

Note to the Management Board

Risk Assessment Production Department



Decision of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority on the establishment of a Scientific Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE).

The purpose of this Agenda point is to propose to the Management Board the said decision for adoption. The procedure followed for establishing the Network is detailed below:

- December 2023: EFSA and ECDC Launched a call for proposal for the 3rd inter-institutional framework contract to continue the collaboration on risk assessments of vector-borne diseases and establish a **One-Health Vectornet Entomology Network (OH-VEN)**.
- The OHVEN will be composed of **ECDC's Operational Contact Points (OCPs) for entomology** and **EFSA's Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE)**, provided adoption of the establishment of the NVE by EFSA's Management Board.
- 9 February 2024: Deadline for comments of Advisory Forum on the establishment of the EFSA's Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE).
- 15 February 2024: Final Terms of Reference following integration of the comments of the Advisory Forum.
- 20-21 March 2024: EFSA Management Board Meeting – decision on the establishment of EFSA's Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE) and decision on delegation of the adoption and future amendments of the Terms of Reference of the Network to Head of Unit of BIOHAW.
- April 2024: Advisory Forum confirmation of the member institutions and nomination of participants.
- November 2024: 1st Meeting of the joint OH-VEN Network at ECDC's premises in Stockholm.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EFSA NETWORK ON VETERINARY ENTOMOLOGY

Global warming and changing ecological conditions, as well as trade and travel, influence the distribution of arthropod vectors, creating favourable conditions for the vector-borne diseases (VBD's) to establish and spread in the EU. Since the presence of competent vectors is a prerequisite for the transmission of strictly vector-borne diseases, knowledge about their distribution is of paramount importance. After eight years of intense collaboration on VBD's, through two consecutive inter-institutional framework contracts, ECDC and EFSA launched a [call for proposals](#) for a third iteration of VectorNet.

Besides the well-known [vector distribution maps](#), capacity building in the Member States on vector surveillance, one of the strongest pillars of Vectornet has been the organisation of an **annual meeting of the Vectornet Entomological Network**, where entomologists exchanged information on pertinent issues related to VBD's in the EU MS's and neighbouring countries. Entomological expertise has become scarce, and this initiative has always been strongly appreciated by all network members, as expressed by very positive evaluations.

To increase the visibility of the network and surround the network members with a stronger institutional support, it is the ambition of EFSA and ECDC to officialise the network and establish a joint One-Health VectorNet Entomological Network (OHVEN). The Terms of Reference, for the **EFSA Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE)** have been shared with the Advisory Forum for review and comments have been taken into account. The core functions of the OHVEN include the provision of entomological expertise to support ECDC and EFSA in their assessments of the risks related to vectors and VBD's and the provision of scientific advice on entomological matters.

To strengthen this collaboration, the OHVEN will be composed of ECDC's Operational Contact Points (OCPs) for entomology and EFSA's Network on Veterinary Entomology (NVE). Whereas the OCPs are nominated by ECDC National Coordinators and will represent the entomologists working in the public health sector to combat VBD's, the NVE members are appointed by EFSA and will represent entomologists working in the veterinary health sector. In some cases, one person may cover both sectors in the field.