

Work Plan 2010

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Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

Workplan 2010



EFSA in 2010: an established player in Europe's food safety system, working hand-in-hand with partners and stakeholders to keep Europe's food safe for all of its citizens.

EFSA's Strategic Plan 2009-2013 sets out the high-level objectives of the organisation. It serves to guide EFSA's work over the coming years. Working with partners - the European Commission, European Parliament, Member States - and stakeholders, EFSA will continue to contribute to protect public health and to strengthen consumer confidence in the European food supply through independent scientific advice and timely risk communications. As a measure of this, EFSA, for the first time, will employ impact indicators, to better assess the effects of its work.

In 2010, EFSA will continue to see its workload increasing, particularly in authorisations. As the Authority approaches its critical operational size, productivity growth will lead to 1000 outputs. In order to achieve this in 2010, EFSA will boost risk assessment capacity in Europe, develop an overarching Science Strategy, and consolidate EFSA's attractiveness for staff and scientific experts while also strengthening the effectiveness of its communications.

While EFSA carries out its core business, it will again keep a watchful eye on the many and diverse challenges facing the organisation, such as the impact of new science and technologies, and global issues like international trade and climate change; one of the reasons why the Authority will further build its capacity to identify and address emerging risks. In 2010, EFSA will publish its first Annual Report on Emerging Risks.

Data collection and scientific cooperation keep growing in importance in EFSA's work. The Authority, therefore, is prioritising cooperation with Member States, stakeholders, and other actors in the food chain, so that it can collectively make best use of resources to ensure that consumer protection and health policy are backed by the most robust scientific evidence available. In 2010, EFSA will initiate a project to establish an EU-wide food consumption data collection system (EU Menu).

EFSA is also committed to being fully engaged internationally. This will enable it to be fully aware of global food safety challenges, to exchange information and data, to identify emerging risks and to build coherence in risk communications. The Communications Strategy first adopted by EFSA's Management Board in 2006, will be reviewed.

Key EFSA activities for 2010

1. Provision of scientific opinions and advice, and risk assessment approaches
2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation under EU law
3. Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking
4. Communication and dialogue

What to watch out for in 2010

- Advice on applications on health claims, feed additives, GMOs, food additives, flavourings, enzymes and food contact materials.
- Guidance on novel foods.
- Identification of genetic factors affecting chicken broiler welfare.
- Advice on Q-fever, H1N1 flu, TSEs, foodborne zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance.
- Advice on contaminants in food such as mycotoxins, persistent organic pollutants, shellfish toxins and veterinary drugs.
- More advice on Dietary Reference Values.
- Evaluation of national pest risk assessments (PRAs) and advice on extending PRAs across the EU.
- EU guidance on toxicology, ecotoxicology, environmental fate and pesticide residues.
- Pesticide peer review and evaluation of pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs).
- Preparation of the pan-European food consumption data collection system (EU Menu).
- Harmonisation of risk assessments and new methodologies.
- First Annual Report on Emerging Risks.
- Cooperation between Member States and EFSA through national Focal Points, the database of scientific experts, and the Article 36 network.
- Raise EFSA's scientific visibility through the EFSA Journal and the exchange of scientific information.
- Scientific colloquia on food classification and emerging risks.
- A Eurobarometer survey on consumer risk perception.
- EFSA's overarching Science Strategy.
- Review of EFSA's Communications Strategy.
- Expansion of the Authority's international strategy.



1. Provision of robust scientific advice through independent risk assessments

To provide the best possible and most comprehensive scientific advice to risk managers, requires a multidisciplinary approach. EFSA will explore how best to leverage the many and varied disciplines available to it when responding to requests for advice, developing risk assessment methods, or addressing new technologies. EFSA's approach to environmental risk assessments, in particular, will be looked at with a view to identifying future needs.



“Providing an integrated approach to delivering scientific advice associated with the food chain from field to plate”

Reaching out

The Authority will continue to collaborate with EU Agencies on, for example, antimicrobial resistance and with international organisations on issues like chemical risk assessment, to strengthen the sharing of information, data and best practices. It will further endeavour to position itself at the forefront of risk assessment methods, by reinforcing its overall approaches and by seeking to harmonise methods at national, European and international levels.

As in previous years, EFSA will work closely with risk managers to forecast and prioritise its work, monitoring progress, identifying bottlenecks and taking appropriate action. EFSA will continue to be responsive. It will reinforce its ability to handle unforeseen events, due to the unexpected presence of a food contaminant, for example.

In addition, continuing to build the quality assurance programme (INEX) will further strengthen EFSA's scientific outputs.

2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation

In 2010 EFSA will evaluate applications on health claims, food and feed additives, packaging materials, pesticides and GMOs. The Authority is confident that it will continue to be responsive and to provide timely, high-quality evaluations of the products, substances and claims that, by law, need to be authorised for use in the EU.

Prioritisation and improved planning

EFSA will focus on increasing the efficiency of scientific evaluations through further harmonisation, resource allocation and planning, based on assessing the impact of future legislation, and the prioritisation of tasks as agreed with the Commission.

To improve transparency about how evaluations are carried out, there will continue to be public consultations on proposed guidance for applications.

As with the other risks assessments, EFSA will build on scientific collaboration across Member States and beyond. At the same time, the Authority will monitor and maintain the quality of its evaluations through its system of self, internal and external review.

“Providing timely, high-quality evaluations of products, substances and claims that need to be authorised under EU law”



EFSA at a glance

- **1500** external scientific experts
- More than **2000** scientific outputs adopted
- Over **400** staff members
- Advisory Forum network: **27** Member States plus **3** observer countries
- Network of over **300** scientific institutions
- **€73 million** budget for 2010

3. Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking

To harness the extensive scientific expertise across Europe and to ensure it is used efficiently, EFSA will further strengthen its scientific cooperation, networking and data collection with Member States, partners, industry and stakeholders. This will support the work of EFSA's Panels in continuing to deliver robust scientific advice.

Member State cooperation in all walks of EFSA's life will continue to be prioritised. The Advisory Forum, Focal Points, and dedicated networks will be key vehicles driving data and information exchange, consultation, and work sharing between EFSA and Member States.

This will be aided by outsourcing almost €8 million worth of preparatory work, such as data collection, to support the work of panels and by developing the network of Article 36 organisations. EFSA will also enhance the database of scientific experts, and support information sharing through the Information Exchange Platform and scientific colloquia. In addition, it will initiate and implement annual programmes to harmonise risk assessments between Member States, create dedicated scientific cooperation working groups on specific topics, drawing on experts from Member States, as well as hold workshops and meetings with stakeholders. EFSA will also monitor the effectiveness of such cooperation initiatives.

“Coordinate the collation, dissemination and analysis of relevant data”

Data collection

EFSA's data collection activities will be further reinforced. For this, the Authority will focus on harmonising data collection methods; improving the efficiency of transfer, storage, and access to data to be used in EFSA and Member State risk assessments; and further developing data analysis and reporting. The new EU-wide food consumption data collection system (EU Menu) is a key multi-annual project which will be initiated in 2010.

Emerging risks

EFSA will further refine its ability to systematically search and analyse information to identify emerging risks. EFSA will publish its first Annual Report on Emerging Risks and coordinate a dedicated European network.

Wider visibility

The Authority will further develop and promote the use of the EFSA Journal amongst the scientific community to ensure visibility, recognition and the referencing of EFSA's published scientific outputs. It will also continue to build close working partnerships internationally for the exchange of information and data of common interest.



4. Communication and dialogue

Communication and dialogue will continue to support EFSA's drive to further strengthen consumer confidence in Europe's food safety system. This will be guided by the review of its Communications Strategy, to take account of changes in the communications landscape, changes in EFSA and beyond.

The Authority will continue to promote coherence through strengthened cooperation with relevant authorities at national, European and international levels. It will further cooperate with the Advisory Forum and Focal Points, by developing risk communications guidelines and by increasing outreach in Member States. EFSA will review in 2010 its Communications Strategy first adopted by the Management Board in 2006.

EFSA will use the full communications mix available both on- and offline, including multimedia to reach its target audiences with clear and understandable messages.

Partners and stakeholders

The Advisory Forum and national expert meetings on specific topics will continue to strengthen dialogue with Member States around EFSA's work. The Focal Point network will assist EFSA in casting its net even wider across Europe, through tailored messages for national audiences. This will be aided by gaining a better understanding of how attitudes and concerns towards food safety may have changed over the years through the launch of a Eurobarometer survey on food-related risks first conducted in 2005.



“Contribute to building confidence and trust in the EU food safety system through effective risk communication and dialogue with partners and stakeholders”

With a newly-designated European Commission and the European Parliament, EFSA will forge even stronger working links with the institutions. It will also continue to engage with stakeholders, through consultations and meetings, and further strengthen its ties with international partners, for instance through pre-notifications of its communications.

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