



# TERMS OF REFERENCE OF AN ADVISORY GROUP ON DATA

## Background

In July 2020 [during its 76<sup>th</sup> meeting](#), the Advisory Forum endorsed the [final report](#) of their Task Force on Data Collection and Data Modelling which had been working for two years under the chairmanship of Hungary. This report presented a vision of a future food safety data system which would leverage new information technology and analytical capabilities to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of European collaboration to ensure the safety and sustainability of the food chain through transparency and interoperability.

The report included 45 recommendations: 20 strategic and 25 operational. These were grouped into short, medium and long-term timeframes. The recommendations covered four key areas: Data Reporting, Data Modelling, IT Architecture and Data Analysis as well as horizontal recommendations. Among these were recommendations that strategic planning, elaboration of objectives and priorities for resources were needed and that this could be facilitated through the creation of a standing working group on data related issues. During the 76<sup>th</sup> Advisory Forum meeting it was proposed to create a standing working group on data to prioritise strategic recommendations and facilitate their translation into actionable items (e.g. multi-country projects).

During the 77<sup>th</sup> Advisory Forum meeting in November 2020, EFSA presented its vision for an ecosystem approach for future partnerships with Member States to ensure the sustainability of our EU food safety framework. The Transparency Regulation provides the framework and financial means to implement such an approach. An ecosystem approach involves, among other aspects, the creation of platforms to stimulate more interaction and stronger collaboration among ecosystem partners. In this context, the proposed follow up of the Advisory Forum Task Force recommendations on data was identified as a logical ecosystem platform on data. As a follow up to the 76<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Advisory Forum meetings, in November 2020 EFSA organised an initial brainstorm session with a core group of Advisory Forum Task Force members (HU, NL, FR, DE)<sup>1</sup> to envision next steps towards implementation of the Advisory Forum Task Force recommendations and to brainstorm on a possible mandate of a new group to be created under the auspices of the Advisory Forum. These preliminary draft Terms of Reference reflect the outcome of this initial brainstorm session.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants: Ákos Jozwiak (HU), Moez SANAA (FR); Eva Scharfenberg (DE), Koen Wienk (NL), Juliane Kleiner, Mary Gilsenan, Fabrizio Abbinante, Eileen O'Dea, Paul Devalier (EFSA)

## Terms of Reference

The main objective of the Group<sup>2</sup> is to act in an advisory capacity providing input on and oversight of projects and/or activities launched by EFSA and Member States to implement recommendations of the Advisory Forum Task Force on Data Collection and Modelling.

Specific objectives are as follows:

- Act as a guardian of the Advisory Forum recommendations maintaining coherence among different actions, oversight of harmonisation efforts and ensuring added value to multiple Member States. Maintaining oversight of the link between new data related projects and Advisory Forum Task Force recommendations.
- Act as a governance body providing recommendations to inform decisions regarding strategic prioritisation and funding of data related projects emanating from the Task Force recommendations.
- Act as a Think Tank providing input on project idea generation linked to Advisory Forum recommendations; monitor and steer projects and oversee their implementation.
- Act as a channel providing access to knowledge, expertise, competencies and staff in Member States helping to shape and expand an ecosystem on food safety data.
- Provide strategic input on and oversight of alignment of EFSA's data roadmap (under the remit of EFSA Strategy 2027) with recommendations of the Advisory Forum Task Force.

## Members of the Group

The Group is composed of representatives of the EFSA Advisory Forum on a voluntary basis, EFSA staff as well as DG SANTE. Technical experts delegated by members of the Advisory Forum can also contribute.

The Group shall be chaired by Member State **Hungary**.

## Working language

The working language shall be English.

## Working methods

The Group shall meet virtually using Microsoft Teams.

Physical meetings, as needed, will take place back-to-back with Advisory Forum meetings.

A dedicated Teams group will serve as the primary means of interaction within the Group.

The EFSA Evidence Management Unit is responsible for providing administrative support.

## Timeline

The Group shall be created for an initial period of **three years**. The Advisory Forum can extend the timeline of the Group for a longer period. The Terms of Reference may be updated as the ecosystem evolves.

## Expected deliverables

- Progress updates at Advisory Forum meetings.
- Multi-country projects agreed, launched and implemented.
- Input to EFSA on strategic prioritisation processes concerning data.

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<sup>2</sup> Possibility of creating a second more operational group in due course