Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data
3rd Specific Meeting on Data Reporting on TSE-BSE

19 September 2023
09:00-14:00
Minutes agreed on 27 September 2023

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Name
Austria	Alexandra Bastian
Belgium	Paul De Winter
Czechia	Klára Jelínková
Estonia	Luisa Leinberg
Estonia	Piret Aasmäe
France	Jean Philippe Amat
France	Eric Morignat
Germany	Andrea Coßmann
Hungary	Tamás Lancsák
Iceland	Sigurbjörg Ólöf Bergsdóttir
Italy	Giuseppe Ru
Italy	Romolo Nonno
Latvia	Edvīns Oļševskis
Lithuania	Kristina Stakytė
Luxembourg	Véra Adam
Malta	Sergio Fiore
Poland	Magdalena Aftyka
Portugal	Renata Carvalho
Slovakia	Martin Mojžiš
Slovenia	Kristina Tekavec
Spain	Maria Esther Prieto Caballero
Iceland	Sigurbjörg Ólöf Bergsdóttir
Norway	Berit Heier

Hearing Experts:

Walter Martelli (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta - IZSTO, Italy), Alexander Heinrich (Germany), Petr Hedbávný (Czechia)

Observers:

Michael Binggeli (Switzerland), Saranda Draga-Ahmetaj (Kosovo), Nikola Pejovic (Montenegro), Melita Jankovska Tarjkovska (North Macedonia), Tatjana Labus (Serbia)

EFSA:

Integrated Data (IDATA) Unit: Alexandra Papanikolaou (chair), Catalin Iancu (scientific secretary), Valentina Bocca, Sofia Ioannidou, Anca Stoicescu

Biolagical Hazards & Animal Health and Welfare (BIOHAW) Unit: Angel Ortiz Pelaez

Contractors:
Trasys: Roxani Aminalragia-Giamini

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Romania, The Netherlands, Sweden and Albania.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Welcome new members

The Chair invited all the new participants to present themselves. Sofia Ioannidou (EFSA) introduced herself as the new team leader of Data Gateway and Outreach – DGO team and Catalin Iancu (EFSA) presented himself as the new data steward of the TSE data collection. The new Network Representatives and Observers were welcomed to the group and shortly introduced themselves.

4. Minutes of the 2nd Network meeting of the TSE-BSE Subgroup held on 20 September 2022

The minutes of the 2nd Network meeting had been previously agreed by written procedure on 27 September 2022 and published on the EFSA website on 30 September 2022. Comments received through the meeting feedback survey were presented.

5. Validation and consultation of the TSE data collection and results of surveillance on TSE carried out in 2022

Giuseppe Ru (IZSTO - EFSA contractor involved in the production of the annual European Summary Report (EUSR) on TSE surveillance data) briefly presented the process followed to produce the EUSR. The first draft of the report was produced, and it is currently under consultation until 6 October 2023. The preliminary results of the TSE data surveillance carried out in 2022 were presented. Data on TSE in cattle, small, ruminants and genotyping, cervids and other species were submitted to EFSA for the 2022 data collection by 27 EU Member States (MSs), the United Kingdom (in respect of Northern Ireland), and eight other non-EU countries. For each of the reported species, the total number of samples and positive cases was provided. Detailed information was presented for the most sampled target groups and for the positive cases, such as temporal trends and geospatial distribution. The results of genotyping in sheep were presented according to the categories originally defined in Great Britain's National Scrapie Plan (NSP). Data included in the presentation and in the draft report remains confidential until the report publication in November 2023.

6. TSE Visualisation tools: story maps and MicroStrategy dashboards

Giuseppe Ru (IZSTO) presented the TSE visualisation tools, including an online story map and MicroStrategy dashboards. The visualisation tools are linked to the publication of the EUSR and are updated annually. The story map presents the background, evolution and current status of the TSE surveillance data by animal group. The various functionalities and applied filters dependent on the reported animal groups were displayed. The MicroStrategy dashboard contains information on the TSE prevalence by target group, interactive maps with the spatial distribution of cases by country and temporal trends. The available links were shared with the participants and their feedback on the TSE visualisation tools was highly encouraged.

7. EFSA opinions using Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and scrapie surveillance data in 2023

Angel Ortiz Pelaez (EFSA) presented how EFSA uses the TSE surveillance data in scientific outputs other than the TSE EUSR, focusing on the recent mandates on the monitoring of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and the evaluation of the application of the negligible risk status of classical scrapie. The TSE data are collated and stored by EFSA to fulfil the legal requirement, as stated in Part II, Chapter B, Annex III of Regulation (EC) 999/2001 to produce and publish the annual summary report on the trends and sources as well as presenting the information listed in part I.A in a table format. The TSE surveillance data are also used to provide ad hoc advice to the European Commission (EC) and in risk assessments. Examples of previous scientific opinions that were based on TSE surveillance data are those on BSE BARB, scrapie situation in the EU, analysis of atypical surveillance, evaluations of applications for negligible risk status of classical scrapie, evaluation and design of surveillance for BSE, scrapie and CWD. Two examples were presented in more detail: the scientific opinion on CWD monitoring (IV) and the scientific report on the evaluation of the application of Czechia to be recognised as having a negligible risk of classical scrapie (to be published in October 2023).

8. Results of the user survey on the TSE 2022 data collection

Roxani Aminalragia-Giamini (EFSA-Trasys) presented the results on the user feedback survey for the TSE 2022 data collection. EFSA circulates this survey yearly to the experts in order to collect their views and identify any potential improvements for the data collection. The low participation of the countries in the survey was pointed out, leading to non-representative conclusions from the survey. The RCs were kindly encouraged to provide more actively their feedback in the following reporting years.

9. TSE data flow: experiences from Czechia

Petr Hedbávný (CZ) presented the organisational structure of the veterinary administration in collaboration with the national laboratories in Czechia and the infrastructure used for the data preparation and transfer. The data flow of the

national database uses dedicated systems to synchronize the different sample descriptions and catalogues by the numerous laboratories in the country. Data validation is conducted before the direct submission of the XML files to EFSA's Data Collection Framework (DCF) while the data control against DCF business rules is not implemented. The transmission of the data to EFSA's scientific Data Warehouse (DWH) was described in detail. The mapping of national data to the EFSA catalogues was identified as the major challenge as it constitutes the main source of errors.

10. TSE data flow in Germany

Alexander Heinrich (DE) presented the national dataflow used for the TSE surveillance data in Germany. The monthly reports are prepared in a federal state level and are gathered by using an Excel-data-file. National database for the identification and registration of bovine animals is used for monitoring of BSE-testing, whereas scrapie data are reported directly from the laboratories. Excel tables provide the base of the reporting system. Data validation and correction are performed before the data submission to EFSA via the TSE reporting tool. In the identification of the pros of the national dataflow, the TSE tool and the provided support by EFSA were indicated, whereas in the cons the high bureaucratic burden was underlined. The Chair thanked the experts from Czechia and Germany for their availability to present their data flows and emphasized that both countries are very efficient in submitting their data in a monthly basis despite following different approaches in the organisation of their data flows.

11. Enhancemens on the TSE reporting tool

Roxani Aminalragia-Giamini (EFSA-Trasys) presented the newly released enhancements in the TSE reporting tool. The tool was briefly introduced by listing its current functionalities. To further facilitate the TSE data reporting, EFSA has included three additional functionalities in the tool. The 'Copy report' option allows the user to copy data from monthly reports in the aggregated, sample, and analytical test level. For the data reporting of the TSE (other species) prefilled information will be provided in the sample and analytical tests level, based on the relevant combinations that have been chosen by the expert in the 'Preferences' tab of the tool. Additionally, in this new version, the users can perform amendments in multiple monthly reports with only one submission. Lastly, the participants were informed that they will be asked to install the new version of the tool the next time they open it.

12. Data reporting for the TSE data collection: key points of attention

Alexandra Papanikolaou (EFSA) presented the timelines for the TSE 2023 data collection, along with the main sources for the data reporting instruction (the guidance for reporting 2021 surveillance data on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) and the TSE reporting tool wiki homepage). Then, three key points of attention regarding the 2023 data reporting were presented. First, the participants were reminded that samples should be reported according to the month of sampling by all the RCs, even if they were analysed in a later month, in order to ensure that the aggregated data are harmonised and comparable. Then, it was

highlighted that reported data should comply with the European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) testing schemes. Finally, regarding the reporting of small ruminants, the importance of providing information on the status of flock was stressed, especially for the RCs that do not report data via the TSE reporting tool. This quality check will be included in the next year's data validation round.

13. Data Quality KPI dashboard

Roxani Aminalragia-Giamini (EFSA-Trasys) presented the data quality dashboard for TSE 2022 data. The data quality definition as the measure of how well-suited the data for their intended use are, was introduced and the importance of fit-for-purpose and reliable data to reach solid and concrete conclusions to support scientific assessments and opinions was underlined. The set of data quality objectives and the related key performance indicators were introduced. Screenshots of the quality dashboard were used to show the functionalities and filters implemented in the dashboard. The link for the MicroStrategy platform was provided (data quality dashboard) and the Network Representatives were invited to check the dashboard and provide feedback to EFSA.

14. EFSA's Rebuild project

Valentina Bocca (EFSA) presented the Rebuild project and its importance for the transition to a new data collection and analysis system in accordance with the EFSA Strategy 2027. The need for innovative data collection and data management approaches, interoperable tools and the improvement of the existing data analytics tools was emphasised. In order to identify further the challenges and requirements of the project EFSA launched an online survey in June and communicated it to over 300 stakeholders. The major findings and the relevant scores of the survey analysis regarding the data preparation, transmission, validation and error management, user validation and acceptance, as well as terminology management were presented. The key conclusions were related to alternative solutions and approaches for the following aspects: the data scalability, the possibility of a common system/tool to support data preparation, the use of application programming interfaces (APIs) for data submission, the error management system and the data visualisation tools. The next steps of the Rebuild project were described in the final part of the presentation.

15. Any Other Business

Proposed date for the next meeting: Tuesday 17 September 2024, 9:00-12:00. The proposal was accepted by all attendees.

16. Closure of the meeting

The participants were invited to provide their feedback and suggestions for improvement via an online survey. The Chair thanked all the presenters and the participants for the interesting meeting and closed the meeting on time.