

EMERGING RISKS EXCHANGE NETWORK (EREN)



Milen Georgiev

Knowledge, Innovation and Partnership
Management (KNOW) Unit

REGULATORY OUTLINE

REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

Article 23

Tasks of the Authority

The tasks of the Authority shall be the following:

- (f) to undertake action to identify and characterise emerging risks, in the fields within its mission;

Article 34

Identification of emerging risks

‘...establish monitoring procedures...’

‘.. request additional information...’

‘... use all the information it receives...’

EFSA Strategy 2027

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Ensure preparedness
for future risk analysis needs

2.1.2 The quality and scale of crisis preparedness and the **identification of emerging risks** is improved.



Anticipation of future Risk assessment needs



Anticipate & prevent future safety challenges

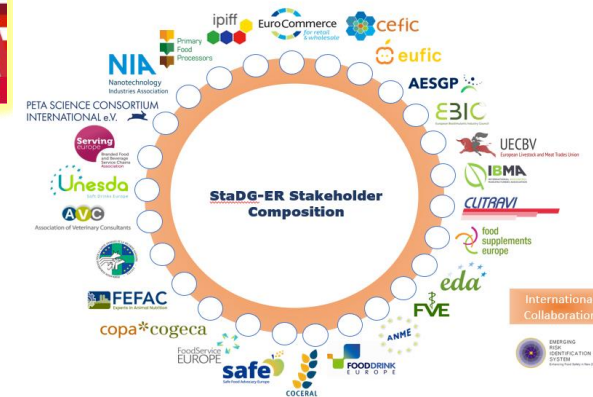


EFSA NETWORKS OF KNOWLEDGE

- Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN)
- Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risk (StaDG-ER)
- EFSA Scientific Panels, experts and networks
- International collaboration



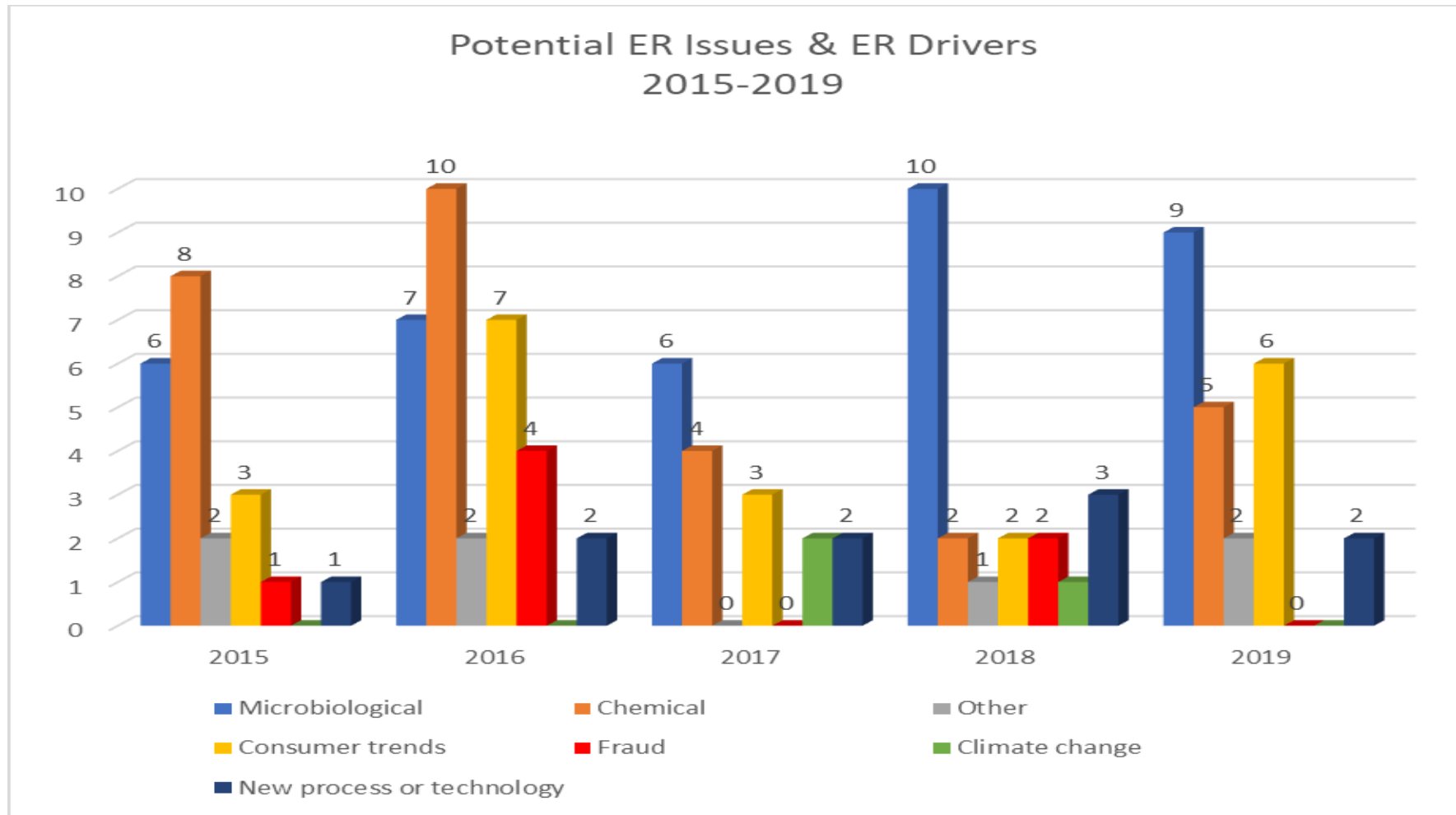
Emerging Risks Exchange Network



- Established: 2010
- Composition: EU Member States, Norway and observers from Switzerland, DG SANTE, EC SHEER, EAA, ECDC, ECHA, CFIA, FDA, FAO, FSANZ, WHO
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/emrisknetworkerenlist.pdf>
- Role: a platform for the scientific cooperation between risk assessors of the EU Member States, EFSA, the European Commission, and observers from other interested parties to assess newly identified emerging issues/ risks and to enhance emerging risk identification methodologies.
- Terms of reference on the web
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/emrisknetworksen.pdf>
- Info from the meetings: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/advanced-search?f%5B1%5D=event_participant%3A141&sort=computed_sort_date&order=desc



EMERGING ISSUES



In 2022
64 signals (as potential issues)
31 for evaluation
14 for detailed characterisation



EMERGING RISK DEFINITIONS

- An **emerging risk** is: “a risk resulting from a newly identified hazard to which a significant exposure may occur, or from an unexpected new or increased significant exposure and/or susceptibility to a known hazard.”
- The **drivers** of emerging risks may include population growth, globalisation, resource and energy scarcity, slowing agricultural productivity, increasing concentration of the supply chain, price volatility, changing diet trends and the emergence of anti-microbial resistant strands to name a few.



INFO FROM 29TH EREN

- Web Minutes: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/minutes-29th-eren-meeting.pdf>
- Discussing
 - Signals (potential emerging risks)
 - EFSA and EREN activities
 - Project (on emerging risk identification) progress
 - Emerging risk workflow (survey updates)
 - Methodological items
 - Thematic session (water scarcity)
 - Newsletter



ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL VIEWS FROM STADG-ER

- Z15 (iron oxide nanoparticle conjugated with folic acid) nano-scale flocculant used in wastewater treatment and remaining in sludge if applied to agricultural land
 - [ER, we look for info about life cycle of the product, its stability and exposure levels]
- Microbiological risk of plant-based products alternative to animal products
 - [Not seen as ER, solutions via management practices; look for comments]
- PFAS traces in organic eggs, associated with fishmeal from Baltic sea herrings
 - [final BN, actions undertaken at EC SANTE, we may look for info about concentration of PFAS in fishmeal from other sources]



ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL VIEWS FROM STADG-ER (CONT.)

- Report of *Atherigona orientalis* - now present in continental Europe and it has been reported in Spain in 2017 and in France in 2022.
- [ER, we look for comments on options to enhance the monitoring about potential spread, and impact]
- Tara protein flour reported health issues in US (an item from the survey)
 - [final (further info needed), we look for information about tara protein, characteristic differences with tara gum 417, usage and issues in Europe]
- Water scarcity: FAO reports triggering discussion on possible risks and drivers
 - [potential for wider WG discussion e.g. points raised mostly about microbial issues however, items with chemical context might be more problematic]



OTHER ITEMS

Definitions and terminology: potential for topic refinements and harmonisation

FoodSafeR – update

- European project launched in October 2022 and few EREN members are involved in this project.
- The architecture of FoodSafeR was presented as potentially relevant/connectable for EFSA Emerging Risk workflow and new ERAP Platform.
- More detailed information to be shared at the next EREN meeting

Emerging Risk Reporting - Newsletter options

- endorsed and supported by EREN, offering editorial support/group
- ideas on the content, e.g. topic sections, the inclusion of video pills on emerging risks, and ideas on how to perform risk communication
- to conduct a pilot and collect feedback



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