



Transparency and engagement in risk assessment process

Stakeholder Forum, 20 November 2018

EFSA STRATEGY 2020

EFSA MISSION AND STRAPLINE

*To contribute to the safety of the EU food chain by providing scientific advice to risk managers, by communicating on risks to the public, and by cooperating with Member States and other parties to deliver a coherent, **trusted food safety system** in the EU*

Trusted science for safe food



EFSA STRATEGY 2020

Strategic Objective 1:

*Prioritise public
and stakeholder
engagement in
the process of
scientific
assessment*



Outputs/decisions are
LEGITIMISED and **TRUSTED**

Are **CLOSER** to EFSA,
its science, regulators
action

Can be **ENGAGED** in
EFSA scientific advice
process

They **UNDERSTAND**
internal processes

Citizens have **ACCESS**
to EFSA information

EFSA JOURNEY TO “OPEN EFSA”

2013-2014 EFSA consults widely its stakeholders to learn about their expectations

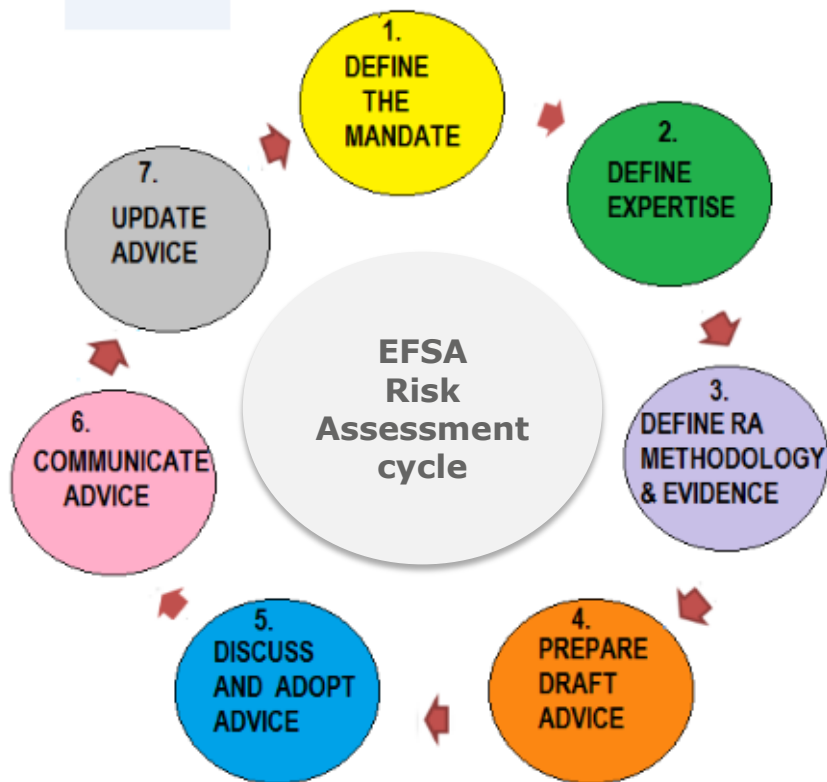
2015 Requests expressed by stakeholders are translated in measures to be applied to the Risk Assessment cycle

2015 Measures are assessed for their internal/external impact

2016 Final measures implementation plan is endorsed by MB

2020 Rolling out implementation plan

CONSULTATION PHASE RESULTS



- ✓ **35 MEASURES** AIMING AT INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS
- ✓ APPLICABLE TO **DIFFERENT STEPS** OF EFSA SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT CYCLE

MEASURES BY MAIN CLUSTER

- ☑ MORE INFORMATION ON EXPERTS, WORKING GROUPS AND THEIR MEETINGS
- ☑ INCREASE CLARITY OF OUTPUTS (INCL. GUIDANCES)
- ☑ ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY/ACCESSIBILITY ON EVIDENCE/METHODS CHOICES
- ☑ ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT VIA CONSULTATION (AND LINKED INITIATIVES)

MEASURES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EXPECTED BENEFITS

- for EFSA
- for SHs
- ...

EXPECTED COSTS

- workload
- timeliness
- ...



**DECISION TAKEN ON THE MEASURES
IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMELINES**

TRANSPARENCY & ENGAGEMENT MEASURES DEPLOYED 2015-2018

- RE-OPENING OF OPINIONS: NEW SC GUIDELINES
- DOCUMENTS LINKED TO A DECISION ON WHETHER TO UPDATE A SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT PUBLISHED

- NEW STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF EFSA'S OPINIONS
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SH CONTRIBUTION
- RISK ASSESSMENT DATA AND METHODS: ACCESSIBLE CENTRAL REPOSITORY
- POST-ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

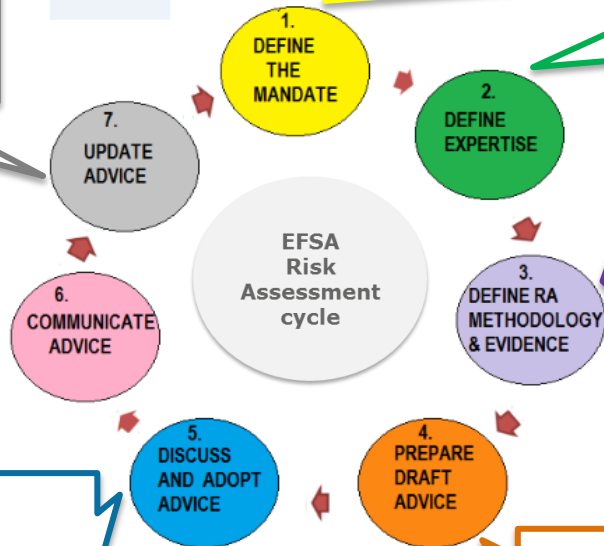
- DATA SUMMARY FROM APPLICANTS' DOSSIERS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE
- OPENING DWH AND 'CIRCLE OF TRUST' AMONG MSS
- MORE TRANSPARENCY ON INCLUSION/EXCLUSION OF DATA
- OPEN PANEL PLENARY MEETINGS AND FLASH SUMMARY VIDEOS

- PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS: MORE ACCESSIBLE, PRE-NOTIFIED, NEW TOOL, GUIDELINES
- INTENSIFIED CONSULTATIONS (DRAFT MANDATES/SELF-TASKS , *SCOPING PAPER*)
- MEETING WITH MSS PRE/POST CONSULTATION
- PRE-SUBMISSION MEETINGS WITH GROUPS OF APPLICANTS

- FULL CVS PUBLISHED (PANELS)
- AUDITABILITY OF SELECTION PROCESS (PANELS + WGS)

- INTENSIFIED CALL FOR DATA (AND FORMAT)
- TRANSPARENCY ON IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STUDIES
- CONSULTATION ON THE R.A. METHODOLOGIES (PROTOCOL)
- UNCERTAINTY, BIOL. RELEVANCE ,WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE GUIDANCES
- CONSISTENT DECISION MAKING ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOSSIERS
- HARMONISED AND ACCESSIBLE CHEMICAL DATA AMONG MSS AND OTHER EU AGENCIES

- TIMELY MINUTES & REFLECTING PLENARY CONCLUSIONS
- SUPPORT TO APPLICANTS DURING STOP THE CLOCK PROCESSES
- NEW, "USER-FRIENDLY" APPLICATION GUIDANCES IN ALL AREAS



IN PROGRESS MEASURES (2020)

Expertise Management Programme



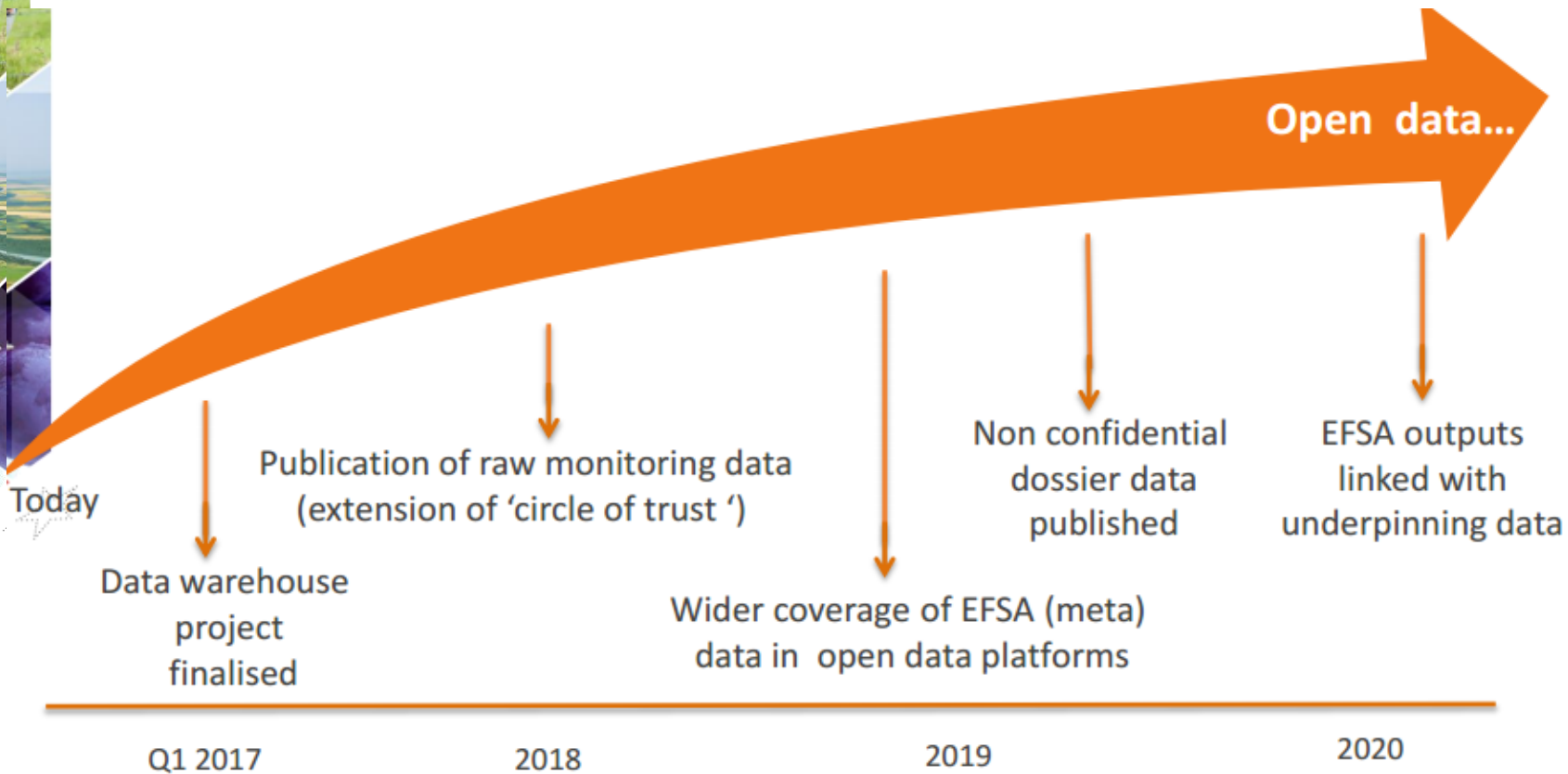
- More information on experts and their meetings (WGs)- 2019

- More engagement and transparency on Risk Assessment approaches (PROMETHEUS – already tested in 10 EFSA case-studies)
- Proactive release of evidence/methods in readable/reusable format

PROMETHEUS



ON GOING MEASURES (2020) - FOCUS ON OPEN DATA



Close cooperation with the EC and other EU Agencies



NEW DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES?

K.I.G. (*biotechnology and
molecular methodology;
automation, machine
learning and artificial
intelligence*)

WIKIUSATION
of knowledge

**CROWD
SOURCE**



...

'living' opinions' ?
Continuous external
literature screening?

**Readable and reusable
raw data, methodologies**

Meeting **citizen's expectations** on food safety

A closer look at two elements of the proposed **General Food Law ("178") amendment**

Transparency of risk assessment



New provision
Proactive publication of data

Improved risk communication



Understanding society
Consideration of risk perceptions

Discussions from our recent **scientific conference**

What is the **key element of any engagement strategy?**



Transparency is not a goal – it's an ingredient!



Group work

Ideas about **engagement** and **information** which contribute to accountability and trustworthiness

1

Engagement throughout the risk assessment cycle

What **type** of engagement
At **which stage** of the cycle
What are the **different roles of stakeholders**

2

Availability and access to information

Which information is **most useful**
Who is the **target audience**
Digital platforms for sharing
Require **tools for data interpretation**