

Committed *since 2002*
to ensuring that Europe's food is safe



EFSA Science Strategy 2012-2016

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EFSA@10 Challenging Boundaries in Risk Assessment – Sharing experiences

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To provide Europe with the best scientific advice that enables timely decision-making to:

- protect consumers from food-related risks,
- support healthy dietary choices, and
- improve animal health and welfare and plant health.

Drivers for Progress and Change

- **Evolving European food policy context – EFSA’s Strategic Plan**
- **Nature and volume of scientific work**
 - ✓ Regulated products with legal deadlines, many sectorial regulations and controversial nature
 - ✓ Other public health and emerging issues
 - ✓ Nature and complexity of advice:
 - novel technologies
 - marked broadening of the scientific discourse: environmental impact, occupational health, post-market monitoring, single versus multiple hazards
 - use of prior information, tiered approach
- **Resources**
 - ✓ Budget to remain around existing levels

EFSA's Science Strategy: key strategic objectives

- 1) Further develop excellence of EFSA's scientific advice
- 2) Optimise the use of risk assessment capacity in the EU
- 3) Develop and harmonise methodologies and approaches to assess risks associated with the food chain
- 4) Strengthen the scientific basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring

1. Further develop excellence of EFSA's scientific advice

Scientific Excellence and other core values

- Quality management system
- Responsiveness and Independence: high investment
- Transparency of materials and method
- Openness and Dialogue: roles and responsibilities of stakeholders

Integrated Advice : Broad range of skills

- Growing demand on Scientific Committee: multi-sectorial and multi-panel issues e.g. ERA, endocrine active substances
- Close collaboration with other EU agencies (ECDC, ECHA, EMA, EEA)

Scientific Outputs

- EFSA Journal further indexed in bibliographical databases
- Feedback systematically collected, i.e. fitness for purpose
- Clarity, consistency and framing of outputs for range of stakeholders e.g. uncertainties

2. Optimise the use of risk assessment capacity in the EU

Planning and priority settings

- Medium- & long-term planning of EFSA's work
- Identify and evaluate emerging issues: Scientific Committee standing working group
- Develop prioritisation tools/criteria – risk monitoring and risk ranking studies

Seek workload balance external experts/ internal support

- Standardise preparatory work e.g. on well-established review processes
- Maintain scientific excellence and independence: training programmes

Cooperation with Member State organisations

- Proper planning: multi-annual contracts
- Preparatory work e.g. on regulatory review
- Shared core values
- Harmonised methodologies

Cooperation with EU / international organisations and third countries

- Avoid duplication and inconsistencies
- Work sharing

3. Develop and harmonise methodologies and approaches to assess food safety risks

Harmonisation

- Within EFSA and with Member States/ EU and international agencies
- Disseminate guidance through training programmes (BTSF) and networking
- Multi-annual plan on guideline review and development - standing working groups Scientific Committee

New methodologies

- Broadening scientific discourse: e.g. chemical mixtures
- New toxicology framework: EU platform
- Research needs on new methods
- With EU agencies, 3rd countries, international actors

Approaches on regulated substances

- Process streamlining

4. Strengthen the scientific basis for risk assessment and monitoring

Data Collection

- Identify medium/long-term needs
- Strengthen data quality for exposure both for “post marketing” residues (e.g. pesticides) as well as contaminants and food consumption (EU Menu)
- Identify new areas (e.g. hazard characterisation, trade)
- Role of stakeholders

Scientific Literature

- Ensure efficient access to information in published/unpublished scientific studies: virtual library
- Boost EFSA’s support to EFSA’s Panels/Committee to:
 - *monitor and screen new scientific information*
 - *provide systematic literature review*
- Expand information sourcing/sharing of
 - *Information Exchange Platform (IEP) and cooperation networks*
 - *research results*

Regulatory reviews

- Quality studies
- Systematic literature review

Research

- DG Research: 3 years projects – horizon 2020
- DG JRC: E.U. Platform on Tox 21

EFSA functions thanks to EU Risk Assessment Community

GOAL Protect Consumers as well as Animals, Plants, Environment by supporting Decisions-makers on scientific aspects

HOW Developing and Implementing Standards for Data and Methods

SOME KEY ISSUES What are the topics that merit most resources?
What are the roles of the institutional and non-institutional stakeholders?

