

Work Plan 2011



Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

Work Plan 2011



The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) looks forward to another busy and productive year in 2011. EFSA will continue to support Europe's risk managers with the high quality scientific advice that has been the hallmark of the Authority's work to date.

EFSA plans to deliver approximately 900 scientific outputs and supporting publications in 2011. Two-thirds of these now concern applications where EFSA evaluates regulated products in areas such as feed additives, enzymes, pesticides and health claims.

As workload increases, while staffing and budget remain stable, EFSA has been reviewing its efficiency. So in 2011, EFSA will review its organisational structure and working processes to: optimise strategic planning and budgeting; establish a fully integrated performance management system; and offer higher quality and more efficient service to applicants.

EFSA will help pool Europe's risk assessment resources more effectively by better involving Member States in EFSA's activities. This will be key to helping the Authority tackle its increasing workload. For example, EFSA plans to outsource EUR 8.3 million of activities to dedicated Member State organisations to assist it in data collection or other such preparatory work. The Authority will also keep Member States better informed of its medium-term plans to help them in forecasting their own risk assessment activities.

EFSA will continue to strengthen its relationships with the European Commission, European Parliament and Council.

Active dialogue with all stakeholders, including applicants, will continue to be a vital feature of EFSA's work. Technical meetings and EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform will help ensure that all parties share a common understanding of requirements for risk assessment and that views and information are regularly exchanged.

Globally, the Authority will also continue to build bridges with international partners, in line with its 2009 international strategy and in liaison with the European Commission. This will make the Authority better able to offer advice thanks to greater access to data and the shared development of risk assessment approaches.

At an organisational level, in 2011 EFSA will be evaluated externally for the second time (the first was in 2005). It will measure the effectiveness of its Strategic Plan 2009-2013 to see whether the planned actions are on track. The Authority will also begin to use EFSA's newly-developed corporate impact indicators to gauge the extent to which its work is having an impact on Europe's legislative processes. In addition, EFSA will begin to implement a thematic approach in its communications activities as outlined in its Communications Strategy 2010-2013.

And as the year ends, EFSA will move to its new building in Parma.

*More work,
greater efficiency,
more collaboration*

Upcoming highlights for 2011



- > Evaluation of European meat inspection regimes in pigs
- > Development of animal-based welfare indicators
- > Opinions on macronutrient dietary reference values (DRVs)
- > A new food classification system for more refined exposure assessments
- > Re-evaluation of feed additives and flavourings and pesticides
- > Evaluations of enzymes, new flavourings, recycling processes for plastic food contact materials, GMOs, new active substances in pesticides
- > Guidance for the risk assessment of GM animals and the peer review of active substances used in pesticides
- > New organisational structure for EFSA including a helpdesk for applicants
- > EFSA develops its science strategy and new independence policy
- > Opening of EFSA's new building in Parma
- > Second external evaluation of EFSA
- > The newly-appointed ANS and CEF Panel members begin work
- > Call for members for EFSA's Scientific Committee and its Scientific Panels

EFSA at a glance



- > **1 500** external scientific experts contributing to its work in 2011
- > More than **2 400** scientific outputs adopted
- > Over **420** staff members
- > Advisory Forum network: **27** Member States plus **3** observer countries
- > Network of over **400** scientific institutions
- > **EUR 77.3 million** budget for 2011

Robust scientific advice through independent risk assessments

In line with EFSA's Strategic Plan 2009-2013, the Authority will continue to use an integrated approach when providing comprehensive advice to Europe's risk managers.

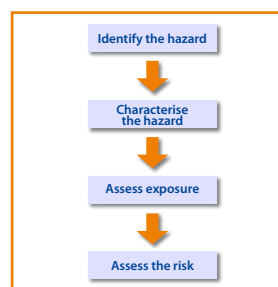
In 2011, one practical example of this will be EFSA's scientific support to modernising European meat inspections by introducing a risk-based approach to the meat production chain. Specifically, EFSA will identify public health hazards, recommend improvements to existing practices, while also considering the animal health and welfare impact of any recommendations. Various EFSA panels and units will work together on this, in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The Authority will continue to develop animal-based welfare indicators, focusing on dairy cows in 2011. Following on from its important 2010 opinions, the Authority will continue to look at the welfare of animals in transit, particularly fish.

As before, EFSA will support the EU's Animal Health Strategy by providing advice to risk managers on animal diseases such as bluetongue and swine vesicular diseases. In addition, the Authority will quantitatively assess the risks from foodborne zoonoses such as *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chickens, and advise on foodborne viruses, antimicrobial resistance and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

An EU law governing residue limits for pharmacologically active substances in food derived from animals may result in further work for EFSA. The Authority will also continue to look at other potential contaminants such as mycotoxins, persistent organic pollutants, natural plant toxicants and process contaminants.

EFSA will support the development of EU-wide and national dietary guidelines through its continued work on dietary reference values, in particular for macronutrients and then micronutrients.



The Authority's assessment of plant pests will also continue. It will particularly focus on pest risks from imports.

Where appropriate, EFSA will also continue to self-mandate, undertaking scientific work on its own initiative.

Horizontal advice

EFSA will provide advice and guidance to its panels on: nanotechnology; 90-day feeding trials; statistical approaches; alternative risk assessment methods; the use of terminology when describing risks and uncertainties; and environmental risk assessment.

The Authority will also continue to strengthen its quality assurance system and internal procedures while being ready to quickly respond to urgent requests for advice. In addition, EFSA regularly screens recently published scientific literature to keep abreast of the latest evidence on, for instance, bisphenol A and aspartame. This also supports dialogue on such issues with risk assessors worldwide.

Comprehensive scientific advice

Evaluation of regulated products

There is a growing body of EU law which calls for EFSA to evaluate products before they can be authorised for use in the EU. 40 % of EFSA's resources are now dedicated to these evaluations, twice as much as in 2008. And in 2011, about two-thirds of the Authority's scientific outputs are predicted to concern applications.

Adapting to growing workloads

But EFSA is not just assessing more substances and products governed by a variety of different laws. Safety evaluations are also becoming more complex, as the Authority has to address environmental impact, occupational health, post-market monitoring, as well as the benefits or efficacy of the products in question. This calls for a wider range of expertise and a more multidisciplinary approach. Take for example, applications for enzyme-producing GM microorganisms. Here, EFSA's experts on GMOs, feed additives and enzymes will need to work together.

To rise to such challenges, the Authority will seek to ensure a continued high level of consumer protection while improving efficiency and enhancing dialogue and support to applicants. This will be aided by restructuring within EFSA, enhanced prioritisation, better forecasting, sharing of best practice, and the increased leverage of the wider European knowledge base, by outsourcing preparatory work for example.

Many products, many areas

EFSA will pursue its work on the evaluation or re-evaluation of a number of products and processes. These include:

- > health claims with all 'general function' health claims (with the exception of botanicals) to be finalised in 2011;
- > pesticide active substances with the emphasis in 2011 on new active substances;
- > some 2 700 feed additives focusing in 2011 on vitamins, antioxidants and silage additives;

- > up to 1 200 enzymes;
- > 300 food additives;
- > recycling processes for plastic food contact materials;
- > TSE tests;
- > animal by-product processing;
- > decontamination treatments of food of animal origin;
- > new flavourings and re-evaluating existing flavourings;
- > new GM plant applications and the renewal of existing authorisations, and the use of GMOs in feed additives and enzymes for food use.

*High quality
efficient evaluations*

In addition to EFSA's evaluations of GM microorganisms and plants, the Authority will also deliver guidance for the risk assessment of GM animals. Guidance will also be developed on the peer review and setting of Maximum Residue Levels of active substances used in pesticides.

Applications resulting from the revision of the Novel Food Regulation are not expected until 2013. However, EFSA will get ready by networking to collect information on the history of safe use of foods from non-EU countries. EFSA will draw on such information as it needs to then evaluate and assess whether such foods could potentially be unsafe, which is a new regulatory requirement for novel food.

Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking

EFSA's data collection, scientific cooperation and networking activities underpin the Authority's risk assessments and evaluations of regulated substances.

Collaboration with Member States will continue through outsourcing preparatory scientific work, EFSA's Focal Point network, specific expert networks, and dedicated workshops and meetings. To this end, and particularly for the Authority's work on the evaluation of regulated products and claims, EFSA will continue to develop risk assessment guidance and build on its dialogue with stakeholders. EFSA will continue to enhance its outreach in the scientific community, most notably through wider indexing of the EFSA Journal in bibliographic databases, and the Authority's scientific meetings.

Better prepared for emerging risks

In 2011, the Authority will further build on its emerging risk work, taking the lead from EFSA's strategy outlined in the 2010 Emerging Risks Report. Data collection methods and filtering signals will be further developed.

Even better data

EFSA will finalise a new food classification system, linking detailed information on food composition and consumption. This will enable nutrient intakes to be calculated Europe-wide, supporting the development of public health policies. The new system will also facilitate the combination of data from different sources for calculating human exposure to beneficial or hazardous substances present in food. A laboratory data entry tool will further help capture the more detailed information



needed. EFSA will investigate whether such a tool can be integrated into existing systems. In addition, EFSA will continue to harmonise the methods used to collect food consumption data across Europe. These methods feed the updates of EFSA's comprehensive food consumption database which increases the accuracy of exposure assessments. EFSA will also consolidate and harmonise its chemical hazard characterisation databases to make better use of the data so that they can be shared with other agencies.

EU-wide data reporting

In 2011, EFSA will begin regularly collecting and reporting on data from Member States on occurrence data for a range of different contaminants. It will continue the harmonisation of national reporting on foodborne outbreaks, antimicrobial resistance and vector-borne diseases. New web-based IT tools will help this.

EU-wide baseline surveys on the prevalence of zoonotic agents in food and animal populations will also continue.

In addition, EFSA will maintain its work on setting pesticide maximum residue levels. This will include producing the annual monitoring report on pesticide control activities across the EU, drawn from data submitted by Member States.

Closer collaboration throughout Europe

Communication and dialogue

EFSA's Communications Strategy 2010-2013 will guide its communications in the coming years.



2011 will see EFSA continuing to engage in effective communications and dialogue with its partners and stakeholders in the EU institutions and Member States, and internationally. The Authority will build on the key findings from the 2010 Eurobarometer survey of consumers' perceptions of food-related risks, a valuable source of information that is helping EFSA shape the future development of its communications. The overarching communications approach will be more thematic, demonstrating and illustrating the impact of EFSA's work. EFSA will initiate this approach in 2011 with zoonoses, illustrating how work in this area with Member States, and other actors, helps to reduce this important public health risk. In addition, the Authority will take into consideration stakeholder feedback and use proactive communications to highlight the independence of EFSA's risk assessment advice.

*Simple
and effective*

Being understood

Simplicity will be the order of the day. Together with Member States, EFSA will further increase the relevance and understanding of its communications among its key target audiences. It will deploy the full range of tools at its disposal, including multimedia, to communicate on key thematic areas. The use of online communications, in particular, will be reinforced. These tools will help ensure meaningful, tailored and effective messages reach the relevant audiences.

A coherent approach

Coherent communications will be promoted through strengthened cooperation with relevant authorities at national, European and international levels. The Authority will also endeavour to broaden its outreach across Europe, through close working relationships with the Advisory Forum, its Working Group on Communications (AFWGC) and EFSA's Focal Points. For example, the Authority will finalise, together with the AFWGC, risk communications guidelines that will help support coherence in risk communications across the EU. It will continue to enhance dialogue with European institutions, European agencies, actively engage with stakeholders and increase audience interactivity.

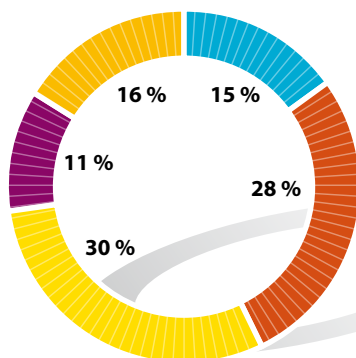
Building on lessons learnt from earlier research, EFSA will launch a call for quantitative research amongst its key target audiences in all 27 Member States. This will help the Authority better assess the impact of its communications work.

EFSA will also strengthen its policy for pre-notifying international partners, providing a platform for exchange of best practices.

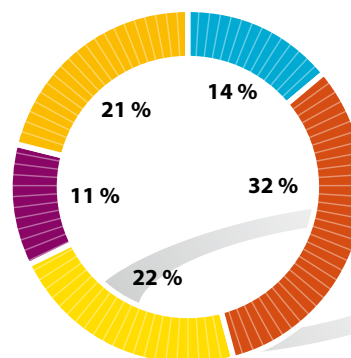
Resources



Budget allocation 2011



Staff allocation 2011



- A1 Scientific opinions & advice
- A2 Evaluation of products
- A3 Data collection & scientific cooperation
- A4 Communication & dialogue
- G5 Governance & Administration