

Digital traceability: interoperable software tools and harmonized data structures

In the context of increasingly complex, globalized food and feed supply chains, there is a growing need for digital supply chain tracing strategies, which include efficient data collection and data exchange methods, standardized data structures as well as powerful interoperable software tools. These elements are key to enabling faster and more accurate tracing of food items along supply chains during complex food safety incidents.

To achieve those aims, a cooperation between EFSA and BfR focused on developing comprehensive tracing software tools for European and Member State authorities. The **RASNEX** tool automatically extracts relevant tracing data from RASFF notifications using AI methodology. The **FoodChain-Lab** software is used to visualize, analyze and report supply chain tracing data. Furthermore, the **Universal Traceability data eXchange format (UTX)** was developed to facilitate interoperability between existing tracing tools and foster data exchange between regional, national, and European food safety authorities.

In this **joint final workshop**, the outcomes of three EFSA-BfR traceability projects will be shared **with interested food safety experts** from Member States, members of EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels, Networks, their Working Groups, and EFSA staff as well as the European Commission. You will be updated on the latest developments with regard to the tracing software tools FoodChain-Lab and RASNEX as well as the UTX format and how those initiatives can improve data sharing during foodborne crises.

*The workshop material will be available after the workshop via
<https://foodrisklabs.bfr.bund.de/events>.*

Agenda

Thursday, 23 January 2025, 14 – 17:30 CET

14:00-14:10 pm	Welcome and organizational issues
14:10-14:25 pm	Why do we need the transition from paper-based to digital tracing? <i>Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, EFSA</i>
14:25-14:40 pm	Introduction to the EFSA-BfR traceability projects <i>Alexander Falenski, BfR</i>
14:40-15:05 pm	Powerful data extraction and data collection: What is needed? <i>Marion Gottschald, BfR</i>
15:05-15:45 pm	AI-supported data extraction: The Rapid Alert Supply Network EXtractor (RASNEX) tool for mining supply chain information <i>Marc Lorenzen and Daria Savvateeva, BfR</i>
15:45-16:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
16:00-16:30 pm	Data analysis and visualization: From FCL Desktop to FCL Web as stand-alone software for comprehensive supply chain tracing investigations <i>Alexander Falenski, BfR</i>
16:30-17:00 pm	Tying up loose ends: How data harmonization and data classification foster interoperability and data sharing <i>Marion Gottschald, BfR</i>
17:00-17:15 pm	Upcoming activities and opportunities for collaboration
17:15-17:30 pm	Open questions and Closing

Organisational information

Venue

Online. The meeting link will be distributed among the registered participants.

Cost

The workshop is **free** of cost.

Registration

Please register by 22/01/2025 via foodrisklabs@bfr.bund.de.

Contact

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Organiser

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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 ("Laender") on questions of food, chemicals and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.