



# Gaps, challenges and opportunities for traceability in the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

Data standardisation in tracing activities along complex food  
supply chains

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# RASFF? iRASFF?

A short tour...

# iRASFF


Online platform for real time and interactive **collection and sharing of information on agri-food non-compliances, hazards, risks, products and measures taken**

**iRASFF**

Check [v] Validate [v] Delete [-] Close [x] Save

General information	
AA/RASFF number	564059
Reference	
Current Status	New
Notification type *	[select one value] v
Notification basis *	[select one value] v
Notification classification *	[select one value] v
Notifying country	European Commission
Notifying organization	European Commission
Date of notification *	05/08/2022
Subject *	
INFOSAN (to be) informed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason INFOSAN	
eCommerce related	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mutual recognition	<input type="checkbox"/>

Risk	
Risk decision	[select one value] v
Impact on	[select one value] v
Motivate risk decision	
Number of persons affected	
Type of illness/symptoms	
Hazards observed	
EU legislation	
Reference	
Title	

 European Commission

# iRASFF networks

## Current iRASFF networks:

- **RASFF** Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
- **AAC** Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (integrated with RASFF since 2020)
- **FFN** Agri-Food Fraud Network: added to iRASFF in 2021
- **PHN** Plant Health Network: added to iRASFF as from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**Future additional networks:** Animal Health Network, Animal Welfare Network.....

# Notifications in iRASFF

- **RASFF notifications:** relate to a risk to human health deriving from food, food contact material or feed or a serious risk to animal health and to the environment derived from feed.

e.g. 2022.4524 *Aflatoxins (B1 = 14.5; Tot. = 15.2 µg/kg - ppb) in dried figs from Turkey*

- **Non-compliance notifications:** are made in case of a possible non-compliance of an agri-food product with the rules covered by the Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

e.g. AA22.2525 *Unauthorized use of E110 in breakfast cereals*

# Notifications in iRASFF

- **Fraud notifications:** are made when a fraud is suspected, implying an intentional action by businesses or individuals for the purpose of making an economic gain.

e.g. *FF22.4074 Suspicion of fraudulent EU pet passport for dog from Serbia*

- **Plant health notifications:** are non-compliance notifications about plants, plant products and other objects regarding phytosanitary rules

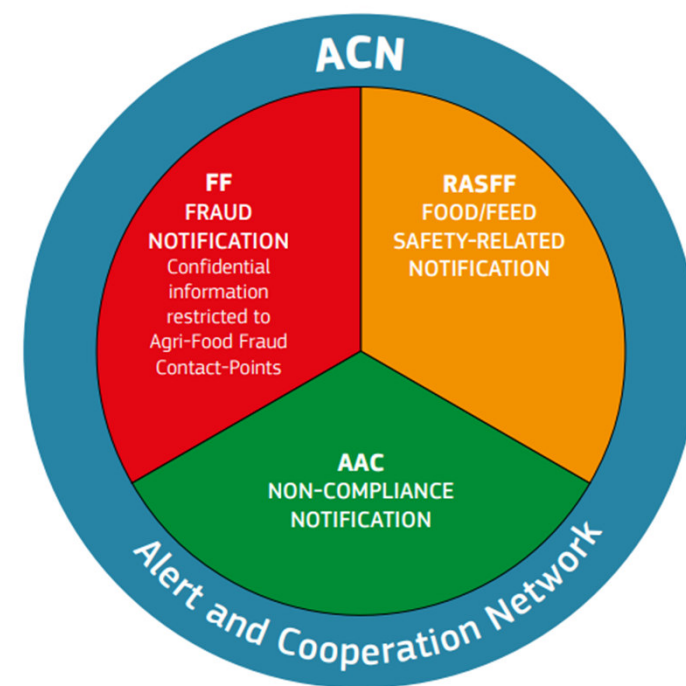
e.g. PH22.7433 – absence of plant passport

# iRASFF system

- **Each network focuses on its own notifications** and can only make workflow actions on its own network. A user can however be member of multiple networks.
- A notification shared between members is transparent to other networks and **available for cooperation in these other networks**, except for fraud notifications that are accessible only to FFN members.
- Notification **template** and master data **catalogues** are **specific for each network**.
- **Food fraud elements can be added to non-FF notifications** by way of FF-follow-up by food fraud users. They are accessible only to food fraud users.

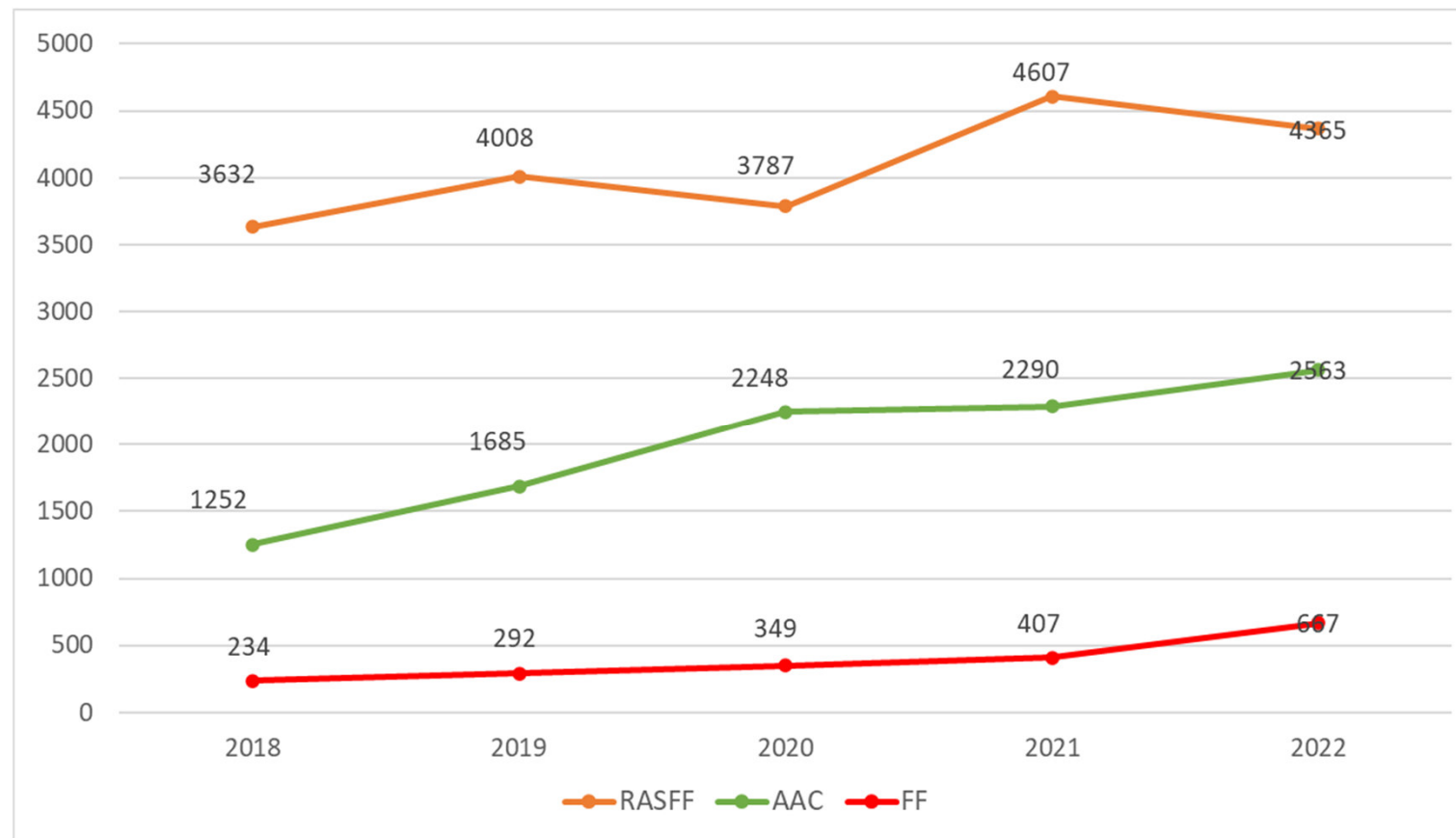
# The Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN)

- Composed of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed network (**RASFF**), the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system network (**AAC**) and the Agri-Food Fraud Network (**FFN**)
- The three networks work together to allow a smooth **exchange of information** between Members States' competent authorities and to facilitate **cooperation** among them.
- Clearly identified **single contact points** for the ACN
- In case of an urgent RASFF notification outside office hours all members have **out-of-hours arrangements (24/7)**



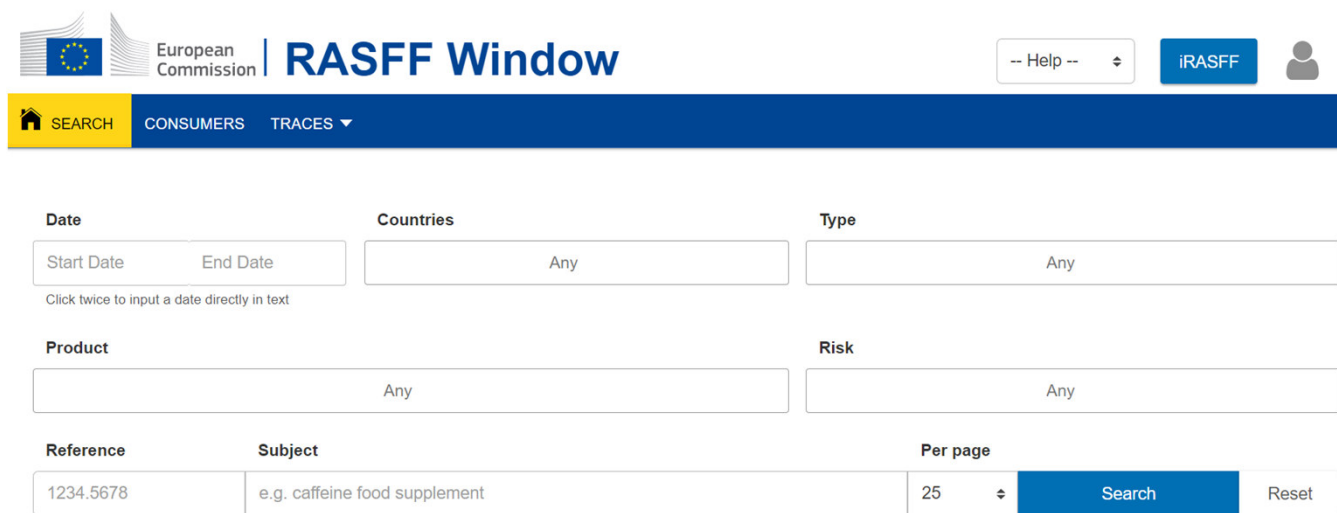


# Alert and Cooperation Network Notifications 2017-2022



# Alert and Cooperation Network RASFF Window

- **RASFF Window:** tool to distribute RASFF notifications real-time "outside the system": to member and non-member competent authorities all over the world, including INFOSAN Secretariat
- **RASFF Window (public):** provides real-time information on RASFF notifications to the general public and stakeholders
- **RASFF Window “Consumers“:** provides the latest information on food recalls and public health warnings in all EU countries, related to RASFF notifications



The screenshot displays the RASFF Window interface. At the top, there is a header with the European Commission logo and the text "RASFF Window". To the right of the header, there is a "-- Help --" dropdown menu, a blue "iRASFF" button, and a user profile icon. Below the header is a navigation bar with a yellow "SEARCH" button and blue buttons for "CONSUMERS" and "TRACES" with a dropdown arrow. The main content area contains several search filters: "Date" with "Start Date" and "End Date" input fields, "Countries" with an "Any" input field, "Type" with an "Any" input field, "Product" with an "Any" input field, and "Risk" with an "Any" input field. Below these filters is a table with columns for "Reference", "Subject", and "Per page". The table contains one row with the reference number "1234.5678" and the subject "e.g. caffeine food supplement". To the right of the table is a "Per page" dropdown menu set to "25", a blue "Search" button, and a "Reset" button. At the bottom right of the interface, there is a logo for the European Commission.

Reference	Subject	Per page
1234.5678	e.g. caffeine food supplement	25

# RASFF Window evolution

## Recent achievements:

- RASFF Window, previously based on Commission internal database, now based on iRASFF data directly and updated in real-time
- Ability for the Commission to share RASFF notifications and files with non-members through iRASFF and RASFF Window

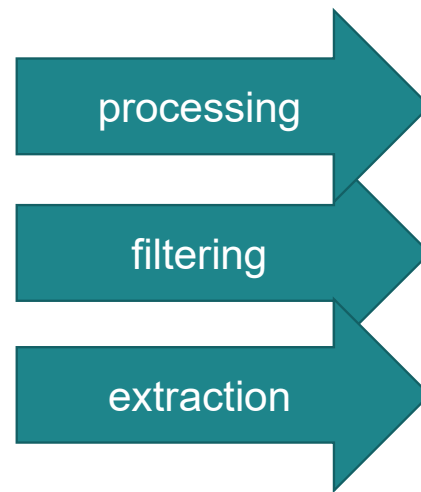
# iRASFF gaps and challenges

Not necessarily exhaustive...

# Lack of data

## Data sources

- Raw data (spreadsheets etc.)
- Data from other systems
- Data from documents
- Data from media



## Usable data

- Structured data
- Data placed in a certain context
- Data “with a manual”

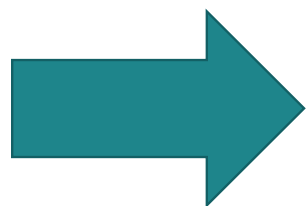
# Data model

## Not complete

- Not sufficiently detailed to keep track of progress of incident mitigation
- Does not allow analysing a big collection of data for the purpose of finding “hotspots”

## Not compatible

- Does not allow importing data collected through other systems including common traceability standards
- Does not allow analysing with powerful external tools focused on traceability solutions



# Need for common standards

# Opportunities

What do we want to get out of it?

# What do we want to get out of it?

## Cooperate



- Manage incidents as rapidly and efficiently as possible
- Find cause of an incident
- Find connections between incidents pointing to a larger event taking place and handle such events before they develop into a crisis



# What do we want to get out of it?

## Communicate



- Share knowledge across authorities and with trade partners
- Inform the public more rapidly and more accurately while providing more context too

# What do we want to get out of it?

## Analyse



- Learn from past incident occurrences and mitigations
- Advise (priorities for) official controls
- Be able to predict certain events or trends

# iRASFF NT features

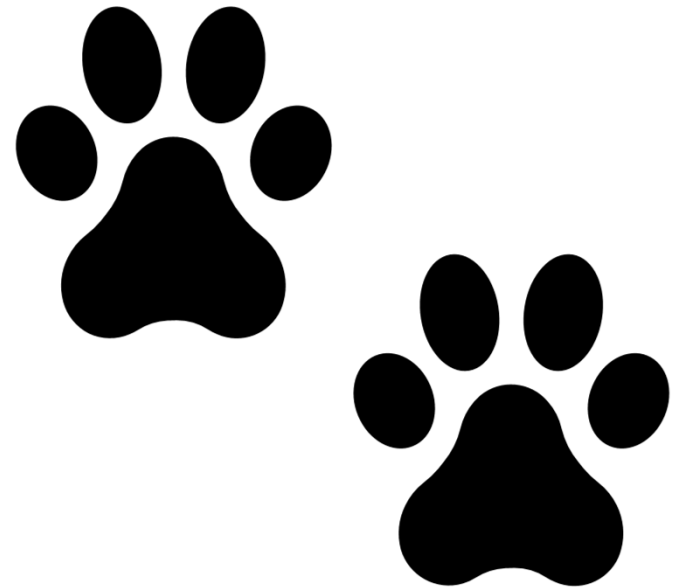
What do we want from the next iRASFF?

# New iRASFF

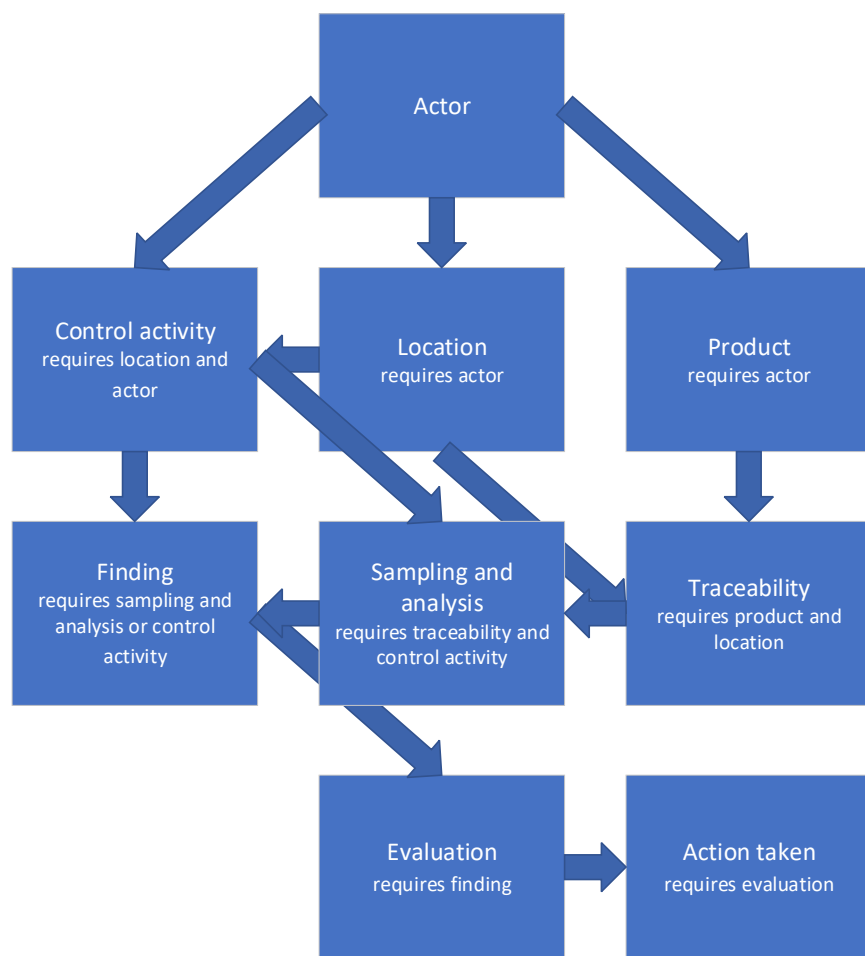
- New iRASFF should better ensure scalability and **performance**, exchange of information with other networks and with stakeholders and state of the art techniques for data analysis
- Better **linking with other applications** (foremost TRACES)
- Improvements in **data collection and analysis** on product composition, hazards and traceability (allowing analysis of trends)
- Ensuring **interoperability with EFSA systems and standards** in order to create a shared knowledge base (Standard Sample Description, FoodEx2), for this a mandate has been agreed with EFSA
- Improving **collaboration** with non-member countries, international organisations and stakeholders

# Traceability solution

- At the heart of iRASFF NT
- Who, when, where, what and how
- Product > lot > consignment
- Trace quantity of product
  - Produced or traded
  - withdrawn



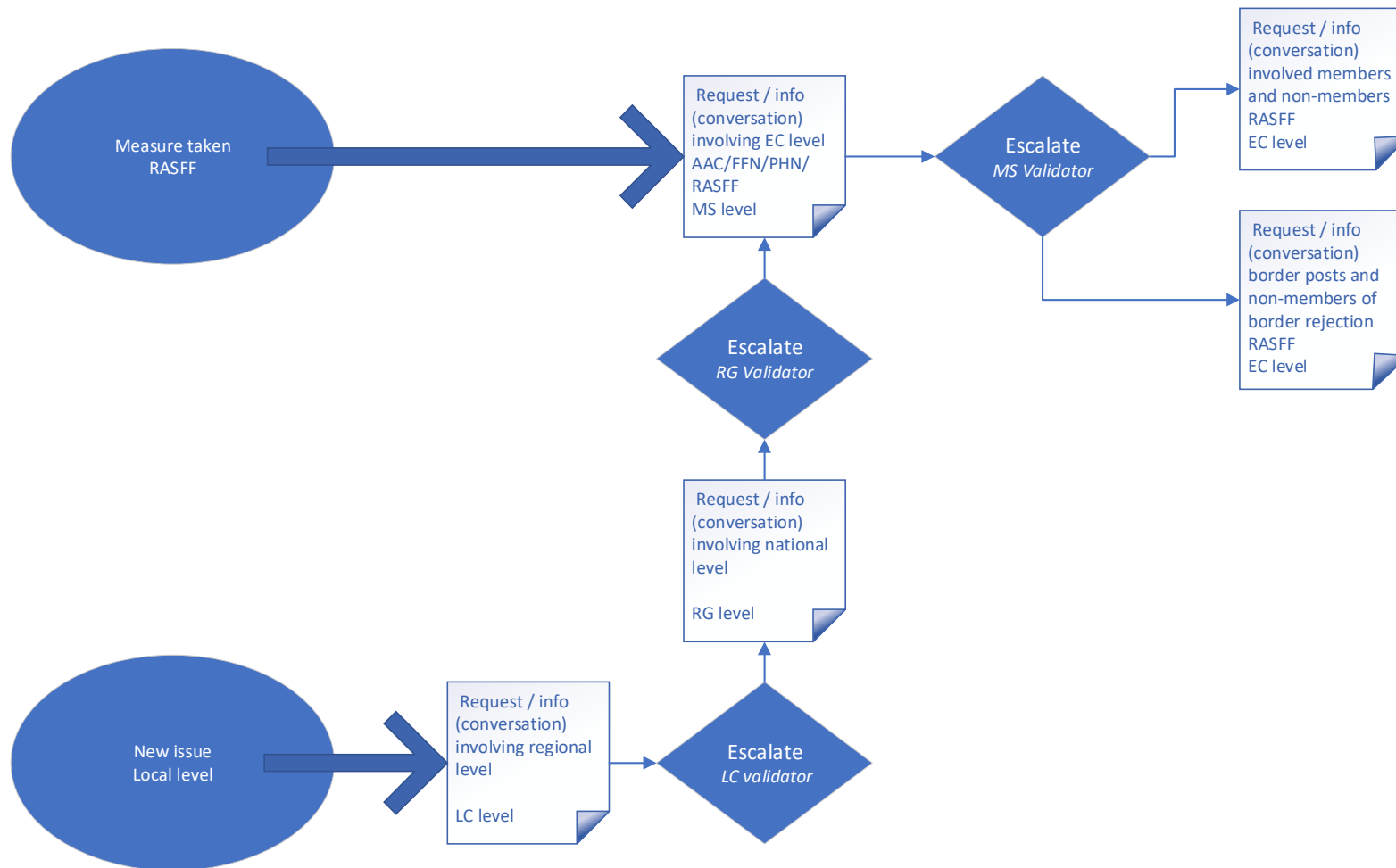
# Data block types and links



Important for certain data blocks to be uniquely identified in the system:

- Actors
- Products
  - Lots
- Consignments

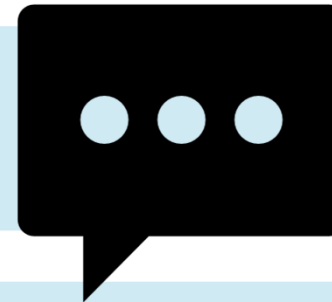
# Notification flow through conversations



# Conversations



Linkable to data blocks



Multiple networks may join in a conversation



Open to non-members



# Questions?



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