



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 17 December, Teleconference

(Agreed on 07 January 2021)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 13th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 26 November 2020.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)⁶

EFSA staff and the WG members reviewed the comments submitted to the on-going public consultation of the Science of Risk Communication report.

5.2 Social Science Projects 2021

EFSA staff provided an update to the WG on social science projects that are planned for 2021. The results of a nutrition consumer survey were presented to the WG, with recommendations made for possible data analyses. Brief updates were presented on the projects related to a potential communication platform, microplastics and the 2021 communication campaign.

5.3 Update on Social Science ongoing activities

EFSA staff provided an update on the social media listening project and presented types of research activities that are planned to be implemented via a new social research framework contract in 2021.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 25 January 2020

⁶ Request for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication to support the implementation of Article 8c 'General plan for risk communication' of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 can be found using the reference EFSA-Q-2020-00213 at <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/>



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 13 November, Teleconference

(Agreed on 26 November 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 12th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

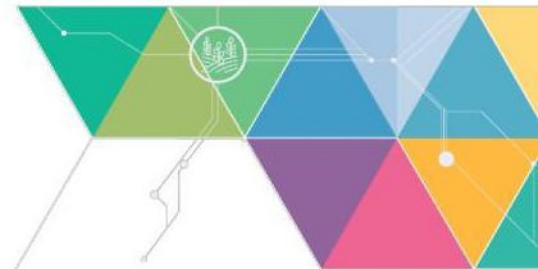
In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 November 2020.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)⁶

EFSA staff and the WG members reviewed the final draft of the Science of Risk Communication report. The final draft of the report was endorsed for public consultation.

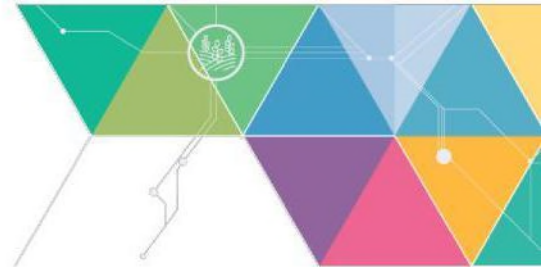
6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 17 December 2020

⁶ Request for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication to support the implementation of Article 8c 'General plan for risk communication' of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 can be found using the reference EFSA-Q-2020-00213 at <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/>



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 27-28 October, Teleconference

(Agreed on 9 November 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

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³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 10th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14 October 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)⁹

EFSA staff and the WG members reviewed the latest draft of the Science of Risk Communication report. The overall draft of the report was discussed, identifying suggestions for improvements prior to the public consultation.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

6.2 EU Insights study on dietary sugars

The WG members provided feedback on the draft interview guide for the EU Insights on dietary sugars project. The comments were integrated, and the finalised interview guide was endorsed.

6.3 Systems-based approach to the environmental risk assessment of multiple stressors in honeybees

The WG members reviewed and endorsed the technical report summarizing the findings of focus groups conducted to inform the systems-based approach to the environmental risk assessment of multiple stressors in honeybees. The report will be published together with the final document on the systems-based approach, which includes summary findings of the social research conducted by EFSA.

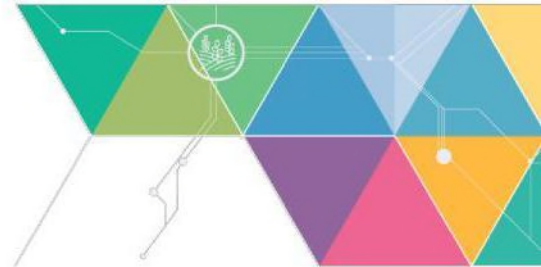
7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 13 November 2020

⁹ Request for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication to support the implementation of Article 8c 'General plan for risk communication' of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 can be found using the reference EFSA-Q-2020-00213 at <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/>



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 1 October, Teleconference

(Agreed on 14 October 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

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³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 10th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 24 September 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)⁹

The first consolidated draft of the report was presented, with each of the WG members and EFSA staff providing an update on the drafted sections of the report including: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in risk analysis; iii) appropriateness of risk communication, including targeting and exchange of information in a transparent manner; iv) trade-off and key factors to be considered; v) risk perception and vi) false information. Literature review results for communication models, as well as options for describing risk profiles were also discussed.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst EFSA staff and the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

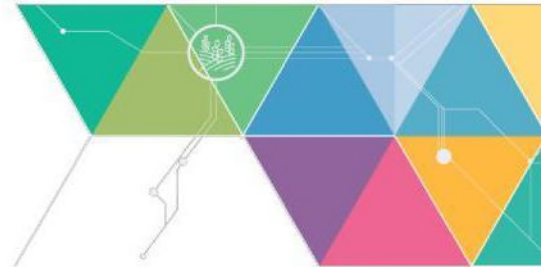
7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 27-28 October 2020

⁹ Request for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication to support the implementation of Article 8c 'General plan for risk communication' of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 can be found using the reference EFSA-Q-2020-00213 at <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/>



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 10 and 11 September, Teleconference

(Agreed on 24 September 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

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³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 9th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 05 August 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)⁹

Each of the WG members provided an update on the ongoing drafting process of the various topics of the mandate, including: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in risk analysis; iii) appropriateness of risk communication, including targeting and exchange of information in a transparent manner; iv) key factors to be considered; v) risk perception and vi) false information. Each member discussed questions that arose during the drafting process, and the recommendations that emerged from the targeted expert consultation (conducted during summer 2020) were discussed.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

6.2 Other

EFSA provided a brief update on the ongoing and upcoming social research projects in the areas of nutrition and microplastics and WG members provided recommendations, including additional literature references. The updates were noted with no further action required from the WG members at this time.

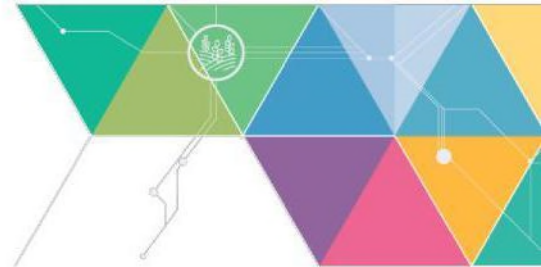
7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 1 October 2020

⁹ Request for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication to support the implementation of Article 8c 'General plan for risk communication' of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 can be found using the reference EFSA-Q-2020-00213 at <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/>



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 24 July, Teleconference

(Agreed on 05 August 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers
(WG – Secretariat)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 7th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 10 July 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)

Each of the WG members provided an update on the initial drafting process of the various topics of the mandate, including: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in risk analysis; iii) appropriateness of risk communication, including targeting and exchange of information in a transparent manner; iv) key factors to be considered; v) risk perception and vi) false information. Each member discussed any questions that arose during the initial drafting process, and recommendations on how each member should proceed with regards to their topic area were discussed and agreed upon.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

6.2 Other

EFSA provided a brief update on the ongoing and upcoming social research projects. The updates were noted with no further action required from the WG members at this time.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 10-11 September 2020



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 25-26 June, Teleconference

(Agreed on 10 July 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers (WG – Secretariat), Giovanni Sogari, Simon Terry
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 7th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 June 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

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⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Holistic Risk Assessment for Honey Bees

The WG members were updated on the status of the focus group transcripts' analysis and were provided with an update on the interviews completed with EU Bee Partnership members, as well as with a timeline of completion of relevant outputs from the social science side. Members endorsed the draft analysis, which will now be sent to beekeepers that participated in the focus groups for a targeted consultation before analysis finalization.

6.2 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)

The WG members each provided an update on the various topics of the literature review, including: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in risk analysis; iii) appropriateness of risk communication, including targeting and exchange of information in a transparent manner; iv) key factors to be considered; v) risk perception and vi) false information. Recommendations on how each member should proceed with regards to summarizing the findings of their topic area were discussed and agreed upon. A draft structure for the report was also agreed upon.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

6.3 Other

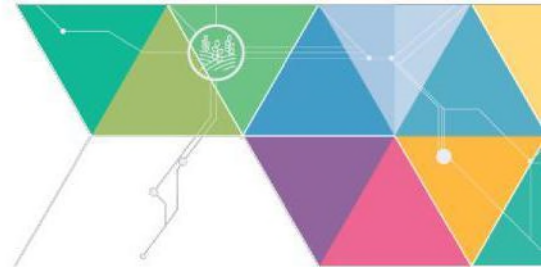
EFSA provided a brief update on the ongoing social research projects which have been discussed in previous WG meetings. The updates were noted with no further action required from the WG members.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 24 July 2020



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 28 May, Teleconference

(Agreed on 12 June 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers (WG – Secretariat), Giovanni Sogari.
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 6th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 30 April 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

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⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)

Each member of the project (EFSA Staff and experts) provided an update on the literature review; each person presented findings from their initial assessment of the assigned papers for the topics as follows: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in analysis, iii) appropriateness, iv) key factors, v) Risk perception, vi) False information, vii) Risk communication models. The findings were discussed, and a group consensus was formed on any issues that emerged.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified, including commitment to aim to at finalizing the review of the remaining papers. The dates of the next meetings were agreed.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

0. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 25-26 June 2020



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 15-16 April, Teleconference

(Agreed on 30 April 2020)¹

Participants

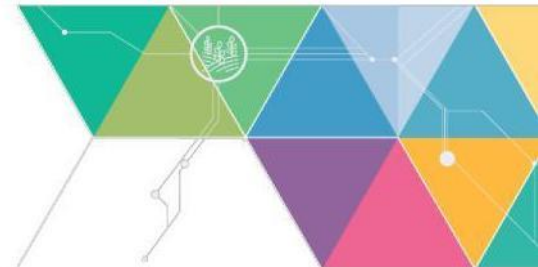
- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers (WG – Secretariat), Giovanni Sogari, Simon Terry (for agenda item on MUST-B)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson, Agnes Rortais, Angelo Maggiore (for agenda item on MUST-B)
ENCO Unit: Stephan Pagani, Elena Marani (for agenda item on MUST-B)
- Other: MUST-B WG > Simon More, Gérard Arnold, Simone Tosi, Christopher Topping

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 5th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 March 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

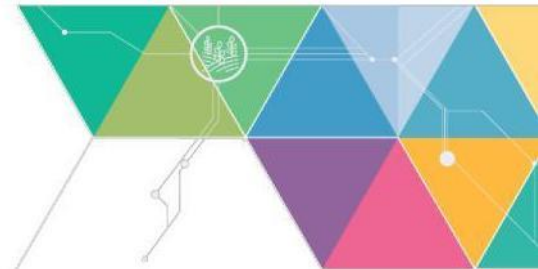
⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)

EFSA presented its assessment of the list of papers uploaded to the joint platform by the experts for inclusion in the literature review and the WG members discussed the list based on inclusion criteria agreed in the previous meeting. The WG then discussed the literature in relation to the specific questions from the mandate to identify areas where further literature is required, as well as to make sure no critical papers were excluded in the initial list.

The WG members discussed the methodology on extraction of relevant information from identified papers to respond to the mandate questions and agreed on a way forward. Following this, the group discussed an initial outline of the paper.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the dates of next meetings were agreed.

6.2 Holistic Risk Assessment for Honey Bees > MUST-B Working Group Joint Session (Agenda Item 10)

The WG updated the MUST-B working group on the status of the focus group transcripts' analysis and provided an update on the interviews completed with EU Bee Partnership members, as well as timeline of completion of relevant outputs from the social science side.

6.3 Other

EFSA provided a brief update on the ongoing social research projects which have been discussed in previous WG meetings. The updates were noted with no further action required from the WG members.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 28 May 2020



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 9 March, Teleconference

(Agreed on 23 March 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Claire Rogers (WG Secretariat), Giorgia Zamariola.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

WG secretariat welcomed the participants to the 4th WG meeting – the first teleconference to date. The chair introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 21 February 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸.)

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

Risk Communication Research

The Chair updated the WG members on the EC request for technical assistance in the field of risk communication linked to the risk communication research underway.

WG members discussed progress and initial impressions from literature review agreed in the previous meeting, as per division of responsibilities. The WG also discussed tools to be used for article storing and sharing and a potential template for a cohesive literature search and review.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next meeting

WG 5: 15-16 April 2020, Parma or remotely, depending on COVID-19 situation.



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 6-7 February, Parma

(Agreed on 21 February 2020)¹

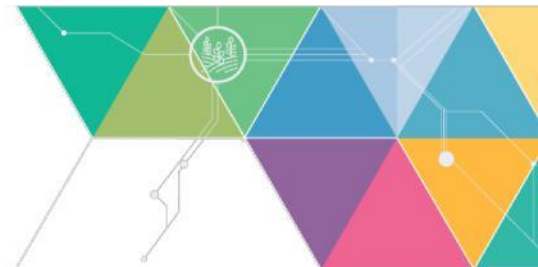
Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Domagoj Vrbos (Chair – Day 1), Anthony Smith (Chair – Day 2), Claire Rogers
COMCO Department: Barbara Gallani (for agenda item 1)
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson
- Other: Simon Terry, Johanna Nemess, Rory Harrington, Judith Eisinger, Edward Bray, Christophe Wolff
(Attending for agenda item 13)

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Barbara Gallani (Head of COMCO Department) welcomed the participants to the 3rd WG meeting. The Chair introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 November 2019.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸.)

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

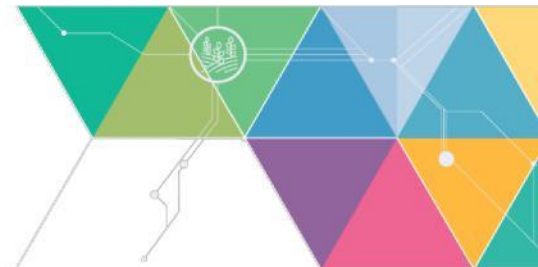
⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Risk Communication Research

EFSA presented the draft outline of a scientific report reflecting evidence in support of risk communication in the area of food safety. The WG identified the relevant contributions to be made by WG Members and agreed on the division of responsibilities. Literature selection for the report was discussed, including criteria for identifying relevant literature. The WG members and EFSA agreed on future WG dates to allow periodic discussion of progress of the research.

6.2 Holistic Risk Assessment of Honey Bees⁹

EFSA presented first impressions from selected focus groups with beekeepers, noting that one additional focus group needs to be completed and full transcripts received. A draft structure for the focus group technical report was developed. The WG members and EFSA created a timeline for completing the technical report by Q4 2020.

EFSA also presented an overview of the EU-Bee Partnership questionnaire which the WG endorsed with a couple of improvement suggestions.

6.3 Other

6.3.1 Guidance on Communication of Uncertainty in Scientific Assessments

EFSA provided an update on the implementation of the guidance and updated the WG on the upcoming training schedule within the Social Science training programme.

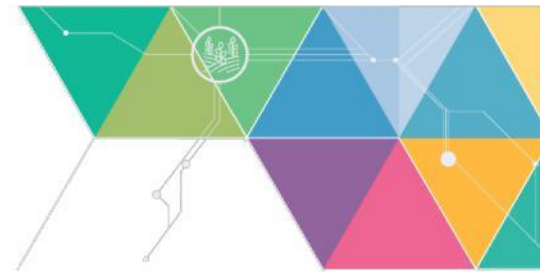
6.3.2 EFSA Communication Campaign

EFSA updated the WG members of EFSA's upcoming communication campaign on African Swine Fever. The research plan, target audience, purpose and expected timeline for the campaign was discussed. The WG discussed the draft questionnaire for key informant interviews in selected countries to be targeted by the campaign.

6.3.3 Eurobarometer 2019 > Food Safety in the EU

The results of completed data analysis of the 2019 Eurobarometer were discussed with WG members, with contributions by prof. Mario Mazzocchi for future statistical analysis possibilities. Overview of findings relating to selected countries were highlighted, with discussions around how the Eurobarometer data could inform future research or campaigns.

⁹ [EFSA-Q-2018-00645](#)



6.3.4 Reputation Barometer

Progress update was provided to the WG, including the review of the questionnaire and the list of target audiences for the 2020 survey.

6.3.5 Social Media Listening

EFSA updated the WG on ongoing social media listening plans. Fabiana Zollo offered insights into the functionalities of social media listening tools to be used by EFSA when setting its requirements. EFSA in turn updated the WG members on the tentative timeline of the

6.3.6 International Cooperation

EFSA updated the WG members on ongoing efforts by EFSA and the members of the International Social Science Liaison Group to attempt to create a repository of consumer research questionnaires.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 9 March 2020



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 6-7 November, Parma

(Agreed on 18 November 2019)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Laura Maxim

Fabiana Zollo

Mario Mazzocchi

■ Hearing Experts³:

Stephan Van den Broucke

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

COM Unit: Domagoj Vrbos (Chair), Claire Rogers, Giorgia Zamariola, James Ramsay (for agenda item 10), Simon Terry (for agenda item 7)

COMCO Department: Barbara Gallani (for agenda item 1)

SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson, Agnes Rortais (for agenda item 7)

■ Other: Simon More, Gérard Arnold, James Cresswell, Simone Tosi, Chris Topping (MUST-B WG, for agenda item 7)

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Barbara Gallani (Head of COMCO Department) welcomed the participants to the 2nd WG meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Anthony Smith. Domagoj Vrbos (Social scientist) proceeded to chair the meeting.

The Chair introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Laura Maxim and Mario Mazzocchi declared orally that have received a request for expression of interest for being evaluators of H2020 proposals. No Conflict of Interest was identified for the current meeting as they only received a request at this stage and have not been formally appointed as evaluators.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 19 July 2019.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸.)

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Eurobarometer 2019 > Food safety in the EU

Mario Mazzocchi presented the statistical methodology that can be adopted to further analyse the results of the [2019 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU](#), published in June 2019. EFSA illustrated the topics of interest expressed by Member States from the Communications Expert Network (CEN). WG members discussed different ways of data analysis. Follow-up actions include EFSA to agree on strategy for data analysis and write-up a summary for each Member State focusing on the topics of interest.

6.2. Social research plans for 2020

EFSA provided an overview of the topics that the CEN members highlighted as potential social research questions for next year. These are mainly related to the areas of sustainability, nutrition, food safety, and social dynamics. The WG discussed the importance of sustainability and nutrition, considering EFSA's ongoing tasks. As the themes are broad, EFSA will narrow them and will update the WG during the next meeting.

6.3. Holistic risk assessment for honey bees⁹ (societal perspective)

Laura Maxim updated the WG on the progress of the social research with beekeepers. The questions for the focus groups were reviewed and endorsed by all WG members. WG members agreed that the output of the research will be summarized in a technical report authored by WG members and EFSA. During a joint session with the MUST-B WG (Agenda Item 7), the focus group's questions related to research were fine-tuned and the approach was endorsed by MUST-B WG members. A discussion on the targeted interviews to be conducted with the EU-Bee partnership followed, focusing on the topics to cover. This latter social research is expected to start in 2020.

6.4. Risk Communication Research

EFSA introduced its intention to collate scientific evidence in support of the objectives and principles of risk communication, laid out in the Transparency Regulation 2019/1381. WG members discussed the wealth of literature existing on the topics of awareness and understating of food safety information, risk analysis and risk perception. EFSA presented results of its review of existing literature and case studies related to risk perception. WG members agreed that EFSA will work on the structure of the report based on the discussions and identify relevant contributions from WG Members.

6.5. Reputation Barometer and Social Media Analysis

EFSA explained the methodology used for the [Reputation barometer published in 2017](#). In addition, suggested revisions to simplify the questionnaire for the next iteration were presented, based on an analysis EFSA did in Q3 2019. The revised approach was endorsed, together with the plan to launch the study in early 2020.

Fabiana Zollo presented an example of social media analysis that can be performed to understand the topics people are interested in and the sentiment (positive, negative, neutral) associated with the messages. Social media listening might be a useful tool to gather information on risk perception and

⁹ EFSA-Q-2018-00645



EFSA's reputation, therefore EFSA will follow-up with Fabiana Zollo on EFSA's needs to discuss the most appropriate tool for social media monitoring.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next meeting

WG3: 6-7 February 2020, Parma



COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 9-10 July, Parma

(Agreed on 19 July 2019)¹⁰

Participants

■ Working Group Members:¹¹

Laura Maxim

Fabiana Zollo

Mario Mazzocchi

■ Hearing Experts¹²:

Stephan Van den Broucke

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Luca Schombert, Giorgia Zamariola, James Ramsay (for agenda items 1-4, 8-9 and 15), Simon Terry (for agenda items 11-12)

COMCO Department: Barbara Gallani (for agenda items 1-4 and 15)

SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson, Agnes Rortais (for agenda items 11-12)

¹⁰ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

¹¹ Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

¹² As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Barbara Gallani (Head of COMCO Department) and James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit) welcomed the participants to the 1st WG meeting. A presentation of all participants followed. No apologies for absence were received.

The Chair and Domagoj Vrbos (Social Scientist) presented the [EFSA Social Science Roadmap](#) and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management¹⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

Not applicable as this was the 1st meeting of the EFSA Working Group on Social Research Methods and Advice.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management¹⁶, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework¹⁷.)

¹³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

¹⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

¹⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

¹⁷ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Eurobarometer 2019 > Food safety in the EU

EFSA presented the questionnaire and results of the [2019 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU](#), published in June 2019. A discussion of the key findings followed, noting that the study includes examination of perception of citizens when it comes to food safety, an element of the revised General Food Law which calls for “taking into account perceptions of interested parties” as a general principle of risk communication.

Agreed follow-up actions include: i) Based on available response data and its socio-demographic parameters, define further data analysis options that can inform risk communication efforts (this includes possibility of defining segments of EU population based on the survey responses); ii) Prepare a document exploring when it might be appropriate to take risk perception into account in EFSA processes. The comparability of Eurobarometer data with national consumer surveys was also discussed, in view of trend analyses over time, relying on future Member States’ studies to ensure periodic availability of the data.

6.2. EFSA checklist for assessing incoming mandates

EFSA introduced its draft checklist for assessment of incoming mandates, aimed at informing risk communication and engagement efforts. The structure and criteria were explained, seeking experts’ views on how the checklist could be strengthened. Suggestions received during the meeting included content aspects, such as consideration of the “scientific/technical novelty of the topic”. Further comments will be received from WG members via written procedure.

6.3. Social research methods

EFSA explained its consumers’ feedback mechanisms which collect information among staff, institutional partners and stakeholders. This includes studies such as the [Reputation barometer published in 2017](#). The members discussed alternative methods which might be effective in reaching the stakeholders with traditionally low survey response rates. The use of mixed methods, such as interviews, Delphi technique and text analysis were strongly recommended by the WG experts. It was agreed to design the new Reputation barometer study in close collaboration with the WG.

Best practices for literature reviews in the area of social sciences were also discussed. Experts committed to sharing protocols they have used in the past for different types of reviews.

6.4. Holistic risk assessment for honey bees¹⁸ (societal perspective)

Following the [discussions held](#) during the 29th meeting of the Working group on the science behind the development of an integrated holistic approach for the risk assessment of multiple stressors in managed honey bees, SCER and COMCO presented the envisaged approach to providing a societal perspective related to the vision for a holistic and integrated approach as well as the harmonized data collection within the EU Bee Partnership.

The group discussed different options of examining views and perceptions of interested parties, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Research targeting and sampling were also discussed, in view of broadening the research to the population of beekeepers within the EU. The way forward

¹⁸ EFSA-Q-2018-00645



includes two separate research efforts: i) Definition of a mixed method which will attempt at collecting views and perceptions of beekeepers (and potentially farmers), initially through a set of discussions capitalizing on upcoming thematic events and through focus groups, to then inform a more in-depth quantitative study; ii) Drafting of an interview questionnaire for members of the EU Bee Partnership to assess lessons learned to date. The format of the research is to be shared with the MUST-B WG during their 4-5 September meeting; the content and update on the study to be discussed during a joint session of the two WGs within the 6-7 November meetings.

6.5. Guidance on Communication of Uncertainty in Scientific Assessments

EFSA presented an overview of the [Guidance on Communication of Uncertainty in Scientific Assessments](#) recently published by EFSA¹⁹ which describes the best way to report and express uncertainty according to three categories of target audiences, namely “entry”, “informed” and “technical” levels. The members of the WG praised the guidance and agreed to receiving an update on the implementation to discuss potential methods for testing its efficacy in future meetings.

6.6. Overview of future activities

EFSA provided a summary of the [revisions to the General Food Law](#). In the context of risk communication, the new provisions were discussed. The members of the WG suggested to look for case studies in order to extrapolate the lessons learned in risk communication over the past years. These cases could help EFSA in understanding different approaches to risk communication, considering societal factors. Experts agreed to take a closer look at scientific literature that emphasizes the added value of contextualizing the risks in the process of science communication and present findings during the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next meeting

WG2: 6-7 November 2019, Parma

¹⁹ EFSA-Q-2017-00466



COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 25-26 June, Teleconference

(Agreed on 10 July 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Laura Maxim
Fabiana Zollo
Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts³:
Stephan Van den Broucke
- European Commission and/or Member States
representatives: *Not Applicable*
- EFSA:
COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers (WG – Secretariat), Giovanni Sogari, Simon Terry
SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 7th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the previous Working Group meetings

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 June 2020.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA invited Prof. Van Den Broucke to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁸).

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

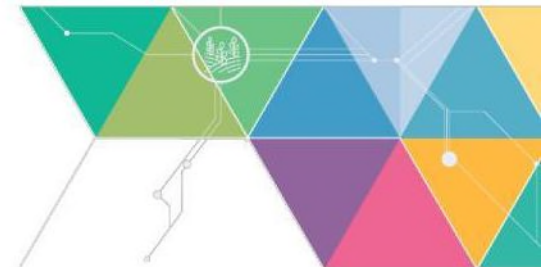
⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁸ Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Holistic Risk Assessment for Honey Bees

The WG members were updated on the status of the focus group transcripts' analysis and were provided with an update on the interviews completed with EU Bee Partnership members, as well as with a timeline of completion of relevant outputs from the social science side. Members endorsed the draft analysis, which will now be sent to beekeepers that participated in the focus groups for a targeted consultation before analysis finalization.

6.2 Science of Risk Communication (SoRiCo Project)

The WG members each provided an update on the various topics of the literature review, including: i) awareness and understanding, ii) confidence in risk analysis; iii) appropriateness of risk communication, including targeting and exchange of information in a transparent manner; iv) key factors to be considered; v) risk perception and vi) false information. Recommendations on how each member should proceed with regards to summarizing the findings of their topic area were discussed and agreed upon. A draft structure for the report was also agreed upon.

The tasks required for the next WG meeting were identified and divided amongst the experts, and the date of next meeting was agreed.

6.3 Other

EFSA provided a brief update on the ongoing social research projects which have been discussed in previous WG meetings. The updates were noted with no further action required from the WG members.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 24 July 2020