



ENGAGEMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS UNIT (ENREL)

Digital enhancements overview

To implement the provisions of the Transparency Regulation, EFSA has introduced new digital tools and a dedicated web portal. Since March 2021, when the regulation entered into application, EFSA has been working to enhance these tools. These improvements will continue over the coming months, taking into consideration user feedback.

This document contains information about the main upcoming digital enhancements, the timing of the releases and the specific changes that will be implemented. The overview will be regularly updated and is subject to change.

Applicants can find more information about digital tools and portals pertaining to the submission of applications on the [Applications toolkit](#) page. Training sessions, animated tutorials and other supporting material can be found on the [Transparency Regulation Training Programme](#) page.

Latest IT enhancements: July 27 2022

Account Registration and Management through EFSA.Connect

- Relevance for:
 - External users registering on behalf of their organisation or users registered by EFSA

New functionalities:

- External users registering on behalf of their organisation will now be provided with additional assistance while specifying their own organisations in the registration form in EFSA.Connect. The system will suggest a pre-verified list of results, adapting dynamically according to the text inserted, and will allow the user to select one of the accounts in the list and auto-complete the fields "Organisation Name", "Organisation English Name", and other fields that refer to the account (i.e. "Country", "Small/Medium Enterprise"), without allowing the user to change this information. The user will be able to insert a name different from the organisations' names that the system proposes. In this case, he/she will have to fill in all fields.

Pre-Application ID and intended study handling through EFSA.Connect

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- A single access point for potential applicants working on their Pre-Application IDs has been created, overcoming the separation between Pre-Application IDs for new applications and for renewal applications. When potential applicants create a new Pre-Application ID and select a food domain or an application type related to a renewal, they will be able to submit a List of Intended Studies supporting such a renewal.

- The List of Intended Studies has been moved to a dedicated page with a new layout and can be considered separate from the Pre-Application IDs supporting a renewal application. From this dedicated page, potential applicants can create intended studies by entering the necessary information, as foreseen by the EFSA Practical Arrangements. Information on the status of the List and the related renewal pre-submission advice has also been moved to the List of Intended Studies page.
- Business operators can now add a study to Pre-Application IDs using the relevant *add studies* button if such a study has already been notified/co-notified and it is not withdrawn.
- More flexibility in managing studies supporting a future application for renewal has been introduced. Potential applicants will be able to submit a List of Intended Studies to obtain a renewal pre-submission advice and create and notify other studies supporting such renewal from the same Pre-Application IDs. In addition, it will be possible to notify an intended study if the status of the List of Intended Studies is in "draft", "clarification needed" or "closed" status.
- The field length for "Study Internal Reference ID" has been increased to 250 characters.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Applicants now have the possibility to insert a justification for studies that are submitted but were notified with delay (i.e. after the starting date), as required by the Practical Arrangements. This change is also reflected in OpenEFSA where the justification will be displayed along with other document metadata.
- Applicants will now receive more information on the confidentiality decision taken, and in particular: the name of the Authorising Officer who has signed the Decision, the date on which the Decision has been signed and the content of the decision letter (including recitals, Legal Remedies, etc.).
- The existing mechanism for calculating the validation deadline in EFSA's Risk Assessment tool has been adjusted considering the EFSA working calendar and the different stages/actions of the application lifecycle. Specifically, the applicant will be able to see in ESFC the new deadline to respond to the Request For Information or RFI (RFI deadline), and the provisional validation deadline, which will be recalculated upon receipt of the RFI response and/or requests for deadline extensions.
- Regarding the redaction of personal data, if after 2 RFIs by EFSA the Applicant has not provided the requested changes in their ESFC dossier, EFSA will carry out the redaction. After the redaction of a document, the Applicant will receive the sanitised document. The Applicant can visualise the sanitised document under the tab "Confidentiality Assessment" on the left side of the page under the column "Sanitised" by clicking on the link.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Improved search and filtering features, including:
 - enhanced search auto-suggestions;
 - improved global search result page;
 - extended filters on Questions list, including new filters by authorisation type or status;
 - enhanced search for public consultations.
- Rationalised evidence section for non-pesticides applications: submitted studies and related info are now visible only in the dossier viewer.

Previous IT enhancements on May 04 2022:

Notification of Studies Database through EFSA.Connect

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities applicable to the Notification of Study process will allow:

- the Business Operator or their Consultant creating a 'New Study' linked to a Pre-Application ID or Pre-Application ID for renewal to change the owner of the notification by selecting a Business Operator different from the one set at the level of the Pre-Application ID or Pre-Application ID for renewal.
- An additional control was implemented in the co-notification process. For example, a given organisation cannot, at the same time, take on the role of business operator notifying the study and that of the representative of the external laboratory that is supposed to co-notify the same study.
- More space will be made available in the relevant form for the justification for delayed/withdrawn notifications. It will also be possible to edit this information after notification. In addition, it will be possible to insert a justification for a delay in the notification of a study carried out by an internal testing facility of a business operator.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- The request for information generated by EFSA during the suitability check related to Novel foods, Food additives, Food enzymes and Food Flavourings will be sent to the European Commission, which in turn, will share it with the Applicant as necessary (instead of EFSA sending it directly to the Applicant as before), as defined in the relevant sectoral regulations.

- After the validation of the application, the Applicant or their Consultant will be allowed to add and delete documents and confidentiality treatment requests only for replying to additional data requests from EFSA and only for the sections 'unlocked' for this purpose, even if the confidentiality assessment process is still on-going.
- The Applicant will be able to submit and receive alerts from EFSA for notifications under Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Improvements regarding the "last updated date"-field pertaining to Questions, to reflect all relevant content updates of Questions.

Previous IT enhancements on April 05 2022:

Public consultations on OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionality:

- Ability to download the full list of comments received during a public consultation in a single PDF file.
- Possibility to download the list of questions contained in a search result as CSV file.

Expected next release date: First half of Q4 2022

** N.B. Please note that the release date may be subject to change. External parties are invited to regularly check this overview for updates.*

Ask a Question Service

You have a question about EFSA's work?
Contact our Ask a Question service!