INTEGRATED DATA UNIT

Network on chemical monitoring data collection Minutes of the 5th meeting

TELE-conference, 19-20 October 2022

(Agreed on 9 November 2022)

Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

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	Irene Pingarrón Herrero
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	Randi Bolli

- **Hearing Experts:**

Petra Burdejova (BVL), Andrea Maldonado (BVL).

- **European Commission:**

Frans Verstraete (SANTE E2) (only on the second day), Ivana Poustkova (SANTE E2) (only on the second day), Telmo Valinhas (SANTE F6) (only on the second day), Alessandro Carletti (JRC).

- **Observers from pre-accession countries:**

Dragan Tomović (BIH), Ivana Zovko (BIH), Festim Rexhepi (RKS), Jelena Resetar (ME), Martin Josheski (MK), Slada Drndar Pepikj (MK), Zhaneta Mijoska (MK), Stefan Simunovic (RS), Vera Krimer Malesevic (RS), Snezana Savcic Petric (RS), Elif Oktay (TR), Eren Numanoğlu (TR), Fatma Nevra Özcan (TR), Naim Delijaj (RKS), Vladimir Zivkovic (ME), Stojce Trencevski (MK).

- **Observers:**

Ulrike Mülow-Stollin (EURL), Eric Verdon (EURL), Alexander Schächtele (EURL), Saskia Sterk (EURL), Carmen Ferrer Amate (EURL).

- **EFSA:**
  - Integrated Data Unit: Fabrizio Abbinante (HoU), Caroline Merten (co-chair), Paula Medina Pastor (network coordinator and co-chair), Stefania Salvatore, Valentina Bocca, Alexios Zormpas, Andrea Salfinger, Daniela Brocca, Davide Gibin, Antonio Giuseppe Triacchini, Ruben Fuertes, Sofia Ioannidou, Julia Ortis Sunyer (minutes), Emanuela Marchese (minutes), Vaia Mitoula, Giovanni Lamberti, Elisa Fasanelli, Luca Pasinato, Esther Garcia Ruiz.
  - RA Logistics Unit: Ana Lambergar.

- Methodology and Scientific Support Unit: Bruno Dujardin, Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz, Zsuzsanna Horvath (agenda items 4.6 and 4.19).
- Food Additives and Flavourings Unit: Tard Alexandra (agenda item 4.5).
- Food Ingredients and Packaging Unit: Katharina Volk (agenda item 4.8).
- Engagement and External Relations Unit Drago Marojevic (agenda item 4.17).
- Transformation Services Unit: Eileen O'Dea (agenda item 4.18).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 5th Chemical Monitoring Data Collection Scientific Network meeting.

Apologies were received from Switzerland.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th meeting of the Network on chemical monitoring data collection held on 24-25 November 2021 as a web conference.

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 10th of December 2021 and published on the EFSA website 16th December 2021.

4. Topics for discussion

4.1. Introduction of IDATA and the new Head of Unit

The new EFSA organization chart and the Integrated DATA Unit since 1st January 2022, was presented by its new Head. The mission of the unit was presented too, with a new focus on providing EFSA with the analytical, statistical, and methodological support to collect, elaborate, visualise, and analyse both scientific but also corporate (non-scientific) data. The new team leader of the Data Collection and Outreach Team explained how it is organised and its main responsibilities. Among those, the veterinary medical products residues (VMPR) and pesticides annual reports were highlighted.

4.2. Review of the 2022 Chemical Monitoring Data Collection via survey

The results of the Network satisfaction survey in relation to the 2022 chemical monitoring data collection were presented in the meeting.

A comparison between 2022 and 2021 was done, considering that the respondent rate in 2022 was only of 45% compared to 2021 rate.

A summary of the satisfaction scores among the ChemMon elements was presented, which highlighted that as in 2021, there were high rates of satisfaction among the respondents. In general satisfaction rate was higher in 2022 than in 2021. However, a pending reason for dissatisfaction was reported to be due to MicroStrategy dashboards and reports derived thereof. EFSA offered to improve on this aspect by means of a dedicated workshop with data providers and Network members to collect inputs for improvement. Expression of interest should be sent

in writing to data.collection@efsa.europa.eu before the 31st of October 2022. In addition, comments on documents/supporting file and reporting tools were to be provided before 31st of October 2022. Training for ChemMon 2023 data collection will be offered to continue improving aspects on the data transmission, validation and acceptance process. Training needs were to be indicated in a specific file in Teams under 2023ChemMon channel before the 31st of October 2022. France informed that the deadline (end of September) to conclude the survey was difficult to reach this year due to the overlapping with the on-going 2022 ChemMon data collection for contaminants and food additives. EFSA explained that the feedback was needed to prepare the Network meeting. Agreement was reached regarding 2023 ChemMon data collection that 15 days elapse will be given between the closing of the ChemMon data collection and the opening of the satisfaction survey.

4.3. Reflections on reporting pesticide residues data

An overview on the 2020 EU annual report on pesticide residue and related different outputs was presented. EFSA informed that the 2021 annual report MS consultation will take place between the 18th of January and 1st February 2023. The collection of feedback on the data visualization on the 2021 report will take place between April and June 2023 as it was the case last year.

A deadline to provide the National summary report was agreed to be on the 30th of September of 'Y+1', being 'Y' the year the samples were taken. EFSA informed that a dedicated Teams channel '*PesticideResidueAnnualReport*' will be used from 2022 Annual Report onwards to avoid confusion among the different Teams folders.

Data related to national programmes and not EU-coordinated programmes (EUCP) will be collected under the new Regulation (EU) 2021/1355, which will apply from 1st January 2023. Agreement on using the same progLegalRef code ('N027A') was reached.

Based on the Commission Working Group on monitoring meeting held on the 17th of October 2022 where EFSA, European Commission (EC) and MS assisted, it was agreed that the EUCP supporting file providing MATRIX/FoodEx2 codes reflecting the EUCP Regulation, will refer only to commodities reported in the part A of the Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/62. Thus, no 'children' or part B food commodities of those will be flagged as EUCP samples within the annual report output.

EFSA informed that components of a previous legal residue definition will remain as paramType = P002A despite the residue definition not including them anymore.

After a consultation with SANTE E4 Unit, EFSA agreed that measurement uncertainty will not become mandatory in 2023, although it is advisable to report this data element.

EFSA informed of the new update of the EU database on processing factors for pesticide residues due on January 2024 for which a new collection of processing factor studies from MS will be launched.

4.4. Reflections on reporting veterinary medicinal product residues data

EFSA presented the outcomes on veterinary medicinal product residues (VMPR) data reporting under the 2022ChemMon data collection which were mainly positive. EFSA also shared the achievements in terms of data quality, such as a

reduced number of '*excluded*' records (among all the transmitted records) and the benefits of CHEMON43 and CHEMON76 new Business Rules (BR). An overview on the supporting tools was presented, such as the EFSA Guidance, VMPR dashboards, EFSA Criteria for VMPR records exclusion document and excel tools, granted to the data providers and which will be available also for the future data collections.

It is expected that in the future the data providers and validators for the VMPR data will be even more autonomous in their data reporting, data reading in the Validation Dashboards, data correction/validation.

The 2020 VMPR data visualization tool published alongside the 2020 VMPR EU Annual Report was explained to better be used and consult for example the number of reported samples per reporting country. The tool is divided in three sections: the first one shows the overall sample events tested, the second shows a statistic summaries per VMPR animal product group and the third one shows statistics on substances within each VMPR animal product group (e.g. on the percentage of sample non-compliant).

Italy asked by when the PARAM catalogue and necessary tools addressing the new VMPR product groups based on the new EU VMPR Regulations will be provided to Member States. Due to the later publication of these legal acts, EFSA informed that further communication to the Network members on this matter will be shared via Teams later in the year.

4.5. Reflections on reporting food additives data

EFSA presented the reflections on reporting food additives data. The annual call for data on food additives was launched in March for the second time, and the data collection went on from April until September. Feedback on the date of opening of the call was received. EFSA will open the data collection between April and August for the next year data collection.

An overview of the time course of data collection was presented. The fact of late data validation (i.e. the majority of data was validated only in the last 2 weeks of the data collection) was emphasised.

In comparison to the 2021 data collection on Food Additives, in 2022 EFSA has received more data. 19% of the data collected in 2022 were generated from qualitative methods, being reported as resType = BIN without populating the SSD2 field resLOD. Therefore, without the LOD value no exposure assessment refinement of left censored data could be performed.

EFSA asked the Network members the reason why resLOD was not reported; is it because the screening methods are qualitative methods and laboratories understanding of the limit of detection (LOD) is a parameter derived from quantitative methods? EFSA also asked if by using resType = BIN, a new data attribute such as 'resBIN' would fit better and laboratories would be able to report the limit of the qualitative method used. Further, EFSA wished understanding if laboratories know the limit by which a qualitative method's result becomes positive. It was agreed that feedback on this point will be collected after the meeting as consultation with official laboratories was needed.

France requested a confirmation on deadlines and timelines on 2023 ChemMon data collection of the different domains. EFSA, reminded the agreement reached

at last year's meeting (4th Network meeting minutes[1]), so the deadline to *transmit* the datasets for all ChemMon domains is set on the 30th of June and on 31st of August to have the data *validated* and *accepted* in EFSA scientific data warehouse (sDWH).

4.6. Reporting contaminants data

EFSA presented an overview of the contaminants data collection and new deadlines. Positive feedback from Member States (MS) on the 2022 ChemMon data collection was received. During the presentation it was pointed out that, based on MS request, EFSA started collecting comments for the new 2023 ChemMon data collection during the reporting season and not just prior to the ChemMon Network meeting. The consultation started in May. MS could provide feedback on the 2023 ChemMon Guidance, BR, PARAM catalogue or other SSD2 catalogues until 31st October 2022. In the future, EFSA will welcome requests for catalogues updates either coming through data collection functional mailbox or submitted through the respective Excel file published in Teams channel. It was also mentioned that the call for continuous collection of chemical contaminants will be published earlier than last year.

The timelines for 2023 ChemMon - for all four domains of the ChemMon (pesticide residues, VMPR, contaminants and food additives)- were also presented and reflected the timeline process already discussed in 2021 and included in the 4th Network meeting agreement.

Based on annual mandate received by EC, a list of specific contaminants will be included in the call for data. These contaminants will be in addition to the standard list of contaminants which are analysed on a regular basis.

The two new Regulations regarding the Official controls as part of the multi-annual national control plan ('MANCP') for contaminants in food were also briefly presented. More detailed information can be found in the presentation of 'Timelines on new implementing acts impacting VMPR and contaminants' (under 4.13).

Upon request from Germany, EFSA confirmed that the deadline for transmitting the available contaminants' data under the 2023 ChemMon data collection is 30th of June 2023 and the full data correction, validation and acceptance in the sDWH for each country shall be concluded at the latest on the 31st of August 2023.

Germany requested the possibility to report the percentage of dry matter in 'exprResPerc' instead of percentage of moisture as for some commodities the rule of '% of moisture = 100 - % of dry matter' is not valid (e.g. aromatic herbs/spices) and the inclusion of a new data attribute was agreed. Denmark asked how EFSA used the percentage of moisture reported. EFSA explained that the amount of water is the parameter to be considered and not how it's reported. The main goal is to harmonize the process among the MS to estimate the dietary exposure and facilitate the comparison.

4.7. 2023 Harmonised Chemical Monitoring Data Collection

EFSA presented an overview of the 2023 Harmonised Chemical Monitoring data collection. Comments from MS are helpful to finalise all the documents needed for the next data collection. The deadline for both commenting on EFSA proposals and

[1] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-12/4th-efsa-scientific-network-chemical-monitoring-data-collection-minutes.pdf

provide new ones on the 2023 ChemMon Guidance is set on the 31st of October 2022. EFSA planned to publish the final version in the beginning of 2023.

The structure of the Guidance will be the same of the previous year's version and no relevant changes will be done. EFSA proposal for BR changes were already included in the draft 2023 ChemMon Guidance under consultation.

Major changes are expected on the 2024 ChemMon Guidance due to the recent publication of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646, which defines a new minimum sampling frequency and three VMPR sampling plans; and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644, which defines new hierarchical groups for VMPR- substances. To better address the changes, a workshop may be organised in spring 2023; further information on this matter will be communicated to MS via Teams.

EFSA Data Collection Framework (DCF) will remain the platform to collect the data; the data validation and acceptance steps will be supported by the Validation Dashboards in MicroStrategy as in the past data collections.

In conclusion, an overview of the timelines for the 2023 ChemMon data collection was presented in agreement with last year 4th Network meeting minutes[1].

MS raised concern regarding the need of having the updated SSD2 catalogues, in line with the new legal acts entering into force for the VMPR domain and provide accordingly the national plans by 31st of March 2023 deadline. EFSA replied that as soon as an alignment is reached internally on how to handle those changes at this short notice, MS will be notified and consulted.

Denmark asked if a reporting guidance for the new data collection managed by EFSA on the VMPR national monitoring plans will be provided. EFSA replied that all supporting documents and resources will be made available as soon as possible, understanding that MS need to transmit their plans in accordance with the new SSD catalogue hierarchies and new EU substance groups within the VMPR domain.

4.8. Reflections on reporting Food Contact Material data

EFSA presented an update on data reporting on food contact materials (FCMs).

EFSA received a mandate from the EC regarding the 're-evaluation of risks to public health related to the presence of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances from food contact materials' (M-2020-0183[2]). The mandate is divided in two parts; the first part is currently ongoing and includes three tasks. The first task on the identification and prioritisation of substances was adopted in March and published in May 2022. The second task relates to development of protocols for exposure assessment (published in May 2022) and hazard assessment (under development). The third task is on the call for data on occurrence in food (via the annual chemical monitoring data collection) and FCMs (via an ad hoc data collection running until November 2022). Upon the completion of the first part of the mandate, the evaluation of the risks to public health related to the presence of the prioritised substances in foodstuffs originating from FCMs will follow (via specific risk assessment mandates from EC).

Occurrence data on plasticisers such as phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances were collected by EFSA in the 2022 ChemMon data

[2] Further information on the outputs derived from this mandate can be retrieved through https://open.efsa.europa.eu/

collection under the chemical contaminant's domain. This data reporting is specifically targeted to occurrence data of plasticisers in food collected and analysed during food monitoring campaigns as well as data on plasticiser concentration in the respective food's packaging, if applicable.

In conclusion, regarding the 2022 ChemMon data collection, there were three reporting MS and 610 results in total. A variety of commodities (FoodEx2 matrices) and chemicals (PARAM codes) were reported. The reporting of the results will continue under the 2023 ChemMon data collection.

Post meeting note: DE (BVL), informed EFSA on a possible miscalculation of results reported under ChemMon for FCMs. The issue was identified and corrected. **2,675** results were reported in total.

EFSA also collects results generated in experimental studies on FCMs before their actual use (i.e. tests on migration of plasticisers from FCMs using food/food stimulants and tests on concentration of plasticisers in FCMs) with the dedicated data collection 'Plasticisers_FCM_2022'.

A new data model has been created with data elements tailored for the needs of 'Plasticisers_FCM_2022'; templates 'C' and 'M' are extracted from the data model and are listing only the data elements that are necessary for Concentration or Migration tests, respectively. Data reporting is done through the DCF.

The reporting season started on the 1st of June and will end on the 1st of November 2022.

There are two active reporting MS, in addition to industry and national reporting organisations that have expressed interest even though they have not reported data for now. EFSA will provide any help needed.

Germany asked if the Plasticisers data collection will be repeated. EFSA answered that for the time being it is not foreseen to be repeated. However, a final decision will be taken by the end of the year.

Luxembourg expressed the need of more time to submit the data for Plasticiser's data collection in the future.

4.9. Enhancements. Chemical monitoring validation dashboards and national reports: review of 2022 and MS feedback

EFSA presented an overview on the ChemMon Validation Dashboards and National Reports.

The Validation Dashboard consist of a system of two tools: one describing the generic state of the data collection and specific tabs related to VMPR; the other one is specifically designed for visualising the pesticides residues results. A general overview of the Validation Dashboards was presented.

National Reports for each residue data domain are created according to business requests. The Confirmation Document allows data validators to 'accept' or 'reject' the data within sDWH. If the data shown in the Validation/National report is considered correct, then the national data validator can choose the accept option for their dataset and click 'submit'. If the data indicated in the Validation/National Report is incorrect, then the data validator should reject it. Once the data has been 'accepted', the dataset cannot be 'rejected' but the data can still be amended through the 'amendment' process.

The feedback from the ChemMon survey showed that most comments were about National Reports. A workshop may be organised together with EFSA and data providers to better understand their requirements and improve the reports. Member States to express interest in participating in this workshop by emailing data.collection@efsa.europa.eu before 31st of October 2022.

Four MS reported that datasets belonging to different data domains were difficult to track. They suggested to add the name of the file transmitted in the MicroStrategy Validation Dashboards.

4.10. Enhancements. Legal Limits Database

EFSA presented an overview of the Legal Limits Database (LLDB) and its application for the data collection, validation and the EU Annual Report preparation. The LLDB is used in chemical monitoring data collections for checking EU legal limits exceedances and samples compliance. However, a full harmonisation of the existing Legal Limits among chemical monitoring domains (in particular for pesticide residues and VMPR) is not still in place. The main functions and uses of the LLDB were listed and explained.

The LLDB is used in the ChemMon data collection from the validation step to the publication of the annual report. A summary of the BR in place related to the LLDB was presented. The LLDB is available via MicroStrategy which is the Legal Limit Visualisation Tool. The available sections of the tool, the way they are used, and the output tables returned, were also shown.

Participants recognised the value of this tool, and thanked EFSA for its implementation.

Austria asked clarification on the correlation between EFSA's legal limits database and the planned EC's Health-Based Limit Values repository (HBLV) led by DG ENVI. EFSA clarified that the HBLV is expected to cover also pesticide and VMPR legislation in addition to all other regulated chemicals. A future mapping of the EFSA terminology will be needed in any case if the HBLV will become the main information source.

Italy asked if there will be a possibility to combine FoodEx2 codes and MATRIX codes with pesticide paramCodes reflecting the legal residue definition, adding the combination with the components. EFSA explained that the food configuration file can be downloaded both for VMPR and pesticide. Further informed that the possibility to have only one file with FoodEx2 codes and MATRIX classes is not possible because of the one-to-many relationship between the products.

4.11. FoodEx2 updates

EFSA presented an overview of FoodEx2 updates.

The next major release of FoodEx2 is scheduled on the 31st of January of 2023. Among the major changes made in FoodEx2, is the addition of 91 new terms; 367 existing terms were updated by changing name, scientific name, adding alias or other implicit attributes and two significant types of changes with respect to implicit attributes were implemented, concerning the mapping of plant species to the EPPO database, and updated the matrix codes for 256 terms in alignment with Annex 1 of Regulation (EU) 2018/62. Regarding the changes in reportability, 72 terms have been dismissed from the reporting hierarchy (due to redundancy with other terms or a requested different coding of terms related to 'sweetening and fortifying agents' and 'food for sporting people' by leveraging the F04-Ingredient

and F09-Fortification-agent facets instead, as explained in the FoodEx2 2020 maintenance report).

A reminder to send a request to the functional mailbox data.collection@efsa.europa.eu was expressed by EFSA in case of any request, question, perception of inconsistencies or proposal for amending FoodEx2.

North Macedonia asked how liver obtained from wild birds should be reported in FoodEx2, for example from pigeon, pheasant or quail. They are available as source commodity, but not the codes for their livers (as source commodity), while specific term codes for duck liver, turkey liver, chicken liver etc. are indeed provided. According to North Macedonia's national plan, samples for pigeon liver or pheasant liver could be taken. North Macedonia would thus propose to include the corresponding source commodities. EFSA clarified that this suggestion will be taken into consideration to accommodate their need.

Croatia asked how EFSA connects the 'Reporting' hierarchy to the 'Exposure' hierarchy in catalogues like the MTX (FoodEx2 Matrix) and PARAM catalogue for risk assessment. EFSA answered that the majority of terms are available in both hierarchies. EFSA explained that the differences between reporting and exposure hierarchy are limited to the upper-level aggregated terms and given that EFSA, in both the chemical monitoring and the food consumption data collection, strives for leveraging the most detailed terms possible, it is rarely required to map terms between the two hierarchies. The future prospective is to align them completely.

4.12. Future process for data collection – Rebuild Data Framework project

EFSA presented the future process for data collection and how EFSA will rebuild the data framework project.

The rebuild database process concerns the evolution of the current data collection and data warehouse platforms to satisfy the EFSA 2027 strategy needs. The objectives are the creation of new scalable data collection and analysis systems, the data management system to empower data and provide the tools to enable all above. The main steps and timelines of the process were presented.

The aim is to work in a controlled environment that will be opened to adopt new Data Science tools/AI/future data collections, to proceed with an incremental migration of the current data collections to replace the current DCF. The best approach for data analytics will be assessed.

EFSA expressed the wish that a collaborative with MS approach is needed to improve the system, which will be helpful for all the Network members.

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4.13. Timelines on new implementing acts impacting VMPR and contaminants

EC, SANTE E2, presented the new EU legal acts on the national control plans on VMPR and on contaminants. The EC clarified that the legal provisions currently in place for these activities shall continue to apply until 14th of December 2022.

From the 15th of December 2022, Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor VMPR in live animal and animal products is replaced by Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 and Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 as regard the use of pharmacologically active substances within food-producing animals and food of animal origin. Other Regulations entering into force on 1st of January 2023 will impact pesticide residue domain (Regulation (EU) 2021/2244 and Regulation (EU) 2021/1355) and contaminants domain (Regulation (EU) 2022/931 and Regulation (EU) 2022/932).

The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644 defines new VMPR groups of substances, combinations of substances and commodities to be controlled and the sampling strategies to apply.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 defined 3 control national plans for VMPR; a national risk-based control plan for production in the Member States; a national surveillance plan for production in the Member States and a national risk-based control plan for third country imports. A minimum sampling frequency is specifically defined for each plan. According with the Regulation all the results shall be transmitted to EFSA by 30th of June each year.

As regards the new control plans for contaminants in food, the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931 is focused on monitoring contaminants as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 315/93, also including maximum residue levels (MRLs) on mercury. In this new delegated Regulation, there are set out combinations of contaminants and commodities and criteria for the selection of samples.

In Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/932, two control plans[3] and the minimum sampling frequencies, are defined. The plans should be submitted to the EC by 31st of March of each year, while the monitoring data will have to be submitted to EFSA by 30th of June each year.

Germany asked for an outlook on the future of the data across contaminants and the impact of the new regulations. Denmark raised the concerns that some double counting can occur between the new regulations and new mandates that EFSA might receive.

EC replied that there will be the regular submission of the data generated by the control plan and all non-regulated contaminants. Therefore, the continuous call for data might be reduced because all the regulated contaminants will be automatically covered by the control plan.

Ireland asked for clarification on how the data generated from the national control plans on contaminants will be reported to EFSA. EC replied that the data will be reported keeping the same format while the deadline will be different.

Member States expressed their concern about VMPR new national plan's timeline because EFSA needs to prepare catalogues, mapping hierarchies in view of the new Regulations recently published.

Agreement was reached with MS that EFSA will provide updated information on the way forward as soon as new data reporting resources will be available is reached.

[3] Control plan for food placed on the Union market and Control plan for food of animal origin entering the Union.

Luxembourg asked about a further clarification on the updated template to be used to report contaminants national plans. EC answered that the template is not yet available, but they will be available soon.

Italy and Austria were concerned about timeline. Italy kindly asked to have the updated format as soon as possible to be able to update their sampling plans in accordance with the new commodity hierarchies for the VMPR National Plans. EFSA will update MS asap, expected by the end of the year.

4.14. VMPR national control plans and audits: EFSA support to EC activities

EFSA presented an overview and updates on the pilot project in the VMPR national control plans and audits support activities for EC.

During the 4th Network meeting minutes[1] EFSA presented the roadmap for the pilot project for VMPR national monitoring control to start with volunteering MS in 2022, with the aim to prepare for an actual data collection to be started in 2023. The expected positive outcomes and steps that have been taken were presented. The next step to be taken by EFSA will be the implementation of the national control plans dedicated Dashboards on MicroStrategy to allow MS to validate the transmitted control plans (datasets) and the future set of dashboards for the EC to help them throughout audit activities for VMPR control plan validation.

Austria expressed the difficulties to send the XML file via DCF in MicroStrategy and asked EFSA to provide an Excel tool for reporting the data. EFSA will provide all the necessary support for the MS to transmit the data; however, an Excel tool to create XML is not contemplated yet for this data collection. How national plan data shall be aggregated was also questioned, regarding reporting the number of total analyses. The remark will be addressed by EFSA into the next step and expressed in the revised 'Guidance' document to be prepared for collecting VMPR national plans in 2023. EFSA will collaborate with MS and EC for the next release of the data model, which implement the new legal requirements in the recently adopted EU Regulations in VMPR control plans.
Czech Republic asked when MS will be informed about the outcome of the pilot project and will be able to have access on the results in the dashboards. EFSA replied that a communication will be sent very soon on the availability of the updated dashboards.

4.15. Annual Reporting on Official Controls (AROC): status of data sharing on chemical monitoring data collection

EC (SANTE F6) presented the status of the mechanism by which data was transferred from EFSA sDWH to AROC system in 2022 in order to facilitate MS reporting.

Positive feedback was expressed by EC regarding the submission of the data that will allow them to produce the EC report within the 31st of January deadline set in Article 114 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

During the transmission of data, MS reported slight differences on the number of samples reported. Further investigation needs to be done on the classification and mapping of the codes for each food commodities. Suggestion to harmonise the controlled terminology used was expressed in order to facilitate the analysis of data, collection of official control data and the preparation of audit programmes.

An agreement needs to be reached within different areas of SANTE for the use of a common controlled terminology.

After the transfer of data, MS were not allowed to edit the data extracted from EFSA in AROC. Future editions of AROC system will consider given MS the possibility to edit this transferred data.

Further investigation is also needed regarding a MS who reported that data that should have been included only in zoonosis part was included in the additives part.

Luxembourg highlighted that they found out some discrepancies between the data submitted to EFSA and the ones appearing in AROC that need to be clarified. Luxembourg made a remark on the importance to use a harmonised controlled terminology for a better comparison of the data.

Ireland asked where the mapping can be retrieved. EC replied that the mapping is available on the dedicated EC CIRCABC folder for MANCP Network.

4.16. Support to iRASFF

EFSA presented the major points of the mandate received from SANTE Unit G5 with the aim to increase the interoperability between iRASFF and EFSA. Several steps have been planned, such as the use of FoodEx2 and PARAM codes-controlled terminology in iRASFF. Further, the mandate also foresees to support the EC to increase the interoperability between iRASFF and EFSA data models. According to the mandate the project will end in December 2023.

4.17. Collaboration with Focal Points

EFSA presented the new operational framework for the EFSA Focal Point (FP) Network. The new framework will be in place from the 1st of January 2023.

The new Focal Point Framework partnership agreement (FPA) lasts 5 years and it is signed with the FP national institutions of all 27 MS + 2 EEA countries. The FPA will allow to sign multiple grant agreements per country per type of activities and with different timeframes of implementation.

The mission of the national focal points is to act as a connection hub between EFSA and the relevant national actors of the EU/EEA MS and observer countries. Multiannual, flexible and tailor-made tasks and activities are the main elements of the new FPA. Roadmap for 2023 were presented.

France made a remark on EFSA having launched all those activities at the same time. France suggested that it would have been better if EFSA would have prioritized some tailor-made activities.

EFSA acknowledges awareness on MS capacity to address all those activities at the same time. A limitation of the number of the proposal is suggested in order to prioritize the activities at national level that could be scheduled during all the implementation of the whole framework.

4.18. Advisory Group on Data (AGoD): How to solve our data sharing pain-points together

EFSA/Germany gave a presentation on the advisory group activities. Recent developments are important for all groups that deal with data. In April 2022 the group identified, in a workshop, common pain points in MSs data workflows. As a result of the workshop AGoD proposed to carry out a funded project to systematically map the data flows in MSs, like the studies carried out in the scope

of the SIGMA project. This is intended as a support for MSs who wish to identify possible bottlenecks in their workflow and to design solutions to improve their process including use of co-created data tools. This could deliver value to the MS in terms of automation, reduced manual effort and cost or improved data quality.

In parallel, the group has recommended the development, in collaboration with MSs, of 4 tools, which are intended to assist data providers in their work of processing data:

1.Mapping tool automatically "translating" any data format to another, like national to EFSA SSD2 format,

2.BR engine for validating the data,

3.An interface for data capture at the point of sampling.

4.Automated FoodEx2 classification prediction in multiple national languages.

The Advisory Forum endorsed these recommendations. The project ideas of the group will be implemented from next year onwards in the framework of the focal point operational framework presented by EFSA, as tailor-made activities. Another recent activity of AGoD is the establishment of sub-working groups which will deal with recommendations and new topics in more details. Six subgroups will be created in 2022/2023.

France expressed the interest to join 3 of the subgroups (the 3 first to be launched) and underlined that they did not expressed interest yet to join the other subgroups because of the lack of further information on the related terms of references at that moment. However, this did not mean the lack of interest, especially on the data quality subgroup.

4.19. Advances on PRIMo 4 tool and Cumulative Risk Assessment on pesticide Residues

PRIMo rev.3.1, the annual report, cumulative risk assessment (retrospective and prospective scenario) evolution taking place in the coming years were presented by EFSA.

New features and differences from the last version of the PRIMo tool were presented. Public consultation of the new revision will take place during the months of March and April 2023. An additional month will be available to address the comments received to be able to be ready for the final publication that is expected to take place in October 2023.

The annual report will integrate a probabilistic risk assessment in the 2021 annual report and the fine tuning of the assessment on the 2022 annual report.

EFSA, EC and MS are currently working together on the implementation of the pilot assessment for cumulative risk assessment.

EC and EFSA developed the Action Plan to facilitate the implementation on regulatory risk assessment on the base of a prioritisation exercise that is currently ongoing. EFSA will set up a framework agreement with a consortium of MSs to support the implementation.

A partnership agreement with RIVM is now ongoing with the aim to transform the Monte-Carlo risk assessment software into an open MCRA platform to support the regulatory implementation of cumulative risk assessment, increasing the transparency and improving interoperability, accessibility and harmonisation.

Trainings for MS will be organised. EFSA asked to express training needs on MCRA tool.

Denmark asked if the risk assessment was also available for VMPR and contaminants. EFSA replied that first, cumulative risk assessment to multiple pesticide residues will be consolidated. Regarding contaminants, food additives, flavourings, food contact materials, will need a different approach due to the data availability. However, there is the intention on the long terms to implement cumulative risk assessment also in those domains. Is important to underline that the more monitoring data will be available, the better harmonisation will be across the different domains and the better the assessment will be.

4.20. Improving Data quality for RISK assessment – outcome of results

Portugal presented the results of the GP/EFSA/ENCO/2018/03 project in collaboration with Croatia.

A consortium between the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE), National Institute of Health Doctor Ricardo Jorge, I.P. (INSA) and Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (HAPIH)was created to develop the official control national data management system (NDSM) in order to implement real time sample data collection based on preparatory digital forms. One of the challenges was the automatization of the process related to SSD2 DATA transmission. The goal was to try to automate the use of FoodEx2 classification on the food that was sampled using the knowledge and the existing database.

Results are available on the system and the supporting documents are publicly available in Zenodo and GitLab. The main objective was to improve data quality.

The application developed is now available to be downloaded. The support documents are published in Zenodo. An automatic classification of FoodEx2 was done in collaboration with EFSA and other MSs and the results were presented. The need for more data was expressed. A final report is published on the EFSA journal.

Luxembourg informed of the availability of more data from previous years if still data is needed. Portugal replied that for the moment the project is finalised but regarding the tailor-made activities more data will be needed, suggesting keeping the data for any future need.

5. Any Other Business

EFSA received a mandate from the EC on the future collection of food additives and flavouring data that will take place in the coming years on an annual basis.

Therefore, the aim now is doing a prioritization exercise at Member State level to come up with a list of prioritized additives and flavourings. EFSA will collect these data starting in 2024 with food additives and in 2025 with food flavourings. EFSA will start setting up all the tools needed, a data reporting guidance and will launch consultation requiring the involvement of the Network participants.

EFSA will run exposure assessment on the data received and will show the results in a final report.

EFSA updated the Network on an ongoing discussion to find an agreement on data sharing on food additives occurrence data with WHO colleagues. The food additives data are the only data which EFSA has not proactively been published on Zenodo.

Due to the recent transparency legislations, the agreement received via the network will have to be revised from a legal point of view. The next step will be presenting the data sharing plan with WHO in one of the upcoming SCoPAFF meeting. A follow up meeting with WHO is planned to have the full overview on all future potential needs for data to avoid going back to the different Standing Committees several times.

6. Date for next meeting

Tentative in October 2023, but it will depend on the availability of meeting rooms in EFSA in view of moving to physical/hybrid meetings.

7. Conclusions

The 2023 ChemMon data collection timelines remain as agreed in the 4th Network meeting[1]. This is, closing the data transmission on 30th of June and the data validation and acceptance on 31st of August.

A new attribute of an existing SSD2 data element will be used to report the percentage of dry matter instead of the percentage of moisture; this information is meant to enrich the data quality in contaminants data domain.

EFSA will communicate later in the Autumn with MS on the timelines as well as supporting files for collecting VMPR national plans.

EFSA will collect clarification from MS on the understanding of laboratories of the resLOD data field when reporting resType = BIN to better understand the underreporting of the LOD field.

8. Closure of the meeting

The meeting closed at 12:30 on 20 October 2022. EFSA closed the meeting thanking all participants.