

Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2025

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 2025. 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 2025 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 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 2025, EFSA coordinated 15 Networks and 12 subgroups, organised 34 meetings with a total of 2,128 attendees. Additionally, EFSA implemented the outcome of the Evaluation Report of EFSA Networks for the three-year period 2021-2023¹. Among others, the Animal Health and Animal Welfare Network (AHAW) was split into two separate Networks (Animal Health Network and Animal Welfare Network), its subgroups redistributed, and the BSE/TSE was discontinued as Network and its continuation as TSE subgroup of the Animal Health Network was implemented. RAL also implemented further actions, including redesigning the Networks section of the EFSA website to provide clearer and more transparent information on EFSA Networks.

This report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2025 is the fifth edition and contains the main deliverables, outcomes and respective budgets for each EFSA Network.

Information on AI Usage:

This report was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence. The model OpenAI's ChatGPT based on the GPT5.2 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 Evaluation Report and yearly reports of activities of EFSA Networks are available under the section Scientific Networks - Documents on the [EFSA website](#).



ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have been modified with the following aspects: the former integrated EFSA Scientific Network on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) has been structurally reorganised and split into two dedicated Networks, resulting in the establishment of a standalone Animal Health Network and a separate Animal Welfare Network. In this context, the Animal Health Network now focuses exclusively on animal health, including veterinary public health aspects of zoonotic diseases, while animal welfare activities have been transferred to the Animal Welfare Network. The objectives have been revised accordingly to strengthen evidence-based animal health risk assessment, harmonised data collection and surveillance, and enhanced cooperation between EFSA and Member States. Furthermore, the former standalone BSE/TSE Network has been discontinued, and its activities are now integrated within the TSE subgroup of the Animal Health Network, ensuring continuity of expertise and scientific coordination.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025, the following meetings took place:

- [26th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare \(AH topic\)](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 75

Initial budget for 2025: € 11,445

Final cost of activities: € 6,394

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025, the main deliverables and outputs of the Animal Health Network were:

- **26th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AH topic)**

The meeting addressed recent developments in animal health risk assessment and the epidemiological situation of major infectious animal diseases in Europe. As a novelty, EFSA presented the new initiative for joint programming on vector-borne diseases between EFSA and Member States, covering a multi-annual mandate on monitoring and risk assessment. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) also continued to be a major topic. EFSA reported on the first achievements of the SENTINEL Wild Birds project, supporting active surveillance of HPAI in wild birds, which involved the detection of circulating HPAI strains in wild waterfowl, including also a completely new genotype. Results from a user survey on EFSA's Bird Flu Radar were presented, which confirmed its popularity among stakeholders and use for early warning. Denmark presented national contingency planning and modelling activities, while France provided an update on its vaccination campaign in ducks, reporting wide coverage and no HPAI detections, despite ongoing circulation of low pathogenic avian influenza. EFSA also presented updates on



the annual HPAI surveillance report based on the SIGMA data model and on its scientific assessment of HPAI A(H5N1) in dairy cattle in the United States. African swine fever (ASF) was another major topic discussed with the epidemiological analyses showing a reduction in outbreaks in domestic pigs but continued circulation in wild boar, supported by modelling work on wild boar abundance. The meeting also covered recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Germany and Hungary, “peste des petits ruminants” (PPR) in Albania and lumpy skin disease (LSD) in France, as well as updates on One Health surveillance activities.

[26th Meeting Agenda](#)

[26th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Animal Health Network were met in 2025. The Network fulfilled its role in supporting EFSA and Member States in animal health risk assessment by enabling the exchange of data, surveillance information and methodological approaches relevant to EU-level assessments. Activities carried out during the year supported harmonised data use, coordination of risk assessment work and alignment of national and EU activities, in line with the Network’s mandate.

ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [15th Meeting of the Animal Health Network - subgroup *Echinococcus multilocularis*](#) (Online)

Number of attendees: 4

Initial budget for 2025: € 2,400

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* subgroup were:

- **15th AHAW Network - subgroup *Echinococcus multilocularis***

The meeting focused on the scientific assessment of the draft 2025 annual report on *Echinococcus multilocularis*, covering the 2024 reporting period. All sections of the report were reviewed in detail, including the epidemiological information provided by reporting countries, EFSA’s scientific comments, conclusions and recommendations, as well as the abstract and summary. Comments submitted by Network members were discussed and incorporated into the revised text during the meeting.



At the end of the meeting, representatives of the participating countries formally endorsed the Scientific Report. No objections were raised, and EFSA proceeded with the subsequent steps for publication.

[15th Meeting Agenda](#)

[15th Meeting Minutes](#)

[Annual assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2025 in the context of Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2018/772.](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* subgroup were met in 2025. The subgroup operated in line with its mandate to support EFSA in the assessment of surveillance data and in the preparation of the annual scientific report, ensuring Member State review of data, methods and conclusions prior to publication. The activities enabled EFSA to finalise the annual assessment within the planned timeline and in accordance with the subgroup's role as defined in the Terms of Reference.

ONE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [5th Meeting of the Animal Health Network - One Health surveillance subgroup](#) (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 48

Initial budget for 2025: € 27,269

Final cost of activities: € 26,447

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the One Health Subgroup were:

- **5th meeting of the One Health surveillance subgroup**

The meeting reviewed the first year of implementation of coordinated One Health Surveillance activities under the multiannual grant agreement, based on 2024 surveillance data and a questionnaire survey. Surveillance activities covered multiple priority pathogens, including West Nile virus (WNV), tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) and *Coxiella burnetii*, sampling different host species and environmental matrices. Preliminary results showed extensive sampling efforts, few pathogen detections overall, and first detections of WNV in two countries. The questionnaire survey reviewing the surveillance achievements after the first year of operation indicated that around half of the surveillance components fully achieved their aim, with intersectoral



collaboration being strong during design and information sharing. The ECDC reviewed the 2024 results, highlighting the first detections of WNV in resident birds in Estonia and Latvia, low pathogenic avian influenza subtypes H7 and H9 in several countries, and regionally expected circulation of CCHFV and TBEV. Working group discussions identified practical constraints related to sampling, laboratory capacity, data reporting and interpretation, and differences in feasibility depending on epidemiological context. The meeting concluded with exchanges on future adaptations of surveillance components, reporting frameworks and intersectoral collaboration to support the ongoing surveillance activities.

[5th Meeting Agenda](#)

[5th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the One Health Surveillance subgroup were met in 2025. The subgroup supported the implementation and review of coordinated One Health Surveillance activities by enabling structured exchange of information across animal, public and environmental health sectors. Activities carried out during the year contributed to the assessment of surveillance implementation, identification of methodological and operational issues, and alignment of approaches across sectors, in line with the subgroup's Terms of Reference.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [3rd Meeting of the Animal Health Network - Subgroup on the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever \(ASF\)](#) (Online)

Number of attendees: 16

Initial budget for 2025: € 2,140

Final cost of activities: € 300

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the African Swine Fever Subgroup were:

- **3rd meeting of the animal health data reporting African Swine Fever subgroup**

The meeting focused on data reporting and analysis related to African swine fever (ASF). EFSA presented the results of a Flash Poll Survey conducted among European citizens, which assessed awareness of ASF, sources of information, perceived drivers of disease spread and attitudes



towards control measures in affected and non-affected countries. Additional survey data were noted as being available for further scientific analysis.

The draft 2024 Annual Epidemiological Report on ASF was discussed, including updates to the report structure, maps and analytical outputs. Member States exchanged information on national ASF epidemiological situations and surveillance strategies in domestic pigs and wild boar and commented on differences in surveillance approaches. New figures developed by the ASF Working Group, including trends in domestic pig and wild boar sampling by surveillance type, evolution of pig production over time as well as updated hunting bag data, were reviewed and feedback was provided. EFSA outlined the next steps and timeline for finalising the annual report.

[3rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[3rd Meeting Minutes](#)

[Epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2024](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the African swine fever subgroup were met in 2025. The subgroup supported EFSA in the collection, review and use of ASF surveillance and epidemiological data, contributing to the preparation of the annual epidemiological assessment. Activities carried out during the year improved data quality and correct interpretation of results, as defined in the Terms of Reference.

AVIAN INFLUENZA SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [2nd Meeting of the Animal Health Network - subgroup Avian Influenza \(AI\)](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 56

Initial budget for 2025: € 5,376

Final cost of activities: € 5,423

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Subgroup on the Animal Health data reporting Avian Influenza (AI) were:

- **2nd meeting of the Avian Influenza subgroup**

The meeting focused on the preparation of the 2024 Annual Report on avian influenza. EFSA presented the main novelties introduced in the report, including the integration of additional data sources and a revised method for calculating positive cases, which was endorsed by the



subgroup. The report was reviewed section by section, and data providers discussed the interpretation and visualisation of results, providing technical feedback to EFSA.

The European Commission clarified expectations regarding the scope of data to be submitted for future reports, aiming to obtain a comprehensive overview of avian influenza surveillance activities at EU level. EFSA also presented the outcomes of a survey on data reporting, which indicated an overall positive assessment of the process, and outlined timelines and procedures for the next data collection covering 2025 activities.

[2nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[2nd Meeting Minutes](#)

[Avian influenza annual report 2024](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Avian Influenza subgroup were met in 2025. The subgroup supported EFSA and Member States in the preparation and validation of animal health data used for avian influenza risk assessment by enabling review of data quality, methods and reporting approaches. Activities carried out during the year supported harmonised data use, alignment of reporting practices and timely preparation of the annual scientific assessment, in accordance with the subgroup's mandate defined in the Terms of Reference.

TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [1st Meeting of the Animal Health Network - subgroup on TSE](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 56

Initial budget for 2025: € 14,945

Final cost of activities: € 5,733

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the TSE subgroup were the following:

- **1st meeting of the Animal Health Network - subgroup on TSE**

The meeting marked the transition of the former Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy/Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE/TSE) Network into the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Subgroup under the Animal Health Network and reviewed the new Terms of Reference. During the meeting, EFSA presented the preliminary results of the 2024 EU TSE surveillance, highlighting the absence of classical BSE in the EU, the



sporadic detection of atypical BSE cases, the continued occurrence of classical and atypical scrapie in small ruminants, and the lack of detected chronic wasting disease within the EU. EFSA also provided updates on its ongoing mandates, including work on BSE surveillance and the assessment of specified risk material, outlining timelines and next steps. The meeting further benefited from presentations from France sharing the results of a quantitative risk assessment on potential human exposure to prions through drinking water. Iceland presented its strategy for scrapie control and eradication based on genotyping and breeding for resistance, while the EURL reported on proficiency testing, diagnostic developments, and recent experiences with advanced techniques such as real-time quaking-induced conversion (RT-QuIC). In addition, WOAAH provided updates on the global BSE situation and ongoing revisions to the scrapie chapter of the Terrestrial Code during a technical session with breakout discussions. Overall, the discussions were lively and constructive, allowing participants to exchange experiences and perspectives on surveillance, diagnostics, risk assessment, and long-term control strategies, and reinforcing the value of the subgroup as a forum for scientific and technical dialogue.

[1st Meeting Agenda](#)

[1st Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Subgroup (TSE) were met in 2025. The TSE subgroup delivered its planned annual meeting, as foreseen in the ToR, including review of the updated mandate following the transition from the former BSE/TSE Network and discussion of surveillance activities and reporting practices. The meeting enabled exchange between EFSA, Member States, the European Commission, the EURL and the WOAAH on TSE surveillance under Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, methodological developments and international standards. The discussions and agreed consolidated statement provided input to EFSA's ongoing mandates on BSE surveillance and specified risk material, and supported alignment of surveillance interpretation and reporting practices across Member States, in accordance with the TSE mandate under the Animal Health Network.



ANIMAL WELFARE NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have been modified with the following aspects: compared with the 2023 ToR, where animal welfare activities were embedded within the broader EFSA Scientific Network on Animal Health and Welfare, the newer ToR establish a standalone Animal Welfare Network with a dedicated and clearly defined mandate. The scope has been narrowed to focus exclusively on animal welfare, while animal health, One Health, zoonoses and disease-surveillance activities have been reallocated to other EFSA Networks. In line with this change, the objectives have been revised to prioritise the harmonisation of animal welfare risk-assessment methodologies, identification of research and data needs, and strengthened scientific cooperation between EFSA and Member States, removing objectives related to animal health risk assessment and surveillance. The governance structure has also been simplified, with the Scientific National Contact Points subgroup on the protection of animals at the time of killing retained as the only subgroup under the Animal Welfare Network.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025, the following meetings took place:

- [25th Meeting of the Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare \(AW topic\)](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 34

Initial budget for 2025: € 11,210

Final cost of activities: € 6,772

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025, the main deliverables and outputs of the Animal Welfare Network were:

- **25th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AW topic)**

The meeting addressed ongoing scientific and regulatory developments in animal welfare risk assessment. The European Commission provided an update on the revision of EU animal welfare legislation, including proposals on animal transport and on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, as well as the state of play of related legislative processes. EFSA presented the restructuring of the Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) Network, confirming the establishment of the Animal Welfare Network and its continued alignment with the scientific National Contact Points (NCPs) subgroup under Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.

EFSA updated the Network on ongoing and planned scientific activities, including projects on welfare indicators, heat stress during transport, harmonised welfare data collection and monitoring of broilers. Recently adopted EFSA scientific opinions on welfare at slaughter and on-farm killing, as well as on new stunning methods, were presented, together with progress updates on mandates concerning beef cattle, turkeys, animals kept for fur production, Equidae and the use of Diathermic Syncope® for stunning cattle.



Member States exchanged information on animal welfare implementation and monitoring, covering topics such as tail docking in pigs, cleanliness of cattle at slaughter, welfare of goats, mobile animal exhibitions, depopulation practices, and the protection of crustaceans. Additionally, an ad-hoc exercise on fish husbandry systems commonly used in the Member States was held and a separate report was produced.

[25th Meeting Agenda](#)

[25th Meeting Minutes](#)

[Fish husbandry systems: exercise of the EFSA AHAW Network \(animal welfare topic\)](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Animal Welfare Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in animal welfare risk assessment by facilitating the exchange of information on scientific developments, regulatory implementation and ongoing assessment activities. Activities carried out during the year contributed to the harmonisation of assessment approaches, alignment of national and EU-level work and cooperation between EFSA and Member States, in accordance with the Network's mandate as defined in the Terms of Reference.

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

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [10th Meeting of National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation \(EC\) 1099/2009](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 31

Initial budget for 2025: € 1,370

Final cost of activities: € 0 (final cost of activities included under the Animal Welfare Network)

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the National Contact Points Established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 subgroup were:

- **10th meeting of National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009**

The meeting addressed scientific and regulatory aspects related to the protection of animals at the time of killing. In a joint session with the AHAW (AW topic) (now Animal Welfare (AW)) Network, the European Commission provided updates on the revision of EU animal welfare



legislation, including proposals on animal transport and on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats. EFSA presented the restructuring of the Animal Health and Welfare Network and subgroups and provided updates on ongoing and planned scientific activities, as well as on recently adopted EFSA scientific opinions on slaughter and on-farm killing, of sheep, goats and horses and on the use of high expansion foam for stunning and killing pigs and poultry. The meeting included detailed exchanges on national practices and scientific issues related to animal welfare in general, covering topics such as tail docking in piglets, cleanliness of cattle the welfare of goats, and the welfare of animals in mobile zoos and itinerant events. Specific topics on animal welfare at slaughter and killing were also addressed, such as fish stunning and killing methods and the training of personnel involved in depopulation activities. An exercise on the assessment of animal-based measures (ABMs) collected at slaughterhouse to monitor the level of on-farm welfare of *Equidae* was conducted, with results to be used in EFSA's ongoing scientific assessment.

[10th Meeting Agenda](#)

[10th Meeting Minutes](#)

A Technical report was produced by EFSA from the outcomes of the exercise with scientific NCPs Network representatives that was carried out during the *ad-hoc* session of the annual meeting: [The use of animal-based measures collected in slaughterhouses to monitor the level of welfare of *Equidae* in establishments: EFSA scientific NCPs Network exercise](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToRs of the scientific National Contact Points subgroup established under Article 20 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 were met in 2025. The subgroup supported EFSA and EU Member States in the exchange of scientific and technical information related to the protection of animals at the time of killing, contributing to the consistent implementation and scientific support of the Regulation. Activities carried out during the year facilitated alignment between national practices and EFSA scientific work and supported the subgroup's role within the Animal Welfare Network as defined in the ToRs. The discussion on ABMs collected at slaughterhouse to monitor the level of on-farm welfare of *Equidae* was particularly relevant to gather insights and practical information to consider for the development of ToR-3 of the scientific opinion on the welfare of *Equidae*, which is expected to be delivered by the EFSA AHAW Panel by end 2026.



MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [26th Meeting of the Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 58

Initial budget for 2025: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 7,512

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network were the following:

- **26th meeting of the EFSA Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment**

The meeting focused on recent scientific work and methodological developments in microbiological risk assessment across the food chain. Several national studies and EFSA activities were presented, covering predictive microbiology, foodborne pathogen risks and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Work on *Listeria monocytogenes* included predictive modelling of growth in ready-to-eat foods and re-assessment of dose–response relationships using outbreak data. National risk assessments addressed botulism associated with refrigerated processed foods with extended durability in Italy, tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) in raw goat milk products in France, and Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in unripen raw milk cheese in the Netherlands.

Several presentations addressed zoonotic and emerging hazards, including microbiological risks in wild boar minced meat, persistence of *Salmonella* Infantis in the broiler sector, and emerging bacterial food safety risks not routinely captured by current surveillance systems. AMR was discussed in relation to imported seafood, meat production in Latvia, and resistant *E. coli* transmission dynamics in Denmark. The meeting concluded on presentations on the source attribution modelling for foodborne disease burden and an EFSA update on ongoing and finalised BIOHAZ Panel activities.

[26th Meeting Agenda](#)

[26th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in the exchange of information on microbiological risk assessment methods, data and ongoing assessments across the food chain.



Activities carried out during the year contributed to mutual understanding of risk assessment approaches, identification of common themes and avoidance of duplication, and supported harmonisation of microbiological risk assessments at EU level, in line with the Network's mandate.



VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- 2nd Meeting of the One-Health Vectornet Entomology Network (Solna, Sweden).

Number of attendees: 96

Initial budget for 2025: € 0 (Funded by ECDC)

Final cost of activities: € 0 (Funded by ECDC)

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Veterinary Entomology Network were:

- **2nd One-Health Vectornet Entomology Network annual meeting**

The meeting addressed updates on vector-borne diseases (VBD) affecting humans and animals in the European Union and reviewed ongoing activities under [VectorNet](#). The ECDC presented recent epidemiological trends in human VBD, while EFSA reported animal health outbreaks in 2024–2025, including outbreaks of bluetongue virus (BTV), epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD), lumpy skin disease (LSD) and West Nile virus (WNV). VectorNet activities included results of a survey and workshop on surveillance and control of WNV vectors and invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, systematic literature reviews on vector competence for 25 pathogens, risk assessment of pathogen introduction through vector movement, and updated niche-habitat models for *Culicoides* species. Data-related sessions covered the collaboration between the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), EFSA and ECDC, the VectorNet data portal, validation procedures, and distribution status mapping. Member States presented national One-Health vector surveillance activities (Austria, Luxembourg), outbreak response to chikungunya (France, Italy), LSD vector control, and WNV epidemiology. Planned activities included a proposed vector control trial design, review of available control measures for 25 VBD across epidemiological scenarios, and updates from DG SANTE, HERA and EFSA's joint programming on VBD. Breakout sessions examined the suitability of vector control measures by pathogen and scenario, identifying operational constraints and data gaps.

[2nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[2nd Meeting Minutes](#)

[VectorNet Data Portal](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT



The objectives set out in the ToR of the Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE) were met in 2025. NVE delivered its planned annual meeting within the One-Health VectorNet Entomological Network framework, enabling exchange of entomological expertise and harmonised vector surveillance data between Member States, EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The activities supported the validation and sharing of vector occurrence and distribution data through the VectorNet database and collaboration with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, contributing to the development of updated distribution maps and surveillance overviews. These outputs provided scientific input to EFSA and ECDC risk assessment activities on vector-borne diseases and supported the continued development of the pan-European VectorNet data platform, in line with the NVE mandate.



COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have been revised to reinforce the strategic role of the Communications Experts Network in supporting EFSA's risk communication objectives. In particular, the Network's mandate has been strengthened to ensure closer alignment with the Transparency Regulation and the priorities of the Advisory Forum, with a clearer emphasis on preparedness, the identification and communication of emerging risks, and coordinated communication approaches across the European Union. In parallel, the ToR further clarify cooperation mechanisms with Member State Communication Coordinators and simplify the Network's objectives, shifting from a detailed, task-based structure to a more outcome-oriented and flexible framework designed to enhance effectiveness and responsiveness.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [17th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network \(CEN\)](#) (Parma, Italy and online)
- [18th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network \(CEN\)](#) (online)

Number of attendees: 110

Initial budget for 2025: € 15,000

Final cost of activities: € 9,780

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Communications Experts Network were the following:

- **17th Communications Experts Network meeting**

The meeting focused on coordination and exchange of information on risk communication activities at EU and national level. EFSA provided updates on recent Advisory Forum discussions, including communication aspects related to azole resistance, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), avian influenza and One Health topics. Communication activities on azole resistance were presented, including jointly developed materials addressing resistance in *Aspergillus* spp., and Member States were invited to reuse and further contribute to these materials. Member States shared national experiences in food safety risk communication, including surveys on public and expert risk perceptions, coordinated communication efforts, and targeted campaigns on mercury in fish and assessment of cannabidiol. EFSA presented updates on ongoing and planned communication campaigns, including Safe2Eat, Plant Health for Life and the new mandate for risk communication support on avian influenza, focusing on biosecurity in poultry. Crisis communication was addressed through updates on EFSA's roadmap implementation and case studies related to foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in Germany and Hungary. The meeting also covered media and social media highlights, social science activities including the Communication and Engagement Methods for Food Safety - New Evidence and Tools (COMET) project, a survey on fish and seafood consumption awareness, a flash poll on African swine fever



(ASF), and preparations for the 2025 Eurobarometer. EFSA presented the calendar of upcoming communication outputs. Updates were provided on the Member State Communication Coordinators (MSCC) activities and collaborative tools.

- **18th Communications Experts Network meeting**

The meeting focused on coordination and exchange of information on risk communication activities at EU and national level. EFSA provided updates from the Advisory Forum, including continued support for coordinated campaigns and Member State Communication Coordinators activities. EFSA presented updates on ongoing communication campaigns, including Safe2Eat, Plant Health for Life and No Bird flu, covering 2025 activities and plans for 2026, as well as timelines for campaign handover and future deliverables. Member States shared national experiences and coordinated communication initiatives, including regional MSCC cooperation (Danube and Nordic groups), research on risk perception related to food supplements, national training activities, and lessons learned from a listeriosis outbreak linked to ready-to-heat food. EFSA presented the calendar of upcoming communication outputs. The meeting also addressed media and social media highlights. A workshop on disruptive communication approaches was organised on the second day of the meeting. Participants also discussed the use of artificial intelligence tools in risk communication. Updates were provided on social science activities, including the 2025 Eurobarometer on food safety, the fish consumption awareness survey and the COMET project. The meeting concluded with updates on MSCC reporting, training activities and planning of future CEN meetings.

[17th Meeting Agenda](#)

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[18th Meeting Agenda](#)

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Campaign outcomes:

#Safe2Eat 2025 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. The 2025 edition delivered record performance across paid, earned, shared and owned activities, exceeding nearly all KPIs and substantially outperforming 2024. Results included:

- paid media partnerships: 154 outputs across 17 countries, reaching almost 60 million people;
- influencers: 59 social media influencers engaged across participating countries;
- earned media: 1,162 articles published, reaching a combined audience of over 2.5 billion;
- Out of Home (OOH): 70.8 million contacts generated across 9 countries;
- META social media campaign: 365.9 million impressions and over 2 million clicks;
- programmatic advertising: 38.8 million impressions and 112,000 clicks;
- stakeholder engagement: 114 stakeholders actively involved in the campaign.

#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. The **#PlantHealth4Life 2025** edition delivered its strongest performance to date, significantly increasing recognition and strengthening visibility across all communication channels. Results included:



Communication Unit

- programmatic advertising delivered 23+ million impressions, 136,000 clicks, and a reach of more than 9 million people;
- Out of Home (OOH) activities were implemented in 13 countries, generating 87.7 million contacts;
- a total of 112 media partnership outputs were produced, reaching 44.2 million people through 66 outlets in 23 countries;
- earned media and local public relations further boosted visibility through sustained press engagement, interviews, and event-based activations across participating countries.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Communications Experts Network were met in 2025. The Network supported coordination and cooperation between EFSA and Member States on risk communication by facilitating structured information exchange, joint planning and alignment of communication activities within EFSA's remit. Activities carried out during the year supported consistent approaches to coordinated risk communication, preparedness for emerging issues, and enhanced collaboration with Member State Communication Coordinators, in line with the Network's mandate as defined in the Terms of Reference.



PLANT PEST SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [5th Meeting of the EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network](#) (Parma, Italy)
- [6th Meeting of the EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network](#) (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 66

Initial budget for 2025: € 41,854

Final cost of activities: € 41,509

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Plant Pest Surveillance Network were:

- **5th EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting**

The meeting focused on methodological developments and practical implementation of statistically sound and risk-based plant pest surveillance. A dedicated session addressed the use of Pest Survey Cards (PSCs), including feedback from Member States on their usability and application in national survey planning. Case studies from Spain and Croatia illustrated the use of PSCs for *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*, highlighting challenges related to survey parameters, data availability and interpretation. Feedback collected through questionnaires and round-table discussions will be used by EFSA to inform future updates of the PSCs. EFSA presented updates on surveillance tools supporting survey design and optimisation, including the EFSA surveillance database, Risk-based Pest Survey Tool (RiPEST) and Multi-pest Survey Optimization (OptiPest). Survey optimisation was discussed through demonstrations and group exercises, showing how multi-pest surveys can be planned more efficiently without reducing statistical robustness. Member States presented national and cross-border survey designs for priority pests, including *Agilus planipennis*, *Popillia japonica* and *Anoplophora chinensis*, and discussed risk-based approaches, data sources and practical constraints. The meeting also included updates on EFSA's surveillance project, training activities and future developments of tools and methodologies for plant pest surveillance.

- **6th EFSA Plant Pest Surveillance Network meeting**

The meeting focused on methodological aspects of plant pest surveillance, with particular emphasis on delimiting surveys, horizon scanning and survey planning tools. EFSA presented guidance on delimiting surveys, followed by Member State case studies on *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* in Spain and *Popillia japonica* in Slovenia, illustrating practical challenges in survey design, spread estimation, inspection units and method sensitivity. Discussions clarified the application of annual spread rates (maximum, median or mean), survey timing and the distinction between surveys aimed at demonstrating pest freedom and those conducted in



infested areas. Updates were provided on the development of surveillance tools, including new functionalities of OptiPest for multi-pest optimisation including different epidemiological units , and on the evolution of Pest Survey Cards (PSCs), with the presentation of a revised template informed by Member State feedback. EFSA also presented advances in expert knowledge elicitation to estimate key survey parameters and introduced a new tool to support relative risk estimation. Horizon scanning activities for plant health were discussed, including the use of the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) platform and practical training sessions. The meeting also covered multiannual survey planning approaches presented by Member States, updates on detection methods under a new framework contract, and training and e-learning activities supporting plant pest surveillance.

[5th Meeting Agenda](#)

[5th Meeting Minutes](#)

[6th Meeting Agenda](#)

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OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the EFSA Scientific Network on Plant Pest Surveillance were met in 2025. The Network delivered its planned meetings, which enabled Member States and EFSA to exchange expertise on statistically sound and risk-based plant pest surveillance, including the application of Pest Survey Cards, survey design methodologies and optimisation tools. The activities supported capacity building through dissemination of the EFSA pest survey toolkit, review of methodological developments and practical case studies, and contributed to harmonisation of surveillance approaches across Member States. The discussions and feedback provided during the meetings informed further development of surveillance tools and guidance, in line with the Network mandate to strengthen cooperation and improve comparability of plant health surveys at EU level.



PLANT HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [22nd Meeting of the Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health \(PLH Risk assessment\)](#) (online)
- [23rd Meeting of the Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health \(PLH Risk assessment\)](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 115

Initial budget for 2025: € 16,110

Final cost of activities: € 14,510

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Plant Health Risk Assessment Network were:

- **22nd meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH Risk assessment)**

The meeting focused on EFSA activities related to plant health risk assessment, with particular emphasis on the development of protocols for the assessment of emergency authorisations of pesticides under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) No 1107/2009. EFSA presented the mandate, workplan and progress on the development of fit-for-purpose protocols, including the analysis of past emergency authorisations, the compilation of a repository of alternative non-chemical control methods, and the definition of evaluation criteria. Preliminary results showed a high frequency of recurrent emergency authorisations, mainly targeting insect pests. The structure and principles of the draft protocols were presented, including specific procedures for quarantine pests and planned timelines for public consultation and finalisation.

Results of the PLH Risk Assessment Network survey were presented, providing an overview of plant health risk assessment activities across Member States, including the use of pest categorisation, express and quantitative pest risk assessments, consideration of climate factors, and emerging practices such as citizen science. EFSA also provided updates on ongoing calls for grants and procurement, progress on the update of the *Xylella fastidiosa* risk assessment, and the PlantHealth4Life campaign.

- **23rd meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH Risk assessment)**

The meeting focused on scientific and methodological aspects supporting plant health risk assessment, with contributions from EFSA, Member States and international organisations. Presentations addressed challenges related to large pest groups, including insects, mites and



viruses, and the use of databases to support pest categorisation and risk assessment. Updates were provided on the activities of the EURL for Insects and Mites, the Scoly-HUB database on *Scolytinae* species, and regulatory challenges associated with begomoviruses detected through high-throughput sequencing, highlighting the need to re-evaluate the quarantine status of the group. Several databases and data infrastructures supporting risk assessment were presented, including new functionalities of the EPPO Global Database, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and EFSA's apple pest database developed to support EU export dossiers. A dedicated session addressed emerging grapevine diseases, with updates on *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies, *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* outbreaks in Italy and flavescence dorée in Hungary. Climate suitability assessment approaches were discussed, including EFSA workflows and national methodologies. Member States shared risk ranking, prioritisation and risk register approaches, and EFSA provided updates on ongoing plant health risk assessment activities, including rapid pest risk assessment methods, an update of the *Xylella fastidiosa* pest risk assessment, a new mandate on pine wood nematode, and commodity risk assessments for high-risk plants.

[22nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[22nd Meeting Minutes](#)

[23rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[23rd Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Plant Health Risk Assessment Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in the exchange of information and methodologies related to plant health risk assessment, contributing to the harmonisation of practices and the identification of common priorities and emerging issues. Activities carried out during the year supported coordination of ongoing and planned risk assessment work, data use and methodological approaches at EU and national level, in line with the Network's mandate as defined in the Terms of Reference.



FOOD CONTACT MATERIAL NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [12th Meeting of the Network on Food Contact Material](#) (FCM) (Parma, Italy)

Number of attendees: 111

Initial budget for 2025: € 22,482

Final cost of activities: € 15,126

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Food Contact Material Network were:

- **12th meeting of the EFSA Network on Food Contact Materials**

The meeting focused on scientific and methodological aspects of the safety assessment of paper and board (P&B) and of micro/nano-plastics, along with other activities from Member States, EFSA and EC. On P&B, trade association presented on the manufacturing and their view on the safety assessment of P&B. EFSA and Member States discussed the approaches and activities on the safety assessment of virgin and recycled P&B, migration testing and potential migratables such as intentionally added substances (IAS), Non-IAS (NIAS) and residues of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The application to P&B of the EFSA technical report on the safety assessment of the use of mixtures of natural origin was discussed. The CoE updated on the revision of the Technical Guide on P&B. On micro/nano-plastics, Belgium presented its activities on the safety assessment of microplastics in the food chain and EFSA its report on the micro- and nano-plastics released from food contact materials during their use. EFSA also shared on its ongoing Statement on the safety assessment of hazardous bisphenols. EC shared its progress on the ongoing revision of the EU FCM framework legislation. Twenty-four presentations were made and non-confidential ones were published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and visibility to external stakeholders.

[12th Meeting Agenda](#)

[12th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Food Contact Materials Network were achieved in 2025. It provided an extensive visibility and involvement allowing notably to share the same level of information and discussion relevant to the safety assessment of food contact materials at the same time amongst all participants. It promoted cooperation and alignment of assessment approaches, supported discussion of shared challenges, data use and methodological issues, in



line with the Network's mandate. In addition, the sharing and discussion of ongoing EFSA assessment of common interest promoted early involvement of Member States and other Agencies.



CHEMICAL MONITORING DATA COLLECTION NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [8th Meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 324

Initial budget for 2025: € 20,736

Final cost of activities: € 16,230

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Chemical Monitoring Data Collection Network were:

- **8th EFSA Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data collection**

The meeting focused on the implementation and use of harmonised chemical monitoring data across multiple regulatory domains, including pesticides, contaminants, food additives and flavourings, and veterinary medicinal product residues (VMPR). EFSA presented the outcomes of a technical project on non-authorized substances detected in products certified as organic, based on harmonised chemical monitoring data from 2020–2022, covering approximately three million analytical results. The analysis distinguished between findings indicative of unauthorised use and residues plausibly originating from environmental transfer pathways. Updates were provided on the 2025 data collections for pesticide residues, food additives and flavourings, contaminants and VMPR, highlighting data completeness, quality issues and forthcoming changes to business rules and catalogues for the 2026 collection. The Network agreed on EFSA's established approach for the proactive publication of raw chemical monitoring data on Zenodo, including the extension of this approach to food additives and flavourings data starting in 2026. Methodological aspects related to VMPR data reporting and evaluation were discussed with the EURLs. EFSA also presented developments related to data quality management, mapping between FoodEx2 and Combined Nomenclature codes, the Rebuild Data Framework, and the use of chemical monitoring data to support the recent dietary exposure assessment for lead.

[8th Meeting Agenda](#)

[8th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Chemical Monitoring Data Collection Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in the collection, analysis and reporting of harmonised chemical monitoring data across regulatory domains, contributing to



data quality, standardisation and timely availability of data for exposure and other assessments. Activities carried out during the year supported coordination of reporting data practices, review of data models and business rules, and alignment of approaches to access data and publication, in line with the Network's mandate.



FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [17th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 59

Initial budget for 2025: € 8,604

Final cost of activities: € 6,592

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Food Consumption Data Network were:

- **17th Food Consumption Data Network meeting**

The meeting focused on the use and development of food consumption data to support EFSA risk assessment activities. EFSA provided updates on the European Comprehensive Food Consumption Database, which currently includes 91 surveys covering more than 163,000 individuals, and on preparations for the next round of EU Menu surveys, including planned revisions of the EU Menu Guidance. EFSA presented results from the European Survey on Fish and Other Seafood Consumption, showing limited consumer awareness of contaminants and moderate awareness of national consumption advice. Updates were also provided on the EU Food Composition Database project, the Rebuild Data Framework, and the use of food consumption data in recent exposure assessments, including the lead mandate and the assessment of fennel fruit preparations. Member States shared experiences from national dietary surveys and monitoring systems, including menuCH-Kids in Switzerland, the new German National Nutrition Monitoring (NEMO), and the French implementation of Intake24. The meeting also covered tools and initiatives linking food consumption data with food labelling and composition information, including SCANFOODLABEL, the Food and Beverages Labels Explorer (FABLE), and the FAO Food and Diet Domain.

[17th Meeting Agenda](#)

[17th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Food Consumption Data Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in the collection, harmonisation and use of food consumption data by facilitating exchange on methodologies, data quality and reporting formats. Activities carried out during the year supported coordination of national data collection,



maintenance and development of EFSA food consumption databases, and preparation of updates to harmonised guidance, in line with the Network's mandate. As a result of the discussions, an ad hoc working group (Question No EFSA-Q-2025-00381; M-2025-00058) was established to update the EU Menu guidance for future food consumption data collection activities.



ZOONOSES MONITORING DATA NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [43rd Meeting of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 73

Initial budget for 2025: € 9,216

Final cost of activities: € 10,593

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025, the main deliverables and outputs of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network were:

- **43rd meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on the production of the 2024 European Union One Health Zoonoses (EUOHZ) Report and on scientific and data reporting topics related to zoonoses surveillance. EFSA and the Zoonoses One Health European Union (ZOE) consortium presented the status of preparation of the EUOHZ Report, including preliminary key findings on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks in 2024, and outlined timelines for consultation and publication. Feedback from Member States on 2024 data reporting and validation was reviewed, highlighting recurring issues related to data completeness, consistency and use of reporting tools.

Scientific sessions covered ciguatera poisoning outbreak reporting, EU-wide baseline surveys on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pigs and antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture, artificial Intelligence (AI)-enhanced tracing in the agri-food chain, EFSA scientific outputs on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), including outbreaks in US dairy cattle and joint monitoring reports with the ECDC, update on EFSA's contributions to the EU Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare and on Mapping data flows in Member States, EFSA's path of harnessing AI technologies, and alveolar echinococcosis trends. Updates were also provided on One Health surveillance activities, the Pathogen-in-Foods database, Rapid Outbreak Assessments, the EFSA Burden of Zoonoses project, West Nile virus surveillance, and on the collaboration with the FAO on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data sharing (InFARM system). The latter update was underpinned by an EFSA survey 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 system. The meeting concluded with guidance on improvements to 2025 data reporting, quality checks, timelines and updates on EFSA's Rebuild Data Framework.

[43rd Meeting Agenda](#)

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- Review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses foodborne outbreaks and AMR) and related reporting tools:
 - [Manual for reporting on 2024 zoonoses, zoonotic agents, and on some other pathogenic microbiological agents under the Directive 2003/99/EC](#);
 - [Manual for reporting 2024 antimicrobial resistance data under Directive 2003/99/EC and Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2020/1729](#);
 - [Guidance for reporting 2024 data on zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance](#).
- EFSA Knowledge Junction on Zenodo repositories:
 - [Tables, figures, and country data complementing the European Union One Health Zoonoses 2024 Report](#).
- Review of the [European Union One Health 2024 Zoonoses report](#).
- Review of the [Zoonoses National reports](#).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network were met in 2025. The Network supported EFSA and Member States in the collection, validation, analysis and reporting of harmonised data on zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks, antimicrobial resistance and related hazards, contributing to the preparation of EU-level scientific outputs. Activities carried out during the year supported data quality improvement, alignment of reporting practices, coordination with other EU agencies and the implementation of One Health data integration, in line with the Network's mandate.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

In 2025, the following meeting took place:

- [15th Meeting of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data - Antimicrobial Resistance data reporting](#) (Parma, Italy and on-line)

Number of attendees: 76

Initial budget for 2025: € 14,945

Final cost of activities: € 5,665

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

In 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) subgroup were:

- **15th specific meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on AMR data reporting, validation and analysis related to the preparation of the 2023-2024 European Union Summary Report (EUSR) on AMR and on planning for the



2025 data collection. EFSA and the European Commission provided updates on regulatory frameworks, forthcoming baseline surveys and recent audit findings, including challenges related to sampling at Border Control Posts. The EURL for Antimicrobial Resistance (EURL-AR) presented results from the 2024 confirmatory testing exercise and updates to whole-genome sequencing-based AMR detection protocols.

EFSA presented feedback on the 2024 AMR data reporting and validation, highlighting recurrent issues and planned improvements for the 2025 cycle, including timelines, catalogue updates and data quality checks. Main preliminary findings from the draft 2023-2024 EUSR on AMR were discussed, covering resistance patterns in *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., indicator *Escherichia coli* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), as well as developments in dashboards and story maps for data visualisation. Updates were also provided on baseline surveys on MRSA in fattening pigs and AMR in aquaculture, the Rebuild Data Framework project, and ongoing scientific activities related to carbapenem resistance, azole resistance and water-related AMR pathways.

[15th Meeting Agenda](#)

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- Review of the reporting guidance documents (AMR):
 - [Manual for reporting 2024 antimicrobial resistance data under Directive 2003/99/EC and Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2020/1729](#);
 - [Guidance for reporting 2024 data on zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance](#).
- EFSA Knowledge Junction on Zenodo repositories:
 - [Tables, figures, and country data complementing the 2024 EU Summary Report on AMR – Annexes](#).
- Review of the draft [European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2023–2024](#).
- Review of the communication tool [Dashboards on antimicrobial resistance](#).
- Story maps:
 - [Monitoring AMR in Salmonella](#);
 - [Monitoring MRSA](#).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Antimicrobial Resistance Subgroup (AMR) under the EFSA Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data were met in 2025. AMR delivered its planned 15th specific meeting on AMR data reporting, which supported EFSA and the European Commission in the collection, validation and analysis of harmonised antimicrobial resistance data in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1729. The review of 2024 data reporting, validation procedures and whole-genome sequencing methodologies contributed to improved data quality and alignment of monitoring and reporting practices across Member States. Scientific exchanges informed the preparation of the 2023-2024 European Union Summary Report on AMR and supported coordination with the European Union Reference Laboratory and other partners under the One Health framework, in line with the AMR mandate.



FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS (FBO) SUBGROUP

In 2025, the Foodborne Outbreaks (FBO) subgroup was invited to attend a specific session of the [4th meeting of the Whole Genome Sequencing \(WGS\) subgroup](#) to discuss:

- cross-sector data sharing during multi-country foodborne outbreak investigations;
- coordination between food safety and public health authorities;
- alignment between the WGS data collection and the FBO annual reporting framework;
- implementation of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/179, introducing mandatory WGS and metadata submission for outbreak-related isolates;
- integration of outbreak identifiers (Outbreak Investigation ID) between WGS and FBO reporting systems.

Scenario-based exercises addressed information exchange in cross-border outbreaks, the role of EFSA and ECDC in facilitating communication, and practical constraints affecting systematic data sharing. The Network agreed on the strategic importance of linking WGS data collection with FBO reporting to improve outbreak traceability and data integration. It was decided that any formal integration between WGS and FBO data collections will be implemented from the 2027 data collection cycle, following further consultation with Member States.

Information on meeting dates, number of attendees, budget, agenda, minutes, deliverable and outcomes, are available under the section of the WGS subgroup. In addition, the subgroup contributed to the review of the:

- [Guidance for reporting 2024 data on zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance](#);
- [European Union One Health 2024 Zoonoses Report](#);
- [Zoonoses National reports](#).

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference (ToR) were achieved in 2025. Although the FBO Subgroup did not hold a standalone meeting, its participation in the joint WGS session supported:

- exchange of information on outbreak investigation practices;
- review of data reporting and validation processes;
- discussion of regulatory requirements affecting FBO data collection;
- preparation for future alignment between WGS and FBO reporting systems.

These activities ensured continued harmonisation of foodborne outbreak reporting and supported EFSA's role in coordinating EU-level FBO data collection and analysis, in line with the FBO mandate under the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data.



TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [5th Meeting of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data - Data Reporting on TSE-BSE subgroup](#) (online)

Number of attendees: 28

Initial budget for 2025: € 0

Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) subgroup were:

- **5th Specific Meeting on Data Reporting on TSE-BSE, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on updates to TSE-BSE data reporting and on preliminary results from the 2024 European TSE surveillance. EFSA presented implemented updates to the reporting tools, including the NUTS-2 selector and feedback on the extra information reporting tool, which received overall positive user feedback. Proposals for future data collection were discussed, including a shift to reporting sample/result-level data instead of aggregated data, which was not supported by most participants, and the introduction of a new business rule requiring alignment of sampling, analysis and reporting years for aggregated data, which was agreed upon.

EFSA also reviewed the 2024 data validation and consultation process, outlining common issues and timelines for the 2025 reporting cycle. Preliminary results of the 2024 TSE surveillance were presented, covering bovines, small ruminants and cervids, including number of samples, positive cases, target groups and spatial and temporal patterns. Updates were provided on the Rebuild Data Framework project and its implications for future TSE-BSE data collections. The meeting concluded with the agreement to replace the annual subgroup meetings with *ad hoc* meetings as needed, while maintaining regular communication through existing channels.

[5th Meeting Agenda](#)

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[The European Union summary report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSE\) in 2024.](#)

[Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies \(TSEs\) Storymap](#)
[TSE Dashboards](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Subgroup (TSE) under the EFSA Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data were met in 2025. TSE



delivered its 5th specific meeting on TSE-BSE data reporting, supporting harmonised collection, validation and analysis of TSE data in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Review of 2024 reporting and validation processes improved consistency and data quality across Member States. The discussions informed EFSA's annual TSE scientific reporting and supported coordinated data collection under the One Health framework, in line with the TSE mandate.

WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING (WGS) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [4th Meeting of the Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data – WGS subgroup joint with FBO subgroup](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 73

Initial budget for 2025: € 14,945

Final cost of activities: € 7,846

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) subgroup were:

- **4th Meeting on Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) joint with foodborne outbreaks (FBO), Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data**

The meeting focused on the collection of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) and its use for foodborne outbreak investigations through the cross-sector data sharing between food safety and public health authorities. Scenario-based group discussions examined practices for sharing WGS data and metadata during multi-country outbreaks, the linkage of food and human isolates, and the respective roles of EFSA and the ECDC in facilitating communication and coordination. Participants highlighted variability in national data sharing practices and resource-related constraints, while supporting EFSA's role in mediating cross-border and cross-sector exchanges. ECDC presented updates on the One Health WGS system, including cluster detection, nomenclature and integration with EpiPulse, while EFSA provided an overview of WGS data submissions, quality checks and EFSA-ECDC data exchange. The implementation of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/179 was discussed, covering mandatory WGS and metadata submission for outbreak-related isolates, planned system updates and the associated change management and training activities. Methodological aspects included the use of long-read sequencing for cgMLST profiling and quality requirements for data submission. The meeting also addressed future alignment between WGS and FBO data collections, with the agreement to further analyse technical and procedural aspects before implementation in future reporting cycles.

[4th Meeting Agenda](#)



[4th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Molecular Typing Subgroup, based on Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), were met in 2025. WGS delivered its 4th meeting jointly with the Foodborne Outbreaks subgroup, supporting harmonised collection and exchange of sequencing data and metadata for zoonoses and outbreak investigations. Review of reporting requirements and data submission processes contributed to improved consistency and interoperability across Member States. The discussions also strengthened coordination with the ECDC and integration of molecular typing data within joint EFSA–ECDC activities under the One Health framework, in line with the WGS mandate.



EMERGING RISKS EXCHANGE NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025, the following meetings took place:

- [33rd Meeting of the Network on Emerging Risks Exchange](#) (EREN) (Tallinn, Estonia and online)
- [34th Meeting of the Network on Emerging Risks Exchange](#) (EREN) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 122

Initial budget for 2025: € 15,372

Final cost of activities: € 14,136

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025, the main deliverables and outputs of the Emerging Risks Exchange Network were:

- **33rd meeting of the Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)**

The meeting focused on the identification, assessment and exchange of information on emerging food and feed safety risks, including horizon scanning signals and methodological developments. Member States presented and discussed several signals, which were assessed and classified by the Network. Issues classified as emerging risks included *Burkholderia gladioli* toxin in fermented foods, antiparasitic drug resistance in livestock, contaminants and non-intentionally added substances in bioplastics used as food contact materials, and the illicit use of Cafodos as a fish preservative. Other topics, such as tralopyril residues in farmed salmon, *Streptococcus suis* infections, edible food coatings and vertical farming, were referred as “further information needed”, while sugar intake and fish-based milk analogues were classified as not emerging risks. Horizon scanning sessions addressed member states concern on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), including the situation in the United States and mammalian susceptibility, plant health emerging signals, and outlined EFSA’s expanded horizon scanning and foresight activities. EFSA and Member States also exchanged updates on national and EU projects related to plant-based foods, chemical contaminants, arsenic marginal levels in rice drinks, and emerging chemical risks under the One Substance One Assessment framework. Methodological case studies covered field model assessment on pesticide and adulterant effects in honeybees and analysis of illegal bushmeat trafficking. The meeting concluded with updates on key EREN communication tools, including the newsletter and annual report.

- **34th meeting of the Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)**

The meeting focused on the identification and assessment of emerging food and feed safety risks, methodological developments, and horizon scanning. A dedicated session tested draft



decision criteria for classifying emerging risks, using a structured approach to support consistent assessment and documentation of conclusions. EFSA also presented updates on the use of artificial intelligence in emerging risk identification and analysis. Member States presented and discussed multiple signals. Topics classified as further information needed included *Klebsiella* spp. as foodborne hazards, zoonotic potential of *Corynebacterium silvaticum*, *Shewanella* spp., 6PPD-quinone contamination, antimicrobial resistance linked to probiotics, chloropicrin residues, inorganic arsenic in plant-based foods, human infections with avian paramyxovirus type 1, foodborne outbreaks associated with *Bacillus* spp. used as biocontrol agents, and Oropouche virus. The spread of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* (pufferfish) was discussed as a bio-ecological and public health concern warranting surveillance and awareness-raising measures. EFSA and Member States exchanged updates on emerging risks related to animal and plant health, chemicals, offshore wind farms, and vector-borne diseases, as well as on horizon scanning signals identified in the second semester of 2025. The meeting concluded with updates on emerging risk analysis platform (ERAP) and EREN communication tools, including newsletters and news monitoring activities.

[33rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[33rd Meeting Minutes](#)

[34th Meeting Agenda](#)

[34th Meeting Minutes](#)

[Emerging Risk Analysis Platform \(ERAP\)](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the Terms of Reference of the EFSA Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN) were met in 2025. EREN delivered its 33rd and 34th meetings, which supported the identification, characterisation and classification of emerging issues within EFSA's remit. Discussions on signals, methodological approaches and horizon scanning activities informed the preparation of 25 Briefing Notes and reinforced consistency of classification criteria along with enhanced utilisation of specialised information through ERAP. The activities strengthened exchange of expertise among Member States and EU partners and supported complementarity of emerging risk activities, in line with the EREN mandate.



RISK ASSESSMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES IN FOOD AND FEED NETWORK (NANONETWORK)

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

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 2025 the following meeting took place:

- [15th Meeting of the Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 55

Initial budget for 2025: € 8,805

Final cost of activities: €6,155

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025, the main achievements and outputs of the Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed Network were:

- **15th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed**

The meeting focused on the implementation and revision of EFSA guidance for the risk assessment of nanomaterials in food and feed, as well as on recent scientific developments relevant to nanotechnologies. EFSA presented the progress on the revision of the 2021 Nano Guidance documents^{2,3}, including the planned consolidation of existing guidance documents, clarification of requirements and integration of results from projects on New Approach Methodologies (NAMs). Network members provided feedback on definitions, sample preparation, dispersion methods and the need for qualified/validated test methods and reference materials. EFSA presented a technical report on micro- and nano-plastics released from food contact materials during use, highlighting evidence gaps, analytical challenges and recommendations for future research⁴. The NanoNetwork exchanged updates on ongoing research on the topic, including the EFSA-funded NAMs4NANO project, approaches for sample preparation and dosimetry, preliminary results from a 90-day oral study on nanoparticle agglomeration, application of the Adverse Outcome Pathway framework, and potential uses of nanotechnology in reducing antibiotic use in animal feed. Updates were also provided by ECHA and EMA, JRC and the US FDA on related regulatory and scientific activities.

² <https://doi.org/10.2903%2Fj.efsa.2021.6768>

³ <https://doi.org/10.2903%2Fj.efsa.2021.6769>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.2903/sp.efsa.2025.EN-9733>



[15th Meeting Agenda](#)
[15th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Network on Risk Assessment of the Use of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed were met in 2025. The Network delivered its planned 15th meeting, which supported harmonisation of methodologies and exchange of data and expertise related to the risk assessment of nanomaterials in food and feed. Discussions on the revision of EFSA guidance, new approach methodologies and analytical challenges contributed to the development of common assessment approaches and identification of research needs. The activities facilitated sharing of scientific developments and regulatory updates among Network members and observers, supported capacity building and reduced the risk of divergent assessment practices, in line with the Network mandate.



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](#). The list of member organisations is also available on the [EFSA website](#).

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [19th Meeting of the Network](#) on the Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) (Warsaw, Poland)
- [20th Meeting of the Network](#) on the Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) (online)

Number of attendees: 88

Initial budget for 2025: € 8,967

Final cost of activities: € 6,764

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms Network were:

- **19th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs**

The meeting focused on scientific and regulatory developments relevant to the risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with emphasis on new genomic techniques (NGTs), protein safety, and collected experience over the last 30 years from the Member States in GMO risk assessment. EFSA presented updates on the draft scientific opinion on the safety assessment of newly expressed proteins in genetically modified plants, outlining revisions following public consultation and identifying gaps and uncertainties. EFSA also reported on the mandate for horizon scanning of scientific literature on NGTs, including the draft protocol, timelines and criteria for evidence appraisal. Scientific sessions addressed risk assessment considerations for Ribonucleic Acid interference (RNAi)-based genetically modified plants, including the publication of a new EFSA guidance which includes bioinformatic tool for off-target prediction. EFSA also provided updates on its ongoing scientific opinion on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals. Member States presented national activities on biosafety training, GMO monitoring and NGT research. A dedicated discussion led by Belgium reviewed approximately 30 years of EU experience in GMO risk assessment; the network agreed to collect Member State experiences through a structured questionnaire to be distributed after the meeting. The European Commission provided an update on the state of play of the NGT legislative proposal.

- **20th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs**

The meeting focused on scientific and methodological issues related to the risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with emphasis on gathered experience, data



requirements and complex applications. Belgium provided an update on the activity agreed at the previous meeting on collecting the experience gained in the last 30 years on GMO risk assessment in EU. The questionnaire which was shared after the previous meeting was filled by 17 Member States. The discussion highlighted proposals to simplify risk assessment for single events with familiar traits, stacked events without plausible hypothesis of interactions, and renewal applications where no new safety concerns have emerged since the approval. The network agreed to continue reflection on these aspects at the next meeting. EFSA and the University of Milan presented proposals for a harmonised feed classification and feed consumption database to support dietary exposure assessments. EFSA also discussed the potential need to update EFSA guidance on whole food and feed inclusion rates in 90-day toxicity studies; network members were invited to provide further input via a dedicated survey. Member States shared updates on foresight studies on GM phytosensors, environmental risk assessment projects on GMOs and complex genetically modified plants without suitable comparators. EFSA presented the recently adopted opinion on genetically modified oilseed rape LBFLFK, outlining challenges and uncertainties encountered by the GMO Panel during the risk assessment. The meeting concluded with updates on future Network activities and timelines.

[19th Meeting Agenda](#)

[19th Meeting Minutes](#)

[19th Meeting presentations](#)

[20th Meeting Agenda](#)

[20th Meeting Minutes](#)

[20th Meeting presentations](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms were met in 2025. The Network delivered its 19th and 20th meetings, which supported exchange of expertise and mutual understanding of risk assessment principles and methodologies for genetically modified organisms under Directive 2001/18/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. Discussions on EFSA guidance, new genomic techniques and accumulated risk assessment experience contributed to mutual understanding of the risk assessment practices and data requirements.

NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES (NGTS) SUBGROUP

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [2nd Meeting of the Network on the Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms - subgroup on New Genomic Techniques \(NGTs\)](#) (online)

Number of attendees: 28

Initial budget for 2025: € 0



Final cost of activities: € 0

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) Subgroup were:

- **2nd meeting of the Subgroup on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)**

The meeting continued the scientific exchange on risk assessment considerations for plants obtained by new genomic techniques (NGTs). Two case studies were presented to support the discussion: a DNA-free genome-edited grapevine with targeted mutations in susceptibility genes conferring reduced susceptibility to downy mildew, and the first authorised open-field trials in Italy with genome-edited rice lines aimed at increasing resistance to rice blast disease. Presentations covered the molecular approach used, field trial authorisations, and preliminary observations, as well as practical challenges related to the authorization and protection of field trials. The European Commission provided an update on the state of play of the legislative proposal on plants obtained by NGTs, including progress in Council, Parliament and trilogue discussions, and the proposed framework for adapted risk assessment. Germany presented considerations for a proportionate and science-based risk assessment approach for NGT plants, based on problem formulation and the criteria set out in the draft legislation. The meeting concluded with an open discussion on the interpretation of the proposed categories, data requirements, molecular characterisation and the role of EFSA guidance in supporting future implementation.

[2nd Meeting Agenda](#)

[2nd Meeting Minutes](#)

[2nd Meeting presentations](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Subgroup on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) under the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms were met in 2025. The NGT Subgroup delivered its planned 2nd meeting, which supported knowledge sharing on the development and application of new genomic techniques in real case studies, and facilitated joint discussion of risk assessment challenges specifically linked to NGT-derived plants. Scientific exchanges on molecular characterisation, data requirements and proportionate risk assessment approaches contributed to enhanced mutual understanding of methodological considerations, considering the ongoing discussion on the EC proposal for a new regulation of plants obtained by NGTs. The discussions and outcomes were reported back to the Network at the 19th GMO Network meeting.



PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK

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

Since last year, the Network ToR have not been modified.

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [33rd Meeting of the Network on Pesticide Steering](#) (online)
- [34th Meeting of the Network on Pesticide Steering](#) (Parma, Italy and online)

Number of attendees: 101

Initial budget for 2025: € 11,550

Final cost of activities: € 2,716

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Pesticide Steering Network were:

- **33rd Meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)**

The meeting focused on operational and scientific aspects of the EU pesticide peer review process. EFSA presented the results of a survey conducted among Network members, highlighting the challenges affecting both the intake and peer-review phases. Key factors affecting timelines were identified as poor dossier quality, limited Member State resources and increasing complexity of assessments. Proposed improvement actions included enhanced use of IUCLID validation tools, improved admissibility checklists and increased support to applicants. EFSA presented plans for the establishment of a Support Office for Pesticide Risk Assessment (SOPRA), intended to provide scientific support to Member States facing capacity constraints during the assessment process. The meeting also addressed delays in admissibility checks for dossiers submitted in 2021–2022, the revised approach to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) verification, and the development of an EFSA repository on co-formulants to support more harmonised assessments. Updates were provided on the ongoing work on development of artificial intelligence tools in risk assessment and on the activities of the Interactive Pesticide Residue Platform (IPReP), including ongoing work on residue definitions and data requirements.

- **34th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)**

The meeting focused on regulatory, methodological and operational aspects of pesticide peer review. The European Commission provided updates on recent and forthcoming legislative developments, including new data requirements for safeners and synergists, amendments to uniform principles and data requirements, ongoing work on co-formulants, and introduction of the new Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) hazard classes and their implications for classification and labelling. Particular emphasis was placed on transitional measures for substances and mixtures already on the market, as well as on the responsibility of suppliers to ensure regulatory compliance. Coordination between EFSA, Member States and ECHA on parallel peer-review and harmonised classification processes was discussed. EFSA presented updates on



tools and processes supporting peer-review, including enhancements to the Connect EFSA platform for targeted consultations, development of protocols for the evaluation of emergency authorisations under Article 53, and feedback from Member States on timelines and challenges for maximum residue level (MRL) applications. Lean initiatives were discussed, including new tools to support evaluation reports, analysis of recurring data gaps in dossiers, completeness checks and substance identity verification. The meeting also covered updates on the Interactive Pesticide Residue Platform (IPReP), environmental risk assessment guidance developments, the Operator Exposure (OPEX) calculator for non-dietary exposure, and national phytopharmacovigilance activities presented by France.

[33rd Meeting Agenda](#)

[33rd Meeting Minutes](#)

[34th Meeting Agenda](#)

[34th Meeting Minutes](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The objectives set out in the ToR of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN) were met in 2025. PSN delivered its 33rd and 34th meetings, which supported coordination between EFSA and Member States in the planning, monitoring and improvement of the pesticide risk assessment and peer review process under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The meetings facilitated exchange on dossier quality, admissibility checks, peer review timelines, development and updating of risk assessment guidances, governance of IUCLID, and integration of active substance and MRL assessment processes. Discussions with EC and coordination with ECHA contributed to harmonisation of assessment practices and strengthened transparency and efficiency of the EU pesticide risk assessment framework, in line with the PSN mandate.

PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK - IUCLID SUBGROUP

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

MEETINGS AND BUDGET

During 2025 the following meetings took place:

- [12th Meeting of the Network on Pesticide Steering – IUCLID subgroup](#) (Parma, Italy and online)
- [13th Meeting of the Network on Pesticide Steering – IUCLID subgroup](#) (online)
- [14th Meeting of the Network on Pesticide Steering – IUCLID subgroup](#) (online)

Number of attendees: 225

Initial budget for 2025: € 8,540



Final cost of activities: € 3,011

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

During 2025 the main deliverables and outputs of the Pesticide Steering Network IUCLID subgroup were:

- **12th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup**

The meeting focused on the use and further development of IUCLID to support pesticide risk assessment, with emphasis on dossier quality, reporting tools and data reuse. EFSA presented updates on IUCLID format developments and validation rules, including the planned IUCLID 6.9 release, new and revised quality and business rules, and the removal of Document J for chemical active substance dossiers. Participants discussed implications for dossier preparation, migration and validation, and provided feedback on proposed changes. EFSA presented updates on the IUCLID Report Generator, including the replacement of Document M with draft D(R)AR Volume 3 reports aligned with official templates, developments of reports supporting maximum residue level (MRL) applications, and ongoing work to improve toxicology, ecotoxicology and microbiological reports. Data reuse activities were presented, outlining plans to extract structured data from IUCLID dossiers to support dashboards for Member States and EFSA. Member States and industry representatives provided feedback on confidentiality management, report usability and IUCLID implementation challenges, which were discussed to inform further refinements of tools and guidance.

- **13th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup**

The meeting focused on updates to IUCLID tools, formats and processes supporting pesticide risk assessment, with emphasis on dossier completeness, reporting and confidentiality. EFSA presented the release of IUCLID 6.9, including format changes, updated validation assistant rules and an enhanced admissibility checklist to support structured data reporting and completeness checks. Updates were provided on the dismissal of Document J for newly submitted chemical active substance dossiers and on ongoing work to develop a Confidential Report to support rapporteur Member States in compiling assessment reports. EFSA presented progress on the IUCLID Report Generator, including further testing and planned endorsement of the maximum residue level (MRL) report, replacement of Document M with draft D(R)AR Volume 3 reports aligned with official templates, inclusion of relevant impurities data and publication of updated report templates on Zenodo. Data reuse activities were discussed, outlining the development of dashboards based on structured IUCLID data, with initial use cases planned for metabolites. Updates were also provided on IUCLID OECD activities, prioritisation of future format changes, and revisions to the User Guide on confidentiality. Member States and industry representatives provided feedback on format changes, report usability and challenges related to microbial dossiers, which informed ongoing and planned improvements.

- **14th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID subgroup**

The meeting focused on updates to IUCLID formats, validation rules, reporting tools and data reuse supporting pesticide risk assessment. EFSA presented the latest IUCLID developments, including progress on OECD-aligned format changes, updates to predefined tables and flexible records, and plans for consultation and release of new EU Plant Protection Products (PPP) format updates. Updates were also provided on validation assistant rules, including recent improvements to error messaging and planned consultations on new rules. EFSA reported on developments of the IUCLID Report Generator, including enhancements to toxicology, ecotoxicology, microorganism and maximum residue level (MRL) reports, progress on the



replacement of Document J through a new confidential information report, and results from testing of the MRL report. Member States and industry representatives provided feedback on format changes, report usability, confidentiality handling and validation challenges. EFSA also presented its strategy for IUCLID data reuse, including the development of dashboards based on structured PPP data and longer-term plans for full data ingestion to support analysis and access.

[12th Meeting Agenda](#)

[12th Meeting Minutes](#)

[13th Meeting Agenda](#)

[13th Meeting Minutes](#)

[14th Meeting Agenda](#)

[14th Meeting Minutes](#)

During 2025 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](#);
- [instructions](#) on inserting document J data in IUCLID;
- 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 out in the Terms of Reference of the Pesticide Steering Network IUCLID Subgroup (PSN IUCLID) were met in 2025. PSN IUCLID delivered its 12th, 13th and 14th meetings, which supported cooperation and governance for IUCLID in the context of pesticide risk assessment under the Transparency Regulation and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The meetings enabled identification and discussion of issues related to IUCLID formats, validation rules, reporting tools and dossier completeness, and provided input to format updates and data reuse developments. These activities contributed to improved consistency of data submission and management practices across Member States and stakeholders, in line with the PSN IUCLID mandate.



ABBREVIATIONS

CoE	Council of Europe
DG SANTE	Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
EU	European Union
EURL	European Union Reference Laboratory
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HERA	Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
JRC	Joint Research Centre
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
US	United States
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health



ANNEX: 2025 NETWORK MEETINGS ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Unit	Network	Initial budget	Final budget	Meetings	Attendees
BIOHAW	Animal Health Network	€ 11,445	€ 6,394	1	75
BIOHAW	<i>Echinococcus Multilocularis</i> subgroup	€ 2,400	€ 0	1	4
BIOHAW	One Health Surveillance subgroup	€ 27,269	€ 26,447	1	48
BIOHAW	African Swine Fever subgroup	€ 2,140	€ 300	1	16
BIOHAW	Avian Influenza subgroup	€ 5,376	€ 5,423	1	56
BIOHAW	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies subgroup (of the Animal Health Network)	€ 14,945	€ 5,733	1	56
BIOHAW	Animal Welfare Network	€ 11,210	€ 6,772	1	34
BIOHAW	National Contact Points established under Art 20 Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 subgroup	€ 1,370	€ 0	1	31
BIOHAW	Microbiological Risk Assessment Network	€ 0	€ 7,512	1	58
BIOHAW	Veterinary Entomology Network	€ 0	€ 0	1	96
COMM	Communications Expert Network	€ 15,000	€ 9,780	2	110
PLANTS	Plant Pest Surveillance Network	€ 41,854	€ 41,509	2	66
PLANTS	Plant Health Risk Assessment Network	€ 16,110	€ 14,510	2	115
FIP	Food Contact Material Network	€ 22,482	€ 15,126	1	111
IDATA	Chemical Monitoring Data Collection Network	€ 20,736	€ 16,230	1	324
IDATA	Food Consumption Data Network	€ 8,604	€ 6,592	1	59



Unit	Network	Initial budget	Final budget	Meetings	Attendees
IDATA/BIOHAW	Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network	€ 9,216	€ 10,593	1	73
IDATA/BIOHAW	Antimicrobial Resistance subgroup	€ 14,945	€ 5,665	1	76
IDATA/BIOHAW	Foodborne Outbreaks subgroup*	€ 0	€ 0	0	0
IDATA/BIOHAW	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies subgroup (of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network)	€ 0	€ 0	1	28
IDATA/BIOHAW	Whole Genome Sequencing subgroup*	€ 14,945	€ 7,846	1	73
KNOW	Emerging Risks Exchange Network	€ 15,372	€ 14,136	2	122
MESE	Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed Network (Nanonetwork)	€ 8,805	€ 6,155	1	55
NIF	Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms Network	€ 8,967	€ 6,764	2	88
NIF	New Genomic Techniques subgroup	€ 0	€ 0	1	28
PREV	Pesticide Steering Network	€ 11,550	€ 2,716	2	101
PREV	Pesticide Steering Network IUCLID subgroup	€ 8,540	€ 3,011	3	225
	TOTAL	€ 293,281	€ 219,214	34	2128

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