



Digital enhancements overview

To implement the provisions of the Transparency Regulation, EFSA has introduced new digital tools and a dedicated web portal. Since March 2021, when the regulation entered into application, EFSA has been working to enhance these tools. These improvements will continue over the coming months, taking into consideration user feedback.

This document contains information about the main upcoming digital enhancements, the timing of the releases and the specific changes that will be implemented. The overview will be regularly updated and is subject to change.

Applicants can find more information about digital tools and portals pertaining to the submission of applications, as well as training sessions, animated tutorials and other supporting material on the [Applications toolkit](#) page.

Latest IT enhancements in January – September 2025:

Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for: All Connect.EFSA Users
- New functionalities as of May 2025:
 - Simplified navigation for Public and Targeted Consultations, with direct links from consultations to related risk assessments in Open EFSA and providing easier visualization of relevant information during the commenting process.
 - Automated country acronyms in Targeted Consultations, reducing manual work for Rapporteur Member States.
- New functionalities as of June 2025:
 - Improved content formatting for Consultation pages, supporting rich text, and easier access to consultation reports.
 - Enhanced Art. 36 Organization Contacts View, Contact List and Contact Report, providing a more accurate representation of contacts.
 - Reviewed “My Profile” page in Connect.EFSA for Citizen users, for a clearer and more intuitive user experience.
- New functionalities as of July 2025:
 - Refined contact management and visualisation for Art. 36 organization, to make it easier for organisations to keep information accurate and up to date.
- New functionalities as of August 2025:
 - Correction in visualization for Art. 36 Contacts and Accounts.



- New functionalities as of September 2025:
 - When users contribute to a consultation, a new email notification keep them timely informed when scientific outputs and consultations outcomes are published, increasing transparency and engagement. External contributors now have timely access to consultations results and can clearly see how their input has been considered.
 - EFSA's Scientific cooperation newsletter is now open to everyone via EFSA's subscription page of Connect.EFSA.
 - Assistants' contact details linked to Directors/Senior Managers can now be added on the Contact page. This supports more effective communication since relevant EFSA notifications will now be sent to both, Directors/Senior Managers and their assistants.
- Optimised notification and approval process ensure Art. 36 organizations receive timely and accurate updates.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

Relevance for: Applicants and/or their consultants

New functionalities as of January 2025:

- A new functionality, "Copy application", allows applicants in the Food Improvement Agents (FIA) and Novel Food areas to copy data from one application to another to facilitate the resubmission process of applications that were declared non-valid.

New functionalities as of March 2025:

- ESFC users can download all metadata from a dossier by clicking on the "DOWNLOAD ALL METADATA .PDF" button.
- The "Copy application" feature was extended to Feed Additives and Food Contact Materials (FCM), allowing applicants to copy data from one application to another.

New functionalities as of April 2025:

- ESFC tool automatically sends reminders to applicants seven days before the deadline for providing information and seven days after the deadline has expired.
- ESFC tool shows detailed information on public consultations with two new entries in the ESFC Overview section, displaying the launch and end date for the consultation on the non-confidential version of validated applications.

New functionalities as of May 2025:

- A 500-character limit was introduced for applicant responses in boxes to confirm replies to requests for information or additional data.
- The "Copy application" feature was extended to the GMO food domain, enabling applicants to copy data from one application to another.

New functionalities as of June 2025:

- Applicants can request confidentiality assessments for documents uploaded under section Existing authorisations in non-EU countries.
- ESFC tool now displays the full text of requests for information or additional data without the need for a "read more" option.



New functionalities as of July 2025:

- A new field has been added to the Contact Person section in Administrative Data, allowing applicants to indicate whether the contact person is a consultant.
- ESFC tool has updated the "Publicly Available" options when uploading files, providing applicants with three options: "Yes, IPR owned/acquired," "Yes, IPR NOT owned," and "No" (default).
- Applicants are notified and prevented from uploading images or pasting text with images in the pre-notification comment section.
- The "Copy application" feature has been extended to Smoke Flavourings (SFL) and Decontamination Substances (DS), enabling applicants to copy data from one application to another.

New functionalities as of September 2025:

- ESFC tool offers a new communication channel in each single application allowing users to send targeted messages to recipients selected from a list, including EC, MS and EFSA as applicable per food domain.
- ESFC tool requires applicants to upload information on at least 5 batches under specific sections for the submission of a Novel Food, a Food Additive, a Food Flavouring or a Smoke Flavouring application, with each file named using a specific format. A new banner is displayed providing the details for the naming convention.
- ESFC tool allows EFSA users to update the original contents or add new sections to an ongoing request for additional data and update the deadline for reply if this is needed.
- ESFC tool features customizable lists in the Document Type and Ground drop-downs, allowing applicants to easily select previously used values.
- ESFC tool includes a check for duplicate document names, preventing applicants from uploading multiple documents with the same name.

OpenEFSA

Relevance for: all users

New functionalities planned by end of September 2025:

- The new *Estimated date of completion* on an ongoing question indicates the expected adoption date in cases where the risk assessment deadline is missing or has expired.
- Information on re-publications of outputs will be available also on OpenEFSA.

New functionalities available as of July 2025:

- URLs of supporting documents are now sharable, allowing linking to specific documents directly.
- 'Filter by substance' now also supports filtering by EC number and includes items without CAS number (i.e. Microorganisms).

New functionalities available as of May 2025:

- New Documents and Comments on the question page display a clear 'Published date', to facilitate better identifying the last updates.



Improved functionality as of March 2025:

- Documents received following an ADR are published automatically at the same time as the output – in the version sanitised by EFSA if available, or in the non-confidential version provided by the applicant.

Other: Various minor improvements to User interface, internal search, search engine optimisations (SEO) and bug fixing.

Portalino

- Relevance for: All users of Portalino

New functionalities: Increase in character limits On 3 July 2025 a new version of Portalino was released increasing the overall character limit for submissions. This raised the previous technical limitations and allows larger submissions to arrive through the Portal.

Latest IT enhancements in August - December 2024:

Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business operator, laboratories and consultants

New functionalities as of 5 December 2024:

- Users registering on behalf of their organisations to carry out pre-submission activities are requested to indicate an organisation email address. This email address will appear under the organisation information as default "Email for Pre-submission activities". It can be modified at any time and aims at providing a more straightforward way for companies to indicate which is the reference email that will receive all the communications regarding pre-submission activities.
- The "Shared with" functionalities that allow organisations to share pre-application IDs and study notifications among them, have been revised. In particular:
 - The name of this set of functionalities was changed from "Share with" to "Sharing options".
 - The relationship type "Shared with", which was granting read-only rights, has been renamed to "Read-only" accordingly.
 - When sharing a study notification by granting "Read-only" permissions, the user can decide to enable another entity to reuse the study in its own pre-application IDs. In this circumstance, "Read-only" permissions cannot be revoked.
 - A new section showing the history of sharing has been added to the pre-application ID and study notification page.
- Notified/co-notified studies can be edited or withdrawn until the planned completion date. Once this date has passed:
 - The fields corresponding to "Study Title", "Study Title (English Name)", "Food Domain, Authorisation Type, Application Type", "Study Starting Date" and "Test Item" can no longer be modified.



- The date indicated in the 'Planned Completion Date' field can only be changed twice. All the other fields remain editable.
 - The study withdrawal will not be possible.
- A new section named "Compliance data" has been added in the study notification page. It is not editable by the business operators, laboratories and consultants. Information on "compliance", "Dossier number" and "Question ID" will be shown there after the suitability/completeness check of the corresponding application has been completed.
- Users accessing a consultation without prior registration or log-in. will now have the possibility to choose between commenting as guests or registering/logging in.
- Users who decide to comment as guest will be alerted in case their e-mail already exists in the system and be provided with the option of logging in if they wish to do so.
- Data protection and legal terms will no longer be split between the consultation scope and a linked notice. They will both appear inside the consultation form and users will have to accept the terms before proceeding with the submission of comments.

A paragraph has been added to the legal notice allowing EFSA to contact users commenting as guests, in case clarifications on the comments are required.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities as of October 2024:

- Updated tables of content for applications for the authorisations of novel foods, traditional foods and nutrient sources are available.

New functionalities as of November 2024:

- A new functionality allows applicants to update contact information anytime across all food domains and dossier states, including those that are terminated, withdrawn, or authorised.
- Files uploaded with data protection requests can now be downloaded by applicants in a zip folder with a clear structure for easier reference.
- Applicants can download the content of the "Confidentiality Assessment" tab and of the "Request for information" tab as a PDF file.
- For feed additive applications under Articles 4(1), 13(3), and 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, a new field has been added to specify the scope of the application.

Latest IT enhancements in June - July 2024:

Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of Connect.EFSA,
 - Registered users of Connect.EFSA with access to pre-submission activities (e.g. business operators, laboratories and their third parties/consultants).

New functionalities:



- On Wednesday 26 June, the layout and look & feel of the Connect.EFSA portal will be refreshed and aligned with the other EFSA portals and website (e.g. OpenEFSA), addressing also feedback received by stakeholders to enhance Connect.EFSA usability overall. Users will continue having access to all the services e.g. consultations, "Ask a Question", public access to documents requests and pre-submission activities through the revamped Connect EFSA portal.
- Business operators, laboratories and their third parties/consultants will find their pre-application IDs and the notification of studies database in a revamped pre-submission activities landing page, accessible by logging in.
- Users will be also able to access the new pre-submission activities landing page from any point of the Connect.EFSA portal by browsing to the top menu bar and selecting "More" and from the footer.
- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are now organised in categories and subcategories for easier navigation.
- When submitting a request for information to EFSA, users will be guided through a redesigned "Ask a Question" section. Relevant FAQs are proposed to users while compiling the field "subject" in the "Ask a Question" form, helping them finding answers more quickly.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users

New functionalities:

- As from end of July 2024, the release of old information from the legacy Register of Questions will be completed and all EFSA question numbers and related information will be available in OpenEFSA. When relevant, Q-numbers will be associated to at least one substance, enabling users to browse the repository of questions by substance name or chemical identifiers (e.g. CAS number).

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- From July 2024, an updated table of content of the applications for the authorisations of recycling processes and for the modification of an already authorized recycling process will be available.

Latest IT enhancements in January – May 2024:



Portalino

- Relevance for:
 - All users of Portalino

New functionalities:

- On 9 May 2024 a new version of Portalino was released. Business operators, laboratories and their third parties/consultants now have to indicate whether their submission relates to an initial dataset or an additional dataset in reply to an additional data request. The indication of the submission type has been made mandatory to assist EFSA with the prioritisation of the processing of confidentiality requests.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- A new communication channel for exchanges between EC and applicants has been added in the Process Data section in the following areas: Novel Food (Release January 2024), Traditional Food Applications, Traditional Food Notifications, Feed Additives, Food Additives, Food Enzymes, Food Flavourings, Smoke Flavourings (Release February 2024) and GMO (Release April 2024). The applicant/EC will receive an automatic notification in case of a new message.
- Since January, Novel Food applicants have the possibility to receive a reminder on request for information (RFI) from EC and to request extension of deadline for RFI in EC Validation check. These events are displayed in the dossier overview and notifications are sent.
- Since April, the dashboard for applicant has a new functionality that allows users to save the filters applied during their searches.
- Since April, for Novel Food and Health Claim applications, a new tab under Process Data section has been added that allows users to view and download the data protection tab.
- Since April, applicants are notified by email when there are only 5 days left from the deadline to submit a Confirmatory Application.

Latest IT enhancements in December 2023:

Connect.EFSA



- Relevance for:
 - All individuals and organisations who want to register on Connect.EFSA to access a number of services available on the platform.
 - No action required for the users who are already registered on Connect.EFSA.

New functionalities:

- On Monday 4 December, a new improved registration process was implemented on Connect.EFSA, addressing user feedback and enhancing the overall user experience. The registration process is now more efficient.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- From Friday 8 December, documents belonging to *Mandates* currently linked to the related *Questions* will be moved to a dedicated "*mandate documents*" list. This will simplify the navigation and provide a more direct access to mandate documents.
- EFSA will start to gradually release old information from the legacy Register of Questions, starting with a small batch in December. The complete release is scheduled for Q1 2024.

Previous IT enhancements on September 14 2023:

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- A new workflow to manage all activities following the submission of a Traditional Food Notification will be available. The changes apply to New Traditional Food Notifications and to modifications of an already authorised Traditional Food.
- ESFC applicants will be given an appropriate amount of time to comment on the draft confidentiality decision, submit a confirmatory application, and reply to a request for clarification, taking into account the EFSA public holidays.



- In the context of Confidentiality Assessment, a unique ID number will be assigned to each confidentiality request and communicated through ESFC indicating to ESFC applicants the confidentiality request(s) that require their attention.

Portalino

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Portalino applicants will be able to withdraw a submission directly from Portalino if an EFSA output is no longer requested providing a reason for the withdrawal.
- Portalino applicants will be able to update (add/remove/change ownership) the submission owners and contact points throughout the process in case of business continuity needs. Submission owners have access to the data inside the submission and have the ability to perform actions whereas only contact points will receive notifications from EFSA.
- Portalino applicants will be able to make submissions which do not contain any confidentiality requests.
- In the context of Confidentiality Assessment, a unique ID number will be assigned to each confidentiality request and communicated through Portalino indicating to Portalino applicants the confidentiality request(s) that require their attention.

Pre-Application ID and Notification of Studies through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- When adding a new component to a pre-application ID or to a study notification, business operators and/or their consultants will be prompted with a new and more visible button as well as an enhanced layout for adding new components. Associated components will be visible directly on the right-hand side of the pre-application ID or study notification page. Moreover, for easier identification of listed components, additional fields (e.g. Name, Type of Term, Origin) will be shown.
- A time-limited notification box on the Application page (for business operators and/or their consultants) or Studies page (for laboratories) will be introduced, allowing to notify users about newly introduced functionalities.

OpenEFSA



- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- The Additional Data Requests (ADR) Document submitted by the applicant will be made available in OpenEFSA only after the adoption of the opinion, to ensure consistency in the public version of the dossier available for consultation during risk assessment.
- The sections of ADR Documents linked to a Clock-stop will automatically become visible to the public. This new feature will render the public dissemination of ADR cover letters redundant, leading to their gradual discontinuation from publication.
- The accuracy of the search function has further been refined.

Previous IT enhancements on July 6 2023:

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- ESFC applicants will be informed through the platform in case EC, MS, or EFSA terminate an application, along with the reasons for termination.
- ESFC applicants will have the ability to read and reply to a request for additional information providing more details, thanks to the increased character limit in the text boxes and the possibility to format the text.
- ESFC applicants will find in ESFC an updated food flavouring table of contents to build their application in line with the requirements of the [new food flavouring guidance](#) recently updated by the FAF Panel.
- ESFC applicants will be informed through the platform in case an application is declared "Not Valid" and they will be able to view/invisualise in ESFC the reasons for non-validity whether for the non-compliance with NoS obligations or other reasons.
- ESFC applicants will have the possibility to view and consult the EFSA considerations as concerns partially approved and rejected confidentiality requests. They will also have the possibility to raise a confirmatory application on the rejected parts of the confidentiality request. In addition, ESFC applicants will be notified if EFSA initiates a review of the approved parts of the confidentiality request, in line with Article 39c of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.
- ESFC applicants and Portalino users, when submitting confidentiality requests, will have clearer options to indicate that the cumulative requirements listed in Article 10(b) of the [EFSA](#)



[practical arrangements on transparency and confidentiality](#) are deemed as satisfied. This has been achieved by a renaming of the related condition boxes to be selected by the applicants, and by the introduction of a new condition box, namely "Not publicly available". Moreover, if the conditions boxes "Potential harm" and/or "Novelty" are not selected, a mandatory justification box will become available in which the applicant must provide a specific reason as to why it is considered that any public disclosure would potentially harm their interests to a significant degree.

Portalino

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Portalino applicants will be able to select the applicable domain from a drop-down list to facilitate the processing of the submission by EFSA.
- Portalino applicants will be automatically notified by email when the submission has been done, when a request for information is sent by EFSA, if a submission is rejected and when the confidentiality process has been updated.

Pre-Application ID through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Sharing functionalities has been improved. In addition to the possibility to share a pre-application ID record "on behalf of" an entity, business operators and/or their delegated consultants now have the option to share at the same time multiple studies which are linked to the pre-application ID with the relationship "on behalf of".

Public Consultations through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of Connect.EFSA

New functionalities:

- Accessing a consultation will be further simplified for users of Connect.EFSA where the document and/or the link made available for consultation will be displayed in a manner that allows users to easily find the relevant document and/or link. Moreover, the information will be presented in a new layout, and all the files and links will be placed together on the page.

Targeted consultations

- Relevance for:
 - Member States and ad-hoc audience



New functionalities:

- Member States or external parties invited to comment in targeted consultations will have the possibility to attach files to their comments (one file per comment field). This functionality already exists in public consultations and will be replicated in the targeted ones.

Pre-Submission Advice through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- When submitting their requests for general pre-submission advice (GPSA) or renewal pre-submission advice (RPSA) in the area of plant protection products and maximum residue levels of pesticides or in the context of GMO Directive 2001/18/EC, potential applicants are no longer required to indicate the contact person within the relevant Member State Competent Organisation. The information required is limited to the Country of the relevant Member State Competent Organisation.

Ask a Question and Public Access to Documents (PAD) through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - External users registering on behalf of their organisation or users registered by EFSA
 - All users of Connect.EFSA

New functionalities:

- The user experience for requesters using the Ask a Question service and public access to documents (PAD) applicants has been improved. When EFSA requests additional clarifications to their questions, users can now easily provide them by clicking the "reply" button available in the users' email tool (e.g. Outlook, Gmail, etc).

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- OpenEFSA users will be able to download documents without login, while still requiring acceptance of the legal notice on intellectual property rights.
- Various usability improvements on the questions' search:
 - Improved accuracy of search results;
 - matching terms highlighted in search result;
 - possibility to sort results by *last updated date*;
 - visited pages are indicated in a different color;
 - possibility to open question in new page.



- Improved usability of supporting documents section, including the possibility to download all files at once. Overall usability improvements will be available for mobile users.
- New updates on the design will be implemented to further align OpenEFSA with EFSA's new corporate identity.

Newsletters, alerts, and other subscription products

- Relevance for:
 - EFSA Newsletter and alerts subscribers

New functionalities:

- The management of the EFSA Newsletter and alerts will be transferred to Salesforce from Mailchimp. Subscription data of users will be stored and managed in Salesforce after 5 July. The platform provided by Salesforce will provide a one-stop shop for users to manage all their EFSA subscriptions and references.

Previous IT enhancements on May 12 2023:

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- The OpenEFSA section on experts has been improved to show the list and composition of EFSA's Scientific Panels and Working Groups, scientific experts and their roles and Declaration of Interests (DoI).

Previous IT enhancements on April 12 2023:

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- ESFC applicants will now be notified directly in the ESFC platform when a review of an initially accepted confidentiality request, in line with Article 39c of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (hereinafter "Article 39c"), is initiated.



- ESFC applicants will also be notified of the relevant Article 39c draft decision directly in the ESFC platform, on which they may submit comments.
- ESFC applicants will receive the Article 39c decision directly in the ESFC platform, against which they may submit a confirmatory application, challenging EFSA's Article 39c decision to reject a confidentiality request, and receive a decision thereon.
- ESFC applicants will now be able to provide study information such as the EFSA Study Identification ID, study details and related justifications for the following 3 additional document types: (certificate of analysis, raw data and other supporting documents).
- ESFC applicants will now be able to use a new workflow to manage all the activities that follow the submission of complementary information following an EFSA inconclusive scientific opinion related to feed additives, in compliance with the regulation in place. The submission of feed additives applications will now be carried out through the ESFC platform only.

Notification of Studies through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - External users registering on behalf of their organisation or users registered by EFSA

New functionalities:

- The co-notification process has been simplified by removing the "co-notify with remarks" option. External users will still be able to add comments/remarks when going through the co-notification process.
- Users will have the possibility to select a co-notifier already at the creation of the study record or while this is in a draft status. When submitting the study notification, they will be able to confirm or change this information.
- During the co-notification process, laboratories based outside the EU will receive an email alert if they have been included in a study notification: they will not be required to register and co-notify the study, but will still be allowed to do so, should they wish to.
- During the co-notification process, if the co-notifier realises they have been wrongly assigned to a study notification, they can promptly inform the notifier about the mistake by entering the "Select Operations"-menu of the relevant study record and checking the "Wrong Co-notifier"-box. The notifier will then be able to amend and correct the mistake within a timely manner.
- Enhancements to the recently introduced reporting functionality will be made available. This will include a new default pre-application ID group on study reports and a new report listing all studies will be introduced.

Public Access to Documents (PAD) through Connect.EFSA



- Relevance for:
 - External users registering on behalf of their organisation or users registered by EFSA
 - All users of Connect.EFSA

New functionalities:

- The Ask a Question form has been redesigned with a new and simpler interface that will help registered and unregistered users in the selection of their area of interest to easily choose to which service they want to direct a question and to select the Public Access to Documents (PAD)-option knowing that this entails a processing of the request under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.
- External registered or unregistered users accessing Connect.EFSA will be able to submit applications for access to documents by uploading files in support of their request together with filling in the mandatory fields in the Ask a Question form.

Competent Organisations list in Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of Connect.EFSA

New functionalities:

- Visitors of the EFSA website viewing the list of Competent organisations (i.e., the organisations designated under Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002) will have more possibilities to search for organisations through increased filtering options. They will be able to filter by country, combinations of scientific competences, combinations of remits and search by organisation name or abbreviated name. They will also be able to export the search results.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Improvements to the questions search features will be implemented, providing better search accuracy, and the matching content will be highlighted. Questions previously consulted will also be displayed in a different colour, to help users identify them more easily.
- A more accurate and detailed representation of the steps in the pesticides applications process on the question's timeline will be available. Moreover, specific mandates will be shown in the timeline instead of the overarching one, where applicable.
- The risk assessment deadline for MRL applications will be displayed only while the risk assessment process is still ongoing. It will not be displayed during a 'stop-the-clock'-procedure pending additional data requests.



- Design updates will be implemented to match EFSA's new corporate identity, as well as usability improvements for mobile users.
- Previously unavailable links to scientific opinions for past pesticides questions will now be available.

Previous IT enhancements on February 01 2023:

Intended studies handling and pre-submission advice through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Business Operators and/or their Consultants will have the possibility to involve a Member State in a request for general and renewal pre-submission advice also for GMO Directive 2001/18/EC-Part C notifications; the general or renewal pre-submission advice will be provided by EFSA in collaboration with the Member State.
- Business Operators and/or their Consultants will have the possibility to access reports in Connect.EFSA: they will be able to see an aggregated view of their records (such as studies, pre-application IDs, etc.), and they will have the possibility to filter these records. Furthermore, it will be possible to export these reports in Excel or CSV formats.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- A new template is now available in ESFC for Extraction solvents-applications (application type=extraction solvents).

Public consultations feedback in Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Public users of Connect.EFSA without a registered account providing comments to public consultations will have the possibility to register their affiliation category in the relevant field of the feedback form, making information about their affiliation visible in the comments published on OpenEFSA.



OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Questions that are considered as non-valid following the completeness check will remain visible in OpenEFSA with their status displayed.
- Substances related to a question will be visible in OpenEFSA only upon verification of the information included in the application.

Previous IT enhancements on October 12 2022:

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- ESFC applicants can now submit an application for a “Traditional Food from Third Countries”, in the context of Article 16 of Reg (EU) 2015/2283, following the non-authorisation by the Commission of a “Traditional Food from Third Countries” notification, by using the new feature for starting an application through the notification dossier.
- ESFC applicants are now able to read longer texts in the Legal assessment, Consultation Request and Clarification Request fields are now increased up to 20,000 characters.
- ESCF applicants are now able to indicate whether the new dossier corresponds to the resubmission of a dossier previously declared non-valid due to non-compliance with Article 32b, Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, on the Notification of studies obligations. Applicants can link the new dossier with the previous non-valid dossier, providing the corresponding identifiers of the non-valid dossier.

Studies notification and intended studies handling through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- The Study title field length has been extended from 80 characters to 300 characters to provide users with the possibility to insert longer study titles.



- It is now possible for both parties involved in the study notification, the Notifier and Co-Notifier, to authorise the same third-party entity working on their behalf to notify and co-notify a study.
- Study Type and Study Guideline picklists have been improved to allow users to search more easily among values and select the most relevant, when, for instance, creating or editing a draft study notification record.

Ask a Question through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of Ask a Question

New functionalities:

- Users can now attach files to their submitted request. All information regarding the same request will be stored in the files-section.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- A new dedicated message field is now available on the question's page, to inform users about possible deviations to the process as regards the progress of mandates and dossiers.

Previous IT enhancements on July 27 2022:

Account Registration and Management through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - External users registering on behalf of their organisation or users registered by EFSA

New functionalities:

- External users registering on behalf of their organisation will now be provided with additional assistance while specifying their own organisations in the registration form in Connect.EFSA. The system will suggest a pre-verified list of results, adapting dynamically according to the text inserted, and will allow the user to select one of the accounts in the list and auto-complete the fields "Organisation Name", "Organisation English Name", and other fields that refer to the account (i.e. "Country", "Small/Medium Enterprise"), without allowing the user to change this information. The user will be able to insert a name different from the organisations' names that the system proposes. In this case, he/she will have to fill in all fields.

Pre-Application ID and intended study handling through Connect.EFSA



- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- A single access point for potential applicants working on their Pre-Application IDs has been created, overcoming the separation between Pre-Application IDs for new applications and for renewal applications. When potential applicants create a new Pre-Application ID and select a food domain or an application type related to a renewal, they will be able to submit a List of Intended Studies supporting such a renewal.
- The List of Intended Studies has been moved to a dedicated page with a new layout and can be considered separate from the Pre-Application IDs supporting a renewal application. From this dedicated page, potential applicants can create intended studies by entering the necessary information, as foreseen by the EFSA Practical Arrangements. Information on the status of the List and the related renewal pre-submission advice has also been moved to the List of Intended Studies page.
- Business operators can now add a study to Pre-Application IDs using the relevant *add studies* button if such a study has already been notified/co-notified and it is not withdrawn.
- More flexibility in managing studies supporting a future application for renewal has been introduced. Potential applicants will be able to submit a List of Intended Studies to obtain a renewal pre-submission advice and create and notify other studies supporting such renewal from the same Pre-Application IDs. In addition, it will be possible to notify an intended study if the status of the List of Intended Studies is in "draft", "clarification needed" or "closed" status.
- The field length for "Study Internal Reference ID" has been increased to 250 characters.

e-submission of applications through ESFC

- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- Applicants now have the possibility to indicate whether the study has been notified with delay and together with inserting a justification for the delayed notification (i.e. after the starting date), as required by the Practical Arrangements. This change is also reflected in OpenEFSA where the justification will be displayed along with the corresponding metadata of the document.
- Applicants will now receive more information on the confidentiality decision taken, and in particular: the name of the Authorising Officer who has signed the Decision, the date on which the Decision has been signed and the content of the decision letter (including recitals, Legal Remedies, etc.).
- The existing mechanism for calculating the validation deadline in EFSA's Risk Assessment tool has been adjusted considering the EFSA working calendar and the different stages/actions of the application lifecycle. Specifically, the applicant will be able to see in ESFC the new deadline to respond to the Request For Information or RFI (RFI deadline), and the



provisional Suitability/Validation deadline, which will be recalculated upon receipt of the RFI response and/or requests for deadline extensions.

- Regarding the redaction of personal data, if after 2 RFIs by EFSA the Applicant has not provided the requested changes in their ESFC dossier, EFSA will carry out the redaction. After the redaction of a document, the Applicant will receive the sanitised document. The Applicant can visualise the sanitised document under the tab "Confidentiality Assessment" on the left side of the page under the column "Sanitised" by clicking on the link.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Improved search and filtering features, including:
 - enhanced search auto-suggestions;
 - improved global search result page;
 - extended filters on Questions list, including new filters by authorisation type or status;
 - enhanced search for public consultations.
- Rationalised evidence section for non-pesticides applications: submitted studies and related info are now visible only in the dossier viewer.

Previous IT enhancements on May 04 2022:

Notification of Studies Database through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Business Operators and/or their Consultants

New functionalities applicable to the Notification of Study process will allow:

- The Business Operator or their Consultant creating a 'New Study' linked to a Pre-Application ID or Pre-Application ID for renewal to change the owner of the notification by selecting a Business Operator different from the one set at the level of the Pre-Application ID or Pre-Application ID for renewal.
- An additional control was implemented in the co-notification process. For example, a given organisation cannot, at the same time, take on the role of business operator notifying the study and that of the representative of the external laboratory that is supposed to co-notify the same study.
- More space will be made available in the relevant form for the justification for delayed/withdrawn notifications. It will also be possible to edit this information after notification. In addition, it will be possible to insert a justification for a delay in the notification of a study carried out by an internal testing facility of a business operator.

e-submission of applications through ESFC



- Relevance for:
 - Applicants and/or their Consultants

New functionalities:

- The request for information generated by EFSA during the suitability check related to Novel foods, Food additives, Food enzymes and Food Flavourings will be sent to the European Commission, which in turn, will share it with the Applicant as necessary (instead of EFSA sending it directly to the Applicant as before), as defined in the relevant sectoral regulations.
- After the validation of the application, the Applicant or their Consultant will be allowed to add and delete documents and confidentiality treatment requests only for replying to additional data requests from EFSA and only for the sections 'unlocked' for this purpose, even if the confidentiality assessment process is still on-going.
- The Applicant will be able to submit and receive alerts from EFSA for notifications under Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionalities:

- Improvements regarding the "last updated date"-field pertaining to Questions, to reflect all relevant content updates of Questions.

Previous IT enhancements on April 05 2022:

Public consultations on OpenEFSA

- Relevance for:
 - All users of OpenEFSA

New functionality:

- Ability to download the full list of comments received during a public consultation in a single PDF file.
- Users will now be able to download the list of Questions that appear in a search result in a CSV file format.

Previous IT enhancements on February 02 2022:

Notification of Studies Database through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:



- Business Operators and/or their Consultants
- Laboratories

New functionalities applicable to Pre-Application ID and Pre-Application ID for Renewal will allow the users to:

- Delete "Pre-Submission Advice" if not yet submitted to EFSA
- Delete "Notification of Study"/"Intended Study" if not yet notified/submitted to EFSA, and not associated to another pre-application ID
- Delete a "Component" created by the user using the option "Create New Component". The "Component" is not part of the EFSA *Param Catalogue*, and it is not used in other notifications.
- Delete/Remove Relationship "Shared with/On behalf of" from the "Shared with" box
- Remove an existing "Notification of Study"/"Intended Study" added to a pre-application ID
- Remove a "Component" added from the EFSA *Param Catalogue* to the pre-application ID
- Delete "Pre-Application ID for New Application/Renewal" if no notification of study or no pre-submission advice request has been already created

New functionalities applicable to a Notification of Study/List of Intended Studies for Renewal linked to a Pre-Application ID/Pre-Application ID for Renewal will allow users to:

- Delete a "Component" created by the user while creating a notification, using the option "Create New Component". The "Component" is not part of the EFSA *Param Catalogue*, and it is not used in other notifications.
- Delete/Remove Relationship "Shared with/On behalf of" from the "Shared with" box
- Remove a "Component" added from the EFSA *Param Catalogue* to the Notification of Study

Organisations and contacts registration through Connect.EFSA

- Relevance for:
 - Any external party registered on Connect.EFSA.

New functionalities applicable to competent organisations and contacts registration:

- New field that will further characterise the contacts linked to a competent organisation will be added. This additional attribute will facilitate the identification of the contacts meant to contribute to the General Pre-submission Advice and/or Renewal Pre-submission Advice. The new attribute will be managed by the EFSA staff and will be visible to external stakeholders.
- Splitting the United Kingdom into Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Country list: The United Kingdom will be replaced by United Kingdom (Great Britain) and United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) in Country drop-down list. The new values will be available in the Account registration form, Notification of Studies Database Pre-Submission Advice, Public Consultation and AskAQuestion.



** N.B. Please note that the release date may be subject to change. External parties are invited to regularly check this overview for updates.*

Ask a Question Service

You have a question about EFSA's work?
Contact our Ask a Question service!