

EFSA 7<sup>th</sup> ROUNDTABLE WITH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

15 September 2020

# Stakeholder Engagement, the way forward

**Goran Kumric**

Engagement and Cooperation Unit

Trusted science for safe food

- Stakeholder Engagement Approach
- Large-scale engagement project | Towards a new engagement framework
- Recommendation from the Forum and SEA Review 2019
- Digital event series on the evolution of EFSA's engagement framework

# Stakeholder Engagement Approach



Decision by the EFSA Management Board establishing the Stakeholder Engagement Approach (2016)



Seven categories of stakeholders to reflect the whole food chain from primary producers, food processing industry, distributors, practitioners, environment NGOs, consumer organisations and Academia.



A set of permanent and targeted engagement mechanisms to enable stakeholder input on strategic and technical level along the risk assessment process (Stakeholder Forum, Stakeholder Bureau, Roundtables, Info sessions, Discussion Groups, Communicator Lab)

# Why do we need to innovate our engagement framework?



Perceptions and values

The 'New normal'



Citizen's initiatives

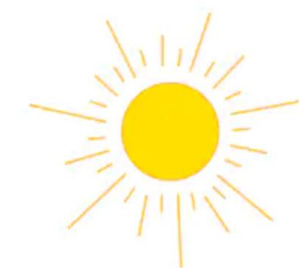


Digital democracy



Engagement is a window on the world. A more innovative engagement framework will support the **quality** of our scientific outputs and help reinforce the concept of an **open, transparent and trusted** EFSA.

# The big picture



EFSA strategy  
Transparency Regulation

Updated  
stakeholder  
process

Quality  
of science

Preparedness

Reputation

Stakeholder Forum  
SEA review



Large-scale engagement  
project (LSE)

Since 2016, EFSA has been continuously evolving its engagement framework. This is part of a **continuous improvement** process

SEA

SEA's  
launch

SEA's  
review

LSE  
project

Strategy  
2027

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Future

Stay relevant and get ready for the future!

# Large-scale engagement project in a nutshell

- **Evolve EFSA's current engagement mechanisms** to meet the demand of the Transparency Regulation and feed into the EC's mandate on Risk Communication
- **Create the right processes and tools** to engage more effectively with our interested parties to (mainly) improve the quality of our scientific outputs by ensuring access to the right data and expertise, but also increase trust in the risk assessment process underpinning our scientific production

Objectives



- A **new engagement framework** (classification of interested parties + catalogue of engagement methods + target audience identification methodology)
- A **pilot phase** to test some methods

Deliverables



# What we are working on:

- The LSE project will deliver **new tools, new methods, new insights**, and a **pilot phase** to bring EFSA's engagement framework to the next level in view of the Strategy 2027.
- Our work is informed by - and aligned with – the comments and recommendations made at the **SH Forum 2019**.





## Transparency

Explore new engagement models along the risk assessment process to ensure appropriate level of transparency;

Ensure presence of observers along the whole risk assessment process;

Create discussion groups on new topics.

## Quality of data

Assist stakeholders to improve their input to calls for data;

Ensure appropriate crowdsourcing methodology to get high-quality, unbiased data;

## Communication

Further improve the way information at the website is structured and made accessible to both professional and non-professional users;

More frequent updates in the Register of Questions to track progress of an opinion/dossier;





- Adopt more **topic-based engagement**;
- **Establish a feedback loop** and provide more information on the impact of stakeholders' input;
- Produce an **engagement catalogue**
- Explore the feasibility of **additional engagement mechanisms**;
- Involve stakeholders in the selection of topics for the Communicator Lab.



- additional way to provide stakeholders with more information about the impact of their input to EFSA's work,
- Possible solutions may include an increased use of online tools, including interactive webcasts, to ensure more information on specific follow-up actions.
- The aim of this event series is
  1. to showcase EFSA's work and meet stakeholders' demands as follow up on the recommendations of the Stakeholder Forum 2019 and SEA review;
  2. Gradually introduce the elements of the new engagement framework
- Indicative timing; kick off **06 October 2020**, follow up events in December 2020, April and June 2021.
- At the end of the series, a final survey will be circulated to the participants to focus on the effectiveness of the series itself to introduce a new engagement method to keep the dialogue going
- reporting back to the Bureau in September 2021
- **Stakeholder Forum 2021** – concluding event of the series to discuss the outcome of the events and create future engagement formats.

- We are looking to update our current stakeholder engagement methodologies to ensure **more openness, transparency and participative engagement with stakeholders** as foreseen in the Transparency Regulation and indicated by Stakeholders during the last Stakeholder Forum,
- We want to create the right processes and tools to **engage more effectively** with our stakeholders to **improve the quality of our scientific outputs** by ensuring access to the right data and expertise, and to **increase trust** in the risk assessment process
- EFSA is launching **a series of digital events to report back** on how the recommendations made at the Forum 2019 were taken on board by EFSA, and to provide feedback and inform stakeholders on the impact of their input,
- This approach would allow a gradual introduction of elements of the new engagement framework designed to fulfil the **requirements of the Transparency Regulation and meet the ambitions of the Strategy 2027** in the area of public engagement.



## Subscribe to

[efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters](https://efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters)  
[efsa.europa.eu/en/rss](https://efsa.europa.eu/en/rss)



## Receive job alerts

[careers.efsa.europa.eu](https://careers.efsa.europa.eu) – job alerts



## Follow us on Twitter

[@efsa\\_eu](https://twitter.com/efsa_eu)  
[@plants\\_efsa](https://twitter.com/plants_efsa)  
[@methods\\_efsa](https://twitter.com/methods_efsa)  
[@animals\\_efsa](https://twitter.com/animals_efsa)



## Follow us Linked in

[Linkedin.com/company/efsa](https://linkedin.com/company/efsa)



## Contact us

[efsa.europa.eu/en/contact/askefsa](https://efsa.europa.eu/en/contact/askefsa)