

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Romolo Nonno, Giuseppe Ru
- Hearing Experts¹:
Han Bossier, Ludovica Preite
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Francesca Baldinelli
- Others:
Han Bossier participated as contractor representing Open Analytics in relation to a Framework contract (FWC) (ref. No OC/EFSA/MESE/2023/03 – SPECIFIC CONTRACT No 2)
Ludovica Preite participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01 – CT 23 BIOHAW)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declaration of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

The following was discussed:

- 1) Han presented to the WG the new tool to automatise the report with an R markdown on the R4u platform. Several examples were shown such as: how to change/edit and create a new version of the text in the R markdown, how to download the report in a word file. Regarding Tables, for each new year added, data from the previous year is also loaded to enable year-over-year comparisons. It was then explained that certain

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



parameters are dynamically calculated in the background by R, with the resulting values automatically appearing in the 'editing text' within parentheses. Regarding restrictions of the application, Tables and Figures are fixed, cannot be edited. Then, a discussion arose about potential differences between the text from the tool and the previous reports, e.g. emphasizing the importance of identifying discrepancies regarding a country's compliance status regarding the minimum testing requirements for TSE surveillance in small ruminants.

- 2) The feedback received on the TSE report from the TSE Network members was discussed. The main results of the survey used to collect feedback was presented (e.g, try to avoid repetition of same data/info in different report sections, historical data should be definitely reported, subdivide the main sections into subsection to easily retrieve info of interest). It was suggested to replace, if and where possible, Tables with Plot, Figures, Maps, options that are visually more effective and maintain the Tables in the appendix.
- 3) The section on the assessment was reviewed. The discussion focused in particular on the maps that are currently in the appendix, (including how numbers/values should be displayed); on the spatial description of samples/cases (data are described at country level); on the lack of data related to the establishment of origin of the cases; on the possibility to separate results for classical scrapie and atypical scrapie; on the proposal to use the population data from EUROSTAT in some maps.

V. Any Other Business

None
