46th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

22nd September 2026
10:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 30 September 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG 00/M08)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); James Ramsay, Barbara Ghizzoni, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Alberto Arati, Francesca Pettirosso, Renée Elliott, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office); Didier Verloo, Federica Barrucci and Yannick Spill for Agenda Items 4 & 5 (KNOW Unit); Pietro Stella and Eleonora Sarno for Agenda Item 8 (BIOHAW Unit)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 46th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received from Mario Mazzocchi.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 45th Working Group meeting held on 29th June/3rd July 2026, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 45th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14 July 2026.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Flash Poll on Artificial Intelligence

An overview of preliminary descriptive results on perceptions on AI use in risk communication and risk assessment was provided. Experts advised on the upcoming additional analyses planned.

b. Perceptions of use of AI in risk assessment

Experts Tom Jansen and Angela Bearth presented findings from a study on acceptance of AI use in chemical risk assessment and policy making.

c. Support to micro- and nanoplastics mandate

An update on the social science work in support of the mandate was given. Experts suggested additional stakeholder contacts that could be covered in the interviews.

d. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

An update on the analysis of the consumer panel dataset was provided. Preliminary results from the survey were presented and experts advised on next steps in terms of research questions to explore.

e. Support to food safety culture mandate

The results from the stakeholder interviews were presented, with indication of the timeline for the inclusion of main relevant findings in the scientific opinion.

f. COMET: Risk-benefit

An update on the Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE) oat cereals paper was given. An overview of relevant literature for the introduction of the paper was presented.

g. RBA of fish

An update on the work on the risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption was given. Experts provided input on the keywords and fish species to cover for the literature review.

h. EFSA conference 2027

An update on the timeline and content of the "Safe Food, One Future Conference" in September 2027 was provided. WG member(s) will be involved in developing the thematic session on Risk communication and social science.

i. SRA-E conference 2027 and Paris Risk Group

The group aligned on plan for the Society for Risk Analysis conference in June 2027 and contribution from EFSA in the context of the Paris Risk Group.

j. COMET: False information

A short update on the experiment progress and timeline was given.

k. Social science in Scientific Committee & new mandates

An overview of presentation to Panels and new mandates received was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

NA

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 30 November and 2 December 2026 online.

45th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

29th June 2026/3rd July 2026
14:00-17:00/09:30-12:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 14 July 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room FMT SEAT 09/B14)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); Barbara Ghizzoni, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Alberto Arati, Francesca Pettirosso, Renée Elliott, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office); Martina Pavlic and Sofia Ioannidou (IData)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 45th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 44th Working Group meeting held on 8th April/13th April 2026, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 44th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 20 April2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

a. Biosecurity study – phase II

An update on the biosecurity study with farmers to understand potential challenges and barriers in implementing biosecurity measures was presented. Experts provided advice on the inclusion of items taken from the ADKAR (Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, Reinforcement) model or the Theory of Planned Behaviour/Protection Motivation Theory.

b. Upcoming social science support to science

An overview of the ongoing social science work on food safety culture was given, explaining that interviews with Registered stakeholders representing Business and food industry & Distributors and HORECA will be conducted and informing on the timeline.

c. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

An update on the survey on consumer panel purchases was provided. Next steps in terms of data collection and analysis were presented.

d. RBA of fish

An update of the workplan for the risk benefit assessment of fish consumption in relation to the combined presence of different contaminants was provided. The model to be used and adapted for the communication was presented and timeline was shared.

e. COMET: Risk-benefit

An overview of the plan for the follow-up activity on development of communication strategies and materials in collaboration with Member States was given. The work will be based on the recommendations stemming from the Scientific report on consumption of fish and seafood and awareness of risks and benefits.

f. Communication of uncertainty guidance update

An overview of EFSA's approach to communication of uncertainty was provided, highlighting the aspects that are to be considered in case a review of the guidance is considered necessary.

g. Exposure from food supplements

Experts provided comments on the draft questionnaire and planned data collection methodology for a study assessing consumption of food supplements among the general population.

h. Comparing researcher-based and AI-based qualitative data analysis

An overview of a study comparing the two analysis approaches on open-ended answers from the Flash poll on African Swine Fever was given.

i. Flash Poll on Artificial Intelligence

The draft questionnaire for the Flash poll on AI applications to risk communication was reviewed and experts provided feedback on the content and structure.

j. EFSA conference 2027

An update on the ongoing communication activities and the draft programme for the 2027 conference was given.

k. COMET: False information

A short update on the status of the study on effectiveness of prebunk and debunk techniques was provided, mentioning that cognitive testing is ongoing and next step will be to conduct the pilot testing.

VI. Any Other Business

The Belgian Food Safety Authority is organising a seminar on false information on 4 December 2026 in Brussels. EFSA and the WG could present the work on prebunk/debunk techniques.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22 September 2026 in person in Parma.

44th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

8th April 2026/13th April 2026
14:00-17:00/09:30-12:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 20 April 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); Barbara Ghizzoni, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Alberto Arati, Francesca Pettirosso, Sara Belletti, Renée Elliott, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 44th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 43rd Working Group meeting held on 13th February 2026, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 43rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 February 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Social science in Scientific Committee

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

An update from exchanges with Scientific Committee was given, focusing on a recent presentation held at the Food Contact Materials Panel.

b. Biosecurity study – phase II

An update on the biosecurity study with farmers to understand potential challenges and barriers in implementing biosecurity measures was presented. Experts provided advice on the theoretical model and methodology proposed.

c. Upcoming social science support to science

A short overview of the plan for social science support to the topics of food safety culture and microplastics was given explaining the type of research agreed with the scientific officers working on the risk assessment.

d. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

The descriptive statistics of the dataset on consumer panel purchases was shown and discussed. Next steps in terms of data processing, analysis and survey administration were presented.

e. EFSA conference 2027

The plan for the 2027 conference was briefly presented, highlighting the inclusion of a social science session in the scientific programme.

f. COMET: False information

An update on the Ethics board outcome on the online experiment testing prebunk and debunk techniques to tackle false information was discussed. The inclusion of a new measure in the questionnaire was proposed and agreed with experts.

g. COMET: Risk-benefit

The drafting of a potential peer-reviewed publication on the discrete choice experiment and the plan for 2026 research activities was discussed. Experts provided advice on the scope of the paper and journals to be considered for publication.

h. AI-powered synthetic populations

A short update on the project on using Large Language Models (LLMs) to mimic human responses and behaviour was given.

i. #NoBirdFlu - Avian influenza campaign

A short update on ongoing work and campaign plan for 2026-2027 was provided.

j. RBA of fish – draft protocol

An overview of the workplan for the risk benefit assessment of fish consumption was provided. Experts' feedback on the draft protocol input prior to public consultation was gathered and discussed.

k. False information detection

An overview of the use of social media listening tool to understand social media discourse and detect false information was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

NA

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in June/July 2026 in person in Parma or via web conference.

43rd Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

13th February 2026
09:30-16:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 23 February 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); James Ramsay, Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Alberto Arati, Francesca Pettirosso, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 43rd WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 42nd Working Group meeting held on 4th December 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 42nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 December 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Social science in Scientific Committee & 2026 workplan

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

An update from exchanges with Scientific Committee was given, focusing on potential opportunities for presenting the work of social science in other Panels. A quick overview of 2026 social research plan was presented, highlighting the projects and topics where social research will be performed.

b. Biosecurity study – phase II

An overview of the biosecurity study with farmers to understand potential challenges and barriers in implementing biosecurity measures was presented, explaining the plan for the research and timeline.

c. #NoBirdFlu - Avian influenza campaign

The draft communication strategy for a multi-annual campaign was briefly explained. Next steps include the drafting of an EFSA technical report due by 1st March 2026 to deliver to the European Commission.

d. Fish consumption survey

An update on the scientific report published on 12th February 2026 and reactions from the European Commission, media and stakeholders was provided. Next steps in terms of potential follow-up with Member States authorities was mentioned.

e. COMET: False information

An overview of the design and pre-test results of the online experiment testing prebunk and debunk techniques to tackle false information was given. Experts provided advice on next steps for the implementation of the study.

f. COMET: Risk-benefit

The drafting of a potential peer-reviewed publication on the discrete choice experiment and the plan for 2026 research activities was discussed.

g. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

An overview of the project on acquisition of consumer panel data to understand the link between risk perception and behaviour (food purchase) was presented. Experts advised on topics and constructs that could be explored in the survey.

h. AI-powered synthetic populations

The new project on using Large Language Models (LLMs) to mimic human responses and behaviour was presented and discussed, highlighting potential opportunities and challenges.

i. EFSA science needs paper

The draft section focusing on risk communication and social science was described and experts provided feedback.

VI. Any Other Business

NA

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in April/May 2026 in person in Parma or via web conference.

42nd Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

4th December 2025
14:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 12 December 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); James Ramsay, Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Francesca Pettirosso, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office); Sofia Ioannidou, Adamantia Kanellakopoulou (IDATA)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 42nd WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 41st Working Group meeting held on 28th November 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 41st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 December 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

a. Fish consumption survey

The current version of the draft report was reviewed, and each section's authors provided an update on the progress made. Follow-up actions were listed in view of the finalisation of the report.

b. #NoBirdFlu - Avian influenza campaign

An update on social research and audience segmentation analysis was provided, highlighting next steps for the communication strategy development.

c. COMET update

An overview on the project progress was given. Experts advised on upcoming work in the areas of false information and risk perception-behaviour.

d. COMET: Risk-benefit

An overview of the results of the discrete choice experiment was given and experts suggested ways for interpreting the data.

VI. Any Other Business

An update on discussions held at the Scientific Committee on social research support to risk assessment was provided.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in February-March 2026 in person in Parma or via web conference.

41st Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

28th November 2025
14:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 12 December 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Cosimo Fabbri, Francesca Pettirosso, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit); Adamantia Kanellakopoulou (IDATA)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 41st WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 40th Working Group meeting held on 30th September 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 40th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Fish consumption survey

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

The draft report was reviewed, and each section's authors provided an update on the progress made. Follow-up actions were listed in view of the finalisation of the report.

b. Microplastics Flash poll

The results of flash poll on microplastics examining people's awareness and concerns were presented and discussed. Experts gave feedback on potential additional analyses that can be performed.

c. 2025 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU

A presentation on additional analyses conducted using the data from the 2025 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU was given. Experts advised on ways to further analyse and present the results.

VI. Any Other Business

Potential names of academics with expertise in social science and Food Safety Culture to support EFSA's work in this area were discussed.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 December 2025 in person in Parma or via web conference.

40th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

30th September 2025
10:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 8 October 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M06a)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi

- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit, WG Chair); Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Cosimo Fabbri, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – COM Unit); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office); Francesca Avanzini (Coordinated communications - COM Unit)

- Others:
Riccardo Righi and Sofia Samoili participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01) for agenda item 9. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour, via web conference; Jenny Castillo, Francesca Porta, Vincent Fierens participated as contractor (ref. OC/EFSA/COM/2021/01-LOT 2, ICF) for agenda item 8. #NoBirdFlu - Avian influenza campaign, via web conference.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 40th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received by ISA expert Andrea Knorr.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 39th Working Group meeting held on 7-8 July 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

The minutes of the 39th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 16 July 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. 2025 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU

An overview of main results was provided with focus on differences between 2022 and 2025 data. Experts suggested additional analyses that could be performed. An update on the analysis on awareness and concern was given and experts advised on further

b. COMET: Risk-benefit

The results of the cognitive testing and the analysis plan for the discrete choice experiment were presented. Experts gave feedback on potential alternative statistical models and software that could be used.

c. COMET: False information

A presentation on the planned online experiment to test prebunk and debunk techniques to tackle false information was given. Experts provided input on topic selection and potential check of the study by an Ethics board.

d. COMET: Transparency initiatives

The results of the Public hearing on plant lectins in food were discussed with focus on how to measure the impact of these alternative engagement formats on the quality of science and trust-building.

e. ASF qualitative data analysis

An update on the pilot for comparing researcher-based and AI-based qualitative data analysis using open-ended answers from the ASF Flash poll was given.

f. #NoBirdFlu - Avian influenza campaign

The preliminary findings of the social research (literature review and interviews) and the proposals for the audience segmentation approach were presented and discussed.

g. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

The findings from the second network analysis pilot on social media discourse around PFAS were presented and discussed.

h. Fish consumption survey

The plan and timeline for drafting the scientific report was agreed with the WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in November 2025 in person in Parma or via web conference.

39th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

7th-8th July 2025
14:00-17:00/09:30-12:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 16 July 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen, Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Beatrice Biondi
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Cosimo Fabbri, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office)
- Others:
Tania Bobbo, Riccardo Righi, Sofia Samoili (ISA experts)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 39th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 38th Working Group meeting held on 8 May 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 38th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 19 May 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Social science in SC

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

An update on the presentations of social science work to Panels and WG was provided, specifically the presentation given to the BIOHAZ panel.

b. Mandate on avian influenza

An update of the plan for the new mandate on avian influenza received from the European Commission was presented. An overview of the communication toolkit, the target audiences and the key messages for the awareness raising campaign was given. Experts advised on relevant papers to include in the literature review and additional target audiences to be considered for the interviews.

c. Fish consumption survey

The plan for the drafting of the scientific report on fish and seafood consumption and awareness was discussed and agreed in view of the deadline for its submission to the European Commission (end 2025).

d. 2025 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU

Two research questions and preliminary analyses were presented. First, the influence of socio-demographic factors on awareness and concern of food risks were discussed. Experts provided input on additional variables to include in the statistical model and ways to present the results. Second, an analysis aiming at clustering respondents based on their stated food risk concerns was shown. Experts gave feedback on alternative analysis approaches.

e. COMET: False information

An overview of findings from comparison of social media listening tools for detecting false information was presented.

f. COMET: Risk-benefit

The questionnaire for the discrete choice experiment on risk-benefit trade-offs was reviewed and discussed. Experts provided feedback on the attributes to consider and test.

g. COMET: Transparency initiatives

The plan for the pilot of alternative engagement format to complement/replace public consultations was presented and discussed.

h. COMET: Risk perception-behaviour

The findings from the network analysis pilot on social media discourse around avian influenza were presented and discussed.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in September/October 2025 in person in Parma or via web conference.

38th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

8th May 2025
09:30-12:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 19 May 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit), Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giulia Andreani, Cosimo Fabbri, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 38th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received by Tom Jansen.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 37th Working Group meeting held on 20 March 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 37th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 28 March 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. EB25: Upcoming analysis

The plan for the analysis of the results of the 2025 Eurobarometer on food safety were presented and discussed. Experts provided input on additional and/or alternative analyses that could be performed to answer to the research questions.

b. Social science in SC

An update on the presentations of social science work to Panels and WG was provided, specifically the presentation given to the GMO panel and the plan for the upcoming presentations to the Plant health and Biohaz panels.

c. New mandate on avian influenza

An overview of the plan for the new mandate on avian influenza received from the European Commission was presented, including the social research needed and the communication strategy for an awareness raising campaign.

d. COMET update

An update on the achievements of the COMET (Communication and Engagement Methods for Food Safety - New Evidence and Tools) project was provided. Experts advised on the design and methodology for the experiment on risk-benefit trade-offs.

e. Fish consumption survey

A brief update on the results of the second wave of the fish consumption survey was presented.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7-8 July 2025 via web conference.

37th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

20th March 2025
14:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 28 March 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen; Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit), Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giulia Andreani, Nicolò Improta, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 37th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 36th Working Group meeting held on 29 January 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 36th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 10 February 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. Biosecurity study

The draft final report of the biosecurity study, which aims to identify barriers and solutions for the implementation of biosecurity measures, was presented and discussed.

b. COMET update

An update on the achievements of the COMET (Communication and Engagement Methods for Food Safety - New Evidence and Tools) project was provided. Experts advised on the design of the experiment on risk-benefit communication and how to purchase scanner data to investigate the link between risk perception and purchase behaviour.

c. Social science in Scientific Committee update

An update on the presentation of the Social science roadmap to the Scientific Committee was provided, including triggered follow-up presentations planned for the upcoming months.

d. Social science input to RA

A discussion on steps in risk analysis where social science input could be relevant was held, highlighting opportunities for supporting science with social insights.

e. ASF Flash poll

An update on the follow-up data analysis conducted on the Flash poll on African Swine Fever to consider data on affected countries was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in May/June 2025 in Parma or via web conference.

36th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

29th January 2025
10:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 10 February 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M02)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen; Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke

- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA

- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit), Piero Zilio, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giulia Andreani, Nicolò Improta, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office); Lina Mur (Animal Health Team – Agenda Item 3); Frank Boelaert (Biological Monitoring Team – Agenda Item 5)

- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 36th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 35th Working Group meeting held on 27 November 2024, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 35th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5 December 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. Flash poll on African Swine Fever

The preliminary results of the survey were presented, and the experts provided feedback on the analyses. They suggested ways for using infection data to further analyse the results.

b. Eurobarometer 2025

The Eurobarometer questionnaire was discussed, with a focus on the question on One Health. Experts suggested to keep the current version but consider modifying it to make it more specific and clearer.

c. Burden of zoonoses project

An overview on the Burden of zoonoses project which aims to estimate the burden of zoonotic diseases on human and animal health was provided. The WG will be kept informed on the progress.

d. Biosecurity study

The preliminary findings of the biosecurity study, which aims to identify barriers and solutions for the implementation of biosecurity measures, were presented and discussed.

e. COMET upcoming work

An update on the 2024 achievements of the COMET (Communication and Engagement Methods for Food Safety - New Evidence and Tools) project was provided. Experts advised on potential topics of interest and methodology to implement for an experiment on risk-benefit communication.

f. Social science in Scientific Committee update

The upcoming presentation of the social science work to the Scientific Committee was shared and the experts gave input on points to highlight.

g. Fish consumption survey update

A brief update on the progress of the second wave of the fish consumption survey was provided and timeline for drafting the scientific report was agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 March 2025 via web conference.

35th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

27th November 2024
14:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 5 December 2024

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room FMT SEAT 09/B14)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen; Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit), Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giulia Andreani, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (Chief Scientist Office)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 35th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 34th Working Group meeting held on 2 October 2024, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 34th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14 October 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. Biosecurity study

An overview of the project examining factors influencing farmers' uptake of biosecurity measures was provided. The draft focus groups and interviews guides were reviewed and discussed.

b. Flash poll on hazard and risk

The preliminary results were presented and discussed. Experts suggested further data analyses to perform.

c. Upcoming work: contributing social science expertise to two scientific opinions by 2027

The possible criteria for pre-identification of relevant topics were discussed, with a focus on work by SC Member in monitoring entry points, and nature of in-house social science support to this. Discussions on ways of engaging when a possible opportunity arises, and types of social science input required were held.

d. Eurobarometer 2025

The 2022 questionnaire review was started in view of the 2025 Eurobarometer iteration.

e. Training courses approach

An overview of social science/risk communication training courses offer for internal and external audiences was provided. Experts gave input on potential additional topics to include and training structure.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in January 2025, in Parma or via web conference.

34th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

2nd October 2024
10:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 14 October 2024

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Angela Bearth; Tom Jansen; Mario Mazzocchi; Wim Verbeke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); James Ramsay (Head of Communication Unit), Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Siphokazi Zwane Zinhle, Camilla Benvenuto, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 34th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 33rd Working Group meeting held on 26 October 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 December 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. 2024-2025 workplan and update on mid-term review of Social Science Roadmap

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

The upcoming projects were discussed and updates on the Social Science Roadmap and the role of the WG and social scientist in the SC/EFSA were given.

b. Risk communication roadmap and implementation

An overview of the risk communication roadmap and the implementation of project proposals was provided.

c. Facebook study on hazard and risk

Preliminary results of study testing the impact of communication materials on hazard and risk were discussed.

d. Fish and seafood consumption and awareness survey

A status update on the progress of the survey was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on November/December 2024, in Parma or via web conference.

33rd Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

27th November 2023
14:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 8 December 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M08)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke; Tom Jansen
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat), Giorgia Zamariola, Francesca Coveri (Strategic Communications Team – Guest Scientist from UniBo)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 32nd WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received by Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting held on 26 October 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 6 November 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. Annual Strategy Survey

The preliminary results were presented and discussed.

b. Fish and seafood consumption & awareness survey

Preliminary results and next steps regarding the fish and seafood consumption & awareness survey were presented and discussed. WG experts provided suggestions for additional analysis of the data collected in wave I of the survey.

c. WG contribution to risk-benefit assessment (RBA) guidance

An update regarding the drafting and next steps prior to publication of the WG contribution to the RBA guidance was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on March/April 2024, in Parma or via web conference.

32nd Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

26th October 2023
10:30-13:15
MINUTES - Agreed on 6 November 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M06b)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke; Tom Jansen

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke

- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat), Giorgia Zamariola, Francesca Coveri (Strategic Communications Team – Guest Scientist from UniBo)

- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 32nd WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received by Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 31st Working Group meeting held on 8 September 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 31st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 September 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. WG contribution to risk-benefit assessment (RBA) guidance

The updated structure and drafting status of the WG contribution to the RBA guidance was presented. Revisions addressing previous comments were presented and discussed, and feedback from WG experts was provided on open points was provided to support conclusion of the draft.

b. Fish and seafood consumption & awareness survey

Preliminary results from the fish and seafood consumption & awareness survey were presented and discussed. WG experts provided suggestions for additional analysis of the data collected in wave I of the survey.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 November 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

31st Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

8th September 2023
10:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 18 September 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M03)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke; Tom Jansen
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 31st WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received by Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 30th Working Group meeting held on 29 June 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 30th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 6 July 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Flash poll on Avian Influenza

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

The results of the Flash poll on Avian influenza were presented and discussed. WG experts suggested potential additional variables to investigate and analyses to perform in order to answer other relevant research questions.

b. WG contribution to risk-benefit assessment (RBA) guidance

The updated structure and drafting status of the WG contribution to the RBA guidance was presented. The Terms of reference and the risk/benefit communication section that will be inserted in the guidance for a first reading by the Scientific Committee were agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26 October 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

30th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

29th June 2023
10:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 6 July 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 30th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received from Tom Jansen.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 29th Working Group meeting held on 15 May 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 29th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 24 May 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. WG contribution to the risk-benefit assessment guidance

The structure and drafting status of the guidance was shown in order to provide context to the WG contribution within the document. The Terms of reference for the risk/benefit perception and communication section and the overall structure were discussed and agreed. The draft section is expected to be shared with the RBA WG by October 2023.

b. SPIDO roadmap update

The progress on the SPIDO roadmap on Evidence-based risk communication in the EU Food Safety System was presented, with a specific focus on literature findings, data gaps identified and interviews conducted so far to gather knowledge. WG experts suggested further areas of research to include, and potential stakeholders to be interviewed for the next phase of the project.

c. Annual Strategy Survey

The plan for the 2023 Annual Strategy Survey was illustrated for information: the questionnaire will be reduced to areas where satisfaction was lower in 2022, decreasing the number of items. The same stakeholder categories will be targeted to ensure monitoring of stakeholders' satisfaction over time.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 September 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

29th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

15th May 2023
09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 24 May 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Tom Jansen
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Lisa Kohnle (Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit) for agenda item 5; Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit)
- Others:
Working Group participants of the 11th meeting on RBA Guidance update for agenda item 3.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 29th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting. Apologies were received from Stephan Van den Broucke.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting held on 13 March 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 21 March 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

a. Joint session with WG on risk-benefit assessment guidance

First, the workplan outlining the social science contribution to the guidance was described. In a second stage, the Terms of reference of the guidance update were discussed and agreed by both WGs. Third, an overview of the findings of the literature review on public's perception of risks and benefits was provided, and tools that could aid in communication were shown. The WGs agreed to have an update on the progress at the next RBA WG meeting.

b. Follow-up discussion on WG contribution to risk-benefit assessment guidance

The Terms of reference were further clarified and adaptations to the checklist tool for mandate assessment were discussed and agreed.

c. Avian Influenza Flash Poll

The draft questionnaire was reviewed and WG experts provided feedback on the questions.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29 June 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

28th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

13th March 2023
10:00-15:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 21st March 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke; Tom Jansen
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Irene Zanetti, Anatolie Luca, James Ramsay (Communication Unit) for agenda item 5; Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit)
- Others:
NA

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 28th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 27th Working Group meeting held on 31 January 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 27th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 February 2023.

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. WG contribution to EFSA guidance on risk-benefit assessment

An overview of the findings stemming from additional papers suggested by WG experts was provided. The structure of the WG contribution to the update of the EFSA Guidance on the Risk Benefit Assessment (RBA) of Foods was discussed. Next steps in terms of section drafting and holding a joint WG meeting with the WG on the RBA Guidance update were agreed.

b. EU Insights study on testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty

The results of the final data analyses were presented and discussed. WG experts provided input on ways to interpret and report the results in the scientific paper.

c. Pre-campaign research on plant health

The final audience segmentation results and the preliminary communication strategy were illustrated. Next steps in terms of timeline for reviewing the upcoming WG technical report were discussed and agreed.

d. 2022 Eurobarometer on Food safety in the EU

The follow-up analyses on predictors of food safety engagement and likelihood of changing behaviour after a food safety incident were presented and discussed. WG experts suggested additional variables to take into consideration and further analyses to perform.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 15 May 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

27th Working Group meeting on Social Research Methods and Advice

31st January 2023
10:00-16:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 8th February 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M01)/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Laura Maxim; Fabiana Zollo; Mario Mazzocchi; Stephan Van den Broucke; Tom Jansen
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Wim Verbeke
- EFSA:
Anthony Smith (Strategic Communications Team – WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Georgios Alaveras, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola (Strategic Communications Team – WG Secretariat); Irene Zanetti, Anatolie Luca, James Ramsay (Communication Unit) for agenda item 6; Tobin Robinson (Head of Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit)
- Others:
Francesca Porta, Emma Lovatt, Rhydian Lorant Cleaver, Mar Maestre (ICF contractor) for agenda item 6

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 27th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 26th Working Group meeting held on 9 November 2022, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 26th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 21 November 2022.

[1] 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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Literature review on risk-benefit and discussion on EFSA guidance on risk-benefit assessment

The results of the recently completed literature review on Communication of food-related health risks and benefits were presented and discussed. Next steps in terms of additional literature to be included and the WG contribution to the update of the EFSA Guidance on the Risk Benefit Assessment of Foods were agreed.

b. Hazard and risk animations

The final animation materials to explain the difference between the concepts of hazard and risk were shown. Information on future plans for dissemination was provided.

c. EU Insights study on testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty

The results of the data analyses were presented and discussed. WG experts provided input on alternative/additional analyses to perform.

d. Pre-campaign research on plant health

Representatives from the contractor ICF presented the results of the interviews with stakeholders and literature review on citizens' perception of plant health. Next steps in terms of WG research outputs were discussed and agreed.

e. Flash poll on Bisphenol A results

Preliminary results on citizens' perception of Bisphenol A were presented and discussed. An overview on ongoing/future analyses was provided.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13th March 2023, in Parma or via web conference.

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT (ENGAGE)

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 9 November 2022, Teleconference

(Agreed on 21 November 2022)[1]

Participants

- Working Group Members:[2]

  Laura Maxim

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Fabiana Zollo

- EFSA:

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Adeniran Adeboye, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola, Anatolie Luca, Edward Bray.

- Externals (Item 5.4 only):

  Katarzyna Jaskiewicz, Oli Taylor, Benjamin Senior (ICF contractor).

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.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants to the 26th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

Apologies were received from Stephan Van den Broucke and Tobin Robinson.

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 25th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 September 2022.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Pre-campaign research on plant health

An update was presented on the literature review progress. The results from the preliminary audience segmentation were discussed, as were the proposed profiles and discussion guide for the upcoming qualitative research.

5.2 Annual strategy survey

The preliminary results were presented and discussed.

5.3 Third EFSA Flash poll

A draft questionnaire was presented, and input was provided on the structure and draft questions.

5.4 Literature review on risk-benefit

An update was presented by the contractor on the literature review progress, with a particular focus on the methodological approach and overview of papers retrieved.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

29th November 2022

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT (ENGAGE)

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 25th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 13 September 2022, Teleconference

(Agreed on 22 September 2022)[1]

Participants

- Working Group Members:[2]

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- EFSA:

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Paul Ortega, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola, James Ramsay, Maria Tejero.

  PLANTS 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.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants to the 25th WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

Apologies were received from Fabiana Zollo.

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 24th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 August 2022.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EU Insights study on testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty

The results from the preliminary data analysis were discussed. Next steps in terms of further analyses and publication were outlined and agreed.

5.2 Second Flash poll on Plant health

The results of the flash poll were presented and discussed. The plan for the upcoming social science work in support of risk communication on plant health risks was discussed and next steps in terms of required input from the WG were outlined.

5.3 Eurobarometer 2022 Food safety in the EU

The Power BI dashboard with the results of the 2022 Eurobarometer was presented. Next steps in terms of publication of the report and data were outlined.

5.4 Risk profile general framework

The risk profile/concern assessment general framework and the results of its application on six pilot topics were presented. Then a discussion on the general framework took place.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

21st October 2022

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT (ENGAGE)

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 28 July 2022, Teleconference

(Agreed on 4 August 2022)[1]

Participants

- Working Group Members:[2]

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Robin Janzik (BfR)

- EFSA:

  COM Unit: Domagoj Vrbos (Chair for this meeting), Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola, Paul Ortega (WG Secretariat)

  PLANTS 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.

1. Welcome

The chair (Domagoj Vrbos for this meeting) welcomed the participants to the 24th 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 Ad-hoc WG Social Research Methods and Advice_Data analysis microplastics project were agreed by written procedure on 12 July 2022.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Microplastics: An international comparison of citizens' perception

The preliminary data analysis and resulting model inspired by the Theory of Planned Behaviour was discussed. Next steps in terms of further analyses and scientific papers drafting were outlined.

5.2 Eurobarometer 2022 Food safety in the EU

Results of the 2022 Eurobarometer were presented and discussed. Experts suggested further analyses and hypotheses worth exploring. Next steps in terms of data publication, data dashboard being developed and info session with Member States to show the results were outlined.

5.3 Literature review on communication of food-related health risks and benefits

The plan for the literature review was presented and discussed. Experts advised on the methodology to follow in order to gather focused results (e.g., selection of keywords).

5.4 Request for technical assistance in the field of risk communication on plant health risks

The plan for how to address the mandate's terms of reference from the social science and research perspective was presented and discussed. Experts advised on the methodology to follow and where the WG input is required.

5.5 Future of the WG

Names of potential new experts were reviewed and discussed. The identified and agreed ones will be approached for checking their availability for joining the WG as members.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

13 September 2022 (TBC)

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT (ENGAGE)

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE AD-HOC WG SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE_DATA ANALYSIS MICROPLASTICS PROJECT

Held on 5 July 2022, Hybrid

(Agreed on 12 July 2022)[1]

Participants

- Working Group Members:[2]
  Mario Mazzocchi
- Hearing Experts[3]:
  Sabine Pahl
  Mathew White
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Natalie Berger, Robin Janzik (BfR)
- EFSA:
  COM Unit: Domagoj Vrbos, Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola (WG Secretariat)

European Food Safety Authority
Via Carlo Magno 1A – 43126 Parma, Italy
Tel. +39 0521 036 11 | www.efsa.europa.eu

[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

Domagoj Vrbos welcomed the participants to the Ad-hoc WG Social Research Methods and Advice_Data analysis microplastics project and explained the plan for the day.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 23rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 27 May 2022.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7] , EFSA invited Sabine Pahl and Mathew White to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their 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 framework[8]).

[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] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[7] https://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: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Microplastics: An international comparison of citizens' perception

In a first phase, the survey questionnaire was discussed, and research questions were drafted. In a second phase, data analysis was performed in order to provide an answer to the identified research questions. The results of a first statistical model were discussed. In a third phase, target outputs and potential journals for publication were reviewed.

Finally, next steps for further analyses and variables to include in the model were agreed.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

28 July 2022

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT (ENGAGE)

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 20 May 2022, Teleconference

(Agreed on 27 May 2022)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Laura Maxim

- **Hearing Experts[3]:**

  Sabine Pahl (Agenda item 3)

  Mathew White (Agenda item 3)

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Robin Janzik (BfR) (Agenda item 3)**

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola, Paul Ortega, Claire Rogers (WG Secretariat)

  Plant Health and Pesticides residues Unit: Tobin Robinson

  IDATA Unit: Marina Nikolic (Agenda item 4)

European Food Safety Authority
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Tel. +39 0521 036 11 | www.efsa.europa.eu

[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 23rd WG meeting and introduced the topics that would be discussed during the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with one change – agenda item 6.2 "Testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty" was included.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 22nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 April 2022.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7] , EFSA invited Sabine Pahl and Mathew White to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their 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 framework[8]).

[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] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[7] https://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: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Microplastics: An international comparison of citizens' perception

Robin Janzik (BfR) presented the survey findings which were then discussed among the WG members.

6.2 Testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty

EFSA staff presented an update on the project including details about timeline and next steps. The sample size was examined, and potential analysis methodologies were discussed.

6.3 Mandate on frequency of fish consumption and MS's effectiveness on consumption advice

The WG discussed the second draft questionnaire. The questions on behaviour and awareness were assessed and agreed. New questions were suggested and added. Next steps were discussed and agreed.

6.4 Second flash poll on plant health

EFSA staff presented the draft questionnaire and noted feedback provided by the WG experts.

6.5 Update on ongoing projects

- **EFSA staff presented an update on the Eurobarometer 2022 project including a timeline for data analysis completion.**
- **EFSA staff presented an update on the hazard v risk project, including a brief discussion on timeline, focus group results and next steps. EFSA staff presented a draft gif to illustrate the type of communication product that will be produced for member states.**
- **An update on the SPIDO Call project was provided. The call has been published online and the deadline for submission is the 25th of August 2022.**

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

28 July 2022

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 12 April, Teleconference

(Agreed on 22 April 2022)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:** ***Not Applicable***

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Georgios Alaveras, Giorgia Zamariola, Paul Ortega, Claire Rogers (WG Secretariat)

  PLANTS Unit: Tobin Robinson

  IDATA Unit: Pilvi Kemppinen, Marina Nikolic (Agenda item 3)

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.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 22nd 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 21st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 25 February 2022.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 New mandate on frequency of fish consumption and MS's effectiveness on consumption advice

The draft questionnaire was presented and the WG members and EFSA staff discussed the questions assessing awareness and behaviour. Suggestions for amendments and improvements were provided and agreed by all. Moving forward, EFSA Staff will refine the approach and make adjustments to the questionnaire.

5.2 Annual Strategy Survey

The general overview of the project and the draft survey were presented by EFSA Staff.

5.3 Risk profiles framework

EFSA staff presented the risk profile for New Genomic Techniques and then a general discussion on the general framework took place.

5.4 Ongoing Social Science projects

EFSA staff discussed ongoing social science projects:

- **The EU Insights study on testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty is ongoing; EFSA staff provided an update on the timeline.**
- **An overview of the SPIDO (Science studies and Project Identification and Development Office) topic "Evidence-based risk communication in the EU food safety system" was presented; EFSA staff presented the planned timeline. The theme paper for 2022 was discussed and the details of the open call were covered.**
- **Relating to ONE Conference 2022, EFSA staff presented the session outline for the session 'Putting science in context – the future of social sciences in risk analysis'.**

5.5 Future WG Experts

EFSA staff presented the updated social science roadmap to highlight the future plans for social research at EFSA and the role of the WG in this development. A discussion on expertise that would be valuable in the expansion of the WG occurred. WG members provided potential names of experts to consider.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

20 May 2022

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 11 February, Teleconference

(Agreed on 25 February 2022)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:** ***Not Applicable***

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Giorgia Zamariola, Paul Ortega, Claire Rogers (WG Secretariat)

  SCER Unit: Tobin Robinson

  IDATA Unit: Sofia Ioannidou, Marina Nikolic (Agenda item 4)

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.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 21st 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 20th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 10 December 2021.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Eurobarometer (EB) 2022

EFSA staff presented the draft survey questionnaire of the 2022 Eurobarometer. Each question was assessed, and adjustments were discussed and agreed by all Working Group members.

5.2 New mandate on frequency of fish consumption and Member State's effectiveness on consumption advice

The mandate was presented, and the potential social science contributions were discussed. The intended timeline for the mandate project was outlined.

5.3 EU Insights Study on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff presented the draft report on dietary sugars which summarises the results of the survey on dietary sugars. The content was discussed and agreed by all Working Group members. EFSA staff also presented the content for the 'Tips from society' infographic on dietary sugar.

5.4 EU Insights Study on testing EFSA's communication of scientific information about risk and uncertainty

EFSA staff presented the updated timeline for this project. EFSA staff updated the WG members on changes made to the questionnaire.

5.5 Workplan 2022

EFSA staff presented the workplan for 2022, including plans for upcoming projects and Working Group meetings. Dates for the next three WG meetings were agreed.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

12 April 2022

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 10 December, Teleconference

(Agreed on 20 December 2021)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:** ***Not Applicable***

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Joana Sousa Lourenço, 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.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 20th 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 19th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 November 2021.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Eurobarometer (EB) 2022

EFSA staff presented the draft survey questionnaire of the 2022 Eurobarometer. Each question was assessed, and adjustments were discussed and agreed by all Working Group members.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 29 October 2021, Teleconference

(Agreed on 12 November 2021)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **Hearing Experts[3]:**

  Sabine Pahl (Agenda items 3-4)

  Mathew White (Agenda items 3-4)

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Robin Janzik (BfR) (Agenda items 3-4)**

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (WG Chair); Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Paul Ortega, Joana Sousa Lourenço, 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 19th 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 18th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 July 2021.

5. Hearing Expert

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7] , EFSA invited Sabine Pahl and Mathew White to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their 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 framework[8]).

[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] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[7] https://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: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Microplastics: An international comparison of citizens' perception

EFSA staff presented the interview findings; the draft survey questionnaire was discussed, with potential additional questions identified. Next steps were agreed.

6.2 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Conference

The WG discussed attending the SRA Conference and agreed the creation of presentations that will be made during an EFSA symposium.

6.3 EU Insights Study on Scientific Understanding

EFSA staff presented the draft questionnaire and noted feedback provided by the WG experts.

6.4 Eurobarometer (EB) 2022

EFSA staff presented an overview of the planned timeline for the EB 2022; potential changes relative to the EB 2019 questionnaire were discussed and Efsa staff noted feedback provided by the WG experts.

6.5 Flash poll on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) / New Breeding Techniques (NBTs)

EFSA staff presented an overview of the draft questionnaire and noted feedback from the WG experts.

6.6 EU Insights Study on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff provided an overview of the draft report summarising the results of the EU Insights study on dietary sugars. A timeline for writing the report was agreed.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

8. Next Meeting

10 December 2021

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 12 July, Teleconference

(Agreed on 22 July 2021)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives: *Not Applicable***

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers, Paul Ortega (WG – Secretariat)

[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.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 18th 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 17th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 11 June 2021.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] 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)[5]

EFSA staff updated the WG group on follow-up actions taken after the publication of the scientific report on risk communication. The WG briefly discussed the outcomes of a meeting with DG SANTE, the pilot application of risk profiling to a hazard, and moving towards developing a generic risk profile.

5.2 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Symposium

The WG discussed potential abstract proposals and experts that could be included in a future symposium held by the society of risk analysis.

5.3 EU Insights Study on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff provided an update on completed data analysis of the consumer survey data, and the WG discussed the member state insights extracted from the analyses. Reporting methods on this analysis were agreed. EFSA staff are to consider feedback received for the finalisation of country reports.

5.4 EU Insights Study on Scientific Understanding

EFSA staff presented an overview of the upcoming EU insights study, including the experimental design. The WG members provided comments and EFSA staff are to consider this feedback in the design process.

5.5 Updates on ongoing Social Science Projects

EFSA staff provided updates on two ongoing social science projects: preliminary results from the project on microplastics were presented, followed by an overview of the upcoming 'Hazard and risk' project.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

5 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 17th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 01 June, Teleconference

(Agreed on 11 June 2021)[1]

Participants

- **Working Group Members:[2]**

  Fabiana Zollo

  Mario Mazzocchi

  Stephan Van den Broucke

  Laura Maxim

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives: *Not Applicable***

- **EFSA:**

  COM Unit: Anthony Smith (Chair), Domagoj Vrbos, Matthias Rasche, Giorgia Zamariola, Claire Rogers, Paul Ortega (WG – Secretariat)

[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.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants to the 17th 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 16th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 06 May 2021.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EU Insights Study on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff provided an overview of completed data analysis of the consumer survey data, and the WG discussed further potential analyses. WG members discussed potential analysis models to use and agreed on the types of analysis to be completed for communication activities at EU and Member state levels.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 26 April, Teleconference

(Agreed on 06 May 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 16th 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 15th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 March 2021.

[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 discussed the publication process related to the scientific report. Topics were discussed including future presentation of the work at scientific conferences and other events.

5.2 EU Insights Study on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff provided an overview of completed data analysis of the consumer survey data and the WG discussed further potential analyses. An overview of the stakeholder interviews was then provided. The WG then held a brief discussion on the publication of the results of the study.

5.3 Update on Social Science projects

EFSA staff provided a brief update on the on-going project on online communication platforms, and presented information on two further projects that are being undertaken – perception of microplastics in food and development of communication material on 'hazard' and 'risk'.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

[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 15th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 08 March, Teleconference

(Agreed on 22 March 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 15th 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 14th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 08 February 2021.

[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 changes made to the scientific report as a result of comments made in the public consultation and the remaining follow-up actions were discussed. The WG members endorsed the scientific report. Following this, the first draft of the technical report on the outcome of the public consultation was discussed.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

[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 14th MEETING OF THE EFSA WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS AND ADVICE

Held on 25 -26 January, Teleconference

(Agreed on 08 February 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

  Other: Johanna Nemess, Rory Harrington, Elisa Corsini, Cinzia Percivaldi (for agenda item on EC mandate)

[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 14th 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 13th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 07 January 2021.

[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 during the public consultation on the draft scientific report on Technical assistance in the field of Risk Communication. The comments were categorised and assigned to the relevant WG members. Follow-up actions were agreed, and tasks were assigned to each member.

5.2 EU Insights on Dietary Sugars

EFSA staff provided an update on the ongoing EU Insights study on sugars. The members discussed data analyses to perform based on the data from the research. Task assignments were agreed.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

7. Next Meeting

Teleconference: 8 March 2021

[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 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Experts[3]:**

  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 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

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 Experts[3]:**

  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 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

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 Experts[3]:**

  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 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 Experts[3]:**

  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 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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 Experts[3]:**

  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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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

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 Experts[3]:**

  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

[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 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 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 ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

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 Experts[3]:**

  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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8]).

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[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 Experts[3]:**

  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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8].)

[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 ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

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 Experts[3]:**

  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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8].)

[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 Bees[9]

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.

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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 ENGAGEMENT AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

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 Experts[3]:

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 Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 Independence[6] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[7], 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 framework[8].)

[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 bees[9] (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 Experts[12]:

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 Independence[13] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[14], 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 Independence[15] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[16], 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 framework[17].)

[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
1 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~~
1
6
[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 bees[18] (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 EFSA[19] 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