Europe is what we make of it: Working together to ensure food safety

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KEEPING FOOD SAFE IN THE EU
HEADQUARTERS in the heart of Parma

ESTABLISHED

2002

> 450 staff

> 1,500 experts

~5,000 outputs / 500 a year
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EFSA’s scientists evaluate, assess, advise

Adoption and communication
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- Individual experts
- National food safety organizations
- International organizations
- Research institutes & academia
TOOLS FOR THE JOB

DATA

METHODS

PEOPLE RISK ASSESSMENT EXPERTISE
Assessing exposure for different population groups

Monitoring pesticide residues levels

Zoonoses data collection
METHODOLOGY

APPLYING THE RIGHT METHOD

Assessing the safety of NANOPARTICLES

UNCERTAINTIES

Combined risk factors for BEES’ HEALTH
WHO’S BEHIND EFSA’S ACTIVITIES?

- **450** staff
- **1** Scientific Committee & **10** Panels
- **1500** experts
- **1** Advisory Forum & **15** Scientific Networks
- **400** Research Institutes/Academia
EFSA’S SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

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

Tools for Risk Assessment:
- Guidance
- Methods

Reports

Videos
Lay Summaries
Infographic: Europe’s fight against antimicrobial resistance

EUROPE’S FIGHT AGAINST

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

WHAT IS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)?

- **Antimicrobials?**
  - Substances used to treat a wide variety of infectious diseases in humans and animals. They:
  - Kill microorganisms or prevent them from growing and multiplying
  - Example: antibiotics

- **Antimicrobial resistance?**
  - The ability of microorganisms to withstand antimicrobial treatments.
  - Example: AMR (antibiotic resistance) in enteric bacteria such as *Campylobacter jejuni* on human skin and in mucus membranes

- **Why is resistance growing?**
  - Overuse of antibiotics
  - Misuse of antibiotics
  - Spread through various routes

- **Effect of growing resistance?**
  - Treatment is rendered ineffective, which poses serious risk to public health

OVERVIEW ON RESISTANCE LEVELS IN ANIMALS AND HUMANS

Levels of AMR in animals to specific micro-organisms in Member States and EU

- **Campylobacter jejuni**
  - Ciprofloxacin (Fluoroquinolones): 47%
  - Erythromycin (Macrolides): 14%
  - Cefotaxime (3rd generation cephalosporins): 22%

- **Salmonella spp.**
  - Ciprofloxacin (Fluoroquinolones): 72%
  - Erythromycin (Macrolides): 8%
  - Cefotaxime (3rd generation cephalosporins): 19%

How does EFSA fight AMR?

- **Scientific support & advice**
  - EFSA provides independent scientific support and advice to risk managers on the possible emergence, spread and transfer to humans and animals of antimicrobial resistance through the food chain or from animals.

- **Through an integrated approach**
  - EFSA involves a number of its Scientific Panels and Units, as it is a concern for the entire food chain.

- **Through close cooperation**
  - EFSA cooperates closely with other relevant EU agencies:
    - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
    - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
    - European Medicines Agency (EMA)
    - EFSA is the keyplayer of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety.

EFSA is the keyplayer of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

EFSA’s experts fighting against AMR

- **Risk Assessment**
  - Biological Hazards
  - Genetically Modified Organisms
  - Food

- **Hazard & progress monitoring**
  - Biological Monitoring
  - Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection
Explore the data: Antimicrobial resistance in Europe

EFSA’S STRATEGY 2020: VISION

Trusted science for safe food
Protecting consumers by providing independent scientific advice on risks in the food chain

Mission

ADVISE

COMMUNICATE

COLLABORATE
NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS

Environmental risks e.g. multiple stressors and bees

Evaluation of the safety of new products e.g. novel foods

Development of new assessment methods:
- nanotechnology, active and intelligent packaging
- ‘-omics’, less animal testing

Chemical mixtures/combined toxicity of substances in food

Antimicrobial resistance

Hazards linked to globalisation: plant pests, animal diseases, vector-borne diseases
HOW DO WE MEET THEM?

- SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE
- INNOVATION
- COOPERATION
- INDEPENDENCE
- OPENNESS
Build the EU’s scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community

EU Risk Assessment Agenda

through

Partnership

Joint projects

Sharing expertise
Priorities are defined and attained collaboratively - MS together with EFSA
Building further EU scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community

Sharing expertise
Working together
VISITING PROFESSIONAL (STAFF EXCHANGE)

Transfer of knowledge and foster cooperation between EFSA and its partners

- Guest scientists
- Fellowship
- National experts in professional training
- Seconded national experts
  - New Call launched in 2017
- PhD exchange

Contact us: efsa.europa.eu/en/jobs/vacancies
Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem and requires a global solution.

It can be tackled only in cooperation:

**One-Health approach**: a holistic, multi-sectorial approach, involving many different sectors

EFSA works closely with its sister agencies, Member States and International partners
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