



GMM NGT MANDATE

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MANDATE

Two tasks:

- I. **Horizon scanning** on microorganisms and their products obtained by new developments in biotechnology, and based on it,
- II. **EFSA opinion** on potential novel hazards/risks from new developments in biotechnology applied to microorganisms and adequacy of the current EFSA risk assessment guidance



HORIZON SCANNING ON MICROORGANISMS

- Contractor's work on literature search is ongoing and expected to be finalized in the next two months
- Call for data launched by EFSA: open till the 30th of April
- Satisfactory level of responses

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/survey-new-biotechnologies-microorganisms>



The screenshot shows the EFSA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Other sites', 'EFSA', 'Open EFSA', 'EFSA Journal', and 'Connect'. Below this is the EFSA logo and the text 'EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY'. A search bar is visible with the placeholder text 'Search news, topics, publications, events...'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'About', 'Newsroom', 'Topics', 'Resources', 'Publications', 'Applications', 'Engage', and 'Calendar'. The main content area displays the title 'Survey on new biotechnologies in microorganisms' and the status 'Ongoing'. The 'Deadline: 30 April 2023 - 23:59 (CEST)' is circled in red. There are also social media sharing icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and a 'Contents' section with links for 'Documents' and 'Related topic(s)'.

For any questions on the call for data please contact NIF@efsa.europa.eu



GMM NGT WG

- A dedicated WG was set up at the end of 2022. On the 24th of April 2023 the 5th WG meeting is scheduled.
- Minutes are published [here](#)
- In practice the WG is requested to:
 - **Identify novel potential hazards and risks** that new developments in biotechnology applied to microorganisms could pose for humans, animals and the environment.
 - **Determine** whether the **existing guidelines for risk assessment of GMM are applicable**, fully or partially, and sufficient to risk assess new developments in biotechnology applied to microorganisms.
 - In case existing guidelines for risk assessment are considered not applicable, partially applicable or not sufficient, to **identify on which aspects existing guidelines should be updated, adapted or complemented**



GMM NGT WG- WHERE WE STAND

- ✓ A protocol and strategy on how to address the ToRs of the mandate was defined in accordance with [EFSA 2020](#)
- ✓ Provided assistance and scientific expertise to define/evaluate the literature search terms of the contractor
- Currently evaluating whether the guidance documents are fit-for the purpose of assessing GMMs (belonging to categories 3 and 4) developed through new developments in biotechnology
- ☞ Will take into consideration the findings of the literature search and call for data
- ☞ Will proceed with the drafting of the scientific opinion and answering of the ToRs



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