of the text with less redundancy.

Also the main findings of the 2013 EUSR were briefly presented.

4.2. Milestones for the production of the 2014 EU Summary Reports

Frank Boelaert presented the proposed milestones for the production of the 2014 EUSR on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks (FBO). These timelines are already agreed upon with the colleagues from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Overall EFSA has one month less production time as compared to the 2013 EUSR, as requested by the European Commission. The 2014 EUSR needs to be published by December 2015. EFSA are gradually moving the timelines forward to meet the legal obligation to produce the report by November each year

The Network discussed all timelines and agreed as follows:

The opening of the reporting systems for the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and for the Web Application will be 1 April 2015. The legal reporting deadline is 31 May each year. Data submitted through the DCF will not be migrated to the Web Application to generate aggregated data. Instead, they will be validated through the reports created in Microstrategy, which is a user interface that allows end-users to retrieve data available in the DWH.

EFSA will implement a one-step data validation in 2015. Thereto, on 13 May already all summary tables will be created for the first time and displayed to MSs for their information on their progress made with data reporting. On 3 June all summary tables will be created a second time; after this date MSs will have four weeks to correct their data, if necessary, until 3 July. EFSA will validate all data (against a number of criteria) submitted by 3 June and provide feedback to MSs, if needed, by sending letters requesting clarifications and/or amendments, on 12 June. After 3 July 2015 data cannot be changed any more, as the data extracted on this date will be used to draft the report. It was agreed that the report consultation period will be extended to three weeks (30.10.2015 – 20.11.2015). MSs were supportive and positive to the timelines set and asked EFSA to strictly adhere to timelines enabling MSs to plan the work at national level.

MSs were asked by EFSA to anticipate the 2014 data collection and validation activities, prioritise submission of important subsets of data first, and communicate to EFSA as soon as possible any submission problem.

4.3. 2015 Reporting period of 2014 zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks data

Cristina Rodríguez Pinacho presented the few changes to the reporting of 2014 data as included in the reporting manuals on Zoonoses and FBO within the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC. The changes made in the Data dictionaries and in the FBO data model were presented, as well as the changes in the Web Application. It was also underlined that at the end of 2015, the Web Application will be phased out, therefore MSs are strongly encouraged to become familiar with electronic data reporting and the use of the related reporting tool in 2015 so as to ensure compliance with the mandatory requirement for electronic data reporting in 2015.

4.4. Draft plan of analysis for the 2014 Summary Report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks

Giusi Amore presented the proposal for the content of the 2014 EUSR. EFSA proposed to produce the same summary tables and figures as for the EUSR 2013, following the same format (with hyperlinks) as for the EUSR 2013. In addition, summary tables and figures (graphs and maps) presenting the distribution of *Salmonella* serovars (in food, animals and feed) and VTEC strains (in food and animals) will be included in new subsections to the report. It was agreed that the Table of contents will remain unchanged as compared to 2013 report.

Few MSs proposed EFSA to produce MSs-specific trends for *Campylobacter* in broilers and broiler meat. It was discussed and agreed upon that in the absence of risk mitigation measures and harmonised sampling procedures (like a process hygiene criterion) it might be too early to produce these graphs, therefore a decision should still to be taken.

4.5. Molecular typing data collection

Valentina Rizzi provided an update on the activities related to the project on the collection of molecular typing data on isolates from food, feed and animal samples. These data could substantially contribute to the epidemiological investigations of food-borne outbreaks. Outcomes of the project include the development of a database that will enable data submission by laboratories. Data would be sent to the EFSA database using the Standard Sample Description 2 model. A subset of data will be stored in a joint database hosted by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) where the joint cluster analysis would be carried out. A pilot study has been started at the end of 2014 to test the functionalities of the database, including technical and IT requirements as well as the data model for the molecular typing system. A joint Steering Committee will be established by EFSA and ECDC to monitor and evaluate the pilot phase and develop procedures for scientific data analysis.

4.6. Future brief questionnaire for Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EAEC)

Maria Teresa Felicio Da Silva presented the self-task mandate on 'Public health risks associated with EAEC as a food-borne pathogen'. The terms of reference associated with this mandate were also presented, together with the questions raised based on the available data. In order to fill the gaps in available data EFSA will send a questionnaire to the Network members during April 2015. It was requested that the questionnaire should allow multiple choice options, so MSs can answer with more accurate data, by the end of May 2015.

4.7. Risk posed by *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus in bulb and stem vegetables and carrots

Maria Teresa Felicio Da Silva gave a short presentation on the 'Scientific Opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin, Part 2 (*Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus in bulb and stem vegetables, and carrots)'. The background of the mandate, terms of reference, conclusions and recommendations were presented. Risk factors for the contamination of bulb and stem vegetables as well as carrots with *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus were considered in the context of the whole food chain. Available estimates of their occurrence in these vegetables were evaluated, together with mitigation options related to the prevention of contamination and the relevance of microbiological criteria. It was concluded that each farm environment represents a unique combination of risk factors that can influence the occurrence and persistence of pathogens in the primary production of these vegetables. Considering the limited evidence for both the occurrence and public health risks from contamination of *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Yersinia* and Norovirus in the primary production and minimal processing of bulb and stem vegetables and carrots, no conclusions can be drawn on the impact of the establishment of Microbiological Hygiene Criteria, Process Hygiene Criteria or Food Safety Criteria on public health.

4.8. EFSA WG on *Echinococcus multilocularis*

Frank Verdonck presented *Echinococcus multilocularis* data collection underlining the two different legal backgrounds for data collection: annual *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011,¹ and annual

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 of 14 July 2011 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs. OJ L 296, 15.11.2011, p. 6-12.

echinococcosis monitoring in the context of Directive 2003/99/EC.² A mandate on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infections was received by EFSA from the EC to prepare the 2016 review of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011. The terms of reference of the mandate were presented, as well as the questions raised by the Working Group members on the data available in the zoonoses database. MSs are asked to provide additional information, if available (e.g. data at regional level, analytical method used, etc.). EFSA will send the request to the Network members early April 2015.

4.9. *Mycobacterium bovis* data collection

Frank Verdonck shortly presented the *Mycobacterium bovis* data collection, highlighting the difficulties to compare data submitted at different aggregation levels (at the national level versus regional level) and the related maps for MSs non-officially bovine tuberculosis free. MSs were encouraged to report regional data for better data analysis. MSs requested EFSA to discuss with the EC and tackle the problem of double reporting.

5. Topics for discussion (second day)

5.1. Updates of Data Warehouse for the implementation of the zoonoses data collection

Luca Pasinato provided an update on the EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse (DWH) project and its validation tools in the context of zoonoses.

The DWH objective is to create a database with validated data for data analysis. Microstrategy is a user interface that allows end-users to retrieve data available in the DWH. The data validation process was presented.

The 'Valid' status in the DCF indicates that data are structurally valid and that they will be then validated by additional validation rules defined in SAS on the provided Business Rules sets in the reporting guidelines ([link](#)). The results of the SAS validation are loaded in the validation database and published each Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the Microstrategy interface.

MSs will receive instructions on how to access 'Validation reports' in Microstrategy. These reports are the tool for MSs to detect invalid data. It was underlined that if one row fails within a transmission then the entire transmission is rejected. MSs should identify invalid records and correct them. When the validation is successful then data from valid transmissions are transferred into the DWH.

For the EU summary report tables EFSA will use valid data as resulting from the execution of the SAS business rules described above selected after the reporting deadlines agreed at Zoonoses Network. A live demonstration of the reports created in Microstrategy was given.

The Network members questioned the feasibility of putting into operation a new data validation tool during the upcoming reporting period. MSs requested extra options for exporting tables/text forms in one document at the end of the reporting period, using the DCF, and for the verification of the completion of the data submission of the various data tables. EFSA in addition clarified that the new tool is only changing the format of the validation report that was previously provided by email in MS Excel without any change to the information content.

The Network members requested that reporting officers have a general overview of all the data submitted by their reporters. EFSA clarified that this feature will be available to reporting officers in Microstrategy. Reporters will only be able to see the data submitted by their organisation.

² Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC. OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 31 – 40.

EFSA stated during this discussion that the Web Application will remain operational during 2015.

5.2. Move to the DCF reporting: supporting grants and contracts

Francesca Riolo updated the Network on the scientific co-operation tools to support both the building of a system to export data from the national repositories in compliance with the EFSA data model, and controlled terminologies including the update of historical data transmitted via the DCF. A new call for tender, which is the final call in this regard, was launched on 11 March 2015³ to provide support for these activities; the deadline for applications is on 27 April 2015. As the Web Application will be phased out in 2015 and DCF will become the only system available for data reporting, MSs were strongly encouraged to apply.

The Network members were informed that the documentation for this call for tender is available via the Official Journal Notice published on the EFSA website.

5.3. Mandate of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data

Frank Boelaert, on behalf of Mary Gilsenan, presented the terms of reference included in the mandate of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Network members were informed about this mandate prior to the meeting. It describes the role of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. The terms of reference of all EFSA Networks were renewed in 2013 based on recommendations from the Advisory Forum, and the new mandate was published in 2014. The terms of references of the zoonoses Network are more focused on data collection and reporting.

Next, four breakout group discussions were arranged. They specifically addressed three questions: 'What aspects of the Network go well?', 'What aspects of the Network could be improved?', 'Considering the terms of reference of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data, how best can this Network deliver its assigned tasks in the most efficient and effective way moving forward?'. A rapporteur of each group provided feedback to the plenary session.

A lot of very useful feedback and views were collected and EFSA will consider these as appropriate. Generally, the Network is very pleased with the meeting organisations and support and trainings received for zoonoses data collection and submission. The feedback from EFSA on MSs' requests is without failure. EFSA was requested to present any changes to the data collections at the latest during the last Network meeting prior the reporting year. Also, EFSA may propose more stringent guidance for data collection on zoonoses without EU-harmonised sampling plans (better choices in reporting (i.e. animal species, pathogens)). It was requested that an EC representative attend the Network meetings, so as to embrace the expert advice and to share their expectations on wanted analyses based on (new) legal data reporting requirements for certain zoonoses, like *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus*.

6. Any other business

6.1. EFSA's 2nd Scientific Conference

Isabelle Hubert presented the programme of a three-day EFSA Scientific Conference that will take place in October 2015 in Milan in connection with the main theme 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life' of the 2015 World EXPO. She also presented the role of EFSA and the broad interest in this event. The limitation in available places was highlighted; however, MSs were encouraged to participate in this conference. The support initiatives for young scientists were also mentioned.

³ Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/tenders/tender/ocefsadata201501.htm>

6.2. Dates for next meetings

The dates for 2015 meetings were presented. Zoonoses and AMR meetings: 11-13 November 2015. EFSA proposed that the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data - 5th specific meeting on IT data reporting - to be held on 7-8 December 2015, to address trainings on electronic data transmission using the Excel Mapping Tool.

7. Conclusions

An overview of the main discussions and agreements reached during the meeting was presented. The Chair requested the Network members to complete the evaluation form and to submit ideas for further discussion points at the future Network meetings.

8. Closure of the Network meeting

The Chair thanked the Network members for an intensive and productive meeting, which he closed at 13:00, as foreseen in the agenda.