

## Note to the Management Board

### EFSA Journal: update on performance and activities during 2022

#### 1. Background

The EFSA Journal has transformed from a self-made website to a high-impact science journal over the past five years. It is an important tool in building and maintaining EFSA's scientific visibility and credibility. The presentation to the Management Board will look back at the Journal's recent performance as measured against various indicators and also cover new initiatives that EFSA has brought forward to further increase the impact and relevance of the Journal, including Plain Language Summaries and the introduction of a channel for Member State publications on food safety – "Food Risk Assess Europe".

#### 2. Performance

The EFSA Journal has performed well against metrics such as number of downloads and citations in the past five years, with both showing significant increases. EFSA's outputs on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks continue to top the list of the most cited Journal articles. The impact of the Journal also continues to grow, rising from 3.336 in 2020 to 3.480 in 2021 according to the Clarivate Impact Factor, and it is ranked among the top third of journals in the area of Food Science and Technology.

#### 3. Plain Language Summaries

In line with the [EFSA Strategy 2027](#) to make risk communications more accessible to the Authority's various audiences, the EFSA Journal undertook a pilot project to introduce Plain Languages Summaries (PLS) for a selection of its scientific outputs. The aim is to provide non-technical audiences with clear, jargon-free summaries of its risk assessments, thereby broadening the impact and appeal of the EFSA Journal. In 2023, the Scientific Committee and Editorial Advisory Board will assess the pilot project and derive lessons learned ahead of full integration of PLS into the Journal's workflows.

#### 3. Food Risk Assess Europe

The [Transparency Regulation](#) calls for better coordination of risk communication between risk assessors and risk managers at Union and national level and for the identification of tools and channels that would improve this cooperation. In this context, EFSA's Advisory Forum mandated the Journal team in 2021 to create a publishing channel for scientific assessments produced by the Member States. Following a feasibility study that was finalised in 2022, progress has begun on setting up "Food Risk Assess Europe" (FRAE) as a third channel on the Wiley publishing platform, alongside the EFSA Journal and the channel for Supporting Publications. FRAE is due to go live in the first quarter of 2023.

#### 4. Next steps

EFSA will continue to seek to grow and evolve its scientific publishing activities in line with the EFSA Strategy 2027. Future progress and performance will be communicated to the Board at regular intervals.