



## “Science Meets Policy” conference

Session 3 | Member States’  
risk manager’s point of  
view on genomic data  
sharing



Netherlands Food and Consumer  
Product Safety Authority  
*Ministry of Agriculture,  
Nature and Food Quality*

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# Data sharing to risk manager (NVWA) in NL



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

- > Public health institute (RIVM)
- > WGS on human isolates
- > source: primarily public health



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

- > Food safety institute (WFSR)
- > WGS on agro/food isolates
- > source: primarily official controls



reporting clustered isolates &  
epidemiological investigation



periodic  
sharing of  
fastq files



FBO

- > communication
- > controls
- > enforcement



reporting clustered isolates



# Results data sharing public health/food controls (gov.)

## **prior to 2019**

- › no listeriosis outbreak solved in NL (78-120 cases yearly)
- › due to difficulty determining epidemiological relatedness

## **2019 onwards**

- › Multiple listeriosis outbreaks identified and solved yearly
- › WGS and data sharing key to identify outbreaks and suspected food sources/production facilities

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2023.1147137>



# Elements leading to effective sharing in NL



## Governmental stakeholders

- › Assign responsibilities (and budget) according to [Dir. 2003/99/EC](#)
  - Art 8(2): “The competent authority shall investigate food-borne outbreaks in cooperation with the authorities referred to ...”
- › Bottom up implementation in human and food institutes
  - Individual development of cluster analysis pipelines
  - Agreements on (limited) sharing of metadata
  - Allow for independent development of expertise / validation of methodologies
  - Promotes cooperation on scientific exposure





# Other genomic data (besides 'governmental')?

## Food Businesses

- › Several WGS initiated recalls attracted attention food businesses
- › Affected FBO's and 'frontrunners' show (limited) use of WGS
  - identify persisting strains in production process
- › Several requests for possibility to query RIVM/WFSR database

## Others?

- › e.g. academic groups, commercial labs, non-gov. institutes
- › Possibility to commandeer 'food' results using national legislation
  - requires substantiation (e.g. outbreak investigation)





# Potential hurdles to (pro-active) sharing

## FBO's & others

- > What's in it for me? Do the gains outweigh the costs?
- > What can others do with my data?



## Food Businesses

- > Potentially large financial and reputational consequences when connected to an outbreak  
"Ignorance is bliss..."
  - Do you want to know early, or when the CA informs you?





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