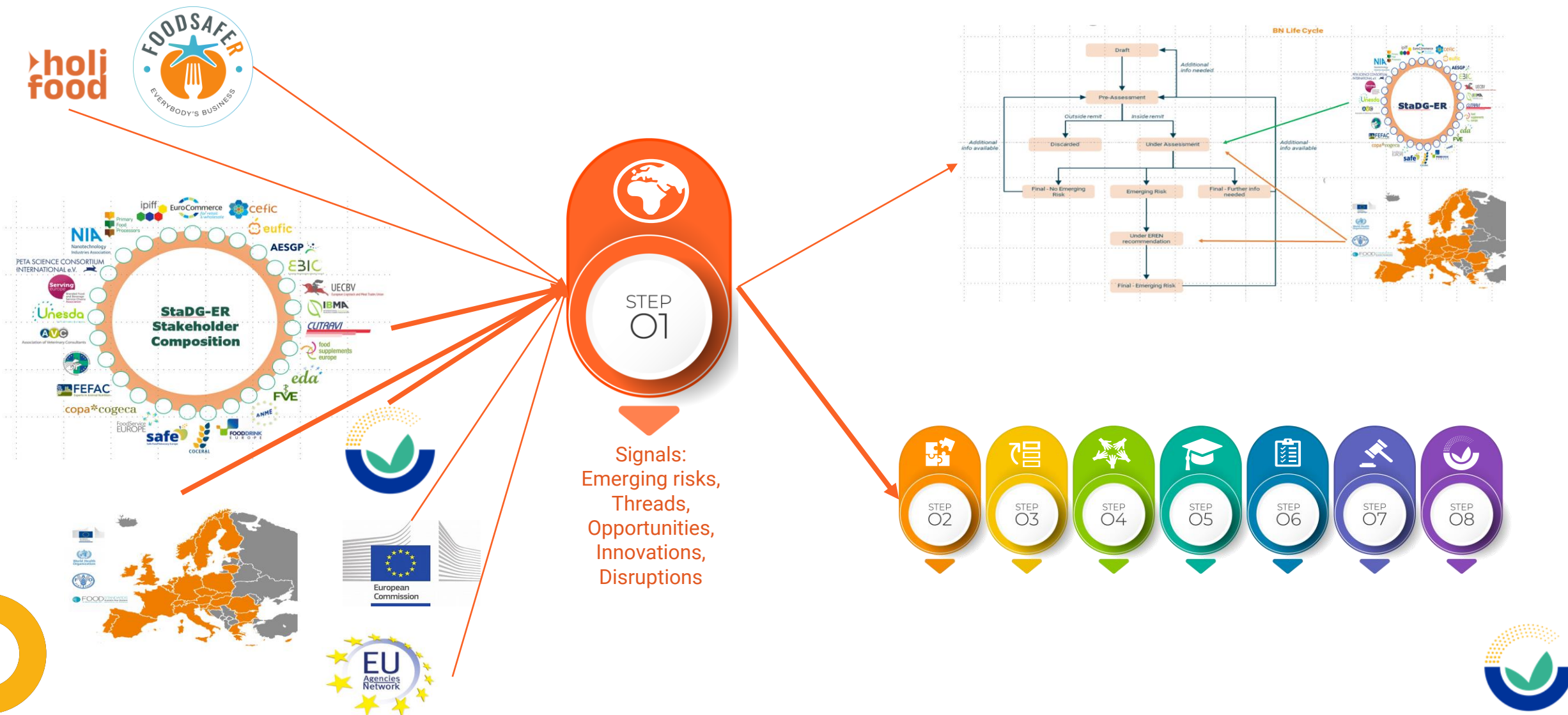


33RD STADG-ER
4 & 5 JUNE 2025

HORIZON SCANNING UPDATES

Bernard Bottex (KNOW)

A GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE NETWORK FOR PREPAREDNESS



8.1 - HORIZON SCANNING WORKFLOW



CONCLUDED

No further steps along process 8.1 but specific actions to be implemented at step it stopped



ONGOING

Still being analyzed and moving along the steps of process 8.1



CONCLUDED

No further steps along process 8.1 and no specific actions to be implemented at step it stopped



Signals:
Emerging risks,
Threats,
Opportunities,
Innovations,
Disruptions



Gap analysis vs
current strategy



Signals
relevance
assessment -
Reputation



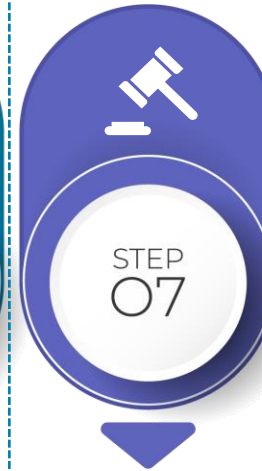
Assess possible
EU and
International
collaborations



Competency
needs &
Capacity
building actions



Readiness
(maturity)
assessment for
regulatory
science



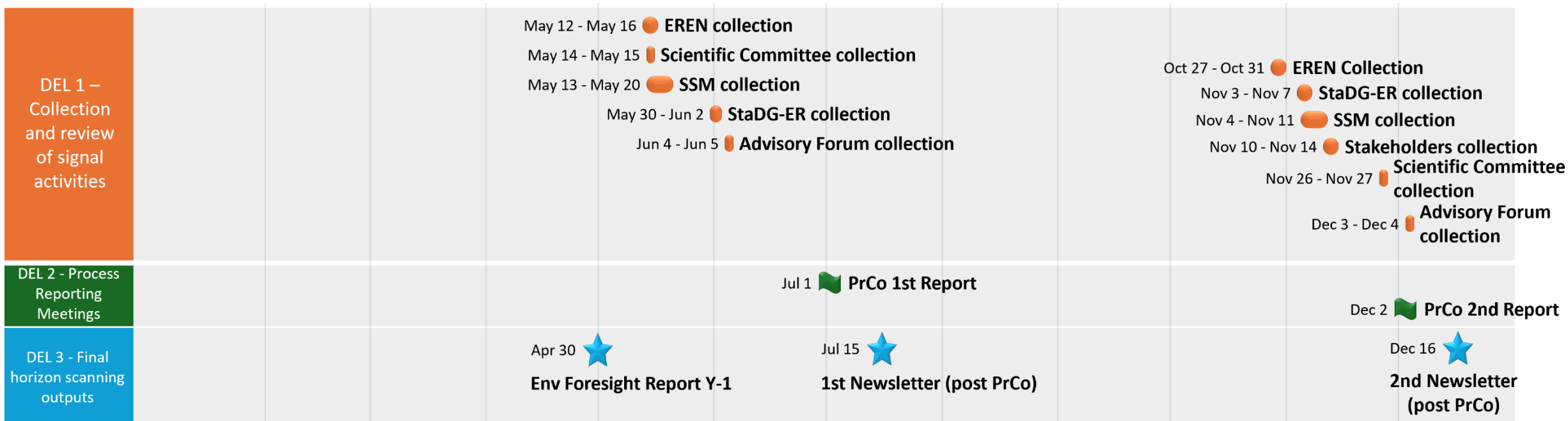
Decision at
Preparedness
Council



Update of EFSA
2027 Strategy



ENSURING ENGAGEMENT IN 8.1



SCANNING – EXTERNAL REPORTS REVIEW

Year	Source	Title
2023	SAM	Cross-sectional evidence based governance for one health in the EU
2024	SAM	One Health Governance in the European Union
2024	SAPEA	One Health Governance in the European Union
2023	Ninistö S.	Safer together – Strengthening Europe’s civilian and military preparedness and readiness
2024	UNEP	Navigating new horizons – A global foresight report on planetary health and human wellbeing
2024	EC AGRI	EU Agricultural Outlook 2024-2035
2024	CREME Global	The 12 evolving global factors affecting food safety into 2025
2024	EFSCM	State of food security in the EU
2024	FAO	Agrifood systems in nationally determined contributions: global analysis
2024	JRC	Risks on the horizon
2024	McKinsey Global Institute	The next big arenas of competition
2024	JRC	Trends in the EU bioeconomy - update 2024
2024	WOAH	100th Anniversary Participatory Foresight Project – WOA Change Cards
2025	AGRI	State of the food security in the EU – Spring 2025
2025	JRC	Delivering the EU Green Deal – Progress towards targets
2025	WEF	The global risks report 2025

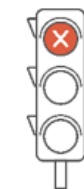
SIGNALS NOT FURTHER CONSIDERED





Green chemistry Chemicals and processes designs that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances. Over the last five years, this movement has gained traction in food production, particularly in packaging and preservatives. While green chemistry is a positive development for environmental and food safety, there is a need for thorough testing to ensure that new substances do not introduce unintended risks		Such compounds would be subject to safety assessment under the regulation in place and therefore not further action is needed from EFSA
Organics and sustainability Organic farming practices, while environmentally friendly, pose unique food safety risks. Organic foods are often grown without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers, which increases the likelihood of contamination from natural sources like animal manure and unfiltered water.		Regulations surrounding organic certification and sustainability have been tightened in response to growing consumer demand for eco-friendly and organic food products.
GLP-1 agonist drugs These drugs, initially developed to treat diabetes, have turned out to be efficient for losing weight. Major players are now developing their own GLP-1 weight loss therapies, and food business is launching GLP-1 friendly range of products to match the dietary needs of GLP-1 treated consumers (foods with increased fibers and protein contents + food supplements)		"GLP-1 friendly" range of products would not be accepted in Europe under current labelling rules



SIGNALS NOT FURTHER CONSIDERED



Back to meat Due to economic downturns, and negative public perception on meat alternatives such as insects and cell-cultured meat, the traditional animal meat-based remains cheaper		Issue that would not have any consequences on EFSA's work program or strategy. No follow up needed
Veterinary medicines and edible insects Research on edible insect diseases under production conditions remains limited; key challenge are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinarians typically deal with insects as pests; This traditional perspective has hindered the exploration of veterinary drugs for maintaining animal health in insect farming• Current welfare laws apply only to vertebrates and industrial fish, excluding insects. With intensive insect farming on the rise, welfare considerations may emerge,;• risk of insect-specific pathogens adapting to new hosts (e.g. opportunistic pathogens)		Welfare of insects is outside of the legislation. Evaluation of possible insect pathogens safety is part of the Novel Food assessment in place.



SIGNALS WITH ANALYSIS ONGOING



Carbon Offsetting

Fraudulent carbon sequestration schemes proliferate. There is mounting evidence and concern that large-scale offset initiatives, even those believed to be of 'high-integrity', have been overstating their ability to contribute to limiting atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions. Afforestation of land with monoculture, alien (often invasive) species can degrade ecosystems, such as natural grasslands



PLANTS confirmed the importance of this driver for the introduction of invasive species in Europe and will include it in their 3rd workshop on horizon scanning in December 2025

Revised EU waste and packaging legislations

Package of legislation aiming at reducing packaging and waste in general, promoting the establishment of circular practices. The safety aspects related to the use of marine biopolymers (e.g. use of biopolymers from algae), or the safety of non-intentionally added substances linked to the recycling process of plastics for food/feed contact materials should be further investigated

EFSA has held related activities (foresight on circular feed from food waste and former food products);



The safety aspects related to the use of marine biopolymers (e.g. from algae), or the safety of non-intentionally added substances linked to the recycling process of plastics for food/feed contact materials should be further investigated;
Check whether an evolution of the animal feed legislation re. circular feed can be expected and when.

Refinement of the factsheet description ongoing



SIGNALS WITH ANALYSIS ONGOING



QSAR-based safety assessments

The EFSA Compendium of Botanicals contains 1000+ plant-based substances with only QSAR toxicity predictions available. Should the presence in the EU market of food supplements containing CMR predicted substances or made of plants containing these substances, how would EFSA deal with assessment request under art. 8 of Reg. 1925/2006 or Novel Food Regulation?



The European Commission indicated its intention to call for a meeting between relevant SANTE and EFSA Units to further discuss this issue

Agrobioterrorism and cyberattacks on the food supply chain

Geopolitical tensions may fuel agrobioterrorism.

The digitalization of agriculture and food production/manufacturing increases its sensitivity to cyberattack with possible consequences for food security and safety.



Relevance for EFSA work program and strategy (Preparedness) is confirmed. Europol, as well as DG SANTE Health and Security Unit also indicated their interest to work further on this issue.

Mapping of Partners' related activities ongoing



SIGNALS CONCLUDED BECAUSE ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED



One-Health Governance in the EU

A transformational change is required to reflect the recognition of the interdependence between the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems (including plants, fungi and bacteria), with greater collaboration between sectors required to take seriously cross-over, indirect, and long-term effects of seemingly unrelated policies and how these have an impact on health. Collaborations must be expanded across administrative and governance institutions at local, regional, national, and international levels



Already followed under the Cross-agencies Task Force on One-Health, as well as the internal EFSA Task Force on One-Health

Agroclimate zones shifting North

Due to climate change, agricultural practices will have to change to deal with the mycotoxins pressure. Projections foresee that south of Europe will become unfit for certain types of cultures (e.g. Maize) while northern parts of Europe will become suitable for these cultures



The issue of increased mycotoxins pressure and antifungal resistance has already been assessed and reported to the Preparedness Council.

A significant part of the Research budget is already dedicated to sustainable food systems and AMR (including also antifungal resistance)

Environmental pollution and increase of zoonoses

Air and microplastic pollution have been associated with antimicrobial resistance and could therefore negatively affect animal health within the livestock market. If pollution creates more zoonoses, the environmental impact of agriculture should be more carefully considered



The issue of zoonoses, whatever the driver(s) behind them is already properly handled by the Animal Health Unit



QUESTION 1: ANY COMMENT ON CLASSIFICATION?

Not further considered

1. Green chemistry
2. Organics and sustainability
3. GLP-1 agonist drugs
4. Back to meat
5. Veterinary medicines and edible insects

Already dealt with

1. One Health Governance in the EU
2. Agroclimate zones shifting North
3. Environmental pollution and increase of zoonoses

Ongoing

1. Carbon offsetting
2. Revised EU waste and packaging legislation
3. QSAR-based assessments
4. Agrobioterrorism and cyber attacks on the food supply chain



QUESTION 2: ANY OTHER ISSUE TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION?

- Relevant for EFSA's remit
- Not currently addressed by existing work program and/or strategy
 - Not covered by existing regulatory framework
 - Would require capacity building by EFSA
 - Suitable for regulatory science



MULTI AGENCY HORIZON SCANNING

Multi-agency Horizon Scanning for preparedness and future-proof strategy development in a one health approach



- Pilot a **standing joint horizon-scanning process**, possibly implemented in the context of the **EU-ANSA Futures Cluster's** activities (frequency to be determined).
- Joint collection and analysis of **trends, early signs of potential development** and **driving** forces
- Translation into Agencies-specific impacts on work programmes and strategy
- Stronger contribution of EU Agencies to the **Commission Strategic Foresight reports**



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