

EFSA and BfR to work jointly on global food safety tools

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Trace-back and predictive modelling tools for use during food safety outbreaks and created by scientific teams led by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) will be further rolled out under a new funding partnership agreed between EFSA and BfR. Signed today, the framework agreement makes available grants totalling up to EUR 1.2 million. The two agencies will be able to further benefit from each other's research efforts and avoid duplication of future work programmes.

Food and feed chain outbreaks

BfR's software tool, called Food Chain Lab, has helped to trace outbreaks in Germany and at European level with EFSA. Thanks to the new agreement BfR will be able to make the software available to other EU Member States for future outbreak investigations. Experience gained using the tool will feed into new EFSA guidance for tracing back and forward in food and feed-borne incidents.

A new BfR programming language for predictive modelling can also help to make computer models available more widely via a single dedicated EFSA platform.

Methodologies and communication

Joint testing of BfR's and EFSA's respective approaches to uncertainty assessment will help to define synergies in time for a 2018 workshop aimed at sharing the results with the risk assessment community.

The two agencies will also share experiences of coordinating communication strategies – in the German Federal States and among European states, respectively – and results of risk perception research. EFSA training for neighbouring Member States on communication in crises will be tried out in Germany.

More information on the subject

FoodRisk-Labs portal

<https://foodrisklabs.bfr.bund.de>

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/161208>

About the BfR

The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. It advises the Federal Government and Federal Laender on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.