

Committed *since 2002*
to ensuring that Europe's food is safe



European Food Safety Authority

EFSA and the EU food safety system: 10 years achievements: Scientific cooperation with EU Member States and the Pre-Accession countries

Finn Sheye
Pre-Accession and ENP Coordinator

World Food Day – Croatia on its way to the EU Integrations
16 October, Osijek, Croatia

10 years of EU food safety system

- Europeans enjoy **one of the highest levels of food safety** in the world
- **Continued commitment, co-operation and innovation** of EU institutions and its independent agencies
- For 10 years, **EFSA has underpinned the EU's decisions on food and feed safety, animal health & welfare, nutrition and plant health**
 - extensive scientific work grounded in most up-to-date knowledge, methodologies and data



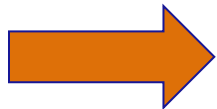
Re-casting of EU food safety system and policy

- Food scares (e.g. BSE, dioxins)
- Loss of consumer confidence
- Loss of confidence in EU food trade
- Damaged trust in public authorities
- Creation of national food agencies



As European veterinary experts met yesterday to discuss easing the ban on British beef, the Consumers' Association issued a report claiming the Government had failed to put consumers first in the BSE crisis. Have people been misled? Today, CHRIS ELLIOTT reports on how a Mid-Anglian scientist is attempting to put the crisis in perspective — by launching a crusade to banish misinformation about it.

**Public just
want truth
about BSE
says expert**



EFSA as independent source of scientific advice and communication

INDEPENDENCE...

- Management Board
- Scientific Panels & Scientific Committee
- Declarations of interests
- Policy of Independence & Scientific Decision-Making Processes
- Accurate and timely risk communications

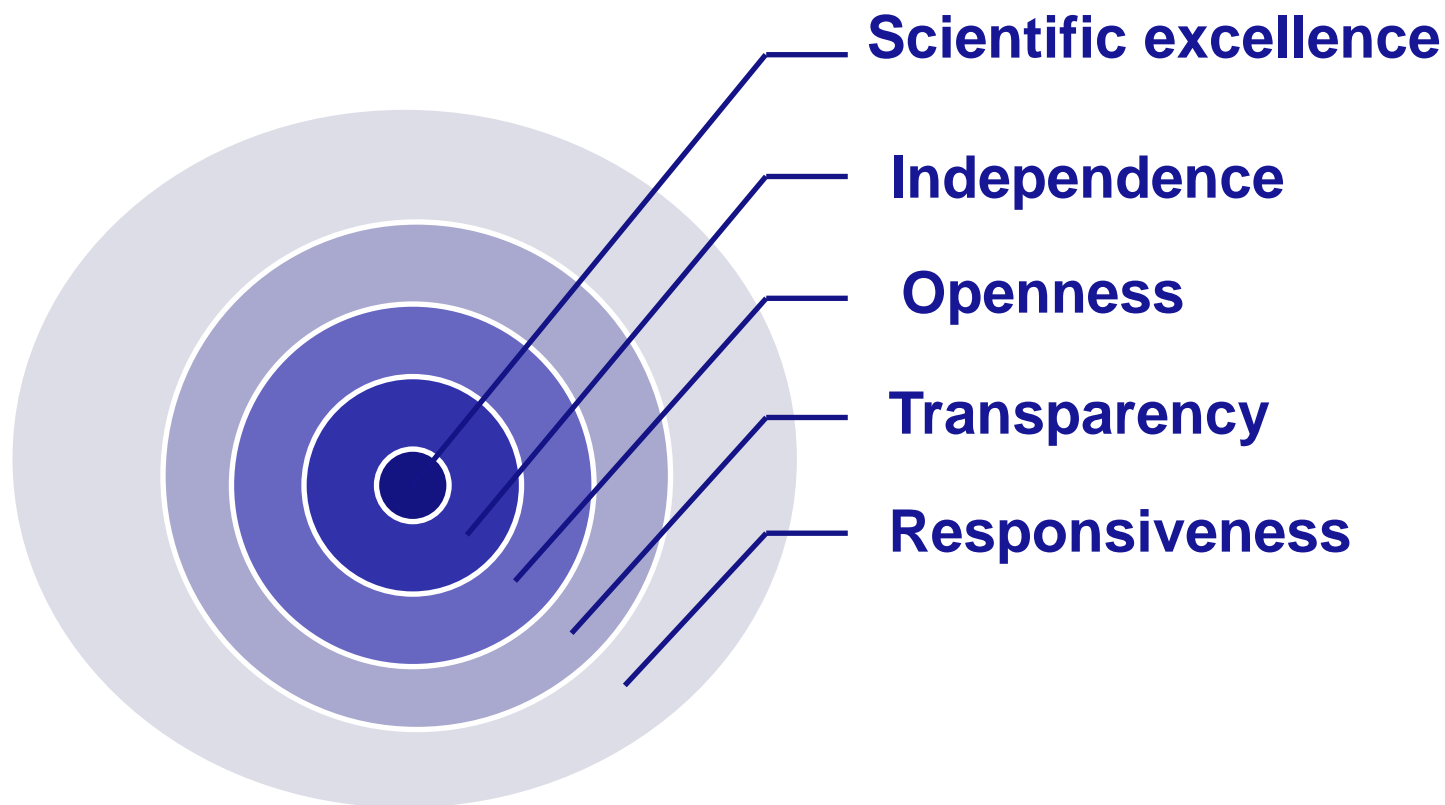
COOPERATION...

- Advisory Forum
- Strategy for cooperation & networking
- Focal Points
- Scientific networks
- Article 36 cooperation
- Stakeholder consultative platform
- EU agencies
- International cooperation

PARTNERSHIP...

- Cooperation with MS -> medium-term planning
- Cooperation with stakeholders -> rolling work plan
- Article 36 -> increasing financial support
- Expert database -> steady growth
- etc...

EFSA's guiding principles



From the beginning...



2004

2008



...to today

2012

Purpose-built new building in Parma



Dedicated to scientific excellence

❑ + 2500 scientific outputs

- 500th opinion - 2007
- 1000th opinion - 2009

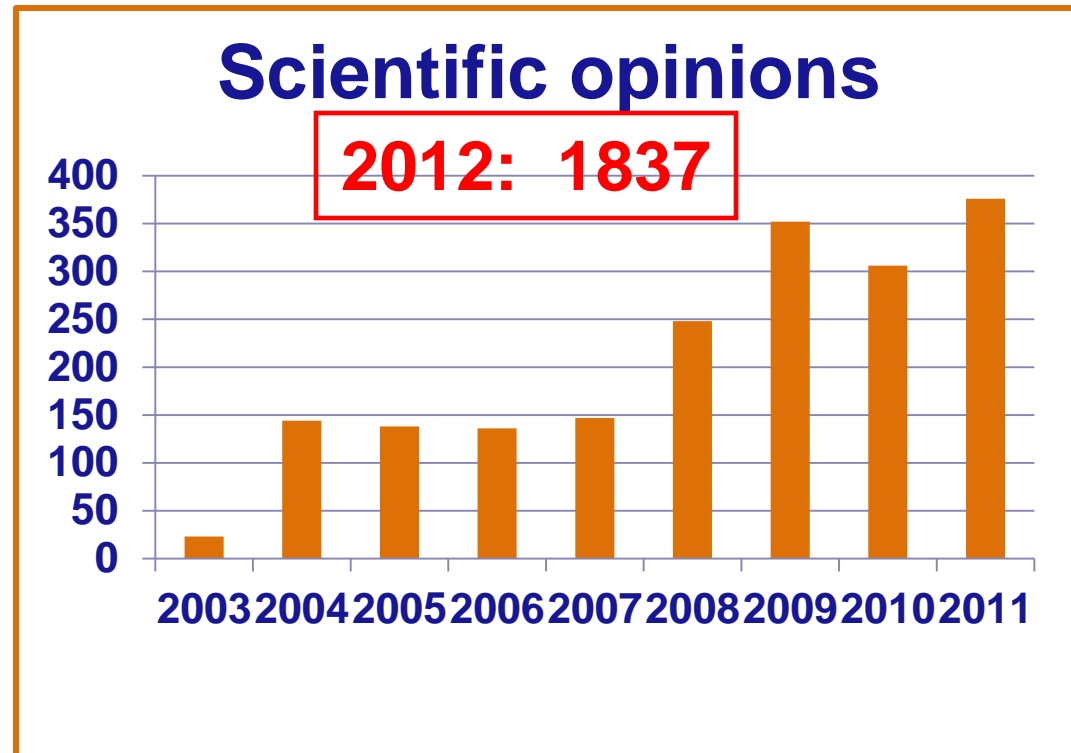
❑ Wide remit:

food and feed, nutrition, animal health and welfare and plant health

❑ Scientific expertise across Europe

❑ Impartiality of scientific advice

❑ EFSA Journal, Scientific Colloquia, international cooperation...



Scientific advice from farm to fork

Plant Health



Plant Protection



Genetically modified organisms



Animal feed



Animal health and welfare and their diseases



Biological food chain hazards



Food chain contaminants



Food additives
Flavourings and
Processing aids



Dietary,
nutritional and
novel food



Food packaging

Protecting Europe's 500 million consumers

- **Combating biological hazards, including zoonoses**
 - Successful EU response to BSE -> thousands of cases in early 2000, 44 in 2010
 - 50% reduction of human *Salmonella* cases
- **Nutrition**
 - Evaluating more than 3,000 health claims
- **Chemicals in food**
 - Re-evaluating all food additives
 - Mycotoxins, including aflatoxins, in food
- **Animal health and welfare**
 - Animal diseases including Bluetongue and avian influenza
 - Welfare of animals during transport, welfare of dairy cows and other farm animals...
- **Pesticides**
 - 97% compliance with safe levels of pesticide residues in food
 - Review of all existing active substances on market before 1993 (+ 120 substances)

COUNTERTHINK



Protecting Europe's 500 million consumers

Major role in EU rapid responses to **food-related emergencies and animal health issues:**

- BSE
- avian influenza
- contamination of pork by dioxins in Ireland
- melamine in foods
- nicotine in mushrooms
- Q-fever outbreak in the Netherlands
- pathogenic *E. coli* outbreaks in Germany and France
- new “Schmallenberg” virus
- ...

AP Associated Press

Tainted Egyptian seeds blamed for *E. coli* outbreak still on sale; EU bans further exports



France/*E. coli* : l'EFSA recommande la cuisson des graines germées

europapress.es

Agencia alimentaria europea recomienda
pelar y cocinar verduras mientras no se
identifique origen de '*E. coli*'

Working together, working for Europe

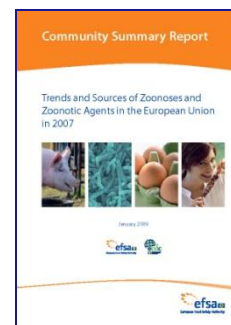
- 35 national food safety agencies
- 300 research institutes
- Over 1500 experts



- EU Agencies
- Pre-Accession countries
- Third country organisations

- **Yearly analysis of EU-wide situation:**

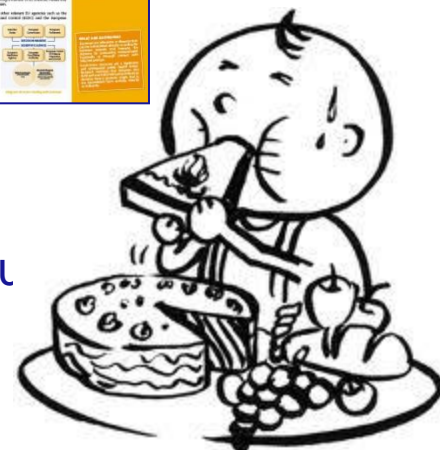
- Zoonoses
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Pesticide residues



- **Food consumption data for exposure assessments:**

Concise database -> Comprehensive database -> EU Menu

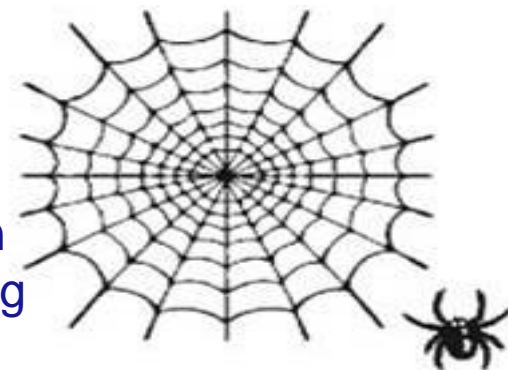
- Increasingly sophisticated and harmonised data



- **Cooperation in risk communication:**

Advisory Forum working group -> Information exchange
(e.g. STEC) -> Risk communication guidelines

- Increasingly more structured cooperation -> **medium-term planning** with Advisory Forum, Stakeholder Platform rolling work plan...



- Public consultations (all guidance documents)
- Stakeholder technical meetings, consultations
- Webcasting for maximum transparency (GMO, health claims)



ERA guidance for GM plants

- three-day consultative workshop in Berlin
- two-day European conference on “GMO risk assessment for human and animal health and the environment”
- public consultation
- technical meetings with key contributors

- Accurate, meaningful, transparent and coherent **risk communications** in co-operation with national food safety agencies & European Commission
- **Consumer perception** on food-related risks:
 - High level of trust of EU citizens in scientists (73%) and national and European food safety agencies (64%) as sources of information
 - Majority of EU citizens think public authorities take into account most recent scientific advice and are quick to act when there is a health problem (63%)
 - More concern for chemical contamination of food rather than bacterial contamination or health and nutrition issues
- **Communication strategy 2010-2013**
 - Strategic priorities: simplicity; independence; visibility and outreach; coherence and dialogue
 - Thematic approach to increase impact and effectiveness



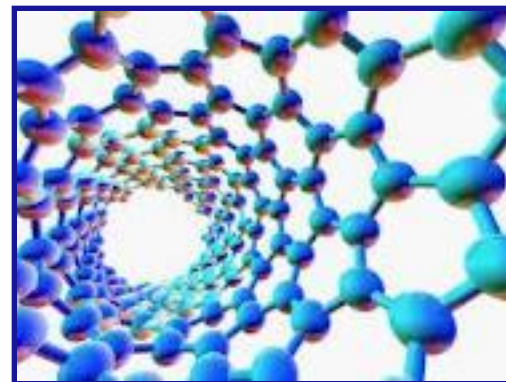
EUROBAROMETER

Emerging issues and trends affecting EFSA's work



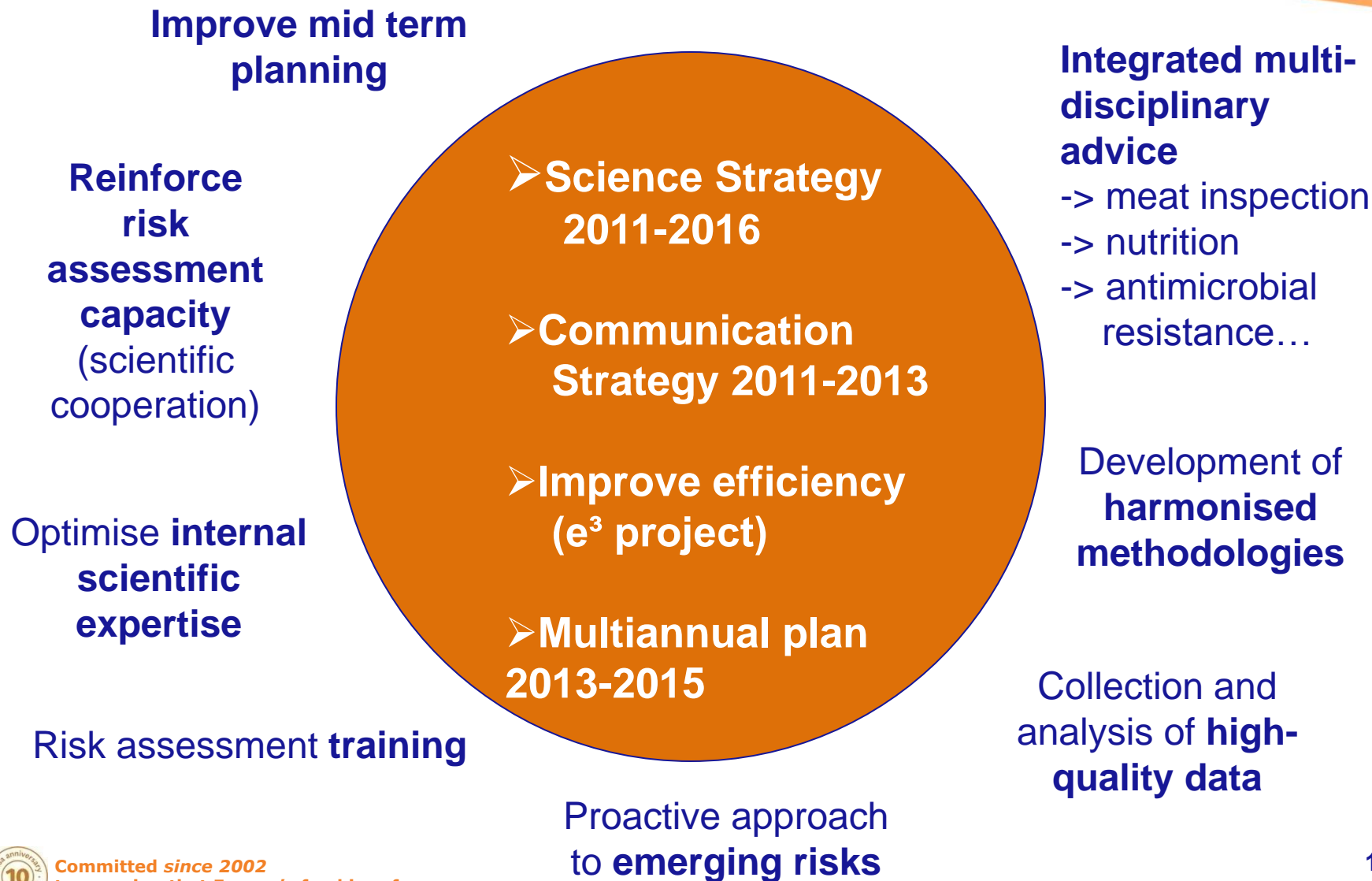
***Possible future development:
Fees for authorisation requests***

- **New risk assessment methods and guidance**
→ nanotechnology, intelligent packaging



New fields of risk assessments:

- **new technologies** -> cloning
- **safety of new products** -> novel foods
- **efficacy/benefits** -> pesticides, health claims
- **environmental impact** -> GM plants
- occupational health, post-market monitoring, risk comparisons...



**External evaluation
& Management
Board
recommendations
2012**

**Strategic Plan
2014->**

Critical for:

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



All Member States and Pre-Accession countries have competent authorities responsible for food safety

Cooperation with EFSA via:

- **Advisory Forum**
- **Focal Points**
- **Scientific networks**



Advisory Forum (AF)

- 27 MS, IS, NO
- Observers – 5 IPA countries

Advising EFSA on:

- scientific matters
- setting priorities
- work programmes
- emerging risks

Focal Points (FP)

- 27 MS, IS, NO
- Observers – 5 IPA countries

Support Advisory Forum:

- exchange scientific info
- support (e.g. Article 36, EDB)
- establish and maintain national networks
- raise EFSA's scientific visibility

List of networks

Area	Name	Year
Emerging Risks	Emerging Risks Exchange Network	2010
Nanotechnologies	EFSA scientific network for risk assessment of nanotechnologies in food and feed	2010
GMO	EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMO	2010
Plant Health	EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health	2010
Animal Health and Welfare	EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and welfare	2010
Pesticides	Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring (MS contact points)	2009
	Pesticide Steering Committee	2008
Contaminants	Expert Group on Chemical Occurrence	2008
Food Consumption	Expert Group Food Consumption	2007
Biological Hazard	TSE/BSE	2006
	Microbiological Risk Assessment	2007
Zoonoses	Zoonoses Task Force	2004

- Experts from nationally appointed organisations with expertise in the fields covered by the networks
- Aim: to **facilitate scientific cooperation** in the fields of EFSA's mission by:
 - Coordinating activities
 - Exchanging information
 - Developing and implementing joint projects
 - Exchanging expertise and best practices



EDB Objectives



assist



flexible & transparent

Apply online to EFSA's Expert Database

Sign up
as an **Expert**

www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/expertdb.htm

Objective

To support
the exchange of scientific information between
EFSA, Member States and
Accession/Candidate countries



IEP sections

The different sections are:

1. Risk Assessment Outputs
(Opinion, Statement, Guidance Document, Technical report, Risk assessment mandate)
2. Work Plans by Country
(Annual, Strategic)
3. Country Specific Information
(Country Profiles, Quality Manual, Crisis Manual)

Search

Links to websites

Links to risk assessment outputs
Links to risk assessment mandates

Archives : Joint Science
: Advisory Forum : DO
: Scientific Cooperation
Workspace : INTRANET :
Assessment outputs : Link

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Search

Links to websites

Links to risk assessment outputs
Links to risk assessment mandates

1. IEP Report March 2009
2. IEP Report April 2009
3. IEP Report May 2009

- Open-access
- Free of charge
- Indexed in bibliographic databases
- To keep updated on EFSA's scientific work
 - Subscribe to Table of Contents and RSS
 - Visit the website at

www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal.htm

Objectives of the Pre-Accession Programme

- to prepare the food safety authorities in the beneficiary countries for future participation in EFSA networks,
- transfer knowledge of areas covered by EFSA,
- develop communication and information exchange systems,
- support national risk assessment and risk communication activities.



Pre-Accession Programmes for EFSA

2005-2006 - Pre-Accession Programme for Bulgaria and Romania

2006-2007 - Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia

2008 - Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia

2009-2011 - Programme for the 8 Candidate and the Potential Candidate Countries

2011-2014 – new Programme started in November 2011 for the same countries

Total amount: 4.1 mill € over 7 years period₃₁

All IPA Countries

Series of seminars and training:

- **Animal Health and Welfare,**
- **Workshop on data collection and analysis,**
- **Seminar on Risk Communication,**
- **Training on Pest Risk Assessment (PRA),**
- **Training on Chemical risk assessment,**
- **Training on Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA),**
- **Training on Assessment in the field of nutrition,**
- **Training on GMO.**
- **NB! Support to national conferences on food safety.**



Study tours to EU Member States:

- Study tour for Candidate countries to the Netherlands, 24/25 October 2012
- Study tour for Potential Candidate countries to Ireland, 23/24 April 2013



1. Advisory Forum Plenary meetings
2. Advisory Forum WG meetings
3. Focal Point meetings
4. Pesticides Peer Review meetings
5. Meetings of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection
6. Task Force meeting on Zoonoses Data Collection,
7. Expert Group for Chemical Occurrence Data
8. PLH Network meetings
9. MRA Network meetings
10. Nano Network meetings
11. Pesticide Steering Committee meetings
12. GMO Network meetings
13. Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring meetings
14. Network meetings on Harmonisation of RA methodologies
15. Expert Group on Food Consumption Data
16. BSE Network meetings
17. Meetings on Animal Health and Welfare

In addition EFSA Scientific Colloquia's

Working Alongside the EFSA

- Signing up to the **expert database** to potentially join the pool of experts assisting EFSA in its work, **ongoing project, no deadline**,
- Application to new call for membership of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Panels (3 years mandate),
- Call for expressions of interest for **Seconded National Experts** within EFSA, **fix term agreement**, work in Parma,
- Programme supports **national food safety events/conferences** – providing speakers from EFSA or EU MS,
- **Traineeship in EFSA – 2 from Croatia**



Our vision

to become globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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