

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

EFSA scientific publishing: update on performance and activities during 2025

Background

The presentation to the Management Board provides an overview of the performance of EFSA's scientific publishing activities in 2025 including recent initiatives to increase reach and impact. These include the channel for national authorities – *Food Risk Assess Europe* – which has now published its 100th article. It also provides an overview of two surveys undertaken by the EFSA COM Unit in 2025 to measure the satisfaction of EFSA Journal users and, for the first time, an internal survey of EFSA staff members on the current publishing process. Both provide insights into what EFSA should prioritise for the next publishing contract, procurement for which will run during the second half of 2026 and into Q1 2027.

Performance

In 2025, the EFSA Journal continued to perform well against metrics such as the number of article downloads – which exceeded 5 million in 2025 – and citations, which also show significant increases. Taking a combined view of the many citation indices that currently exist, the EFSA Journal ranks among the top quartile of journals in the field of food science and technology. Timeliness of publication was on target throughout 2025, reaching 92% by the end of the year.

Surveys

The latest in the regular series of EFSA Journal user surveys, which is carried out by a specialist Wiley consultancy, was run in 2025. The number of respondents increased since the last survey in 2023 and included more respondents from EFSA stakeholders. The outcome was very positive with a high proportion of respondents satisfied with the Journal overall. The survey concludes that the EFSA Journal continues to be a valued asset in promoting the quality and reach of EFSA's science and building its reputation among the scientific community. Areas of improvement were identified - including access to data, searchability and readability - and these will feed into the tendering process mentioned above.

While the number of respondents was limited, the outcomes of the internal staff survey on publishing showed a high degree of satisfaction with EFSA's current activities. A number of potential areas for improvements were identified – primarily the efficiency of the process – and again these will inform the contract tendering process.

Contract procurement

With the current contract with Wiley scheduled to expire in October 2027, EFSA has initiated the background research into the procurement of the next contract. The presentation will outline the organizational priorities when it comes to publishing – continuing to build the impact of EFSA science, improving efficiency and user experience - and will provide an outline of the timeline.

Next steps

EFSA will use the feedback received to continue to build the impact and efficiency of its publishing activities. The Board will be kept informed of the progress of the procurement process.