



24th December 2020

http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/point_focal/index.html

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

20-14

Calls

EU-FORA Fellowship Programme: call for expression of interest for selection of fellows / Deadline 15/01/2021

We would like to inform you that EFSA is calling for applications from future **fellows** for the 2021-2022 cycle of the **European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme**.

Please forward the information to all early to mid-career professionals in food safety interested to be trained in the field of food risk assessment while acquiring hands-on experience within leading EU organisations in the food safety area.

For your convenience, please note that the call is open until 15 January 2021

For any further questions on the Programme, please do not hesitate to contact the EU-FORA team at EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu

We take this opportunity to also remind you that Competent Organisations can still apply to the [call for proposals](#) (Ref: GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/04) for the selection of hosting sites until **12 February 2021** (as previously communicated by email on 09/11/2020).

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

[**EU-FORA – The European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme**](#)

EFSA's CAREERS - SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

[**EFSA European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme 2021**](#)

Open call for tenders on roadmaps for action on mCRA, ERA and NAMs / Deadline 26 February, 2021

We would like to inform you that EFSA has just published an [open call for tenders](#) (OC/EFSA/ED/2020/1 - [link](#)) consisting of three lots, for the development of the first three roadmaps for action on:

- Lot 1: Building a European Partnership for next generation systems-based environmental risk assessment ([Link](#))
- Lot 2: New approach methodologies in risk assessment ([Link](#))
- Lot 3: Risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals ([Link](#))

The call is now open until 26 February 2021 at 14.30hrs and has a maximum budget for financial offers of EUR 500.000 per lot (i.e., per roadmap).

We would be grateful if you could **support disseminating the information in this call** and **spread the word** among your networks by forwarding the information published.

Background:

The overall purpose of this tender is to deliver roadmaps for action and provide recommendations for future multi-annual, multi-partner studies or projects for each lot building on EFSA's vision and supporting EFSA's preparedness for future risk assessment requirements and help to prevent possible divergence on sensitive matters. EFSA prioritised four scientific themes for 2021 in line with its consideration on the future of science and EFSA's 2027 strategic development. The delivery of a 4th roadmap for action on "Artificial intelligence for evidence management in risk assessment" will be outsourced using a reopening competition through the EFSA Management Consultancy framework contract.

In case of questions, please contact us as EFSAprocurement@efsa.europa.eu.

Public Consultations

Draft scientific report on technical assistance in the field of risk communication

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA has launched an **open consultation on a draft scientific report on Technical assistance in the field of risk communication**.

The document provides an assessment of risk communication theory and best practice by EFSA's social science experts and staff to support the European Commission implement a new provision of the 2019 'Transparency Regulation' (Regulation (EU) 2019/1381): a General Plan for Risk Communication for EU food safety.

EFSA is calling on **risk communication and science communication experts and specialists** to review and comment on the draft scientific report. This includes practitioners at national, EU and international risk assessment and risk management public authorities.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by **17 January 2021**.

Following the consultation, EFSA's social scientists will review the feedback while finalising the scientific report, scheduled for March/April 2021.

We remind you that in case of further questions, you can contact the specific Unit's functional mailbox: socialscience@efsa.europa.eu

PUBLIC CONSULTATION on a draft scientific report on Technical assistance in the field of risk communication

Public consultation on the draft EFSA Scientific Committee Opinion on biological plausibility of non-monotonic dose responses and their impact on the risk assessment | Deadline 4 February 2021

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA has launched a **public consultation on the draft EFSA Scientific Committee Opinion on biological plausibility of non-monotonic dose responses and their impact on the risk assessment**.

This document assesses the biological relevance of the apparent non-monotonic dose-responses identified in the external report produced under GP/EFSA/SCER/2014/01, focusing on the in vivo datasets fulfilling most of the checkpoints of the visual/statistics-based analysis.

The scientific community, regulatory advisory bodies and other interested parties are invited to submit written comments by **4 February 2021**.

We remind you that in case of more information on the draft scientific opinion or in case of technical issues in the upload of the supporting files, you can contact the Unit's functional mailbox: SCER.PublicConsult.EUS.009@efsa.europa.eu

NEWS [Have your say – draft opinion on non-monotonic dose-response](#)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION on the [draft EFSA Scientific Committee Opinion on biological plausibility of non-monotonic dose responses and their impact on the risk assessment](#)

[Twitter](#); [Twitter thread](#); [LinkedIn](#); [Facebook](#)

Training

Transparency Regulation Implementation: webinar recordings now available and information on Training Programme

We are glad to inform you that the recordings of the first webinar about the Transparency Regulation held on 19 November 2020 are available online on the event's webpage: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/webinar-implementing-transparency-regulation-requirements-tools-and>

We take this opportunity also to inform you that a new webpage announcing **EFSA's upcoming training programme on the new processes and tools introduced by the Transparency Regulation** has just been published on the EFSA website: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/transparency-regulation-implementation-training-programme>

The webpage features a call for expression of interest for third parties to enrol to the training modules and ask questions to EFSA. It also presents useful materials to prepare third parties affected by the new legal provisions to get prepared ahead of the entry into application of the Regulation.

For your information, the call for expression of interest has no deadline. Nevertheless, please note that the maximum number of participants per training module session is limited to 500, on a first-come-first-served basis. The sessions will be recorded and made available on EFSA's website.

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For any further questions on the Programme, please do not hesitate to contact the EU-FORA team at EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu

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FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

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[EFSA European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme 2021](#)

Publications

EFSA published outputs on “Gene Drive”

We would like to inform you, as the contact person for your organisation on respective specific competence field, that EFSA has recently published:

1. a [scientific opinion](#) on “Adequacy and sufficiency evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for the molecular characterisation, environmental risk assessment and post-market environmental monitoring of genetically modified insects containing engineered gene drives”. It was preceded by public consultation opened also for your comments, which resulted into
2. a [technical report](#) on “Outcome of a public consultation on the draft adequacy and sufficiency evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for the molecular characterisation, environmental risk assessment and post-market environmental monitoring of genetically modified insects containing engineered gene drives”; and in addition
3. an [EFSA news](#), with the following key messages:
 - EFSA's existing guidelines for the risk assessment of genetically modified animals are adequate for evaluating risks associated with gene drive modified insects. However, further guidance is needed for some areas, such as molecular characterisation, environmental risk assessment and post-market environmental monitoring.
 - Current research is looking at deploying engineered gene drives in insect populations, although it will take several years before the use of this technology can be applied in practical, real-life situations.
 - To carry out this work, EFSA engaged with stakeholders and scientists at various points in the development of its scientific opinion. A stakeholder workshop in 2019 allowed EFSA to gather views on the subject, and the draft opinion was published for a nine-week public consultation earlier this year.

New EU summary report on surveillance for the presence of TSEs in 2019

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA has just published the **European Union summary report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in 2019**.

The report provides results on data collected in 2019 by all EU Member States, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland.

The main findings are:

- No cases of classical BSE in cattle were reported in the EU (out of 1,150,388 animals tested). Seven cases of atypical BSE were reported: 6 H-type and 1 L-type.

- 997 cases of scrapie in sheep (out of 338,098 tested) and 390 cases in goats (out of 143,529 tested) were reported in the EU.
- Three cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) were reported in wild moose by Sweden, (out of 7,980 cervids tested by member states). Two cases in moose were reported by Norway.

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

[The European Union summary report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSE\) in 2019](#)

SCIENTIFIC TOPIC

[Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSEs\)](#)

EFSA's scientific opinion "Guidance on date marking and related food information: part 1 (date marking)"

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA and ECDC published today a news story on **"Use by' or 'best before'? New tool to support food operators"**, which is available in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

EFSA has indeed developed a tool to help food business operators decide when to apply the 'use by' or 'best before' date to their products.

The tool is structured as a decision tree with a series of questions to be answered by the food business operators to help them decide whether a 'use by' or 'best before' date is required.

We take this opportunity to inform you also that EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards published today the **Scientific Opinion "Guidance on date marking and related food information: part 1 (date marking)"**. Another opinion on this topic will be published in 2021. It will focus on the information given to consumers on storage conditions, time limits for consumption after opening and thawing practices.

For further information on the scientific opinion, please contact biohaz@efsa.europa.eu

[NEWS 'Use by' or 'best before'? New tool to support food operators](#)

[SCIENTIFIC OPINION Guidance on date marking and related food information: part 1 \(date marking\)](#)

[SOCIAL MEDIA](#) [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#)

Social research at EFSA: second Reputation barometer study 2020 published

We are pleased to announce you that the **Reputation Barometer study** has been published on the EFSA website.

This survey-based tool is designed to better understand the expectations and perceptions of the institutional partners and stakeholders with whom EFSA interacts on a regular basis. It provides important insights into the approach taken to working with them and how to improve it.

CORPORATE PUBLICATIONS [Reputation barometer](#)

REPORT [Reputation Barometer 2.0: State of EFSA's reputation and lessons for future monitoring](#)

ANSES European and International Affairs Department's 2019 Annual Report

We would like to inform you that the ANSES European and International Affairs Department's 2019 Annual Report is available on our website: <https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/ANSES-RA2019-DAEI-EN.pdf>

as well as the general ANSES Annual Report 2019 :

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/anses-action-annual-report-2019-0>

ANSES opinion on “the possible epidemiological role of certain animal species in the maintenance and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus”

We would like to inform you that the ANSES opinion on “the possible epidemiological role of certain animal species in the maintenance and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus” was published on ANSES website: <https://www.anses.fr/en/content/covid-19-wild-and-domestic-animals-play-no-epidemiological-role-sustaining-or-spreading> . The news item is in English but the opinion itself is only available in French.

BIOR published a report on comprehensive salt and iodine consumption study in Latvia.

We would like to inform you that BIOR published a report on comprehensive salt and iodine consumption study in Latvia. The purpose of the study was to evaluate salt and iodine intake in Latvian adults aged 19 to 64 by evaluating the nutritional data provided by the participants and the laboratorial analysis of 24-hour urine samples. This study was conducted by Institute for Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” (Riga, Latvia) within the framework of the European Social Fund project “Complex health promotion and disease prevention measures” (ID No. 9.2.4.1/16/I/001). Data collection was conducted between November 2018 and February 2020. Link to report, it is in Latvian with summary in English https://www.bior.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/P%C4%93t%C4%ABjums%20par%20s%C4%81ls%20un%20joda%20pat%C4%93ri%C5%86u%20Latvijas%20pieaugu%C5%A1o%20iedz%C4%ABvot%C4%81ju%20popul%C4%81cij%C4%81_0.pdf Link to news in Institute "BIOR" webpage <https://www.bior.lv/lv/par-mums/jaunumi/latvijas-iedzivotaji-uznem-parak-daudz-sals> If You are interested in more details about this study please feel free to contact me and I will network You with responsible researchers.

EFSA Recruitment

New Job Opportunity in EFSA - Traineeship call 2020-2021 | Deadline 08/01/2021

We would like to inform you that **EFSA has recently published a new call for Trainees.**

EFSA is looking for motivated young graduates willing to have a rich first-hand experience in an EU Agency, taking part in diverse activities and supporting significant projects. EFSA is looking for graduates with various backgrounds, including science, law, communication and business, to support all units and all departments.

If you are interested in contributing to the future of science and play a role in EFSA's readiness for the future, **make sure you consider this opportunity and/or spread the word within your network.**

For any further questions, kindly contact us at traineeships@efsa.europa.eu

Dear colleagues, stakeholders and friends of EFSA,

the year of 2020 was marked by a public health crisis, ensuing lockdowns and personal as well as economic hardships for so many fellow citizens. Especially in this year I would like to thank all of you for the continued collaboration throughout this difficult period. Your commitment enabled us to fulfil our mission of delivering trusted science for safe food. Indeed, we faced severe personal and professional challenges but, at the same time, we also discovered new ways of working together and of caring for one another.

On this note, I encourage us all to continue to collaborate in 2021. Together we will be further strengthening food safety, transparency and engagement with stakeholders. Despite the fearful times, I hope the world will turn towards more hope, solidarity and a shared sense of a global community. Let's focus our efforts on ensuring that the new year shows us its best face.

Wishing you and your families a happy festive season and a successful new year!

Bernhard Url

