Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data
Minutes of the 37th meeting

Held on 21-22 October 2019, Parma
(Agreed on 07 November 2019)

Participants

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

Country	Name
Austria	Peter Much
Belgium	Katie Vermeersch
Bulgaria	Lilyana Polihronova
Croatia	Dražen Kneževic
Cyprus	Christodoulos Pipis
Czech Republic	Katerina Beranova
Denmark	Birgitte Helwigh
Denmark	Channie Kahl Petersen
Estonia	Jelena Sõgel
Finland	Saara Raulo
France	Françoise Gauchard
Germany	Katja Alt
Greece	Myrsini Tzani
Greece	Maria Alexandraki (web conference)
Hungary	Georgina Helyes
Ireland	Kilian Unger
Ireland	Lisa O'Connor
Italy	Guido di Donato
Italy	Veronica Cibin
Latvia	Tatjana Ribakova
Lithuania	Snieguolė Ščeponavičienė
Luxembourg	Manon Bourg
Malta	Christina Marino
Netherlands	Johan Bongers
Netherlands	Mauro di Rosa
Poland	Anna Trepkowska
Poland	Darius Wasyl
Portugal	Maria Helena Pinto
Romania	Theodora Chesnoiu
Slovakia	Marta Bedriova
Slovenia	Maja Kokalj
Spain	José Luis Sáez Llorente
Spain	Pilar Vicente Escriche (web conference)

Country	Name
Spain	Victoria Marcos Suárez (web conference)
Sweden	Elina Lahti
United Kingdom	Andrew Frost
Iceland	Thelma Dögg Róbertsdóttir (web conference)
Norway	Berit Heier
Switzerland	Jürg Danuser

- **Hearing Experts**

NA

- **European Commission:**

Luisa Antunes (DG-SANTE, unit G4)

- **Others:**

Renis Maçi (Albania), Emir Konjic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Blazho Janevski (North Macedonia), Greta Nikolovska (by web conference) (North Macedonia), Martin Josheski (by web conference) (North Macedonia), Nikola Savovski (by web conference) (North Macedonia), Verica Gomilanovic (Montenegro), Tatjana Labus (Serbia) and Guzin Sahin (Turkey).

- **EFSA:**

Biological Hazards and Contaminants (BIOCONTAM) Unit: Frank Boelaert (co-chair), Valentina Rizzi, Winy Messens*, Mirko Rossi*, Eleonora Sarno*, Alice Vismarra*.

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Anca Stoicescu (co-chair), Alexandra Papanikolaou (Scientific secretary), Luca Pasinato*, Claudia Heppner, Mary Gilsenan*.

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

Engagement and Cooperation (ENCO) Unit: Julia Finger*.

Communication (COM) Unit: Saba Giovannacci*.

Executive Director Office (ED): Stef Bronzwaer*.

(* attended for specific items)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Frank Boelaert welcomed the participants to the 37th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Apologies were received from the representative of Cyprus and Kosovo.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes. An additional session was proposed and accepted at the end of the first day for a short demonstration of the EFSA Catalogue Browser.

3. Minutes of the 36th meeting of the Network held on 6-7 November 2018

The minutes had been previously agreed by written procedure on 21 November 2018 and subsequently published on the EFSA website on 22 November 2018. 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

4.1. Main findings of the 2018 European Union Summary Report (EUSR) on Zoonoses and Food-borne outbreaks

Frank Boelaert presented the main findings (trends, sources) on major zoonoses of the draft 2018 EUSR. Implemented improvements, mainly a new report structure with increased focus on food-borne outbreaks, an increased amount of interpretive analyses, and further simplifications, were highlighted.

The Netherlands congratulated EFSA on the new report format and especially the new Key Facts – sections are great improvements.

EFSA asked the participants to carefully check the tables of the EUSR and the figures presented in the text and provide comments by 30 October 2019 at the very latest. The EUSR will be published on 12 December 2019 (fixed publication deadline).

Following a point raised by the United Kingdom and commented on by Austria, EFSA agreed to better describe the context of the monitoring data received on *Campylobacter* from broilers and turkeys.

4.2. Use of MicroStrategy for zoonoses data

Luca Pasinato presented the EFSA MicroStrategy Zoonoses Advanced Environment. For the first time this year the EUSR tables were produced in MicroStrategy in order to improve timeliness and increase the transparency of data analysis. All zoonoses data are stored in the EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse to allow for timely extractions and analyses, increased transparency and advanced analysis capabilities.

4.3. Feedback on MicroStrategy reports of EUSR tables

EFSA and Network Representatives discussed how to improve the usability and accessibility of the EUSR tables in MicroStrategy.

It was agreed that:

- Trainings are needed and EFSA will provide them upon request.
- EFSA will improve the instructions on how to access and use MicroStrategy
- EFSA will provide access to the EUSR tables in MicroStrategy to additional experts nominated by the Reporting Officers
- EFSA will explore the possibility of extracting all the EUSR tables from MicroStrategy and provide them to the Reporting Officers in Excel format

4.4. Fitness check of EUSRs on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks (FBO) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR): customer feedback

Frank Boelaert presented the results of a customer satisfaction survey that aimed to evaluate the fitness-for purpose of the annual EUSRs on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks and on AMR. Results, conclusions and recommendations were presented to the Network and discussed.

Denmark suggested that the EUSR main findings should be more readily accessible to the public (i.e. in terms of using less scientific language and so being more appropriate for the general public) and, therefore, a mini EUSR (for example 5 to 10 pages) on zoonoses-FBO would be valued by the public. EFSA will consider drafting such a short version of the EUSR while keeping the regular scientific one as it is.

4.5. European Joint Project One Health

Stef Bronzwaer presented an update on the progress of the European Joint Project (EJP) on One Health and the role of EFSA in research coordination. EFSA and several organisations participating in the Network meeting are involved in the One Health EJP. EFSA's Research Platform includes information about ongoing and upcoming projects within the remit of EFSA (zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks, animal health, plant health).

4.6. Reg. 2073/2005: results e-survey and improving data reporting

Eleonora Sarno presented the results of the e-survey for data reporting in the context of Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs. The survey included questions regarding sampling context, sampling strategy, sampling unit and sampler.

The Network Representatives expressed different points of view on how to summarise (aggregate) the data reported as 'selective sampling' into EUSR tables. Due to the different interpretations of the available terms (i.e. selective sampling, objective sampling) and about the meaning of risk-based sampling as referred to in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005, the Network Representatives were kindly requested to provide examples and discuss in order to develop a proposal. EFSA and the Network Representatives should reach an agreement regarding the use of selective sampling in the data summarisation (for next year's reporting) by 30 November 2019.

4.7. Role of the Network Members and guidelines for nomination of Network Members

Julia Finger presented the role and structure of EFSA's Scientific Networks. The different responsibilities and tasks of the Advisory Forum, the Focal Points and the Network Representatives were also presented. From 2020 the Focal Points will have new tasks in the area of Data Collection and closer collaboration will be needed between Network Representatives and Focal Points. Regarding the new tasks of the Focal Points, Julia Finger clarified that the role of the Focal Points is supportive and not supervisory.

4.8. Terms of Reference of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data

Anca Stoicescu presented the draft proposal for the updated Terms of Reference and summarised the changes. The Terms of Reference had been previously sent to the Network for consultation. Although the changes performed were agreed, additional comments are welcome until 30 October 2019.

EFSA brought into the discussion the potential future inclusion of data collection of the non-zoonotic animal diseases (e.g. African Swine Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease) into the network activities, and asked the opinion of the Network Representatives. For consistency with the actual structure of the Network, the Network Representatives favoured the possibility of creating specific subgroups for non-zoonotic animal diseases.

4.9. Food-borne outbreak investigation in Belgium

Katie Vermeersch, the representative of Belgium, presented Belgium's national plan for tackling food-borne outbreaks. Different stakeholders in Belgium are involved in food-borne outbreaks. Two examples of food-borne outbreaks were presented: a *Salmonella* Typhimurium outbreak in schools in 2018 and a *Salmonella* Enteritis outbreak in an educational institution in 2019.

Day 2, 22 October 2019

5. Welcome and apologies for absence

Anca Stoicescu welcomed the participants to the second day of the 37th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data. Apologies were received from the representative of Cyprus and Kosovo.

6. Topics for discussion

6.1. Digital collaboration with EFSA and among reporting countries

Saba Giovannacci presented the Microsoft Office365 platform (Microsoft Teams) that aims to improve communication and collaboration among the Network Representatives. EFSA informed that Microsoft Teams will replace the Document Management System (DMS) and that the DMS is planned be closed for external users. The historical documents from the DMS will be available in the Microsoft Teams when DMS is closed. The functionalities of the Microsoft Teams software were demonstrated. Training and manuals for the use of the new tools are available.

Topics like security, access rights and system compatibility were discussed. EFSA replied to questions regarding confidentiality issues that the system has been tested by EFSA's IT security experts that confirmed that there are no security-related issues. Regarding potential access permission and system compatibility issues, EFSA is available to provide any support needed and suggests that the Network Representatives should preferably use the web interface of the new tools for the time being.

6.2. Feedback on 2018 data reporting and 2019 data reporting: new terms in catalogues, reporting manuals, key data to provide, timelines and improving compliance with timelines

Anca Stoicescu presented the feedback received from reporting countries in relation to the 2018 data reporting.

Specific achievements of 2018 data reporting were shared with the participants. Based on the analysis of answers and suggestions from a survey of Network Representatives, the solutions/improvements proposed for the next reporting period were presented.

Spain commented that a Working Group of the European Commission (EC) currently deals with changes in the reporting system of the co-financed programmes. EFSA agreed to contact EC colleagues in order to investigate the possibility of interoperability of the databases and specifically related to data for the Disease Status data models.

The Network Representatives commented that the deadlines for 2018 AMR data correction and validation shifted compared to what was agreed upon with the result that they were no longer the same as those for the zoonoses-FBO data collections. This was not helpful, and was also not well communicated.

Anca Stoicescu presented the changes to the 2019 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. Reporting manuals will be sent for consultation on 10 January 2020 and published on 31 January 2020.

Echinococcus multilocularis data under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 will be reported in the prevalence sample-based data model. New two data elements will be added (sensitivity, specificity) without any impact on already implemented sample-based data reporting.

Spain asked – in analogy with the bovine tuberculosis Disease Status Data model – EFSA to include in that data model the possibility to report the *Brucella* species.

Sweden asked EFSA how to report on the 'origin of the food vehicle' in the FBO data model, more precisely when the food vehicle could have transited several countries. Definitions were also discussed . It was agreed that naming the country from where the food vehicle originated is an important piece of information in rapid outbreak assessments. In the context of the EUSRs it may be interesting to augment the information value of this field by changing to the following specified options (instead of the country); domestic market, intra EU trade, imported from outside EU and unknown. EFSA was asked to consider these changes.

Denmark asked EFSA to consider relaxing the business rule for reporting several analytical methods and to allow multiple choices to be reported.

The Network Representatives discussed catalogue updates, the possible repeatability of the data elements analytical method and country of origin, and about the different interpretations of selective sampling strategy.

The milestones of the 2019 data reporting were agreed as follows:

- Requests for proposals for new terms to be added in the catalogues: 15 November 2019;

- Publication of the supporting manuals: 31 January 2020;

- Opening of the reporting period: 1 April 2020;

- Closure of the reporting period: 31 May 2020; 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 in MicroStrategy; 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 2020;

- Letters requesting scientific clarifications and/or amendments (if needed) sent to the MSs: 14 June 2020;

- First data correction by MSs: 14 June – 5 July 2020;

- Final validation period: 6 – 15 July 2020;

- Final data correction: 15 – 25 July 2020;

- 26 July 2020: EFSA validates the final submitted and corrected data (against a number of criteria). After 26 July 2020, data cannot be changed, as data extracted on this date will be used to draft the 2019 EUSR. Erroneous data (e.g. combination of matrix/pathogen) will not be included in the analysis;

- Amendments to 2019 data and of historical data can be carried out between 1 and 30 November 2020. 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 2019 EUSR.

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 2019 data reporting and validation.

6.3. Results of the European baseline prevalence survey of norovirus in oysters

Alexandra Papanikolaou presented the results of the European baseline survey of Norovirus in oysters. The survey design, results and conclusions were presented. The results indicated higher levels of norovirus prevalence in production areas than in batches from dispatch centres. A strong seasonal effect was observed with higher contamination from November to April and potential risk factors associated with norovirus presence were identified.

6.4. *Salmonella* control in poultry flocks and its public health impact

Winy Messens presented the outcome of the Scientific Opinion of the BIOHAZ panel on the *Salmonella* control in poultry flocks and its public health impact[1]. The assessment involved (i) the estimation of the public health impact if the target serotypes in breeding hen flocks are changed, maintaining the 1% target; (ii) the

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[1] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5596.

estimation of the public health impact if the target set for adult laying hens flocks is reduced from 2 to 1% for the current target serotypes, (iii) the review of the risk factors for the occurrence of *Salmonella* in laying hen and broiler chickens, in relation to the type of farming and other animal welfare indicators, (iv) the assessment of the possible negative or positive impact of *Salmonella* control programmes on the prevalence of *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and on broiler meat.

6.5. Update on the joint ECDC/EFSA Molecular Typing Database for PFGE and MLVA and on Next Generation Genome Sequencing/Whole Genome Sequencing (NGS/WGS)

Valentina Rizzi presented the current status of the joint ECDC/EFSA Molecular Typing Database. Data on food isolates submitted by pathogen and country and information about the quality of the submitted isolates were presented. There is a prioritisation list of isolates to be typed. Updates on the joint activities of EFSA and ECDC for the collection of Whole Genome Sequencing data and on scenarios for the new joint database were given.

The Network Representatives discussed about database interoperability with public repositories and possible links between the WGS database and the metadata reported in the zoonoses data collection.

6.6. Update on the ROAs

Mirko Rossi presented the updates on joint ECDC/EFSA Rapid Outbreak Assessments. The steps following an alert were described. When needed, ECDC and EFSA produce Joint Notification Summaries, a different kind of output that is not made publicly available.

6.7. Update on SIGMA project

Gabriele Zancanaro presented the background of the SIGMA project and an update focusing on the automatic submission tool and data submitted during the pilot. More information is available in the following link: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/data-collection-animal-diseases.

The Network Representatives discussed about the population data model, the possible applicability of the SIGMA data model to all biological agents, and the possibility of co-financing opportunities.

7. Any Other Business

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

7.1. Date for next meeting

Next meeting proposed dates: 19-22/10/2020. However, the dates are still to be confirmed pending agreement with the Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)

Network on organising a back-to-back meeting. EFSA will inform the Network Representatives of the final dates.

8. Conclusions

Frank Boelaert, Anca Stoicescu, and Alexandra Papanikolaou summarised the main discussions and agreements reached during the meeting. The Chairs informed that the list of main actions will be sent by email to the Network Representatives after the meeting.

9. Closure of the meeting

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

Appendix: List of Action Points

Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data

37th meeting, held on 21-22 October 2019, Parma

List of the action points agreed at the meeting

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
1	4.1	2018 EUSR summary tables available for consultation	Reporting Officers to provide comments on: • the EUSR tables in MicroStrategy • their statistics mentioned in the summary report • the infographic produced by EFSA and ECDC • any other observation or remark	By 30 October 2019 at the latest
2	4.1	Discussion regarding the inclusion of *Campylobacter* in turkeys as a key fact in the 2018 EUSR	EFSA to better contextualise the 2018 EUSR section for *Campylobacter* in turkeys and broilers	By the publication of the 2018 EUSR
3	4.3	Updated list of data providers	Reporting Officers to provide the updated list of experts to have access in the DCF, in MicroStrategy	By 28 February 2020
4	4.3	Access of nominated data providers to the EUSR tables in MicroStrategy	Reporting Officers to provide emails of additional experts that should have access to the EUSR tables in MicroStrategy	By 28 February 2020
5	4.3	EFSA and the Network Representatives discussed that trainings on MicroStrategy may be needed.	Reporting Officers to request trainings from EFSA as needed, preferably before the start of the reporting season	By 31 March 2020
6	4.3	Using MicroStrategy reports	EFSA to send clear instructions on how to access and use MicroStrategy	By 28 February 2020

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
7	4.3	Public availability of the raw data used for the EUSR	EFSA to better communicate (both to the Network Representatives and to the general public) the fact that the raw data are made publicly available on EFSA Knowledge Junction (Zenodo platform)	Continuous action
8	4.3	Possibility to extract all EUSR tables in Excel format	EFSA to explore the possibility of extracting all the EUSR tables from MicroStrategy and to provide them to the reporting Officers in Excel format	By 30 April 2020
9	4.4	Possibility to produce a mini EUSR zoonoses-food-borne outbreaks	EFSA to consider a mini EUSR while keeping the regular scientific one as it is	To be agreed
10	4.6	Inclusion of the results reported under "selective sampling" strategy (i.e. risk-based) in specific EUSR tables	EFSA and Reporting Officers to discuss in Microsoft Teams and come up with a proposal for inclusion of risk-based sampling in EUSR. EFSA to set up the channel, start the discussion, and assess the impact of the proposal. MS (DK, FR, AT, IE, BE) to discuss and provide a concrete example.	By 30 November 2019
11	4.8	EFSA's proposal for the new Terms of Reference available for consultation	MS to provide comments on the proposal	By 30 October 2019
12	6.1	New collaboration platform (Microsoft Teams) introduced to improve collaboration among Network Representatives	EFSA to create accounts for all Network Representatives and Reporting Officers and to send information, credentials, access links and instructions.	By 30 October 2019
13	6.1	Access of nominated data providers to the EUSR tables in the collaboration platform	Reporting Officers to provide EFSA the emails of additional experts that should have access to the collaboration platform	By 28 February 2020
14	6.2	Annual update of catalogues before major release	Reporting Officers to propose to EFSA new catalogue terms	By 15 November 2019
15	6.2	Catalogue browser	Reporting Officers and experts from reporting countries to consider installing, using it, and request trainings if needed	By 28 February 2020
16	6.2	Zoonoses data reporting	Reporting Officers to request training in advance if needed	By 28 February 2020

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
17	6.2	The deadlines of 2019 data reporting and validation	Reporting Officers to clearly communicate to the national experts the deadlines (in calendar year 2020) for 2019 data reporting and validation	By 30 November 2019
18	6.2	Changes in the reporting manuals and in the catalogues	EFSA to update the documents and catalogues with the proposed changes and send them for consultation to the Reporting Officers	By 10 January 2020
19	6.2	Changes in the reporting manuals	Reporting officers to provide feedback on the proposed changes in the manuals	By 24 January 2020
20	6.2	Changes in the reporting manuals and in the catalogues	EFSA to publish the manuals and the catalogues	By 31 January 2020
21	6.2	Double-reporting of data for disease status	EFSA to contact the European Commission and set up a meeting regarding the new reporting requirements for co-financed programmes and invite the Network Representative of Spain	By the end of 2019
22	6.2	Deadlines for AMR data validation and correction not the same as for zoonoses-FBO data	Network Representatives to raise and clarify the issue during the AMR Network meeting on 6-7 November 2019	By 7 November 2019
23	6.2	*Echinococcus multilocularis* data under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 to be submitted through the SSD2 zoonoses data collection	Network Representatives of involved countries (Finland, Ireland, the UK, Norway) to inform the data providers about the change	By 30 November 2019
24	6.2	Automatic email notifications sent by Service Now	EFSA to investigate the possibility of stopping the automatic reply-emails generated by the platform and sent to the users	By 30 November 2019
25	6.5	Joint WGS Roadmap	EFSA to provide additional information together with the question: "What do you think if only cgMLST allelic profiles needed to be shared? Would you share data more easily?"	By 15 November 2019

No	Agenda point	What	Action points	Deadline
26	7	Evaluation survey https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Scientific_Network_for_Zoonoses_Monitoring_Data_evaluation_of_37th_meeting	Network representatives to fill in the survey	By 31 October 2019
27	7.1	Dates for next meeting	EFSA to inform the Network Representatives	By 30 November 2019

Colour legend

	Action points for EFSA
	Action points for Network Representatives
	Action points for both EFSA and Network Representatives