

Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data Minutes of the 36th meeting

Held on 6-7 November 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 21 November 2018)

Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

Country	Name
Austria	Peter Much
Belgium	Katie Vermeersch
Bulgaria	Lilyana Polihronova
Croatia	Dražen Knežević
Cyprus	Giorgos Krasias
Czech Republic	Marie Bleierova
Denmark	Birgitte Helwigh
Estonia	Jelena Sögel
Finland	Saara Raulo
France	Françoise Gauchard
Germany	Katja Alt
Germany	Thomas Schewe
Greece	Myrsini Tzani
Hungary	Katalin Jókay
Ireland	Kilian Unger
Ireland	Lisa O'Connor
Italy	Simona Iannetti
Italy	Veronica Cibirin
Latvia	Tatjana Ribakova
Lithuania	Snieguolė Ščeponavičienė
Luxembourg	Manon Bourg
Malta	Christina Marino
Netherlands	Johan Bongers
Netherlands	Mauro di Rosa
Poland	Jacek Osek
Poland	Anna Trepkowska
Portugal	Maria Helena Pinto
Romania	Theodora Chesnoiu
Slovakia	Marta Bedriova
Slovenia	Maja Kokalj
Spain	José Luis Sáez Llorente
Sweden	Elina Lahti
United Kingdom	Andrew Frost
Iceland	Vigdís Tryggvadóttir
Norway	Berit Heier
Switzerland	Jürg Danuser

- **Hearing Experts:**

Diana Quilquini (EFTA Surveillance Authority, Belgium), Gaia Scavia (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy)

- **European Commission:**

NA

- **Others:**

Emir Konjic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Greta Nikolovska (FY Republic of Macedonia), Berat Hoxha (Kosovo) Verica Gomilanovic (Montenegro), Tatjana Labus (Serbia) Guzin Sahin (Turkey).

- **EFSA:**

Biological Hazards and Contaminants (BIOCONTAM) Unit: Frank Boelaert (co-chair), Valentina Rizzi, Yves Van der Stede, Beatriz Guerra*, Giusi Amore*, Mirko Rossi*, Maria Francesca Iulietto* and Eleonora Sarno*.

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Anca Stoicescu (co-chair, Scientific secretary), Jane Richardson*, Stefano Cappé*, Simona Fusar Poli*, Alessandro Carletti* and Davide Gibin*.

Animal Health and Plant Health (ALPHA) Unit: Gabriele Zancanaro*.

(* attended for specific items)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairs welcomed the participants to the 36th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Apologies were received from the representative of Albania.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with any change.

3. Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Network held on 18-19 October 2017

The minutes had previously been agreed by written procedure on 16 November 2017 and subsequently published on the EFSA website on 18 November 2017. Pending actions from the previous meeting were presented together with the status of their progress. Overall comments arising from the survey carried out at the last Network meeting were presented.

4. Topics for discussion (first day)

4.1. Main findings of the European Union Summary Report (EUSR) 2017

Frank Boelaert and Yves Van der Stede presented the main findings (trends, sources) on major zoonoses of the draft 2017 EUSR. Implemented improvements (e.g. further simplification of the EUSR with a focus on data collected according harmonised schemes and harmonised reporting rules) were highlighted.

Greece requested EFSA to verify with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) colleagues the accuracy of travel-related information on human brucellosis cases. Denmark requested EFSA to double check a figure visualising for congenital toxoplasmosis human data. EFSA will consider these comments. Sweden asked how to report food-borne outbreaks (FBO) statistics for outbreaks that last for several years. EFSA replied that clear specifications on how to report these types of FBO will be proposed.

4.2. Reporting *Listeria* in Food using Standard Sample Description version 2 (SSD2) format

Jane Richardson gave a presentation on the use of EFSA SSD2 in order to improve reporting of results from laboratory testing for *Listeria* or for other food-borne pathogens of concern. The presentation gave also an overview of recent recommendations on *Listeria* reporting¹.

EFSA underlined that data collection for reporting prevalence sample-based data has been used by Croatia for two years; therefore, the processes of data reporting and data aggregation were tested. Members States (MSs) can report aggregated data and sample-based data; however, for the same reporting year, either aggregated data or sample-based data can be used for reporting on the same zoonotic agent. Moreover, clear reporting documents are published that contain all mandatory information to be reported, examples on how data can be reported, and a mapping document that contains the terms available in the aggregated data model mapped with FoodEx2 codes. MSs are encouraged to report prevalence sample-based data in food. Volunteering countries should declare their interest by emailing EFSA with an email wherein they specify their interest to report in SSD2 (e.g. for *Salmonella*, *Listeria* etc.).

4.3. Experience with data reporting using SSD2: Croatia

Drazen Knezevic, Croatia's representative, gave a presentation on the experience of Croatia in implementing and reporting prevalence sample based data using SSD2. He presented highlights on the background of the implementation of the projects, the difficulties and lessons learned. Croatia invested a huge effort in order to implement a national system to report prevalence data using SSD2. He underlined that it is very important to have networks of data providers knowledgeable and updated in their data domain.

4.4. Open data

Jane Richardson presented the outcome of a recent consultation on the technical report 'Publication of scientific data from EU coordinated monitoring programmes and surveys' prepared by an EFSA working group with MSs experts. The report proposes the proactive publication of scientific data as part of the scientific output publication process. EFSA would provide a supported publishing service, or the competent authorities may publish themselves the data, according to their open data policies. The report was circulated to MSs for endorsement during April 2018, with only two MSs expressing reservations. The report is currently being reviewed by the working group and will be published by the end of 2018. In 2019, data will be proactively published as described in the technical report. The United Kingdom asked for clarifications on the endorsement process of this EFSA output. EFSA clarified the procedure and that this output will also be tabled at the upcoming meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum in November 2018.

4.5. Food-borne outbreaks data reporting: proposal for improvements, notably for toxins

Gaia Scavia, the EFSA contractor drafting the 2017 FBO chapter of the EUSR, gave a presentation. The presentation covered the main difficulties and critical points of the

¹ EFSA BIOHAZ Panel (EFSA Panel on Biological Hazards), Ricci A, Allende A, Bolton D, Chemaly M, Davies R, Fernandez Escamez PS, Girones R, Herman L, Koutsoumanis K, Nørrung B, Robertson L, Ru G, Sanaa M, Simmons M, Skandamis P, Snary E, Speybroeck N, Ter Kuile B, Threlfall J, Wahlström H, Takkinen J, Wagner M, Arcella D, Da Silva Felicio MT, Georgiadis M, Messens W and Lindqvist R, 2018. Scientific Opinion on the *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat foods and the risk for human health in the EU. EFSA Journal 2018;16(1):5134, 173 pp. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5134

data collection on food-borne outbreaks and the possible reasons behind these issues. The discussions focused on how to overcome difficulties and how to improve data collection, as well as on how to better harmonize the reporting of FBO.

It was agreed that EFSA will not insert additional strict business rules; however MSs are strongly encouraged to report all the available information.

4.6. Regulation 2073/2005: implementation in Ireland and related data reporting

Kilian Unger, Ireland's representative, presented how Ireland implemented Regulation 2073/2005 and how related data are reported to EFSA. The basic definitions of microbiological criteria (food safety criterion and process hygiene criterion) and rules of implementation of Regulation 2073/2005 were highlighted. Ireland issued a 'Guidance Note on the Enforcement of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs'² that contains rules for audits, inspections, monitoring, surveillance, official sampling and testing. Practical arrangements for official controls for *Campylobacter* (process hygiene criterion) in broiler carcasses were also discussed.

4.7. Regulation 2073/2005: improving data reporting

Yves Van der Stede provided a starting point for discussion on improving data reporting to EFSA in the context of Regulation 2073/2005. Questions were addressed to the Network members in order to better understand the data reported by MSs and how EFSA could better collect/analyse these data.

It was agreed that EFSA will send out definitions on 'sampling strategy' (e.g. objective sampling, selective sampling etc.) and discuss with the network which terms should be included/excluded for the analysis of data submitted with sampling context 'Surveillance, based on Regulation 2073'.

5. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairs welcomed the participants to the second day of the 36th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Apologies were received from the representative of Albania.

6. Topics for discussion (second day)

6.1. Feedback on 2017 data reporting and 2018 data reporting: new terms in catalogues, enhanced food vehicle list for FBO data reporting, reporting manuals, key data to provide, timelines and proposals for improving timelines compliance

Feedback received from reporting countries in relation to the 2017 data reporting was presented by Anca Stoicescu.

Specific achievements of 2017 data reporting were shared with the participants. EFSA highly appreciated the efforts of Croatia who reported for the second time all prevalence data at sample-based level. Therefore, EFSA analysed prevalence sample-based data from Croatia and included them in the 2017 EUSR and all countries are welcome to take part in sample-based reporting of prevalence data.

² PDF file available from: <https://core.ac.uk/display/43411316>

Based on the analysis of answers and suggestions from a survey of Network members, the solutions/improvements proposed for the next reporting period were presented.

Anca Stoicescu presented the changes to the 2018 data reporting. No changes are envisaged in the Data Collection Framework (DCF), data models and Excel mapping tool. Improvements will be inserted in the reporting manuals, business rules, catalogues and the Microstrategy reports. More examples will be added in the reporting manuals.

Yves Van der Stede presented proposals for simplification of the 2018 data analysis. The simplification will be mainly done by creating the analysis hierarchy in different catalogues. Network members and reporting officers were invited to comment on the aggregation rules presented and proposed.

The milestones of the 2018 data collection were agreed as follows:

- Requests for proposals for new terms to be added in the catalogues: 23 November 2018;
- Publication of the supporting manuals: 31 January 2019;
- Opening of the reporting period: 1 April 2019;
- Closure of the reporting period: 31 May 2019; any change in data during the data correction periods will be reflected automatically the day following a dataset submission in the EUSR tables;
- EU summary tables will be displayed by 5 June 2019 at the latest in Microstrategy covering data submitted by 31 May; any change in data during the data correction periods will be reflected automatically in the EUSR tables the day following a dataset submission;
- First validation period: 1 – 13 June 2019;
- Letters requesting scientific clarifications and/or amendments (if needed) sent to the MSs: 14 June 2019;
- First data correction by MSs: 15 June – 5 July 2019;
- Final validation period: 6 – 15 July 2019;
- Final data correction: 16 – 24 July 2019;
- 25 July 2019: EFSA validates the final submitted and corrected data (against a number of criteria). After 25 July 2019, data cannot be changed, as data extracted on this date will be used to draft the 2018 EUSR. Erroneous data (e.g. combination of matrix/pathogen) will not be included in the analysis;
- Amendments to 2018 data and of historical data can be carried out between 1 and 30 November 2019. These data will be used in the National reports and in the scientific data warehouse (DWH) but will not be included in the analysis of EUSR 2018.

The Network agreed to the timelines proposed but requested EFSA to adhere strictly to these timelines to enable MSs to plan their work at national level. Reporting officers were requested to clearly communicate to the national experts the deadlines for 2018 data reporting and validation.

Austria requested to label or indicate changes in tables in Microstrategy from one version of validation to the next version; otherwise, the changes are hardly identified.

Denmark requested that all changes performed in the reporting manuals and catalogues be included in a document circulated to the MSs summarising all changes (i.e. even very minor changes) performed for the upcoming data collection report. Denmark also asked EFSA to update and complete the guideline summarising the zoonoses data reporting process, including deadlines and available tools, for reporting countries.

6.2. Presentation of the Catalogue Browser

Davide Gibin demonstrated the use of the Catalogue Browser to the Network participants. The Catalogue Browser is an online tool to navigate EFSA catalogues that

were previously only available for download from the DCF. EFSA provided the Catalogue Browser and related documentation by the end of January 2018.

EFSA suggested to the Network members and experts from reporting countries to consider installing and using the Catalogue Browser.

6.3. Service Now

Stefano Cappé gave a presentation on service management and the implementation of a new tool called ServiceNow at EFSA. This tool has been implemented in EFSA since July 2018 as a follow-up of an EC audit recommending EFSA to devise and implement a service catalogue on the delivery of scientific data management, analysis and exposure assessment. Furthermore, the presentation gave an overview of the future move of the EFSA scientific data warehouse to a private cloud environment, highlighting benefits and updates of the proposed move. Network members are kindly asked to share the presentation with IT colleagues in their countries (e.g. Chief Information Officers, Information Security Officers) and to come back to EFSA with any concern about data hosting in a private cloud.

6.4. Data Quality Assessment in the context of the Data Quality Framework Partnership Agreement

Alessandro Carletti informed the meeting about the outcome of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) aimed at improving data quality. The project involved five countries (Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany and Slovakia) covering the data quality aspects in four data domains (Zoonoses, Pesticides, Contaminants and Food Additive Occurrence, and Veterinary Medicinal Product Residues). EFSA underlined that the specific objectives implemented for zoonoses data collection were agreed with the participants of the project and took into account proposals received also from the other MSs during the specific meetings for agreeing on key performance indicators (KPIs). The project was considered beneficial by the participants of the project and as a very good way for interactions between different data collection domains at national level. EFSA can provide the documentation on the implemented KPIs and also access to the Data Quality Zoonoses dashboards available on Microstrategy to interested MSs.

6.5. Update on the joint ECDC/EFSA Molecular Typing Database for PFGE and MLVA and on NGS/WGS. Update on ROAs

Valentina Rizzi provided an update on the joint ECDC/EFSA Molecular Typing Database for PFGE and MLVA. The aim of the joint EFSA-ECDC database is to enhance routine surveillance and outbreak identification by enabling detection of microbiological links between isolates of human and of non-human origin. MSs willing to participate in the data collection activities have to sign an agreement with EFSA. An update was also given on the status of engagement of the laboratories in MSs and on the number of isolates received by EFSA and shared in the joint ECDC-EFSA database.

It was highlighted the integration of DCF as a unique entry point for data submission; this implementation that is in place as of this year allows for the acceptance of XML open format, including the submission of molecular typing data previously done using Bionumerics. The isolates prioritised for typing are those related to food trade and those related to national and multi-country outbreaks.

Beatriz Guerra gave an update on Next Generation Genome Sequencing/Whole Genome Sequencing (NGS/WGS) activities, including the results of a questionnaire on WGS activities in the EU, the activities of the EFSA WGS umbrella project (work packages 1 to 6) and the EC joint mandate to EFSA and ECDC for 'Technical support to collect and analyse whole genome sequencing (WGS) data in the joint ECDC-EFSA molecular typing database'. A joint ECDC-EFSA WG is defining the needs and requirements of such a

molecular typing system, and existing 'solutions' (covering data collection, analysis, visualisation) are being explored.

Giusi Amore gave an overview of the Rapid Outbreak Assessments (ROAs) delivered by EFSA and the ECDC in 2017 and 2018, with the ROAs generic data flow and actors involved in all stages of the process. A list of all ROAs delivered was also presented, together with the risk management actions taken by the EC after ROAs delivery, with examples of ROAs that led to amendments of legislation and/or control measures.

Finally, MSs were invited to declare their interest in Training on Food-chain Lab (an in-house training organised by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and EFSA), scheduled to take place in Parma, 3, 4 and 5 December 2018.

6.6. Update on SIGMA project

Gabriele Zancanaro gave a presentation on the SIGMA project that refers to the data collection on animal population and animal disease outbreaks. The key points of the project are data mapping at national level and ontology. Highlights of the presentation referred to the benefits for MSs, the EC and EFSA of the implementation of a standardised data collection on animal population and animal disease outbreaks. EFSA has just established the connection with the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) database. It is planned to publish a scientific report on the SIGMA project by end of 2018.

Marta Bedriova, the representative of Slovakia in the Zoonoses Network and member of the SIGMA working group, presented the principles of the SIGMA project.

Greece remarked that, for the zoonoses data collection, the mapping of national terms with EFSA terminologies has been performed. Marta Bedriova and Gabriele Zancanaro underlined that: (i) the SIGMA project is still beneficial for the collection of animal population data (currently collected in the framework of the zoonoses data collection); (ii) the data mapping is not the last step of the data collection process, in fact the SIGMA project proposes to automate the data submission with dedicated applications.

6.7. One Health EJP – JIP1 ORION

Birgitte Helwich, the representative of Denmark, provided an update on the ORION project. The aim of the project is to establish and strengthen collaboration and knowledge transfer, following a One Health Perspective project. This project committed to adopt best practice One Health Surveillance solutions (guidelines, methods, tools and knowledge). The work packages were also presented with an overview of their tasks. The representative from Denmark is involved in three work packages.

7. Any other business

The Chairs requested the Network members to fill in the evaluation form and to submit ideas for discussion at future Network meetings.

7.1. Dates for next meeting

Next meeting proposed dates: 21-22/10/2019. EFSA will inform the Network members of any change in these dates.

8. Conclusions

A summary of the main discussions and agreements reached during the meeting was presented. The Chairs informed that the list of main actions will be sent by email to the Network members after the meeting.

9. Closure of the Network meeting

The Chairs thanked the Network members for an intensive and productive meeting, and closed the meeting at 13:30.

Appendix: List of Action Points

Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data Minutes of the 36th meeting

Held on 06-07 October 2018, Parma

List of the action points agreed at the meeting

No	Agenda Point	What	Action points	Deadline
1	4.1	Greece requested EFSA to verify with ECDC colleagues the accuracy of travel-related information on human brucellosis cases	EFSA to check the data accuracy with ECDC colleagues	By the publication of the 2017 EUSR
2	4.1	Denmark requested EFSA to double check horizontal bar chart visualisation for congenital toxoplasmosis	EFSA to check the correctness of the bar chart	By the publication of the 2017 EUSR
3	4.1	Sweden asked how to report FBO statistics for outbreaks that last several years	Reporting officers to use the FBO unique identifier for such outbreaks (no change is needed in the reporting of the annual numbers of cases)	7 November 2018
4	4.1	Ultimate corrections of 2017 zoonoses data	Reporting officers to consider correcting data through the DCF that has been re-opened. EFSA will take account of data corrections (until 12 November 2018) in text and analyses of the 2017 EUSR as far as possible and taking into account the limited time left to finalise the EUSR 2017	For corrected data to be possibly included in the 2017 EUSR: by 12 November 2018 ; For any other data (also historical data): by end November 2018 .
5	4.2	Denmark requested the reporting manual for sample based data reporting	EFSA to provide all the documentation (Reporting manual, mapping file, the examples)	8 November 2018
6	4.2	Interest in participating in reporting prevalence sample-based data	Volunteering countries should declare their interest to EFSA by writing an email wherein they specify what they are interested in for reporting in SSD2 (<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Listeria</i> etc.)	31 January 2019
7	4.2	The contacts of experts already using SSD2 in other data domains (e.g. veterinary medicinal	EFSA to provide upon request to the volunteering countries the contacts of experts already using SSD2 in their countries in other data	31 January 2019

No	Agenda Point	What	Action points	Deadline
		products residues)	domains	
8	4.6	Guidance Note (IE) on the Enforcement of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs	EFSA to share the link to the document (the document was uploaded in the DMS in 'Documents for the meeting' folder)	7 November 2018
9	4.7	Definition of the objective sampling and selective sampling	EFSA to send out definitions on 'sampling strategy' terms and discuss with network inclusion/exclusion of the objective sampling and selective sampling criteria for the analysis of data submitted with sampling context 'Surveillance, based on Regulation 2073'	8 November 2018
10	6.1	Issues encountered during 2017 reporting period	EFSA to implement the solutions presented during the meeting	31 January 2019
11	6.1	New terms to be included in the catalogues for 2018 data collection	Reporting officers to provide any new term to be included in the catalogues	23 November 2018
12	6.1	Proposed business rules for 2018 data collection	Comments on the proposed business rules to be sent to the functional mailbox (zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu)	30 November 2018
13	6.1	All the documentation for 2018 data collection to be provided on time	Reporting manuals and catalogues to be sent for consultation on 11 January 2019 (until 24 January 2019) and to be published by 31 January 2019	31 January 2019
14	6.1	Need to update and complete the document/guideline that summarises the process of reporting including deadlines and available tools for reporting countries	EFSA to update this document	28 February 2019
15	6.1	The deadlines of 2018 data reporting and validation	Reporting officers to clearly communicate to the national experts the deadlines for 2018 data reporting and validation	30 November 2018
16	6.1	Changes in the reporting manuals and in the catalogues	EFSA to update the documents and catalogues with the proposed changes	11 January 2019
17	6.1	Aggregation and summarisation by EFSA of MS data into EUSR tables	Network members and Reporting officers to comment on the presented and proposed aggregation rules	11 January 2019
18	6.1	Trainings on zoonoses data reporting	Reporting officers to express their interest in taking training	30 January 2019

No	Agenda Point	What	Action points	Deadline
19	6.1	Reduction of the number of EUSR tables displayed in Microstrategy	EFSA to merge EUSR tables underpinned by data that are collected without harmonised sampling scheme and that have no constraints by compulsory reporting requirements (certain category II data and III data)	31 March 2019
20	6.2	Catalogue browser	Network members and experts from reporting countries to consider installing and using it	28 February 2019
21	6.3	Scientific Data Warehouse environment in the cloud	Network members to share the presentation with IT colleagues in their countries and come back to EFSA on any concern about data hosting in a private cloud	30 November 2018
22	6.4	Data Quality Zoonoses dashboards	Reporting countries to consider sending an email to functional mailbox (zoonoses_support@efsa.europa.eu) to seek access to these dashboards	30 January 2019
23	6.5	Molecular Typing Data for PFGE and MLVA	The nominated users for food-animals to consider reporting real time data as well as historical data	Continuous
24	6.5	Training on Food-chain Lab (an in-house training organised by BfR and EFSA), Parma, 3, 4 and 5 December 2018	Interested colleagues to contact Olaf Mosbash (Olaf.MOSBACH-SCHULZ@efsa.europa.eu) for information and registration to this training	As soon as possible and by 16 November 2018 at the latest. Limited number of seats still available
25	7.	Evaluation survey: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Scientific_Network_for_Zoonoses_Monitoring_Data_evaluation_of_36th_meeting?startQuiz=true&surveylanguage=EN	MSs to fill in this survey	30 November 2018
26	7.1	Dates for next meeting Proposal: 1 day meeting Monday-Tuesday: 21-22 October 2019	EFSA to inform the Network members on any change in these dates	30 November 2018