Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data
Minutes of the 44th meeting

13-14 October 2026
09:00-18:00 / 08:45-12:00
Minutes agreed on 29th October 2026

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

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

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

- Observers:
  Competent authority: Switzerland- Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO)

Competent authority (IPA country): Republic of North Macedonia (Food and Veterinary Agency) and Serbia (Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection)

- Hearing Experts: Gaia Scavia, Giorgia Angeloni, Michele Derrico, Christophe Cordevant, Arnaud Callegari, Giuliano Garofolo, Katia Capello, Arnold Knijn, Nicola Ferrè (ZOE Consortium)

- European Union Reference Laboratories: EURL *Listeria monocytogenes*, Adrien Assere; EURL for Rabies, Emmanuelle Robardet, and EURL *Campylobacter*, Hanna Skarin

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Frank Boelaert (co-chair), Valentina Rizzi, Frank Verdonck, Mirko Rossi, Giusi Amore, Lina Mur, Raquel Garcia Fierro, Sara Angelone, Milica Stevanivic, Stefania Tampach.

IDATA Unit: Anca Stoicescu (co-chair), Fabrizio Abbinante, Sofia Ioannidou, Valentina Bocca, Luca Pasinato, Nuria Ferrer, Ruben Fuertes, Matteo Mezzardi, Edvardas Melis, Ilaria Casati.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from: Albania and Montenegro.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 43rd meeting of the Network held on 14-15-16 October 2025, hybrid.

The minutes had been previously agreed by written procedure on 31 October 2025 and subsequently published on the EFSA website on the same date. There were no pending actions from the previous meeting. Comments received through the meeting feedback survey were presented.

4. Session 1: Status of production of 2025 EUOHZ report

4.1. Automating the drafting of the EU One Health Zoonoses report

Lina Mur (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the EU One Health Zoonoses drafting process developed using R Markdown. The tool, which does not use AI, integrates submitted data with EFSA terminology, business rules, mappings and calculations to automatically generate draft chapters, tables, figures and standardised text, reducing preparation time from weeks to minutes. While scientific review and refinement by staff remain essential, the approach aims to minimise manual transcription errors and allow greater focus on data interpretation. The List A chapters had already been piloted, and development of the remaining chapters was ongoing, with the objective

of automating the full report for the next reporting cycle. The code is expected to be published following completion and review.

4.2. Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings

Giusi Amore (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented an update on the 2025 EUOHZ report. The draft report was circulated to the reporting countries for consultation on 28 September 2026 and their feedback is expected by 16 October 2026 at the latest. The final report will be published on 9 December 2026. She presented some preliminary confidential key findings on zoonoses and zoonotic agents and results on the monitoring of foodborne outbreaks in 2025. Foodborne outbreaks were detailed further as breakdown figures based on the causative agent and place of exposure. Temporal trends of the number of outbreaks were shown as well.

During the discussion, EFSA representatives indicated that they were not aware of any ongoing initiative to revise the *Salmonella* serovar targets. They also noted that data generated through the surveillance system under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union (CP-g-22-04.01 Direct grants to Member States' authorities) could complement the regular annual reporting system by providing additional context and supporting the interpretation of data gaps, rather than replacing routine surveillance data.

5. Session 2: Looking back on 2025 data reporting

5.1. Feedback on 2025 data reporting

Anca Stoicescu (IDATA Unit, EFSA) presented the feedback received from reporting countries via the electronic survey on the 2025 data reporting. MSs provided comments on various aspects, including the scientific data validation, EFSA's reporting tools, the EFSA catalogues, the data validation business rules, and the EFSA Data Collection Framework (DCF). In response, EFSA outlined actions to address the feedback and enhance the data collection process for 2026.

5.2. Feedback on 2025 data validation and consultation process

Giorgia Angeloni from ZOE consortium presented feedback from the 2025 data validation. As in previous years, the ZOE Consortium supported EFSA in preparing the 2025 EU One Health Zoonoses Report through scientific data validation, analysis, and interpretation of findings from a One Health perspective. In 2026, scientific data validation was carried out through a single validation round and one correction period for Reporting Countries, replacing the two-phase approach used previously. Validation was performed according to the Plan of Validation using MicroStrategy reports, raw datasets, text forms, and external sources to identify inconsistencies and reporting issues.

A total of 1,050 clarification requests were recorded, representing a 67% decrease compared with the previous year. Most requests concerned *Toxoplasma*, *Salmonella*, foodborne outbreaks, *Listeria*, and histamine. Nearly half of all requests originated from five countries, indicating that validation challenges remained concentrated in a small number of Reporting Countries. Reporting Country engagement was high overall, with most countries providing timely feedback and meeting deadlines.

5.3. Scientific Data quality checks

Mirko Rossi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) provided an update on the scientific data checks planned for the 2026 data collection. The quality control process will include assessments of the completeness of data reported for prevalence, foodborne outbreaks, and disease status. In addition, the plausibility of the reported data will be evaluated, focusing on potential inconsistencies such as implausible positivity rates (e.g. 100% positivity) or significant deviations (e.g. increases of 20% or more in the number of flocks tested or in flock-level positivity in the context of *Salmonella* national control programmes).

5.4. Feedback on Rebuild: AMR pilot

Valentina Bocca (IDATA Unit, EFSA) provided an update on the Rebuild project and DCF2, the new data collection system. The first operational release has been delivered and used for the DCF2 pilot, while overall project completion is expected in Q1 2027. The pilot involved 45 users from 25 organisations across two data collections and was designed to assess usability and user experience, identify areas for improvement and prioritise future enhancements. More than 90 feedback items were collected from AMR and ChemMon volunteers. Participants highlighted several strengths of DCF2, including improved performance, flexibility in data management and correction, multiple-file uploads, easier error management and more integrated user experience. The feedback also identified three main areas for further improvement: error management; file traceability and action history; usability and navigation. Enhancements addressing these areas are currently under development. Feedback collected during the final pilot workshop indicated an overall "promising" perception of DCF2. The next phase will focus on completing the planned enhancements, followed by progressive rollout to individual data collections, supported by dedicated change plans, communication, training, updated documentation and adoption support.

6. Session 3: Looking forward: 2026 and future zoonoses reporting

6.1. Future zoonoses reporting environment

Valentina Bocca (IDATA Unit, EFSA) provided an overview of DCF2 as the future reporting system, focusing on the main features of the new platform and the proposed transition path. The high-level process covers data upload, correction, release, EFSA review and final acceptance. Data can be submitted through the web interface or APIs in XML, JSON, CSV and Excel formats. The platform integrates different tools and technologies, including Power BI for validation, monitoring and analytical dashboards, Databricks for data preparation and processing, and Azure as the cloud foundation. Examples of the planned DCF2 interface, monitoring dashboards and error functionality were presented. Users will be able to explore reported data in tabular format, correct records directly in the platform, check list of uploads and access error-management functionality, including filtering failed records and downloadable error reports. Project completion is expected in Q1 2027, with continuity in file formats and ways of working supporting the transition. In 2027 the Zoonoses data collection is proposed to run in DCF2 reporting environment, with preparatory materials and opportunities to explore the system in Q1, practical training planned for March, and go-live proposed for 22 March 2027, accompanied by guidance and dedicated support.

6.2. Improvements of 2026 data reporting

Anca Stoicescu (IDATA Unit, EFSA) provided an overview of the improvements to be implemented in view of the 2026 data reporting. The major change is planned for data ingesting moving to DCF2, in the data models and in the Excel mapping tool except for update of catalogues and removing the amendment type data element. An overview of the available reporting guidance documents was provided, together with the planned improvements/clarifications. Changes in business rules and catalogue terms (including deprecation or modification of existing ones and addition of new ones) were presented.

6.3 2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide

Mirko Rossi (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented the key scientific data requirements for the 2026 data reporting. All EFTA Member States, including Switzerland, must report under Directive 2003/99/EC. Switzerland's obligations follow the specific EC–Switzerland agreement.

For the process hygiene criterion (PHC) for *Campylobacter* on broiler carcasses, countries must report the total number of samples tested and the number exceeding 1,000 cfu/g, distinguishing between competent authority (CA) and food business operator (FBOp) sampling. PHC results for *Salmonella* on livestock carcasses must similarly include the total number of samples tested and the number of positive samples, with the distinctions required under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

For *Salmonella* monitoring in rearing and adult flocks, countries should report positivity for any *Salmonella* spp. and, for adult flocks, target serovars. For the national control programmes (NCPs) in broilers, breeding turkeys and fattening turkeys, results must be reported by sampler as: combined CA and FBOp results, CA results, and FBOp results. *Salmonella* findings in higher-risk imported foods covered by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 should use the term 'EU increased control programme on imported food'.

For the food safety criterion (FSC) for *Listeria monocytogenes*, all results above the method's detection limit should be reported as positive. For Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), identification and characterisation of *stx* genes are mandatory, including *stx1*, *stx2* and, if available, their subtypes. For *Trichinella*, countries must distinguish domestic pigs kept under CA-recognised controlled housing conditions from 'other' domestic pigs. Further details will be provided in the reporting manuals.

Mirko Rossi presented the 2026 data reporting timelines. The milestones of the 2026 data reporting were agreed as follows:

- Proposals for new terms to be added in the catalogues: 30 November 2026;
- Publication of the supporting manuals: 15 January 2027;
- Requests for training: 31 January 2027;
- Revision of data providers list: 14 February 2027;
- Opening of the reporting period: 22 March 2027;

- Closure of the reporting period: 31 May 2027, submission of new datasets after the deadline will not be allowed;
- Text forms: 31 May 2027;
- Submitted data will be displayed in the EU Summary reports in PowerBI 30 minutes after submission; any change in data during the data reporting and correction periods will be reflected automatically in the EU Summary reports in PowerBI 30 minutes after submission;
- Data validation period: 1 – 23 June 2027;
- Letters requesting scientific clarifications and/or corrections (if needed) sent to the MSs: 23 June 2027;
- Data correction by MSs: 23 June - 20 July 2027;
- After 20 July 2027, data cannot be changed, as data extracted on this date will be used to draft the 2026 EUOHZ report. Erroneous data (e.g., combination of matrix/pathogen) will not be included in the analysis;
- Data corrections for 2026: 1 - 26 February 2028.

Mirko Rossi presented also two possible approaches envisaged for RCs' feedback on the automated report chapters during EFSA's data validation period (1–23 June).

In approach 1, RCs would receive the validation letters on 23 June. They would then review the file with summary reports, correct their data, and address any identified errors or comments by 20 July. This approach would retain the current reporting cycle and timeline.

In approach 2, RCs would receive the automated report chapters in early June and review them in parallel with EFSA's scientific data validation. They would submit questions and comments to EFSA by 11 June. On 23 June, RCs would receive the validation letters together with EFSA's responses to their comments. They would then have until 20 July to correct their data and address any outstanding issues. This approach would start the review process earlier and could support a shorter consultation period, potentially scheduled for September or October.

7. Session 4: Scientific topics

7.1. ZooNotify – An interactive data portal for searching and visualising zoonoses monitoring results along the food chain in Germany

Tasja Crease (the German representative) presented ZooNotify (https://zoonotify.bfr.berlin/), a German web portal developed to complement EFSA dashboards by facilitating access to national monitoring data. The portal enables users to search, compare, visualise and download data on prevalence, microbial typing, antimicrobial resistance, microbial counts and antimicrobial use. It includes national monitoring information that is not always available at the same level of detail through EFSA dashboards. Users can filter tables and charts, download underlying datasets, and access explanatory information in both German and English. For antimicrobial resistance trends, the portal applies the latest epidemiological cut-off values consistently across all years, displays isolate numbers, and only presents trend

analyses when data are available for at least two years and include a minimum of 10 isolates. Data updates are linked to the publication of the national report under German legislation. Future developments include the provision of more timely and less aggregated data, additional visualisations, and the introduction of a glossary and user guide.

7.2. Results of Burden of Zoonoses feasibility study

Frank Boelaert (BIOHAW Unit, EFSA) presented an update on the EFSA Burden of Zoonoses Project. It is a four-year project to assess the One Health burden of nine foodborne zoonoses across EU Member States and EEA/EFTA countries. The project develops an integrated framework covering disability-adjusted life years, animal-loss equivalents, human cost of illness and animal cost of illness. A feasibility study for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands demonstrated the feasibility of applying the methodology and identified differences in under-reporting, public health burden and animal-related costs. Preliminary estimates showed a higher public health burden for *Campylobacter* than for *Salmonella* in all three countries. For *Salmonella*, animal-side costs reflected production losses and the costs of control and eradication measures. The next phase will apply the methodology to *Salmonella* across all EU Member States and EEA/EFTA countries, followed by a full study covering all remaining zoonoses.

8. Session 5: Breakout session

Participants took part in a breakout session aimed at gathering feedback on the proposed transition to the new reporting process. Attendees were divided into four groups, with the on-site participants split into three groups and online participants forming a fourth group. Each group discussed the following topics:

1. Annual report production cycle – identifying stages or periods that could create practical difficulties at national level, the main constraints encountered, and any adjustments or support measures that might be needed.
2. Data quality checks – prioritising the 19 proposed automated data-quality checks, discussing the type of feedback that should be provided following data submission and validation, and proposing additional checks where relevant.
3. Guidance, information and training needs – identifying any additional support, beyond the mandatory training, that countries would require before and during the transition to the new reporting approach, including scientific guidance and clarification of reporting requirements.

The breakout groups discussed the proposed annual report production and review cycle, automated data-quality checks, and training and support needs for the transition to the new reporting system.

Annual report production and review cycle. Most discussions focused on two alternative consultation approaches. Participants recognised that providing access to draft report chapters earlier in the process (i.e. beginning of June) would enable countries to identify data omissions and inconsistencies while corrections were still possible. This was considered particularly valuable for detecting issues that may not be identified through automated plausibility or consistency checks. At the same time,

participants highlighted practical challenges, including high workloads during the summer period, the need to coordinate corrections across multiple institutions, and reduced staff availability during holidays. Overall, participants supported early access to draft chapters but expressed concerns about introducing a mandatory response deadline at that stage (early June). Suggestions included issuing a second draft after initial corrections and maintaining sufficient time for the later consultation focused on report interpretation and discussion. EFSA clarified that the early draft was intended as an additional quality-assurance resource rather than a formal review stage and reiterated that data corrections would need to be completed during the designated correction period. No decision on the preferred approach was reached during the meeting.

Automated data-quality checks. Participants reviewed the proposed checks and generally agreed that completeness checks should be given the highest priority in the automated feedback provided following data submission and validation. Particular importance was also attached to checks on mandatory data fields, regional totals, year-to-year variations, and the reporting of *Salmonella* target-verification data. Concerns were raised about the possibility of countries being unintentionally omitted from report tables. EFSA explained that automated report chapters would not provide country-specific alerts and noted that reporting countries would also have access to dashboards and quality-check tools to review their submitted data. Participants were invited to submit additional proposals for data-quality checks for future consideration.

Training and support. Participants welcomed the planned mandatory training on the new reporting system and suggested additional support measures, including topic-specific training sessions, practical and advanced reporting examples, demonstrations of the catalogue browser, and multiple training dates to accommodate different users. They also recommended collecting information on countries' specific training needs to tailor future support activities. EFSA indicated that training materials would be made available in advance and confirmed that completion of the training would be required to obtain access to the reporting system. Additional examples and guidance materials, including a catalogue-browser video, were identified as potentially useful supporting resources.

9. Session 6: Conclusion

11.1. Any Other Business

During the discussion, participants highlighted potential inaccuracies in a report that incorporated data from the One Health surveillance project. EFSA clarified that these data were being used solely to identify potential reporting variation in the context of zoonoses data collection and support data-quality assessments, rather than as a source for the report's analytical outputs. They indicated that the presentation of these data would be reconsidered to avoid misinterpretation.

EFSA mentioned that the MRSA baseline analysis had not yet started and that the approach for the format of its publication remained under discussion.

11.2. Date for next meeting

Next meeting dates proposed: Thursday-Friday, 7-8 October 2027 (morning to lunch) at EFSA premises in Parma and online. EFSA will notify the Network Representatives of any changes.

11.3. Conclusions

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

The meeting concluded with several follow-up actions, including the review of reporting guidance and data-quality checks, the submission of proposals for additional quality checks, and the provision of feedback on the proposed national report format and dashboard. EFSA committed to communicating the decision on the reporting cycle and arranging the mandatory training sessions for the reporting system.

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Appendix: List of Action Points agreed at the meeting

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
1	4.2	Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings	Zoonoses Monitoring Data (ZMD) network representatives to provide their review of the draft EUOHZ 2025 report (instructions given by email on 28 September 2026).	By 16 October 2026
2	4.2	Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks major key findings	EFSA to decide internally about the presentation of the One Health surveillance data in the draft EUOHZ 2025 report	By 30 October 2026
3	5.1	Feedback on 2025 data reporting	EFSA encourages ZMD network members to use the EFSA Catalogue browser (https://github.com/openefsa/catalogue-browser/wiki)	Anytime as needed
4	5.3	Scientific Data quality checks	ZMD network representatives to thoroughly review the quality checks for 2026 data reporting provided in the reporting manual and propose new additional quality checks to be implemented for 2026 data collection	As soon as possible, by 30 November 2026 at the latest
5	5.3	Scientific Data quality checks	ZMD network representatives to thoroughly review the quality checks for 2026 data reporting provided in the reporting manual	By 17 December 2026
6	5.4	Feedback on Rebuild: AMR Pilot	EFSA to review and consider the feedback received from the seven MSs participating in the Rebuild AMR pilot.	By 22 March 2027
7	6.1	Future zoonoses reporting environment	ZMD network representatives to express any concerns/questions/clarifications regarding the Rebuild project to zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu	As soon as possible

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
8	6.1	Future zoonoses reporting environment	ZMD network representatives and reporting officers to inform the data providers and to plan sufficient time for training for DCF2 in March 2027	As soon as possible
9	6.1	Future zoonoses reporting environment	EFSA to organise for the ZMD network representatives, reporting officers and data providers more than one training for 2026 data reporting using the DCF2.	March 2027
10	6.2	Improvements of 2026 data reporting	ZMD network representatives to comment the draft guidance for 2026 zoonoses data (For 2026 data collection)	As soon as possible, by 17 December 2026 at the latest
11	6.2	Improvements of 2026 data reporting	ZMD network representatives to comment the newly proposed zoonoses national report template for 2026 zoonoses data (Documents for the meeting)	As soon as possible, by 30 November at the latest
12	6.2	Improvements of 2026 data reporting	ZMD network representatives to consider and provide feedback on the publication of dashboards presenting the Zoonoses National Report data instead of an Excel file (Documents for the meeting)	As soon as possible, by 30 November at the latest
13	6.2	Improvements of 2026 data reporting	EFSA to verify new Zoonoses National Report template with EC policy officers	By 30 October
14	6.2	Improvements of 2026 data reporting	EFSA to publish the new Zoonoses National Report format, after the consultation with ZMD network representatives and reporting officers, alongside the publication of the 2026 EU AMR report	February 2028
15	6.3	2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide	ZMD network representatives to thoroughly review all required mandatory data, as well as the reporting requirements for 2026 data reporting	As soon as possible, by 17 December 2026 at the latest
16	6.3	2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide	EFSA to circulate the reporting manuals to ZMD network representatives for consultation on 3 December 2026 and publish them on 13 January 2027	By 13 January 2027
17	6.3	2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide	ZMD network representatives to review the reporting manuals	By 17 December 2026
18	6.3	2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide	ZMD network representatives to send proposals for catalogues	By 30 November 2026

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
19	6.3	2026 data reporting: procedure, timelines, and key data to provide	ZMD network representatives to express their training needs and topics for info session to EFSA, keeping their national Focal Point in copy.	
20	6.3	2025 data reporting: procedure and timelines	ZMD network representatives to communicate the agreed timelines for reporting 2026 data to the relevant experts involved in data collection and reporting	As soon as possible
21	8.	Breakout session: Annual report production and review cycle	EFSA to inform the ZMD Network representatives of the selected approach for the 2026 data validation process, as proposed under agenda point 6.3.	By 31 January 2027
22	9.2	Dates for next meeting	Next meeting to be organised 7-8 October 2027 in Parma and online.	By June 2027
23	9.3	Evaluation survey of the network meeting	ZMD Network members to fill in the survey: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SxdqQBXjvUiqCs2t3EQlC1EqMsGwfEZHg5CQzWkdMahUMkNCVUE0M0ZYT1JKUk8yRks0UlJMNDFCWC4u&route=shorturl	By 26 October 2026

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