



25<sup>th</sup> March 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

# 20-4

### Calls for tenders and proposals

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#### *Call for Proposals - GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/02 - Thematic grants: Preparedness for future challenges in specific areas of EFSA`s work*

We would like you to support EFSA in promoting the call for proposals reference: **GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/02 - Thematic grants: Preparedness for future challenges in specific areas of EFSA`s work.**

This new grant opportunity calls for proposals in the following areas (ref. three lots of the call):

- Evaluating the impact on/by gastrointestinal tract microbiomes (human and domestic animals) in assessments,
- Capacity building for evaluating the impact on/by environmental microbiomes (plants, wildlife, soil) in assessments,
- Hotspots for introduction of plant pests: an integrated analysis to better prepare for pest invasions.

EFSA is looking for innovative projects that facilitate sharing of knowledge and expertise. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to build consortia.

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

**News:** [New grant opportunity: microbiomes and plant pests](#)

**Call for proposals:** [GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/02 - Thematic grants: Preparedness for future challenges in specific areas of EFSA`s work](#)

### Public Consultations

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#### *EFSA`s public consultation on `Gene Drive` draft opinion*

We would like to inform you that EFSA opened a **public consultation** for comments on the draft scientific opinion **“Evaluation of existing EFSA guidelines for their adequacy for the molecular characterisation and environmental risk assessment of genetically modified insects with synthetically engineered gene drives”**.

This public consultation will close on **Friday 17 April 2020**.

In addition, EFSA published [an editorial “Advances in genetic engineering: EFSA public consultations in 2020”](#) and a [topic page on advancements in biotechnology](#), including our new “Understanding Science” video on gene drive.

Public consultation: [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](#)

Editorial EFSA journal: [Advances in genetic engineering: EFSA public consultations in 2020](#)

Topic page: [New advances in biotechnology](#)

## ***EFSA Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food***

We would like to inform you that EFSA has published a **public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food**. This open consultation was launched by the EFSA's Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM) and it presents estimations of human dietary exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances and an assessment of human health risks related to dietary exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by **20 April 2020**.

For any further questions on the draft scientific opinion, please contact Ms Karen Mackay ([Karen.MACKAY@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:Karen.MACKAY@efsa.europa.eu)).

## ***European Commission: Animal Welfare: launch of the public consultation on the EU Strategy***

The European Commission published a **12 weeks open consultation on the EU Strategy for Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015**. This public consultation, available into all EU languages, is part of a one-year external study supporting the evaluation of the EU Strategy. Launched in 2019, this evaluation aims to assess if the EU Strategy delivered its initial objectives and whether they are still relevant today. The results of the evaluation will inform future EU initiatives on animal welfare as well as actions under the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy. Citizens, experts and stakeholders are invited to give their feedback before **15 June 2020**.

**For more information:**

- [View the open consultation](#)
- [View the Commission's website](#)

## **Events**

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### ***Invitation to the International Scientific Conference HYGIENA ALIMENTORUM XLI, May 13 – 15, 2020, Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic***

You are invited to the **International Scientific Conference HYGIENA ALIMENTORUM XLI “New trends in improving the quality and safety of meat and meat products”**, that will be held on **13-15 May 2020 at Hotel Patria, Štrbské Pleso, Slovak Republic**.

The aim of the international scientific conference is to obtain new knowledge on the production, health safety and quality of beef, pork, mutton, goat and horse meat in relation to intravital effects and the

application of animal welfare principles prior to slaughter. The scientific conference will also focus on new technological processes and the level of hygiene in carcass processing and meat handling to ensure health, safety and quality. In the field of meat products, the focus of the scientific conference is to promote modern technological production processes, pointing out solutions to improve safety and quality through the use of modern butchering technology, application of additives and packaging materials, taking into account the traditional quality of meat products, impact of retail on the quality of meat and meat products, possibilities of innovation in food sales and assessment of the situation of implementation of the European legislation and quality policy.

**You can register until April 17, 2020.** More details on conference and registration can be found [here](#).

**Contributions** (Abstracts and Full text manuscripts) should be sent by e-mail to [hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk](mailto:hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk) at the latest | April 17, 2020.

**Posters** should be sent by e-mail to [hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk](mailto:hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk) at the latest April 24, 2020.

Please contact [hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk](mailto:hygiena.alimentorum@uvlf.sk) in case of questions or for further details.

## Publications

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### *Antimicrobial resistance in the EU: infections with foodborne bacteria becoming harder to treat*

EFSA and ECDC have published the annual EU Summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/6007>

EFSA has also updated the [Antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) data visualisation tool](#) which now also includes data from 2018.

The AMR data viz displays antimicrobial resistance levels of *Salmonella*, *E. Coli* and *Campylobacter* in food, animals and humans, by country. The tool is interactive and intuitive, allowing you to select single countries or antibiotics by simply clicking on them.

A [new article on the EFSA website](#) underlines the newest findings.

### *EFSA`s new dedicated website: International Year of Plant Health*

**To mark the International Year of Plant Health, EFSA has launched a [dedicated website](#) highlighting the work it is doing with its partners to combat plant pests and protect Europe`s crops, parks and gardens.**

The website will be updated throughout the year with news and information on activities aimed at raising awareness about plant health in Europe and beyond, contributing to the efforts lead by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat. Yet, they are under constant attack from pests, with the FAO estimating that up to 40 percent of food crops are destroyed globally each year. Factors such as climate change, globalisation of trade and tourism are making things worse. That is why the United Nations have declared 2020 the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH): to raise awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, boost economic development, and contribute to achieving the UN`s Sustainable Development Goals.

2020 is not only the International Year of Plant Health, but also the year when the new Plant Health Law is implemented across the European Union. EFSA has embarked on several interconnected projects that support the European Commission's efforts to protect the EU from plant pests and diseases and to help Member States prepare for future threats. Additionally, EFSA is planning a full year of activities in support of the IYPH which will also be highlighted on the new website.

EFSA's dedicated microsite allows users to delve into several different topics and explore its work such as **horizon scanning**, the work EFSA does to track of emerging pests; **pest surveillance**, for which EFSA provides a toolkit that includes pest survey cards, survey guidelines, and statistical tools; the 20 **priority pests** identified by the European Commission; the **high-risk plants** whose entry into the EU is prohibited; as well as **pest risk assessments** and **pest categorisations**.

Here you can find our new website: <https://bit.ly/3bnRSCA>.

### ***EFSA Publication: Coronavirus: no evidence that food is a source or transmission route***

EFSA published on its website [news regarding the absence of evidence that food is a source or transmission route of the virus](#) is the most updated information at the moment.

### ***www.securite-alimentaire.lu: Information on coronavirus in relation to food***

Please refer also to our national **Food Safety website for information** about the coronavirus in regards to food. This section contains information for consumer and professionals about instructions to respect in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 via food, home deliveries and shopping: <https://securite-alimentaire.public.lu/fr/actualites/communiqués/2020/03/Covid-19-aliments-pas-voie-transmission.html>

**Keep safe!**