



TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NETWORK ON RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES IN FOOD AND FEED

OBJECTIVES

The Network on Risk Assessment of the use of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed (Nano Network) aims at anticipating and reducing the duplication of activities and avoiding divergence of opinions between EU Member States organisations and other key players in the area of nano science and nanotechnologies. The network is an environment to share data and methodologies facilitating harmonisation of assessment practices and assist in anticipating possible emerging risks in the EU.

The main objectives of the Nano Network are to:

- facilitate **harmonisation of methodologies** by sharing
 - ongoing issues that could lead to duplication or divergent opinions between risk assessment bodies within and outside EU,
 - knowledge, best practices, and draft guidance to develop common approaches.
- **exchange information and data**
 - by sharing data collections and surveillances from national applications,
 - enhancing availability and quality of data.
- **providing expertise** in specific areas.
- **achieve synergies** in activities by identifying
 - new relevant scientific developments,
 - priority research needs,
 - gaps in expertise and analytical capacity,
 - areas for mutual cooperation.

EFSA may entrust certain tasks to the Network, such as collection of data and identification of emerging risks, some preparatory work for future guidance development or activities to promote capacity building on the topic.

MEMBERS

The Members of the Nano Network are organisations (and their representatives) appointed through the EFSA Advisory Forum Members, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Decision



of the Management Board of EFSA¹ on the establishment and operations of networks. The Network shall be composed of experts (generally one participant and one alternate per country) affiliated to a member organisation with the following profile:

- Experience in risk assessment, research or analysis of nanotechnologies/nanomaterials and applications of nanotechnologies, preferably in the areas within EFSA's remit.
- Knowledge of the national status and of the European and/or international context of risk assessment of nanotechnologies/nanomaterials.

ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Other organisations may be invited, including those from outside the EU, with specific expertise to participate in a Network meeting, where deemed appropriate or necessary. These organisations may be invited either to participate in full or as observers only.

In addition, representatives of the European Commission and other EU agencies may participate in the work of the Network.

WORKING METHODS

The Network shall meet physically or virtually at least once per year. The working language for the Network activities will be English.

In addition, the Network will use other means of collaboration:

- Exchanges via the EFSA Information Exchange Platform (Microsoft Teams).
- Exchanges via e-mail on specific matters, issues or information.

Participants in the Network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level in order to make sure all the necessary information is shared without prejudice to Article 7 of the "Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisation operating in the fields within the Authority's mission".

During the meeting, participants will have the opportunity to present new scientific developments, ongoing activities and/or approaches for risk assessment, and any potential issues of concern on the topic, in perspective of future actions to be taken in this area. They are expected to actively contribute to the meetings and agreed action points. The EFSA Methodology and Scientific Support Unit is responsible for providing secretarial and scientific support including drafting the meetings secretariat notes, preparing the background documents for each meeting.

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOME

- Provided expertise in specific areas for cooperation when needed.
- Possibility for the Network to attend relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutes.

¹ [Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission](#)



- Increase capacity building on the topic, including if relevant, by organising 1 conferences/trainings/workshops on the EFSA relevant guidance documents with interested and relevant national stakeholders.

TIMELINE

The terms of reference for the Risk Assessment of the Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed network can be updated whenever deemed necessary and are valid until a decision of discontinuing the network is taken.

Last updated: April 2025