



77th Advisory Forum meeting
Virtual meeting, 28-29 October 2020

Update on SPIDO (Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office)

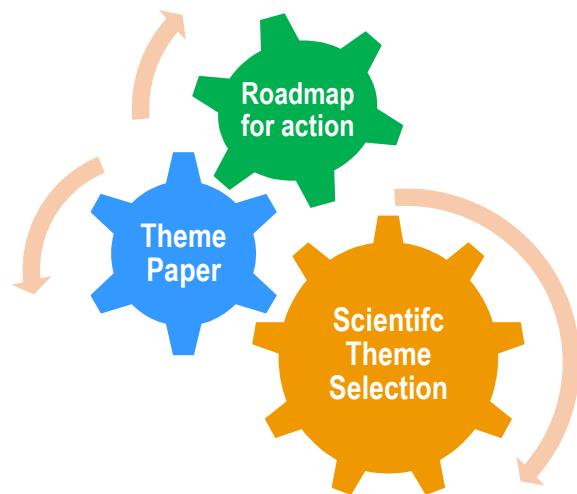
Claudia Heppner

Senior science coordinator

Trusted science for safe food



Background: final process



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – EFSA CHIEF SCIENTIST OFFICE

Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office (SPIDO)

Framework document¹

1. Context

Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council² ("Transparency Regulation") under Article 32 d states that the European "Commission, in exceptional circumstances of serious controversies or conflicting results, may request the Authority to commission scientific studies with the objective of verifying evidence used in its risk assessment process. The studies commissioned may have a wider scope than the evidence subject to verification" for example where new scientific developments become available.

In addition, within the scope of Article 30 of the General Food Law (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002³) EFSA shall be vigilant to identify at an early stage any potential source of divergences. EFSA needs to prevent and be ready to address possible divergencies on

Consultation theme papers

Aim:

Receiving feedback to improve the clarity on vision, scope, opportunities, cooperation and impact for EFSA and its partners

Phase 1 consultation

11 June - 15 (31) July 2020

- EU Agencies (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EMA, EUIPO, CDT): 12 responses (1-4 TP)
- JRC: 4 responses (1 per theme paper (TP))
- DG SANTE: 4 responses (1 per TP)

Phase 2 consultation

21 June – 21 September 2020

- **Advisory forum: 32 responses** (number of countries)
(10 mCRA, 8 NAM, 8 ERA, 6 AI)
- Scientific committee: 12 responses (4 mCRA, 3 NAMs, 3 ERA, 2 AI)

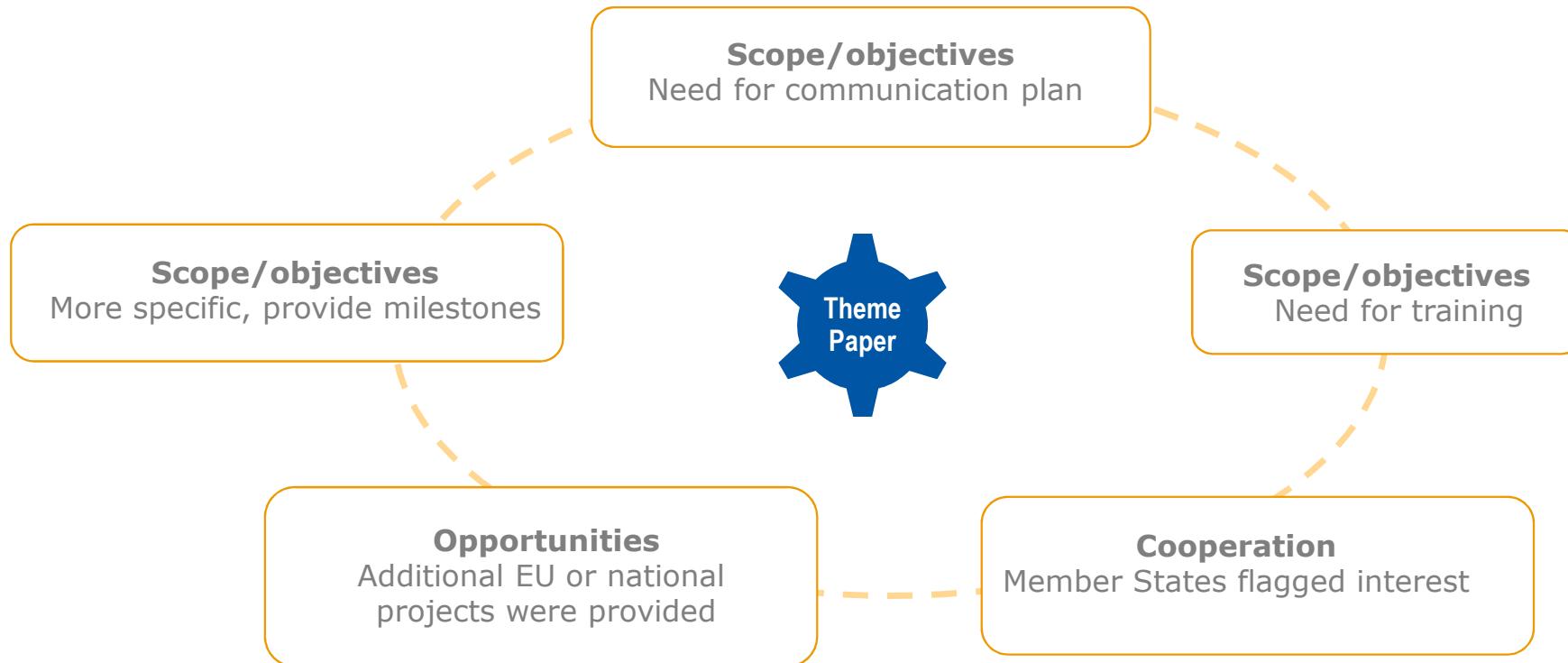
Phase 3 consultation

19 October – 12 November 2020

- International partners
- Stakeholders

NAMs (new approach methodologies); mCRA (multiple chemicals risk assessment (RA)), ERA (environmental RA), AI (artificial intelligence in RA)

Key comments on all four theme papers



EFSA
response

- **Objectives** provide general direction to the intended work. **Roadmap** will be more specific and include communication aspects. Providing training is part of EFSA's policy.
- **Theme papers amended to improve clarity**
- Different **co-operative arrangements** (incl. consortia) are possible, supported by different financial instruments

Multiple chemicals risk assessment: Key comments

Vision, Scope/Objectives

- **Not only pesticides** but also other chemicals
- **Additional objectives**
 - **Include environmental factors**
 - **Clarify tools and methods to be developed** (hazard- and exposure assessment)

Opportunities, cooperation

- **Lack of occurrence data in non-food media** (e.g. water, air, etc.) essential for non-dietary exposure
- **Several** (8 out of 10) **Member States** indicated **willingness to participate to partnerships** on tool harmonisation and CRA pesticides.

EFSA response

- **Pesticides “first”** (legal obligation) with risk assessors and risk managers → **Implementation to other domains foreseen** in alignment
- **Integrated** a project aiming at identifying data sources, collecting available data and generating data
- **Theme paper amended based on the comments received to improve clarity**

Revised theme to **Risk Assessment of Combined Exposure to Multiple Chemicals**

New approach methodologies: Key comments

Vision, Scope/Objectives

- Show **more leadership** to a full shift NAMs based/animal free, regulatory RA.
- **Consider a more holistic vision** for NAMs (e.g. organisms; environmental biota)
- **Build a framework** with validated NAMs to address concerns or toxicological end points

Opportunities, cooperation

- Create a **partnership/collaboration web** among EU institutions and research centres/researchers having specific expertise
- **All (8) Member States** indicated **interest in cooperation** in this theme.

EFSA response

- **Vision better clarified**, remain with chemical RA and extend to animal health and environmental assessments at a later stage.
- **Guidance document** on the use of NAMs is foreseen.
- **Theme paper amended based on the comments received to improve clarity**

Environmental risk assessment: Key comments

Vision, Scope/Objectives

- **Focus not only on pesticides but go broader**
(e.g. GMOs, emissions in air/water by animal farms via feeds, food contact materials and environmental release of nano-microplastics)
- **Increase focus on fostering partnership under PERA and involve all partners at the onset**
- Environmental benefit-to-risk assessment or **integrated systems-based approach**

Opportunities, cooperation

- **Several** (6 out of 8) **Member States** indicated **interest in cooperation** in this theme, and in **contribution to PERA** (including information on topic, contributions and how to collaborate)

EFSA response

- **Scope better clarified** to cover ERA of regulated substances/compounds or products
- **Theme paper amended based on the comments received to improve clarity**

Artificial intelligence in risk assessment: Key comments

Vision, Scope/Objectives

- Reduction of the workload, **collect and analyse more evidences**, enhance the quality risk assessments. Important domain of AI: amount and **quality of collected/accessed data**

Opportunities, cooperation

- Use **domain of medicine to exploit for evidence management in food safety**
- Reuse established AI networks and platforms and build on their capacity and expertise**
- All (6) Member States indicated interest in cooperation** in this theme.

EFSA response

- Theme papers amended based on the comments received to improve clarity**

Roadmap for actions call: engagement needed



OPEN CALL

3 lots each app.
500K €

- Multiple chemical RA
- New approach methodologies
- Environmental RA

FRAMEWORK CONTRACT

CT/EFSA/FIN/201
(9/01)
app. 500K €

- Artificial intelligence



EFSA ADVISORY FORUM

Focal Point Network

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11		13
14		15	16	17	18	19
21		22	23	24	25	26
27		28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Printable Calendars by [Betacalendars.com](https://www.betacalendars.com)

Launch open call



[EFSA webpage](#)



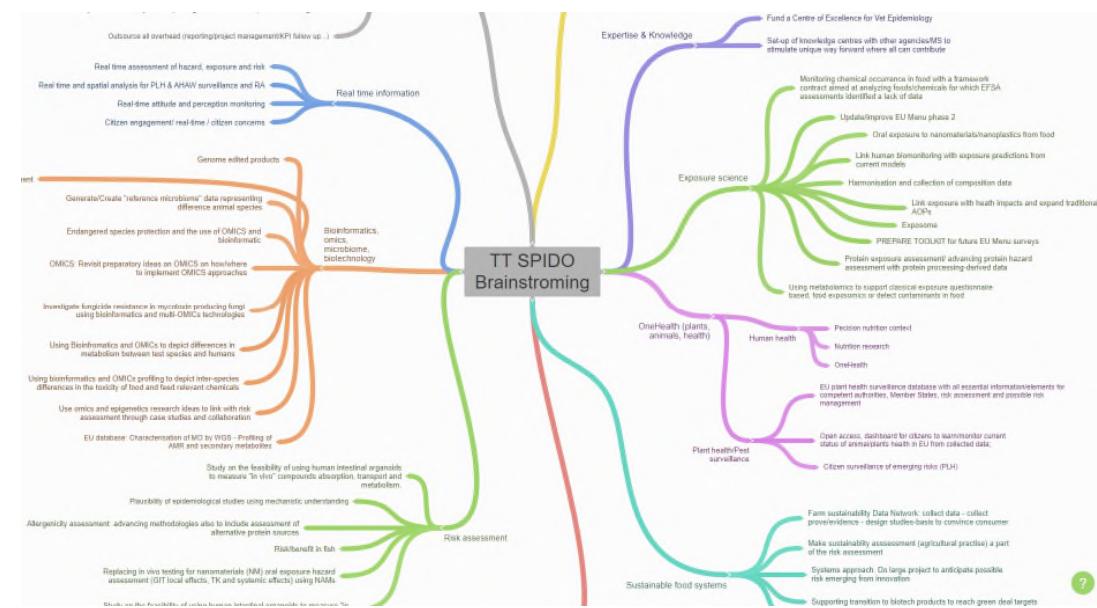
[LinkedIn](#)



[EU e-tender](#)

Advancing future scientific themes

- **Envisioning phase: internal brainstorming sessions (Oct-Dec)**
- Project call: advance „**Intelligence gathering**“ for future themes (e.g. bioinformatics, omics, microbiome etc), resulting in a list of **common needs/interests** amongst **partners** (EFSA, MS, EU Agencies, EC)
- Use **new services** facilitating “**information analysis**” in theme areas to ensure complementarity of future activities and project calls
- **Capture lessons learnt from current process (Nov-Dec)** and refine process if relevant





- Suggestion to share revised theme papers and framework document
- Feedback on usefulness of consultation period
- Support dissemination of open call
- Seeking views on contributing to envisioning phase of new themes

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