

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

EFSA Advisory Forum Discussion Group (AFDG) on International Capacity Building (ICB)

Background

Today's international risk assessment knowledge community is faced by the following challenges:

- Heterogeneous food safety systems and standards (in terms of capability and capacity),
- Emerging risks (new or geographically new risks),
- Lack of risk assessors,
- Diverging views,
- Big data,
- Increased complexity and work load but decreased resources,
- Globalization of food supply and change of food consumption habits,
- Rapid developments regarding global trade and global travel.

Demands to meet these challenges are made by national and international institutions:

- National ministries
- European Commission
- Food safety authorities from third countries (Range of risk assessment capacity: none to high)
- EU Agencies including EFSA
- International Organisations such as WHO, FAO, OIE, Codex, WTO, OECD

As a consequence, international capacity building (ICB) has become an important field of activity for EFSA and food safety institutions in Europe. The main focus of international risk assessment capacity building is improvement of food safety, consumer and environmental protection.

Currently,

- Knowledge creation (e.g. joint projects),
- Knowledge exchange (physical and virtual) (including policy advice), and
- Knowledge maintenance (e.g. training the next generation, implementation of new knowledge).

are usually the essential components of bilateral cooperation agreements.

Many of these capacity building activities especially with regards to trainings by lectures and workshops are based on similar requests from international partners.

Vision:

The effective use of synergy effects and the use of potentials created by diversity and difference between the 28 EU MS will be of great benefit for the joint ICB strategy of the European risk assessment knowledge community. The joint ICB strategy will foster international collaboration and expand the network of competent international partners in the areas of food safety, consumer and environmental protection. This will play an important role to facilitate harmonization and improvement of risk assessment methodologies and

capacities across the world and will result in better risk management and crisis management practices.

As discussed at the September 2016 Advisory Forum meeting, EFSA calls for an AF Discussion Group (DG) to provide input for consideration by EFSA on how EFSA could work together with agencies in the Member States in ICB aimed at the questions in the Terms of Reference as formulated below.

Terms of Reference

The Advisory Forum Working Group on International Capacity Building is asked to provide advice and guidance to EFSA on defining and strengthening capacity building in line with the Management Board recommendations and EFSA's strategic objectives. In particular:

- ✓ To support the AF in developing a common European strategy for ICB,
- ✓ To take into consideration capacity building activities by other international RA organisations,
- ✓ To develop realistic ideas about how to join forces and achieve synergy in the area of International Capacity Building in RA,
- ✓ To develop SMART objectives and deliverables.

Timeline

Meetings of the AFDG on ICB

- November 2016: telephone conference
- February 2017: 1st physical meeting in Berlin
- February-June 2017: telephone conferences as needed
- June 2017: 2nd physical meeting in Parma back-to-back with the AF meeting

Reports to the AF

- December 2016: Brief presentation of results of first telephone conference
- February 2017: 1st physical meeting (Workshop)
- March 2017: Brief presentation of the draft ToR at AF meeting
- June 2017: Update on activities and presentation of AFDG vision for ICB. Discussion and reflection of the results during break-out session with AF members
- June 2017: Draft guidance report to all AF members after AF meeting for comments and declaration of interest for active participation in the work of the AFDG on ICB
- December 2017: Full guidance report for adoption

MS involvement

- Brief and simple online survey to assess current capacity building activities by Member state Risk Assessment institutions (Survey launched in mid-March/ answers before Easter/ recall after Easter)
- Become active members of the AFDG on ICB

Expectable deliverables

Supporting publication – technical report on the outcome of the AFDG on ICB.