

UPDATE ON TASK FORCE ON DATA COLLECTION AND DATA MODELLING

76TH MEETING OF THE EFSA ADVISORY FORUM
1-2.07.2020. VIRTUAL MEETING

MAIN OBJECTIVE

- The main objective of the Task Force is *to overview the data collection and reporting processes and the data model and IT infrastructure used, from a **strategic perspective**, and to formulate recommendations at a strategic level.*

DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE

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- Draft final report had been sent on 10th June to AF for feedback
- Task Force developed strategic recommendations for future management and analysis of data
 - 21 Strategic recommendations made in 5 key areas: Data Reporting, Data Modelling, IT Architecture, Data Analysis and Horizontal recommendations.
 - 25 operational recommendations (derived from the Strategic recommendations) identified as possible next steps

RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 3 categories:
 - quick wins
 - short- to medium-term
 - long-term
- Neither the grouping nor the order of the recommendations implies importance; the list of recommendations is not a priority list.
- The strategic planning, breaking down the objectives, prioritising the possible tasks and defining a system of complementary goals should be a future strategic planning task.

HORIZONTAL STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Achieve **critical mass of data literacy** by supporting and encouraging data related education activities.
- Form a **standing working group** to advance recommendations on data related issues through strategic planning and selection and advocacy for operational projects
- EFSA, and also Member State institutions and the Commission should continue their activities towards **becoming data driven organisations**.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEMBER STATE REPORTING IN THE FOOD/FEED DOMAIN

- EFSA and the Member States should seek to understand better the **strategic data model for IMSOC**.
- It is an imperative to collaborate on data models and reporting requirements during **legislation development**.
- Resolving theoretical and practical problems around **multiple levels of sampling strategies** is needed.
- Initiate discussions on a common single “**European food safety data model**” along the food chain.
- EFSA and Member States to initiate and join high-level discussions to tackle **data ownership questions**.
- Initiate discussions on the applicability of **solutions other than relational databases**.
- Explore deeper the potential use of **traceability data** (including blockchain based solutions).

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA MODELLING

- Encourage **process automation** for data exchange and data analysis by investing in tools and analysis program codes that should also be standardised and openly available.
- Various **data governance roles** at Member State and EU levels should be systematically implemented and network collaboration encouraged. (e.g. Data Stewards for every data domain)
- Invest in **collaboration with international and national institutions** in the EU and third countries to broaden applicability of interoperable data standards for the exchange of data.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON IT-ARCHITECTURE

- **Collaborative joint projects** and **sharing best architecture practices** should be encouraged.
- All national and EU systems being built today should be built with **interoperability** in mind.
- **Build Services**, not Websites.
- Discussions should be initiated on designing the '**future food safety data ecosystem of Europe**'.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON DATA ANALYSIS

- Support the development and application of **novel analytical approaches**, including user-friendly tools and frameworks.
- Initiate discussions on **application of results produced by computational science solutions in risk management and policy decision-making**.
- Good practices of **data visualisation** should be identified and also capacities in data visualisation should be built..
- Future problems caused by '**black boxes**' produced by AI solutions should be addressed.

MAIN MESSAGES

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- Recommendations are well aligned with Commission directions under discussion in HPAC, ICTAC, Transparency Regulation/ART Programme, EU Interoperability Framework (EIF)
- Strategic planning and project prioritisation to maintain ongoing alignment with EFSA strategy is needed
 - Suggestion of a WG with strong technical and operational experience to drive activities in transforming food data management and use.
 - Could be value in including oversight of data aspects of existing EFSA initiatives e.g. Ecosystem and Platform development, Artificial Intelligence Project, Focal Point Data Activities, DEMETER, SPIDO, Capacity Building

MAIN PRIORITIES

- EFSA and the Member States should seek to understand better the strategic data model for IMSOC.
- Initiate discussions on the usefulness, feasibility and consequences of elaborating a common single “*European food safety data model*” along the food chain.
- Vision of a “*future EU food safety data ecosystem*” to provide transparent, interoperable access to datasets and analysis models.
 - This could be the basis of a broader global ecosystem which would support future crisis response in an increasingly global food industry.

NEXT STEPS

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- Final draft report circulated on 10 June 2020 for feedback
- Task Force virtual meeting in July
 - to address comments and suggestions
 - to come up with high level project ideas linked to recommendations
- Report scheduled for publication in September 2020
- Task Force finishes its activity in September 2020
- Alignment with EFSA Strategy
- Proposal for a future WG

THANK YOU!

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