EMERGING RISKS IDENTIFICATION IN FOOD SUPPLEMENTS (UPDATE)

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EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

CONTEXT

- EFSA emerging risk mission
- Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN) and StaDG-ER
- 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:
  - Initial interest on certain types of food supplements (SARMs*)
  - to make use of the nutrivigilance systems for emerging risks
  - to focus on plant-based food supplements,
  - to use EFSA Compendium of Botanicals to map food supplements made of plants containing substances with QSAR/read-across predicted toxicity.

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

- Build a Community of Knowledge to retrieve and analyse topic information (and where CAs, experts and stakeholders can collaborate about emerging info-signals/alerts to EFSA)

**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 nutrivigilance 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 (to interested MS CAs).
  - 200k grant or procurement for a 2-year project. Estimated call launch 2023 Q3

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