



## IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGING RISKS RELATED TO FOOD SUPPLEMENTS – A PERSPECTIVE FOR COOPERATION

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# CONTEXT

- EFSA emerging risk mission
- Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN)
- Food supplements:
  - identified as specific area of interest by EREN in 2021
  - Safety concerns raised in the past by the Scientific Committee and AF
  - Heads of Agencies WG on food supplements, building a common list of plants/substances forbidden or with restricted use in food supplements
- 2021: launch of pilot projects for a proactive identification of emerging risks in specific areas of interest for EFSA (emerging chemicals, circular economy, food frauds, new food/feed sources and production techniques); pilot project on **food supplements** postponed due to lack of resources



# DISCUSSION

- EREN confirmed interests in food supplements
- Conceptual discussion:
  - Interest expressed by several EREN members to work on certain types of food supplements (SARMs\*)
  - Proposal to make use of the nutriviigilance systems in place for emerging risks identification
  - Suggestion to focus on plant-based food supplements,
  - Suggestion to make use of the EFSA Compendium of Botanicals to map food supplements made of plants containing substances with QSAR/read-across predicted toxicity.
  - Explore the possibility to build a community of knowledge on food supplements, connecting EREN and StaDG-ER members interested in emerging risks identification in this field



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## Compendium of botanicals

Published date: 3 March 2021 Updated: 3 February 2020

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data-report/compendium-botanicals>

\*SARMs: Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators



# PROPOSAL



- Specific issues addressed via the already existing emerging risk analysis workflow
  - e.g. piperine, mixes of turmeric, curcumin and curcuminoids, use of chaga mushroom, SARMS food supplements
- New proposal for 2023: creation of a community of knowledge on plant-based food supplements with the following two tasks:
  - Identify nutriviigilance systems in and out of Europe and analyse information correlating food supplement intake and adverse health effects,
  - Using the EFSA Compendium of Botanicals, identify plant-based substances of concern with predicted toxicity (i.e. no experimental evidence), trace back plant species containing these substances, and whether these plants have been used in/as food supplements (and at which level).
- The coordination of the community of knowledge and the running of the two activities above-mentioned will be outsourced.
  - 200k grant or procurement for a 2-year project. Estimated call launch 2023 Q3



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