



**75<sup>th</sup> Advisory Forum meeting**  
**Virtual meeting, 1-2 April 2020**


# **New Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office (SPIDO) function**

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Trusted science for safe food

# Motivation

- The Transparency Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 foresees:

+  **Additional tasks:**  
EC to mandate EFSA to commission studies with the objective of verifying evidence used in its risk assessment process (in specific cases)

+  **Additional budget:**  
Annually 24-40 mio € for grant & procurement (verification study) activities. EFSA will use a 3-tier approach for outsourcing

- EFSA 2027 draft strategic directions

- Strengthen citizen trust in regulatory science
- Deliver fit for purpose scientific advice
- Contribute to the EU's "sustainable farm to fork" strategy



- Opportunities to address EFSA's needs  
(may redirect money to perform studies under Art. 32 of the TR)



- Investing in forward-thinking scientific studies and projects to integrate the latest scientific developments in regulatory science to stay relevant in food safety risk assessment



# Objectives - tools & means



Science Studies and Project  
Identification & Development  
Office (SPIDO)

- Enhance EFSA 's capacity to influence studies and data generation in regulatory science in selected scientific themes
- Foster connectivity among the study/project objectives, enhance capacity building and partnerships (MS, EU, International)
- Tools: Identify multi-annual, multi-partner and high-value scientific grants and procurements projects
- Means: 2021: 8 mio €; from 2022 onwards 16 mio € annually

## Expected impact:



Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office (SPIDO)

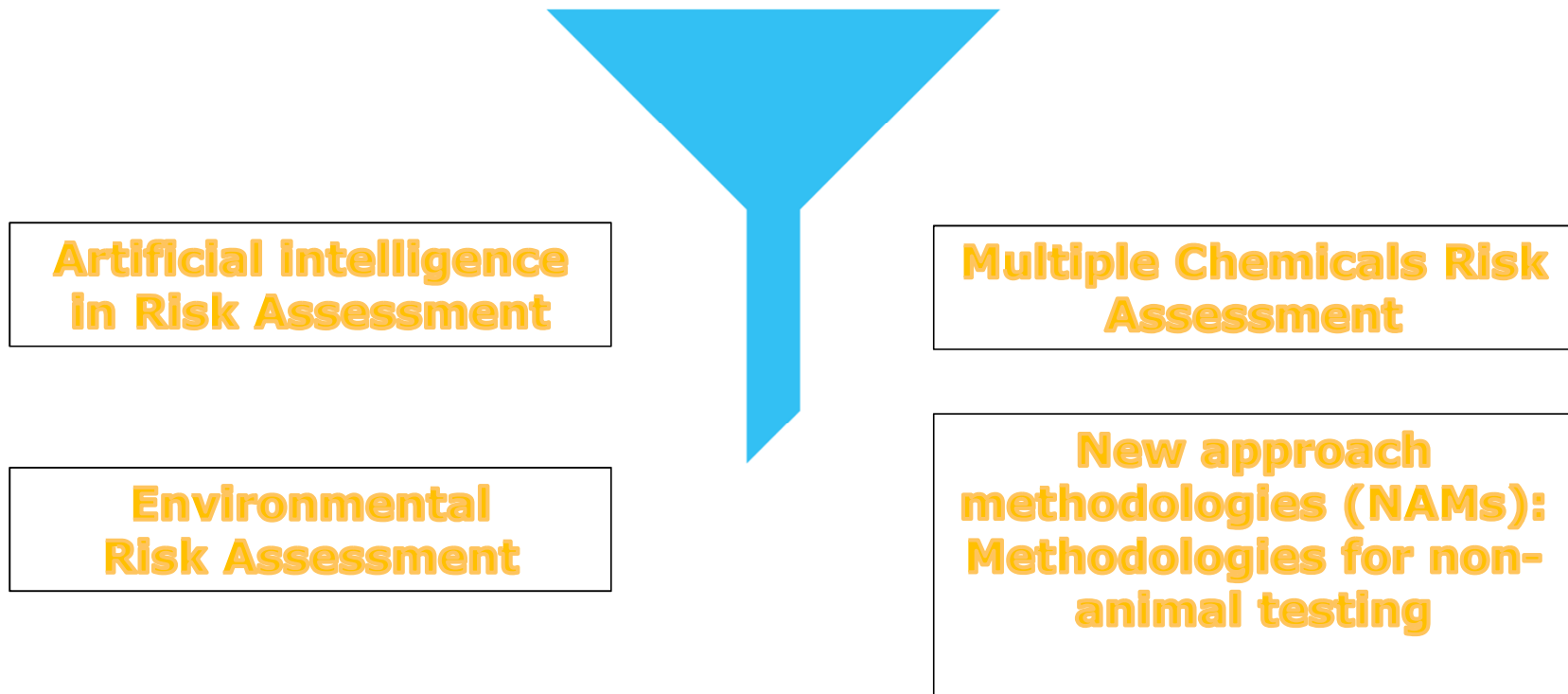
- New methodologies, data and communication science in food safety risk assessment implemented in a prioritized, harmonised and faster way in EFSA (mid-term); and at MS/EU agency (international level) (long-term).
- Better involvement of MS/EU Agencies, Third Countries and knowledge sharing in defined scientific themes (short term).
- Connecting to political directions (green deal, one health) (mid-term)

# SPIDO Tasks

- **Co-ordinating the identification of selected scientific themes** directed to address risk assessment challenges **requiring multi-annual cooperative arrangements with Member States, EU Agencies,** and if adequate with **international organisations and risk assessment bodies in Third countries** to be prepared for the future.
- **Identifying where collaboration on scientific studies and projects is possible** by analysing the work in the Member States, EU Agencies and international partners on **selected scientific themes.**
- **Identifying partners** such as Member States, EU Agencies, and international organisations that can **contribute to the delivery of scientific studies and project objectives**
- **Capture stakeholders views on selected thematic themes and scientific studies and projects.**
- **Overseeing and co-ordinating the outsourcing of multi-annual, multi-partner and high-value grants and procurement of scientific studies and projects under selected scientific themes.**
- **Contributing to define indicators** measuring the transfer of scientific studies and projects results into risk assessment activities.



## Future of science themes



# Environmental risk assessment (ERA) - draft



## ■ **Current situation:**

- Legal landscape of environmental protection is highly fragmented
- ERAs in EFSA's remit are performed on single stressor/compound basis, which may not achieve the desired level of environmental protection and are not interoperable

## ■ **Objectives:**

- Develop integrated/systems-based approaches for ERA to ensure fitness for purpose

## ■ **Desired outcome** (timeframe app. 5-8 years):

- Integrated/interoperable ERAs for all regulated products associated with agricultural food/feed production falling in EFSA's remit
- ERAs that can be integrated as additional drivers of risk in EU environmental impact and sustainability assessments performed by relevant actors and key stakeholders
- A European collaborative platform on ERA to facilitate the delivery of the next generation ERAs that better protect the environment and human/animal health

## ■ **Expected impact for EFSA:**

- Facilitate the transition to next generation ERAs for regulatory science to better protect the environment and human/animal health



# New approach methodologies (NAMs) -draft



- **Current situation:** Limited incorporation of NAMs in chemical RA
- **Objectives:**
  - Define, prioritise and implement EFSA's internal, European and international contributions to the use of NAMs in regulatory science for chemical risk assessment.
- **Desired outcome** (timeframe app. 3-8 years):
  - EFSA roadmap for applying NAMs in regulatory science; focusing on mechanistic understanding for comprehensive assessments of chemicals in food.
  - European (and international) coordination platform, complementing EC JRC and ECHA, leading the evolution of the risk assessment paradigm
  - Increased collaboration with researchers by co-designing innovative NAM-based experiments addressing gaps in EFSA assessments as case studies.
  - Development of cross-cutting guidance using NAMs in chemical risk assessment.
- **Expected impact for EFSA:**
  - Facilitate the application of NAMs in chemical risk assessment at EU level which demonstrates EFSA's contributions to societal needs and reduction of animal testing.



# Artificial intelligence (AI) - draft



- **Current situation:** highly “competitive & fast growing” area – what’s in for regulatory science and public health?
- **Objectives:**
  - Introducing AI in European Agencies (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EMA, EFSA) via collaboration and mutual sharing with EU Agencies and International Bodies, and possibly Member States.
  - Interconnect with all other Scientific Themes to satisfy their needs in terms of elaboration of data and evidence
- **Desired outcome** (timeframe app. 5-8 years):
  - A European Agency AI roadmap including identification and implementation of uses case of common interest (e.g. EFSA systematic review, EMA Content Sanitization).
  - Establishment of a common governance structure between European Agencies for AI use cases
- **Expected impact for EFSA:**
  - Position EFSA as a leader between other European Agencies and International Organisations to address challenges in regulatory science

# Multiple chemicals risk assessment - draft



- **Current situation:** fragmented risk assessment of chemicals for humans, animals, and the environment due to sectorial legislations
- **Objectives:**
  - Integrated approaches for multiple chemical risk assessments in the area of food safety to better protect human health
- **Desired outcome** (timeframe app. 2-8 years):
  - For pesticides: new cumulative assessment groups and implementation plan on the cumulative risk assessment.
  - Development of methods, harmonisation of tools and consolidation of data required for the human health risk assessment of combined exposure (dietary and non-dietary) to multiple chemicals at EU level, prioritising pesticides first.
  - Consolidation and expansion of EFSA databases towards a European information sharing and data hubs
- **Expected impact for EFSA:**
  - Enhancing capability to produce refined risk assessments of combined exposure to multiple chemicals to better protect human health

## Next steps



- Finalisation of office set up according to internal procedures (March)
- **Outreach/info session** to EFSA scientific community, Scientific Committee, Advisory Forum (AF), EU Agencies, EC JRC, DG Sante, International bodies as adequate (Feb-May)
- Formalising “small cross-cutting disciplines teams” and **launching consultation of first four draft themes** (roadmaps) & **seeking feedback from AF** (April)
- Next milestone **April 2020 endorsement by EFSA Management Team (Science Council)**
- Preparation of high-value, multi-partner calls to be launched around May-June 2020

# Why to engage?



- This activity provides a unique opportunity for:
  - Member States,
  - EU Agencies
  - International parties
  - EFSA**to invest in regulatory science where knowledge gaps, which are not filled by any other suitable activity.**
  
- The envisaged impact is:
  - to increase knowledge sharing/capacity building,
  - implementation of new methodologies,
  - data and communication science in food safety risk assessment**in a prioritised, harmonised, and faster way in EFSA (mid-term) and at Member States and EU agency (long-term).**

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