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# TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK IUCLID SUB-GROUP

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE FOR ESTABLISHING

With the Transparency Regulation which amends, among others, the General Food Law (GFL)<sup>1</sup>, EFSA has new requirements for capturing, managing, handling and distributing Plant Protection Products (PPP) data. These changes require the specification of data formats for regulated product dossiers for adoption in an implementing act/s as well as to allow documents to be submitted, searched, copied and printed, while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements set out in Union law. It was decided to use IUCLID format and the IUCLID tool (managed by the European Chemicals Agency – ECHA) for data preparation, electronic submission and management of PESTICIDES dossiers, by means of the ECHA Cloud platform. Applications concerning approval and renewal of active substances (chemicals and microorganisms), basic substances and MRL applications submitted after 27 March 2021 must be submitted using the IUCLID format via the EFSA Application submission portal. IUCLID is used for the submission and management of pesticides dossiers since the entry into force of the Transparency Regulation in March 2021. It is acknowledged that further work on data formats, as well as development of additional features and tools which could further automate pesticide dossier processing are required. Considering the key role of Member States Competent Authorities in the receipt and assessment of pesticide dossiers and considering the role of applicants in preparing and submitting applications in the new format, the creation of a dedicated sub-group on IUCLID, under the umbrella of the Pesticides Steering Network, is considered essential and involvement of all actors is crucial to ensure full transparency and equal treatment to all stakeholders.

## OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Pesticides Steering Network IUCLID sub-group is to ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

The main objectives of the PSN IUCLID sub-group are:

- identify issues for IUCLID backlog or IUCLID project work;
- provide input to IUCLID for Pesticides configuration, filtering rules, validation rules and report templates (aligning where possible with Biocides), contributing to the further development of features and tools which could automate pesticide dossier processing;
- consider specific requirements for PPP dossiers
- participate in testing IUCLID releases;

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 2065/2003, (EC) No 1935/2004, (EC) No 1331/2008, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18/EC



- channel all requests for changes coming from pesticides submissions to the OECD IUCLID User Group Expert Panel who is the body deciding on the IUCLID changes to be implemented;
- channel all requests for changes and proposal for improvements before the relevant releases of IUCLID;
- based on practical experiences using IUCLID, provide input to further refine the EFSA helpdesk support, IUCLID training materials and IUCLID implementation;
- act as point of reference for all IUCLID related issues and proactively share the information within the organisations of their country or organisation;
- share experience on the “on the job practice” to contribute to the further development of common working procedures.

## MEMBERS

The Pesticide Steering Network IUCLID sub-group shall be composed by:

- representatives from organisations in EU Member States with expertise in the fields covered by the network as identified by the Advisory Forum<sup>2</sup>, nominated through the PSN;
- representatives from EFSA’s registered stakeholders, category Business and food industry, focused on the pesticides area, were selected via a call for expression of interest. No other expressions of interest were received in response to the call for expression of interest sent to EFSA’s registered stakeholders, categories Business and food industry and Environmental/Health NGOs and Advocacy groups, focused on the pesticides area;
- representatives from ECHA;
- representatives of the European Commission are entitled to attend meetings of networks as observers. Representatives of other agencies, bodies or Institutions of the European Union, third countries or international organisations may be invited to attend meetings of networks as observers.

## ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Member States Participation to IUCLID PSN sub-group meetings is granted up to 4 representatives (network participants or alternate participants) per Member State. Member States wishing to nominate one alternate participant for ad hoc participation to meetings or replace permanently one of the network participants must contact their organization, the relevant focal point and inform EFSA at [pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu).

Industry representatives Participation to IUCLID PSN meetings is granted up to 4 representatives (network participants or alternate participants) per Industry association. Industry associations wishing to permanently replace one of the network participants or nominate alternate participant for ad hoc participation to meetings are invited to contact EFSA at [pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:pesticides.mrl@efsa.europa.eu).

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<sup>2</sup> In application of Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the [Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority’s mission](#)



While access to meetings is limited to 4 representatives (network participants or alternate participants), additional experts can be nominated for ad hoc participation to sub-activities of the Network in case specific expertise is needed.

Other organisations may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.

In addition, representatives of the European Commission may participate in the work of the networks. Representatives of other EU agencies may participate in the work of the networks as appropriate.

## WORKING METHODS

The sub-group shall meet physically or virtually at least once a year, preferably to provide timely feedback for the implementation of the following IUCLID version. The working language for the Network Activities will be English.

In between the meetings written consultations on proposed changes might take place.

In addition, the network will use other means of collaboration:

- dedicated Microsoft Teams channels and space on SharePoint.

Access to Teams space is granted to officially nominated participants, alternates and ad hoc participants for both Member States and Industry associations.

Member States representatives in the network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each network meeting in order to make sure all the necessary information is shared without prejudice to Article 7 of the Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organization operating in the fields within the Authority's mission.

## DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

Meeting agenda, minutes and presentations are published on the EFSA website<sup>3</sup>.

## TIMELINE

The terms of reference for the Pesticide Steering Network IUCLID sub-group can be updated whenever deemed necessary and are valid until a decision of discontinuing the sub-group is taken.

Last updated: April 2025

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/advanced-search?f%5B1%5D=event\\_participant%3A670&sort=computed\\_sort\\_date&order=desc](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/advanced-search?f%5B1%5D=event_participant%3A670&sort=computed_sort_date&order=desc)