

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

EFSA question number: EFSA-Q-2017-00591

Objectives

The overall objectives of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment (RA) in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) is to enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, to build a mutual understanding of RA principles of animal health and Welfare and to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA. It is expected to promote harmonization of risk assessment practices and methodologies and reduce the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities.

The specific objectives of the network are:

- **To facilitate harmonisation of AHAW assessment practices and methodologies by:**
 - Sharing the best practices for animal health and welfare assessment between EFSA and MS
 - Discussing new scientific developments for animal health and welfare RA and their implication of RA practices
 - Discussing ongoing issues of animal health and welfare assessment such as new guidance documents developed or new opinions adopted
 - Focussing attention on, and streamlining of common research and data needs that support progress in AHAW RA
- **To enhance exchange of information and data between EFSA and MS by:**
 - Discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for AHAW RA purposes
 - Sharing information and experience in data collection and surveillance
 - Identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and on specific issues
- **To achieve synergies in AHAW RA activities by:**
 - Identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration between EFSA and MS, between MS, and between AHAW at national and EU level
 - Sharing and discussing on-going animal health and animal welfare risk assessment activities to avoid duplication
 - Sharing and discussing priorities for AHAW RA at national and EU level
 - Sharing of AHAW RA through a common information exchange platform
 - Identifying emerging risks when addressing current issues in animal health

- **To improve the collaboration between animal health and public health on non-foodborne zoonotic potential zoonotic issues by:**

- Identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health
- Sharing and discussing on-going non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health networks of EFSA and ECDC
- Sharing and discussing priorities for joint risk assessments of non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues at national and EU level
- Sharing of information and data on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health through a common information exchange platform

EFSA may entrust to the network certain tasks, in particular preparatory work for scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and collection of data.

Members of the scientific network

Members of the network shall be appointed in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the establishment and operations of networks¹.

The desirable profile of the scientists includes the following:

- Experience in animal health or animal welfare RA, research or diagnosis at the national level
- Knowledge of the national animal health and welfare status and of the European and/or international context of AHAW RA

Working language

English will be the working language of the network.

Working methods

The network shall meet at least once a year. The meeting(s) shall be recorded and the records published on the EFSA website.

In addition the network will use other means of collaboration:

- Exchanges of MS RA and other information via Information Exchange Platform
- Emails on specific questions or issues

MS' representatives in the network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each network meeting in order to make sure all the necessary information is shared without prejudice to Article 10 of the Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organization operating in the fields within the Authority's mission.

Timeline

The terms of reference for the network will be due for revision in 2019

¹ MB 18 03 10 – items 7 doc 6 Management Board Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organizations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission, EFSA 2010