



6<sup>th</sup> February 2020

[http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/point\\_focal/index.html](http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/point_focal/index.html)

## LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

# 20-3

### Calls for tenders and proposals

#### ***Call for Proposals - GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2020/01 - Entrusting support tasks in the area of Plant health Commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants (plants for planting for ornamental purpose)***

EFSA has published the call for proposals “**Entrusting support tasks in the area of Plant health Commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants (plants for planting for ornamental purpose)**” - reference: GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2020/01

This call for proposals aims to identify organisations for which tasks falling within the **plant health mission** of the Animal & Plant Health unit can be entrusted by EFSA. In particular, these tasks regard the commodity risk assessment and/or assessment of commodity treatments for the evaluation of the technical dossiers sent by Third Countries for High Risk Plants.

Please note that the deadline for submission of proposals is **30 April 2020**.

Link to the EFSA webpage with more information and specific objectives of the call: [GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2020/01 - Entrusting support tasks in the area of Plant health Commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants \(plants for planting for ornamental purpose\)](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/consultation/consultation/2020/01)

#### ***Call for data and experts on risk assessment of the Group B Streptococcus (GBS) / Streptococcus agalactiae clonal complex (CC) 283***

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) is looking to identify experts to contribute to the regional risk assessment in the area of **foodborne Group B Streptococcus agalactiae (GBS) CC283**. In addition, FAORAP is requesting governments, the industry, academia, consumer groups, laboratories, and any other interested organizations and individuals to submit any available data and information on attribution, characterization and monitoring of foodborne Group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) CC283. Any kinds of data relevant to the strain would be valuable because of the emerging nature of the topic, however, the data for risk assessment, including the data for dose-response and exposure assessment would have a particular value.

The full call with the background and details and criteria for expert selection as well as data requirement is available online: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7759en/ca7759en.pdf>, where the

application submission instructions are detailed. The selected experts will be invited to the regional risk assessment expert meeting tentatively scheduled from **29 June to 3 July 2020 in Singapore**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Masami Takeuchi, Food Safety Officer, FAORAP at [Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org](mailto:Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org).

## Public Consultations

---

### *Norway/VKM - Protocol Risk-Benefit Assessment of fish in the Norwegian Diet*

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) has requested that the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM) carries out a risk-benefit assessment of fish in the Norwegian diet.

VKM has prepared a protocol for the assessment and has now launched an open consultation of the protocol. We kindly asks stakeholders and interested parties to submit comments on the protocol.

The deadline for submitting input is **4 March 2020**.

Comments should be forwarded to project manager [Kirsten Rakkestad](#), or [vkm@vkm.no](mailto:vkm@vkm.no).

[Information about the risk-benefit assessment in English](#)

[Link to the draft protocol \(English\)](#)

[Link to the mandate from the NFSA \(Norwegian and English\)](#)

### *Public consultation on the GMO Panel scientific opinion on the evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for their adequacy for the molecular characterisation and environmental risk assessment of GM insects with synthetically engineered gene drives*

EFSA published a public consultation on the draft scientific opinion “Evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for their adequacy for the molecular characterization and environmental risk assessment of genetically modified insects with synthetically engineered gene drives”. The public consultation will close on **Friday 17 April 2020**.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-gmo-panel-scientific-opinion-evaluation>

EFSA also published:

- An editorial “Advances in genetic engineering: EFSA public consultations in 2020”. This is available at the link: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.e18021>
- A topic A-Z: [New advances in biotechnology](#)
- An Understanding science video : [https://youtu.be/cqr1dicd\\_fw](https://youtu.be/cqr1dicd_fw)

## Events

---

### ***Modern technologies to enable response to crises: Next Generation Sequencing to tackle food-borne diseases in the EU | March, 10 2020***

This is to remind you that it is still possible to register to the working group on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) of the EURLs biorisks (Anti-Microbial Resistance, Campylobacter, E. coli, Foodborne viruses, Listeria, Parasite, Salmonella and Staphylococci) coordinated by Stefano Morabito (EURL E. coli, ISS, Rome, Italy) is organising a **“Science meets policy” conference** with the support of the Med-Vet-Net association.

This event is entitled **“Modern technologies to enable response to crises: Next Generation Sequencing to tackle food-borne diseases in the EU”** and it will take place at the **Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome on 10 March 2020**.

Registration: <https://w3.iss.it/site/sanvevent>

## Training

---

### ***Invitation to webinar / VectorNet Maps: What are they and how to use them / interactive session on 28 Feb. at 14.00 (CET)***

EFSA would like to invite you to participate to the first webinar **“VectorNet Maps: What are they and how to use them”** organised by [VectorNet](#), the European network for medical and veterinary entomology, a joint ECDC and EFSA project.

This webinar is the first in a series of eight which will be developed during the next three years.

The first webinar is scheduled on **Friday 28th February 2020 at 14:30**.

The aims of Webinar 1 “VectorNet Maps: What are they and how to use them”, are to present and explain in detail and in a ‘technically-friendly’ way, the importance of **mapping in the epidemiology and risk assessment for human and animal vector-borne diseases, together with the correct interpretations of these maps**.

This webinar takes the form of a series of **eight short videos** (with a combined duration of 45 minutes) where our experts explain you all you need to know about the VectorNet maps, how to use them, how to interpret them and how to contribute to improve them.

Apart from the video, the webinar site also provides relevant links and a forum for discussing questions. After watching the video material in the period between 17 and 28 February 2020, participants are invited to post their questions on this forum. Questions will be answered during a single **one-hour interactive session** in the form of a teleconference (on Friday 28 February 2020, at 14:00 CET).

After completing the webinar, the participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance and meaning of VectorNet maps and databases;
- Interpret VectorNet maps and databases;
- Understand the importance of and the process of data submission.

To enrol in the webinar, please follow the instructions in the attached file and click on the link to the ECDC Virtual Academy (EVA) platform at the bottom of this email.

## ***Webinar: Rapid Assessment of Contaminant Exposure (RACE) tool | 12 March 2020***

EFSA would like to invite you to participate to the EFSA webinar “**Rapid Assessment of Contaminant Exposure (RACE) tool**”.

This webinar will provide the participants with a brief overview of the risk evaluation methodology allowing a rapid and consistent evaluation of health risks when a chemical contaminant is present in food and give practical examples to support future users of the **Rapid Assessment of Contaminant Exposure (RACE) tool**.

For your information, the webinar is scheduled on **Thursday 12th March 2020** and the registration to attend is open.

More information about agenda and registration: [Rapid Assessment of Contaminant Exposure \(RACE\) tool](#). Should you have any questions or doubts, please contact EFSA at [webinars@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:webinars@efsa.europa.eu). Please note also that the participation is limited to a maximum of 500 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Possibility to attend the webinar at COMALIM** – see **Outlook Calendar file** attached or **contact [formation@alim.etat.lu](mailto:formation@alim.etat.lu)**

### ***BTSF Risk assessment - completed invitation letters for course 5 (biotechnologies), Course 6 (Animal Health and Welfare), Course 7 (Environmental), Course 8 (evidence collection)***

EFSA in collaboration with BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) is inviting you to attend the trainings on risk assessment.

For the available courses, the dates and locations check the attached **email file**, or **contact [formation@alim.etat.lu](mailto:formation@alim.etat.lu)**.

## **Publications**

---

### ***New surveys boost food consumption database***

EFSA has expanded its food consumption database with a new batch of data collected under the EU Menu project.

The aim of the EU Menu project is to gather high-quality, harmonised data from Member States, covering all age groups from three months to 74 years. Standardising the way data is collected makes the information easier to compare and improves the quality of the risk assessments carried out by EFSA that rely on dietary information.

More information: [New surveys boost food consumption database](#)

[EFSA's Comprehensive European Food Consumption Database](#)

[Special issue on EU Menu data collections in the EFSA Journal](#)

### ***Rapid Outbreak Assessment: Multi-country outbreak of Salmonella enteritidis infections linked to eggs***

We would like to inform you that EFSA published the Rapid Outbreak Assessment report “**Multi-country outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis infections linked to eggs**”

Link to the dedicated EFSA Journal webpage: [Multi-country outbreak of Salmonella enteritidis infections linked to eggs, fourth update](#)

Site Sécurité alimentaire: [Episode de toxi-infections alimentaires de Salmonella Enteritidis liés aux oeufs impliquant plusieurs pays](#)

## EFSA Recruitment

---

### *New Job Opportunities in EFSA*

We would like to inform you that **EFSA has recently published a few new calls.**

EFSA will grow considerably over the next few years and in view of this, a number of calls to establish reserve lists of suitable candidates to help carry EFSA forward, have been launched.

For any further questions, kindly contact EFSA at [recruitment@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:recruitment@efsa.europa.eu).

Links: [Scientific Officer – Enterprise Architect/Methods](#) – Deadline: 25 February

[Scientific Officer – Environmental Risk Assessment](#) – Deadline: 9 March