

23 November 2012

## **EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection** **The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting** **Held in Larnaca (Cyprus) on 18-19 October 2012**

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### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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#### **Members and other National, ECDC or Commission representatives:**

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Georgi Chobanov (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (the Czech Republic), Birgitte Helwigh (Denmark), Jelena Sogel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Laurent Montaut (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Tzani Myrsini (Greece), Edith Nagy (Hungary), Kilian Unger (Ireland), Lisa O’Connor (Ireland), Veronica Cibin (Italy), Simona Iannetti (Italy), Snieguole Sceponaviciene (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Susan Chircop (Malta), Rob Van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Patricia Inacio (Portugal), Ioana Neghirla (Romania), Marta Bedriova (Slovakia), Maja Kokalj (Slovenia), José Luis

Saez Llorente (Spain), Carlos Valencia Gonzalez (Spain), Elina Lathi (Sweden), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Lesley Larkin (the United Kingdom), Chris Teale (AMRCC).

**Observers:**

Drazen Knezevic (Croatia).

**EFSA:**

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Valentina Rizzi, Francesca Riolo, (Science), Simona Fusar Poli (Administration), Fabrizio Abbinante (P&M Team – RASA).

**MINUTES:**

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**1. Opening and welcome**

The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force (TF) members and observers.

**2. Declaration of interest**

None of the participants declared an additional interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

**3. Minutes from the last meeting**

Editorial comments were received by email from the Member States (MSs) on the draft minutes. No additional comments were given at the meeting and the minutes were adopted; the final version will be published on the EFSA website.

**4. Molecular typing data collection on food-borne pathogens and international food-borne outbreak risk assessment at EU level – presentations from ECDC and EFSA, discussion**

Johanna Takkinen introduced ECDC's project on the integration of enhanced molecular typing into surveillance at EU level. The ongoing TESSy 3.0 molecular typing pilot is a generic platform for handling molecular typing data in human cases. At present it covers three pathogens (*Salmonella*, *Listeria* and VTEC) and the curation is performed by an external contractor. In 2012 a pilot on data collection will be run among volunteer MSs.

The Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) is used as a golden standard for most of the pathogens and Multiple-Locus Variable number tandem repeat Analysis (MLVA) is approved for *S. Typhimurium*. Other methods are being investigated and will be discussed at the PulseNet international meeting.

With regard to the harmonisation of outbreak investigations at EU level, ECDC has a specific training programme. EC is going to organise a training course for outbreak investigation under the Better Training for Safer Food framework. The importance of close collaboration between different sectors was stressed.

The chair explained the background for the proposal on molecular typing data collection in EFSA. EFSA has received a request from EC to take the responsibility for the management of the molecular

typing database for isolates from food, feed and animals at EU level and to collaborate with ECDC, EURLs and the relevant institutions in the EU MSs. The EC's vision paper will be discussed at the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) meeting. The chair clarified that details of this data collection have still to be discussed (e.g. data to be reported, steps following the identification of a cluster of human and non-human isolates in the joint database). EFSA is planning to set up a WG for establishing the molecular typing data collection for food and animal isolates. TF will be requested to propose candidates for this WG.

The chair informed the TF that an ECDC-EFSA project is ongoing for using molecular typing data to compare the human and food *Listeria* isolates. ECDC is planning to organise a training workshop on this project where representatives from the TF and from the EURL will be invited. TF will be contacted to propose candidates for this workshop.

## **5. Discussion on use and publication of Member States' specific data in international outbreak investigations**

Johanna Takkinen gave a presentation on ECDC's activities on international outbreak investigation. Within ECDC's mission, the objectives of the Food and Waterborne Disease (FWD) Programme are to monitor trends, enhance detection and investigation of multi-country food-borne outbreaks, and strengthen collaboration between different sectors and laboratory capability in MSs. The FWD Programme uses different threat detection channels. TESSy is a database system for long-term disease monitoring and analysis, whereas EPIS and EWRS are systems for real-time event monitoring. Examples of investigation in multi-country food-borne outbreaks were presented. Finally, it was underlined the need of good information exchange channels as well as harmonised molecular typing methods, to detect early dispersed clusters and outbreaks (spatial and temporal clustering).

The chair presented a proposal for EFSA's procedures in outbreak risk assessment at EU level. In case EFSA is requested to provide data to ECDC within the context of outbreak investigation, the TF and EC would be informed on the coming risk assessment. EFSA's data extractions are summarised in a report, which is submitted to ECDC as confidential. Subsequently, whenever country specific data are to be used for a publication (i.e. specifying the country by name), the relevant countries are contacted by EFSA in order to inform them and to request for their agreement with the publication of the data. In case only aggregated data without any reference to the countries of origin is to be published, the countries are not contacted. The TF was in favour of the procedure.

It was agreed that an alternate TF member or another back up person would be contacted if the TF member is not in office in case of urgent outbreak risk assessment. EFSA will ask TF members to define the relevant persons for this purpose.

## **6. Update on the preparation of EU Summary Reports on zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and on antimicrobial resistance in 2011**

Frank Boelaert summarised the preliminary results from the draft 2011 main EU Summary Report (EUSR). A positive finding was the continued decrease of salmonellosis in humans, in particular for *S. Enteritidis* cases, as well as the lower number of *Salmonella* food-borne outbreaks (FBOs). Good progress was also observed in poultry populations with regard to compliance with the *Salmonella* reduction targets. Campylobacteriosis in humans and *Campylobacter* FBOs increased; no major

changes were observed in the proportion of *Campylobacter*-positive samples for foodstuffs or animals. There was a decrease of *Listeria* cases in humans compared to 2010, even though the trend was slowly increasing since 2008. The number of VTEC cases increased in humans, mainly due to the outbreak with STEC O104:H4, and the increasing trend was significant since 2008. Even though the trend was decreasing in the last five years, the number of human yersiniosis cases increased. Tuberculosis decreased in humans but in animals slightly increased, while brucellosis decreased in both humans and in domestic ruminants. Trichinellosis increased in humans and animals. As for FBOs, the number of strong evidence outbreaks was comparable to that in 2010. An overview table summarising hospitalisation and case-fatality rates in humans for all zoonotic agents was also presented. The consultation will be launched in the first fortnight of November 2012.

Pierre Alexandre Belœil informed the TF that the structure of the 2011 EUSR on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will be similar to that of the previous report. Some changes will be implemented, including distinction between *Salmonella* serovars and animal populations in analysing AMR data. Multidrug-resistance will be also evaluated per combination of bacteria subtype/animal population or food category. The consultation will be launched in the beginning of December.

## **7. EFSA report on harmonised monitoring and reporting of MRSA**

Pierre-Alexandre Belœil shortly presented the new specifications for monitoring and reporting of MRSA in food-producing animals and food. For the purpose, a new definition for MRSA is given and the focus is on food producing animal populations. The first objective is to monitor the genetic diversity of MRSA and to characterise resistance profile in food-producing animal populations; the secondary objective is to monitor the prevalence and follow up trends over time as well as to better assess the epidemiology of MRSA. The report is published on EFSA website and will be used by EC to draft a new legislation for monitoring AMR in animals and foods. Suggestions were made to address in the future specific public health issues.

## **8. Standard Sample Description working group: proposal regarding sample based data on zoonotic agents in food and animals and on antimicrobial resistance data – related revision of pick lists (e.g. animal species)**

Valentina Rizzi explained the objective of Standard Sample Description (SSD). It represents a model harmonising the collection of data at sample-base level in several domains of EFSA activity. The model will be extended to additional areas such as antimicrobial isolate-based data, data on microbiological contaminants in food and animals at sample level. The lists of sections and data elements that constitute the structure of the model were presented as well as the characteristics and the use of the “compound fields”. The report is expected to be sent for consultation to the relevant networks in November 2012.

## **9. Feedback from the group discussions at the Task Force meeting on 26-27 June 2012**

As a feedback from the group discussions held at the TF meeting in June, the chair presented the proposed actions to address the suggestions from the groups.

With regard to the use of XML/Excel/CSV data transfer, new grants will be launched in 2013 if MSs are interested. Also more automatic validation for data submission through Data Collection

Framework (DCF) will be implemented. The pick lists will be revised in collaboration with the SSD WG. EFSA will also develop a data submission acceptance model to enable the reporting officers to authorise the data submission for XML.

Regarding the views on reporting of analytical methods, EFSA will set up a WG to revise the analytical methods' list, involving the EURLs and some TF members. TF will be requested to suggest candidates for this WG.

As for EFSA's data validation, it was suggested that a WG for data validation could be set up. This issue will be further discussed in the future TF meetings.

The chair informed the TF that the old FBO WG will be reconvened to revise the FBO reporting specifications in 2013.

## **10. Plans for amendments in zoonoses web reporting application and DCF schemes for 2012**

Francesca Riolo presented the main changes to the web application for 2013 reporting period. Most of them are improvements on existing functionalities rather than new features. For example different sampling unit pick lists will be established in accordance to the type of table. A new prevalence table for West Nile virus (WNV) is to be added.

The already existing XML schemas will not change for next year (only minor amendments will be made for the reporting on WNV), and Excel tables and XML schemas will be made available to MSs in January 2013. The automatic aggregation of the data and migration to national zoonoses reports will be fully working for the 2013 reporting period. The TF was also informed that there is the plan to develop a model for a pilot on food sample-based data in 2013.

Suggestions were made by TF members on the schema for reporting on WNV (i.e. on type of samples and target animal populations).

## **11. Presentation of EFSA data warehouse project**

Fabrizio Abbinante informed the TF about the plan for future data collection and data analysis in EFSA. Details were given on the ongoing Data Warehouse (DWH) project, aiming to allow the publication, analysis and distribution of data collected by EFSA. Data collected via the DCF or via the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application will be exported in the EFSA DWH. Data flow and design of data models were briefly described. Also an access policy to DWH is under preparation.

The TF members will be consulted, together with all concerned networks, at the beginning of 2013 about the DWH Access Policy that is expected to be endorsed in March 2013. EFSA will also contact TF members to know which MSs are interested in participating in the DWH pilot in 2013.

## **12. Progress reports from working groups**

### ***12.a Meat inspections WGs***

The chair informed the TF about the progress of the new WG on Meat Inspection of farmed game. There is lack of information on production methods applied for some of the animal species addressed

by the WG (farmed deer, wild boar, ostriches and rabbits). As this information would be important to identify potential risk factors, it was agreed that EFSA will send to the TF members different questionnaires to collect relevant information for the animal species of interest.

### ***12.b Listeria baseline survey analyses working group***

Frank Boelaert explained the progress of the WG on the analysis of the baseline survey on the prevalence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in certain ready-to-eat foods. Data validation is on going and the MSs will be consulted through the EC WG on microbiological criteria (SCFCAH), for a final data validation. The TF was reminded that the deadlines for the reports have been postponed to May 2013 for the report A and to mid 2014 for the report B.

## **13. Progress with grant and contract projects**

### ***13.a XML/ Excel use and historical data updates***

Francesca Riolo gave an update on the grants awarded in 2011 as well as on the new grant call launched in 2012. The TF was reminded that the deadline for apply to this new call is the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2012.

## **14. Updating the Task Force member and alternate member lists**

The chair explained that the list of members of the TF on zoonoses needs to be revised and complemented with alternate members, as well the lists of members for the specific TF meetings on AMR, FBOs and IT. Also the list of national contact points for biological monitoring, available on EFSA's website, needs to be verified. TF members will be asked to amend and complement these lists as appropriate.

## **15. Any other businesses**

### ***15.a Other business***

The dates for the meetings of the TF in 2013 were discussed. On a preliminary basis, the following calendar was agreed on:

- January-February 2013: specific TF meeting on IT.
- March or April 2013: TF meeting on zoonoses and specific TF meeting on AMR.
- 18-19 April 2013: joint meeting with ECDC's FWD network, main item AMR. The meeting will take place in Stockholm.
- October or November 2013: TF meeting on zoonoses.

It was suggested to discuss biological monitoring in shellfish in the next TF meeting. Denmark will present a proposal on monitoring of zoonoses in companion animals. EFSA will from its part investigate the possibility to report data on Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase (ESBL) isolates.