

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

EFSA Journal: update on performance and activities during 2023

Background

The presentation to the Management Board will look at the EFSA Journal's recent performance and cover new initiatives that EFSA has brought forward to increase the impact and relevance of the Journal. These include Plain Language Summaries and the launch of a channel for Member State publications on food safety – "Food Risk Assess Europe".

Performance

In 2023, the EFSA Journal performed well against metrics such as the number of downloads and citations, with both showing significant increases over the past five years. 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 has continued to grow, as shown by the Clarivate Impact Factor, and it is ranked among the top third of journals in the area of food science and technology. During the first half of 2023, timeliness was below target; thanks to measures put in place, timeliness was back on target during the second half of 2023, reaching almost 89% by the end of the year.

Plain Language Summaries

In line with the [EFSA Strategy 2027](#) and its objective to make risk communications more accessible to different audiences, the EFSA Journal has produced Plain Languages Summaries (PLS) for a selection of the Authority's scientific outputs. The aim is to provide non-technical audiences with clear, jargon-free summaries of EFSA's risk assessments, thereby broadening the impact and appeal of the EFSA Journal. In 2023, 29 PLS were produced with those on BPA, mineral oil hydrocarbons, and erythritol being the most viewed.

Food Risk Assess Europe

The [Transparency Regulation](#) calls for better coordination of risk communication between risk assessors and risk managers at EU and national level as well as for the identification of tools and channels that improve such cooperation. In this context, EFSA's Advisory Forum in 2021 mandated the Journal team to create a publishing channel for scientific assessments produced by Member States. Following a feasibility study finalised in 2022, "Food Risk Assess Europe" (FRAE) was launched as a third channel on the Wiley publishing platform, alongside the EFSA Journal and the channel for Supporting Publications. In 2023, 17 articles from Member States were published.

Next steps

EFSA will continue to grow and evolve its scientific publishing activities in line with the EFSA Strategy 2027. It will also seek to increase its impact and accessibility, for instance by looking into ways of improving the clarity of outputs and reducing their length. Future progress on these and other activities as well as performance updates will be communicated to the Board at regular intervals.