



The upgrade of the dietary exposure assessment model “ImproRisk” – the role of EFSA and other stakeholders

Stelios Yiannopoulos

EFSA Advisory Forum Member

Director of State General Laboratory (SGL)

Ministry of Health, Cyprus



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Introduction



- ❖ SGL carries out risk assessment for estimating the chronic dietary exposure of the population to chemicals
- ❖ SGL has developed its own risk assessment model called "ImproRisk" since 2014
- ❖ In 2022, ImproRisk has been upgraded into an online model that accommodates FoodEx2, in order to meet EFSA's requirements and risk assessors' needs at national / European level.



Chronic exposure assessment of the Cypriot population to chemicals



Food Consumption data (EU Menu)



Infants
(0-11 months)



Children and adolescents
(1-17 years)



Adults
(18-74 years)



Pregnant women

FoodEx2
coding

SGL Risk
Assessment model



FoodEx2
coding

Chemical Occurrence data





ImproRisk timeline



2014

- Excel
- Chronic exposure to chemicals in food.
- FoodEx1



2019

- Online model (Shiny web application)
- Open access
- FoodEx1



2022

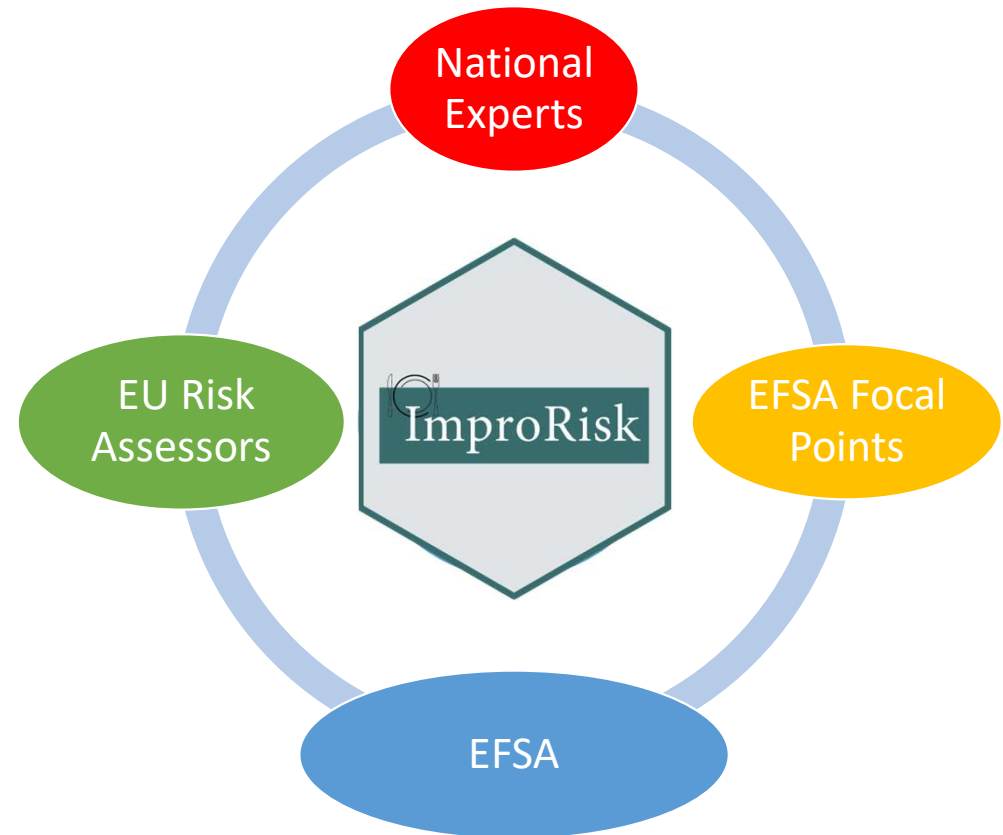
- Shiny web application
- FoodEx2
- Processing facets (F28)



Methodology



- ❖ In order to ensure that a sufficient number of risk assessment experts will use the model and provide feedback, several stakeholders were engaged.





Methods and tools to engage with stakeholders



Tools	National Experts	EU Risk Assessors/ EFSA Focal Points	EFSA
Exchange of emails	✓	✓	✓
Info sessions	✓	✗	✗
Oral presentations at EFSA meetings/ Conferences	✗	✓	✓
Trainings/Workshops	✓	✓	✓

Important actions taken

- ❖ Allocation of sufficient budget for subcontracting (2014-2022), to ensure ImproRisk will reach its desired format
- ❖ Rendering ImproRisk an open access model.



Results



- ❖ Engagement with a high number of risk assessors by making ImproRisk an open model
 - ✓ In line with EFSA principles for openness and transparency
- ❖ Collaboration with EFSA through the signing of a Grant Agreement on the further development of ImproRisk
- ❖ Development of a **harmonized and accurate dietary risk assessment model**, which was facilitated by the valuable feedback of the registered ImproRisk users
- ❖ Organization of Trainings/Workshops at EU level (e.g. TAIEX, etc.).



Lessons learned/ conclusions



- ☐ Include as many stakeholders as possible
- ☐ Be open and transparent
- ☐ Be reliable and trustworthy
- ☐ Thinking in a “generic” way when you develop a national tool for the shake of EU citizens is good
 - ✓ Find the right balance.





SGL future plans regarding ImproRisk



- ☐ EFSA funded the Training on the ImproRisk model (Excel version) of the Member States (MS) and pre-accession countries in 2016
- ☐ Final draft version of the model was submitted to EFSA for validation and/or comments (March 2022)
- ☐ Final version of ImproRisk goes online (NOW!)
 - ✓ Information to be disseminated to FPs and other stakeholders in order to have access to the model
- ☐ **Follow-up Workshop** on “hands-on” training on **ImproRisk as a Shiny web application** to risk assessors from MS and pre-accession countries
 - Mode: Physical (should conditions allow due to Covid-19)
 - Provisional date: September 2022
 - EFSA’s contribution highly envisaged!





Benefits of the ImproRisk model



- ❑ **HARMONIZATION.** The model's methodology is according to the EFSA methodology for exposure assessment of chemical contaminants (e.g. FoodEx2, etc.).
- ❑ **Accessibility.** Web application that can be accessed from anywhere without any installation needed.
- ❑ **Simplicity.** Totally straightforward and user-friendly model. Calculations are performed with a click of a button.
- ❑ **Complementarity.** It abridges the gap between screening and probabilistic models and is employed in the field of exposure assessment of contaminants.
- ❑ **Controllability.** Entire control of your exposure assessment calculations by uploading your own data (occurrence & consumption). Therefore, accurate picture of your national population exposure rates to chemicals.
- ❑ **Open-access model.**



Thank you very much for your attention!!

Questions??

Acknowledgments

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Further information

- ❖ Dr. Georgios Stavroulakis, Responsible Person for ImproRisk at SGL
Email: gstavroulakis@sgl.moh.gov.cy