

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC NETWORK
FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

Objectives

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

The specific objectives of the network are:

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

- Identifying emerging risks when addressing current issues in animal health.
- **To improve the collaboration between animal health and public health on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues by:**
 - Identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health.
 - Sharing and discussing on-going non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health networks of EFSA and ECDC.
 - Sharing and discussing priorities for joint risk assessments of non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues at national and EU level.
 - Sharing of information and data on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health through a common information exchange platform.

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

Members of the scientific network

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

The desirable profile of the scientists includes the following:

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

Working language

English will be the working language of the network.

Working methods

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

In addition the network will use other means of collaboration:

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

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

Timeline

The terms of reference for the network will be due for revision in 2017.

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