

**89TH ADVISORY FORUM  
VIRTUAL, 4-5 OCTOBER**



# **SCIENCE MEETS POLICY CONFERENCE**

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Unit

# MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

In **2020** there was the **first edition** of the conference mainly focused on the issues resulting from the **absence of an EU legal framework for WGS data sharing** and on **the development of an EU-wide platform**.

In **2023** the **second edition** of the conference focused on:

- Discussion on **new methodologies and standards** for data sharing
- Identification of **blockers in sharing genomic data**
- Discussion of proactive **bottom-up solutions** that may be put in place by the interested parties (risk managers, industry, etc.) within the current legislative framework to overcome such blockers.



# AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

- **Theme of the first day:** *“One Health approaches and new standards for collecting, analysing and sharing of genomic data from food-borne pathogens to tackle food-borne threats”*

Session 1 “Introduction”

Session 2 “Current One Health approaches implemented in EU and Member States”

Session 3 “Effort on interoperability and the development of new standards”

- **Theme of the second day:** *“The benefit of sharing: the pro and cons of sharing genomic data”*

Session 4 “Stakeholder perspective on genomic data sharing: Social, Industry and Risk Managers”

Session 5 “Moderated Panel discussion”

*“Sharing genomic data: what are the hindrances?”*

*“How to promote sharing of data in the scope of tackling foodborne threats without breaking confidentiality agreements?”*

*“How much of a roadblock is infrastructure vs political”*



# CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The **main conclusions** of the conference were that to move NGS data sharing forward within the current legislative framework we need:

- to build capacity within all EU countries and trust,
- to create a common understanding and guidelines/processes/procedures,
- to put a governance in place that empowers stakeholders to prioritize.

## Next steps

- EFSA to coordinate activities of the WGS subgroup of the Zoonoses Network for improving sharing of NGS data through the EFSA One Health system.
- EFSA and ECDC to develop a protocol for cross-sectoral collaboration for assessing foodborne outbreaks (e.g. to define criteria for prioritisation of joint clusters), focusing on NGS data sharing.
- Identify engagement activities with relevant stakeholders at EU and US level with the focus on promoting sharing of WGS data



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