88TH ADVISORY FORUM STOCKHOLM, 27-28 JUNE



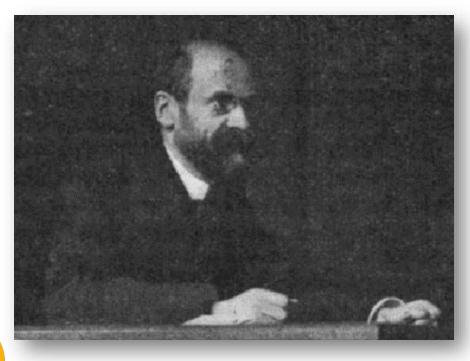
SPEED OF RISK ASSESSMENT

EFSA Scientific Committee workshop 19 April 2023



ONCE UPON A TIME

Ex cathedra risk assessment



Wide and open search

→ Not reproducible, risk of missing important studies

Experts identify "pivotal" studies without any a priori decision

Only "Pivotal" studies described and used in the opinion

- → Subjective without any a priori decision
- → Not transparent if non-pivotal studies not described

Conservative screening tools used, e.g. for the assessment of exposure

→ Overestimation of the risk

Uncertainties not considered

→ Not transparent



EFSA TODAY (NOT ALWAYS)

Search strings

- Reproducible, limited risk of missing important studies
- Often very wide, high number of studies to be screened

Non "pivotal" studies described in Annexes

- Transparent
- Sometimes in long annexes with information in free text→ difficult to handle and analyse

Dietary exposure estimated with real food consumption and occurrence data

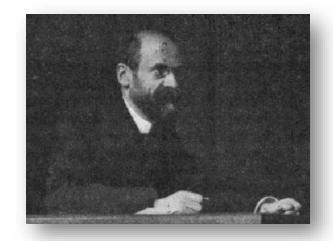
- More precise
- Time & resources needed to clean data, fill gaps, develop models





CONTINUOUS EVOLUTION

Ex cathedra





EFSA in transition

→ slowing down risk assessment process

New approach to be developed to **speed up** EFSA's work while keeping its assessments **evidence based** and **transparent**.



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SPEED OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Scope of evaluations and data requirements

- Literature data
- Low quality of the data submitted for hazard identification
- Low quality or incomplete data for exposure assessment

Engagement processes

- Guidance to be applied
- Cross cutting issues
- Public or targeted consultation

Methodology

- Protocol
- Uncertainty assessment
- Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE)



THEMATIC WORKSHOP

THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON THE SPEED OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Objective:

Gather feedback & ideas from the SC members on how to increase the speed of EFSA's risk assessments by ensuring actionable and fit for purpose advices

Break-out group 1 Optimisation

Can you suggest procedures and standard practices that EFSA panels could adopt to optimize the existing risk assessment framework?

Break-out group 2 Innovation

Can you suggest innovation initiatives (tools, databases, projects, ...) that EFSA could carry out to reduce the time needed to deliver opinions?



MAIN SUGGESTIONS

Enforce a **dialogue** with the mandate requestor to better frame the questions (currently too broad).

It might be facilitated by:

- Upfront scoping review, problem formulation & protocol
- **Criteria** to decide upfront, e.g., which sort of literature search is needed
- Templates and tools, as the Web-based tool/repository for protocol development

Carefully consider CC guidance documents development (e.g. general vs specific)

Expand CC WGs support to guidance implementation

Chair of WG/Panel to be trained to steer discussion and ensure effective meetings

A declaration of interest "pass" to work across panels

Further invest in **machine learning** tools for systematic review of the literature and in standard critical appraisal tools

Collect **information** on the time spent in the different phases of the risk assessment, not all steps should be done for all opinions

Develop **repositories** to capitalize the information generated for each opinion was also recommended together with the definition of **standard structures** for data extraction

