

EFSA Management Board
11-12 December 2024

EFSA NETWORKS EVALUATION REPORT

Nikolaus Kriz
Head of Risk Assessment Services Department

WHY ARE WE HERE

EFSA [Management Board decision](#) (2021):

- EFSA shall evaluate the work of each Network at least every three years (First reporting period 2021-2023)
 - EFSA shall report the outcome of such evaluations of networks to the Advisory Forum and Management Board
 - Advisory Forum non-binding recommendation on either the continuation or discontinuation of each network

Management Board to:

- **Decide** on the continuation and discontinuation of each Network and subgroup
- **Approve** the establishment of subgroups within the Network ToRs
- **Approve** the evaluation of Networks every 3 years (ToRs renewed only if needed)

Next reporting period covers 2024-2026



EFSA NETWORKS – EVALUATION OUTSOURCED

EFSA outsourced the evaluation of each individual network and subgroup during the period 2021-2023 to evaluate:

Effectiveness



Efficiency



Sustainability



Adequacy (relevance)



Impact



The final report was issued in May 2024

EFSA NETWORKS – CONCLUSIONS 1/2

1 **All** individual networks and sub-groups have been **confirmed positive** on the 5 evaluation criteria

2 **Unique** opportunities to collaborate, network, share information and data among MSs/EFSA on a specific subject, share risk assessment methodologies, react promptly to urgent health & safety issues

3 **Unique and irreplaceable role** in fostering collaboration between MSs towards common goals



EFSA NETWORKS – CONCLUSIONS 2/2



Clarify EFSA networks/sub-groups as very **diverse** and target different activities as well as the **criteria and process** for establishing networks/sub-groups (time/length/scope)



Optimise the **technological tools**



Improve the process and criteria of **experts' nominations**



Explore ways to **improve the support** of Network representatives at MS level and the opportunities of **further collaboration**



Enhance the **knowledge sharing** and best practice sharing



OVERVIEW AF NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS



Advisory Forum consulted from May to July 2024, consultation extended to September 2024

Majority of Member States **recommended continuation of all Networks and subgroups**. 7 countries have not sent their recommendations

Few comments, appreciating the value of all networks and subgroups. Divergent comments on the future of TSE-BSE network (discontinue, split in monitoring & risk assessment)

PROPOSAL FOR MANAGEMENT BOARD DECISION FOR EACH NETWORK

Total as of
Dec 2024

15 Networks

11 Subgroups

For more details
check the Annex



Split

AHAW Network into an **AH**
and an **AW Network**



Discontinue

BSE/TSE as network
(becomes subgroup)



Continue

All other networks and
subgroups

EFSA IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Work on Establishment Processes

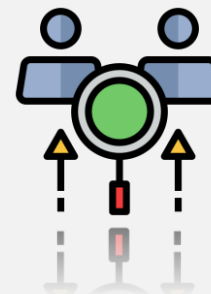
EFSA worked to improve the process to establish Networks, subgroups and nominations.

In particular AF will review nominations twice a year



Other improvements

EFSA improved work on the **engagement process**. It also took many actions to improve **logistics and technical aspects** for example by introducing tool for sharing documents.



EFSA NETWORKS - PROPOSAL

ChemMon DC

Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection



Continue

FCD

Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data



Continue

Plant Pest Surveillance Network



Continue

EREN

Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange



Continue

NANO

Scientific Network Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed



Continue

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in **Plant Health**



Continue



EFSA NETWORKS - PROPOSAL

CEN

Communication Expert network



Continue

MRA

Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment



Continue

AHAW

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare



Split AHAW Network in an AH Network and an AW Network (to reflect current practice)

Scientific Network on
BSE/TSE



Discontinue as Network
Establish a subgroup of the AH Network

FCM

Scientific Network on Food Contact Material



Continue

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of **GMOs**



Continue



EFSA NETWORKS - PROPOSAL

AHAW network

Subgroup National Contact Points for the protection of animals at the time of killing



Keep subgroup of AW Network

AHAW network

Subgroup National Contact Points with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs



Keep as subgroup of AW Network

AHAW network

Subgroup One HEALTH



Keep as subgroup of AH Network

Pesticide Steering Network



Continue

Pesticide Steering Network

Subgroup IUCLID



Continue



EFSA NETWORKS - PROPOSAL

Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network



Continue

Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network

Subgroup: Antimicrobial resistance



Continue

Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network

Subgroup: Foodborne outbreaks



Continue

Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network

Subgroup: Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies



Continue

Zoonoses Monitoring Data Network

Subgroup: Molecular typing, based on whole genome sequencing



Continue



USEFUL LINKS

- Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the years [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#)
- [Evaluation of EFSA Network presentation 92nd Advisory Forum meeting \(02-03 October 2024\)](#)
- [Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission \(25 June 2021\)](#)

