



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

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OVERVIEW

1. What is the purpose of EFSA?
Characterise the nature of its scientific advice
2. E.U. Scientific Advice Eco-system
Can we please speak a common language,
so we can be better understood and compared?
3. International cooperation
What is the purpose and what are the fora?
4. Some reflections on the basis for cooperation
Values



1. EFSA purpose

The Focus:

- Food Safety: *wide i.e. Whole Food Chain*
- less on Efficacy

and via plants, feed, animals and food Environmental Safety

The Challenge: become recognised as **Authority** in Europe and internationally i.e.

gain trust

How do you make a 'good' scientific evaluation?

It is like preparing a 'good' meal...

1. Mandate - *What dish does the customer request?*
2. Implementation
 - Information – *What are the ingredients to be used?*
 - Quality expertise – *Who are good cooks?*
 - Methods – *What is the 'best' recipe?*
3. Communication
 - Output – *How do you serve it?*

Classical Risk Assessment Paradigm

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Seriousness} \times \text{Vulnerability} \times \text{Scale}$$

- **Seriousness:** what *effect* and how *severely* affected?
 - Hazard Identification: nature of the effects
 - Hazard Characterisation : Dose-Response estimation
- **Vulnerability:** How *likely* to be affected?
 - Exposure Assessment,
- **Scale:** *who* is affected, breakdown of exposure by age, gender, etc.

Food Safety Model

- **Prediction:** conditions under which there is **zero risk**
- **Compare** with other areas e.g. aviation safety uses observed risk

Classical single hazard approach

Evaluation of
one single chemical compound

Various potential risks

Single
hazard

Risk 1

Risk 2

Risk 3

What makes people ill?

Evaluation of various 'risk factors'

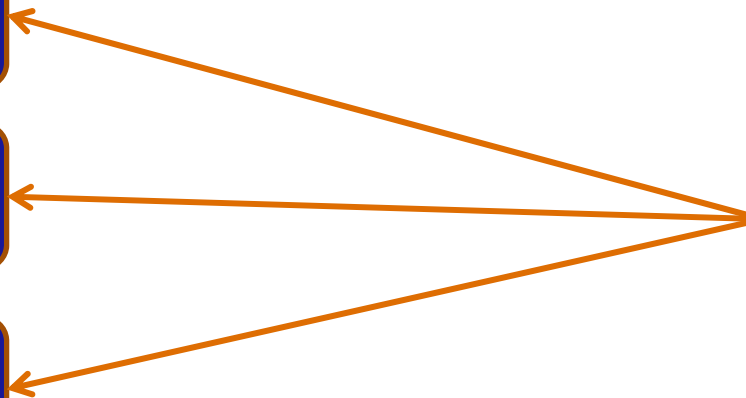
Present or Emerging risk

Chemicals

Micro-organisms

Processing methods

Increased disease incidence



2. EU Scientific Advice Ecosystem



EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU ANSA)

Scope

- Provide scientific and technical advice: opinions, reports, assessments, guidelines, recommendations and/or other relevant outputs developed with a scientific method
- to EU Institutions, MSs and other relevant EU-policy makers

History

- Established in 2013, as a sub-network by the Network of Agencies' Directors
- Meets physically twice a year: one in Brussels, hosted by a EC or an EP unit
- Working groups
- Annual work plan and annual report

EU ANSA: Members

1. CEDEFOP – European Centre Development Vocational Training (Thessaloniki, GR)
2. ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Stockholm, SE)
3. ECHA – European Chemicals Agency (Helsinki, FI)
4. EEA – European Environment Agency (Copenhagen, DK)
5. EIGE - European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, LT)
6. EFSA – European Food Safety Authority (Parma, IT)
7. EMA – European Medicines Agency (London, UK)

EU ANSA: Members

8. EMCDDA – European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon, PT)
9. ENISA – European Network and Information Security Agency (Heraklion, GR)
10. EU-OSHA – EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao, ES)
11. EUROFOUND – European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin, IE)
12. FRA – Fundamental Rights Agency (Vienna, AT)
13. FRONTEX – European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Warsaw, PL)

EU ANSA: Observers

- Agencies: EASA and ESA
- European Parliament - STOA unit: Foresight
- European Commission:
 - DG JRC - Scientific Committee e.g. Quality
 - DG Sante - Scientific Committees e.g. Methods
 - DG R&I - SAM unit e.g. Uncertainty
- Ad hoc participation:
 - DGs CONNECT & DIGIT
 - Office of Publication

EU ANSA: Activities

Overview of EU ANSA scientific activities (EFSA)

- This is a living document to be updated periodically (EEA).

Peer-review activities (OSHA)

- A reflection paper has been published in late 2015
- proposing a set of principles that are relevant for review of ANSA scientific outputs.

Uncertainty working group (ECDC)

- How agencies define, identify, describe & communicate uncertainty.

Data access (EUROFOUND) and Data openness (FRA)

Research needs and funding (ECDC)



3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- I. **Support to direct European Commission initiatives**
- II. **Multilateral activities** with international organisations like FAO, WHO, OIE
- III. **Bilateral cooperation** with RA organisations from non-EU countries



I. DIRECT COMMISSION INITIATIVES

EFSA cooperation with EU Pre-Accession (IPA) countries

- IPA - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
- EC financed tool: EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries' with financial and technical help
- October 2015 – started IPA II – programming period 2014-2020



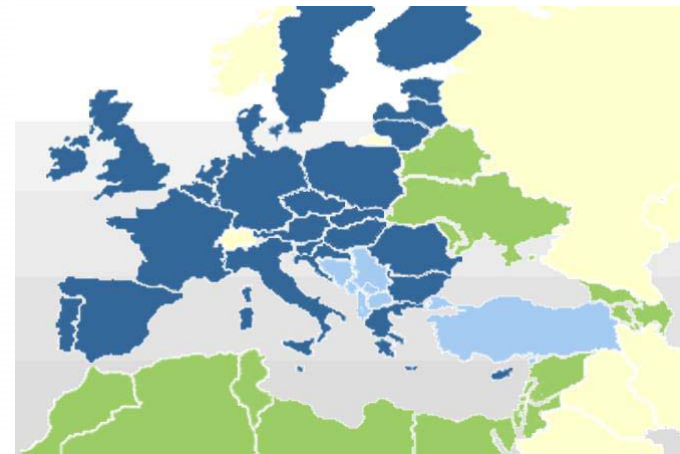


EFSA cooperation with EU Neighbourhood partner (ENP) countries

- Cooperation since 2009: first training seminar on EU food safety in Brussels)
- Since February 2014 - EC financed under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument



European Neighbourhood Policy





MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

- **OECD** - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **GCRSR** - Global Coalition for Regulatory Science Research
- **IFCSLG** - International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
- **IMFSLG** – International Microbiological Food Safety Liaison Group

- **FAO, WHO, OIE** - Worldwide
- **WFF** - World Food Research & Innovation Forum

- **APEC** – Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation - Food Safety Cooperation Forum





EXAMPLE

EFSA's cooperation with FAO and WHO comprises

- Coordination of EU MS contributions to calls for data and experts from CODEX and JECFA/JMPR/JEMRA
- International harmonisation of methodologies and tools for RA and RCommunication
- Training and capacity building initiatives



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



15
international risk
assessment
organisations
bodies



BILATERAL COOPERATION

Methods

- **US:** FDA, USDA, ARS, EPA
- **Canadian** Food Inspection Agency & Health Canada
- Food Safety Commission of **Japan**

Trade standards

- Food Standards **Australia** and New Zealand
- **New Zealand** Ministry for Primary Industries
- **Chilean** Food Quality and Safety Agency

Training

- **China** National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment
- **India** Food Safety and Standards Authority
- **Taiwan** Food and Drug Administration



National food safety organisations
(Europe + international)



4. BASIS FOR COOPERATION

- As EU we are a key player
- Do we have shared values, with our partners?
- What are our own values, that the EU will stand for?
 - Are we ready to state them?
 - Are we ready to stand up to defend them: forfeit short term gains for long term benefits?

Ich bin ein Europäer