



12 February 2025

[Luxembourgish EFSA Focal Point](#)

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

25-3

Calls

Call to indicate relevant work or interest on conventional smoking processes | deadline 28.02.2025

EFSA has been mandated by the European Commission to deliver a scientific opinion on the safety of smoked meat and smoked meat products, smoked fish and smoked fishery products and smoked cheese and smoked dairy products following the use of conventional smoking processes (terms of reference available [at this link](#). Deadline: 30 June 2027).

As we understand that this topic may have been addressed through work conducted by Member States/Observer Countries, we kindly ask to **inform us if you have any relevant work to share with us or if there are national experts interested in closely following the development of EFSA's scientific output.**

We would most appreciate if you could send your replies to feedco@efsa.europa.eu **by 28 February 2025.**

EFSA intends to organise a public technical meeting on this mandate in March 2025, followed by a public call for data to collect evidence at stakeholders' and partners' hand that may be relevant to inform EFSA's risk assessment.

See all EFSA open calls for [grant proposals](#), [calls for data](#) and [calls for tender](#).

Public consultations

Extended deadline: EFSA Nanomaterials/nanoparticles guidance documents | deadline 14.02.2025

We are **seeking the views of stakeholders and partner organisations** involved in food/feed sector and related areas and/or with the responsibility for food/feed safety and public health.

This includes food and feed manufacturers, material and ingredient suppliers, contract laboratories, industry associations, either involved in the production/marketing of particulate materials as micronized materials or engineered nanomaterials, the scientific community, and relevant EU and international regulatory agencies and other relevant bodies.

The current consultation is intended to gather views on the objectives and scope and provide feedback on the main technical and scientific issues, which require harmonisation with regards to nanomaterials and materials containing nanoparticles.

- Guidance document for [risk assessment of nanomaterials and materials containing nanoparticles in the food chain](#)
- Guidance document for the [risk assessment of feed additives containing nanoparticles](#)

Comments are welcome by 14 February 2025: MESE@efsa.europa.eu.

Draft scientific opinion on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals | deadline 19.03.2025

The Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit has launched a public consultation on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals: an assessment of the adequacy and sufficiency of current EFSA guidance for animal risk assessment.

Deadline for submission of comments: 19 March 2025

[Comment here](#)

Public Consultations Toolkit published

This toolkit has been designed to answer frequently asked questions about EFSA public consultations, including how to participate in them and how the process works. For more information, visit our [website](#) where you can access the toolkit and learn more about the public consultation process.

Download the toolkit [here](#).

See all open public consultations [here](#).

Events

Webinar on new developments in biotechnology, including SynBio and NGTs, applied to animals for food, feed, and other agricultural uses | registration until 13.02.2025

Objectives: EFSA's Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) has endorsed a draft opinion, which is ready for online consultation with stakeholders. This webinar aims at:

- Presenting the draft scientific opinion, introducing the driving elements and key chapters of the draft document, which is under public consultation until 19 March 2025;

- Providing a clear understanding regarding the key components of and rationale behind the scientific opinion.

Participants: This meeting is open to all interested stakeholders with expertise in emerging developments in biotechnology, including synthetic biology and new genomic techniques applied to animals for food, feed, and other agricultural uses.

Date: 18 February 2025, 14:00 - 15:00 (CET)

Deadline for registration: 13 February 2025, 12:00 (CET)

[More information](#) [Registration](#)

Webinar on the updated OPEX Calculator | registration until 18.02.2025

Objectives: EFSA is hosting a dedicated webinar focusing on the updated OPEX Calculator for non-dietary exposure estimation to plant protection products, with the aim to:

- Present the new functionalities and provide instructions and clarifications on how to use it

During the webinar participants can send questions via a dedicated chat box, which will be answered during the presentation.

Participants: The meeting is intended for all interested stakeholders with expertise in regulatory non-dietary exposure to plant protection products.

Date: 20 February 2025, 15:00 - 16:00 (CET)

Deadline for registration: 18 February 2025 - 12:00 (CET)

[More information](#) [Registration](#)

Trainings

Workshop on read-across: role and guidance in chemical risk assessment | 27./28.03.2025

Objectives: EFSA is organising a workshop on read-across: role and guidance in chemical risk assessment, with the aim to:

- Examine regulatory approaches on read-across that have been developed and implemented by different organisations, supporting further the alignment of methodologies applied in chemical risk assessment.
- Discuss and clarify technical aspects of read-across, and to receive feedback on the related draft guidance developed by EFSA.
- Contribute to strengthening a robust, scientifically sound and transparent application of read-across in chemical risk assessment across organisations.

Participants: The event is intended for all interested stakeholders, especially risk assessors and applicants (e.g. members of EFSA and ECHA panels, working groups and staff, representatives of EU, national and international agencies, industry, academia and research organisations). Participation is limited to a maximum of 60 attendees, including speakers and other experts.

Pre-selection will ensure an appropriate representation of the various fields of expertise, as well as representation of stakeholder groups and geographical balance.

Date:

- **27 March 2025, 13:30 - 17:30 (CET)**
- **28 March 2025, 09:00 - 13:00 (CET)**

Deadline for registration: 28 February 2025 - 23:59 (CET)

Location: **Brussels, Belgium**

Further details will be communicated to the selected participants. English will be the language of the event, and no translation will be provided.

The event is intended for **in-person participation**. Online participation will be ensured via web streaming; however, participants will not have the possibility to interact during the meeting, either orally or in writing.

[More information](#)

[Registration](#)

Publications

Modification of the existing maximum residue levels for potassium phosphonates in apricots and cherries

In accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, the applicant Fitosanitarios de Bajo Riesgo AIE submitted a request to the competent national authority in France to modify the existing maximum residue levels (MRLs) for the active substance potassium phosphonates in apricots and cherries. The data submitted in support of the request were found to be sufficient to derive MRL proposals for the crops under assessment. Based on the risk assessment results, EFSA concluded that the long-term intake of residues resulting from the use of potassium phosphonates according to the reported agricultural practices is unlikely to present a risk to consumer health.

[Read the full article](#)

Exploring the contribution of citizen science to statistically sound and risk-based surveillance of insect pests in the EU

The study, conducted by researchers from Wageningen University, focuses on three primary objectives. First, it compiles a comprehensive inventory of citizen science initiatives across Europe, identifying 81 projects from 21 countries that contribute significant biodiversity data. Second, it develops a statistical methodology to estimate the probability of pest detection using opportunistic, presence-only data from citizen science. The results indicate that citizen science can increase the overall confidence in pest freedom and reduce the required sample sizes for official surveys. However, the study also highlights the spatial and temporal biases inherent in citizen science data and the need for further research to optimize its integration into pest surveillance frameworks.

[Read the full article](#)

EFSA recruitment

Cloud architect | deadline 04.03.2025

Are you a Cloud Architect with expertise, looking for an opportunity to design and operate innovative IT solutions within data-centric cloud environment? Join us at EFSA, where your expertise will contribute to risk assessment and data management initiatives that make a difference on European level.

Application deadline: 4 March 2025

[Apply here](#)

See all open EFSA Professional opportunities [here](#).

Other

Survey on Impact of Mentorship in Research Management of uni.lu | deadline 31.03.2025

A team of Research Managers/Administrators from the University of Luxembourg and Jim Casey, City University of New York are currently conducting an online anonymized survey on the Impact of Mentorship in Research Management for their contribution at the INORMS Congress taking place in Madrid in May this year.

To access the survey, please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/2PSz8Xx2ZA>.

The questionnaire consists of 26 questions and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The responses will remain anonymous and confidential and will only be used for research purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the questionnaire or the research itself, please feel free to contact Georgia Kaprou at georgia.kaprou@uni.lu

Deadline: 31.03.2025

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