

European Food Safety Authority

Consolidated Annual Activity Report

2015

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For EFSA's Management Board

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Chair of the Management Board

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Foreword

The year 2015 was a busy and challenging year for EFSA. The Authority delivered an impressive body of scientific work, responded to a number of food-related outbreaks and prepared itself for future challenges by building its new multi-annual strategy.

The diversity and multitude of activities described in this report are testimony to the continuing relevance of EFSA's work for European consumers. EFSA produced more than 600 scientific outputs covering the entire food chain and contributing to the improvement of public health. Key achievements in 2015 included the first full risk assessment of acrylamide, the scientific opinion on the safety of caffeine and further work on tackling anti-microbial resistance in the food chain.

Events in 2015 demonstrated once more that food safety as well as animal and plant health risks are global issues that do not respect international borders. Against this background, EFSA produced important scientific advice – on the outbreak of African swine fever in the north-east of the continent and on the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa* in olive groves in the south. We also assessed important chemical hazards, including a re-evaluation of bisphenol A, and further work on the impact of pesticides on bee health.

It was also an important year in terms of how EFSA conducts its work – with a strong focus on further enhancing transparency and engagement in risk assessment. In 2015, the Authority successfully tested its new methodological approach to the use of scientific evidence. This new approach significantly increases the objectivity, transparency and usability of EFSA's work. There was also a renewed focus on how we communicate uncertainty with new guidance adopted and being embedded in the working practices of EFSA and its scientific panels. The Authority also made strides in sharing data by opening up its data warehouse to a growing number of stakeholders. The accessibility of our scientific work was made easier by moving all of the open scientific meetings of EFSA's panels and scientific committee to Brussels so that participation is easier for interested observers.

EFSA laid the groundwork for its new five-year strategy in which it sets out the key priorities of its work against the backdrop of current opportunities and challenges. EFSA's stakeholders helped fine-tune this important plan with their valuable input. They stressed the need to prioritise public engagement in risk assessment, demanded greater transparency and better access to data, and called for a European scientific assessment capacity. The Strategy 2020 will be EFSA's guiding document over the coming years.

There was also a strong focus on collaboration – whether moving to a common risk assessment agenda with EU Member States so that we can make better use of our resources – or improved co-operation with international and inter-governmental agencies. A major highlight in 2015 was EFSA's second scientific conference in Milan. I had the pleasure of attending and addressing this remarkable event, which brought together a diverse range of perspectives on how to shape the future of food safety. It was clear that many of our partners and stakeholders are wrestling with the same issues and concerns as us. From

opening up risk assessment to widening EFSA's evidence base; from the sharing of resources to anticipating emerging risks – the conference fed into the strategic discussions taking place at EFSA. In this sense the conference will have a long-lasting legacy.

The conference also demonstrated the progress EFSA has made in communicating its work. EFSA is using innovative communication tools for its outreach such as video streaming, has a revamped website with a fresh look and feel, dedicated micro-sites, and has enhanced its use of social media. All these initiatives ensure that EFSA communicates more effectively with its broad audience.

The Management Board underwent some changes in 2015. The Board welcomed two new members: Michael Winter from the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture and the European Commission's new Director-General for Health and Food Safety, Xavier Prats Monné.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to EFSA's important work for their dedication and hard work: external experts, institutional partners, Member States, stakeholders and our committed EFSA staff.

Sue Davies

Chair of the EFSA Management Board

Introduction

In 2015 EFSA continued to implement its first multi-annual work plan. It delivered fit-for-purpose risk assessments; optimised the use of its resources; continued to strengthen the EU's risk assessment community by improving cooperation with partners and stakeholders; and undertook efforts to make its work more transparent and trusted.

One of EFSA's biggest achievements in 2015 was its second scientific conference in October in Milan. It brought together 1 000 participants from 63 countries to brainstorm about the future of food safety. Video streaming, the innovative use of social media and the launch of an award-winning dedicated micro-website ensured that EFSA reached a wide audience. Feedback from the conference will assist the Authority to strengthen its public engagement and expand its view on the challenges ahead.

In preparing for the future challenges, EFSA started building its Strategy 2020, together with its European partners and stakeholders. Their valuable input, gathered during a six-week public consultation, helped shape this ambitious plan. The strategy, with its overarching vision of delivering "trusted science for safe food", will be implemented in 2016 following endorsement by the Management Board.

At the centre of EFSA's risk assessment work are the experts of the ten scientific panels and the Scientific Committee. In 2015, there was a turn-over in membership for eight of the panels and the Scientific Committee. EFSA welcomed more than 170 leading European scientists, who began their three-year terms in July, over half of them being new to EFSA and many coming from universities and research institutes.

This Annual Report demonstrates that EFSA continued in 2015 to implement its core mandate by delivering high-quality scientific advice to European risk managers. The Authority executed its work programme as predicted (with 602 outputs) and only a few deviations. On top of this extensive programme, EFSA provided advice in response to urgent requests on food-related outbreaks.

A significant milestone was the piloting of new evidence-based methods for use in science – laid down in EFSA's Prometheus (Promoting Methods for Evidence Use in Science) project – in its work on isoflavones. The aim of the Prometheus project is to enhance the scientific rigour and transparency of the Authority's scientific assessments.

Transparency and engagement are essential components of our cooperation and dialogue efforts with partners and stakeholders. The Open EFSA initiative matured into the Transparency and Engagement in Risk Assessment (TERA) project with an implementation plan that was informed by a public consultation. Holding open meetings of EFSA's scientific panels in Brussels was but one initiative under the umbrella of this project.

Progress was also made by the Applications Helpdesk, EFSA's front office and support desk for the safety assessment of regulated products. To improve transparency in its dealings with applicants, EFSA introduced webinars as an innovative tool. This is an efficient, cost-effective way for the Authority to reach

large audiences. EFSA also published its first full catalogue of services as a useful reference for applicants.

There were important milestones in EFSA's communications with risk managers and the public in 2015: the launch of the new website based on extensive user research, and the move of the EFSA Journal to an external professional publishing platform.

With these and many other projects, initiatives and activities EFSA ensured that it remained an effective and trusted provider of scientific advice serving the interests of European consumers.

Bernhard Url

Executive Director, EFSA

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List of acronyms

AFSCO	Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit
AHAW Panel	EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
ALPHA	EFSA Animal and Plant Health Unit
AMU	EFSA Assessment and Methodological Support Unit
ANS Panel	EFSA Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food
APDESK	EFSA Applications Desk Unit
BIOCONTAM	EFSA Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit
BIOHAZ Panel	EFSA Panel on Biological Hazards
CEF Panel	EFSA Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids
COMMS	EFSA Communications Department
CONTAM Panel	EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
DATA	EFSA Evidence Management Unit
DG SANTE	Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
DoI	Declaration of Interest
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EEA	European Environment Agency
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EU	European Union
FEED	EFSA Feed Unit
FEEDAP Panel	EFSA Panel on Additives and Products or Substances Used in Animal Feed
FIN	EFSA Finance Unit
FIP	EFSA Food Ingredients and Packaging Unit
FTE	Fulltime staff equivalent
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HUCAP	EFSA Human Capital and Knowledge Management Unit
IAS	Internal Audit Service of the European Commission
MRL	Maximum residue level
NDA Panel	EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies
NUTRI	EFSA Nutrition Unit
PLH Panel	EFSA Panel on Plant Health
PPR Panel	EFSA Panel on Plant Protection Products and Their Residues

PRAS	EFSA Pesticides Unit
RASA	EFSA Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department
REPRO	EFSA Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products Department
SC	EFSA Scientific Committee
SCER	EFSA Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit

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Section I – 2015 Work programme achievements

1. Activities

1.1. Activity 1: Provision of scientific advice and risk assessment approaches

1.1.1. Overview of the activity

EFSA provides high-quality scientific advice and risk assessment methodologies to risk managers in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, and plant health. This advice gives risk managers at the European Commission and in the EU Member States a robust evidence base to take measures in the interest of consumer protection.

Advances in risk assessment

'Promoting Methods for Evidence Use in Science' is EFSA's multi-annual project to define principles, processes and methods for the use of evidence in scientific assessment. It aims to increase EFSA's objectivity and transparency as well as the usability of its conclusions. In 2015 this project delivered the scientific report on 'Principles and processes for dealing with data and evidence in scientific assessment'. It piloted its new harmonised and evidence-based methods in the development of the opinion on isoflavones. Despite the additional effort it requires, the new approach was well received because it provides greater transparency.

Also in 2015, the 'Transparency and Engagement in Risk Assessment' project finalised its implementation plan following a public consultation. It set milestones for 35 concrete measures aimed at increasing transparency and public engagement throughout the risk assessment cycle of the scientific processes. EFSA will continue to report on the delivery of this project and resulting benefits through 2017.

EFSA sustained its programme of scientific guidance development to enhance risk assessment by a common and up-to-date approach. In 2015, EFSA delivered guidance on common approaches to environmental risk assessment, while continuing its work on other topics such as weight of evidence, uncertainty, and biological relevance in toxicological risk assessment.

Outbreak assessments

The ability to react decisively to food safety crises in the EU is an important part of EFSA's continuing readiness and preparation programme. After a four-year training phase, EFSA's crisis simulation programme concluded in 2015. The holistic training and realistic crisis simulation exercise covered roles, incident management and communication, as well as rapid data collection, risk assessment and response dialogue with stakeholders with the aim to improve EU readiness for managing outbreaks.

Against the background of improvements in readiness and surveillance, some animal and food safety outbreaks occurred in 2015. The Authority helped European risk managers to assess and address these international food safety incidents.

EFSA delivered risk assessment on outbreaks of African swine fever, which entered the EU in 2014 and continued to significantly affect domestic and wild animal populations. Other important assessments were those covering the small hive beetle, a destructive pest of honeybee colonies, and two oyster pathogens, *Ostreid herpesvirus* and *Vibrio aestuarianus*. These assessments advanced the scientific understanding of the biological mechanisms, which helps Member States take appropriate actions.

The year of 2015 saw the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa*, a plant pathogen affecting large populations of olive trees in southern Europe. In response, the Authority's plant health specialists provided scientific and technical advice to the European Commission. They established a host plant database, providing risk assessment data on the pathogenicity of the Apulian strain and the efficacy of hot water treatment for grapevine. EFSA also assessed claims regarding other causative agents of the olive decline and supported the Commission in developing guidelines for the EU territory survey. Work on *Xylella fastidiosa* will remain a priority for EFSA over the next years until the outbreak is contained.

EFSA also assessed public health risks in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) by leveraging combined data sets. In a scientific opinion adopted in December 2015, the BIOHAZ Panel reviewed the characteristics of food-borne pathogenic Enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (EAEC), methods for their identification in food, and their antimicrobial resistance.

EFSA's scientists continued to support efforts to assess the risks associated with epizootic and zoonotic diseases, such as Leishmaniasis, rabies, *Echinococcus multilocularis*, enzootic bovine leucosis and Ebola. They produced four scientific opinions and three scientific reports in the area of animal health.

Scientific opinions and advice

In response to a request from the European Commission, EFSA's PLH Panel assessed the risk of entry into the EU of harmful organisms associated with soil or growing media. The panel also produced the first EFSA risk assessment related to the risks of the intentional release of biological control agents for weeds, particularly the release of the bud-galling wasp *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* to contain the invasive alien plant *Acacia longifolia*.

In the area of animal health and welfare, EFSA published opinions on the use of carbon dioxide for stunning rabbits and on the electrical stunning of lambs. EFSA also met with stakeholders to present and explain its guidance on assessment criteria used for evaluating the effectiveness of stunning methods.

The CONTAM Panel completed a major project on the risks to human health posed by acrylamide in food. Prior to finalising its opinion, EFSA launched a public consultation and invited scientists, national authorities, stakeholders and other interested parties to comment on the approach, information used and draft conclusions. This approach helped integrate the latest studies into the final document. The BIOHAZ Panel also continued its work on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

EFSA's nutrition experts finalised a safety assessment of caffeine. Open consultations on the draft opinion allowed consumer organisations, industry bodies and the public at large to exchange views with EFSA and its experts. The NDA Panel also continued its work on dietary reference values for micronutrients. All of the opinions adopted were subject to public consultations. Nine technical reports detail how comments received were addressed.

Possible health risks associated with the intake of isolated isoflavones in food supplements by peri-menopausal and post-menopausal women were assessed by the ANS Panel. The CEF Panel concluded a safety assessment of glass fibre-sizing agents in glass fibre-reinforced plastics for food contact.

Bringing together work of the NDA and CONTAM Panels, the Scientific Committee (SC) published a statement providing a risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption. The SC also finalised a hazard characterisation on insects as potential food or feed.

In 2015 EFSA launched a multi-annual project to assess bee stressors and attributes of healthy honey bee colonies. The project also aims to establish a framework for robust and harmonised measurement of the health status of honey bee colonies in field

surveys. The health of bee populations in Europe and beyond will remain an important priority of EFSA's work programme. EFSA's advice to the European Commission and Member States has already led to tangible actions to protect this important insect population.

1.1.2. Key performance indicators and resources

The share of EFSA resources allocated to the provision of scientific advice and risk assessment approaches was in line with plan.

EFSA fully met the targets for compliance with its policies on independence. EFSA did not meet the targets set for volume and timeliness of scientific outputs. The gap between actual and target performance of 24 outputs is due to the reclassification of some outputs connected with regulated products from Activity 1 to Activity 2 (seven), or results from delays in receipt / deferrals of mandates. Regarding timeliness, the gap between actual and target performance is in some cases due to the scope and complexity of certain scientific topics of public importance. The main reason, however, is postponement of publications to the following month. The average delay in terms of missing publication deadlines was 14 days.

Table 1: Key performance indicators for Activity 1

Objective	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Ensure effective delivery of work programme	Number of scientific outputs adopted	104 ^(a)	86	62 ^(b)
Improve the timeliness of scientific advice ^(c)	Proportion of scientific outputs adopted within deadline	98%	100%	92%
	Proportion of scientific outputs ^(d) finalised and published in the EFSA Journal within the agreed timelines	87%	100%	90%
Ensure full compliance with EFSA policy on independence	Proportion of experts with approved annual DoI before first meeting invitation	100%	100%	100%
	Proportion of experts with approved specific DoIs before participation in an EFSA meeting	100%	100%	100%
Ensure effective use of financial resources	Proportion of budget ^(e) for Activity 1 committed/paid	100.1%/ 92.4%	100.0%/ 90.0%	99.7%/ 89.8% ^(f)

(a): 2014 scientific output was substantially larger than annual averages due to a high volume of new mandates in the area of plant health.

(b): Difference mainly due to eight scientific outputs reclassified as Activity 2, and 16 outputs that took longer than planned due to the scientific complexity of questions on animal and plant health.

(c): Until 2014 the target was provided jointly for Activities 1, 2 and 3.

(d): This excludes outputs released in batches or with additional communications and refers to all scientific activities.

(e): Global budget (after budget transfers) including operational, staff and infrastructure costs.

(f): Payment execution below target mainly for December meeting costs to be paid early in 2016.

Table 2: Resources allocated to Activity 1

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015 ^(b)		Executed 2015	
	M€	FTE ^(a)	M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(a)
A1 Provision of scientific advice and risk assessment approaches	13.5	80	12.4	66	12.1	66
% Total EFSA	17	18	16	14	15	14

(a) Actual available FTE.

(b) Original budget, prior to Management Board transfers between budget lines, as approved in December 2014 and published in the 2015 Programming Document.

1.2. Activity 2: Evaluation of regulated products

1.2.1. Overview of the activity

EFSA's mandate for so-called regulated products refers to the scientific safety assessment of such products before they can be authorised for the European market. Regulated products include substances used in food and feed (such as additives, enzymes, flavourings, and nutrient sources), food contact materials and pesticides, genetically modified organisms, food-related processes and processing aids. EFSA's mandate also includes evaluating the scientific substantiation of nutrition and health claims made for these products and processes. Organisations or companies set to profit from regulated substances or products must provide the evidence to prove that those substances are safe or, in the case of health claims, are backed by sound science.

Supporting applicants

The Applications Helpdesk, EFSA's front office and support desk for the safety assessment of regulated products and the substantiation of claims, continued to improve its service for applicants.

In 2015 EFSA presented its first catalogue of support services for regulated products. The catalogue outlines the services available to applicants and other stakeholders during the application process, including information on who can request a service, and how and when to request it. The catalogue of services reflects EFSA's efforts to further strengthen its customer service approach.

For the second time, EFSA met with industry associations representing applicants and industries operating in the area of regulated products. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss EFSA's interaction with applicants during the life cycle of their applications. The aim was to improve the quality of dialogue and the overall efficiency and timeliness of the process. In 2015 EFSA increased its interaction with stakeholders and held three info sessions on food flavourings, feed additives and GMO applications.

EFSA introduced interactive webinars as a new service for applicants, Member States and other interested parties. The first webinar focused on the guidance document on non-dietary exposure to pesticides and explained the use of a calculation tool provided by the guidance document. Based on participant feedback, the webinar featuring interactive presentations and live question-and-answer sessions, proved to be a notable success. It showed that virtual meetings can reach large audiences more efficiently by eliminating logistical and cost barriers, like travel, while maintaining the quality of interaction on complex scientific topics.

Also in 2015, the Authority finished defining the processes by which EFSA, European economic operators, scientific experts and risk managers will process application dossiers electronically and make data available in a more transparent and structured format, so as to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the overall process. This milestone marked the start of the implementation phase of a multi-annual project for digital dossier management described in EFSA's programming documents.

In 2015 EFSA processed 440 dossiers through the paperless submission system. The Applications Helpdesk replied to 329 information requests.

Scientific opinions and advice

EFSA and EU Member States finalised the re-assessment of glyphosate, a chemical that is widely used in pesticides. The report concludes that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans and proposes a new safety measure that will tighten the control of glyphosate residues in food.

Good progress was made in the re-evaluation of all food additives according to EU regulation 257/2010. The ANS Panel adopted a total of 27 opinions in 2015.

EFSA's CEF Panel worked mainly on the 10-year re-evaluation of all flavourings and food contact materials as required by EU regulation. Following a public consultation, the panel adopted an opinion on recent developments in the risk assessment of chemicals in food, which also explores their potential impact on the safety assessment of substances used in food contact materials. EFSA produced a draft statement on the exposure assessment of food enzymes, which will be submitted for public consultation in 2016.

EFSA's FEEDAP Panel continued their work on the mandatory re-evaluation of feed additives for use in animal nutrition. By the end of 2015, over 60% of the total multi-annual work of 362 re-evaluations was completed. Based on this trend, completion of the activity can be expected by 2018.

EFSA piloted a new approach for the development of guidance documents, which aims at further increasing the Authority's engagement with stakeholders. For its guidance document on the allergenicity of proteins in genetically modified plants, EFSA held a workshop with stakeholders before drafting of the guidance document began. The workshop also led to the creation of a stakeholder focus group that will contribute to the development of the guidance document. These efforts are part of EFSA's strategic commitment towards transparency and engagement in risk assessment. The outcome of the pilot project will inform the use of this approach for future outputs.

The NDA Panel revised the general scientific guidance for stakeholders on health claim applications and the specific guidance on the scientific requirements for health claims related to gut and immune function. The Panel based its revision on the experience gained in the evaluation of health claims, new scientific evidence available to the Panel, and the outcome of public consultations. It also adopted a guidance document on foods for special medical purposes (FSMP) and issued a statement on meal replacements for weight control.

EFSA's pesticides experts revised harmonised risk assessment methodologies and guidance documents for pesticides in the area of human health and environmental protection. Also in the area of pesticides, EFSA made progress in line with the 2015 plans for the regular update of evaluations on maximum residue levels tolerable for food to be safe for consumers.

Table 3: EFSA scientific outputs in the area of regulated products

Food sector area	Scientific outputs
Authorisation of feed additives (re-evaluation or new additives/new uses)	68 outputs
Food enzymes	1 output
Flavourings	17 outputs
Food contact materials	21 outputs
Food additives	31 outputs
Processing aids	1 output
GMO dossiers for import and processing for food/feed/industrial uses and for cultivation	17 outputs
Health claims	22 outputs
Novel food applications	7 outputs
MRL applications and MRL reviews	76 outputs
Pesticides peer review	34 outputs
Pesticides – other outputs	9 outputs
Animal by-products applications	2 outputs

All of EFSA scientific publications are available online in the EFSA Journal.

1.2.1. Key performance indicators and resources

The share of EFSA resources allocated to the evaluation of regulated products is in line with plan.

EFSA's outputs on regulated products were mostly on target, with minor deviations in the different scientific areas due to the nature of specific questions. For MRLs, 76 reasoned opinions were adopted, closing 94 questions. Progress towards completion of the large volume of MRL work was in line with the 2015 plan.

Overall timeliness improved compared to the previous year, but still did not reach the 90% target. More specifically, 58 opinions related to applications were delivered with an average delay of 74 days. These delays were due to EFSA requiring additional data from applicants in order to fully evaluate applications. EFSA kept the European Commission informed of postponements regarding the adoption dates for its opinions.

Table 4: Key performance indicators for Activity 2

Objective	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Ensure effective delivery of work programme	Number of scientific outputs adopted	340	304	306
Improve the timeliness of scientific advice ^(a)	Proportion of scientific outputs adopted within deadline ^(b)	77%	90%	84%
	Proportion of scientific outputs ^(c) finalised and published in the EFSA Journal within the agreed timelines	87%	100%	90%
Ensure full compliance with EFSA policy on independence	Proportion of experts with approved annual DoI before first meeting invitation	100%	100%	100%
	Proportion of experts with approved specific DoI before participation in an EFSA meeting	100%	100%	100%
Ensure effective use of financial resources	Proportion of budget ^(d) for Activity 2 committed/paid at year end	99.7%/ 91.8%	100.0%/ 90.0%	99.9%/ 91.8%

(a): Until 2014 the target was provided jointly for Activities 1, 2 and 3.

(b): Excluding questions already overdue as of 1/1/2015.

(c): This excludes outputs released in batches or with additional communications and refers to all scientific activities.

(d): Global budget (after budget transfers) including operational, staff and infrastructure costs.

Table 5: Resources allocated for Activity 2

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015 ^(b)		Executed 2015	
	M€	FTE ^(a)	M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(a)
A2 Evaluation of regulated products	19.5	129	20.7	145	20.0	135
%Total EFSA	24	29	26	30	25	30

(a) Actual available FTE; 2015 deviation vs plan mainly due to short term contract agents posts partially filled in only in the last quarter of the year (low occupancy rate).

(b) Original budget, prior to Management Board transfers between budget lines, as approved in December 2014 and published in the 2015 Programming Document.

1.3. Activity 3: Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking

1.3.1. Overview of the activity

To carry out their risk assessments EFSA and Member States depend on data. These are collected from the 28 EU Member States as well as independent scientific experts through grants and procurement. The Authority harmonises risk assessment by sharing information and collaborating with European and international partners. This approach ensures coherence of scientific conclusions and fosters scientific debate. In this way, scientific cooperation and networking result in a more efficient use of limited resources.

By pooling Europe's combined scientific and technical capacity, a more diverse and richer collection of expertise ultimately contributes to enhanced food safety.

Scientific cooperation at the heart of EFSA

EFSA continued to make cooperation with Member States and international scientific organisations a priority. Throughout the year, EFSA continued its cooperation with EU and international scientific organisations. The Authority established or renewed joint scientific activities and cooperation initiatives with a number of partner organisations, including:

- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- European Medicine Agency (EMA).
- Spain's Agencia Española de Consumo, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (AECOSAN)
- UK Food Standard Agency (FSA)

At the international level, additional cooperation exchanges were conducted with:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality
- China's Food and Drug Administration
- Food and Drug Administration of Taiwan
- Food Safety Commission of Japan
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- Indonesia's Ministries of Trade and Industry
- New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Cooperation with these international partners aims at sharing methods and approaches to improve food safety. This includes methods for better risk assessment, rapid identification of emerging risks, and data sharing on subjects of common interest.

EFSA participated in the Task Force on African Union Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism, the EU-India Seminar on Food Control, the World Food Research and Innovation Forum, a food safety workshop of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation, the USA-EU Workshop on Endocrine Disruption and meetings of the Global Coalition for Regulatory Science Research.

Scientific cooperation activities with Member States included the preparation of an international workshop on foodborne viruses under the lead of the UK, and the launch of two regional projects on 'Analysis of spatial distribution of African Swine Fever (ASF) virus in the Baltic States and Poland' and 'Crisis preparedness training with the Baltic States'.

EFSA continued to implement its Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014–2016. The Authority strengthened its Focal Point network and information exchange through the scientific networks, which were established by EFSA to enhance cooperation between Member States on specific scientific topics. In 2015, this cooperation enhanced

outsourcing possibilities, supported training for experts and helped develop a common EU risk assessment agenda.

EFSA took an active role in coordinating networks with other agencies, such as the EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA). Furthermore, EFSA is establishing work programmes with EU agencies and the JRC on cross-cutting issues, such as multiple hazards, antimicrobial resistance, whole genome sequencing and endocrine active substances.

As an important development of 2015, EFSA's Advisory Forum agreed on 'Recommended Good Practice' for dealing with substantive divergence over scientific issues (Article 30(4) of EFSA's Founding Regulation). In the context of developing the EU Risk Assessment Agenda, a Delphi Study² identified risk assessment topics for prioritisation by Advisory Forum members. The study established shared priorities for joint projects between EFSA and Member States.

EFSA piloted two new tools to further scientific cooperation: thematic grants and framework partnership agreements. The Authority also set terms of reference for the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Exchange (EFRAF), an initiative to strengthen Europe's food safety risk assessment capacity by developing training programmes for young scientists.

The second round of training courses on risk assessment for Member States started under the Commission's programme 'Better Training for Safer Food'. In addition to the existing courses (on microbiological, chemical and pest risk assessment, nutrition, GMO and other biotechnologies), the programme now includes three new areas: animal health, animal welfare and environmental risk assessment. The aim is to train over 800 experts under the programme by 2018.

In a joint initiative with national food safety organisations across Europe, EFSA published the second edition of 'When food is cooking up a storm: best practices for risk communications', including two additional new case studies. The Advisory Forum ran a crisis simulation exercise involving the European Commission and the World Health Organization.

EFSA started a new two-year programme of cooperation with pre-accession countries. The programme provides opportunities to build capacity for risk assessment and risk communication. It also introduces harmonised instruments and tools for data collection and sharing, and promotes networking between EFSA, pre-accession countries and EU Member States.

Data collection and monitoring

Accurate and efficient data collection is essential for the integrity of risk assessment processes. Since its inception, EFSA has maintained a sustained programme of scientific data collection activities in the areas of food consumption, such as biological and chemical risks. EFSA works closely with Member States, EC and international bodies to collect, collate, analyse and summarise relevant scientific data.

EFSA updated the analysis regarding the occurrence of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) virus strains in Europe, as well as the impact assessment of PED, which includes information on global occurrence, clinical signs, pathological lesions and epidemiological trends of the evolution of the disease within and outside of the EU. The analysis will help to manage the virus and prevent its spread.

² The Delphi technique is a quantitative option aimed at generating consensus. It solicits opinions from groups in an iterative process of answering questions.

EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) are cooperating on the VectorNet project to improve preparedness and response to vector-borne diseases in humans and animals in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. The first annual meeting was attended by seventy experts from the sectors of public and animal health.

ECDC, EFSA and the European Medicine Agency (EMA) published their first joint report on the integrated analysis regarding the consumption of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals. This collaboration will continue for the foreseeable future.

As a milestone development, the first national dietary survey under the Authority's EU Menu project was completed. The project aims at establishing a European food consumption database using harmonised methods and tools. The availability of detailed, broadly comparable data will enable risk assessors to calculate more accurately the likelihood of exposure to hazardous substances in food across EU countries.

FoodEx, EFSA's standard comprehensive food classification and description system, was updated and significantly expanded to include many new raw commodities and natural food source animals and plants.

The Authority's scientific data warehouse, the single data hub for access to and analysis of European food related safety data was made available to new stakeholder groups, who were provided data on zoonoses, chemical contaminants and food composition. This milestone is a multi-annual project deliverable, which is part of an ambitious wider strategy for EFSA to take a more innovative approach to data, focusing on openness and interoperability.

EFSA also piloted, among 15 Member States, the 'Circle of Trust' for the sharing of chemical contaminants data. The 'Circle of Trust' initiative is another important step in ensuring transparency and engagement in risk assessment through a more transparent dissemination of data. Standard data dissemination was also supported by the extension of the Standard Sample Description 2.0 (SSD2) to an additional eight countries, with 19 countries now being engaged.

1.3.1. Key performance indicators and resources

In 2015 EFSA was able to increase the allocation of its budget to scientific grants and procurement thanks to savings obtained during the year in administrative and support functions.

The number of adopted scientific outputs is above plan. Timeliness was in line with the target (at 100%).

Table 6: Key performance indicators for Activity 3

Objectives	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Effective delivery of work programme	Number of scientific outputs adopted	13	2	6 ^(a)
	Number of external scientific reports ^(b)	79	54	120
	Number of event reports ^(c) and technical reports	105	93	108 ^(d)

Objectives	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Improve the timeliness of scientific advice ^(e)	Proportion of scientific outputs adopted within deadline	85%	100%	100%
	Proportion of scientific outputs ^(f) finalised and published in the EFSA Journal within the agreed timelines	87%	90%	90%
Ensure full compliance with EFSA policy on Independence	Proportion of experts with approved annual DoI before first meeting invitation	100%	100%	100%
	Proportion of experts with approved specific DoIs before participation in an EFSA meeting	100%	100%	100%
Ensure effective use of financial resources	Proportion of budget for Activity 3 committed/paid at year end	99.6%/ 91.3%	100.0%/ 90.0%	99.8%/ 93.1%
Effective execution of grants and procurement programme	Proportion of grants and procurement budget ^(g) for Activity 3 committed/paid at year end	99.9%/ 95.4%	100.0%/ 100.0%	100%/ 99.1%

(a): Unplanned outputs related to: AMR (joint report with ECDC and EMA), occurrence of PED virus strains in EU, and revision of design of the multiannual EU control programme on pesticides residues in food and feed.

(b): These can be produced for EFSA by a grant beneficiary (in accordance with Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation) or a contractor (in accordance with EU and EFSA public procurement rules).

(c): EFSA can organise an event and thereafter issue an event report.

(d): Event and technical reports linked with scientific cooperation activities and annual network reports.

(e): Until 2014 this indicator was provided jointly for Activities 1, 2 and 3.

(f): This excludes outputs released in batches or with additional communications and refers to all scientific activities.

(g): Achieved results refer to budget proportion committed/paid after budget transfer. During the year, the initial budget for grant and procurement programme commitments and payments was increased by 8% and 5%, respectively.

Table 7: Resources allocated for Activity 3

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015 ^(b)		Executed 2015	
	M€	FTE ^(a)	M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(a)
A3 Data collection & scientific cooperation	24.6	85	22.8	105	22.9	99
% Total EFSA	31	19	29	22	29	22

(a) Actual available FTE; 2015 deviation vs plan partially due the occupancy rate of the posts planned under Activity 3

(b) Original budget, prior to Management Board transfers between budget lines, as approved in December 2014 and published in the 2015 Programming Document.

1.4. Activity 4: Communication and dialogue

1.4.1. Overview of the activity

EFSA's mission in risk communications is to provide appropriate, consistent, accurate and timely communications on food safety issues to all interested parties, stakeholders and the public at large, based on the Authority's risk assessments and scientific expertise.

Building trust in science

EFSA's communication specialists ensure that the Authority's scientific work and corporate initiatives are supported with appropriate outreach tools to engage with relevant audiences.

EFSA developed dedicated communication strategies accompanying high profile scientific conclusions, such as those on bisphenol A and acrylamide, as well as safety assessments in areas as diverse as caffeine, insects as food and feed, and the EU-wide reassessment of glyphosate.

In an effort to improve transparency and openness of communication, the Authority increased the publication of plain language summaries and multimedia tools accompanying scientific outputs. These tools provided comprehensive information on the broader context within which the scientific output was produced. This initiative proved to be very successful. For example, the plain language summary on EFSA's safety assessment of caffeine was widely picked up by the media and drove coverage in over 800 publications.

The communication on *Xylella fastidiosa* demonstrated the key role of EFSA's experts in getting an understanding of this plant disease, which currently affects olive trees in southern Europe. EFSA's scientific workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* was webstreamed, which significantly enlarged participation.

Another high-profile outreach activity was EFSA's communication on chemicals in food. Requested by the European Commission, EFSA delivered a report aimed at the general public providing an accessible summary of the findings based on EU-wide monitoring.

Social media

EFSA continues to use social media to reach wider audiences. The Authority highlighted its latest work on neonicotinoids, insects as food and acrylamide with tailored campaigns on Twitter. The campaigns helped raise the awareness of the general public in Europe with regard to these high-profile scientific questions.

Two major milestones in the area of communication and outreach were achieved in support of EFSA's transparency objectives. The Authority launched its new website and transferred the EFSA Journal to an external platform run by a professional scientific journal publisher.

EFSA's new website underwent a comprehensive redesign based on extensive user research. Content was reorganised and structured according to the needs of different website users including Member States, the Commission and the public. The new website presents itself in a fresh modern look and is three times faster than before. It was moved to an open source content management system. In 2016, hosting of the website will be transferred to the European Commission to further increase efficiency.

The EFSA Journal, an open-access online scientific journal, is the single repository and access point for all of the Authority's scientific outputs. While EFSA retains full editorial control over its work, the partnership with an external publisher provides a host of benefits. The new journal delivers improved editorial quality, greater outreach and visibility, a more efficient publishing process and new features supporting open data access to journal content. The new platform will be fully operational in spring 2016.

EFSA's second scientific conference

The scientific conference held in October yielded a rich reservoir of ideas and inspiration that will help the Authority and the wider risk assessment community meet the challenges of the coming years. EFSA developed a bespoke microsite to publicise the

event, which was awarded a European prize for innovative communication. The microsite proved to be an effective tool in presenting the conference programme and attracting delegates with a mix of related information and multimedia content. The site was the basis for the promotion of the young researchers' initiative, which resulted in 357 applications to the conference poster session.

Institutional, stakeholder and media relations

In 2015, EFSA established a liaison office in Brussels to improve communication and dialogue with European institutions, media and stakeholders. The active communication agenda included the following items of note for 2015.

EFSA held several meetings in 2015 with members of the European Parliament (ENVI and AGRI Committees) to discuss high-profile topics such as cloning, antimicrobial resistance, genetically modified organisms, pesticides and endocrine active substances.

The Authority welcomed European Parliament delegations from the ENVI Committee and the Greens political group to EFSA, where a range of scientific and corporate issues were discussed with EFSA staff and parliamentarians.

The Stakeholder Consultative Platform developed an improved approach to engagement and co-operation with EFSA partners.

As part of the continuing collaboration with Member States, EFSA exchanged best practice and expertise on stakeholder engagement with the French food safety agency ANSES.

EFSA was involved, together with sister agencies, in the social media event, organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the occasion of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day.

Total media coverage of EFSA during 2015 was approximately 16 000 articles in EU, international, national and specialist print media. The media relations office dealt with approximately 550 enquiries and requests for interviews during the year.

Reaching out to the local community

EFSA strengthened its relationship with the Parma community. The Authority co-authored editorials with local media to make EFSA's work more accessible and meaningful for citizens. Local newspapers and television also featured a number of in-depth articles on life and work at EFSA.

The annual 'open doors' event, attracted 1 500 visitors. This was mainly due to a more targeted promotion effort, a better use of social media, and stronger relationships with local institutions that led the overall Schuman Day event, including the city of Parma, the University of Parma, and Parma's Teatro Regio.

1.4.1. Key performance indicators and resources

The Authority met communication and outreach targets for 2015, while the target set for financial commitment and payments was not reached, mainly due to deferral of the EFSA Journal project to the first quarter of 2016.

The share of EFSA resources allocated to communication and dialogue is in line with plan.

Table 8: Key performance indicators for Activity 4

Objectives	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Improve EFSA's visibility and outreach	Traffic to EFSA web content (web metrics)	n/a	2.4 M	2.7 M
	Total number of subscribers to online subscription products (newsletter and alerts)	33,947	35,000	36,000
	Impact score of the articles dedicated to EFSA ^(a)	n/a	5	12
Improve EFSA's social media reach	Increase in the number of Twitter followers	7,500 ^(b)	+20%	+21%
	Traffic to EFSA web content from social media	1.5% ^(b)	3%	2.1% ^(c)
Improve timeliness	Proportion of press releases/web news items accompanying scientific outputs delivered within 20 working days of adoption	95%	85%	91%
Ensure effective use of financial resources	Proportion of original communication and dialogue budget ^(d) committed/paid at year end	99.2%/ 84.5%	100.0%/ 90.0%	97.3%/ 79.5%

(a): In 2014, the Media Relations team developed an analytical tool for media analysis to gauge media impact, based on a weighting system tailored to EFSA's needs. The system combines the significance – or 'weight' – of the media outlet with the favourability of each article or broadcast, to arrive at an overall impact score. The impact score is calculated on a scale from -100 to +100. Neutral coverage would correspond to an impact score of between approximately 5 and 15.

(b) 2014 October metrics have been established as baseline for the KPI.

(c) The target 2015 was set in the assumption that a dedicated specialist would manage social media. The initiative was deprioritised in 2015 due to resource constraints.

(d) Global budget (after budget transfers) including operational, staff and infrastructure costs.

Table 9: Resources allocated for Activity 4

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015 ^(b)		Executed 2015	
	M€	FTE	M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(a)
A4 Communication and dialogue	5.4	34	7.0	39	7.0	36
% Total EFSA	7	7	9	8	9	8

(c) Actual available FTE; 2015 deviation vs plan partially due the occupancy rate of the posts planned under Activity 4

(a)

(b) Original budget, prior to Management Board transfers between budget lines, as approved in December 2014 and published in the 2015 Programming Document.

1.5. Activities 5, 6 and 7: Governance, support and coordination

1.5.1. Overview of the activities

EFSA's corporate management, coordination and support functions ensured that EFSA's activities in the core business areas of science and communication comply with EFSA's legal framework, core values and strategic objectives as well as with principles of effectiveness and efficiency.

During 2014 and 2015, EFSA focused on improving quality and efficiency of support functions. This resulted in some of the following improvements:

- Full centralisation of grants, procurement and contract management, as well as corporate controlling functions;
- Consolidation of all information technology services under a single supplier, and the continued reduction of costs for quality IT services;
- Improvement of logistic and meeting services reflected in a high customer satisfaction survey rating by EFSA's scientific experts;
- Continued digitalisation of EFSA's administration, which enhanced productivity, reduced paper printing and energy impact, thus contributing to a cleaner and leaner environment.

All these improvement initiatives increased the share of overall resources dedicated to scientific operations versus administration.

The objective of a 2% annual reduction in posts has been achieved, 1% to meet the objectives set by the European Parliament, and an additional 1% to contribute to the EC Agencies' pool. The reduction was achieved through natural turnover and by a resource distribution between operational and support activities, which stood at a ratio of 74%:26% in 2015 in line with the target set for the year.

Management Board activities

EFSA's Management Board continued to ensure the compliance of the Authority's activities with the regulatory framework and provided strategic guidance. The Board was actively engaged in the elaboration of the EFSA Strategy 2020, which was subject of a public consultation in autumn 2015. During 2015, the Board approved a revised charter for the Audit Committee in order to develop an integrated risk management and control function. It also adopted EFSA's anti-fraud policy. The Board approved the review of EFSA's Independence Policy to further strengthen public trust. The Board Chair and Vice-Chair engaged in direct dialogue with stakeholders and representatives of non-governmental organisations on key issues, such as transparency and independence, which remain at the forefront of EFSA's corporate priorities.

The Board welcomed Michael Winter among its members in May, and the new Director-General of DG SANTE, Xavier Prats Monné, in September.

Information technology

EFSA continued its rationalisation of ageing custom software and made progress against the ambitious targets set for 2020 in terms of service quality and customer satisfaction at lower cost. The Authority continued to enhance its collaboration with the network of European agencies, and led the publication of a cross-agency procurement of information

technology cloud services, in which over 20 agencies participated to secure greater efficiency and commonality across EU organisations.

Legal and regulatory affairs

2015 was a year of particularly dynamic case law. As part of continuous surveillance of the corporate legal framework, EFSA's legal and regulatory affairs function provided legal steering in improving operations while containing legal risk. The same was applied to enhance EFSA's good administrative practices, based on a continuous dialogue with the Ombudsman.

EFSA concluded the pilot phase of a project aimed at centralising the screening of annual declarations of interest. The project addresses an EP request to reassign the screening functions to staff members not collaborating with experts.

In 2015, the number of public access requests to EFSA doubled. The Authority dealt with these requests under its transparency obligations, but the increased number of requests may require a re-balancing of resources or a process redesign.

As a measure to ensure compliance with EFSA's values and its regulatory framework, the Authority continued to raise awareness and accountability amongst staff by implementing EFSA's anti-fraud strategy. The Authority completed all the actions of the anti-fraud strategy planned for 2015 in line with the set indicators.

Human resources

EFSA completed the implementation of the behavioural competency management and development framework. The Authority also made progress in mapping technical competencies for the competence library.

Employee engagement, measured using a standard survey methodology across 21 European Agencies, resulted in a total favourable rate of 63%, i.e. 5% above average. It was noted that the participation rate was 63%, 5% below the average of European Agencies, and 12% lower than in prior years.

Learning Management, of special importance in a scientific knowledge organisation, was further exploited and EFSA developed its first in-house e-learning courses. A total of 164 training sessions were delivered in house at which 1296 participants attended. In addition, a big focus was placed on individual external trainings, which were 60% above the target set, a positive accomplishment allowing for tailored individual learning within the budget set aside for standard group learning.

Site management and events

EFSA is committed to making EFSA's operations more environmentally friendly. The Authority saved 55 tonnes of carbon thanks to the energy produced via its photovoltaic installation and through reduction in printing by almost half a million sheets of paper. EFSA hosted the 9th Greening Network Meeting with 19 European Agencies to exchange best practices for improving environmental management and reducing environmental impact, and established actions towards achieving the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) certification.

In 2015 EFSA provided logistic support to over 9 000 scientific experts and stakeholders, attending EFSA events on its premises in Parma. For EFSA's second scientific conference – "Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together" – organised on the occasion of EXPO

2015 in Milan, Italy, EFSA coordinated logistics for nearly 1 000 delegates from 63 countries.

Financial operations

EFSA fully centralised its contract management, procurement and grants functions in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of financial operations. After centralisation, 88% of EFSA's experts reported in a customer satisfaction survey that the services provided exceeded their expectations. Payments were made within 19 days on average for expert reimbursement, and within 22 days on average for supplier invoices.

EFSA successfully implemented a new paperless approach for contract documents. E-signature was introduced with suppliers and tenderers, significantly enhancing productivity within the organisation. EFSA also implemented the European Commission E-Prior solution, which resulted in 10% of all invoices being automatically inserted into the EC financial systems. EFSA also successfully piloted the Commission's new paperless workflow procurement tender solution, thus contributing to the European common roadmap initiative.

1.5.2. Key performance indicators and resources

The KPIs on effective use of EFSA's financial resources refer to the Agency's overall financial performance, not only to the budget execution of support activities. EFSA's financial commitment execution was 99.8% of the appropriated budget, a best-ever performance. The payment rate was 90.1%, mainly due to the deferred acceptance of scientific grants and procurement and transformation project deliverables, which carry over to early 2016. The total carry-forward (unused payment appropriations) to 2016 accounts was 10.8% of the budget, which is in line with target.

Table 10: Key performance indicators for Activities 5-7

Objectives	Indicators	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Effective use of EFSA financial resources	Commitment credits executed	99.7%	100%	99.8%
	Payment credits executed	89.3%	100%	90.1%
	Carry forward of payments ^(a) to following year	11.4%	10.0%	10.8%
Effective use of legal resources	Compliance with formal legal procedures			
	Empowerment of management to take informed decisions in line with legal obligations	n/a	100%	100%
Efficient use of IT resources	IT projects delivered within budget and deadline	90%	96%	77% ^(b)
Ensure best management of staff	Average statutory staff occupancy rate	94.4%	95.0%	94.7% ^(c)
Establish a ISO 9001 compliant quality management system	Proportion of EFSA's activities compliant with ISO 9001:2008	60%	80%	Achieved ^(d)

(a) Non-differentiated payment appropriations.

- (b) Deferral of some originally planned projects due to focus on strategic planning 2016-2020, to ensure ex-ante business case approval in line with EFSA strategy to be approved March 2016.
- (c) Not including short-term contract agents.
- (d) Target achievement established by independent assessment carried out in October 2015.

Table 11: Resources allocated for Activities 5-7

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015		Executed 2015	
	M€	FTE ^(a)	M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(a)
A5 Coordination	2.2	17	1.7	12	2.3	16
A6 Administration	11.3	73	11.6	80	12.2	74
N7 Neutre	2.9	27	3.4	30	2.9	26
Total support activities	16.4	117	16.7	122	17.4	116
% Total EFSA	21	26	21	26	22	26

- (a) Actual available FTE.
- (b) Original budget, prior to Management Board transfers between budget lines, as approved in December 2014 and published in the 2015 Programming Document.
- (c) Variance due mainly to shift of resource during the year toward increase in public access to documents requests and project and resource management method improvement, considered coordination activity.
- (d) Variance due mainly to subscription costs for EFSA Talent Management services committed and contracted fully in 2015 compared to the original plan which assumed a linear spending over two years.

1.6. Progress on multiannual initiatives

1.6.1. Projects improving fit for purpose

The Prometheus project (described in Section I) reached its first milestone, the application of the methodological framework that defines the new processes and methods for risk assessment processes.

EFSA continued the implementation of the ISO 9001 quality management standards, achieving 80% of the requirements needed for certification. Certification of quality standards is a strategic commitment of EFSA towards its stakeholders. European risk managers gave positive feedback on this project and made recommendations for improvements on fit-for-purpose scientific advice.

Through its Data Collection and Scientific Data Warehouse projects (described in Section I), EFSA adopted the EU's architectural approach for open data, aligning itself with the EC's ISA (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations) programme.

The project to implement electronic dossier management (MATRIX) concluded its cost-benefit analysis, industry and stakeholder impact analysis, and process design. The project aims to standardise and improve processes for dossier management and provide digital management of applications for regulated products. Project implementation will begin in 2016.

1.6.2. Projects improving sustainability

EFSA and its Advisory Forum, representing data owners and providers, including EU Member States, approved access rules for the EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse in February 2015. With access rules in place, EFSA opened the Scientific Data Warehouse to the public in December 2015 in the areas of food consumption and chemical occurrence data.

The zoonosis web application was fully integrated into the EFSA Data Collection Framework. Member States apply this framework to contribute data, thus easing Member State's data submission effort by standardising tools and process.

EFSA also started actively contributing to the European (JRC) Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring data (IPCHEM) initiative as a module coordinator. It now provides aggregated food and feed data as published in the Scientific Data Warehouse.

The STEP 2018 project aims to improve efficiency and compliance of support function transactional processing, as well as planning and controlling. The project has centralised, standardised and modernised a number of support and controlling processes, improved the ratio of operational to administrative resource, and delivered efficiency gains of nine full-time-equivalent resources in 2015.

The Talent Management Project, aiming at attracting, developing and rewarding both staff and scientific experts, moved into the execution phase. During 2015, the policies, processes and tools needed to streamline the entire value chain of EFSA's human experts – from recruitment to deployment in EFSA's panels, working groups and staff departments – was defined based on good practice and integrated modern technology. The first processes will be implemented by mid-2016. The ultimate aim of the project is operational efficiency, speed and flexibility of resource deployment, and enhanced usability for experts.

1.6.3. Trust initiatives

EFSA launched its TERA (Transparency and Engagement in Risk Assessment) project and published the project's implementation plan. In 2015 it launched the impact assessment for a first set of identified solutions to improve transparency and engagement with stakeholders, which is expected to be finalised in May 2016.

In 2014, EFSA undertook a review of its data management practices and started drafting a roadmap to guide the development of those practices. Subsequently, in 2015, the draft roadmap was incorporated into the draft EFSA strategy. Many of the data projects linked to the implementation of the EFSA strategy will be implemented via the Information Management Programme, which will set the projects' scope and their benefit realisation plans.

The EFSA Journal moved to a new platform with new processes based on a multi-annual framework contract with a professional publisher.

Table 12: Multiannual organisational performance indicators

FITNESS FOR PURPOSE INITIATIVES			
Objective	Indicators	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Define principles, processes and methods for the use of methods in scientific assessment (<i>Prometheus</i>)	Degree of implementation of the new processes and methods in scientific assessment	New methodological framework developed	Achieved

<p>Provide applicants with a more efficient solution for regulated products applications (<i>MATRIX</i>)</p>	<p>Average time for processing an application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5% reduction of average time for processing an application (vs 2014) 	Achieved
	<p>Degree of implementation of new application process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholder benefit analysis completed 	Achieved
Achieve ISO-9001 compliance of EFSA's quality management system for all EFSA activities (<i>Quality Certification</i>)	<p>Level of compliance with ISO 9001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISO-9001 compliance for EFSA scientific activities 	Achieved

SUSTAINABILITY

Objective	Indicators	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
<p>Create a pan-European data hub for data collection, access and analysis, serving EU member states and scientific experts. (Scientific Data Warehouse & Molecular Typing)</p>	<p>Degree of implementation of data warehouse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data warehouse reporting available to Member States ▪ Zoonoses data warehouse operational ▪ Chemical occurrence data warehouse operational ▪ Food consumption data warehouse operational ▪ Molecular typing cluster detection and joint analysis of ECDC/EFSA results available to Member States and laboratories 	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Tools in place. Agreements with laboratories and joint analysis by early 2016</p>

Ensure best management of experts and staff (<i>Talent Management</i>)	Reduction of time and cost to hire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time to hire reduced by 5% ▪ Cost to hire reduced by 8% ▪ Participation rate target not set (baseline) ▪ Staff engagement ratio of 75% 	Achieved: reduction from 7 months to 5 months
	Staff engagement survey (participation rate, engagement rate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% participation rate^(a) ▪ 60% engagement rate^(a) 	Not achieved, mainly due to large number of calls for managerial roles
Improve efficiency and compliance in transactional processing through centralisation (<i>STEP 2018</i>)	Degree of implementation of centralisation and efficiency improvements in support activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New strategic planning and controlling functions established ▪ 74% of staff dedicated to operational activities 	Achieved Achieved

(a) Yearly average.

TRUST IN EFSA

Objective	Indicators	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Enhance openness and transparency of EFSA's operations (<i>Open EFSA Programme</i>)	Degree of implementation of Open EFSA Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open EFSA roadmap approved ▪ Cost benefit assessment initiation ▪ Stakeholder engagement on independence performed 	Implementation plan approved Impact assessment launched in August 2015 (to be delivered in May 2016) Deferred to early 2016 following EFSA strategy project

Clarity of communications	Degree of implementation of planned initiatives	Two surveys completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food risk perception among EU consumers ▪ Applicability of Clear Communications Index in the EU context 	On-going ^(a) On-going ^(b)
Redesign of EFSA Journal, including partial outsourcing to a professional publisher to improve editorial quality and accessibility of scientific outputs and increase reach and visibility (<i>EFSA Journal redesign</i>)	Degree of implementation of EFSA Journal redesign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publishing partner identified ▪ New editorial workflow implemented ▪ EFSA Journal available on the platform of selected publisher 	Achieved Achieved Process implemented, new scientific output as from March 2016
Improve accessibility of data and information and clarity of risk communications by means of website content redesign (<i>Online presence development</i>)	Degree of implementation of the new website (AGORA Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New website deployed, including new information architecture and supporting technology 	Achieved
Data roadmap addressing governance, timelines and deliverables	Degree of implementation of the Information Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launching a data innovation campaign ▪ Initiation of EFSA's presence in the open data space 	Data roadmap embedded in the EFSA 2020 strategy Achieved (e.g. EFSA 'Circle of Trust' for chemical occurrence data established with 15 MSs; EFSA piloting the provision of data to the IPCHeM Portal achieved in Sept 2015)

(a) The survey was postponed to 2016, as the decision on the topic of the risk perception survey was delayed (the identified topic is AMR).

(b) The project was delayed and is now scheduled for completion in July 2016.

The following table provides an overview of EFSA's organisational development portfolio budget execution for 2015.

Table 13: Organisational development portfolio and resource allocation

	Project	Budget 2015 ^(a)		Executed 2015		Comments
		M€	FTE	M€	FTE ^(b)	
Information Programme	Open ScAIE	0	1.6	0	0.1	Project postponed to 2016 due to resource constraints
	Scientific data warehouse	0.8	4.5	0.7	4.5	
	Molecular typing	0.3	1.9	0.2	1.5	The project has accumulated six months delay and will be completed in 2016
	Data management system 2015	0.3	1.6	0	0.1	Project postponed to 2016 due to capacity constraints
	EFSA thesaurus	0	1.4	0	0	The project has been incorporated in the Information Access Management project
	Information access management	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.5	
	EFSA Journal	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.3	Some activity deferred to 2016 due to minor project delay
	Website – Agora	0.5	2.5	0.6	3.6	Extra budget to allow for additional website features initially not planned
	MATRIX	0.2	2.4	0	0.8	Project postponed to 2016 due to capacity constraints
	Business continuity project	0.3	2.1	0.2	0.2	A major part of planned resources for the project were reported under different operational processes
	Quality management project	0.1	1.6	0.1	0.8	
	Organisational evolution support program – STEP 2018	0.6	3.1	0.6	2.2	
	Automate logistic support to meetings	0.2	1.7	0.1	0.8	Project was cancelled due to outsourced supplier's rejection of business case
	Talent management	1.2	5.7	1.7	3.9	Extra budget to cover start-up payments covering 2016 cloud service subscription fees paid ex-ante
	Prometheus	0.3	2.4	0.0	2.2	Budget change due to internalisation of activities initially planned for outsourcing
TOTAL		5.7	34.7	4.9	23.5^(c)	

(a) Initial appropriation.

(b) Actual available FTE.

(c) Variance due mainly to de-prioritization of the project on the basis of ex-ante review of the project charters (6.5 FTE) or project delays during the year (2.7 FTEs).

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Section II –Management of resources

1. Budgetary and financial management

2015 was the second year of operation under the EU Multiannual Financial Framework. A 2% (seven posts) reduction in EFSA's establishment plan obliged the Authority to increase its efforts for more efficient and effective procedures.

In 2015 the budget commitment was 99.81% of the total budget (Appendix B). With the revision of the Financial Regulation, interest generated in EFSA's bank accounts became revenue, increasing EFSA's general budget. Bank interest (€83,347) was allocated to the building acquisition, off-setting interest paid under this acquisition.

Staff (€39.4 million), scientific meetings (€8.1 million), scientific cooperation (€9.8 million), and information technology investments (€8.8 million) were the main expenditure drivers.

Regarding payment appropriations, €70.4 million or 90.11% of €78.1 million were paid, of which €38.5 million represented staff expenditure (Appendix B, Table 20).

1.1. Budget transfers

In the course of 2015, a transfer of €2.2 million was made from Title I to Title II. This transfer mainly stems from the following factors:

- The weighting coefficient, which aims at guaranteeing the equality of purchasing power for EU institutions' staff depending on the cost of living in their place of employment, was reduced from 104.0% to 100.4%, as announced by the Commission at the end of 2014, thus resulting in the non-utilisation of €1.1 million planned for 2015 to cover this coefficient in salaries.
- The low recruitment rate, in particular in the area of contractual agents, triggered an underspending of €0.7 million.
- A lower occupancy rate for seconded national experts, equivalent to €0.26 million.

In addition to the above transfers:

- EFSA received an indemnity payment of €0.705 million from the municipality, due to late delivery of the EFSA building in 2013.
- Interest of €0.083 million collected on the EFSA bank account was integrated in the EFSA budget following Management Board approval.

The transfers allowed the pre-payment in capital for the building acquisition (€2.4 million), thus reducing by €0.16 million the yearly amount due over future years.

The main budget transfers within Title III were:

- Appropriations were reduced by €0.6 million for scientific meetings and by €0.6 million for IT tools while appropriations for scientific cooperation, communications and conference & outreach rose by €0.9 million and €0.2 million and €0.1 million respectively.

62 of the 68 debit notes issued in 2015 were effectively recovered, equalling an amount of €79.6 million including the EU budget contribution of €78 million. Eight debit notes remained open at the end of the year in the value of €0.05 million. Two of these, amounting to €0.03 million, were issued in previous years and are in litigation before the courts.

1.2. Budget execution by activity pillars

The budget distribution per activity was in line with the annual management plan 2015.

Table 14: Budget execution per activity

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015		Executed 2015	
	M€	%	M€	%	M€	%
A1 Provision of scientific advice and risk assessment approaches	13.49	17	12.40	15	12.12	15
A2 Evaluation of regulated products	19.45	24	20.68	26	20.04	25
A3 Data collection & scientific cooperation	24.64	31	22.79	29	22.88	29
A4 Communication and dialogue	5.44	7	6.99	9	7.05	9
Total operational activities	63.02	79	62.85	79	62.09	78
A5 Coordination	2.17	3	1.68	2	2.32	3
A6 Administration	11.34	14	11.63	15	12.15	15
N7 Neutre	2.93	4	3.40	4	2.94	4
Total support activities	16.44	21	16.71	21	17.41	22
Total EFSA	79.46	100	79.57	100	79.50	100

2. Human resources management

At the end of the year, 446 of the available 477 posts were occupied (including Officials, Temporary Agents, Contract Agents and Seconded National Experts). With specific reference to Statutory Staff (Officials, Temporary Agents and Contract Agents – not including short term contracts) the yearly average occupancy rate was 94.7% (423 posts occupied out of the available 447).

Table 15: Staff availability per activity

	Executed 2014		Budget 2015		Executed 2015	
	FTE ^(a)	%	FTE	%	FTE ^(a)	%
A1 Provision of scientific advice and risk assessment approaches	80	18	66	14	66	14
A2 Evaluation of regulated products	129	29	145	30	135	30
A3 Data collection & scientific cooperation	85	19	105	22	99	22
A4 Communication and dialogue	34	8	39	8	36	8
Total operational activities	328	74	355	74	336	74
A5 Coordination	17	4	12	3	16	4
A6 Administration	73	16	80	17	74	16
N7 Neutre	27	6	30	6	26	6
Total support activities	117	26	122	26	116	26
Total EFSA	445	100	477	100	452	100

(a) Actual available FTE

3. Assessment of audit results during the reporting year

3.1. Internal Audit Capability of EFSA

The work of the Internal Audit Capability (IAC) is performed under the authority of the Management Board. The function also provides assistance and coordination for the Court of Auditors and the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission.

In 2015, the IAC of EFSA carried out assurance engagements and other special tasks as foreseen in the Annual Audit Plan approved by the EFSA Audit Committee. The audit engagements covered: the 'Internal Control Standards implementation, the validation of user access rights granted in ABAC', two reports on the follow up of the Internal Audit Service and the Court of Auditors outstanding recommendations and the preliminary findings related to the audit on 'Corporate Governance, the role of the experts in the EFSA Scientific Decision Making Process'. As a result, the Internal Audit Capability is of the opinion that the internal control system in place provides reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the business objectives set up for the processes audited, except for the following observations: (i) formalisation and enhancement of ex-ante, interim and ex-post evaluations and (ii) misalignment between delegation acts and ABAC access rights. Most of the actions related to these observations have been or are being implemented as foreseen.

3.2. Internal Audit Service of the European Commission

In 2015, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) released a report on 'Scientific Support to Risk Assessment and Evaluation of Regulated Products with Focus on Data Collection and Analysis'. The IAS concluded that, although EFSA's overall process for data collection and analysis adequately supports its scientific activities of risk assessment and evaluation of regulated products, weaknesses - in particular in its data governance - still

exist. The IAS made one 'very important' recommendation: to define and adopt a comprehensive data management framework. In addition, five 'important' recommendations were also issued:

- (i) to define the blueprint for the information management project and finalise the programme management framework;
- (ii) to review, map and complete the procedural framework for data collection and analysis;
- (iii) to strengthen the service management within the DATA unit;
- (iv) to improve the capacity planning for the DATA unit at the corporate and at the project/process level;
- (v) to improve efficiency by enhancing the cross-departmental communication at the project level.

EFSA adopted an action plan addressing the above observations and the plan was considered adequate.

As per 31 December 2015 all foreseen actions were in progress within the prescribed deadlines.

At the end of the year, the IAS also performed a follow-up audit covering eleven 'important' and 'very important' recommendations in response to the external communication audit (2008), the contract management audit (2010), the operational planning and budgeting audit (2011) and the performance evaluation and career development audit (2012). As a result, two 'very important' performance evaluation and career development recommendations were merged and one 'very important' observation on contract management was downgraded to 'important'. The remaining 'very important' observations were considered fully implemented and closed.

3.3. European Court of Auditors

The opinion of the European Court of Auditors on the 2015 Annual Accounts will be released in the course of 2016.

In the report on the 2014 Annual Accounts the European Court of Auditors expressed the following opinions:

- The Authority's annual accounts present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as of 31 December 2014 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the provisions of its financial regulation and the accounting rules adopted by the Commission's accounting officer.
- The transactions underlying the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 are legal and regular in all material respects.

4. Follow up of recommendations and action plans

At the beginning of 2015, eight 'very important' recommendations were reported by IAS. These included:

- one recommendation from the 2014 audit on reporting and building blocks of assurance
- five recommendations resulting from the 2012 audit on performance evaluation and career development
- one recommendation resulting from the 2010 audit on contract management
- one recommendation resulting from the 2008 audit on external communication.

Further to the combined impact of the audit on 'Scientific Support to Risk Assessment and Evaluation of Regulated Products with focus on Data Collection and Analysis' and the follow-up audit of all outstanding recommendations, only three 'very important' IAS recommendations remained open. EFSA implemented part of the foreseen actions already in the course of 2015 and will implement the definition and adoption of a comprehensive data management framework in 2016.

The Court of Auditors reported that two of the three outstanding observations from the previous years were completed. The only remaining observation concerns a number of outstanding internal control issues for which EFSA is currently implementing action plans.

5. Follow up of observations from the discharge authority (European Parliament)

On 29 April 2015, in the context of the budgetary discharge procedure relating to the implementation of EFSA's budget for the financial year 2013, the European Parliament adopted a decision granting the Executive Director discharge and approving the closure of the Authority's accounts for that year. These decisions were accompanied by a series of positive observations regarding financial management and recommendations in relation to of EFSA's initiatives on transparency, engagement and policy on independence. As part of the discharge procedure and as per request by the budgetary authority, EFSA provided information on the progress being made in these areas by October 2015, in line with the given deadline.

6. Competing interest management

EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes, which is the main text informing the Authority's approach to independence, was adopted by its Management Board in December 2011. In 2015, EFSA kept implementing its 2014 rules on Declarations of Interests (DoIs) attaining a high level of compliance. During the reporting period, EFSA carried out a pilot project to assess the impact of centralising the screening of DoIs. As a result, in the fourth quarter of 2015, EFSA started centralising the validation of annual DoIs in its Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit. This centralisation increases the degree of impartiality in the management of competing interests of EFSA's scientific experts and, more broadly, in the prevention of conflicts of interests by separating panel support interest evaluation.

The table below (Table 16) provides the results in terms of EFSA's key performance indicators supporting compliance with the independence policy and rules in the reporting period.

Table 16: Key performance indicators – compliance with independency policy

Objective	Indicator	Achieved 2014	Target 2015	Achieved 2015
Ensure full compliance with EFSA policy on independence	Proportion of experts with approved annual declarations of interest before first meeting invitation	100%	100%	99.8%
	Proportion of experts with approved specific declarations of interest before Participation in an EFSA meeting	99.8%	100%	99.7%

The subsequent table (Table 17) provides updated figures on the implementation of EFSA's DoI assessment and validation processes for the reference year.

Table 17: Independence-related figures for 2015

DoIs Screened	Meeting agenda items scrutinised	Potential conflicts prevented	Breach of trust procedures	Staff members leaving EFSA
4,591 SDols 3,016 ADols	32,200	SDoIs: 76 agenda items 20 ADoIs rejected	0	Total: 28 Private sector: 5 Restrictions: 2

Of the 28 statutory staff members that left EFSA in 2015, one moved to the veterinary medicines sector; one to the consulting sector on chemicals, health and environmental issues; one to the area of business consulting and data analysis; one to the travel/leisure sector; and one to the food industry sector. In two cases restrictions were applied. The restrictions referred to preventing the individuals from becoming contact points between EFSA and their new employer and exercise lobbying activities.

6.1. Compliance and veracity checking

In 2015, pursuant to Article 14 (2) of its Decision on Declarations of Interest, EFSA carried out two compliance and veracity checks on the DoI assessment and validation processes. For each exercise, EFSA checked the files of 15 randomly selected experts who participated in at least one Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel or Working Group meeting during the reporting period. Checks were carried out on annual DoIs (ADoIs), specific DoIs (SDoIs) and oral DoIs (ODoIs). In terms of compliance checks, for 27 out of 30 experts checked, the procedure for the evaluation of ADoIs, SDoIs and ODoIs had been followed correctly. The analysis of the three outstanding cases revealed that no conflict of interest occurred and no preventive action was deemed necessary. The veracity checks revealed that the ADoIs of 22 out of 30 experts were in line with EFSA's policy on Independence, while 12 omissions were identified. The ADoIs of eight experts had to be updated and re-evaluated. EFSA considered that the omissions were of a minor nature and not posing a risk of conflict of interest. The findings highlight the need to continue investing on experts' awareness of declaring requirements.

Section III – Management assurance

1. Review of the elements supporting assurance

The reliability of the information contained in this report is supported by the following building blocks of assurance:

- Quality Management Annual Report;
- EFSA exception reports and analysis;
- Results of evaluation activities;
- Outcome of the risk management exercise;
- Annual review of Internal Control Standards;
- Audit work of the Internal Audit Capability, Internal Audit Service and European Court of Auditors;
- Follow-up of recommendations from the Internal Audit Service, the European Court of Auditors and from other assurance providers;
- EFSA Provisional Accounts drawn by the Accounting Officer and the certification by the Accounting Officer of EFSA final accounts 2015.

The information provided by the various building blocks gives reasonable assurance that the information therein is complete and reliable.

1.1. Quality management, annual report

As mentioned in Section I, 2015 saw further progress towards implementing a quality management system based on ISO 9001:2015. The European Commission provided very positive feedback on the quality of EFSA's work. The efforts of striving continuously to strengthen and harmonise the quality management system across EFSA have been rewarded. An independent assessment of the system indicates that the achievement of a fully ISO compatible system is within reach. EFSA has committed to achieving ISO quality certification by 2016 and has programmed the improvement needs identified in the quality report in its strategic plan and 2016 programming.

1.2. Exception reporting and analysis

In 2015, the number of deviations was stable with a decrease of 1% compared to the previous year. A total of 128 deviations originating from 1.8% of the 6,830 transactions processed were recorded. Of those, 96 exception requests were approved and 25 non-compliance events noted. Nearly 80% of the recorded deviations concerned exception requests approved ex-ante whereas 20% of the deviations concern non-compliance events noted ex-post. This means that in one case out of five, there was no awareness of the deviation when it occurred. Ideally, all of the deviations should be approved in advance. The value of the deviations was €255,000 (0.3% of the EFSA budget), remaining stable compared to 2014. The approved exceptions relate to expert reimbursements, missions and other miscellaneous aspects mainly connected to travel arrangements (flight changes/cancellations/hotel rates).

In 2016, EFSA will assess whether the revision of the expert compensation guide could ease the organisation of meetings and ensuing arrangements for the expert community.

The analysis of the deviations showed that neither the number nor the amount or nature of the recorded deviations represent a matter of concern.

1.3. Results of evaluation activities

Article 29 (5) of the EFSA Financial Regulation stipulates that the Authority shall undertake both ex-ante and ex-post evaluations to assess the achievements and impact of activities and initiatives which entail significant spending on the basis of a set criteria and indicators. All proposals for activities or initiatives exceeding 5% of the annual operational expenditure of the Authority shall be the subject of an ex-ante evaluation. Interim and/or ex-post evaluations shall be implemented when the resources mobilised exceed 10% of the annual operational expenditure. In 2015, EFSA implemented its policy approach towards developing a portfolio management methodology that provides a decision step based on a business case before the start of a project. The method was implemented to improve overall resource management and evaluation of initiatives below the threshold, and therefore also allows EFSA to meet the requirements of the regulation.

Since 2014 and through 2015, EFSA has implemented the requirements of the Financial Regulation by ensuring that all recurring risk assessment and risk communication and cooperation activities are chartered in a way that identifies the purpose and value of the proposed spend-ex-ante.

1.4. Outcome of the risk management exercise

The assessment of the mitigating impact of the initiatives taken during 2015 to address the five 'critical' and 'significant' risks identified in 2014 resulted in three risks being downgraded: one from 'critical' to 'significant' and two from 'significant' to 'notable'.

- The initiatives to mitigate the risk of "being static", i.e. of EFSA failing to maintain top-level scientific excellence, were effective. This allowed downgrading this risk from 'critical' to 'significant'. Scientific excellence is a corner stone of the Strategy 2020 and will be further addressed by the implementation plan that is being finalised in 2016.
- The "reputation risk" as well as the risk of "being blind", i.e. of EFSA failing to anticipate the evolution of its role and not envisioning future needs, were addressed. EFSA and its Management Board developed a strategy and implementation plan with a five-year outlook. Therefore, the risks were downgraded from 'significant' to 'notable'.
- EFSA needs to attract expertise and talents to deliver high quality science. This issue was addressed through various channels such as the Advisory Forum, the Focal Points network, the scientific networks and by rolling out the talent management project. Additional initiatives are being developed such as the PhD programme and targeted cooperation with universities. Starting in 2016, EFSA will award an innovation prize. Therefore the risk of "being inept" remains 'significant' pending the implementation of these actions in 2016.
- The risk of "being narrow" also remains 'significant' as the 2015 initiatives tackling it were assessed as being insufficient to reduce it. This risk will be further addressed in 2016 with initiatives aimed to improve the collaboration with scientific organisations. EFSA has also identified areas for improvement in the communication with Member States, especially in emergency and crisis situations.

1.5. Annual review of Internal Control Standards

EFSA regularly reviews the implementation of the Internal Control Standards (ICS). In 2015, the review consisted of an evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the control system. The review critically appraised the effectiveness and efficiency of the

system based on a detailed and broad review of all internal control standards. As a result of the review, the Internal Audit Capability concluded that the system in place is compliant with the standards thus providing EFSA with reasonable assurance on the reliability of the internal control environment. Three areas of improvements were highlighted, namely: staff evaluation and development; operational structure; and evaluation of activities.

1.6. Audit work of the Internal Audit Capability

Based on the audits and reviews by the IAC, the internal control system in place provides reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the business objective set up for the audited processes except for the following needs: (i) to formalise and enhance the ex-ante, interim and ex-post evaluations and (ii) to improve alignment between the delegation acts and the ABAC access rights. Most of the actions related to these observations were implemented in the course of 2015 and will be evaluated in 2016 to assess their status.

1.7. Internal Audit Service of the European Commission

In the context of its 2015 audit on 'Scientific Support to Risk Assessment and Evaluation of Regulated Products with Focus on Data Collection and Analysis,' the IAS identified the lack of a comprehensive framework for data management as a 'very important' issue. Addressing this issue, EFSA will define a complete data management framework including the mapping of data used in EFSA outputs by the end of 2016. EFSA will also set up data governance and develop the policies, plans, process models, trainings and assurance mechanisms to implement the data management framework.

1.8. European Court of Auditors

On 8 of September 2015, the European Court of Auditors adopted the report on the annual accounts of EFSA for the financial year 2014. An unqualified opinion was issued.

1.9. Follow up of recommendations

1. Internal Audit Capability

At the beginning of 2015, there were no outstanding audit observations from the EFSA Internal Audit Capability.

2. Internal Audit Service

EFSA's only outstanding 'critical' or 'very important' audit observation is the 'very important' Internal Audit Service recommendation on the definition and adoption of a comprehensive data management framework where EFSA is implementing an action plan in line with the prescribed terms.

In their follow-up audit, the Internal Audit Service covered eleven 'important' and 'very important' recommendations from past audits in the fields of external communication, contract management, operational planning and budgeting and performance evaluation and career development. As a result the IAS merged two 'very important' recommendations (performance evaluation and career development) and downgraded the 'very important' observation on contract management to 'important'. The IAS considered the remaining 'very important' observations as fully implemented and closed them.

3. Court of Auditors

As mentioned in the Court of Auditors report, one of three outstanding comments, i.e. on internal control and in particular on business continuity, refers to on-going implementation.

1.10.EFSA 2015 Provisional Accounts drawn up by the Accounting Officer

The 2016 EFSA provisional accounts were prepared by the Accounting Officer on 24 February 2016.

The Accounting Officer has a reasonable assurance that in terms of reliability, the 2015 EFSA provisional accounts show a true and a fair view of EFSA financial position as of 31 December 2015.

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Declaration of assurance

I, the undersigned, Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority,

In my capacity as authorising officer,

Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex-post controls, the work of the Internal Audit Service, the work of the Internal Audit Capability and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for the years prior to the year of this declaration and the reasonable assurance provided by the EFSA Accounting Officer regarding the reliability of the 2015 EFSA provisional accounts.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.

Parma, 4 March 2016

Signed

Bernhard Url

Management Board Assessment

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Appendix A – Scientific outputs 2015

	APDESK	FEED	FIP	GMO	NUTRI	PRAS	ALPHA	AMU	BIOCONTAM	DATA	AFSCO	SCER	Total
Activity 1. Provision of scientific opinions and advice & risk assessment approaches													
Guidance of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guidance of the Scientific Committee / Scientific Panel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Opinion of the Scientific Committee / Scientific Panel	-	ANS	CEF	-	9	-	PLH AHAW	-	CONTAM	BIOHAZ	-	-	4 41
Scientific Report of EFSA	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	7	-	-	1 15
Statement of the Scientific Committee / Scientific Panel	-	-	-	-	-	-	PLH	-	-	BIOHAZ	-	-	3
Statement of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total Activity 1	-	-	2	-	10	-	23	1	21	-	-	5	62
Activity 2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation													
Conclusion on Pesticides Peer Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	34
Guidance of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Guidance of the Scientific Committee / Scientific Panel	-	ANS	CEF	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Opinion of the Scientific Committee / Scientific Panel	-	68	ANS CEF	27 39	12	25	1	-	-	BIOHAZ	-	-	175
Reasoned Opinion	-	-	-	-	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	76
Scientific Report of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Statement of EFSA	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6

Statement of the Scientific Panel	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total Activity 2	-	68	71	17	29	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306
Activity 3. Data Collection, scientific cooperation and networking															
Guidance of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scientific Report of EFSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	1	6
Total Activity 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	6
Other publications															
Event report	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	9	
External Scientific Report	1	3	12	31	2	9	16	2	-	12	28	-	4	120	
Technical report	1	-	1	19	18	25	4	1	-	6	13	2	9	99	
Total other publications	2	3	13	51	20	36	22	3	18	41	4	15	228		
Total outputs	2	71	86	68	59	155	45	6	44	41	4	21	602		

Appendix B – Financial performance

Budget execution

As of 31st December 2015,

Table 189: Budget execution per title

Title	Initial Commitment Appropriation	Current Commitment Appropriation	Δ*	Amount Committed	%	Payment Appropriation	Amount Paid	%
Personnel (Title I)	41,669,000	39,460,982	-5.30%	39,437,577	99.94%	39,460,982	38,480,426	97.52%
Infrastructure (Title II)	9,553,000	11,844,366	23.99%	11,844,042	100.00%	11,844,366	9,161,188	77.35%
Operations (Title III)	28,354,000	28,354,000	0.00%	28,222,696	99.54%	26,810,400	22,745,214	84.84%
Total	79,576,000	79,659,347	0.10%	79,504,315	99.81%	78,115,747	70,386,828	90.11%

*% difference between initial commitment appropriations approved on Budget 2015 and current commitment appropriations

Table 20: Budget execution per activity

Activities	Initial Commitment Appropriation	Current Commitment Appropriation	Δ ^(a)	Current Commitment Appropriation actual drivers	Amount Committed ^(b)	% ^(b)	Payment Appropriation	Amount Paid	%
A1. Provision of Scientific Advice and Risk Assessment Approaches	12,398,681	11,865,172	-4.30%	12,157,766	12,123,063	99.71%	12,157,766	10,916,527	89.79%
A2. Evaluation of Regulated Products	20,648,168	20,212,196	-2.11%	20,061,904	20,043,562	99.91%	20,061,904	18,419,899	91.82%
A3. Data collection, Scientific Cooperation and Networking	22,768,244	23,094,233	1.43%	22,931,649	22,881,057	99.78%	21,388,049	19,918,797	93.13%
A4. Communication and Dialogue	6,981,509	7,238,680	3.68%	7,086,424	7,044,348	99.41%	7,086,424	5,633,141	79.49%
A5. Coordination	1,677,744	1,768,333	5.40%	2,320,681	2,319,409	99.95%	2,320,681	1,993,246	85.89%
A6. Administration	11,708,297	12,280,110	4.88%	12,160,173	12,153,574	99.95%	12,160,173	10,756,082	88.45%
N7 Neutre	3,393,357	3,200,623	-5.68%	2,940,750	2,939,303	99.95%	2,940,750	2,749,136	93.48%
Total	79,576,000	79,659,347	0.10%	79,659,347	79,504,315	99.81%	78,115,747	70,386,828	90.11%

(a) % difference between initial commitment appropriations approved on Budget 2015 and current commitment appropriations

(b) The amount committed is determined using cost drivers based on actuals while the initial and the current commitment appropriations use planned cost drivers.

Table 21: Budget execution per budget lines

Budget Line		Initial Commitment Appropriation	Current Commitment Appropriation	Executed Commitment	% Committed	Payment Appropriation	Executed Payment	%Paid
TOTAL(4t)								
1100	Basic salary	21,974,000.00	21,858,620.15	21,858,620.15	100.00 %	21,858,620.15	21,858,620.15	100.00 %
1101	Family allowance	2,961,000.00	2,922,135.04	2,922,135.04	100.00 %	2,922,135.04	2,922,135.04	100.00 %
1102	Transfer and expatriation allowance	2,479,000.00	2,389,460.31	2,389,460.31	100.00 %	2,389,460.31	2,389,460.31	100.00 %
1103	Secretarial allowance	15,000.00	11,511.66	11,511.66	100.00 %	11,511.66	11,511.66	100.00 %
1113	Stagiaires	330,000.00	467,600.00	467,600.00	100.00 %	467,600.00	459,333.87	98.23 %
1115	Contract staff	5,327,000.00	4,626,594.65	4,626,594.65	100.00 %	4,626,594.65	4,626,594.65	100.00 %
1130	Insurance against sickness	770,000.00	760,861.65	760,861.65	100.00 %	760,861.65	760,861.65	100.00 %
1131	Insurance against accidents and occupational disease	113,000.00	112,355.41	112,355.41	100.00 %	112,355.41	112,355.41	100.00 %
1132	Unemployment insurance for temporary staff	278,000.00	279,459.57	279,459.57	100.00 %	279,459.57	279,459.57	100.00 %
1140	Birth and death allowance	5,000.00	2,379.72	2,379.72	100.00 %	2,379.72	2,379.72	100.00 %
1141	Annual leave travelling expenses	306,000.00	266,240.21	266,240.21	100.00 %	266,240.21	266,240.21	100.00 %
1147	Call on duties	70,000.00	74,050.32	74,050.32	100.00 %	74,050.32	74,050.32	100.00 %
1149	Other allowances and repayments	62,000.00	0	0	-	0	0	-
1171	Translation centre Luxembourg (administrative matters)	120,000.00	23,144.00	23,144.00	100.00 %	23,144.00	23,144.00	100.00 %

1172	Payment for administrative assistance from the Community institutions	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	100.00 %	250,000.00	234,931.21	93.97 %
1175	Interim services	672,000.00	822,712.74	822,712.74	100.00 %	822,712.74	607,712.74	73.87 %
1176	Consultancy	550,000.00	566,426.00	566,426.00	100.00 %	566,426.00	412,665.00	72.85 %
1177	Other services	360,000.00	363,067.00	363,067.00	100.00 %	363,067.00	334,679.00	92.18 %
1180	Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitment	100,000.00	242,332.24	242,332.24	100.00 %	242,332.24	163,984.10	67.67 %
1181	Travel expenses (including for members of the family)	10,000.00	7,526.83	7,526.83	100.00 %	7,526.83	7,526.83	100.00 %
1182	Installation, resettlement and transfer allowances	215,000.00	232,807.83	232,807.83	100.00 %	232,807.83	232,807.83	100.00 %
1183	Removal expenses	100,000.00	121,787.04	121,787.04	100.00 %	121,787.04	88,193.04	72.42 %
1184	Temporary daily subsistence allowance	67,000.00	69,780.15	69,780.15	100.00 %	69,780.15	69,780.15	100.00 %
1190	Salary weightings	1,124,000.00	187.67	187.67	100.00 %	187.67	187.67	100.00 %
Chapter 11		38,258,000.00	36,471,040.19	36,471,040.19	100.00 %	36,471,040.19	35,938,614.13	98.54 %
1300	Mission and travel expenses	135,000.00	131,000.00	131,000.00	100.00 %	131,000.00	113,083.63	86.32 %
1301	Shuttles for missions and duty	65,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	100.00 %	70,000.00	70,000.00	100.00 %
Chapter 13		200,000.00	201,000.00	201,000.00	100.00 %	201,000.00	183,083.63	91.09 %

1400	Restaurants, meals and canteens	58,000.00	52,800.00	52,800.00	100.00 %	52,800.00	48,825.10	92.47 %
1410	Medical service	240,000.00	175,824.18	175,824.18	100.00 %	175,824.18	120,697.78	68.65 %
1420	Further training, language courses and retraining for staff	900,000.00	833,564.40	813,412.58	97.58 %	833,564.40	484,393.19	58.11 %
Chapter 14		1,198,000.00	1,062,188.58	1042,036.76	98.10 %	1,062,188.58	653,916.07	61.56 %
1520	Visiting experts, National Experts on Detachment	912,000.00	652,000.00	652,000.00	100.00 %	652,000.00	642,652.16	98.57 %
Chapter 15		912,000.00	652,000.00	652,000.00	100.00 %	652,000.00	642,652.16	98.57 %
1610	Social contacts between staff	50,000.00	27,701.80	26,170.60	94.47 %	27,701.80	20,797,80	75.08 %
1620	Other interventions	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
1630	Early childhood centres and other crèches	1,031,000.00	1,034,000.00	1,034,000.00	100.00 %	1,034,000.00	1,030,532.52	99.66 %
1640	Complementary aid for the handicapped	15,000.00	11,200.00	9,478.63	84.63 %	11,200.00	9,478.63	84.63 %
Chapter 16		1,096,000.00	1,072,901.80	1,069,649.23	99.70 %	1,072,901.80	1,060,808,95	98.87 %
1700	Reception and entertainment expenses	5,000.00	1,851.00	1,851.00	100.00 %	1,851.00	1,351.00	72.99 %
Chapter 17		5,000.00	1,851.00	1,851.00	100.00 %	1,851.00	1,351.00	72.99 %
Title 1		41,669,000.00	39,460,981.57	39,437,577.18	99.94 %	39,460,981.57	38,480,425.94	97.52 %

2000	Rent	0	15,000	15,000	100.00 %	15,000	13,497.80	89.99 %
2001	Acquisition	2,075,000.00	3,691,726.13	3,691,726.13	100.00 %	3,691,726.13	3,691,726.13	100.00 %
2010	Insurance	49,000.00	28,986.55	28,986.55	100.00 %	28,986.55	28,954.03	99.89 %
2020	Water, gas, electricity and heating	690,000.00	552,689.42	552,689.42	100.00 %	552,689.42	442,601.64	80.08 %
2030	Maintenance	407,000.00	337,374.75	337,374.75	100.00 %	337,374.75	196,563.44	58.26 %
2031	Cleaning	313,000.00	282,996.94	282,996.94	100.00 %	282,996.94	225,783.88	79.78 %
2040	Refurbishment of premises/ Fitting out	613,000.00	901,909.05	901,909.05	100.00 %	901,909.05	212,639.24	23.58 %
2050	Security and surveillance of buildings	686,000.00	722,263.70	722,263.70	100.00 %	722,263.70	529,734.90	73.34 %
2080	preliminary to construction, acquisition or rental of immovable property	190,000.00	149,080.00	149,080.00	100.00 %	149,080.00	96,860.00	64.97 %
2090	Other expenditure on buildings	778,000.00	724,184.98	724,184.98	100.00 %	724,184.98	614,429.26	84.84 %
Chapter 20		5,801,000.00	7,406,211.52	7,406,211.52	100.00 %	7,406,211.52	6,052,790.32	81.73 %
2100	Purchase/Maintenance of equipment	610,000.00	529,116.29	529,116.29	100.00 %	529,116.29	444,088.30	83.93 %
2101	Purchase/Maintenance of software	370,000.00	676,820.96	676,820.96	100.00 %	676,820.96	422,925.14	62.49 %
2103	Software development	1,240,000.00	1,569,467.91	1,569,467.91	100.00 %	1,569,467.91	1,161,666.46	74.02 %
2104	User support	605,000.00	686,296.57	686,296.57	100.00 %	686,296.57	490,238.16	71.43 %
Chapter 21		2,825,000.00	3,461,701.73	3,461,701.73	100.00 %	3,461,701.73	2,518,918.06	72.77 %
2200	Technical equipment and installations	55,000.00	53,493.00	53,493.00	100.00 %	53,493.00	35,662.00	66.67 %
2201	Hire or leasing of technical equipment and installations	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0 %

2202	Maintenance and repair of technical equipment and installations	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0 %
2210	Purchase of furniture	52,000.00	51,925.56	51,925.56	100.00 %	51,925.56	37,382.12	71.99 %
Chapter 22		107,000.00	105,418.56	105,418.56	100.00 %	105,418.56	73,044.12	69.29 %
2300	Stationery and office supplies	147,000.00	110,858.50	110,858.50	100.00 %	110,858.50	87,487.09	78.92 %
2320	Bank charges	2,000.00	500.00	366.18	73.24 %	500.00	366.18	73.24 %
2330	Legal expenses	93,000.00	134,713.70	134,713.70	100.00 %	134,713.70	13,213.70	9.81 %
2340	Damages	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	-
2350	Miscellaneous insurance	10,000.00	9,900.00	9,900.00	100.00 %	9,900.00	8,383.58	84.68 %
2353	Removals and associated handling	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2390	Publications	12,000.00	2,152.38	2,152.38	100.00 %	2,152.38	2,152.38	100.00 %
Chapter 23		269,000.00	258,124.58	257,990.76	99.95 %	258,124.58	111,602.93	43.24 %
2400	Postal charges	49,000.00	32,700.00	32,700.00	100.00 %	32,700.00	20,645.39	63.14 %
2410	Telecommunications subscriptions and charges	219,000.00	195,116.78	195,116.78	100.00 %	195,116.78	96,073.12	49.24 %
2411	Purchase and installation of equipment	173,000.00	291,496.01	291,496.01	100.00 %	291,496.01	201,050.71	68.97 %
Chapter 24		441,000.00	519,312.79	519,312.79	100.00 %	519,312.79	317,769.22	61.19 %
2500	Management Board meetings	110,000.00	93,596.32	93,406.40	99.80 %	93,596.32	87,063.69	93.02 %
2501	Quality management & strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2502	Institutional Cooperation	0	0	0	0 %	0	0	0 %
Chapter 25		110,000.00	93,596.32	93,406.40	99.80 %	93,596.32	87,063.69	93.02 %
Title 2		9,553,000.00	11,844,365.50	11,844,041.76	100.00 %	11,844,356.50	9,161,188.34	77.35 %

REPRO

3010	APDESC: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	0	0	0.00	0.00%	166,256.79	166,256.79	100.00%
3010	FEED: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	115,000.00	275,260.00	275,260.00	100.00%	251,211.54	251,211.54	100.00%
3010	FIP: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	694,000.00	594,586.62	594,586.60	100.00%	502,594.16	502,594.16	100.00%
3010	GMO: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	385,000	207,661.20	207,661.20	100.00%	168,356.54	148,075.20	87.95%
3010	NUTRI: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	10,000	6,068.60	6,068.60	100.00%	44,982.35	44,982.35	100.00%
3010	PRAS: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	461,000.00	1,207,731.34	1,207,731.34	100.00%	999,186.21	969,123.03	96.99%
3020	FEED: Experts meetings	1,018,000.00	1,046,500.00	1,046,500.00	100.00%	1,046,500.00	992,264.65	94.82%
3020	FIP: Experts meetings	1,449,000.00	1,434,133.00	1,434,133.00	100.00%	1,434,133.00	1,392,787.22	97.12%
3020	GMO: Experts meetings	746,000.00	711,788.18	711,788.18	100.00%	711,788.18	665,416.76	93.49%
3020	NUTRI: Experts meetings	571,000.00	657,000.00	657,000.00	100.00%	657,000.00	615,529.79	93.69%
3020	PRAS: Experts meetings	796,000.00	706,956.70	706,956.70	100.00%	706,956.70	668,618.40	94.58%
TOTAL REPRO: Chapter 30		6,245,000.00	6,847,685.64	6,847,685.62	100.00%	6,688,965.47	6,416,859.89	95.93%

RASA

3110	ALPHA: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	1,630,000.00	1,886,661.00	1,886,661.00	100.00%	1,920,947.15	1,920,905.55	100.00%
3110	AMU: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	450,000.00	255,535.20	255,535.20	100.00%	343,572.40	343,572.40	100.00%
3110	BIOCONTAM: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	766,000.00	1,340,598.48	1,340,598.48	100.00%	1,288,117.40	1,275,844.61	99.05%
3110	DATA: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	1,758,000.00	1,764,470.20	1,764,470.20	100.00%	792,758.96	792,758.96	100.00%
3120	ALPHA: Experts meetings	1,375,000.00	1,187,257.44	1,187,257.44	100.00%	1,187,257.44	1,135,333.70	95.63%
3120	AMU: Experts meetings	156,000.00	75,560.00	70,436.88	93.22%	75,560.00	61,560.39	81.47%
3120	BIOCONTAM: Experts meetings	1,320,000.00	1,168,154.08	1,168,117.08	100.00%	1,168,154.08	1,111,758.84	95.17%
3120	DATA: Experts meetings	191,000.00	176,030.00	169,458.30	96.27%	176,030.00	144,288.17	81.97%
TOTAL RASA: Chapter 31		7,646,000.00	7,854,266.40	7,842,534.58	99.85%	6,952,397.43	6,786,022.62	97.61%

SCISTRAT

3200	Advisory Forum, Plenary & Working groups	238,000.00	162,017.00	155,291.66	95.85 %	162,017.00	137,265.61	84.72 %
3201	Focal Points Agreements	2,020,000.00	1,391,000.00	1,391,000.00	100.00 %	1,334,654.82	1,334,650.00	100.00 %
3202	Focal Points working groups	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
3210	SCER: Grant & Procurement for studies and evaluation	765,000.00	900,747.81	900,747.81	100.00 %	474,082.13	462,905.03	97.64 %
3220	SCER: Experts meetings	880,000.00	936,131.56	916,522.76	97.91 %	936,131.56	836,925.56	89.40 %

3231	Stakeholder relationships	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
3232	International Cooperation	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
3240	Crisis support	10,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.00 %	2,500.00	0	0 %
TOTAL SCISTRAT: Chapter 32		3,913,000.00	3,392,396.37	3,366,062.23	99.22 %	2,909,385.51	2,771,746.20	95.27 %

STRATEGY-OUTREACH & OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3310 – CONF	Conferences and events	1,028,000.00	1,177,502.71	1,167,976.39	99.19 %	1,177,502.71	1,097,449.57	93.20 %
3320	Quality Management & Strategy	270,000.00	253,369.44	252,846.44	99.79%	253,369.44	129,466.44	51.10%
3321	Operational development & control	382,000.00	412,050.00	412,050.00	100%	412,050.00	72,800.00	17.67%
TOTAL COMMS: Chapter 33		1,680,000.00	1,842,922.15	1,832,827.83	99.45 %	1,842,922.15	1,299,716.01	70.52 %

COMMS								
3400	Web management	405,000.00	415,885.00	406,876.94	97.83 %	415,885.00	83,287.56	20.03 %
3410	Communications activities & materials	200,000.00	406,882.00	399,564.16	98.20 %	406,882.00	238,825.25	58.70 %
3420	Advisory Forum Working group, AGRC, Evaluation and media monitoring	367,000.00	382,340.00	373,628.95	97.72 %	382,340.00	162,068.65	42.39 %
TOTAL COMMS: Chapter 34		972,000.00	1,205,107.00	1,180,070.05	97.92 %	1,205,107.00	484,181.46	40.18 %
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT								
3500	DATA: IT tools for Data Collection	5,484,000.00	4,839,620.44	4,821,052.63	99.62 %	4,839,620.44	2,867,026.49	59.24 %
3511	Translation, Interpretation Linguistic proofreading and editing	150,000.00	77,000.00	77,000.00	100.00 %	77,000.00	67,035.90	87.06 %
3512	Library	449,000.00	449,000.00	428,416.24	95.42 %	449,000.00	391,982.22	87.30 %
3513	Mission of staff related to operational duties	795,000.00	826,002.00	807,002.00	97.70 %	826,002.00	714,185.89	86.46 %
3514	Shuttles	1,020,000.00	1,020,000.00	1,020,000.00	100.00 %	1,020,000.00	946,457.30	92.79 %
TOTAL OPERATIONAL SUPPORT: Chapter 35		7,898,000.00	7,211,622.44	7,153,470.87	99.19 %	7,211,622.44	4,986,687.80	69.15 %
Title 3		28,354,000.00	28,354,000.00	28,222,696.18	99.54 %	26,810,400.00	22,745,213.98	84.84 %
GRAND TOTAL		79,576,000.00	79,659,347.07	79,504,315.12	99.81 %	78,115,747.07	70,386,828.26	90.11 %

Table 22: Carry-forward 2015 and 2016 (non-differentiated appropriations)

Title	Carry forward 2015			Carry forward 2016
	Commitment Appropriation	Executed Payment	%	Commitment Appropriation
Personnel	2,084,632	1,828,966.44	87.74	957,151.24
Infrastructure	2,694,429	2,623,971.06	97.39	2,682,853.42
Operations	2,943,121	2,780,032.27	93.82	3,860,041.39
Total	7,742,182	7,232,969.77	93.42%	7,500,046.05

The carry forward from 2014 to 2015 (carry forward 2015) was utilised at 93.4% (95.4% in 2014).

The under-execution in Title I (87.74%) is mainly due to unnecessary carry-forward for consultancy, recruitment, medical and training.

In Title III, the under-execution (93.82%) is mainly due to unnecessary carry-forward for conferences & events and for web management.

The amount carried forward from 2015 to 2016 (carry forward 2016) was €7.50 million, lower than the previous year (€7.7 million).

Appendix C – Negotiated procedures and time to grant

The number of negotiated procedures signed according to Art 134/135 RAP of the EU Financial Regulation remained stable over the last three years with 14 procedures in 2015, 12 in 2014 and 12 in 2013. The value of negotiated procedures in 2015 was €4.4 million. The average value of negotiated procedures over the prior two years was €5.3 million.

As the report refers to 2015 the references used for declaring the contracts are those of FR/RAP in force at the time.

Table 23: 2015 Negotiated procedures

2015 Negotiated procedures under Article 134 (1) a-f of the Implementing Rules of the EU Financial Regulation				
Number	Procedure Type	Contractor Name	Subject of contract	Contract amount
1	Neg Art 134 1e (old EU FR/RAP)	Erasmus university medical centre	Additional services related to the direct contract for data collection, literature review.	54,000 €
2	Neg Art 134 1e (old EU FR/RAP)	Vito	Supplementary outsourcing for software on Plant Protection Products in soil annual crops	69,952 €
3	Neg Art 134 1b	EBSCO information services srl	Purchase of Link Resolver	12,970 €
4	Neg Art 134 1f (old EU FR/RAP)	Bearing Point	Increase of FWC envelope - Services Quality	135,000 €
5	Neg Art 134 1b	Springer customer service center gmbh	E-books (art 134 1 b)	30,000 €
6	Neg Art 134 1b	American chemical society	Scifinder Database purchase of access (art 134 1b)	83,000 €
7	Neg Art 134 1b	Thomson Reuters scientific llc	Purchase of access to ISI Web of Science platform and sub-databases by Thomson Reuters Scientific	75,495 €
8	Neg Art 134 1b	TNO	Testing a text mining tool for emerging risk identification	109,800 €
9	Neg Art 134 1c	John Wiley and sons Ltd	EFSA Journal - FWC	3,750,000 €
10	Neg Art 134 1e (old EU FR/RAP)	Hudson Belgium bv	Provision of assistance with a managerial staff selection procedure - Additional Services	5,975 €
11	Neg Art 134 1b	Informa	Subscription to EU Food Law and Agra Europe	25,000 €
12	Neg Art 134 1c	Hudson	Provision of assistance with staff selection	32,250 €
13	Neg Art 134 1e (old EU FR/RAP)	Hudson	Provision of assistance with 3 managerial staff selection procedures additional services	29,200 €
14	Neg Art 134 1b	The Bartlett	Renewal subscription EU Food Policy	20,000 €
			Total	4,432,642 €

EFSA launched grant procedures in accordance with the requirements of the EU Financial Regulation. EFSA informed applicants of the outcome of the evaluation of their application on average within 118 days, which is significantly less than 180 days prescribed as the maximum by the EU Financial Regulation. EFSA signed grant

agreements with applicants on average within 52 days, which is significantly less than 90 days prescribed as the maximum by the EU Financial Regulation.

The table below shows the detail of the grant procedures in 2015.

Table 24: 2015 average time to grant

Grant Agreement Reference	Unit	Grant Agreement Title	Committed amount	Deadline for applications (A)	Signature of award decision (B)	Grant Agreement Signature Date (C)	Art 128 2 a (A-B)	Art 128 2 b (C-B)
GP/EFSA/AFSC O/2015/01	AFSCO	1-New approaches in identifying and characterizing microbiological and chemical hazards	498,760.60 €	30/04/2015	30/09/2015	07/12/2015	153	68
GP/EFSA/AFSC O/2015/01	AFSCO	2-New approaches in identifying and characterizing microbiological and chemical hazards	491,674.37 €	30/04/2015	30/09/2015	07/12/2015	153	68
GP/EFSA/BIOC ONTAM/2015/01	BIOCONTAM	Citrinin - occurrence data generation in order to refine risk assessment	179,391.44 €	22/05/2015	10/07/2015	30/07/2015	49	20
						AVERAGE	118	52

Appendix D – Human resources

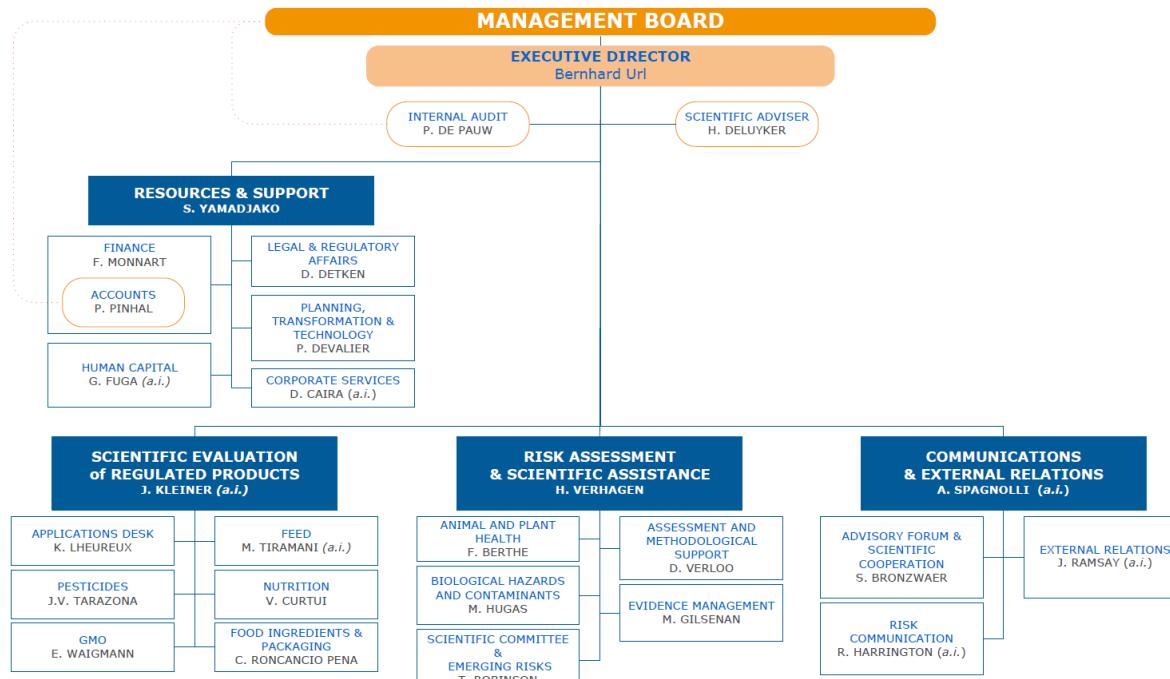


Figure 1 Organisational chart (1/12/15)

Table 25: Establishment plan 2015

Function group and grade	2015			
	Authorised under the EU Budget		Filled as of 31/12/2015	
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts
AD 16	0	0	0	0
AD 15	0	1	0	0
AD 14	0	2	0	1
AD 13	0	2	0	1
AD 12	1	15	0	5
AD 11	0	11	0	5
AD 10	1	16	0	8
AD 9	1	41	0	26
AD 8	0	53	0	59
AD 7	1	58	4	46
AD 6	1	20	1	45
AD 5	0	10	0	16
AD TOTAL	5	229	5	212
AST 11	0	0	0	0
AST 10	0	0	0	0
AST 9	0	0	0	0
AST 8	0	3	0	0
AST 7	0	4	0	2
AST 6	0	8	0	1
AST 5	0	29	0	15
AST 4	0	30	0	35
AST 3	0	25	0	19
AST 2	0	4	0	35
AST 1	0	0	0	3
AST TOTAL	0	103	0	110
AST/SC 6	0	0	0	0
AST/SC 5	0	0	0	0
AST/SC 4	0	0	0	0
AST/SC 3	0	0	0	0
AST/SC 2	0	0	0	0
AST/SC 1	0	0	0	0
AST/SC TOTAL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	332	5	322
GRAND TOTAL		337		327

Table 26: Results of the benchmarking exercise in accordance with provision of Art. 29 (3) Framework Financial Regulation and Methodology for Agencies Job Screening^(a)

Job type (sub)category	Year n-1	Year 2015
Administrative support and Coordination	23.4%	21.4%
Administrative support	21.4%	20.0%
Coordination	2.0%	1.4%
Operational	71.1%	72.4%
Top Level Operational Coordination	2.4%	2.8%
Programme Management and Implementation	50.4%	54.8%
Evaluation & Impact Assessment	0.0%	0.0%
General operational	18.3%	14.8%
Neutral	5.5%	6.2%
Finance/Control	5.0%	5.7%
Linguistics	0.5%	0.5%
TOTAL	100%	100%

(a)The benchmarking exercise methodology that is common to all EU agencies includes all staff categories: officials, temporary agents, contract agents, seconded national experts as well as visiting experts, interims, trainees, consultants and external services providers.