Joint project on risk ranking of chemical and microbiological hazards

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General objective

The joint Swedish-Finnish (NFA-Evira) initiative aims to **explore and possibly develop method for ranking** microbiological and chemical **risks in food**

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Support to risk analysis

We believe that risk-ranking of chemical and microbiological hazards in foods can support the process of risk analysis

1.Risk Assessment

   harmonization of methods, increased comparability

2.Risk Management

   help to improve the basis for priority-setting

3.Risk Communication

   help to clarify levels of risks to the public and the media

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Project link to the Delphi priorities / EFSA Strategy topics

1. This project proposal **relates to the Delphi priority topic 1**: Methods and systems for identifying emerging food risks (listed in the Annex B of the EU RAA paper)

2. This project proposal also **relates to the AF World Café** discussion on Methods for risk ranking of identified risks

3. This project proposes to contribute to the EFSA Strategy 2020 topic 'Prepare for future risk assessment challenges'

4. The project has been submitted to the EU RAA Catalogue of Project Ideas

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Project plan

WP 1: Identify differences and commonalities in methods, concepts, and data for chemical and microbiological risk assessment Q1/2017-Q4/2017

• A literature review of **selected studies** summarizing **similarities and differences in approaches** (e.g. bottom-up, top-down), concepts (e.g. exposure, acute vs chronic), assumptions (e.g. safe levels), and data (e.g. cases vs changes in biomarkers)

➤ Deliverable: a report summarizing and illustrating chemical and microbiological risk ranking methods

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Project plan

WP 2: Apply and develop methods for risk ranking of chemicals in foods Q1/2018-Q3/2019

- **Case studies** where available risk ranking methods are applied to selected chemicals

- Explore the possibility to **calculate health impact associated with chemical exposure**, e.g., in terms of disability adjusted-life years (DALY)

➢ Deliverables: paper(s) published in research journals or project report(s)

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Project plan

WP 3: Organize European workshop on risk ranking of hazards in food Q4/2019

- **Discussion with invited experts** from EU member states (risk assessors, managers, and communicators)
- Keynote speaker invited, and outcome of NFA-EVIRA project presented and discussed

➢ Deliverable: summary report, including recommendations to EU funding bodies on future research needs

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Conclusions

We believe the project will:

- Contribute to the development of tools for **improving the basis for decision making and risk communication**
- **Increase harmonization** between chemical and microbiological risk assessment
- **Stimulate sharing of experience** EU MS
- **Identify future research needs**

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