

Current Focal Point activities

Lea Herges

Policy Matters, Clearing, international
Affairs, EFSA Focal Point

Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)

Current Focal Point activities

1. Symposium EFSA Focal Point at the 54th Scientific congress of the German Nutrition Society (DGE)



2. Report on the outcomes of the first physical meeting of the AFDG on International Capacity Building in February and the further planning



3. Recent and upcoming BfR events 2017

Organisation of a Symposium EFSA Focal Point

- at the 54th. Congress of the German Nutrition Society (DGE) (Art.-36-organisation)
- March 1st – 3rd 2017 in Kiel, about 600 participants
- Topic of the Congress:
„*Nutrition and food research*
– *do we meet the major challenges facing society?*“

Symposium EFSA Focal Point

Food with added values? - Assessment and authorisation at national and European level





- 3rd March 2017 09:00 - 10:30
- 4 speakers
- around 50 participants
- 2 posters

Objectives

- Promotion of awareness of EFSA
- Presentation of the role of the BfR as EFSA Focal Point
- Showing of the different tasks and division of responsibilities



Symposium EFSA Focal Point - Programme

1. „Food safety in Europe – Network of the EFSA Focal Points“, Dr. Lea Herges (BfR) 
2. “Health claims - examination steps up to approval from a national perspective”, Dr. Evelyn Breitweg-Lehmann (BVL) 
3. „*The scientific assessment of health claims at EFSA, and other current nutrition topics*“, Dr. Reinhard Ackerl (EFSA) 
4. “Safe - but also suitable?“, Dr. Anke Weißenborn (BfR) 



Symposium EFSA Focal Point – Discussion and Conclusion

Main topics and discussion

- Tasks and activities of the EFSA Focal Points, e.g. requests for information, EU Risk Assessment Agenda (EU RAA)
- Health claims – broad background information on legal aspects e.g. Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006
- Food labelling
- Testing steps for health claims (formal-legal by MS, scientific evaluation by EFSA)
- Information about EFSA, evaluation of reference values
- Novel food Regulation (EU) No. 2015/2283
- Food for the nutrition of special consumer groups, infant feeding and follow-up and food for special medical purposes (balanced diets)

Conclusion

- Positive feedback from persons involved
- Many interested participants and lively discussion
- Mixture of technical, more theoretical information and scientific knowledge
- Input from an EFSA representative is very much appreciated
- High Interest for EFSA's brochures and BfR publications
- Further national meetings should be taken into consideration

Thanks to ...



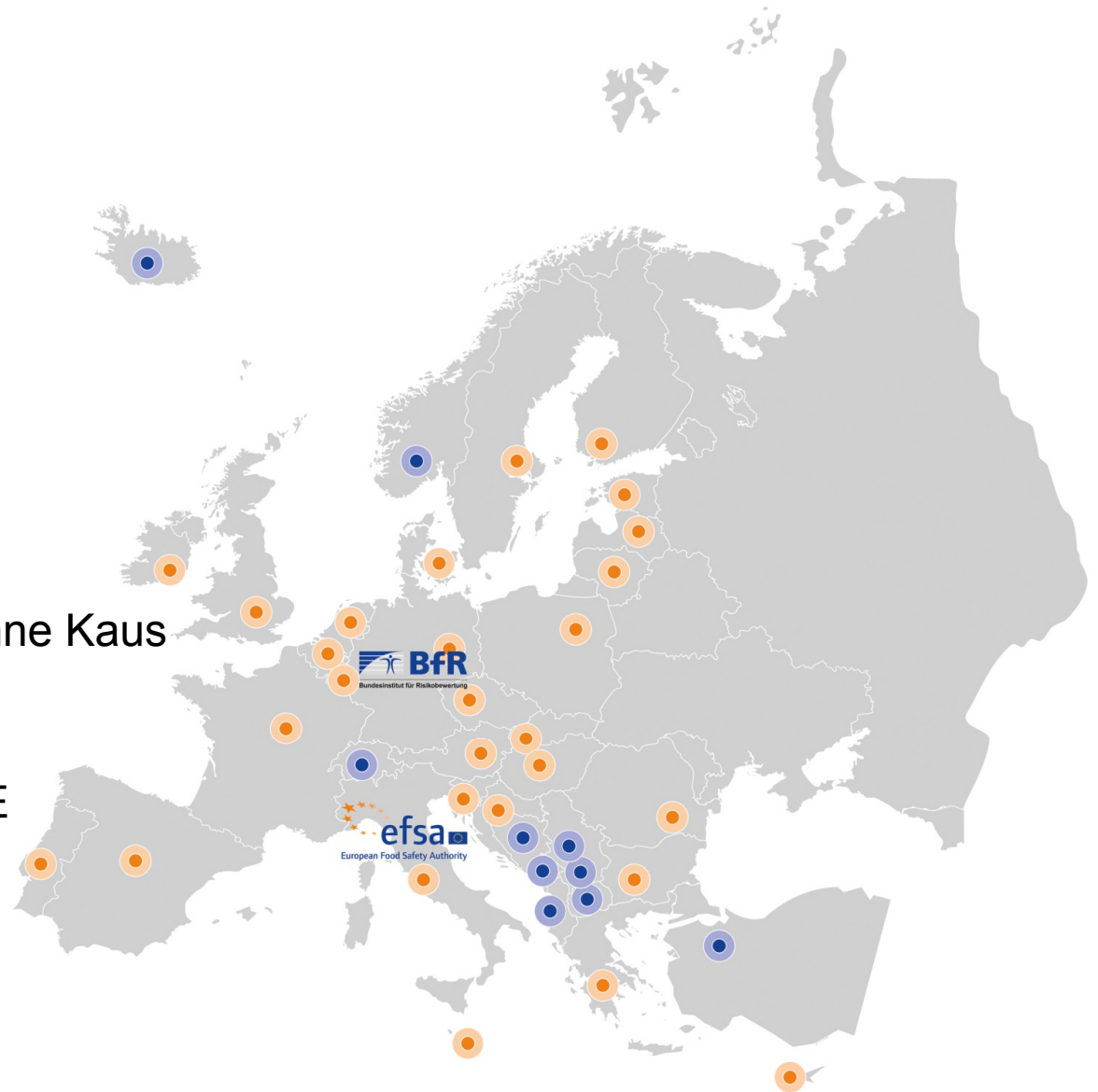
EFSA Focal Point
Dr. Nicole Gollnick, Dipl.-Ing. Susanne Kaus

Special thanks to
Antje Gahl and the team of the DGE



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ernährung e.V.
Der Wissenschaft verpflichtet – Ihr Partner für Essen und Trinken

Dr. Evelyn Breitweg-Lehmann
Dr. Anke Weißenborn
Dr. Reinhard Ackerl



Advisory Forum Discussion Group (AFDG) on International Capacity Building (ICB)

Member organisations and their representatives:

- AECOSAN, Spain Ana Canals
- ASAE, Portugal Fernanda Alvarrão, Cristina Rodrigues until March 17
- BfR, Germany Reiner Wittkowski, Nicole Gollnick
- EFSA Djien Liem, Julia Finger
- NVWA, The Netherlands Koen Wienk
- VKM, Norway Danica Grahek-Ogden
- ANSES, France since April 17 Salma Elreedy
- FSAI, Ireland since April 17 Pamela Byrne

Chair:

Reiner Wittkowski, BfR



Past - AFDG on International Capacity Building

61^s AF meeting, 28 -29 September 2016 in Parma

International risk assessment capacity building - A proposal for joining forces on the European level (BfR Vice president)

Telephone conference #1, 21 November 2017

62nd AF meeting, 8 -9 December 2016 in Parma

International Cooperation – Feedback from Discussion Group

16 -17 February 2017 in Berlin

Physical meeting of the AFDG on International Capacity Building

Telephone conference #2, 16 March 2017

63rd AF meeting, 7 – 8 March in Malta

International cooperation - AFDG on International Capacity Building

Brief presentation of the Terms of Reference and outcomes of 1st physical meeting by the Norwegian AF member

Objectives of the first physical meeting of the AFDG on International Capacity Building (ICB)

- Define International Capacity Building (ICB) and current status of ICB
- Develop a common vision on ICB
- Draft the *Terms of Reference* (TOR) for the AFDG on ICB
- Prepare a presentation for the 63rd Advisory Forum Meeting
- Create a draft survey (current activities and tools for ICB) to be circulated among the AF members and national EFSA Focal Points





Lea Herges, 17th-18th May 2017, 31th EFSA Focal Point meeting, Helsinki

Proposed Terms of Reference of the AFDG on ICB

- To provide advice and guidance to EFSA on defining and strengthening ICB
- To support the AF in developing a common European strategy for ICB
- To take into consideration capacity building activities by other international risk assessment organisations
- To develop realistic ideas about how to join forces and achieve synergies in the area of ICB in risk assessment
- To develop SMART objectives and deliverables

TERMS OF REFERENCE	
<p>EFSA Advisory Forum Discussion Group (AFDG) on International Capacity Building (ICB)</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Today's international risk assessment knowledge community is faced by the following challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heterogeneous and constantly changing food safety systems and standards (in terms of capability and capacity), • Emerging risks (new or geographically new risks), • Lack of risk assessors, • Diverging views, • Big data, • Increased complexity and workload but decreased resources, • Globalization of food supply and change of food consumption habits, • Rapid developments regarding global trade and global travel. <p>Demands to meet these challenges are made by national and international institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ministries • European Commission • Food safety authorities from third countries (Range of risk assessment capacity: none to high) • EU Agencies including EFSA • International Organisations such as WHO, FAO, OIE, Codex, WTO, OECD <p>As a consequence, international capacity building (ICB) has become an important field of activity for EFSA and food safety institutions in Europe. The main focus of international risk assessment capacity building is improvement of food safety, consumer and environmental protection.</p> <p>Currently,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge creation (e.g. joint projects), • Knowledge exchange (physical and virtual) (including policy advice), and • Knowledge maintenance (e.g. training the next generation, implementation of new knowledge). <p>are usually the essential components of bilateral cooperation agreements.</p> <p>Many of these capacity building activities especially with regards to trainings by lectures and workshops are based on similar requests from international partners.</p> <p>Vision:</p> <p>The effective use of synergy effects and the use of potentials created by diversity and difference between the 28 EU MS will be of great benefit for the joint ICB strategy of the European risk assessment knowledge community. The joint ICB strategy will foster international collaboration and expand the network of competent international partners in the areas of food safety, consumer and environmental protection. This will play an important role to facilitate harmonization and improvement of risk assessment methodologies and capacities across the world and will result in better risk management and crisis management practices.</p> <p><small>ToR (AFDG on ICB) Version 23.03.2017 Page 1 of 2</small></p>	<p>As discussed at the September 2016 Advisory Forum meeting, EFSA calls for an AF Discussion Group (DG) to provide input for consideration by EFSA on how EFSA could work together with agencies in the Member States in ICB aimed at the questions in the Terms of Reference as formulated below.</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Advisory Forum Working Group on International Capacity Building is asked to provide advice and guidance to EFSA on defining and strengthening capacity building in line with the Management Board recommendations and EFSA's strategic objectives. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To support the AF in developing a common European strategy for ICB, ✓ To take into consideration capacity building activities by other international RA organisations, ✓ To develop realistic ideas about how to join forces and achieve synergy in the area of International Capacity Building in RA, ✓ To develop SMART objectives and deliverables. <p>Timeline</p> <p>Meetings of the AFDG on ICB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2016: telephone conference • February 2017: 1st physical meeting in Berlin (Workshop) • February-June 2017: telephone conferences as needed • June 2017: 2nd physical meeting in Parma back-to-back with the AF meeting <p>Reports to the AF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2016: Brief presentation of results of first telephone conference • March 2017: Brief presentation of the draft ToR at AF meeting • June 2017: Update on activities and presentation of AFDG vision for ICB. Discussion and reflection of the results during break-out session with AF members • June 2017: Draft guidance report to all AF members after AF meeting for comments and declaration of interest for active participation in the work of the AFDG on ICB • December 2017: Full guidance report for adoption <p>MS involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief and simple online survey to assess current capacity building activities by Member state Risk Assessment institutions (Survey launched in mid-March/ answers before Easter/ recall after Easter) • Become active members of the AFDG on ICB <p>Expected deliverables</p> <p>Supporting publication – technical report on the outcome of the AFDG on ICB.</p> <p><small>ToR (AFDG on ICB) Version 23.03.2017 Page 2 of 2</small></p>

Next steps: planning of reports to AF and requests to AF and FP

Planning of reports to AF

- June 2017: Presentation of results 1st physical meeting including follow-up activities by AFDG; discussion with AF members
- June 2017: Draft report to all AF members after AF meeting for comments and declaration of interest for active participation in the work of the AFDG on ICB
- December 2017: Technical report for adoption (provisional title: Capacity Building in Global Cooperation: Strategy of the European Risk Assessment knowledge community)

Requests to AF and Focal Points

- To provide comments on the proposed draft ToR
- To contribute to the request for information related to ICB (deadline 24th May 2017)
- Actively support the AFDG on ICB

Recent and Upcoming BfR events 2017

6 -7 April

2nd Joint Symposium on Nanotechnology (*in English*)

26 - 28 April

RESET & MedVetStaph – Final scientific Symposium (*partly in English*)

4 May

**Funding instruments for third-party funding projects -
Information event on national and European programs**

9 June

Bf3R Seminar – Studying sleep by using a worm (*in English*)

3 – 14 July

6th BfR Summer Academy (*in English*)

25 – 27 October

**Workshop Exposure – Tiered Approach as determining feature for exposure
assessment** (*in English*)

28 November – 1 December

**"Past, Present and Future Challenges in Risk Assessment
- Strengthening Consumer Health Protection"** (*in English*)



Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung



Thank you for your attention

Dr. Lea Herges

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment

Max-Dohrn-Str. 8-10 • 10589 Berlin, GERMANY

Phone +49 30 - 184 12 - 4004 • Fax +49 30 - 184 12 - 47 41

efsa-focal-point@bfr.bund.de • www.bfr.bund.de/en