

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON CHEMICAL MONITORING DATA COLLECTION

Establishing a system of Networks of organisations operating in the fields within EFSA's mission is among the tasks of EFSA, according to its Founding Regulation (Article 22(7) and Article 23(g) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), in order 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.

In accordance with Article 22(7) and Article 23(g) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA shall promote the networking of scientific organisations of EU Member States operating in the fields within the Authority's mission.

A new regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain (EU Regulation 1381/2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 2065/2003, (EC) No 1935/2004, (EC) No 1331/2008, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18/EC), which has been in application since **27 March 2021**, strengthens the Authority's ability to carry out its risk assessment functions in accordance with the highest transparency standards.

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** which purpose is to optimise the operational procedures of EFSA scientific networks in accordance with the remit and strategic objectives of the Authority, specifically considering a greater involvement of Member State expertise in support of EFSA's mission.



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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 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.

### Objectives:

Taking into account art. 7.3 of the above-mentioned **Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission**, the main objectives of the scientific network on chemical monitoring data collection are to advise and assist EFSA on matters related to:

- Issues and opportunities for standardised reporting of occurrence data on chemical contaminants, residues and other regulated substances in food and feed;
- Revisions to the data model, related catalogues and reporting specifications for Member States and other reporting countries;
- Defining the most optimal ways to analyse the data collected;
- Participate in the process of enhancing data quality on chemical substances in food and feed for the purpose of intake/exposure and compliance assessments;
- Exchange of information and analytical results from chemical monitoring between reporting countries and EFSA, and between the reporting countries;
- Activities related to data access and publication;
- Act as the national reference point for the planning and organising of data collections for chemical substances in food and feed;
- Review EFSA outputs related to the network e.g. scientific and/or technical reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports;
- Share experience in national sampling and/or control programme design, laboratory methods, compliance assessment and follow-up actions.

The network participants/alternates are expected to act as the communication reference points for organisations involved in collection and reporting of chemicals in food and



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stakeholders within their country, optimising the exchange of scientific information and possible future discussion topics between national organisations and EFSA. Network participants/alternates shall collaborate with national Focal Points providing timely feedback on discussions at and outcomes of network meetings.

The network participants/alternates and EFSA staff shall commit to follow the recommendations defined in the guidelines for Network Participants.

## Members

According to art. 6.1 of the **Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission**, following the receipt of all necessary information from EFSA, the Advisory Forum shall identify organisations in EU Member States which are capable of contributing to the tasks of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection.

In response to a request by the Integrated DATA Unit, the Advisory Forum may formally designate the member organisation(s) of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection for each country.

The Advisory Forum, in cooperation with the member organisations formally designated in accordance with the previous paragraph, shall establish the names of network participants and alternate participants for the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection within the designated member organisation(s). The network shall be composed of experts on chemical monitoring data reporting for chemical contaminants, residues and other regulated substances in food and feed.

## Access to meetings

Other organisations may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.

In addition, may participate in the work of the network:

- representatives of the European Commission whom are invited to participate in the work of the networks.



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- representatives of other EU agencies as appropriate as well as representatives of the EURLs (European Reference Laboratories).
- when on-line meetings are organised, access to data providers may be granted as observers, if Network Member representative has provided consent on its participation and belongs to the same organisation.
- Other organisations may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.

#### **Working methods**

The network shall engage flexibly in a hybrid of physical and virtual meetings at least once every year, usually in the final quarter. The working language for network activities will be English.

In addition, other means of collaboration include:

- EFSA digital platforms
- Web conferences/webinars
- E-mails/ServiceNow for specific questions or issues.

#### **Deliverables and Outcomes:**

- Network supports EFSA on the reduction in time from sample planning to the production of annual reports and data publication
- Network supports EFSA on the production of enhanced data visualisations for annual reports and dissemination of data analysis by adjusting to different stakeholder needs
- Increase of data quality shared among EU on chemical occurrence
- Review of the chemical monitoring reporting guidelines and reporting timelines
- Review of the minutes of the network meeting.



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**Timeline:**

The terms of reference for the Chemical Monitoring Data Collection network can be updated whenever deemed necessary and are valid until a decision of discontinuing the network is taken.

Last updated: April 2025