Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data
Minutes of the 43rd meeting

14-15-16 October 2025
14:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00
Minutes agreed on 31st October 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Board Room) and web-conference

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Member State Organisation
Austria	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES)
Belgium	Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAVV)
Croatia	Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (HAPIH)
Cyprus	Veterinary Services
Czech Republic	State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic (SVA)
Estonia	Agriculture and Food Board
Finland	Finnish Food Authority
France	French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)
Germany	German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)
	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Greece	Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Hungary	National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH)
Iceland	Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST)
Ireland	Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)
	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Italy	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"
Latvia	Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Latvia
Lithuania	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute of Lithuania
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Veterinary and Food Administration - ALVA
Malta	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights
Netherlands	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)
Norway	Norwegian Veterinary Institute
Poland	General Veterinary Inspectorate
Portugal	Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV)
Romania	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA)
Slovak Republic	State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic (SVPS)
Slovenia	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
Spain	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca, y Alimentación (MAPA)
	Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (AESAN)
Sweden	Swedish Veterinary Agency (SVA)

- Observers:
  Competent authority: Switzerland- Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (BLV)
  Competent authority (IPA country): Albania (Agriculture University of Tirana), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Food Safety Agency), Kosovo (Food and Veterinary

Agency of Kosovo), Montenegro (Administration for Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary affairs), Republic of North Macedonia (Food and Veterinary Agency), Serbia (Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection), Türkiye (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Livestock)

- Hearing Experts: Gaia Scavia, Elena Lazarro, Michele Derrico (ZOE Consortium)
- European Commission: Eva Siegener (Directorate Health and Food Safety, Unit G5: Food hygiene, feed and fraud)
- European Union Reference Laboratories: EURL *Listeria monocytogenes*, Adriene Asere; and EURL Parasites (food safety) and EURL Public Health food-, water-, and vector-borne helminths and protozoa, Adriano Caulli
- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Frank Boelaert (co-chair), Valentina Rizzi, Frank Verdonck, Mirko Rossi, Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil, Ernesto Liebana, Lisa Kohnle, Eleonora Sarno, Andrea Gervelmeyer, Giusi Amore, Raquel Garcia Fierro, Nuria Ferrer, Eleonora Cattaneo, Sean Ashe, Winy Messens.

IDATA Unit: Anca Stoicescu (co-chair), Catalin Iancu, Valentina Bocca, Luca Pasinato, Andrea Maldonado.

KNOW Unit: Didier Verloo

Executive Director Team Chief Scientist Office: Stephan Bronzwaer

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from: Bulgaria and Denmark.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 42nd meeting of the Network held on 15-16-17 October 2024, hybrid.

The minutes had been previously agreed by written procedure on 26 October 2024 and subsequently published on the EFSA website on the same date. There were no pending actions from the previous meeting. Comments received through the meeting feedback survey were presented.

4. Session 1: Status of production of 2024 EUOHZ report

4.1. Update on EU One Health Zoonoses report 2024

After successfully completing its 2021–2024 mandate, the Zoonoses One Health European Union (ZOE) consortium has been renewed for 2025–2028 to continue,

together with EFSA, ECDC, and the reporting countries, the preparation of the European One Health Zoonoses Report (EUOHZ).
Drawing on the experience from the first contract, ZOE has refined its internal organisation to strengthen coordination, communication, and task delivery. The consortium now works through six work package (WP) leaders, each with a deputy, and Partner Contact Persons (PCP) in each institute to ensure smooth collaboration and timely completion of activities. Dedicated toolkits and training support experts in carrying out their work efficiently, with backup experts appointed to ensure continuity. These improvements have enabled ZOE to deliver the 2025 tasks and EFSA's requested updates smoothly and on schedule, ensuring continued high-quality outputs under the supervision of WP leaders and PCPs.

4.2. Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings

Giusi Amore (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented an update on the 2024 EUOHZ report. The draft report was circulated to the reporting countries for consultation on 3 October 2025 and their feedback is expected by 22 October 2025 at the latest. The final report will be published on 9 December 2025. She presented some preliminary confidential key findings on zoonoses and zoonotic agents and results on the monitoring of foodborne outbreaks (FBOs) in 2024. Foodborne outbreaks were detailed further as breakdown figures based on the causative agent and place of exposure. Temporal trends of the number of outbreaks were shown as well.

5. Session 2: Feedback on 2024 data reporting

5.1. Feedback on 2024 data reporting

Anca Stoicescu (IDATA Unit, EFSA) presented the feedback received from reporting countries via the electronic survey on the 2024 data reporting. MSs provided comments on various aspects, including the scientific data validation, EFSA's reporting tools, the EFSA catalogues, the data validation business rules, the text forms, and the EFSA Data Collection Framework (DCF). In response, EFSA outlined actions to address the feedback and enhance the data collection process for 2025. EFSA encourages ZMD network members to use the EFSA Catalogue browser (https://github.com/openefsa/catalogue-browser/wiki)

5.2. Feedback on 2024 data validation and consultation process

Elena Lazzaro from ZOE consortium presented feedback from the 2024 data validation. Scientific data validation remains essential to ensure the quality and reliability of data in the EU One Health Zoonoses (EUOHZ) Report. Since 2021, a dedicated web application has supported this process, enhanced in 2023 with a ticketing system that replaced email exchanges, improving response times and traceability. In 2024, 3,219 and 358 clarification requests were recorded in the two validation phases, mainly concerning *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, Foodborne Outbreaks (FBOs), and *Toxoplasma*, with about 45% originating from a few Reporting Countries. Most critical issues involved missing or misreported data.
She presented a brief update on the consultation phase of the EUOHZ Report which plays a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the final publication. RCs are encouraged to focus on factual accuracy, data interpretation, and consistency

across chapters. To ensure timely publication, strict deadlines are set, with reminders issued to all RCs about the importance of submitting feedback by 22 October given the tight production schedule. All inputs received are reviewed, consolidated, and, where relevant, incorporated into the final version of the report before publication. The consultation phase continues to use a structured Excel feedback form, ensuring timely incorporation of RC input ahead of publication.

6. Session 3: Scientific topics

6.1. Ciguatera poisoning outbreaks reporting to EFSA

Carmen Varela Martínez presented insights on the EuroCigua II project and its results, as well as to address the reporting of suboptimalities to the EFSA foodborne outbreaks database. GP/EFSA/KNOW/2022/03 is an EFSA Framework Partnership Agreement called EuroCigua II, which aims to assess the human health risks of ciguatoxins in fish in Europe. The project, coordinated by ISCIII (Spain) with European partners, aims to improve detection, investigation, and reporting of CP. Core tasks include raising awareness (via EuroCigua materials), collecting outbreak data from EU and imported fish, and enhancing reporting systems. Ciguatera poisoning is a growing public health concern, exacerbated by climate change, with an increasing risk of ciguatoxin emergence in Europe. Key recommendations: a) a specific term for Ciguatera poisoning (CP) FBO for contributory factor would be useful, b) differentiation between mainland and overseas territories of the occurrence of the CP FBO would facilitate the assessment of the emergence of CP in mainland EU, c) EFSA should continue close collaboration with Member States, and d) National Competent Authorities should be made aware and agree and instruct EFSA to explore improved CP foodborne outbreaks enhancement.

6.2. Update on baseline surveys MRSA baseline survey and AMR in aquaculture

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented updates on two EU-wide baseline surveys — one ongoing in the current year and another expected to take place in 2028. An overview was provided of the technical specifications for the EU-wide baseline survey on MRSA in pigs. Samples for this survey are to be collected and analysed during 2025, with data to be reported to EFSA in 2026. The technical specifications for the baseline survey on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in aquaculture were published in 2024 (available [here]), and the survey is expected to be conducted in 2028.

7. Session 4: Scientific topics

7.1. AI-enhanced tracing in the agri-food chain

Eva Siegener (DG SANTE) presented TraceMap, an AI-enhanced tool aimed at improving data utilization in the agri-food chain. Despite the European Commission and Member States collecting extensive data on food safety, trade, and animal health, much of it remains isolated, limiting proactive responses. Currently, iRASFF and TRACES, two strong systems, operate separately; iRASFF provides alerts without structured traceability, while TRACES maintains extensive trade data lacking direct

connections to risk events. This disconnection leads to time-consuming manual investigations and delayed outbreak detections.

TraceMap addresses these challenges by integrating these datasets, allowing semi-automated traceability maps, multiplying fraud detection, accelerating dangerous product recalls, and enhancing foodborne outbreak investigations. It operates as a search-based application using semantic and large language technologies and a knowledge graph storing real-world data entities and their relationships, all managed in a cloud environment.

The system processes a variety of data inputs, converting documents into structured formats and extracting and disambiguating entities. The result is a consolidated database that users can search and navigate efficiently. Adherence to GDPR standards is maintained, and joint controllership of personal data responsibility is kept, and security and data encryption remain within the EU.

Challenges remain in harmonizing data taxonomy and validating AI results. Testing commenced in mid-2025, with full rollout anticipated by early 2026. Prospects include improving data quality, adding new data sources, and making the results availability to systems like Qlicksense.

7.2. Scientific report on the HPAI outbreak in US dairy cattle

Andrea Gervelmeyer (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the EFSA Scientific report on the 'Risk posed by the HPAI virus H5N1, Eurasian lineage goose/Guangdong clade 2.3.4.4b. genotype B3.13, currently circulating in the US', published on 3 July 2025. It provides a summary of the virological information currently available on the virus, of the outbreaks in dairy cattle in the US, and the measures that have been recommended or applied by the US authorities and describes the potential pathways for entry of the virus into the European continent via trade and via migratory birds, and timelines associated with the potential entry via migratory birds.

EFSA is currently working on a draft opinion scheduled for adoption in November 2025 and publication in December 2025 that will evaluate the impact of dairy cow infections on EU animal and public health; propose prevention measures to block viral entry into EU herds and poultry; suggest surveillance adaptations to detect outbreaks early; assess contamination risks: in a hypothetical scenario where infected cows are found, evaluate the likelihood of bulk milk contamination, considering mitigation measures; and estimate human health risks: if milk is contaminated, analyze viable virus levels in raw milk, dairy products, and colostrum, estimate foodborne infection risks, and review mitigation strategies (e.g., pasteurization, non-thermal treatments).

7.3. One Health Surveillance for early detection of zoonotic cross-border pathogens in animals and the environment

Andrea Gervelmeyer (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the One Health Surveillance for early detection of zoonotic cross-border pathogens in animals and the environment. The general framework of the One Health Surveillance for zoonotic pathogens was presented along with the timelines of the programme.

An overview of the 2024 surveillance results were shown, (although 2024 results are not yet complete) along with the survey to evaluate the progress of the surveillance

The grants scheme is planned to be continued in 2027-2028 under EU4Health Programme 2025. Call to be published in December 2025. Application by end March 2026.

8. Session 5: outlook on 2025 and future data reporting activities

8.1. Improvements of 2025 data reporting

Anca Stoicescu (IDATA Unit, EFSA) provided an overview of the improvements to be implemented in view of the 2025 data reporting. No changes are planned in the Data Collection Framework (DCF), in the data models and in the Excel mapping tool except for update of catalogues. An overview of the available reporting guidance documents was provided, together with the planned improvements/clarifications. Changes in business rules and catalogue terms (including deprecation or modification of existing ones and addition of new ones) were presented.

8.2. 2025 data reporting: key data to provide

Mirko Rossi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented key data from the scientific point of view to be provided for the 2025 reporting period. All EFTA Member States, including Switzerland, are required to report in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC. Switzerland's reporting obligations follow the specific agreement between the European Commission and Switzerland (EC-CH agreement). In the context of the PHC for *Campylobacter* on broiler carcases, it is mandatory to report total number of samples tested for *Campylobacter* and the number of samples with counts exceeding 1,000 cfu/g, differentiating between samples taken by competent authorities (CA) and food business operators (FBOp) sampling. PHC monitoring results for *Salmonella* on carcases of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, broilers and turkeys should include the total number of samples tested and the number of *Salmonella*-positive samples, differentiating between samples as indicated in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2019/627. For *Salmonella* monitoring results, flocks, both rearing and adult ones, positivity to any *Salmonella* spp. ought to be reported; as well as positivity to target serovars for adult flocks. For *Salmonella* NCPs in broilers, breeding turkeys and fattening turkeys, separate data need to be provided by sampler, including a) the merged results from the CA and the FBOp, b) separate results from CA and c) separate results from FBOp. In accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries MSs are asked to report on Salmonella findings in presumed risky food matrices using the term 'EU increased control programme on imported food'. In the context of the FSC for *Listeria monocytogenes* all samples having results above the limit of the detection of the method should be reported as positive samples. In the case of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) the identification of the *stx* genes is a prerequisite for identifying a STEC (strains of *E. coli* that are capable of producing Shiga toxin (STX) or possessing the *stx* genes). Therefore, it is mandatory to report on the characterization of the *stx* genes, notably *stx*1 and/or *stx*2 and the subtypes. For Trichinella it is important to make clear distinction between domestic pigs raised under controlled housing conditions, recognized by the CA, as opposed to 'other' domestic pigs. More details on this reporting will be in the reporting guidance (manuals).

8.3. Scientific Data quality checks

Mirko Rossi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) provided an update on the scientific data checks planned for the 2025 data collection. The quality control process will include assessments of the completeness of data reported for prevalence, foodborne outbreaks, and disease status. In addition, the plausibility of the reported data will be evaluated, focusing on potential inconsistencies such as unrealistic positivity rates (e.g. 100% positivity) or significant deviations (e.g. increases of 20% or more in the number of flocks tested or in flock-level positivity).

8.4. 2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines

Mirko Rossi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the 2025 data reporting timelines. The milestones of the 2025 data reporting were agreed as follows:

- Proposals for new terms to be added in the catalogues: 30 November 2025;
- Publication of the supporting manuals: 31 January 2026;
- Requests for training: 31 January 2026;
- Revision of data providers list: 14 February 2026;
- Opening of the reporting period: 15 March 2026;
- Closure of the reporting period: 31 May 2026, submission of new datasets after the deadline will not be allowed;
- Text forms: 31 May 2026;
- Submitted data will be displayed in the EU Summary reports in MicroStrategy the day following submission; any change in data during the data reporting and correction periods will be reflected automatically in the EU Summary reports in MicroStrategy the day following a dataset submission;
- Data validation period: 2 – 25 June 2026;
- Letters requesting scientific clarifications and/or corrections (if needed) sent to the MSs: 26 June 2026;
- Data correction by MSs: 2 - 22 July 2026;
- Acceptance of the data in DWH by 24 July 2026;
- After 22 July 2026, data cannot be changed, as data extracted on this date will be used to draft the 2025 EUOHZ report. Erroneous data (e.g., combination of matrix/pathogen) will not be included in the analysis;
- Data correction (not included in the annual reports) by MSs: 1 - 28 February 2027.

If a reporting country completes submission by 15 May 2026, EFSA will provide by 20 May feedback on high level data validation using Quality Checks. This initial quality feedback during data submission will be provided only to those reporting countries completing the submission by 15 May. Completion of the data submission, by data model, should be confirmed by an email to zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu, which should arrive to EFSA before 18 May.

8.5. Update on the EFSA's REBUILD project

Valentina Bocca (IDATA Unit, EFSA) provided an update on the ongoing Rebuild Data Framework (DF) project, aimed at modernising how data is ingested, managed, and analysed within EFSA. The implementation of a new terminology management system under Work Package 5 (WP5) is complete and APIs will soon be released, while the next phase is under development and by 2027 a new online catalogue browser should be made available.

A focus on WP2 was presented, that foresees the development of a new data collection platform replacing the current system (DCF, SAS, and MicroStrategy). The main tools and platforms being adopted in the project, including Azure Cloud, Databricks, and Power BI, and the new preliminary data ingestion process were introduced. The solution under development will enable data providers to interact with the system through multiple channels, including a user-friendly web portal, APIs, EFSA's own environment and tools, dashboards for analysis and insights. The next steps foresee finalisation in Q1-2026 and a pilot with 2 data collections thorough 2026, with the aim of having the system ready for use in 2027. A call for interest to join the pilot has been launched via Teams channel and volunteers are invited to express interest by end October; after that EFSA will shortlist the select the Member States and will agree with them exact timelines and modalities.

9. Session 6: Scientific topics

9.1. Joint quarterly monitoring report on avian influenza published by EFSA, ECDC and the EURL

Lisa Kohnle (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the jointly quarterly monitoring report on avian influenza published by EFSA, ECDC and the EURL. Between 7 June and 5 September 2025, 183 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) virus detections were reported in domestic (27) and wild (156) birds across 15 countries in Europe. Although HPAI A(H5N1) virus detections were predominant in western and southwestern Europe, they also occurred on the northernmost coast of Norway. More than 75% of the detections in wild birds related to colony-breeding seabirds, particularly European herring gulls, while the number of detections in waterfowl decreased compared to the previous months. Less poultry establishments were affected during the current reporting period, with no secondary spread occurring. Regarding mammals in Europe, HPAI A(H5N5) virus detections were reported in four Arctic foxes in Norway. In the United States of America (USA), the number of HPAI A(H5N1) virus detections in dairy cattle stagnated, while the muskrat and round-tailed ground squirrel were reportedly affected for the first time. Between 7 June and 8 September 2025, 19 cases of avian influenza virus infection in humans, including three deaths, were reported in four countries: Bangladesh (one A(H5N1) case), Cambodia (11 A(H5N1) cases), China (one A(H10N3), five A(H9N2) cases) and India (one A(H5N1) case). Most of the A(H5N1) human cases (n = 12/13) reported exposure to poultry prior to detection or onset of illness. Given the widespread circulation of avian influenza viruses in animal populations, human infections remain rare. No human-to-human transmission was documented during the reporting period.

9.2. Pathogen in Foods database

Winy Messens (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) provided an update about the Pathogen in Foods (PIF) database (see at https://pif.esa.ipb.pt/), that is a database of systematically formatted prevalence and enumeration data of pathogenic bacteria, parasites and viruses in foods, extracted from published peer-reviewed articles and reports since 2000. An associated web application (R-Shiny) allows to search for specific contamination data, perform descriptive statistical analysis by food category, by country or by pathogen, or perform meta-analysis. It is a tool for food safety researchers and food safety authorities for the development of risk assessment models, risk ranking and risk management. The development of the database is currently supported by EFSA through a grant agreement GP/EFSA/BIOHAW/2022/01 (2022-2026) that has as main goal to communicate about and maintain the PIF database whilst making improvements, for example to align the terminology with EFSA's catalogue. Another grant agreement GP EFSA BIOHAW 2023 05 (2023-2026) resulted in the extension of the database with data on relevant Vibrio spp. in seafood and of parasites of public health importance in fishery products, triggered by the receipt of two EFSA mandates. PIF documentation is available at https://zenodo.org/communities/pif/. Feedback and suggestions to improve user experience of PIF are highly appreciated by its developers. More information can be found here: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352352225000027.

9.3. Update on Rapid Outbreak Assessments and related activities

Eleonora Sarno (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the current activities on FBO assessment. Foodborne diseases remain a significant public health concern in the EU. EFSA evaluates foodborne outbreaks with a multi-country dimension in close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and produces scientific assessments also known as Rapid Outbreak Assessments (ROA). These technical reports support risk managers and policymakers in the EU (officials of the European Commission and EU Member States) for the investigation of events and for the implementation of interventions along the food chain aimed at the removal of the contaminated food and the prevention of new infection cases. The aim of this presentation is to illustrate the latest published multi-country outbreak assessments on Salmonella infections linked to tomatoes and sprouted seeds.

9.4. EFSA Burden of zoonoses project

Frank Boelaert (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented an update on the EFSA Burden of Zoonoses Project, aimed at quantifying the health and economic burdens of nine foodborne zoonoses in the EU and EEA/EFTA countries. Key objectives include estimating the dual burden (zoonotic DALYs, zDALYs) and associated costs (direct, indirect, and intangible) of diseases such as campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, and listeriosis. A methodological framework will combine zDALYs and cost data to provide an integrated assessment, supporting a One Health approach to public and animal health. The project (2025–2028) is structured into work packages, including a feasibility study, data identification, data collection, one case and full analysis. Preliminary results from the feasibility study were presented that involved Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands and highlighted the health and economic burden of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis. Challenges include setting up the methodology for data-driven cost estimations of the animal component, quantifying intangible costs

(e.g., consumer confidence) and harmonizing data across countries. The project emphasizes collaboration with EFSA's and ECDC's stakeholders. By integrating human and animal health perspectives, the project aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers, prioritizing interventions to reduce zoonotic disease burdens. The presentation underscored the importance of robust data collection, cross-sectoral collaboration, and transparent dissemination of results to inform EU health strategies.

9.5. Joint monthly surveillance report on West Nile virus by EFSA and ECDC

Amore Giusi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the Terms of Reference (TORs) from the mandate received from the European Commission (EC) regarding the surveillance of vector-borne diseases, in the context of the joint ECDC–EFSA monthly surveillance report on West Nile virus (WNV) and outlined the timelines for the publication of the reports.

EFSA presented an overview of the latest results from the 2025 WNV surveillance, based on data submitted up to 3 October 2025. EFSA recommended vector data providers to submit WNV surveillance data to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) platform.

EFSA informed the Network members that the invitation to the webinar "VectorNet webinar – One Health vector surveillance data reporting" (scheduled for 30 October 2025) will be forwarded to them. Network members were invited to share the webinar information with the national experts responsible for vector surveillance.

9.6. FAO's work on AMR surveillance and the InFARM system – Update

Valentina Rizzi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented a summary the actions undertaken regarding the transfer of AMR data from EFSA's Scientific Data Warehouse to the FAO InFARM system. A survey was circulated to Zoonoses Network Members to assess the interest of reporting countries in receiving EFSA's support for preparing and submitting their AMR data collected by EFSA to FAO's InFARM platform. Preparatory work with FAO was carried out to map EFSA's and FAO's data models, including the alignment of data structures and terminology used in the two systems.

Member States are requested to send EFSA an official communication confirming their formal approval for the transfer of AMR data to the FAO InFARM system, under strict conditions specified in the email sent (e.g. namely that all identifiers will be pseudo-anonymised, free-text fields and sampling area information will not be shared, and only data from routine monitoring will be included). Countries are also requested to specify the scope of the data they wish to share: either only the mandatory data collected under routine monitoring in accordance with legislative requirements, or all reported data under routine monitoring, encompassing both mandatory and voluntary submissions.

10. Session 7: Scientific topics

10.1. One Health cooperation at EU level

Stef Bronzwaer (EFSA) updated the Network members on One Health cooperation at EU level. In June 2022 EFSA organised the ONE – Health, Environment & Society, together with its partner agencies that provide scientific advice on environmental,

public health and food safety issues: the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The conference recommendations have been published, asking EFSA to strengthen the operationalisation of the One Health approach across its activities, to enable health assessments that recognise the inextricable link between the health of humans, animals, plants and their shared environment, and so to support the transition to safe, nutritious and sustainable food systems.

A concrete outcome of the conference is that EFSA and its partner agencies have established a cross-agency One Health task force to work together to move transdisciplinary research and scientific advice on One Health issues forward.

Since the ONE conference, EFSA has established an internal task force on One Health, chaired the cross-agency task force on One Health, and lead a set of activities with different European and international partners in the remit of OH. The Zoonoses Monitoring Network will be informed about progress made so far and be invited to support this One Health journey and discuss the ways forward, in particular on how to progress integrated surveillance.

More information can be found here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/one-health; https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235277142500165X; https://www.who.int/news/item/27-03-2023-quadripartite-call-to-action-for-one-health-for-a-safer-world; https://scientificadvice.eu/advice/one-health-governance-in-the-european-union/.

10.2. EU Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare

The European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) is a seven-year research and innovation initiative, launched on 1 January 2024, bringing together 91 participants — including universities, competent authorities, and EU agencies from 24 countries — with a total investment of €360 million, co-funded by the European Commission. The Partnership aims to prevent and control infectious animal diseases while promoting animal welfare across Europe. EFSA is a full partner and is actively involved in several activities under both animal health (AH) and animal welfare (AW) domains.

Under Animal Health, EFSA contributes to the following activities:

- Wildlife: Aims to harmonise and optimise surveillance systems for infectious diseases in terrestrial and aquatic wild animals.
- Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA): Focuses on improving RRA methodologies for the early detection and response to animal health threats.
- Biosecurity: Seeks to identify effective biosecurity measures applicable to multiple infectious diseases in both terrestrial and aquatic species.
- Economic and Societal Burden of Diseases: Assesses the economic and social impacts of animal diseases and the cost-effectiveness of prevention and control policies.

Under Animal Welfare, EFSA is involved in:

- Monitoring and Surveillance: Covers animal welfare on farms, during transport, and at slaughter.
- Animal Welfare Indicators and Cut-offs: Defines methods for assessing welfare and determining intervention thresholds.
- Positive Animal Welfare: Promotes the inclusion of positive welfare aspects, beyond the absence of negative conditions, in assessments.
- Animal Welfare and Sustainability: Examines the relationship between animal welfare and the three pillars of sustainability — economic, environmental, and social.

More information can be found here: https://www.eupahw.eu/.

10.3. Update on EFSA's path of harnessing AI technologies

Didier Verloo (KNOW Unit, EFSA) outlined its developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), which began with two pilot projects (2017–2018), followed by the creation of an inter-agency AI community and the establishment of an internal AI Task Force. EFSA is currently progressing work on a new AI governance framework. Practical examples of AI implementation at EFSA were also presented, including a tool for systematic literature review and a tool for identifying food safety risks in food fraud cases.

It was emphasised that AI can support and enhance surveillance activities, such as those within the One Health framework, by optimising and streamlining processes, while remaining a complement to, and not a replacement for, expert judgment and expertise.

10.4. Unveiling the incidences and trends of alveolar echinococcosis in Europe

Adriano Casulli (European Reference Laboratory for Parasites and for Public Health on Helminths and Protozoa) presented Unveiling the incidences and trends of alveolar echinococcosis (AE) in Europe. This study aims to shed light on the unrecognized burden of AE in Europe, unveiling its epidemiological impact by providing a quantitative measure of number, incidence and trends of human cases during the period 1997–2023.

Data in Europe was extracted by systematic review approach from both scientific and grey literature published during 1997–2023. The main inclusion criterion of this systematic review was primary data reporting probable or confirmed (by specific nucleic acid detection or immunohistochemistry in a clinical specimens) human AE cases in included European countries during the considered period (1997–2023).

This systematic review identified 4,207 human AE cases from 28 of the 40 European countries investigated. Historically endemic Austria, France, Germany, and Switzerland accounted for 2,864 (68.08%) of 4,207 cases documented in Europe, and Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia represented an additional 887 (21.08%) cases. Based on incidence rates and trends detected in this study, two main epicentres were seen in countries in the Alpine and the Baltic areas. The mean annual incidence from 1997 to 2023 throughout Europe was 0.063 cases per 100,000 people and in EU member states was 0.060 cases per 100,000 people.

Data collected during this period suggest that AE is emerging in almost every country where this neglected parasitic infectious disease has been detected. Findings from this study should be used to support the planning of surveillance of *Echinococcus multilocularis* in animals and human in Europe in a One Health perspective.

10.5. Mapping data flows in Member States

The presentation outlines the Advisory Group on Data (AGoD)'s recent initiatives, focusing on the Data Flow Mapping exercise conducted across European countries. The project, completed in 2024/25, aimed to identify complexities and pain points in national data flows, raise EU-level awareness of data management challenges, and link findings to actionable solutions through a shared classification framework.

Ten European countries participated, resulting in 18 country reports, four in the zoonoses domains[1], 10 challenge-and-solution reports, and a Data Flow Mapping Methodology European Summary Report, all published in the EFSA Journal in October 2025. The exercise revealed that the biggest challenge lies in interoperability and compatibility, followed by issues related to EFSA requirements, manual data handling, and coordination among authorities.

Five main solution areas were developed: regulatory compliance and data harmonization, data quality improvements, digitalisation and paperless management, technological optimisation and automation and process optimisation and workflow efficiency.

The presentation invites Member States to participate in the second round in 2026, designed to complete the European data landscape picture and further develop and strengthen the collaborative solution approach. Interested member states should contact their focal points. More information can be found here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/tor-advisorygroupdata.pdf.

11. Session 8: Data reporting

11.1. Data reporting examples created in the reporting tools

Anca Stoicescu (IDATA Unit) presented the examples created in the reporting tools. These examples complement the reporting manuals. EFSA encouraged the reporting countries to review the examples provided and inform us if further examples should be developed.

[1] Country Report of **Austria** for Foodborne Outbreaks business data collection - https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-9652;
Country Report of **Croatia** for Prevalence of Zoonoses and Pathogens business data collection - https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-9650;
Country Report of **Czechia** for Prevalence of Zoonoses and Pathogens business data collection - https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-9648;
Country Report of **Estonia** for Prevalence of zoonoses and pathogens business data collection - https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-9647

12. Session 8: Conclusion

11.1. Any Other Business

No other business was identified.

11.2. Date for next meeting

Next meeting dates proposed: Tuesday-Thursday 13-15 October 2026 (lunch to lunch) at EFSA premises in Parma and online. EFSA will notify the Network Representatives of any changes.

11.3. Conclusions

Anca Stoicescu and Frank Boelaert summarised the main discussions and agreements reached during the meeting. The Chairs informed that the minutes and the list of main actions will be sent by email to the Network Representatives after the meeting.

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Appendix: List of Action Points agreed at the meeting

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
1	4.2	Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings	Zoonoses Monitoring Data (ZMD) network representatives to provide their review of the draft EUOHZ 2024 report (instructions given by email on 4 October 2025).	By 22 October 2025
2	4.2	Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings	EFSA to double-check with the EC if CA shall sample rearing flocks of breeding *Gallus gallus, of* laying hens and of breeding turkeys for *Salmonella*	By 30 November 2025
3	5.1	Feedback on 2024 data reporting	EFSA encourages ZMD network members to use the EFSA Catalogue browser (https://github.com/openefsa/catalogue-browser/wiki)	Anytime as needed
4	5.1	Feedback on 2024 data reporting	EFSA to present at the AMR Network meeting in November the proposal from the Netherlands regarding the use of an Excel file instead of a Word document for the validation file format	By 12 November
5	7.1	AI-enhanced tracing in the agri-food chain	EFSA encourages ZMD network members to suggest useful available data sources to DG SANTE	Anytime
6	7.3	One Health Surveillance for early detection of zoonotic cross-border pathogens in animals and the environment	EFSA encourages ZMD network members to apply for the grants scheme under EU4Health Programme 2025 as a call is to be published in December 2025	By end March 2026

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
7	8.1	Improvements of 2025 data reporting	ZMD network representatives to comment the draft guidance for 2025 zoonoses data (For 2025 data collection)	As soon as possible
8	8.2	2025 data reporting: key data to provide	ZMD network representatives to thoroughly review all mandatory data to provide, as well as the reporting requirements for 2025	As soon as possible
9	8.3	Scientific Data quality checks	ZMD network representatives to thoroughly check and apply for 2025 data reporting quality checks provided in the reporting manual	As soon as possible
10	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	EFSA to circulate the reporting manuals to ZMD network representatives for consultation on 5 January 2026 and publish them on 31 January 2026.	By 31 January 2026
11	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to review the reporting manuals by agreed deadline	By 17 January
12	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to send proposals for catalogues	By end November 2025
13	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to express their training needs and topics for info session to EFSA, keeping their national Focal Point in copy.	By 31 January 2026
14	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to communicate the agreed timelines for reporting 2025 data to the relevant experts involved in data collection and reporting	As soon as possible
15	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to consider to finalise their data submission by 15 May 2026 and to confirm the completion via email to zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu	By 18 May 2026
16	8.4	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	EFSA to provide feedback on high level data validation using Quality Checks. This initial quality feedback during data submission will be provided only to those reporting countries completing the submission by 15 May.	By 20 May 2026
17	8.5	EFSA's rebuild project	ZMD network representatives to express any concerns/questions/clarifications regarding the rebuild project to zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu	As soon as possible
18	8.5	EFSA's rebuild project	ZMD network representatives to express the interest in participating to the AMR pilot	By end of October

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
19	8.5	EFSA's rebuild project	EFSA to shortlist the participating countries in the AMR pilot by end of November 2025	By end of November 2025
20	9.2	Pathogen in food database	ZMD network representatives to explore this database	During the year
21	9.3	Update on Rapid Outbreak Assessments and related activities	ZMD Network representatives to consider submitting WGS results on a regular basis to support EFSA's activities on outbreak investigations	Permanent
22	9.4	EFSA Burden of zoonoses project	ZMD Network representatives to consider attending the next workshop on 24 February 2026	By 24 February 2026
23	9.5	Joint monthly surveillance report on West Nile virus by EFSA and ECDC	EFSA is encouraging the vector data providers to submit data on WNV surveillance in vectors to GBIF	Permanent
24	9.5	Joint monthly surveillance report on West Nile virus by EFSA and ECDC	EFSA to forward to Network members the invitation the webinar 'VectorNet webinar - One Health vector surveillance data reporting', scheduled on 30/10/2025	Done on 22 of November
25	9.5	Joint monthly surveillance report on West Nile virus by EFSA and ECDC	ZMD Network representatives to share invitation the webinar 'VectorNet webinar - One Health vector surveillance data reporting' with those responsible for vector surveillance in their countries	As soon as Received from EFSA
26	9.6	FAO's work on AMR surveillance and the InFARM system – Update	ZMD Network representatives to send EFSA an official communication confirming their formal approval/rejection for the transfer of AMR data to the FAO InFARM system, under strict conditions specified in the email sent	By end of October 2025
27	10.3	Update on EFSA's path of harnessing AI technologies	EFSA to explore in-house sharing AI driving license materials	By end of 2025
28	10.5	Mapping data flows in Member States	ZMD Network representatives to consider participating in the second round in 2026, designed to complete the European data landscape picture and further develop and strengthen the collaborative solution approach (call through the Focal Points)	As soon as the call is published
29	11.1	Data reporting examples created in the reporting tools	ZMD Network representatives to review the examples provided and inform EFSA if further examples should be developed.	By end of 2025

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
30	11.1	Data reporting examples created in the reporting tools	ZMD Network representatives to propose topics for specific info-sessions opened for all experts involved in data collection and data reporting	By end of 2025
31	12.1	Dates for next meeting	Next meeting to be organised 13-15 October 2026 in Parma and online.	By June 2026
32	12.3	Evaluation survey of the network meeting	ZMD Network members to fill in the survey: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Scientific_Network_for_Zoonoses_Monitoring_Data_evaluation_of_43rd_meeting	By 22 October 2025

Colour legend	
	Action points for EFSA
	Action points for Network Representatives
	Action points for both EFSA and Network Representatives