EFSA and the EU Food safety system

How EFSA works

Future perspectives
EU DECENTRALISED AGENCIES

- ECDC
- ECHA
- EMA
- EASA
- EEA
- FRONTEX
- GSA
- EUROPOL
- EFCA
- EMSA
- EUIPO
- F4E
- ETF
- EFSA
Established in 2002, following a series of food crises as part of a programme designed to:

- **ensure** a high level of consumer protection and **restore** confidence in the EU food supply
- **clearly separate** risk assessment and risk management functions

**Principles and approaches:** Science-based decisions, Integrated approach, Precautionary principle, Transparency, Industry responsibility, Traceability

**New institutions, tools and procedures:** EFSA, RASFF
EU FOOD POLICIES

- Transformation
- Trade
- Distribution
- Food Quality, GIS
- Food Waste
- Food Promotion
- Food Information
- Food Security
- Farming & Land Use
- Nutrition
- Environmental Protection
- Rural Development
- Support & Market Measures
EFSA AT A GLANCE

- **445** Permanent staff
- **78** Trainees, interim staff
- **920** External experts
- **1150** Meetings/year
- **7500** Scientific outputs since 2003
- **410+** Partner organisations

**€ 75-80 M**
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- EU Commission
- EU Parliament
- Member States
- EFSA self mandate

1. EFSA receives a question
2. EFSA’s scientists evaluate, assess, advise
3. Adoption and communication
SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

Opinions/Advice on:
- Generic Health Issues
- Regulated Products
- Emerging Risks

Tools for Risk Assessment:
- Guidance
- Methods
- Databases

Reports & Urgent Advice (crisis response)
- 28+ Member States’ food safety agencies:
  - Advisory Forum
  - Scientific Networks
  - Focal Points
- 310+ Universities/Research institutes (Grants and Procurement)
AF2

we'd also skip this one

AVANZINI Francesca, 11/06/2019
RISK ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY

- Member states’ food safety agencies
- Universities/Research institutes
- Experts (panels and working groups)
- Other EU Agencies and institutions

EU Stakeholders

- International Partners
- Established cooperation
- IPA/ENP countries
INDEPENDENCE OF SCIENCE

- From risk managers (EU Commission, Member States)
- From private interests

Guaranteed through a policy covering all actors and working processes:

- Organisational governance: Management Board (no MS representatives)
- Governance of scientific processes: mandates, selection of experts, collegial decision making
- Transparency and stakeholder engagement
- Management of interests: strict control and conflict avoidance
New tasks and responsibilities

- Sustainability and governance
- Quality of studies
- Risk communication
- Transparency
RISK COMMUNICATION

Promoting and disseminating **consistent** and **compelling** messages

Understanding and addressing **consumer perception** of food and food safety risks

Bridging the gap between science and the consumer
2019 Eurobarometer on Food Safety in the EU | Key features

**Why?**
To understand views and perceptions of EU citizens

**How?**
- 28 Member States
- 27,655 interviews

**Food safety as a concern**
**Perceived food-related risks**
**EU food safety system**
**Trust in sources of information**
**Sources of information**
**Risk comms and behaviour change**
**Food-related choices**
Compared to the EU average, Swedes are significantly less concerned by food safety. Rather, they consider origin and ethics and beliefs more important.

**QD1T** When you buy food, which of the following are the most important to you? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

- Where the food comes from: 53%, 65%
- Food safety (e.g., if there is a risk in eating this food): 50%, 34%
- Your ethics and beliefs (whether the item complies with your ethics and beliefs, e.g., in terms of religion, animal welfare, or environmental concerns): 19%, 47%
Swedes use newspapers and magazines to learn about food risks much more than the rest of EU citizens who mainly resort to television.

QD5T Which of the following are your main sources of information about food risks? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)

- Newspapers and magazines: 38%
- Television: 69%

European Food Safety Authority
Swedish respondents are far more concerned than EU average when it comes to antibiotic, hormone or steroid residues in meat, environmental pollutants in fish, meat or dairy and pesticide residues in food.
**Sweden** has a **higher awareness** of EFSA and of the food safety system in general, compared to the **EU average**

**QD8** Please tell me which of the following statements you agree with: (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

- The EU has a separate institution that provides scientific advice on the safety of food: 19%
- Authorities in your country, together with the EU, keep you safe from food risks: 29%
SUSTAINABLE FOOD BY 2050 (WRI)

How do we feed 10 billion people...

WE WILL NEED 56% more food

TO FEED NEARLY 10B people in 2050

WE NEED TO PREVENT AGRICULTURE FROM EXPANDING

we currently use ~50% of the world’s vegetated land for agriculture

WE CAN LOWER EMISSIONS

12 Gt CO₂e

-67%

4 Gt CO₂e

2010

2050

WITH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LIKE

- Improved foods
- Plant-based burgers
- Resilient crop breeds

TO SAVE AN AREA OF FORESTS NEARLY 2X the size of India

Source: World Resources Institute (SustainableFoodFuture)
FUTURE SCENARIOS (JRC)

Holistic approaches (e.g. multiple stressors and bees)

Innovation and new products
- biotechnology
- novel foods
- nanotechnology

New scientific methods:
- ‘-omics’, less animal testing
- comparative risk assessment
- risk/benefit assessment

Chemical mixtures/combined toxicity of substances in food
Endocrine active substances

Antimicrobial resistance

Hazards linked to globalisation:
- plant pests
- animal, vector-borne diseases
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