

Mid-Term Report to EFSA's Management Board on the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016

Introduction

After discussion with EFSA's Management Board (MB) in June 2014, the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014 – 2016¹ was validated with EFSA's Advisory Forum (AF) in September 2014. The Roadmap sets forth specific actions which support the shared vision to move beyond a focus on operational tools towards the building of a common Risk Assessment Agenda, where priorities are defined and attained collaboratively, Member States in partnership with EFSA. As the Roadmap is currently at mid-term, this document aims to inform the MB about progress made to date and provide a platform for discussion to enhance progress or adapt directions.

For ease of reference, this Mid-Term report summarises information in a tabular format in Annex, reporting on all the actions anticipated in the Roadmap. Further detail is available in the Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2014², including an overview of the EFSA Partners in EU Member States (MS), Iceland and Norway (Annex A) and a Scientific Cooperation Toolbox (Annex B). Highlights of progress made is summarised below in bullet points.

EU cooperation and EU risk assessment agenda

- Together with Member States, EFSA is carrying out many scientific cooperation initiatives, building on solid working relations established in previous years.
- The implementation of the actions identified in the Roadmap is progressing in line with planned timelines, with only the exception of the Twinning projects which will be delayed, leaving room for the start-up of a large Fellowship Programme. While work programme sharing is improving, confidentiality issues are still cited by some MS as an obstacle.
- To further strengthen partnerships, the Executive Director initiated visits to all EU Member States (over a 3 year period). During these visits joint projects are agreed that allow for MS to take the lead on one or more priority topics with the support of EFSA, often in cooperation with other MS.
- New training opportunities are materialising, most notably the risk assessment courses under the Commissions Better Training for Safer Food programme which offer training to 800 national experts, and a new Fellowship programme with national food agencies to attract young scientists to the area of risk assessment.

¹ Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014 – 2016. Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/scientificcooperationroadmap1416>

² Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2014. Available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/788e>

- The EU Risk Assessment Agenda is on track to becoming an important tool for enhancing cooperation on priority subjects. A Delphi study is on-going to agree on common priorities. The outcome of this study will be ready for the AF meeting in December and form the basis for the first EU RA Agenda.
- Additional financial instruments now support sharing workloads and outsourcing. The newly established grant schemes, such as the thematic grants and the framework partnership agreements, have proven to stimulate innovative proposals by Member State organisations; they will be useful to implement joint activities on priorities identified under the EU risk assessment agenda.
- The AF operations have been reviewed through an on-line survey followed by in-depth interviews and breakout sessions at AF meetings. Recommendations from this review will be implemented to strengthen the strategic role of the AF in steering the EU risk assessment Agenda.

International Scientific Cooperation and Interagency Cooperation

- The establishment of EFSA's multi-annual programme on international cooperation has given scientific cooperation a broader, global perspective. An important gain resulting from the programme is improved integration of EFSA's cooperation activities with partners in and outside the European Union.
- Good working relations have been established with experienced risk assessment bodies in third countries and international organisations such as WHO, FAO, OIE and OECD. Further consideration should be given to global food research and innovation and whether EFSA should also foster more strategic cooperation with organisations worldwide (in consultation with the European Commission and its Institutions as well as EU MS).
- There is an increasing interest and recognition of EFSA's work at an international level. EFSA liaises closely with Commission services on international activities, providing scientific and technical support to the EU delegation at CODEX meetings, and increasingly involving MS in its international activities.
- EFSA has taken an active role in coordinating networks with other Agencies, such as the EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA) and the EU Agencies Network on Pre-Accession and ENP Programmes.
- EFSA has established work programmes with EU agencies and the JRC on cross-cutting subjects of international relevance, such as multiple hazards, antimicrobial resistance, whole genome sequencing and endocrine active substances.
- EFSA is actively participating in international liaison groups with a high commitment of regulatory food safety agencies worldwide, to exchange information and knowledge about emerging issues in chemical and microbiological food safety.

Outlook

- Scientific cooperation will be an integral part of EFSA's Strategy 2020, and the Strategy is expected to provide for a longer time-perspective and strategic home for scientific cooperation, building further on activities initiated under the Roadmap.

- The Strategy indicates that MS and EFSA will agree and implement a common EU RA Agenda, one that will improve the use of Europe-wide capacities, the efficient spending of limited resources and lead to more coherent communications. The common agenda will also play an important role in preventing doubling of work and help influence MS priorities and research programmes.
- Adoption of the EU RA Agenda will provide a new *modus operandi* for the AF to agree on common priorities for cooperation with other MS. Identified priorities will be followed up by joint projects potentially supported by Grants from EFSA or resources identified through other (inter-)national funding schemes. AF members will be asked to indicate to which priority topics they dedicate own expertise and/or find additional (inter-)national resources.
- EFSA will continue to prioritise multi-lateral cooperation and increasingly liaise with EU, MS and International agencies, aiming to be an international hub that promotes harmonisation of methodologies and tools and development of guidance.
- Important progress in stimulating the coherence with the EU and international partners in risk communications is expected through the creation of an international platform on risk communication to be discussed at the Global Round Table in October.
- EFSA will also continue to advise international partners on the establishment of regional risk assessment structures in other regions of the world such as in South-East Asia (ASEAN), Africa, the Gulf Countries, South and Latin-America.

Annex

Tabular report on progress made on actions in the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014 - 2016

Legend: Colours of the table cells indicate the degree of accomplishment of the specific actions defined by the Roadmap

	Accomplishment
	Good progress
	Not yet started or delayed

1. EU Cooperation (actions in chapter 7 of Roadmap: Scientific capacity building and intelligent use of resources)

Joint projects

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Joint projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch thematic grants. 	2015	<p>Pilot Thematic Grant: Launched Call for Proposals with deadline end of April 2015. 6 proposals were received, involving a total of 36 (Article 36) organisations from 17 MS. Following the high interest, a new Call is being prepared for 2016, likely covering more than one theme.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden means of outsourcing scientific work, including use of framework partnership agreements where relevant. 	2015	<p>The EU Risk Assessment Agenda is progressing as a key tool for collaboration and outsourcing. A Delphi study is on-going to agree on common priorities involving the AF and around 200 experts across the EU. Findings will be presented to the AF end 2015, to be the basis for the first EU RA Agenda.</p> <p>The external review of EFSA's grant and procurement schemes highlighted that grant agreements are well suited for cooperation and networking activities. Recommendations include making more use of grant-funded projects. More financial instruments have been developed, such as lump sum grant agreements, thematic grants, and framework partnership agreements.</p> <p>ED visit follow-up projects: The ED has visited 6 countries and received a visit from one country, leading to scientific cooperation projects with those countries and others as well. Joint projects agreed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on Foodborne viruses (UK) Joint project on Ciguatoxin (ES) Joint project on Food Chain lab (DE)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint project Crisis preparedness training (Baltic countries) • Workshop on African Swine Fever (Baltic countries) • Bee health (FR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a call for proposals to support Twinning Projects among Member States. 	2016	<p>Discussed concept and objectives for Twinning Projects among MS with FPs and AF. The project aims to (1) optimise the use of existing RA capacity at EU level by stimulating joint projects among MS; (2) promote knowledge transfer and sharing of RA expertise contributing to its sustainability; and (3) through "Mentoring" or "Partnership", contribute to strengthen EU RA capacity.</p> <p>Due to lack of availability of budget for 2016, the launch of the call for proposals will be delayed.</p>

Sharing work programmes

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Sharing work programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available work plans continue to be shared and additional Excel table developed. 	On-going	<p>Annual and multi-annual work-plans shared on a regular basis at AF meetings. A new platform for information sharing is currently under discussion/consideration as an alternative to the Information Exchange Platform (IEP).</p> <p>Agreement with AF and FP to continue using the table on forthcoming risk activities. The Excel table has been renewed, functionality testing with all MS is on-going.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing agenda item on AF and FP meetings for update on unplanned risk assessment activities. 	On-going	<p>FPs are requested to update the table on forthcoming RA activities, with input from other Article 36 organisations before each FP meeting - one month before each AF meeting. Unplanned RA activities can be reported at each FP meeting under the respective standing Agenda Item.</p> <p>The updated table is shared at EFSA level with the relevant scientific Units for information and comments.</p> <p>The complete table and comments, plus an extract of the EFSA mandates for the quarter is then shared and discussed at each AF meeting.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronise FP with AF meetings, organising 4 meetings per year. 	On-going	<p>The synchronization of AF and FP meetings (both meetings now quarterly) has been implemented as of beginning 2015 and proven to be of added value to</p>

			both networks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve Article 36 network in sharing work plans. 	On-going	The sharing of Work Plans is at the level of the AF, which are from organisations on the Article 36 List. FPs are stimulated to share renewed Excel Table with Article 36 organisations from their country.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-notify and consult AF earlier about sensitive scientific opinions. 	On-going	Early consultation has been discussed with the AF and there has been agreement that wherever possible information is shared ahead of publication. Linked to this is specific consultation where there is potential for scientific divergence (Article 30 of regulation 178/2002) with MS who may be carrying out their own work to reduce the potential for conflicting risk communication messages.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend public consultation to 8 weeks, whenever possible. 	On-going	Now standard practise.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum to adopt a guideline on managing diverging scientific opinions. 	On-going	At the 56 th AF meeting in June 2015, members agreed a guideline on good practice in relation to Article 30(4) on substantive scientific divergence. A review of the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Forum will be initiated in 2016 to formalise the role AF members have in dealing with diverging scientific opinions.
Life-cycle of opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured dialogue when considering updating guidance and/or scientific opinions. 	2015 - 2016	In 2016, EFSA will initiate an international discussion about the update of risk assessment guidance in consultation with the Scientific Committee, Advisory Forum and partners at EU and international level.

Operation of Advisory Forum

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early consultation through AF in case new guidance will be developed. 	2014	The AF is being consulted on a new guidance on the initiation of the Unit (recent cases include Guidance on allergenicity (GMO) and the assessment of foods for special medical purposes (Nutrition)).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops / training on new guidance delivered. 	2014	EFSA decided to organise events where it consults regulatory risk assessment agencies from MS, EU, third countries and international organisations on new and updated guidance it is preparing in the various areas of its remit. The

			international workshop on “Increasing Robustness, Transparency and Openness of Scientific Assessments” that took place from 29-30 June 2015 in Brussels is a first example of this kind of events.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mandate Scientific Network on the harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies. 	2014	The Scientific Network on the harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies has completed its mandate, and a new approach was agreed with the AF to replace the current network with a series of consultations with MS during the whole cycle of horizontal guidance preparation.
Operation of the AF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue on the AF role to coordinate networking with competent bodies in the MS. 	2014-2015	The review of the operation of the AF that is on-going includes aspects of the networking role members have at national level and a report on the discussions held at the 56 th meeting is expected by October 2015. A useful tool illustrating the different national partners in each MS was developed by EFSA with help of the FPs, and is available in the Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2014.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess specific needs and expectations of MS. 	2014-2015	A survey on the role and expectations of AF members was completed by the end of 2014, followed by break-out discussions at AF, and in-depth telephone interviews by an external contractor. Findings will drive the review of the operation of the AF.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue on needs and possible cluster approaches using different cooperation tools. 	2014-2015	This will be addressed as part of the review of the operation of the AF. A first version of the EU RA Agenda should be agreed by the AF end of this year that will be a good basis for clustered cooperation on priority topics by different MS.

Strengthen national networking and role of Focal Points

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Better national networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA’s scientific networks to clearly set out their work activities. 	2015	<p>Networks are sending agendas and minutes of Network meetings to AFSCO for further distribution to FPs and AF.</p> <p>A calendar of Network meetings has been created and shared with FPs.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate information flow to / from networks on work planning, new research, exchange of models and literature searches. 	2015	A guideline on the information flow between Networks, EFSA and AF was finalised, describing the role of FPs of coordinating the information from and to Network representatives. FPs initiated meetings with all their national Network representatives. The development of induction material for new Network representatives has been initiated.
Expand role Focal Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen formal and financial framework FPs 	2015	Following a review of 5 years of operation of the FP network - which included consultations with the European Commission - it was concluded that the FP network has its formal framework under Art. 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation and that, consequently, increased financial support is provided to FPs through Grant Agreements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on new tasks for FPs 	2015	In addition to current task, as of 2015 FPs started to: promote RA training initiatives; coordinate the information flow between AF members and EFSA network representatives; and assist EFSA and AF members in sharing information on international scientific cooperation RA activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise FP Grant Agreements, including new tasks 	2015	New Focal Point Agreements have been implemented with all MS, as well as with Norway and Iceland. These are low-value Lump Sum Grant Agreements valid for 1 year and renewable up to three times. The full list of FP tasks has been laid down on the new FP Agreements.

Sharing expertise

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Sharing expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Expert Database repository into a tool to support a talent management approach. 	2015 - 2016	<p>The new Talent Management solution to imbed procedures for establishing Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Working Groups in a Talent Management Approach, is currently being developed. Delivery is expected at the end of April 2016.</p> <p>A new ED Decision are in force to be used for the set-up of the new WGs. When the new Talent Management tool will be operational the EDB will close its operational life.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate exchange of staff / host PhD students. 	2015 - 2016	<p>A PhD Scheme agreed with the AF allowing for PhD students, coming from Academic institutions in Member States to stay for a period of their PhD in EFSA. AF and FP to stimulate exchanges with pilots starting 2016.</p> <p>Currently under discussion with the AF, is launching a Fellowship programme allowing candidates from one MS to do a one-year fellowship in another MS, with the aim to attract young scientists to the area of risk assessment. Each cohort of fellows will be offered a number of training modules and exposure to EFSA working groups during that year.</p>
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Training opportunities

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Training opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTSF training courses on Risk Assessment (RA). 	2015 - 2016	<p>Since 2014, EFSA has been supporting the implementation of the 2nd edition of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) risk assessment training courses. A total of 32 courses will run during the period 2014-2018, delivering training in 8 different risk assessment areas to 800 national experts from MS public organisations. These courses (of 5 days) cover Animal Health RA, Animal Welfare RA, Environmental RA, Microbiological RA, Chemical RA, Nutrition RA, GMO RA and Plant Health RA.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the guest scientist and staff exchange programme to EU agencies and third countries. 	2015 - 2016	<p>After positive feedback of the pilot year with 10 exchanges, AF members agreed at the March 2015 meeting to continue this Scheme and to expand the number of exchanges. The Scheme is already open to third countries and further expansion of the Scheme to EU agencies is planned for 2016.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open advanced risk assessment courses developed by and for EFSA Panel members/staff to participants from Member States. 	2015 - 2016	<p>During 2015, EFSA's specialised courses on advanced aspects of risk assessment - namely on Environmental Risk Assessment; Uncertainty and variability; Benchmark Dose (BMD) modelling; and Computational toxicology and modelling tools, have been opened to representatives of certain relevant networks. These courses will continue to be carried out during 2016. More than a hundred posts may be made available for network representatives.</p> <p>During the second half of 2015, EFSA also opened, on a pilot basis, the</p>

		<p>courses on steering an expert knowledge elicitation (EKE) and on systematic reviews and in specific steps of systematic reviews to all network representatives, with 40 posts available for network representatives.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate exchange on post-graduate training opportunities and stimulate graduate study programmes to address risk assessment in curricula. 	2015 - 2016	<p>EFSA organised a seminar on Food Risk Assessment for students in different levels (graduate, postgraduate) of Food Science, in cooperation with the University of Parma and will contribute to the Master in Agribusiness & Food Management programme of the University.</p> <p>During EFSA's 2nd Scientific Conference at EXPO2015 the breakout session "Expertise for the future" will be dedicated to present and stimulate training activities and methodologies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate and share opportunities for participation in risk assessment courses, for example summer courses. 	2015 - 2016	<p>EFSA participated with keynote speaker in the Q-Safe programme in Malta 22/03/2015. Q-Safe is a training programme on "Quantitative Tools for Sustainable Food and Energy in the Food chain" sponsored by ERASMUS+ with the participation of students from 6 European Universities.</p> <p>EFSA will participate in an 'intensive school' organised by the University of Parma in April 2016 on the topic "Computation Food Safety" with participation of University of Richmond (Virginia), Barcelona and Parma. EFSA will organise and host an afternoon session of the two-day event for 150 participants.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate mentoring and regional training opportunities whereby an expert or organisation could provide guidance on certain aspects related to risk assessment, for example through twinning projects. 	2015 - 2016	<p>A large conference was organised for the European Neighbourhood countries in November 2014, under the EFSA ENP programme and regional training opportunities are planned under the new pre-accession programme, due to start in October 2015. In these conferences active contributions from MS are organised through the AF and FPs.</p> <p>The study tour was organised in March as a two-day exchange between experts from the Belgian food safety authorities and experts from the Neighbourhood countries on food safety information and practical work at national level.</p> <p>Visits were organised in Jordan (May) and Azerbaijan (July) with the aim to increase the cooperation between EFSA and national food authorities and to increase their capacity to perform Food</p>

			<p>Safety Risk Assessments.</p> <p>In beginning of 2016 a regional workshop for the Baltic States and Poland will be organised in Latvia on African Swine Fever.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop basic risk assessment training opportunities / material targeted to non-scientists and relevant stakeholders 	2015 - 2016	<p>EFSA Academy developed and organised sessions on Introduction to Food Safety and Risk Assessment for new EFSA staff members. E-training on this topic is being developed through external contractor expected to be ready by end 2015. The material is also used as base for workshops in various European Neighbourhood countries like Jordan, Azerbaijan and Palestine.</p>

2. International Scientific Cooperation (actions in chapter 10 of Roadmap)

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
Support EU in its international commitments	<p>Provision of scientific and technical contributions to the EU in Codex related activities, on request of the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of supporting documents for EU delegations Responding to calls for data from JECFA/JMPR/JEMRA 	Following annual and ad-hoc requests from DG SANCO	<p>EFSA is providing scientific and technical support to the EU delegations participating in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius and its Committees. This includes a.o.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of data to calls for data issued by the FAO, WHO or CODEX Secretariat for meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees JECFA, JEMRA and JMPR, as well as meetings of CODEX Committees (e.g. CCCF, CCPR, CCNFSU). Participation in CODEX meetings (e.g. CCPR, CCNFSU). Provision of scientific reports to be discussed at EC/SANTE's meetings with Member States on matters to be discussed at CODEX meetings.
	Develop joint work programme with WHO and FAO focused on harmonisation of risk assessment and risk communication guidelines, on preparatory work for evaluation of priority substances, and identification of emerging risks	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA established contact points with WHO in Geneva and FAO in Rome for coordination of scientific activities. Meetings take place on a regular basis to discuss work programmes and identify joint activities on subjects of mutual interest. EFSA is organising on ad-hoc basis joint events with FAO and WHO aimed at harmonisation of methods and approaches in the area of contaminants and residues of

			<p>pesticides and veterinary drugs (e.g. TTC in December 2014, IESTI in September 2015).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA is member of WHO's Chemical Risk Assessment Network (see http://www.who.int/ipcs/network/en/).
	<p>Develop joint work programme with international organisations in the area of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> plant protection (IPPC/EPPO) international test guidelines (OECD) risk assessments in the area of biological hazards, animal health and welfare and data collection in the area of zoonotic diseases (OIE) 	2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA is developing a cooperation agreement with EPPO; EFSA is taking part in different OECD meetings in the area of alternative testing strategies, chemical risk assessment and the development of harmonised templates for data sharing; EFSA is following closely scientific developments in OIE and is participating in OIE meetings.
	<p>Meetings with delegations from risk assessment bodies in third countries in consultation with the European Commission</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA maintains close working contacts with a range of international partners active in relevant fields. EFSA has built dialogue and co-operation with food agencies in different parts of the world and with international organisations, as reported in the quarterly MB progress reports. EFSA contributes to several capacity building activities. EFSA shared its experiences with delegations from various countries in Asia, Africa and South America and it is implementing projects under the Instrument for Pre-Accession and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).
<p>a) optimising use of risk assessment capacity</p> <p>b) development and harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies and approaches</p>	<p>Cooperation with risk assessment bodies in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and United States:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bilateral meetings Multilateral liaison groups 	<p>Regular audio/video conferences & at least once a year a physical meeting.</p>	<p><i>Bilateral</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2014 and 2015, EFSA had bilateral meetings with food safety authorities from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the US. <p><i>Multilateral</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA will meet many of its international partners during its 2nd Scientific Conference from 14-16 October 2015. EFSA will host meetings of the Global Summit on Regulatory Science 2015 (GSR15) from 11-13 October 2015

c) strengthening the scientific evidence base			<p>in Parma. Experts from all over the world will meet to discuss issues related to characterisation of nanomaterials and to regulatory bioinformatics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA has regular audio-conferences with RA bodies in as member of multilateral liaison groups in the area of food chemical safety (IFCSLG) and microbial food safety (IMFSLG).
	International conference on trends and developments in risk assessment in conjunction with EXPO 2015	2015 - 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA organised an international workshop on "Increasing Robustness, Transparency and Openness of Scientific Assessments" from 29-30 June 2015 in Brussels; The planned international conference on trends and developments in chemical RA is postponed until April 2016 due to mission budget constraints of the international partners.
	International workshops for (new) third country risk assessment bodies on dedicated areas of risk assessment (e.g. food additives, food contact materials, etc.)	Twice a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFSA visited competent food safety authorities in Thailand in March 2015 to explain risk assessment methodologies used in the area of food contact materials. EFSA also participated in a Seminar on Food Control in New Delhi, India.
Coherence with EU and international partners in risk communication	Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lexicon Risk communications guidelines Crisis communications guidelines 	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lexicon (now called the Glossary) is completed. It will be shared in September with the AFCWG members to start translations. EFSA will launch the Glossary on its new website (Q4 2015). Once EFSA has launched the Glossary the MS are free to implement the Glossary on their own websites. The 3rd edition of Risk Communications Guidelines will include 1-2 new cases and a chapter on Uncertainty. The topics are still to be defined by the AFCWG. Plan to launch end of 2016. Draft Crisis Communications Guidelines will be test-driven at the Crisis Simulation exercise 4-5 November 2015. With feedback from AFCWG members, the Guidelines will be finalised and shared Q1 2016.
	Creation of an international platform to discuss and exchange experiences	2016	An initial Roundtable to gauge interest and explore potential terms of reference will take place on 14 October 2015.

	("lessons learnt") in risk communication		Based on this outcome a global platform could be formed and launched with an international seminar.
	International seminar on best practices in risk communication	2016	Based on the input from the Roundtable a seminar will be organised to further develop the terms of reference of the Global Platform and share best practices with international participants.

3. Interagency Cooperation (actions in chapter 11 of Roadmap)

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
ECDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular collaboration with ECDC in the area of e.g. EU Summary Reports, foodborne outbreaks, emerging hazards, molecular typing, crisis preparedness Development of a common platform to address emerging issues at the animal human interface (spec. non food-borne zoonoses including vector-borne diseases) Cooperation at WG level in reply to DG SANCO mandates in providing human data for Microbial Risk Assessment on food borne zoonoses, meat inspection and antimicrobial resistance Joint EFSA-ECDC framework contract for a database on vectors and vector borne diseases 	On-going	<p>In June 2015, ECDC's Chief Scientist, visited EFSA and discussed EFSA/ECDC collaboration and joint report production on foodborne disease, zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance; the Joint ECDC/EFSA SOP on rapid risk assessments; the molecular surveillance (joint database initiative); the Collaboration on non-foodborne zoonotic infections and the identification of emerging risks</p> <p>EFSA is working on a project on the molecular typing data collection where ECDC and the EU Reference Laboratories will partner.</p>
ECHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint projects on collection of chemical hazard data: physical meetings/video-/teleconferences to discuss e.g. chemical hazard database, harmonised templates (OECD, IUCLID, eChem), ontology, OECD QSAR toolbox, read-across, risk ranking/prioritisation of chemicals Harmonisation of RA guidance: videoconferences on 	On-going	<p>Regular exchanges in areas of common interest, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2015, EFSA participated as observer to ECHA committee for Risk Assessment Members' Consultation on Annex XV restriction proposal for Bisphenol A in thermal paper, in Helsinki. In May, regular EFSA-ECHA videoconference discussed the exchange of information and increased collaboration in the field of Nanomaterial safety. ECHA participated in EFSA network on

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
	<p>subjects of mutual e.g. EDs, chemical mixtures, environmental risk assessment, use of default values and assessment factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of Regulated Substances (e.g. identifying substances of very high concern; confidentiality issues; alignment of RA procedures) Other topics: alternative testing, nanotechnologies 		<p>nanotechnology on July 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2015, EFSA had a teleconference with ECHA about the latest developments on EFSA's Open Data project.
EEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level meeting to identify areas of cooperation Exchange of views on Environmental Protection Goals 	2014	As a follow up of the high level meeting, EEA is considering cooperation on the long-term project aiming to develop methodologies for land-scape risk assessment.
EMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of Regulated Substances and new technologies with food, feed and medical applications General Risk Assessment approaches (e.g. efficacy assessments, use of default values and assessment factors, planned activities aimed at developing RA guidance); International harmonisation of RA approaches. Collaboration in opinions between CVMP and BIOHAZ at the request of DG SANCO (e.g. on AMR) 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular exchanges of information on risk assessments of substances of common interest. ED's visit to EMA on 31st March For example, in June 2015 EFSA participated on the consultation of the strategy document 'EU Medicines Agencies Network Strategy to 2020 - Working together to improve health'.
EC Scientific Committees (SCCS, SCHER, SCENIHR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of work programmes with the Secretariat of the EC Scientific Committees Assessment of Regulated Substances with food and non-food applications General Risk Assessment approaches (e.g. environmental RA, use of 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2015, the Secretariat of the Scientific Committees of DG SANTE visited EFSA and exchanged information on work programme of the Scientific Committee/Emerging risks and non-food Committees ongoing activities. EFSA provided update of the work programme of the WGs on Weight of Evidence, Uncertainty in Risk Assessment, Benchmark Dose and Biological Relevance. EFSA updated on current scientific cooperation and

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
	<p>default values and assessment factors, planned activities aimed at developing RA guidance);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of emerging Risks (methodology, communication, interaction with EFSA's activity) • Specific topics: alternative testing, nanotechnologies; chemical mixtures, risk ranking 		<p>communication activities.</p>
EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness with regard to the provision of scientific advice • To coordinate towards a more structured dialogue with EU regulators, risk managers and decision makers/takers • To act as a high-level forum for the provision of scientific advice 	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFSA is chairing the EU ANSA network. • In June 2015, the network meeting took place in Brussels and EU ANSA members exchanged with European Commission (EC) and EU Parliament (EP) Research Services in areas of mutual interest: Open data; the new mechanism for independent scientific advice in the EC; the role of JRC Scientific Committee, the scientific foresight. ANSA ongoing work is on horizon scanning, open data, peer review, uncertainty and networking to address research needs. • The 1st edition of the overview of the scientific processes of the EU ANSA network was published.
EU Agencies Network on Pre-Accession and ENP Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness with regards to agencies cooperation with the Pre-Accession and ENP countries • To coordinate towards a more structured dialogue with the Commission services on current and future programmes • To cooperate and support each other on practical solution for the execution of the projects and the cooperation with the Commission services 	On-going	<p>EU Agencies working with Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries meet regularly in an informal network, with DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and European External Action Service (EEAS) to share good practice and foster coordination between Agencies.</p> <p>In April 2015 the Network meeting took place at EU-OSHA in Bilbao. Representatives agreed to send the letter to the Commission to raise the common issues in IPA and ENP Programmes implementation. This letter was followed by an individual letter addressed to Directors responsible for the ENP in both DG NEAR (ENP) and EEAS to inform about needs for future technical cooperation and EU financial support for the actions with Europe's neighbouring countries (ENP countries). Next meeting will be organised by EEA in</p>

Target	Actions	Timeline	Progress
			spring 2016.
JRC	<p>Cooperation in the area of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biological hazards, e.g. origin and transmission of antimicrobial resistance genes and of virulence traits in animals, foods and humans; methods for the use of whole genome sequence (WGS) data and host-pathogen interaction data for outbreak investigations and risk assessment 2. Hazard identification and characterisation of chemicals (e.g. integrated testing strategies, toxicity studies to fill data gaps for RA) 3. Exposure assessment of chemicals, including development and validation of analytical methods and collection of occurrence data in food 4. Environmental health, including animal, plant and environmental data collection and assessment 5. Other emerging topics: Integrating human health with environmental and ecological risk assessments, risk ranking, risk benefit, effectiveness of RM measures 	2014, joint activities for chemical RA in cooperation with JRC and ECHA	<p>In January 2015, a delegation of the senior management of JRC, visited EFSA to take stock of the various EFSA-JRC scientific activities and to look and plan the future ones, as recorded in the Recently developed roadmap of EFSA-JRC scientific activities. Follow up actions have been agreed in many areas such as food contact materials, food additives, chemical contaminants, feed, nanotechnology, GMO, plant health, emerging risks, environmental assessment, genome sequence, novel chemical hazard characterisation approaches. The roadmap JRC-EFSA scientific cooperation activities has been updated.</p> <p>A 2nd high level meeting is planned to take place in September 2015.</p>

ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Advisory Forum, EFSA
AFCWG	Advisory Forum Working Group on Communications
AFSCO	Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit, EFSA
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
Art. 36	Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (i.e. EFSA's Founding Regulation)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
SOP	Standard operating procedure
BfR	Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany
BIOHAZ	Biological Hazards Panel, EFSA
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food programme, EC
CCCF	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
CCPR	Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues
CCNFSDU	Codex Committee on on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
Codex	<i>Codex Alimentarius</i>
CVMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use, EMA
DG AGRI	EC Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development
DG CONNECT	EC Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology
DG DEVCO	EC Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid
DG NEAR	EC Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
DG RTD	EC Directorate General for Research and Innovation
DG SANCO	EC Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DG SANTE	EC Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemical Agency
eChem	eChemPortal, OECD
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEAS	European External Action Service
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EKE	expert knowledge elicitation

EMA	European Medicines Agency
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
EP	EU Parliament
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FP, FPs	Focal Point(s), EFSA
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
G&P projects	scientific grant and procurement projects
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GSRS15	Global Summit on Regulatory Science 2015
IEP	Information Exchange Platform, EFSA
IESTI	International Estimate of Short-Term Intake
IPPC/EPPO	International Plant Protection Convention / Regional Plant Protection Organization for Europe
IFCSLG	International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
IMFSLG	International Microbial Food Safety Liaison Group
IPA	Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance
IUCLID	International Uniform Chemical Information Database
JECFA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JEMRA	Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment
JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MAP	Multi Annual Plan
MB	Management Board, EFSA
EU-ANSA	EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice
MS	Member States, EU
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	Office International des Epizooties, World Organisation for Animal Health
OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration (US)
QSAR	Quantitative Structure–Activity Relationship
RA	Risk Assessment
RM	Risk Management
SCCS	Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety
SCENHIR	Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCHER	Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis
TTC	Threshold of Toxicological Concern
WHO	World Health Organization
WGS	whole genome sequence