

Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2024

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA),

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Abstract

This document contains a short description of the activities of the EFSA European Networks of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission during the year 2024. It includes information on main deliverables, outcomes of each Network and the relevant budget.

Acknowledgements: EFSA wishes to thank the experts who participated in the EFSA Networks meetings in 2024 for their valuable contributions to enhancing dialogue, improving communication and strengthening cooperation and knowledge exchange.



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INTRODUCTION

According to its founding regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) shall establish a system of Networks of organisations operating in the fields within EFSA's mission, the objective being to facilitate a scientific cooperation framework by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices. The European Network meetings are meetings organised by EFSA scientific units with Member State representatives, nominated by their country, in compliance with the [MB Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission](#).

Since June 2022, the coordination and organisation of meetings of the Networks have been assigned to the Risk Assessment Logistics (RAL) Unit. RAL is working closely with the Engagement & External Relations (ENREL) Unit, in charge to collect nomination and monitor Terms of References, and with the scientific units responsible for the single Networks. In 2024, EFSA coordinated 15 Networks and 11 subgroups, created 1 new Network and 1 new subgroup, organised 39 meetings with a total of 2,182 attendees.

This report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2024 is the fourth edition¹ and contains the main deliverables, outcomes and respective budgets for each EFSA Network.

Information on AI Usage:

This report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2024 was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence. The model OpenAI's ChatGPT based on the GPT-4-turbo architecture, was used to summarise the published minutes of the Network meetings. The generated text was subsequently reviewed by the respective network coordinators for accuracy and completeness and edited where appropriate. The process was overseen by EFSA's RAL Unit and the final report was approved by the Head of EFSA's Risk Assessment Services (ENABLE) Department.

¹ Previous reports of activities of EFSA Network are available on the [EFSA website](#) under the section "Documents", the 2021 EFSA Network Report is available at the [this link](#).



ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network and its subgroups are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024, the following meetings took place:

- 23rd Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (Animal Welfare topic) meeting (Online meeting)
- 24th Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (Animal Health topic) meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 87

Initial budget for 2024: € 8,764

Final cost of activities: € 4,354

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024, the main deliverables and outputs of the Animal Health and Welfare Network were:

- **23rd meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (Animal Welfare topic)**

The meeting focused on key developments in animal welfare risk assessment. EFSA introduced a new engagement strategy with stakeholders for animal welfare mandates, the new calls for evidence on the welfare of animals kept for fur production and on positive animal welfare, and its SharePoint and Teams groups for collaboration. EFSA also reported on their 2023-2024 ongoing mandates, including turkey and beef cattle welfare, with surveys on mutilation practices informing risk assessments. Updates were provided on the EU animal welfare legislation revisions under the Farm-to-Fork strategy, covering transport regulations, fur animal protection, and potential welfare labelling. The Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Academy announced multilingual training for officials and stakeholders.

During the exchange of information session, Network representatives shared updates and discussed various animal welfare topics, such as: pig tail docking, pig farming legislation, urban animal welfare, ethical dilemmas in human-animal interactions, tethering of bovines, the use of risk assessment for beak trimming of laying hens, enrichment materials for poultry.

Overall, the meeting emphasised cross-border collaboration, enhanced data collection, and the future role of risk-based assessments in animal welfare policymaking.



- **24th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (Animal Health topic)**

The meeting focused on key developments in the area of animal health risk assessment and provided an opportunity for exchange on the overall disease situation in Europe. EFSA provided updates on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) grants and procurements, including expanded active surveillance in wild birds and Bird Flu Radar improvements. The success of the SIGMA project, standardising avian influenza and African swine fever (ASF) data collection, was presented, with 28 countries submitting laboratory data. Research activities about and monitoring of HPAI in mammals were exchanged between participants, with many detections in wildlife and some Member States testing ruminants following US outbreaks. France's HPAI vaccination campaign in poultry received a lot of attention, so a summary of the first year of activities was delivered, successfully covering 55 million ducks. As regards other diseases, ASF surveillance emphasised regional strain variations, particularly in Croatia and Romania. Emerging threats, including *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) in Romania and bluetongue (BTV-3) in Germany and the Netherlands, led to new surveillance and vaccination efforts. EFSA strengthened vector-borne disease monitoring through the re-launch of Vectornet and announced plans for a public zoonotic pathogen dashboard. Preparedness initiatives included the upcoming Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) on avian influenza and advancements of the Living One Health Risk Assessment (LORA) tool.

[23rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[23rd Meeting Minutes](#)

[24th Meeting Agenda](#)

[24th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

For the Animal Welfare (AW) topic, the main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the European Union (EU) Member States.

For the Animal Health (AH) side, the main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States. The exchange of specific disease information between countries was greatly appreciated, fostering discussions on their best prevention and control, including lessons learned. EFSA was moreover able to advertise important milestones of its ongoing grants and procurements in the area of animal health, supporting the creation of capacities and partnerships in and with Member States. The annual meeting also helped identify new opportunities for collaboration (e.g. Vectornet, European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare).



ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 14th Network on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals meeting (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 7

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 2,240

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* subgroup were:

- **14th meeting of the Network on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals**

The meeting focused on key developments in parasite surveillance and risk assessment. Discussions covered the annual report for 2024, including updates on *Echinococcus multilocularis* and *Echinococcus granulosus s.l.* in Europe. Experts highlighted a potential shift in understanding parasite transmission, suggesting a greater role of environmental contamination. Studies on soil, vegetable, and berry contamination were discussed for their implications on parasite circulation, though not directly on human risk. Member States shared diagnostic methodologies, with Finland and Norway aligning closely, while Ireland considered adapting its testing protocol. The network agreed to collaborate on a scientific paper to refine the sensitivity of diagnostic tests, with the European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs) coordinating efforts. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of the annual report and the planning of next steps for data publication and methodological standardisation.

[14th Meeting Agenda](#)

[14th Meeting Minutes](#)

[Annual assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2024 in the context of commission delegated regulation \(EU\) 2018/772](#) (Scientific Report)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States.



NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS ESTABLISHED UNDER ART 20 COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 1099/2009 SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 9th National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 meeting (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 22

Initial budget for 2024: € 15,580

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the National Contact Points Established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 subgroup were:

- **9th meeting of National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009**

The meeting focused on key developments in animal welfare risk assessment, legislation and surveillance, with focus on the protection of the animals at the time of killing. In the session held jointly with the AHAW (AW topic) Network, EFSA presented a new engagement strategy with stakeholders, updates on the SharePoint Teams collaboration platform, and ongoing European Union (EU) legislative revisions under the Farm-to-Fork strategy, covering animal transport, pet protection, and fur farming regulations. The Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Academy introduced multilingual training materials for officials. EFSA outlined 2023-2024 mandates on the welfare of turkeys and beef cattle, including surveys on mutilation practices and risk assessments. Discussions covered pig tail docking enforcement, urban animal welfare, and ethical concerns in animal production. In the following session, with the focus on the protection of the animals at the time of killing, the European Commission (EC) presented the ongoing work and reflections on the revision of the EU legislation, EFSA presented the ongoing projects under the framework of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009, and Network members exchanged information on slaughter practices, including stunning methods, on-farm slaughter, and welfare monitoring for poultry, fish, and ritual slaughter. The meeting concluded with exchanges on policy challenges, data standardisation, and next steps for upcoming EFSA assessments.

[9th Meeting Agenda](#)

[9th Meeting Minutes](#)

Two Technical reports on the practice of mutilations in beef cattle and turkeys on farm were produced by EFSA from the outcomes of the discussion among AHAW (AW topic) and scientific



NCPs Network representatives that was carried out during the joint session of their annual meetings:

- [The practice of mutilations in beef cattle: exercise of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare](#)
- [The practice of mutilations in turkeys \(*Meleagris gallopavo gallopavo*\): exercise of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Countries. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between these actors. The exchange of information on stunning and killing methods for diverse animal species was highly appreciated and a flow of information on on-farm slaughter was specifically created. The discussion on mutilation practices on beef cattle and turkeys, was particularly relevant to gather insights and practical information to take into account for the development of the scientific opinion on the welfare of beef cattle and turkeys on farm, respectively, which are expected to be delivered by the EFSA AHAW Panel in 2025.

ONE HEALTH SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 4th One Health surveillance subgroup of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare meeting (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 204

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 7,200

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the One Health Subgroup were:

- **4th meeting of the One Health surveillance subgroup of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare**

The meeting focused on reviewing progress of the subgroup's work, sharing country experiences, and discussing potential improvements for the One Health surveillance activities. Key EFSA deliverables included the successful implementation of the laboratory data reporting tool and the visualisation of laboratory data analyses in dashboards, as well as the vector presence data



submission tool. Countries shared their experiences in surveillance for zoonotic diseases, including West Nile virus, Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV), Q fever, and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), highlighting challenges in sample collection, data integration, and cross-sector collaboration. The meeting also covered feedback from EFSA on data reporting, updates on the Living One Health Risk Assessment (LORA) tool, and discussions on the review of surveillance priorities and methods in mid-2025. The European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) emphasised the importance of integrating human, animal, and environmental health surveillance data to enhance preparedness for emerging disease threats. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen collaboration, improve data-sharing mechanisms, and sustain surveillance efforts beyond the current funding period.

[4th Meeting Agenda](#)

[4th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set for 2024 were met. The annual meeting contributed to improving the dialogue and exchanging of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States, the European Commission and ECDC. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 1st Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever (ASF) meeting (Online Meeting)
- 2nd Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever (ASF) meeting (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 58

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the African Swine Fever Subgroup were:

- **1st Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever (ASF)**



The primary focus of the meeting was to establish the network's objectives, roles, and working plan for ASF annual epidemiological report. Key deliverables included the presentation of the ASF annual epidemiological report work plan, outlining the network's role in data collection and validation. Discussions centred on the draft ASF report for 2023, where Member States provided feedback on surveillance strategies, outbreak locations, impact of the disease in their countries and biosecurity measures. The meeting also addressed challenges in data reporting, particularly in active vs. passive surveillance classification and the management of wild boar populations. Countries agreed on a standardised method for estimating pig losses due to ASF using Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) data. The meeting concluded with a commitment to refining surveillance methodologies, enhancing data integration, and ensuring robust ASF monitoring across affected regions.

- **2nd Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever (ASF)**

The meeting focused on presenting the ASF factor analysis report, and reviewing the ASF epidemiological reports, discussing ASF surveillance strategies, and updating data collection procedures. Key deliverables included the presentation of the first Risk Factor Analysis Report, which examined risk and protective factors for ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar based on systematic literature reviews, statistical modelling, and case-control studies. Discussions addressed wild boar density mapping challenges and the role of biological and mechanical vectors in ASF transmission. The ASF epidemiological report process and data submission timelines were outlined, with updates to harmonise pig population data with Avian Influenza reporting standards. A roundtable discussion on ASF surveillance strategies in affected countries highlighted differences in wild boar hunting surveillance methods and recent changes in national surveillance approaches. The meeting concluded with plans for continued data refinement, improvements in wild boar surveillance methodologies, and further collaboration on ASF risk mitigation strategies.

[1st Meeting Agenda](#)

[1st Meeting Minutes](#)

[2nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[2nd Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information as Members were asked to provide feedback on the correctness of the data in the scientific outputs and on the content of the report in relation with their country. The additional meeting served to share information on ASF activities by EFSA, strengthen the collaboration and discuss issues related with the data collection process.

AVIAN INFLUENZA SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET



During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 1st Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting Avian Influenza (AI) meeting (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 57

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 7,043

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Subgroup on the animal health data reporting Avian Influenza (AI) were:

- **1st Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting Avian Influenza (AI)**

The meeting focused on the AI data collection process, reporting methodologies, and the development of a new Avian Influenza epidemiological report. Key deliverables included a review of the 2023 data collection, highlighting improvements and challenges in reporting, as well as the presentation of the AI data collection framework for 2024, which introduced updates to align with new legislations and feedback from data providers. Discussions centred on laboratory data reporting methodologies, surveillance strategies, and data validation processes, emphasizing the need for harmonisation and enhanced data integration. The subgroup also reviewed the structure of the new AI epidemiological report, with a focus on data analysis, visualisation, and voluntary population data reporting. The meeting concluded with commitments to streamline AI data submission, improve transparency in AI risk assessment, and enhance collaboration between national authorities and EFSA to ensure more effective Avian Influenza monitoring and control. EFSA took this opportunity to deliver, immediately after the meeting, additional training to Member States and pre-accession countries for the submission of data on avian influenza and related target populations.

[1st Meeting Agenda](#)

[1st Meeting Minutes](#)

[Avian influenza annual report 2023](#) (Scientific Report)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA, Member States and pre-accession countries.



MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified with the following aspects: enhanced coordination by explicitly including the Advisory Forum and the Focal Points members and requiring Member State representatives to liaise nationally before and after meetings as per Article 10 of the EFSA Management Board Decision.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 24th EFSA Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment meeting (Online Meeting)
- 25th EFSA Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 89

Initial budget for 2024: € 8,764

Final cost of activities: € 4,829

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Microbiological Risk Assessment network were the following:

- **24th MRA Network meeting**

The meeting focused on sharing activities in microbiological risk assessment. These included activities such as the risk profile of *Toxocara spp.* in wild boar meat and the prioritisation of bacterial species/antibiotic resistance phenotype combinations for monitoring. New surveillance and risk assessment tools were introduced, including a model for risk-based sampling of imported foods at European Union (EU) borders and a field study on verification sampling within the Dutch *Salmonella* National Control Plan. Outbreak assessments covered two *Salmonella* outbreaks in the Dutch egg chain and request for information on microbiological risks in bottled water for infant formula and plant-based milk alternatives. Cross-country collaboration was strengthened through initiatives like One Health monitoring of *botulinum* neurotoxin BoNT-producing bacteria and research on plant-based dairy and meat substitutes. Updates were provided on EFSA's Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) Panel activities, including antimicrobial resistance in food-producing animals, microbiological risks in seafood and fresh produce, and parasites in fishery products.

- **25th MRA Network meeting**

The meeting covered updates on microbiological risk assessment, including *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods and the microbiological safety of red meat and game



supply chains. Discussions on surveillance and methodologies focused on the Pathogens in Foods (PIF) database, national *Salmonella* control programs, and microbiological contamination in broiler processing. Outbreak investigations featured case studies on recent foodborne outbreaks, emphasizing the role of whole-genome sequencing and data-sharing platforms in detection and response. Emerging hazards were discussed, such as hepatitis E virus in pork products and avian influenza virus in raw milk. Collaborative research updates included studies on antimicrobial resistance, the impact of energy costs on food safety, and risk-ranking methodologies. Lastly, EFSA's BIOHAZ Panel provided insights into recent scientific opinions and guidance documents.

[24th Meeting Agenda](#)

[24th Meeting Minutes](#)

[25th Meeting Agenda](#)

[25th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States. In addition, a half-day on-line meeting was held to foster communication and sharing of risk assessment activities throughout the year. Members States exchanges information on recommendations in relation to safety of bottled water that is marketed particularly focussing on the preparation of infant formula.



BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES AND OTHER TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (BSE-TSE) NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

In 2024, the following aspects of the Network Terms of Reference were amended, as follows: Member State representatives must now liaise nationally before and after meetings to ensure comprehensive information sharing. It is clarified that external organisations, including non-European Union (EU) entities, may participate as members or observers, while European Commission (EC) representatives will use a dedicated Teams channel. The ToR emphasises sharing methodologies, improving data availability, and enhancing risk assessment quality, with a new focus on joint projects and harmonising practices to prevent duplication.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 19th EFSA BSE-TSE Network meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 47

Initial budget for 2024: € 8,764

Final cost of activities: € 8,083

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the BSE-TSE Network were the following:

- **19th Meeting of the EFSA BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ BSE-TSE Network**

The meeting covered key deliverables and updates on the changes in TSE portfolio remit within EFSA from the Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) team to the Animal Health team with the same unit BIOHAW. New data on the zoonotic potential of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was presented: a comparative analysis of the epidemiological situation in North America and Europe, highlighting key differences in prevalence and geographic data between the two continents and the scarce data on EU-CWD and new epidemiological analysis of the CWD data in moose, in Norway, Sweden and Finland. A presentation on the overall situation of TSE in Canada (surveillance, control and feed ban) brought an update of a third country. The conclusions of the investigation of latest C-BSE case detected in Scotland in May 2024 were presented by a UK speaker. The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) Collective expert report on the use of ruminant fats, gelatine and collagen in animal feed was presented, explaining the differences with the EFSA opinion on the same subject. Another scientific



presentation showcased the use of animal by-products in a circular bioeconomy. Updates of the work in the area of TSE by different stakeholders were presented: EFSA, the TSE European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the EC. A special presentation was given to clarify the differences in the surveillance provisions in the new WOAH terrestrial manual and the EU legislation. EFSA presented the results of the survey on the TSE EU summary report and preliminary results of the EU TSE summary report for 2023.

[19th Meeting Agenda](#)
[19th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA, EU Member States and pre-accession countries.

- The annual meeting successfully addressed current issues raised by network members in previous meetings, including the alignment between the surveillance provisions of the WOAH terrestrial manual and the EU legislation.
- New cases of Classical BSE are a matter of ongoing concern for network members. The latest case, reported in the UK, was shared with the network even though the UK is no longer a network member.
- The network members look forward with interest to receiving the updates from the EC on future regulatory changes in the area of TSE, as well as the results of the TSE summary report. The network members were given the opportunity to express their opinion on the format and content of the EU summary report produced and published by EFSA, via a survey launched a few weeks before the network meeting. This approach provides another example of collaboration between network members and EFSA.
- An open session at the end of the annual meeting offers an opportunity for network members to provide information, raise new issues and provide suggestions for the next meeting. The input gathered during this session is taken into consideration when preparing the agenda of the next meeting. Furthermore, in advance of the meeting, network members are also invited to propose topics for discussion or presentation, which are then considered during the meeting.
- This year ANSES was given the opportunity to present a scientific report on a topic that overlapped with the risk assessment published by EFSA the previous year leading to different conclusions. By giving sister agencies the possibility to present their outputs, even if they differ from EFSA's, we contributed to stimulate constructive debate while also reinforcing the trust and transparency that are essential to EFSA's mission and values.
- The annual meeting is a unique event focused on TSE, attended by a wide range of officers and scientists from different countries who appreciate EFSA's commitment to bring together key speakers to present the latest scientific evidence in areas relevant to the remit of EFSA and risk assessment, such as the zoonotic potential of TSE via the oral route.



VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of members organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

The Veterinary Entomology Network was established in 2024 with the approval of the respective ToR and no revisions have been necessary to date.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 1st One-Health Vectornet Entomology Network annual meeting (Antwerp, Belgium)

Number of attendees: 79

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Veterinary Entomology network were:

- **1st One-Health Vectornet Entomology Network annual meeting**

The meeting established a unified collaboration between EFSA's Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'s Operational Contact Points (OCPs) for entomology, aiming to enhance vector-borne disease (VBD) surveillance and control. Key outcomes included the integration of validated VectorNet data into the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) to improve accessibility and data-sharing. Discussions focused on emerging VBD threats, particularly Bluetongue virus (BTV) and Oropouche virus, emphasising the role of Culicoides midges and the need for enhanced surveillance. The network also encouraged the development of national VectorNet structures to improve coordination at the country level. A major deliverable was the prioritisation of randomised control trials (RCTs) for vector control, with a budget feasibility study to be performed before full implementation in 2026.

[1st Meeting Agenda](#)

[1st Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to strengthen the dialogue between the public health and veterinary health sector,



focussing on vector borne diseases. The meeting marked a key milestone in establishing the new One-Health Entomological Network under VectorNet 3, successfully bringing together experts from both human and animal health sectors. Participants gained a shared understanding of the framework and priorities of the new EFSA–ECDC Framework Contract, including the structure and objectives of its five work packages. Progress was made in aligning efforts around data sharing, particularly the exchange of validated vector surveillance data with GBIF. The meeting also facilitated in-depth discussions on the epidemiology of Culicoides-borne diseases in the EU and explored strategic directions for vector control, including identifying challenges and setting the groundwork for future studies.



COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 15th Communications Experts Network meeting (Parma, Italy)
- 16th Communications Experts Network meeting (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 80

Initial budget for 2024: € 15,000

Final cost of activities: € 13,986

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Communications Experts Network were the following:

- **15th Communications Experts Network meeting**

The meeting focused on several key communication initiatives. CEN was tasked with coordinating communication on Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), establishing a shared space on the CEN Portal for information exchange. A session on PFAS communication challenges and media coverage was held. A new Data Outreach Project was launched to improve data presentation, visualisation, and storytelling. National fact sheets summarising Wave 1 results from the Fish Consumption Survey were shared, along with preliminary results from a Cell Culture-Derived Meat Flash Poll, set to be published on EFSA's Zenodo platform. Media monitoring highlighted trends in antimicrobial resistance, avian influenza, and PFAS, while emerging social media formats, like YouTube Shorts and WhatsApp Channels, were discussed. Disruptive communication strategies targeting younger audiences were explored, with successful case studies presented. EFSA's communication plan for the next six months was reviewed, including potential Hot Topic Calls. Key country initiatives included Germany's FAQ and animation on hazard vs. risk, Italy's "Rischi Alimentari" web platform, and Germany's 12th German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) Summer Academy on Risk Communication. EFSA's upcoming campaigns were highlighted: Plant Health for Life, Safe to Eat with expanded advertising, and Stop African Swine Fever follow-up activities in five countries.

- **16th Communications Experts Network meeting**

The meeting covered several key updates. A report from the interagency crisis exercise in Dublin (September 2024) will be shared with CEN and Member State Communication Coordinators



(MSCC) members. Denmark presented a decision tree template for identifying communication partners, while Hungary introduced the Institutional Risk Communication Self-evaluation Tool (SET) for assessing and improving communication practices. A call for participation in the Food Safety Risk Communication Toolbox was made, which includes videos and educational materials. EFSA launched an online Learning Catalogue offering training for MSCCs and CEN members. Greece shared the results of a survey on risk communicators' perceptions, which will be made available for reuse by members. Italy presented a "Hazard vs Risk" social media campaign, and Hungary introduced an educational online food safety game for children.

[15th Meeting Agenda](#)

[15th Meeting Minutes](#)

[16th Meeting Agenda](#)

[16th Meeting Minutes](#)

Campaign outcomes:

#Safe2Eat 2024 campaign delivered against its objectives of raising awareness that science - delivered by EU and national bodies - underpins food safety in Europe, as well as triggering critical thinking and engagement among target audiences. Results included:

- 84 media partnerships across 18 (countries participated in total but 9 ran media partnerships) participating countries created;
- 48 social media influencers engaged;
- 729 articles delivered through earned media;
- 66 stakeholders engaged in the campaign – with Latvia and Austria the most successful (10 stakeholders each);
- social media metrics show the campaign generally exceeded targets, achieving 89,265,482 million impressions (76.6% above the target); and more than 552,140 clicks, exceeding the target by 357%.

#PlantHealth4Life 2024 campaign delivered against its objectives of raising awareness about Plant Health and its connection to our everyday life and triggering critical thinking towards protecting plant health in Europe.

- 105 media partnerships across 15 countries (out of 21 participating countries on the campaign) created;
- collaborated with 50 social media influencers, across 16 countries;
- 765 articles delivered through earned media;
- (paid) social media metrics show the campaign generally exceeded targets, achieving more than 171,217,864 million impressions (+30% above the target; and more than 20,418,269 clicks.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were achieved in 2024. The main activity, the annual meetings, helped EFSA and European Union (EU) Member States align on food safety communication priorities. These meetings also improved cooperation, especially in running our two campaigns Safe2Eat and Plant Health for Life, across the EU. In detail the Network:

- effectively implemented the EU framework for coordinated communication to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Transparency Regulation: streamlining the flow of



information, facilitating the exchange of best practice and providing training opportunities to build risk communication capacity;

- ensured coherence, consistency and clarity in the communication of risks in the food chain in 2024 through information sharing and collaboration on key risk assessments;
- established protocols and templates to streamline coordinated communication processes across Member States;
- improved trust and cooperation between EU bodies and national competent authorities through transparent and inclusive dialogue.



PLANT PEST SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 3rd EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting (Parma, Italy)
- 4th EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 55

Initial budget for 2024: € 54,280

Final cost of activities: € 41,460

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Plant Pest Surveillance Network were:

- **3rd EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting**

The meeting focused on delimiting surveys for plant pest outbreaks, with a case study on *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*. Key outcomes included a technical visit to affected tomato production sites, where participants observed inspection, sampling, and eradication strategies. The meeting featured practical exercises on survey design using tools like Risk-based Pest Survey Tool (RiPEST) and Risk-based surveillance system (RIBESS+), helping participants define survey parameters, target population sizes, and data sources. The Horizon Scanning project was discussed, enhancing early warning systems for plant pests through media and literature monitoring. The meeting also highlighted ongoing improvements to the RiPEST tool, addressing data visualisation, sample allocation, and user experience enhancements. A major deliverable was the launch of Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) to quantify key survey parameters for 20 priority pests, supporting more statistically robust pest surveillance.

- **4th EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting**

The meeting focused on improving pest surveillance methodologies, data assessment, and risk-based survey designs. Key outcomes included discussions on survey parameter estimation, with the integration of Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) methodology for 20 priority pests, supporting method sensitivity and prevalence estimates. Practical exercises helped participants assess target population sizes using Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, and conduct relative risk assessments for key pests. A major deliverable was the development of a prevalence survey model for pest eradication monitoring, incorporating statistical methodologies to track eradication progress. The meeting also explored multi-country survey designs based on ecoclimatic regions, with case studies from the Benelux region and Ireland - Northern Ireland.



Subgroup discussions on statistically sound surveys led to commitments from Sweden, Spain, and Kosovo to present case studies at the next meeting. Additionally, the NoBa Land Cover Retriever Project was introduced as a tool for improved risk area mapping.

[3rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[3rd Meeting Minutes](#)

[4th Meeting Agenda](#)

[4th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

In 2024, two Plant Pest Surveillance Network meetings were held, contributing to the realisation of its objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference. The Network's main goal is cooperation between Member States and EFSA in preparing and designing statistically sound and risk-based surveys for quarantine pests.

During the meetings, progress was made in:

- ensuring a common understanding of survey methodologies through expert presentations and discussions on delimiting surveys, tools such as RiPEST, and pest monitoring;
- building the capacity of Member States in pest surveillance through practical exercises, exchange of experiences, and discussions on improving EFSA tools;
- making the network as a contact point between EFSA and national plant protection organisations, which facilitated information exchange and discussions;
- sharing the experiences of Member States in implementing surveys, exemplified by Italian actions against *Ralstonia solanacearum* and discussions on assessing the effectiveness of eradication;
- harmonising plant health surveys through discussions on consistent survey approaches, the possibility of conducting surveys in ecoclimatic regions, and work on estimating survey parameters.

In summary, the 2024 meetings strengthened cooperation and knowledge exchange within the Network, contributing to better preparedness of Member States for early detection of pest outbreaks and more harmonised plant pest surveillance in the European Union.



PLANT HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified, focusing on the following aspects: strengthening cooperation between the Network Member States and EFSA, by promoting harmonisation of risk assessment (RA) and data collection methodologies and practices in plant health as well as identifying and sharing plant health RA priorities and emerging issues.

The main objectives of the new ToR can be summarised as following: harmonisation of procedure and methodology in plant health, promoting exchange of data, experiences and practices, achieving synergies among Member State (MS) organisations and EFSA, not only in the domain of Plant Health risk assessment, but also including relevant aspects of climate change and sustainability. For the achievement of these objectives the participation of other European Union (EU) agencies and international organisations (i.e. European Union Reference Laboratories, international plant health organisations, such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)), can be envisaged.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 21st EFSA Scientific Network for Plant Health Risk Assessment meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 82

Initial budget for 2024: € 6,336

Final cost of activities: € 6,449

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Plant Health Risk Assessment network were:

- **21st EFSA Scientific Network for Plant Health Risk Assessment meeting**

The meeting focused on forestry and agricultural plant health, commodity risk assessment, and emergency pesticide authorisations. Updates were provided on forest pests categorisation, climate change impacts on boreal forests, and risk assessments for invasive species. The meeting featured practical exercises on commodity risk assessment methodologies, refining approaches to handling missing or conflicting data, uncertainty, and illustrating trade



implications. Discussions on emergency pesticide authorisations led to recommendations for improving fast-track approvals and risk-based pest monitoring. A major deliverable was the launch of consultations on the updated Terms of Reference for the Network and agreeing on an online survey on national plant health activities.

[21st Meeting Agenda](#)

[21st Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. In 2024, one Plant Health Risk Assessment Network meeting was held, contributing to the realisation of its objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference. The Network's main goal is to enhance cooperation between MSs and EFSA, by promoting harmonisation of RA and data collection methodologies and practices in plant health, identifying and sharing plant health RA priorities and emerging issues, including relevant aspects of climate change and sustainability.

During the meeting, progress was made in:

- sharing information on relevant pest databases, with specific focus on the global database of non-EU *Scolytinae* realised by University of Padova within a project granted by EFSA;
- informing on the results of EFSA-funded research projects to investigate the European host range of the American elm tree borer *Saperda tridentata* and to research on Citrus Black Spot epidemiology and control in its first Mediterranean outbreak in Tunisia;
- building capacities through the exchange of information and experience in forest plant health risk assessment by member countries;
- providing training on the interpretation of EFSA commodity risk assessment, with specific focus on the following aspects:
 - interpretation of pests list
 - interpretation of the uncertainty distribution of a pest
 - how to handle missing information
 - how to handle conflicting information.
- providing updates on the Emergency Authorisation process and collect feedback from MS on the use of emergency authorisations in the context of plant quarantine.

In summary, the 2024 meeting facilitated mutual understanding and strengthened cooperation and knowledge sharing within the Network. A survey to be circulated in early 2025 was discussed with the aim of identifying further opportunities for collaboration, improving interaction between EFSA and member countries and promoting harmonisation in Plant Health Risk Assessment.



FOOD CONTACT MATERIAL NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 11th FCM Network meeting (Hybrid Parma, Italy / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 102

Initial budget for 2024: € 21,184

Final cost of activities: € 17,408

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Food Contact Material network were:

- **11th FCM Network meeting**

The meeting covered the safety assessment of a range of Food Contact Material and Article types such as plastics, rubbers, paper and boards, biobased materials, recycling. Discussions included new trends in sustainable packaging, safety of polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) bioplastics, risks associated with recycled paper and cardboard, residues of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in FCMs from Norway and Greece, and harmonisation of the assessment of rubbers between France and Germany. Challenges for the safety assessment of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS) were discussed through the approaches from EFSA and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). Updates were given by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on Drinking Water materials and articles. Updates were provided by EFSA on the reassessment of styrene, the new Guidance on poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) recycling, the update on nanomaterials, the ongoing work on the Margin of Exposure, and on the One Substance One Assessment (1S1A). The European Commission shared progress on the revision of the FCM framework legislation and on Joint Research Centre activities, while EFSA introduced plans for migrating FCM application submissions to the International Uniform Chemical Information Database (IUCLID) for improved data management. Twenty-two presentations were made and non-confidential ones were published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and visibility to external stakeholders, being a major deliverable together with the nomination of Member States to lead the identified areas for future collaboration.

[11th Meeting Agenda](#)

[11th Meeting Minutes](#)



OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the Terms of Reference (ToR) were achieved in 2024; they include information sharing, cooperation on key risk assessments, capacity building, harmonisation. The main activity, the annual meeting plenary meeting was held in October. There was a very good participation (number of participants, representativity of Member States and other European Union and international Institutions) and there were constructive discussions. The meeting provided an extensive visibility and involvement allowing notably to share the same level of information and discussion at the same time amongst all participants. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects. MSs provided positive feedback on the meeting, in particular the duration, topics discussed and interactions which ended up to the nomination of Member States to lead areas for future collaboration. In addition, cooperation was extended by sharing and discussing ongoing assessment of high and common interest, therefore promoting early consultation (not replacing 'late' public consultation) and involvement of MSs, EU and USA sister Agencies.



CHEMICAL MONITORING DATA COLLECTION NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also published on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 7th EFSA Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data collection meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 184

Initial budget for 2024: € 20,735

Final cost of activities: € 12,761

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Chemical Monitoring Data Collection network were:

- **7th EFSA Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data collection**

The meeting focused on improving data collection methodologies, harmonising chemical monitoring reporting and addressing emerging challenges in food safety. Key outcomes included updates on veterinary medicinal product residue (VMPPR) data collection, with new tools introduced to streamline reporting and reduce errors. Discussions on pesticide residue data collection led to refine cumulative risk assessment methodologies, contaminant data reporting and harmonising data submission guidelines. EFSA also presented enhancements to its data-sharing framework, including plans for integrating chemical monitoring data into the EFSA Rebuild Data Framework project to modernise data management. A major deliverable was the launch of consultations on 2025 reporting guidance and business rule revisions, ensuring greater consistency across Member States. Focus for future meetings will be standardisation, digital transformation, and collaboration on chemical risk assessment.

[7th Meeting Agenda](#)

[7th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The annual meeting contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants and, between EFSA and Member



States. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the European Union (EU) Member States.

Harmonised data collection on chemicals was strengthened. This was achieved by agreeing on the timelines to report all four chemical domains: pesticide residues, veterinary residues, contaminant but also food additives and food flavouring by which two pilot processes were established and by which data will be collected from EU Member States. This new flow of data will also contribute to the Annual Reporting on Official Controls (AROC) mandate, i.e. data sent to SANTE – Unit F6. Discussion and agreement on establishing or not of proposed business rules such as reporting the region of origin also took place. It was agreed that those fall into a level of confidentiality which MSs were not able to disclose yet.

Further, increase of data quality on chemical occurrence was achieved by raising awareness of the way *copper* analyses have been done in the EU Member States so far and caution on the new way it should be done based on the legislative frame. Moreover, awareness on the relevance of reporting data if available, on the analysis of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in food.

Exchange on activities related to data publication were also held, specifically on future publication of food flavouring and food additives data was pre-agreed waiting the final confirmation next year, when the data is delivered. New agreement on subset of data to be published used for the preparation of the annual report on pesticide residues. This was previously with SANTE E4 and confirm by EU MSs on the advantage to publish this along the report.



FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified with the following aspects: strengthening harmonisation, data integration, and collaboration. Formalisation of ad-hoc subgroups for reviewing guidance, enhances digital collaboration via Microsoft Teams, and increases meeting frequency to at least once per year. The revised ToR reinforces the network's role in coordinating high-quality food consumption data collection, advising on integrating food composition data for dietary assessments, and supporting the development of the next EU Menu Guidance.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 16th Food Consumption Data Network meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 114

Initial budget for 2024: € 4,224

Final cost of activities: € 5,238

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Food Consumption Data network were:

- **Task Force on the EU Menu Guidance improvement**

Prior to the 16th Food Consumption Data Network meeting, a task force (TF) was formed from the Network members with the objective to discuss the findings of the ERA EU Menu project, identify areas of improvement for the EU Menu Guidance, as well as to frame the scope of the activities to be done, and the knowledge gaps to be filled in before EFSA proceeds with the launching of EU Menu 2.

Network members were invited to express interest for this Network activity and a TF of 10 Member States (MSs), including EFSA staff from Integrated Data (IDATA), Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) and Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF) Units, was formed. The TF had 4 online meetings between 16/04/2024 and 03/06/2024. Key areas of focus were identified, and findings were then presented at the Network plenary for discussion and endorsement.

- **16th Food Consumption Data Network meeting**



The meeting saw participation from representatives of various MSs, pre-accession countries, EFSA units, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). The meeting activities focused on harmonising food consumption data collection, enhancing dietary risk assessment methodologies, and supporting the European Union (EU) food safety policies. Key outcomes included discussions on updates to the Comprehensive Food Consumption Database, improvements in dietary cumulative risk assessment methodologies, and progress in the EFSA Rebuild Data Framework project to modernise data collection. The network also discussed updates related to the new EFSA mandate on fish consumption and mercury exposure, and explored methods for monitoring sustainable diets, and discussed the use of EFSA databases to estimate intake of preformed vitamin A, emphasising the importance of frequency data for accurate intake estimates. Other key topics included capacity-building initiatives for non-EU countries, environmental footprint assessments of diets, and FAO's global food consumption data dissemination platforms. The results of the ERA EU Menu Project were presented, and a major part of the discussion was focused on refining dietary survey methodologies for the next generation of EU food consumption data. The key areas of focus identified were:

- FoodEx2 classification improvements and coding support;
- development of standardised Food Propensity Questionnaires, and
- guidance and software specifications for self-administered dietary assessment methods.

These proposals have directly informed the Objectives defined for a procurement launched in November 2024 on [EU Menu 2 Preparatory activities](#).

The meeting concluded with a commitment to advancing data harmonisation, supporting digital transformation, and fostering collaboration on dietary assessment methods.

[16th Meeting Agenda](#)

[16th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

Overall, the activities and initiatives carried out by the Food Consumption Data Network in 2024 have contributed to fulfilling the objectives and responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference. The network's efforts have improved dialogue, communication, and collaboration among stakeholders, and supported the collection of high-quality food consumption data and the development of new methodologies.

- Coordinating and facilitating food consumption data collections.
The 16th Food Consumption Data Network meeting focused on discussions on the updates to the Comprehensive Food Consumption Database, improvements in dietary cumulative risk assessment methodologies, and progress in the EFSA Rebuild Data Framework project, as well as discussions on novel data collection methodologies. It also reiterated the importance of the FPQ data collections. These activities support the collection of high-quality, up-to-date, and detailed national food consumption data, as well as reinforcing the reporting and data submission formats proposed by EFSA.
- Providing a forum for exchange of views.
The Task Force and Network meetings provided a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption data. The



Network meeting saw participation from representatives of various countries, EFSA units, the European Commission, FAO, WHO, and other observers. These activities facilitated discussions on scientific matters within the EU and Internationally.

- Reviewing methods and proposing improvements for the EU Menu Guidance.
The Task Force activities reviewed methods and proposed improvements on issues related to food consumption data collection, like FoodEx2 classification and novel dietary assessment methodologies. The task force's findings were presented at the Network plenary for discussion and endorsement, ensuring a collaborative approach to refining dietary survey methodologies. This initiative ensured that the network's activities were aligned with EFSA's standards of scientific excellence, transparency, and responsiveness, and informed the tender specifications defined for an EFSA procurement project.



ZOONOSES MONITORING DATA NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network and its subgroups are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 42nd Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 111

Initial budget for 2024: € 14,400

Final cost of activities: € 9,734

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024, the main deliverables and outputs of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network were:

- **42nd Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data meeting**

The meeting focused on improving zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks data monitoring and reporting, zoonoses outbreak assessments and integrating One Health (OH) approaches. Key outcomes included updates on the 2023 EU One Health Zoonoses (EUOHZ) report and on the production of the new dashboards and story maps for zoonotic disease visualisation, and feedback on 2023 data validation. EFSA's proposed improvements for 2024 data reporting, particularly for *Salmonella* monitoring in rearing flocks of *Gallus gallus* and whole genome sequencing (WGS) reporting were addressed. A major highlight was the launch of the EFSA Burden of Zoonoses project, which aims to quantify the health and economic impact of nine foodborne zoonoses in the European Union (EU). Other key discussions included future AMR baseline surveys, AI applications for data analysis, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s request for sharing EFSA's antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring data to their InFARM platform, cross-border OH surveillance for zoonotic threats and the PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) international initiative. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthening data harmonisation and reporting, and enhancing One Health surveillance and reporting efforts.

[42nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[42nd Meeting Minutes](#)

List of deliverables:



- review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks);
 - [Manual for reporting on zoonoses and zoonotic agents, under Directive 2003/99/EC, and on some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the year 2023;](#)
 - [Zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance guidance for reporting 2023 data.](#)
- EFSA Knowledge Junction on Zenodo repositories;
 - Tables, figures, and country data complementing the European Union One Health Zoonoses 2023 Report: <https://zenodo.org/records/13987015>.
- review of [the European Union One Health 2023 Zoonoses report](#);
- review of the communication tools;
 - Zoonoses dashboards:
 - [Trichinella](#)
 - [Echinococcus](#)
 - [West Nile virus](#)
 - [Rabies](#)
 - Zoonoses Story maps:
 - [Trichinella](#)
 - [Echinococcus](#)
 - [Yersinia](#)
 - [Rabies](#)
 - [Toxoplasma gondii](#)
 - [Q fever](#)
 - [Tularaemia](#)
- review of [the Zoonoses National reports](#).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

The network meeting has proven to be extremely useful for both EFSA and countries participating. Many outcomes and deliverables were obtained thanks to close collaboration and fruitful information and data exchange.

The main activities achieved for the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network for 2024 were:

- review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks);
- participation of Member States (MSs) and Reporting Countries (RCs) to training on data collection and data reporting;
- data collection and data validation (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, and genomic data);
- review of the annual One Health Zoonoses draft report, and the annual Summary Report on AMR in humans, food producing animals and food, as well as the TSE EU summary report, and of the communication tools (dashboards and story maps) of these three reports;
- review of the Zoonoses National reports;
- review of the reporting catalogues (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
- participation in ad-hoc info sessions (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR), such as: "Info-session on the baseline survey on methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) in fattening pigs";
- continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR).



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

In 2024, the following meeting took place:

- 14th meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 74

Initial budget for 2024: € 8,764

Final cost of activities: € 5,752

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

In 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) subgroup were:

- **14th Antimicrobial Resistance meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on improving AMR surveillance, data validation, and harmonisation of reporting methodologies. Key outcomes included updates on the 2023 AMR data reporting process, highlighting challenges in data validation and the use of whole genome sequencing (WGS) for AMR gene detection. EFSA presented improvements in 2024 reporting guidelines, including proposed modifications to text forms and reporting timelines. An EFSA survey on AMR gene detection service utilisation, aimed at refining WGS integration into surveillance systems was launched. The meeting addressed the baseline surveys for methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) in fattening pigs (2025) and AMR in aquaculture animals (2027), along with discussions on One Health surveillance integration and antimicrobial resistance trends in *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and indicator commensal *E. coli* in food-producing animals.

[14th Meeting Agenda](#)

[14th Meeting Minutes](#)

List of deliverables:

- review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks):
 - [Manual for reporting 2023 antimicrobial resistance data under Directive 2003/99/EC and Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2020/1729](#);
 - [Zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance guidance for reporting 2023 data](#).
- EFSA Knowledge Junction on Zenodo repositories:
 - Tables, figures, and country data complementing the 2023 EU Summary Report on AMR – Annexes: <https://zenodo.org/records/14645440>.



- review of the draft [European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2022–2023](#);
- review of the communication tools:
 - [Dashboards on antimicrobial resistance](#).
- AMR Story maps:
 - [Monitoring AMR in Salmonella](#);
 - [Monitoring MRSA](#).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were achieved in 2024. During the 2024, two ad-hoc info-sessions were conducted providing information on harmonised sampling design, sample collection and the corresponding data collection and reporting. Both info-sessions served as supporting the preparation of the harmonised implementation of the Baseline survey on MRSA in slaughter pigs by the European Union Member States in 2025. In addition, the 2024 network meeting proved to be useful for both EFSA and attending countries. The main activities achieved by the AMR subgroup of the Zoonoses Network during 2024 were:

- review of the reporting guidance documents (AMR);
- participation of Member States (MSs) and Reporting Countries (RCs) to training on data collection and data reporting;
- data collection and data validation (AMR);
- review of the annual Summary Report on AMR in humans, food producing animals and food, and the corresponding communication tools (dashboards and story maps);
- review of the reporting catalogues (AMR);
- continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR).

FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS (FBO) SUBGROUP

In 2024, the Foodborne Outbreaks (FBO) subgroup was invited to attend a specific session of the 3rd meeting of the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) subgroup, to discuss specifically the topic 'EU protocol for response to cross-border foodborne outbreak'. Information on meeting dates, the number of attendees, budget, agenda, minutes, deliverables and outcomes, are available under the section of the WGS subgroup.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) were successfully achieved in 2024. Although the FBO subgroup did not hold any meetings during the year, the main accomplishments of the FBO group of the Zoonoses Network in 2024 included:

- reviewing the reporting guidance documents related to FBO;
- participation of Member States (MSs) and Reporting Countries (RCs) in training sessions on data collection and reporting;
- conducting data collection and validation activities for FBO;
- reviewing the annual One Health Zoonoses draft report (FBO part);



- reviewing the FBO reporting catalogues;
- continuously sharing and exchanging relevant information and best practices.

TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 4th meeting on Data Reporting on TSE-BSE, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 43

Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) subgroup were:

- review of the reporting manual that resulted into an updated guidance to harmonise the data reporting between reports submitted as XML files directly to the Data Collection Framework (DCF) and the ones reported through the reporting tool (i.e. the herd/flock status was made mandatory to be reported also for countries submitting data directly to the DCF);
- timely data validation, correction and acceptance;
- review of the annual report.
- **4th meeting on Data Reporting on TSE-BSE, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on enhancing data reporting efficiency, improving surveillance methodologies, and refining risk assessment approaches. Key outcomes included the introduction of an automated tool for reporting additional data, streamlining submission processes through EFSA's MicroStrategy platform. TSE surveillance data use in EFSA risk assessment was reviewed, emphasising data quality and compliance monitoring. Preliminary 2023 TSE surveillance results were presented, covering cattle, small ruminants and cervids, highlighting genotyping trends. A major deliverable was the transition of data validation responsibilities from contractors to EFSA, ensuring more direct oversight and communication with reporting countries. Updates on France's TSE-BSE data reporting system and the EFSA Rebuild Data Framework project highlighted improvements in data ingestion and management.

[4th Meeting Agenda](#)

[4th Meeting Minutes](#)



OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States.

The main accomplishments of the TSE group of the Zoonoses Network in 2024 included:

- review of the TSE reporting guidance document;
- participation of Member States (MSs) and Reporting Countries (RCs) in training sessions on TSE data collection and reporting;
- conducting data collection and validation activities related to TSE;
- review of the draft annual TSE report;
- review of the TSE reporting catalogues;
- ongoing sharing and exchange of relevant information and best practices.

WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING (WGS) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 3rd meeting on WGS, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 61

Initial budget for 2024: € 8,764

Final cost of activities: € 7,116

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) subgroup were:

- **3rd meeting on WGS, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on improving genomic surveillance, data sharing, and outbreak assessment methodologies. Key outcomes included updates on enhancements to the EFSA One Health WGS system, including improved data integration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), notification systems, and new functionalities for epidemiological metadata sharing. Discussions covered the new European Union (EU) regulation on mandatory submission of WGS data for key foodborne pathogens, highlighting challenges in laboratory accreditation and implementation timelines. Member States presented national WGS approaches, with case studies from Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands, demonstrating different



strategies for cross-border outbreak detection and data sharing. In order to enhance early warning and coordination in outbreak investigation, the network agreed in using the new tagging system. The meeting concluded with commitments to refine WGS training materials, improve traceability in outbreak assessments by pre-alerting the network on relevant clusters under monitoring using tagging, and enhance coordination between national reference laboratories and data providers.

[3rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[3rd Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It provided clarifications on doubts concerning the WGS data collection process and the use of data from EFSA and ECDC during outbreak assessments. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States, aiming at improving the quality of WGS data collection through the EFSA WGS system.



EMERGING RISKS EXCHANGE NETWORK

The main purpose and objectives of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified with the following aspects: expanding collaboration, digital tools, and One Health integration. Formalisation of emerging risks from circular economy, new food/feed sources, and food frauds, strengthening data-sharing via the Emerging Risks Analysis Platform (ERAP), and increasing meeting frequency with additional workshops. The ToR update also enhances stakeholder engagement through EFSA's national focal points and improves interdisciplinary collaboration with the EFSA Scientific Committee and EU risk managers, ensuring better preparedness for emerging food and feed safety risks.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

In 2024, the network met twice (31st and 32nd meetings) to identify and characterise emerging risks. The first meeting was co-hosted with the State Governmental Laboratory of Cyprus and the second meeting was held at EFSA premises in Parma

During 2024, the meetings took place in the following arrangements:

- 31st Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (Hybrid: Larnaca, Cyprus / Online meeting)
- 32nd Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 86

Initial budget for 2024: € 16,000

Final cost of activities: € 13,033

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024, the main deliverables and outputs of the Emerging Risks Exchange network were:

- **31st Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting**

The meeting focused on identifying and assessing emerging food and feed safety risks, improving data-sharing methodologies, and strengthening collaboration across Member States. Key outcomes included discussions on antifungal resistance in food safety, increasing PFAS contamination in freshwater fish, and new exposure risks to invasive mosquitoes. EFSA presented updates on colistin resistance monitoring, food fraud detection, and foodborne Chagas disease risks. The event was coupled with a dedicated training session on newly launched Emerging Risk Analysis Platform (ERAP), designed to streamline risk detection and reporting. Additionally, the meeting addressed harmonisation of food supplement safety assessments and environmental impacts on food production.



- **32nd Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting**

The meeting focused on emerging food and feed safety risks, enhanced data-sharing, and updates on risk assessment methodologies. Key outcomes included discussions on foodborne infections caused by *Edwardsiella tarda* and *Yersinia* spp., increased signals on PFAS contamination, and risks from biodegradable food contact materials. Updates were provided on improvements in citrinin detection, food fraud monitoring, and the information on re-emergence of zoonotic threats. A major deliverable was the endorsement of the updated Network Terms of Reference, reinforcing collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and digital risk assessment tools. The possible use of the FoodSafeR platform (a project funded under the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme) was also highlighted as a potential new hub for knowledge sharing and exchange of initial info on signals potentially relevant to emerging risk identification.

[31st Meeting Agenda](#)

[31st Meeting Minutes](#)

[32nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[32nd Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

The members of the network actively supported EFSA in its mission and identification of emerging risks. Working collaboratively and collectively to identify, characterise, analyse, classify whether newly identified issues are an emerging risk in the scope of EFSA.

EFSA was alerted to 65 possible issues and, after pre-assessment, 38 were qualified as relevant and followed up with EREN and StaDG-ER to final assessment and classification whether they constitute emerging risks. The assessment criteria are based on the EFSA definition of emerging risks². The information for emerging risks reveals 6 cases of Known hazard with unexpected or increased exposure and 1 case of Known hazard with new susceptible group. The relevant issues indicated 7 emerging risks and flagged 23 issues that need more data to determine their potential emergence. Information on 8 issues has been collected and preserved for future reference, as they do not meet currently the criteria for emerging risks. The discussions at the Network meetings cover a wide range of topics, extending beyond individual-specific issues to include relevant projects, methodological approaches, and thematic areas, as documented in the 2024 web-minutes of the Networks.

The network (together with StaDG-ER) was instrumental for testing and operationalising in practice the emerging risk workflow through newly launched platform. In 2024, EFSA developed, tested, and launched its Emerging Risk Analysis Platform (ERAP). This platform centralises the collection and characterisation of emerging issues and integrates EFSA's workflow for emerging risk analysis and follow-up recommendations. The evaluated information on emerging risks is made available to the European Commission, Member States' Competent Authorities, and stakeholders in its collaborative networks through the briefing notes repository.

The enhanced visibility of network activities and thematic engagement were achieved through the publication of bi-annual newsletters. Each edition provides key updates on emerging risk

² Emerging Risks EFSA <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/emerging-risks>



discussions at EFSA; a specific section is highlighting the emerging issues on which EFSA was unable to conclude and is thus seeking additional information. The newsletter also reports on EFSA emerging risks activities, as well as on ongoing implementation of the broader EFSA horizon scanning process. The newsletter is also used to highlight collaborations with partners, relevant news and publications, as well as upcoming events.



RISK ASSESSMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES IN FOOD AND FEED NETWORK

The main purpose and objectives of this Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed are described in the respective Terms of Reference (ToR), recently updated in July 2024 and effective until 2027. The ToR can be found on the [EFSA website](#) along with a [list of member organisations](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified with the following aspects: while the ToR maintains the core objectives of harmonising methodologies, facilitating information and data exchange, and fostering collaboration with the European Union (EU) and international organisations, a key emphasis is placed on co-creating and engaging with all involved players. In this regard, the Network will be requested to contribute to the development of an updated EFSA's guidance document for risk assessment of nanomaterials and materials containing small/nanoparticles in the food and feed chain.

The dedicated [webpage on Nanotechnology](#) in the EFSA's website is maintained with the most up-to-date information on the relevant activities noted in this report.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meeting took place:

- 14th EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 48

Initial budget for 2024: € 12,026

Final cost of activities: € 8,938

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024, the main achievements and outputs of the Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed network were:

- **14th Nano Network Annual Meeting**

The meeting fostered community engagement, encourage active participation, and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders. During the meeting, exchange took place with the Network on the status and lessons learnt from implementation of the EFSA Guidance on technical requirements for regulated food and feed product applications to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles ([Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements](#)) and of the EFSA Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health ([Guidance on Nano – Risk Assessment](#)) and seek feedback from the Network on input received by stakeholders.



Collaboration and exchange with the Network about ongoing efforts to enhance the existing 2021 Nano Guidance documents were discussed, including:

- inclusions of further provisions and clarifications to the existing guidance documents, such as the recently published [Annex C-D of the Guidance on Particle Technical Requirements](#) intended to provide additional support to applicants and risk assessors in the reporting of Electron Microscopy (EM) analyses and results;
- targeted surveys with EFSA Nano Network (as well as EFSA Panels, Units & Working Groups and external Stakeholders) launched in 2024 to gather feedback on the existing guidance documents. The findings were discussed at the 14th Nano Network meeting and are now being considered for guidance update.

Collaboration and exchange with the Network on the new self-task mandate ([M-2024-00062](#)), engagement plan and related activities aimed at developing an updated EFSA's guidance document for risk assessment of nanomaterials and materials containing small/nanoparticles in the food and feed chain (i.e. [call for views](#), [scoping paper](#) and [dedicated workshop](#) foreseen in 2025). This also includes dialogue on key technical issues (e.g. sample preparation and agglomeration impact) and on recent achievements and ongoing activities intended to foster the implementation of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for nano-specific assessment, such as the recently published review of available NAMs for nano-specific assessment ([Usmani et al., 2024](#)) and the proposed qualification system within the NAMs4NANO project ([Haase et al., 2024](#)).

Exchange with Network members on ongoing or planned activities in the field of nanotechnology, new scientific developments, and emerging issues of concern to exchange information at EU and international level, with the aim to facilitate harmonisation of methodologies and identify areas for future cooperation. This involved contributions from EFSA, EU Member States and Sister Agencies (Joint Research Centre, European Medicines Agency, European Chemicals Agency) as well as pre-accession countries and other international bodies (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, US Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada).

Network members were informed and invited to relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutions.

[14th Meeting Agenda](#)

[14th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

The annual meeting successfully underscored the renewed commitment to collaboration among EFSA, EU Member States and international organisations. The ongoing dialogue and exchange of opportunities among participants continue to shape and inspire future meeting topics and guide the direction of discussions and future developments. The co-creation process will continue, with the goal of creating a community of practice around the safety assessment of nanomaterials in food and feed.



RISK ASSESSMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network and its subgroup are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified to establish the *Subgroup on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)* and its description, including the main objective and members' selection criteria. The subgroup's main objective is to foster knowledge sharing on the development of NGTs, their application to plants, animals and microorganisms and jointly address the risk assessment (RA) and monitoring challenges specifically linked to NGTs applied to plants, animals and microorganisms. The ToR have been also updated to reinforce data-sharing mechanisms and stakeholder engagement, ensuring closer collaboration between EFSA, Member States, and international organisations, and to better address new scientific developments in GMO RA and their implications on RA practices, especially for GMOs generated by new genomic techniques. The working methods have been also updated, introducing an IT platform for document exchange and increased virtual collaboration.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 17th GMO Network meeting (Hybrid: Brussels, Belgium / Online meeting)
- 18th GMO Network meeting (Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 118

Initial budget for 2024: € 10,000

Final cost of activities: € 9,639

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Risk Assessment of genetically Modified Organisms network were:

- **17th GMO Network meeting**

The meeting provided several updates from the ongoing EFSA and Member States activities on GMO RA, with a focus on the work done on NGTs. Key outcomes included discussions on the ongoing EFSA mandates on NGTs applied to animals and microorganisms, and emerging trends in agri-food biotechnology which was presented by The Netherlands. In addition, EFSA presented an update on the mandate on NGTs received from the European Parliament, while the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) provided their overview on NGT risk evaluation. A major deliverable was also the update on the 1st meeting of



the Subgroup on NGTs which took place the day before, aimed at enhancing knowledge-sharing and addressing RA challenges in NGTs area. During the meeting, EFSA shared the reviewed improvements in post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) plans and discussed the application of Soy Leghemoglobin obtained from genetically modified yeast.

- **18th GMO Network meeting**

The meeting was organised to cover half day in remote setting as an opportunity to provide regular updates and exchange information between EFSA and Member States (MSs). The meeting provided several updates from the ongoing EFSA and MSs activities in the area of GMOs and NGTs. Key outcomes included the presentation of the EFSA's horizon scanning initiative which will regularly assess scientific literature on NGTs to keep RA up to date. Additional items included a presentation of the OMICS EFSA roadmap with a focus on GMO area, a presentation on tackling challenges in recycling genetically modified microorganism (GMM) fermentation waste delivered by Finland, and several updates from MS on ongoing activities, with a focus on NGTs.

[17th Meeting Agenda](#)

[17th Meeting Minutes](#)

[18th Meeting Agenda](#)

[18th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The two annual meetings, one in-person organised in Brussels in June 2024 and one on-line that took place in November 2024, brought together experts in the GMO risk assessment to share updates and information on ongoing EFSA and MS activities, to discuss RA aspects specifically linked to organisms obtained by NGTs, and to explore new scientific developments in the RA of genetically modified organisms. These meetings emphasised the importance of staying updated with scientific advancements and their implications for RA practices. Regular information on forthcoming consultations and other scientific cooperation activities was shared, ensuring that participants were informed about ongoing and upcoming collaborative efforts. In addition, a new Subgroup on NGTs was established in 2024 to address the need to share knowledge on NGTs for plants, animals, microorganisms, and address related RA and monitoring challenges collaboratively, which was identified by the Advisory Forum. More information on this subgroup is provided in the section below.

NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES (NGTS) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 1st New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) subgroup meeting (Hybrid: Brussels, Belgium / Online Meeting)

Number of attendees: 36



Initial budget for 2024: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 0

Meeting organised as joint session with the 17th GMO Network meeting: budget information are included under "Meeting and Budget" section of the GMO network.

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) Subgroup were:

- **1st New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) subgroup meeting**

The kick-off meeting provided the opportunity for the newly selected members to meet and introduce each other. The scope of the meeting was also to clarify the goals and main objectives of the subgroup, and to preliminary discuss and identify key challenges in evaluating plants generated by NGTs. Key outcomes included the formal adoption of the ToR, defining the subgroup's role in knowledge sharing, preparedness, and addressing regulatory challenges for plants obtained by NGTs and their risk assessment (RA). EFSA introduced hypothetical case studies which were used for the identification of areas on RA of plants obtained by NGTs that need further discussion. The meeting highlighted the need for further discussion on the risk assessment requirements for plants obtained by NGTs which will also depend on the final adoption of the European Commission proposal for a new regulation of plants obtained by new genomic techniques.

[1st Meeting Agenda](#)

[1st Meeting Minutes](#)

[1st Meeting Presentations](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024. The first meeting of the Subgroup on NGTs, held on May 29, 2024, successfully fostered knowledge sharing on the development and application of NGTs to plants. The meeting brought together experts from various EU organisations, including representatives from national bodies, research institutes, and regulatory agencies, ensuring a diverse range of expertise, to discuss risk assessment methodologies and to preliminarily identify areas needing further development.

Two case studies were presented by EFSA to illustrate different RA challenges for NGT applications. Participants engaged in group discussions to identify RA challenges and areas needing further development. Key points included the importance of describing genetic modification methods, understanding the nature and source of vectors used, and evaluating the potential for off-target effects. The discussions also emphasised the need for robust data on protein expression, allergenicity, and the environmental impact of plants obtained by NGTs. The meeting concluded with a summary of the main points discussed and a commitment to continue addressing RA challenges through collaborative efforts.



PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK

The main purpose and objective of this network are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified with the following aspects: new objectives have been introduced, including the exchange and sharing of information on discrepancies related to the post-approval assessments of data on active substances and on adverse effects of plant protection products, identified through post-marketing vigilance and / or surveillance activities. The 2024 version also clarifies the role of the PSN participants emphasising their responsibility for national-level coordination and liaising with relevant parties to ensure seamless sharing of information before and after each Network meeting. Additionally, the working methods have been modernised by integrating Microsoft Teams and SharePoint alongside EFSA's Document Management System for improved collaboration.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 32nd EFSA Pesticide Steering Network meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)
- PSN Network Technical Meeting (Wageningen, Netherlands)

Number of attendees: 143

Initial budget for 2024: € 13,440

Final cost of activities: € 14,552

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2024 the main deliverables and outputs of the Pesticide Steering network were:

- **32nd EFSA Pesticide Steering Network meeting**

The meeting focused on several key aspects, including discussions on the renewal of the ToR, updates on legal requirements and guidances, practical implementation of new regulations on safeners and synergists, and improvements in peer review processes. EFSA introduced enhancements to the Interactive Pesticide Residue Platform (IPReP) and updates on risk assessment approaches for microbial consortia. A major deliverable was the launch of a lean exercise to improve the peer review process for Maximum Residue Level (MRL) applications, aiming to reduce regulatory delays. The meeting also reviewed advancements in biopesticide risk assessment, peer review quality improvements, and updates on the Partnership for Environmental Risk Assessment (PERA) framework for environmental risk assessment.

- **PSN Network Technical Meeting - Workshop on spray drift models and comparison to measured deposition data for arable crops**



The main outcomes focused on advancing spray drift deposition assessment for regulatory risk assessment of plant protection products in arable crops. Key presentations included insights into the capabilities and applications of existing methodologies and drift models (notably IMAG's model for Drift Evaluation for Field sprayers by Computer Simulation (IDEFICS), Silsoe Model of Drift (SiMoD), and Casanova Drift Model (CDM)). Discussions highlighted the need for harmonisation across European Union Member States in defining off-target exposure zones and regulatory approaches. The meeting resulted in shared recommendations to refine spray drift modeling practices, improve regulatory harmonisation for non-target terrestrial organisms (NTTOs), and validate predictive models using empirical evidence. Breakout sessions focused on pros and cons on current EU regulatory approach to estimate off-field spray drift depositions to be used in the risk assessment of NTTOs and the key considerations and criteria for defining exposure strip/areas relevant for NTTOs in pesticide risk assessments. A practical demonstration of spray drift measurements and laboratory analysis was also conducted, reinforcing the workshop's emphasis on integrating real-world data with modeling approaches for more accurate and efficient risk assessments.

[32nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[32nd Meeting Minutes](#)

[32nd Meeting presentations](#)

[Technical Meeting Agenda](#)

[Technical Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

The main activity, the annual meeting, contributed to improve the dialogue and exchange of information among participants, and between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders. It also contributed to the strengthening of communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States. Additionally, the meeting was organised with the participation of observers who registered online and were able to submit questions. These questions were discussed during the meeting and addressed individually in an annex to the meeting minutes. The participation of observers has provided valuable insights regarding the interest generated by the event. Furthermore, during the year two important surveys were conducted with PSN members as follow up actions from 2024 meeting. The first survey focused on gathering feedback and identifying improvement actions in the EU peer review process of pesticides. The second survey aimed to explore ways to reduce the impact of clock stops on the MRL process (lean exercise). To discuss the results of the peer review survey, a dedicated PSN meeting is scheduled for 2025, in addition to the standard annual meeting, with a focus on analysing the results and identifying actionable improvements.

PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK IUCLID SUBGROUP

The main purpose and objective of this subgroup are described in the respective [Terms of Reference](#) published on the EFSA website. The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).



Since last year, the Network Terms of Reference have been modified to accommodate the following amendments: clarifying the rules for accessing the meetings and updating the purpose of the Network to reflect the evolution of the International Uniform Chemical Information Database (IUCLID) from a minimum viable product to fully featured product.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2024 the following meetings took place:

- 9th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting (Online Meeting)
- 10th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting (Hybrid: Parma, Italy / Online meeting)
- 11th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting (Online meeting)

Number of attendees: 195

Initial budget for 2024: € 5,376

Final cost of activities: € 2,836

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

- **9th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting**

The meeting focused on IUCLID updates on format changes, data re-use, confidentiality and feedback from the working party on micro-organisms. Feedback from Industry Representatives, Member States Representatives and European Commission were also presented.

- **10th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting**

The meeting focused on IUCLID updates on format changes, updates on IUCLID Report Generator features and confidentiality. The meeting also featured discussions on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) activities, feedback from Member States representatives, industry representatives, and updates from the European Commission on regulatory developments for co-formulants, safeners, and synergists.

- **11th Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup meeting**

The meeting focused on IUCLID updates on format changes, updates on IUCLID report generator feature, life-cycle management of IUCLID dossiers and confidentiality. Discussions also addressed industry feedback on microbial dossiers, and Member State challenges in pesticide dossier submission.

[9th Meeting Agenda](#)

[9th Meeting Minutes](#)

[9th Meeting Presentations](#)

[10th Meeting Agenda](#)

[10th Meeting Minutes](#)

[10th Meeting Presentations](#)

[11th Meeting Agenda](#)



[11th Meeting Minutes](#)

[11th Meeting Presentations](#)

During 2024 the following topics were discussed and relevant deliverables prepared by EFSA were endorsed by the Pesticide Steering network IUCLID subgroup:

- new IUCLID validation rules;
- new filtering rules;
- removal of document J from chemical active substance dossiers;
- new IUCLID documents and revision of existing documents for both the active substance and the microorganisms IUCLID working context;
- new/improved template Reports generated with the IUCLID Report Generator feature.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2024.

Planned activities were achieved thanks to a good overall collaboration between EFSA, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and IUCLID subgroup participants. Positive feedback was received by Member States and Industry representatives during the meetings and via launched feedback survey.



ANNEXES

TABLE 1 – BUDGET AND MEETINGS IN 2024

Unit	Network	Initial budget	Final budget	Meetings
BIOHAW	Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare	€ 8,764	€ 4,354	2
BIOHAW	<i>Echinococcus Multilocularis</i> subgroup of the Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare network	€ 0	€ 2,240	1
BIOHAW	National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 subgroup of the Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare network	€ 15,580	€ 0	1
BIOHAW	One Health subgroup of the Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare network	€ 0	€ 7,200	1
BIOHAW	Avian Influenza subgroup of the Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare network	€ 0	€ 7,043	1
BIOHAW	African Swine Fever subgroup of the Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare network	€ 0	€ 0	2
BIOHAW	Veterinary Entomology	€ 0	€ 0	1
BIOHAW	Microbiological Risk Assessment	€ 8,764	€ 4,829	2
BIOHAW	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies	€ 8,764	€ 8,083	1
COMM	Communications Expert	€ 15,000	€ 13,986	2
PLANTS	Plant Pest Surveillance	€ 54,280	€ 41,460	2
PLANTS	Risk Assessment in Plant Health	€ 6,336	€ 6,449	1
FIP	Food Contact Material	€ 21,184	€ 17,408	1
IDATA	Chemical Monitoring Data Collection	€ 20,735	€ 12,761	1
IDATA	Food Consumption Data	€ 4,224	€ 5,238	5
IDATA/BIOHAW	Zoonoses Monitoring Data	€ 14,400	€ 9,734	1
IDATA/BIOHAW	Antimicrobial Resistance subgroup of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network	€ 8,764	€ 5,752	1
IDATA/BIOHAW	Foodborne Outbreaks subgroup of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network*	€ 0	€ 0	0
IDATA/BIOHAW	TSE subgroup of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network	€ 0	€ 0	1

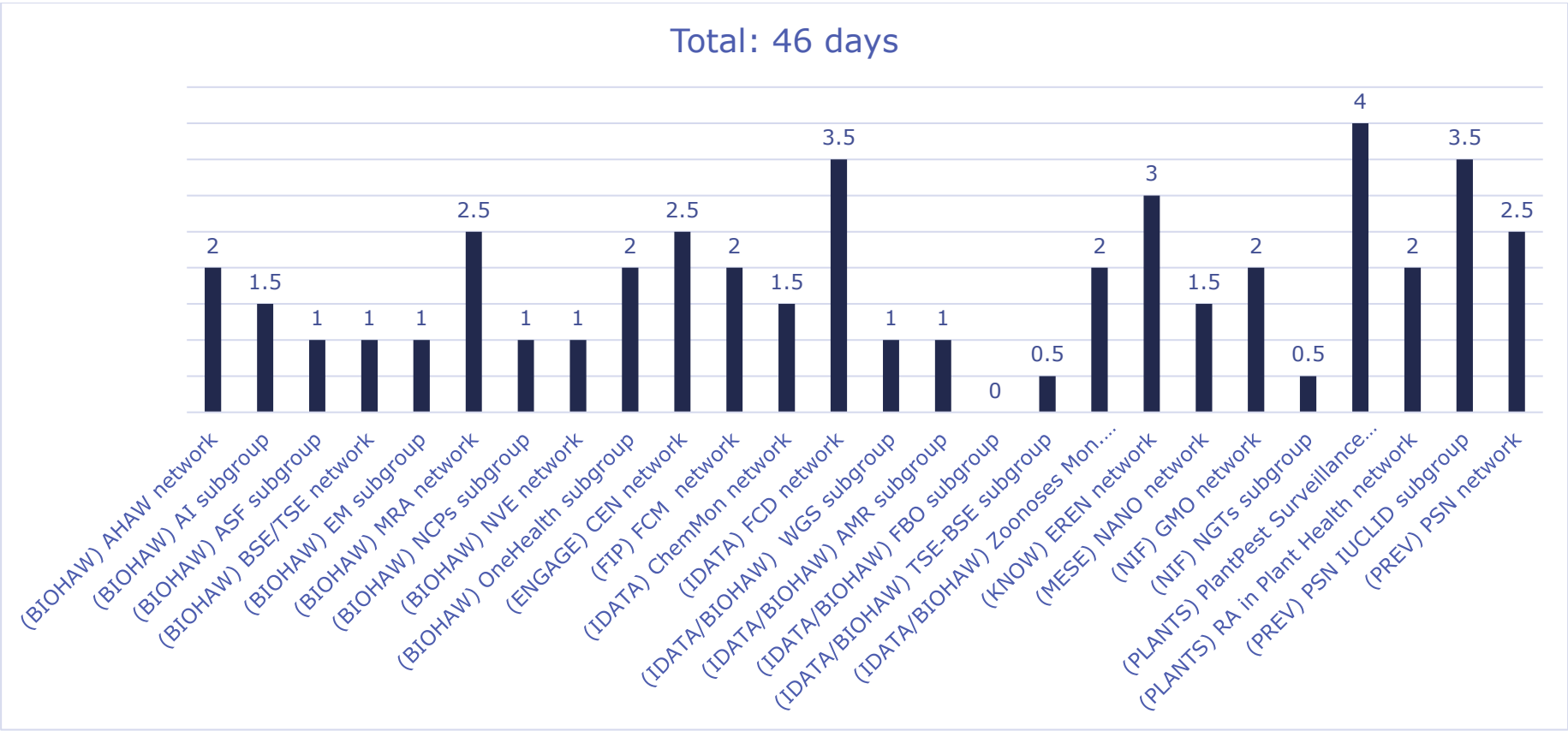


IDATA/BIOHAW	Whole genome sequencing subgroup of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network	€ 8,764	€ 7,116	1
KNOW	Emerging Risks Exchange	€ 16,000	€ 13,033	2
MESE	Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)	€ 12,026	€ 8,938	1
NIF	Risk Assessment of GMOs (Environmental Risk Assessment + Food and Feed)	€ 10,000	€ 9,639	2
NIF	New Genomic Techniques subgroup of the GMO network	€ 0	€ 0	1
PREV	Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)	€ 13,440	€ 14,552	2
PREV	Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup	€ 5,376	€ 2,836	3
	TOTAL	€ 252,401	€ 202,658	39

* Participants of the Foodborne Outbreaks subgroup attended the Whole Genome Sequencing subgroup meeting.



TABLE 2 – NUMBER OF MEETING DAYS PER NETWORK IN 2024



* Participants of the Foodborne Outbreaks (FBO) subgroup attended the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) subgroup meeting.