INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Dr. Hubert Deluyker

Scientific Adviser to the Executive Director of EFSA and Past-chair EU ANSA
1. What is the purpose of EFSA?  
   Characterise the nature of its scientific advice

2. E.U. Scientific Advice Eco-system  
   Can we please speak a common language, so we can be better understood and compared?

3. International cooperation  
   What is the purpose and what are the fora?

4. Some reflections on the basis for cooperation  
   Values
1. EFSA purpose

The Focus:

- **Food Safety**: wide i.e. *Whole Food Chain*
- less on **Efficacy**
  
  *and via plants, feed, animals and food Environmental Safety*

The Challenge: become recognised as **Authority** in Europe and internationally i.e.

*gain trust*
How do you make a ‘good’ scientific evaluation?

It is like preparing a ‘good’ meal…

1. **Mandate** - *What dish does the customer request?*
2. **Implementation**
   • Information – *What are the ingredients to be used?*
   • Quality expertise – *Who are good cooks?*
   • Methods – *What is the ‘best’ recipe?*
3. **Communication**
   • Output – *How do you serve it?*
Classical Risk Assessment Paradigm

Risk = Seriousness $\times$ Vulnerability $\times$ Scale

- **Seriousness**: what *effect* and how *severely* affected?
  - Hazard Identification: nature of the effects
  - Hazard Characterisation: Dose-Response estimation
- **Vulnerability**: How *likely* to be affected?
  - Exposure Assessment,
- **Scale**: *who* is affected, breakdown of exposure by age, gender, etc.

Food Safety Model

- **Prediction**: conditions under which there is *zero risk*
- **Compare** with other areas e.g. aviation safety uses *observed risk*
Classical single hazard approach

Evaluation of one single chemical compound

Single hazard

Various potential risks

- Risk 1
- Risk 2
- Risk 3
What makes people ill?

Evaluation of various ‘risk factors’

- Chemicals
- Micro-organisms
- Processing methods

Present or Emerging risk

Increased disease incidence
2. EU Scientific Advice Ecosystem

EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU ANSA)

Scope
• Provide scientific and technical advice: opinions, reports, assessments, guidelines, recommendations and/or other relevant outputs developed with a scientific method
• to EU Institutions, MSs and other relevant EU-policy makers

History
• Established in 2013, as a sub-network by the Network of Agencies’ Directors
• Meets physically twice a year: one in Brussels, hosted by a EC or an EP unit
• Working groups
• Annual work plan and annual report
EU ANSA: Members

1. CEDEFOP – European Centre Development Vocational Training (Thessaloniki, GR)
2. ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Stockholm, SE)
3. ECHA – European Chemicals Agency (Helsinki, FI)
4. EEA – European Environment Agency (Copenhagen, DK)
5. EIGE - European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius, LT)
6. EFSA – European Food Safety Authority (Parma, IT)
7. EMA – European Medicines Agency (London, UK)
EU ANSA: Members

8. EMCDDA – European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon, PT)
9. ENISA – European Network and Information Security Agency (Heraklion, GR)
10. EU-OSHA – EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao, ES)
11. EUROFOUND – European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin, IE)
12. FRA – Fundamental Rights Agency (Vienna, AT)
13. FRONTEX – European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Warsaw, PL)
• **Agencies:** EASA and ESA

• **European Parliament** - STOA unit: Foresight

• **European Commission:**
  - DG JRC - Scientific Committee e.g. Quality
  - DG Sante - Scientific Committees e.g. Methods
  - DG R&I - SAM unit e.g. Uncertainty

• **Ad hoc participation:**
  - DGs CONNECT & DIGIT
  - Office of Publication
Overview of EU ANSA scientific activities (EFSA)
• This is a living document to be updated periodically (EEA).

Peer-review activities (OSHA)
• A reflection paper has been published in late 2015
• proposing a set of principles that are relevant for review of ANSA scientific outputs.

Uncertainty working group (ECDC)
• How agencies define, identify, describe & communicate uncertainty.

Data access (EUROFOUND) and Data openness (FRA)

Research needs and funding (ECDC)
I. Support to direct European Commission initiatives

II. Multilateral activities with international organisations like FAO, WHO, OIE

III. Bilateral cooperation with RA organisations from non-EU countries
I. DIRECT COMMISSION INITIATIVES

EFSA cooperation with EU Pre-Accession (IPA) countries

- IPA - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
- EC financed tool: EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries' with financial and technical help
- October 2015 – started IPA II – programming period 2014-2020
EFSA cooperation with EU Neighbourhood partner (ENP) countries

- Cooperation since 2009: first training seminar on EU food safety in Brussels)
- Since February 2014 - EC financed under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument
MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

- **OECD** - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **GCRSR** - Global Coalition for Regulatory Science Research
- **IFCSLG** - International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
- **IMFSLG** – International Microbiological Food Safety Liaison Group
- **FAO, WHO, OIE** - Worldwide
- **WFF** - World Food Research & Innovation Forum
- **APEC** – Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation - Food Safety Cooperation Forum
EFSA’s cooperation with FAO and WHO comprises

- Coordination of EU MS contributions to calls for data and experts from CODEX and JECFA/JMPR/JEMRA
- International harmonisation of methodologies and tools for RA and RCommunication
- Training and capacity building initiatives
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Methods
- **US**: FDA, USDA, ARS, EPA
- **Canadian** Food Inspection Agency & Health Canada
- Food Safety Commission of **Japan**

Trade standards
- Food Standards **Australia** and New Zealand
- **New Zealand** Ministry for Primary Industries
- **Chilean** Food Quality and Safety Agency

Training
- **China** National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment
- **India** Food Safety and Standards Authority
- **Taiwan** Food and Drug Administration

National food safety organisations
(Europe + international)
4. BASIS FOR COOPERATION

• As EU we are a key player
• Do we have shared values, with our partners?
• What are our own values, that the EU will stand for?
  ➢ Are we ready to state them?
  ➢ Are we ready to stand up to defend them: forfeit short term gains for long term benefits?

Ich bin ein Europäer