

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EFSA ADVISORY FORUM DATA COLLECTION AND DATA MODELING TASK FORCE

Background

At the 65th Advisory Forum meeting Hungary gave a presentation on the possibility to extend and harmonise data collection among Member States using the SSD2 (Standard Sample Description version 2) system. The initiative was recognised as a common interest of national authorities and EFSA; it also brought other topics to the surface related to data management in a broader sense. During the 67th Advisory Forum meeting it was proposed to create a Task Force on data related issues, composed of Advisory Forum members and co-ordinated by EFSA. The Task Force could also address, besides the application of SSD2, the wider issue of food chain safety data standardisation.

Austria, Croatia, France, Denmark, Hungary and Norway expressed interest to join the Task Force. It was proposed as well to invite DG SANTE as part of the task force. As it was decided, Members of the task force should define terms of reference and clear goals which would be presented at the 68th Advisory Forum meeting, in June 2018.

Objectives

The objectives of the Task Force are in connection to EFSA's data related activities. The four important, pre-requisite components of an effective and transparent data analysis framework are the following:

- Data collection and reporting system
- Data model¹
- IT-infrastructure
- Data analysis methodology

¹ Data model is an abstract model that organizes elements of data and standardizes how they relate to one another and to properties of the real world entities
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_model]

The main objective of the

Task Force is *to overview the data collection and reporting processes and the data model and IT infrastructure used, from a strategic perspective, and to formulate recommendations at a strategic level*. Assessing data analysis methodology would fall out of scope of the work of this Task Force; however, in a later stage, this part could be discussed as well, based on a future decision of the Advisory Forum.

The detailed objectives of the Task Force are the following:

1. Overview of the data collection and reporting processes regarding food chain safety data: sharing and discussing Member State experience.
 - Identify areas where improvement could be achieved in the area of reporting laboratory results and common approach for chemicals, micro-organism and other hazards in the food chain.
 - Identify harmonization needs.
 - Identifying and sharing data management best practice between Member States.
 - Overview of the processes intended to identify data gaps and responsible for issuing new data collection tasks.
 - Discussion on changing the reporting paradigm from data providing to giving access to data.
2. Overview of EFSA's data model(s) in relation to risk assessment.
 - Identify data model(s).
 - Identify gaps and inconsistencies within the data model(s).
 - Analysing conflicts between risk assessment and risk management needs when reporting and sharing data with a focus on reducing the burden of data reporting at the EU level.
3. Overview of the IT-infrastructure supporting the risk assessment processes, taking into account the data model(s).
4. Strategic overview of EFSA's data focused objectives and data assets.
 - Discussion on formation of a cross domain data management/architecture expert group.

Members of the Task Force

The Task Force is composed of national representatives of the Advisory Forum on a voluntary basis, with coordination of EFSA and with the involvement of DG SANTE. At the time of the foundation of the Task Force, Austria, Croatia, France, Denmark, Hungary and Norway expressed their interest to join.

The Task Force is chaired by Hungary.

Working language

The Task Force will use English as the working language.

Working methods

The Task Force shall have 1-day physical meetings before each AF meeting. Between the meetings, the Task Force will work as an electronic working group with a possibility to organize ad hoc teleconferences. The Task Force shall provide regular feedback on its activities to the Advisory Forum.

The EFSA Evidence Management Unit is responsible for providing the secretarial support.

Timeline

The Task Force shall continue its work for 2 years. The Advisory Forum can extend the timeline of the activity for a longer period if needed, or to dismiss the Task Force before the 2 years timeline.

Expected deliverables

- Minutes of the meeting.
- Feedback to the Advisory Forum meetings.
- Strategic recommendations in a form of a final report.

Publication plan

Publication of the meeting minutes on the EFSA website.