

# TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA

EFSA question number: EFSA-Q-2018-xxx

## Background

According to its Founding Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), EFSA shall search for, collect, collate, analyse and summarise relevant scientific and technical data in the fields within its mission. This shall include data relating to food consumption and the exposure of individuals to risks related to the consumption of foods.. To this end, the authority shall work in close cooperation with all organisations operating in the field of data collection, including those from applicant countries, third countries or international bodies.

The EFSA's Advisory Forum agreed at its 67<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to update the terms of reference of the Scientific Network in the area of food consumption for a 3 year-period in accordance with the EFSA's strategy for cooperation and networking across Europe.

## Objectives

The aim of the Network on food consumption data is to support EFSA in carrying out its mission in accordance with the established standards of scientific excellence, transparency and responsiveness foreseen in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. In particular, the network shall coordinate and facilitate the collection of high quality, up-to-date and detailed national food consumption data, as well as the collation of this information into a pan-European food consumption database hosted by EFSA. The tasks of the network are as follows:

- To provide a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption data, in particular:
  - To review methods and propose improvements on all issues related to food consumption data;
  - To advise and reinforce the reporting and data submission formats proposed by EFSA for the collection of harmonised food consumption data to maintain their fitness for purpose;
- To act as a contact point between EFSA and the Member States in order to coordinate the collection of and accessibility to high quality, up-to-date and harmonised food consumption information.

## Members of the scientific network

The network is composed of national representatives with expertise on food consumption data collection. The members are expected to also act as a communication point for relevant organisations and stakeholders within their Member States, ensuring the exchange of scientific information between national organisations and EFSA.

Representatives of the Commission and of other organisations, including those from outside the EU with specific expertise may also be invited to participate in the work of the network.

Members of the network 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 networks](#)<sup>1</sup>.

The network shall be chaired by EFSA.

### **Working language**

English will be the working language of the network.

### **Working methods**

The Network has the possibility to hold up to one face-to-face meeting a year if needed and can occasionally be consulted on specific issues in writing or by teleconference. In addition, the Network will use other means of collaboration such as:

- web-based electronic interfaces for sharing information and data, such as the EFSA's Document Management System (DMS), online social platforms or discussion groups;
- e-mails for specific questions or issues.

Members State representatives in this network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each network meeting and/or communication 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**

3 years (renewable).

### **Expected deliverables**

Minutes of the meeting(s).

### **Publication plan**

Publication of the meeting minutes on the EFSA's website.

### **Document history**

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<sup>1</sup> Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission, EFSA 2010