



## Data standardisation in tracing activities along complex food supply chains

Joint final workshop of the EFSA-BfR traceability projects

21–22 September 2023, Berlin

## Data standardisation in tracing activities along complex food supply chains

In times of complex globalised food and feed supply chains there is a strong need for efficient tracing strategies including data collection and data exchange approaches as well as powerful interoperable tracing software tools to map and analyse the **movement of food items from farm to fork**. In general, harmonised data structures, accurate and detailed datasets, digitalised data collection tools including data validation as well as interfaces to data systems are essential to allow for a faster tracing data exchange and thorough tracing.

To achieve those aims, a new cooperation between EFSA and BfR was initiated in 2021. The project “**Data collection tool for tracing purposes in the context of urgent scientific advice (DataColl)**” was focused on developing a tracing data collection workflow and a Universal Traceability data eXchange format (UTX) to achieve interoperability between several national and European tracing tools developed for varying purposes in the food safety system. With that, the project unifies the synergies between tracing initiatives in the Member State (MS), Europe and beyond. The project “**Food & feed classification for tracing purposes (FoodClass)**” was centered on developing a food tracing classification approach with FoodEx2 to facilitate tracing data statistics within and across foodborne incidents. Furthermore, an improved version of the RASNEX tool is developed which automatically extracts relevant tracing data from RASFF notifications using pattern recognition.

For both, the DataColl and the FoodClass project, a **joint final workshop** will be conducted to present the project results to food safety experts from the Member States as well as to EFSA and the European Commission. The final workshop will also be used to collect feedback on the suggested solutions and to engage the tracing expert network in future EFSA-BfR project activities.

All in all, it is expected that the interoperable multi-actor tracing tool ecosystem, the UTX format and the new classification system for food traceability will improve the quality, timeliness and completeness of tracing data used for immediate analysis at EFSA as well as at the Member States and therefore helps to solve complex foodborne crises more efficiently.

### Who:

The target audience are food safety experts from Member States from risk management and risk assessment authorities, members of EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels, Networks, their Working Groups, and EFSA staff. Ideally, the experts should be involved in tracing investigations along the supply chain on an administrative or practical level.

# Agenda

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## Thursday, 21 September 2023

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12:00-12:55 pm	<b>Registration</b>
12:45-13:00 pm	<b>Welcome</b>
13:00-14:30 pm	<b>1st session: Introduction to the EFSA-BfR tracing project results and collaborations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Universal Traceability data eXchange" format (UTX) and its characteristics</li><li>- UTX web portal: Guided and structured tracing data collection for Member States and EFSA and a multi-actor tracing data collection workflow</li><li>- RASNEX2: AI-supported tracing data extraction from RASFF notifications</li><li>- FoodChain-Lab: An open-source tool for tracing data visualisation, analysis and reporting</li><li>- ATAST: A regional management tool for collaboration in tracing investigations</li><li>- An improved food classification approach for traceability using FoodEx2</li></ul>
14:30-14:45 pm	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:45-15:30 pm	<b>2nd session: What are the needs of tracing during an incident?</b> EFSA, FDA (to be confirmed) and project members present their perspective on the requirements for effective tracing investigations.
15:30-16:00 pm	Discussion
16:00-16:45 pm	<b>3rd session: What are powerful tracing methodologies?</b> EC presents its views on "Gaps, challenges and opportunities for traceability in the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed". The regional (ATAST system) and the project perspective are presented as well.
16:45-17:15 pm	Discussion
17:15-17:30 pm	Summary of the first day
<i>Get-together in the evening at Hotel Steglitz International.</i>	

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## Friday, 22 September 2023

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09:00-10:30 am	<b>4th session: What are new ways of practice?</b> Group work on automatisisation, supporting software features, advanced analysis, reporting, data exchange and incident collaboration in tracing investigations
10:30-10:45 am	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45-11:45 am	Reports of each sub-group
11:45-12:45 pm	<b>5th session: Review and outlook</b> Discussion on the project results (UTX tracing data format, food classification for tracing, tracing data collection workflow, AI support in tracing investigations) and possibilities for future collaboration
12:45-13:00 pm	Conclusion of the workshop

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A detailed agenda and more information on the workshop are also available via <https://foodrisklabs.bfr.bund.de/events/>.

# Organisational information

## Venue

Hotel Steglitz International in Berlin (Albrechtstr. 2, 12165 Berlin Steglitz, Germany; <https://www.si-hotel.com/?lang=en>).  
Conference room „Steglitz“

## Organiser

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment  
Max-Dohrn-Straße 8-10  
10589 Berlin, Germany  
[bfr.bund.de/en](https://bfr.bund.de/en)

## Cost

The workshop itself is **free** of cost. Participants get a refund for travel and accommodation costs as lump sum (550€ (Germany), 650€ (all other countries)).

## Accommodation

We reserved rooms at the *Hotel Steglitz International* at a special rate for our workshop participants. More information on how to book those rooms after registration.

Another hotel close by is the *Seminaris CampusHotel Berlin* (Takustraße 39, 14195 Berlin; <https://www.seminaris.de/en/hotels/conference-hotel-berlin-dahlem/>) which we can recommend as well.

## Registration

Please register by **21/08/2023** via [foodrisklabs@bfr.bund.de](mailto:foodrisklabs@bfr.bund.de).  
The number of seats is limited. If there are still places available, registration is also possible at a later date.

## Contact

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### About the BfR

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