European Food Safety Authority

Scientific Cooperation and Networking

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Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food,
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Outline

1. EFSA – the corner stone of EU risk assessment for food and feed safety

2. Scientific cooperation between EFSA and EU Member States

EFSA in Parma

EFSA at a glance

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

- Established in 2002
- Separation Risk Assessment / Risk Management
- 374 staff members with 28 nationalities (Oct 2008)
- About 200 scientific experts in 10 Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee
- > 1000 opinions and reports adopted to date
- Budget €65.9 million for 2008

EFSA's tasks

1. Providing independent scientific advice
2. Collecting and analysing data for characterisation and monitoring of risks related to the food chain
3. Promoting and coordinating development of harmonised risk assessment methodologies
4. Communicating on existing and emerging risks

EFSA Scientific Committee & Panels

“From Farm to Fork”

Scientific Committee &
10 Scientific Panels

Attracting experts…
…for the renewal of the Panels

Advertisement in Scientific Journals

EFSA Seminars in Member States

Join EFSA
***in assessing food safety risks in Europe*!**

- **29 - 30 October 2008, Budapest, Hungary**
  Scientists mainly from: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Romania and Slovenia

- **26 - 27 November 2008, Warsaw, Poland**
  Scientists mainly from: Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovak Republic

Expert Database

What?

- A searchable database of scientists
- Facilitating selection of external experts for specific scientific topics

For whom?

EFSA & Member States

Why?

- To improve transparency of the process
- To enhance EFSA's capacity to conduct risk assessments

Expert Database – statistics

Status: 31 Oct 2008

Total number of applications: around 1000
Slovenian experts: 4

Risk Assessment at EFSA

Receipt of request

From
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- EU Member States or
- EFSA's own initiative

Allocation to Panel(s)

Assessment

- Identifying experts, setting up a Working Group
- Declaring interests
- Reviewing data
- Scientific cooperation
- Draft opinion
- Incl stakeholder consultations

Adoption & Communication

- Finalisation and adoption
- Opinion send to requesting body
- Publication & communication

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2. **Scientific cooperation between EFSA and Member States**

Why Scientific Cooperation?

EFSA aims to deliver the best science
at the right time in the most appropriate manner

Effective pooling of scientific excellence

Scientific Cooperation – its benefits

- Appropriate allocation of resources against priorities
- Better co-ordination of work to avoid duplication of activities
- Early identification and analysis of emerging risks
- Increased coherence in scientific risk assessment and communications

Working together

EFSA's partners & networks:

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- **Member States**
- Stakeholders
  (e.g. consumer groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industry)

Working together with…
….EU Member States

EFSA **EU Member States**

Advisory Forum (AF)

- Representatives from national food safety authorities of all 27 EU Member States (+ observers i.e. neighbouring countries & the European Commission)
- **Advising EFSA on scientific matters, its work programme and priorities, addressing emerging risk issues**

Advisory Forum

Committed to

- Exchange scientific data
- Co-ordinate risk communications activities and messages
- Address contentious issues and diverging opinions
- Set up working groups to focus collectively on specific issues
- Co-ordinate work and avoid duplication

Focal Points

- Established by Member States in 2007/2008 to support the Advisory Forum
- Individual person or institution
- Interface between EFSA and Member States

Focal Points

A bridge between EFSA and national food safety authorities, research institutes and national stakeholders

Role of Focal Points

Supporting the Advisory Forum Members:

- Building networks with their national stakeholders
- Supporting networking
- Raising EFSA's visibility & awareness
- Ensuring the exchange of scientific information
- Cooperating through Article 36

Exchange of scientific information

Information Exchange Platform

for EFSA and Member States

Launched in Sept 2008

Scientific information exchange

Increasing EFSA's scientific visibility & awareness

Examples how Focal Points can contribute…

- Disseminating brochures and other information materials
- Uploading documents onto the Information Exchange Platform and sharing information & data
- Organising events at national level
- Developing and maintaining national Focal Point websites

Article 36

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation* states:

EFSA "... shall promote the European networking of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission."

* Regulation (EG) 178/2002

Article 36

List of competent organisations

Undertaking work for EFSA *e.g.*

- collecting data
- preparatory work for development of scientific opinions
- other scientific and technical support
  e.g. on emerging issues and crisis situations.

Examples of signed grant agreements

- Quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs
- Support to complete EFSA's food consumption concise database
- Development of a standard food classification and sample description system for chemical occurrence data storage.

Working together with….
…international scientists

EFSA Scientific Colloquia

C. Sondermann, 7 Nov 2008, Slovenian Ministry, Ljubljana

EFSA Scientific Colloquia

Aim: Better understanding of fundamental scientific issues

Scope: Open scientific debate on topics central to EFSA's work

Audience: - 70 to 120 participants
- International scientists, experts in the specific field

Outcome: Published as scientific summary reports

EFSA Scientific Colloquia

Last Colloquium: May 2008, Tabiano (PR), Acrylamide carcinogenicity - New evidence in relation to dietary exposure

Next Colloquium: December 2008, Rome, Important aspects of Risk Assessment of *Campylobacter*

Future challenges in a globalised world

- Climate change
- New technologies
- New or re-emerging risks
- Sustainability of Europe's food production
- Societal changes including changes in consumers behaviour
- Obesity
- ....

Scientific Cooperation for safe foods

Thank you

for your attention!