



9 March 2026

[Luxembourgish EFSA Focal Point](#)

## LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

26-2

### Contents

<b>Calls</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Deadline extended: EUBA-EFSA-2026-ENREL-01 (EU-FORA) - Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's EU-FORA Programme   deadline 10.03.2026 .....	2
Call for data on the use of 3-nitrooxypropanol in ruminants   deadline: 31.03.2026 .....	2
<b>Public consultations</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Draft guidance on critical appraisal of evidence for food and feed safety assessments   deadline 23.04.2026 .....	3
Draft scientific opinion on the safety of plant preparations containing berberine   deadline 04.05.2026.....	4
Draft scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid   deadline 04.05.2026.....	4
<b>Events</b> .....	<b>4</b>
EFSA Stakeholder meeting on efficacy of silage additives   19.03.2026 .....	4
Targeted Stakeholder meeting with food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on plant preparations containing berberine   23.04.2026 .....	5
Targeted Stakeholder Meeting with interested food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on hydroxycitric acid (HCA) and plant preparations containing HCA   23.04.2026.....	5
Luxembourg Microbiology Days – 10th Anniversary Edition   12-13.05.2026.....	5
International Scientific Conference Hygiene Alimentorum XLVI, Slovakia   13.-15.05.2026....	6
XVIth Slovak and Czech Parasitological Days Parasites in the Heart of Europe 3   21.-25.09.2026.....	6
<b>Trainings</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Microbiological and chemical risks integration in risk-benefit assessment (Virtual Seminar)   24.-27.03.2026.....	7

<b>Publications.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Rapid risk assessment on acute reference dose (ARfD) of cereulide in infants and information on acute consumption of infant formulae.....	7
Multi-country foodborne event caused by cereulide in infant formula products.....	8
Monitoring and surveillance data for chemical risk assessment needs in EFSA: exploring available sources .....	8
Re-evaluation of sucralose (E 955) as a food additive and evaluation of a new application on extension of use of sucralose (E 955) in fine bakery wares .....	8
The European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2023–2024.....	9

## Calls

---

### ***Deadline extended: EUBA-EFSA-2026-ENREL-01 (EU-FORA) - Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's EU-FORA Programme | deadline 10.03.2026***

Objective: The call seeks to identify consortia of hosting sites and fellow sending organisations, both of which must be competent organisations under Article 36 of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002, EFSA's Founding Regulation. The sending organisation will propose a fellow to be trained under a work programme offered by the other consortium partner, who will act as hosting site and will be responsible for the training of the fellow. Hosting sites (consortia leaders) are expected to have a strong capacity and broad experience in one or more activities relevant to food safety risk assessment.

The focus of the EU-FORA fellowship programme will be targeted to activities falling within EFSA's remit.

Please see in the attached file the EU-FORA Call 2026 main features in brief.

Budget and duration: The maximum budget EFSA has available is € 825,000 (aiming to conclude 15 Direct Grant Agreements of max. 12 months).

New deadline for submission of proposals: 10 March 2026, 17:00 CET.

[Apply here](#)

### ***Call for data on the use of 3-nitrooxypropanol in ruminants | deadline: 31.03.2026***

EFSA is launching this call for data to support the preparation of a scientific opinion on the safety for the target species of 3 nitrooxypropanol (4c1), to be considered by the European Commission.

The purpose of this call for data is to request interested parties (e.g., food business operators, national food authorities, research institutions, academia) and/or other stakeholders, in any jurisdiction, to submit documented information (published and/or unpublished) relevant to the safety of 3-nitrooxypropanol for dairy cows and cows for reproduction.

All submissions should be supported by appropriate data to ensure they can be considered within the scientific assessment. A form with the data requirements is provided in the call.

Deadline for submission of data: **31 March 2026; 23:59 (CEST)**

[More Information](#)

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

---

## Public consultations

---

### ***Two draft scientific opinions presenting the latest evidence on how Xylella fastidiosa can be managed in the EU | deadline 10.04.2026***

EFSA is publicly consulting on two draft scientific opinions that cover direct vector control strategies, experimental treatments in plants, and other risk reduction measures.

[More Information](#) – **deadline 10 April 2026**

The first draft opinion “Draft scientific opinion on the direct control of insect vectors of Xylella fastidiosa” presents a global systematic review and meta-analysis of direct vector control measures, covering all known xylem-feeding insect species (i.e. insects that feed on a plant’s water-conducting tissue) relevant to the transmission of Xylella fastidiosa.

[Comment here](#)

The second draft opinion “Draft scientific opinion on update on in planta control measures and other risk reduction options for Xylella fastidiosa” updates the 2019 assessment of control measures in plants and adds other risk-reduction options, compiling and critically appraising recent data on chemical, biological and agronomic treatments applied to living plants as well as results from in vitro studies.

[Comment here](#)

### ***Draft guidance on critical appraisal of evidence for food and feed safety assessments | deadline 23.04.2026***

EFSA's Methodology and Scientific Support Unit has launched a public consultation on a draft guidance on critical appraisal of evidence for food and feed safety assessments.

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments by the indicated deadline. When submitting the comments, specific reference to the line and page numbers to which the comments relate must be made.

**Deadline to comment: 23 April 2026**

[Comment here](#)

## ***Draft scientific opinion on the safety of plant preparations containing berberine | deadline 04.05.2026***

EFSA's Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit has launched a public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the safety of plant preparations containing berberine.

In addition, a targeted stakeholder Meeting with food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on plant preparations containing berberine will be held on 22 April 2026, 09:00 - 12:00 (CEST) ([register](#) until 13.04.2026)

**Deadline to comment: 4 May 2026**

[Comment here](#)

## ***Draft scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid | deadline 04.05.2026***

EFSA's Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit has launched a public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid.

In addition, a targeted stakeholder meeting with interested food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on hydroxycitric acid (HCA) and plant preparations containing HCA will be held on 23 April 2026, 14:00 - 17:00 (CEST) ([register](#) until 13.04.2026)

**Deadline to comment: 4 May 2026**

[Comment here](#)

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

---

## **Events**

---

### ***EFSA Stakeholder meeting on efficacy of silage additives | 19.03.2026***

The FEEDAP Guidance on the assessment of the efficacy of feed additives outlines specific requirements for conducting studies with silage additives to demonstrate their efficacy. To help applicants meet these requirements and present information clearly in their reports, a detailed template has been created. This template is designed to streamline the reporting process, facilitate faster risk assessments, and minimise the need for additional information requests.

#### Objectives:

- Introduce the template files, explaining their structure and intended use.
- Collect feedback from participants regarding the usefulness of the template and suggestions for its improvement. For that purpose, attendees are encouraged to review the templates beforehand by accessing the following [link](#).

**Date: 19 March 2026, 14:00 - 16:30 (CET)**

Location: Online

**Registration deadline: 9 March 2026, 12:00 (CET)**

[More Information](#)

[Registration](#)

### ***Targeted Stakeholder meeting with food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on plant preparations containing berberine | 23.04.2026***

Objectives:

- Present the scientific basis, rationale, and data gaps identified in EFSA's assessment.
- Support food business operators' engagement during the ongoing public consultation.

**Date: 22 April 2026, 09:00 - 12:00 (CEST)**

Location: Online

**Registration deadline: 13 April 2026 - 12:00 (CEST)**

[Register here](#)

### ***Targeted Stakeholder Meeting with interested food business representatives on EFSA's draft Opinion on hydroxycitric acid (HCA) and plant preparations containing HCA | 23.04.2026***

Objectives:

- Present the scientific basis, rationale, and data gaps identified in EFSA's assessment.
- Support food business operators' engagement during the ongoing public consultation.

**Date: 23 April 2026, 14:00 - 17:00 (CEST)**

Location: Online

**Registration deadline: 13 April 2026 - 12:00 (CEST)**

[Register here](#)

### ***Luxembourg Microbiology Days – 10th Anniversary Edition | 12-13.05.2026***

Abstract submissions are now extended until 13 March 2026 using the form in the link here below. We warmly encourage active participation and welcome contributions from researchers at all career stages: <https://www.microbiology.lu/lmd-abstracts-2026/>

Secure your spot and be part of this special anniversary edition! **Registration is open until 15 March 2026:** <https://www.microbiology.lu/registration/>

Luxembourg Microbiology Days: 12–13 May 2026

@University of Luxembourg, Maison du Savoir, Belval Campus

This special anniversary edition will feature inspiring talks from internationally renowned experts and emerging leaders in microbiology.

**Free networking dinner for the first 100 participants on 12 May evening.** Kamellebuttek – an informal evening in a unique cultural setting, designed to encourage meaningful exchanges between microbiologists, students, and professionals from across the globe.

**Preliminary Programme and conference awards application form attached.**

## ***International Scientific Conference Hygiene Alimentorum XLVI, Slovakia | 13.-15.05.2026***

The international scientific conference on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the FOOD HYGIENE study program at the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice HYGIENA ALIMENTORUM XLVI under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, with a **thematic focus “Trends in the production and sale of safe dairy and plant-based products”**, which will be held **May 13 – 15, 2026** in Hotel Patria - Štrbské Pleso, High Tatras, Slovak Republic.

Main topic: importance, safety and quality of milk and milk products on the level of national and foreign producers; in addition: Hygiene of vegetable foods (safety, quality and processing). Poster sections also present current knowledge about safety and quality of other food commodities.

If you are interested in attending the Hygiene Alimentorum conference, please fill out **[AFFIRMATION FORM](#) no later than April 17, 2026.**

The detailed conference programme will be sent to registered participants by May 4, 2026.

More information about the conference can be found on **[the conference website](#).**

## ***XVIth Slovak and Czech Parasitological Days Parasites in the Heart of Europe 3 | 21.-25.09.2026***

Hosted by the Slovak Society for Parasitology and the Institute of Parasitology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, the conference will take place **from the 21st to the 25th of September 2026** in the High Tatras in Slovakia.

This year, the conference will once again be held in an expanded format as the third continuation of "**[Parasites in the Heart of Europe](#)**", welcoming parasitologists from a broad international community, **with English serving as the official language.**

The conference will also provide ample opportunities for attendees to present their own work, encouraging scientific discussion and fostering collaboration among researchers from the international scientific community.

**[Registration](#)** is open until 15th May 2026.

# Trainings

---

## ***Microbiological and chemical risks integration in risk-benefit assessment (Virtual Seminar) | 24.-27.03.2026***

The course is a live, online 4-half-day training. It features interactive sessions conducted in real time. Attendance at all four sessions is required to complete the course.

### **Objectives:**

- Introduces risk–benefit assessment (RBA) as a tool that evaluates both positive and negative health effects of foods, diets, or food components.
- Shows how RBA integrates evidence from nutrition, toxicology, microbiology, and epidemiology to support food safety policies and dietary advice.
- Provides foundations of microbiological and toxicological risk assessment within the broader RBA framework.
- Explores similarities and differences between these two methodologies and how their outputs are combined in a final quantitative RBA.
- Includes practical exercises and examples to demonstrate real-world application of RBA methods.

Participants: The course is open to members of the EFSA Art.36 competent organisations, Scientific Committee and Panels, Working Group members, Network members and members of other European agencies and institutions. Registrants from other affiliations are not eligible.

Registration & organisational details: If the number of eligible registrants exceeds the number of available places, the first-come, first served principle will be applied. After the registration deadline, all the successful applicants will be informed via email about the details of the course and how to connect.

**Training period: 24-27 March 2026, 9:00 - 13:00 (CET)**

Location: Online

**Registration deadline: 9 March 2026**

# Publications

---

## ***Rapid risk assessment on acute reference dose (ARfD) of cereulide in infants and information on acute consumption of infant formulae***

Multi-country recalls of several infant formula products are ongoing after the detection of cereulide – a toxin produced by some strains of the bacterium *Bacillus cereus*. EFSA has received a request for a rapid risk assessment for cereulide from the European Commission. Cereulide is a heat-stable emetic toxin produced by *Bacillus cereus*, recently detected in infant formulae from multiple manufacturers. This led to precautionary recalls across several countries.

In their rapid risk assessment, EFSA's scientists established an acute reference dose (ARfD) for cereulide in infants and established cereulide concentrations in infant formula of potential safety concern. This advice is intended to help EU risk managers determine when products should be withdrawn from the market as a precautionary public health measure.

[Read the full article](#)

### ***Multi-country foodborne event caused by cereulide in infant formula products***

From 19 December 2025 to 13 February 2026, six EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and Spain) and the United Kingdom reported infants with gastrointestinal symptoms following the consumption of infant formula. Most presented with mild symptoms, but some hospitalisations occurred due to dehydration. The latest instance of disease onset was 6 February. Diagnostic challenges and limited surveillance are affecting Member States' ability to identify cases associated with this event.

[Read the full article](#)

### ***Monitoring and surveillance data for chemical risk assessment needs in EFSA: exploring available sources***

The report represents a comprehensive overview of existing data sources, identifies 44 data gaps — with 21 prioritised as highly relevant, examining eight key chemical groups:

- Pesticides;
- Environmental pollutants;
- Biogenic substances;
- Food additives and flavourings;
- Food enzymes;
- Food contact materials;
- Feed additives;
- Processing contaminants.

We invite you to explore the full scientific report "[Monitoring and surveillance data for chemical risk assessment needs in EFSA: exploring available sources](#)" and consult the supporting material [Data source inventory](#).

### ***Re-evaluation of sucralose (E 955) as a food additive and evaluation of a new application on extension of use of sucralose (E 955) in fine bakery wares***

The EU's Scientific Committee on Food (SCF), EFSA's predecessor, last evaluated E 955 in 2000. For the current opinion, the EFSA Panel on Food Additives and Flavourings (FAF Panel) re-evaluated the safety of E 955 for its use as a food additive. Based on the available data, no safety concerns arose for genotoxicity of sucralose (E 955) and its impurities and degradation products. However, based on the available data and the identified uncertainties regarding the potential formation of chlorinated compounds under the wide range of baking processes, the

Panel could not conclude on the safety of the proposed extension of use of E 955 in the food category 'Fine bakery wares'.

[Read the plain language summary](#)

[Read the full article](#)

## ***The European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2023–2024***

When Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs in zoonotic bacteria (that is, bacteria present in animals and food causing human infections), it can also compromise the effectiveness of treatment of infectious diseases in humans.

A high proportion of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* isolates from humans and animals were resistant to commonly used antimicrobials (ampicillin, tetracycline and sulfonamides), although *Salmonella* isolates from laying hens exhibited lower resistance.

Increasing trends in ciprofloxacin resistance, a critically important antimicrobial for human medicine, were detected in *Salmonella* from laying hens in certain Member States, and in human infections for a poultry-associated *Salmonella* serovar and for *C. jejuni* in more than half of the reporting countries.

[Read the plain language summary](#)

[Read the full article](#)

[Interactive infographic](#)

[EFSA' AMR Story maps and Dashboards](#)

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please send an email to [focal.point@alva.etat.lu](mailto:focal.point@alva.etat.lu)