

CYPRUS COOPERATION

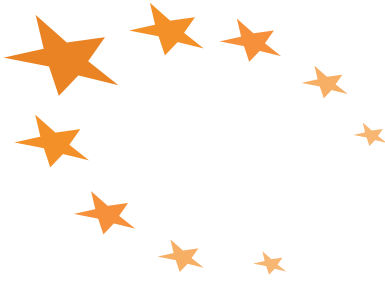
WITH THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)





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1. SGL and EFSA

The **State General Laboratory (SGL)** was founded in 1968 and it is the Official Government Laboratory for chemical, biological/ microbiological and toxicological control. It is also the national monitoring center for foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, other consumer products and for the examination of illegal drugs and other police exhibits. In cooperation with the competent authorities it actively participates in planning and implementation of control, monitoring and research programs. It is also the National Reference Laboratory in many food safety sectors.



SGL covers a wide spectrum of products and materials:

- Food and food contact materials
- Water
- Effluents
- Environmental samples
- Illegal drugs and other police exhibits
- Children 's toys
- Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics and other consumer products

The SGL activities are governed by the values of scientific excellence, impartiality, integrity, transparency and pre-action, which ensure the fulfilment of the requirements of the Public Service Law, as well as the citizens' expectations.

One of SGL's main roles is to support the Food Safety Council (FSC). This is the coordinative institution (under the Ministry of Health) for all stakeholders related to food safety issues in Cyprus, which are: The Public Health Services and the State General Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, the Veterinary Services and the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, the Competition and Consumer Protection Service of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Union of Municipalities and the Consumers Association. On the context of this role, SGL goes one step beyond analysis, evaluating the results and carrying out the necessary risk assessment, so as to confirm the degree of exposure of the general population & children and the related risks, thereby providing scientifically based advice to competent authorities to enable risk management and effective measures to be taken. To reinforce its activities within Risk Assessment it has established a Risk Assessment Unit. An IT Unit is also established so as to assist SGL recording and processing all analytical data using a LIMS system (Laboratory Information Management System), to create laboratory reports and to send data to Government Departments, EFSA, the Commission and other official organizations.

SGL is the National Reference Laboratory in many food safety sectors. Hence, it represents Cyprus within the EFSA Advisory Forum and the Advisory Forum Communication working Group, and acts as the Cypriot Focal Point

EFSA:

Contributes to the maintenance and improvement of food products' nutritional value.

Contributes to the protection of consumers against risks that may occur across the food chain.

Contributes to the quality and safety of food products across Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission and the Competent Authorities of the Member States.

Provides scientific advice and scientific and technical support on the legislation and EU policies across every sector that is directly or indirectly associated with food and feed safety.

Provides independent communication on all the matters related to the above sectors and proceeds on announcements on the risks involved.



Collects and processes data in order to characterize and monitor the risks related to food and feed safety.

Contributes to the high level of protection of human life and health. Having this in mind, EFSA takes into account animal health and welfare, plant health, and the environment, within the frame of the internal market operation.

EFSA is the European Food Safety Authority

that investigates and evaluates the risks associated with the food chain; and is also responsible for the dissemination/publication of scientific opinions on food and feed safety. EFSA was founded in 2002, under **European Regulation (EC) 178/2002**, as an **independent authority**, with an outer objective to restore and maintain the confidence of European Union (EU) citizens after a series of food crises, (e.g. dioxins, mad cow disease), in the late 90's. It succeeded the Scientific Committee of Food (SCF) that used to publish opinions by then.

EFSA aims to become worldwide recognized as the European reference sector for food and feed risk assessment, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health.

EFSA's outer objective is the protection of public health and the increase of consumers' confidence to the European food chain supply. It aims at its recognition as an independent and reliable partner of risk managers; and to its active contribution to the assurance of the high quality consumer protection standards that were selected by the EU.

EFSA Directorates and Units

EFSA consists of the **Management Board**, the **Executive Director** and his staff, the **Advisory Forum (AF)**, the **Scientific Committee and Panels**.

Management
Board

Advisory
Forum

EFSA Staff

Scientific Committee
and Panels



European Food Safety Authority

2. Cyprus cooperation with EFSA

a. As a Member State

• Advisory Forum, AF

EFSA's Advisory Forum consists of representatives from the National Food Safety Authorities of the 28 Member States; and ensures a close collaboration between EFSA and the National Food Safety Authorities of all 28 Member States, Iceland and Norway with observers from Switzerland and the European Commission. The Forum is at the heart of EFSA's collaborative approach to working with the EU Member States, and also constitutes a mechanism for exchange of information on potential risks and the pooling of knowledge. EFSA has established a strategy for cooperation and networking, where the framework and the priorities of its collaboration with the Member States are set.

Cyprus Representatives

Member	Dr. Popi Nikolaidou-Kanari Director of State General Laboratory (SGL) pkanari@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Alternate	Dr. Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri Chief Chemist of State General Laboratory (SGL) ekakouri@sgl.moh.gov.cy eleni@kakouri.com

For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/af.htm>

• Focal Point, FP

In the frame of the strategy for cooperation and networking that was adopted by EFSA's Management Board on 19/12/2006, it was declared that AF Members, which are representatives from all Member States, will establish Focal Points with EFSA. FPs cooperate with the competent authorities of each Member State for the official control, risk assessment, and risk management, the research institutes and other organizations which deal with risk assessment issues that are of great interest to EFSA. Their main priority is the exchange of information on scientific issues.

Some of the Duties / Role of the State General Laboratory (SGL) of Cyprus as the EFSA Focal Point:

To keep EFSA and the Advisory Forum Members informed

about any progress/activities on risk assessment/communication in Cyprus in the frame of the duties of the AF Members.

To ensure the exchange of scientific information

between competent authorities in Cyprus and EFSA.

To raise EFSA's scientific visibility

and outreach in Cyprus by disseminating information related to EFSA in Cyprus.

To cooperate

with the Advisory Forum Communication Working Group (AFCWG) Member, in order to achieve the above goal.

Cyprus Representatives

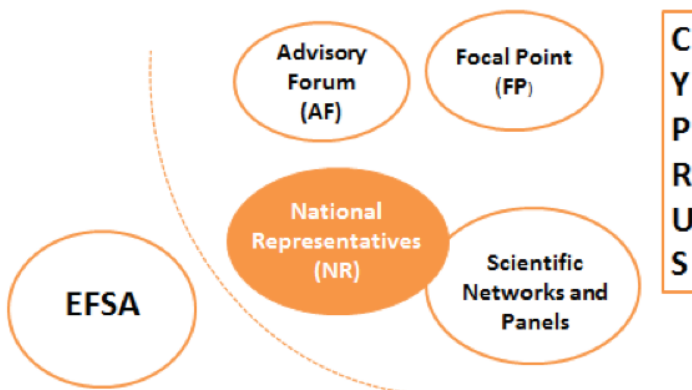
Member	Dr. Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri Chief Chemist of State General Laboratory (SGL) ekakouri@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Alternate	Ms. Maro Christodoulidou, 1st Grade Chemist of State General Laboratory (SGL) mchristodoulidou@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Scientific Advisors on EFSA - related issues	Dr. Georgios Stavroulakis gstavroulakis@sgl.moh.gov.cy Dr. Antonia Kakoulli antonia.kakoulli@hotmail.com

For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/fp.htm>

http://www.moh.gov.cy/MOH/SGL/efsa.nsf/index_en/index_en?opendocument

CYPRUS COOPERATION WITH EFSA





• Advisory Forum Communication Working Group (AFCWG)

The information related to Food Safety for multiple scientific issues, with important cultural and linguistic diversity, among the millions of citizens that compose the EU, is an extremely challenging process that EFSA cannot handle on its own. So EFSA cooperates closely with the National Food Safety Authorities through the AFCWG on communication issues, in order to ensure that the consumers receive essential, comprehensive and cohesive messages on the basis of independent and documented information.

The role of the AFCWG is the exchange of information and experiences between the competent authorities of the Member States, in order to enhance the communication on risk assessment issues between the competent authorities of the Member States and EFSA, with an outer objective the consistency on food safety information amongst the EU citizens.

Cyprus Representative

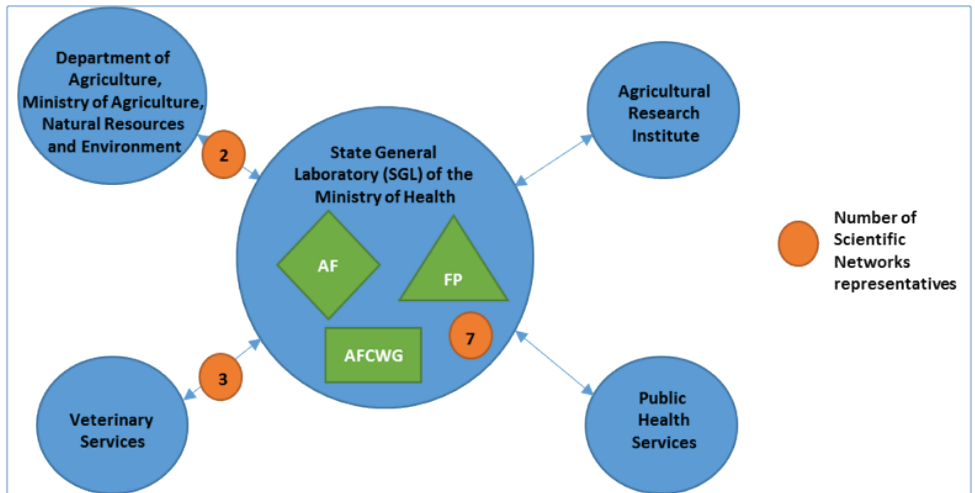
Member

Ms. Charitini Frenaritou
1st Grade Chemist of the State General
Laboratory (SGL)
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For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afwgs.htm>

- Networks of Scientific organizations and Panels supporting EFSA



EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels deliver scientific advice for Europe's decision-makers in the areas of food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health. A growing part of the Authority's work is related to the safety assessment of regulated products, substances and health claims submitted for authorization in the EU, thereby supporting agrofood innovation. EFSA's Scientific Panels are composed of National representatives with a thorough knowledge on the relevant Scientific Networks and are appointed by the AF representative of each Member State.



Scientific Networks & National Representatives from Cyprus registered in EFSA

Scientific Network/ EFSA Unit	National Representatives
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	Veterinary Services Director of Veterinary Services director@vs.moa.gov.cy
Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA) (BIOCONTAM)	State General Laboratory George Papageorgiou gpapageorgiou@sgl.moh.gov.c
Scientific Network on BSE/TSE (BIOCONTAM)	Veterinary Services Penelope Stylianou pstylianou@vs.moa.gov.cy
Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection (BIOMO)	Veterinary Services Christodoulos Pipis hpipis@vs.moa.gov.cy
Expert Group on Chemical Occurrence Data (DCM)	State General Laboratory Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri ekakouri@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Expert Group on Food Consumption and Exposure Data (DCM)	State General Laboratory Stelios Giannopoulos stelgian@spidernet.com.cy
Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN) (EMRISK)	State General Laboratory Popi Kanari pkanari@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (Food and Feed) (GMO)	State General Laboratory Andri Varnava-Tello atello@sgl.moh.gov.cy

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (ALPHA)	Department of Agricultural Anthemis Melifronidou-Pantelidou amelifronidou@da.moa.gov.cy
Pesticide Steering Committee (PRAS)	Department of Agricultural Lyssandros Lyssandrides llyssandrides@da.moa.gov.cy
Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring (MRL) (MS contact points)(PRAS)	State General Laboratory Agathi Anastasi aanastasi@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of nanotechnologies in Food and Feed	State General Laboratory Popi Kanari pkanari@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Scientific Network on Food Contact Materials (FIP)	State General Laboratory Antigoni Achilleos aachilleos@sgl.moh.gov.cy



For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/supportingunits.htm>

b. As an organization that cooperates with EFSA

• Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation (EC) 178/2002

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation set the basis for networking with and among Member State organizations that operate in the fields within EFSA's mission. Networking with these organizations facilitate the coordination of research activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint research projects as well as the sharing of expertise and best practices in the fields within EFSA's mission.



List of Organizations in Cyprus under Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation (EC) 178/2002

Department/ Institution	Contact Point(s)
State General Laboratory (SGL)	Popi Kanari pkanari@sgl.moh.gov.cy
Agricultural Research Institute	Dionysis Sparaggis dionysis@ari.gov.cy
Department of Agriculture	Anna Kouppari feedingstuffs@da.moa.gov.cy Anthemis Melifronidou-Pantelidou amelifronidou@da.moa.gov.cy
Public Health Services	Christos Christou cchristou@mphs.moh.gov.cy Yiannis Violaris yviolaris@mphs.moh.gov.cy
Veterinary Services	Christodoulos Pipis hpipis@vs.moa.gov.cy Popi Stylianou pstylianou@vs.moa.gov.cy

For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/art36.htm>





3. Other forms of cooperation

a. Funding provided by EFSA to the Member States

• Grants

EFSA provides funding (grants) only to scientific institutions that are listed under Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulations (EC) 178/2002. EFSA announces the publication of calls for proposals through the contact persons of the specific organizations, and through the Focal Points of the Member States with EFSA. Cyprus has so far received the following grant, through SGL, which has been executed successfully

For more information:

www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/art36grants.htm

• Procurements

EFSA regularly initiates processes for call for tenders (procurements). EFSA, as an EU body, must put out to tender all contracts for goods, services and tasks that are needed for its operation. There are several types of procurement procedures that EFSA may use to choose its contractors. Cyprus has successfully received funding for several projects:

- “NP/EFSA/DCM/2012/02/02 - Pilot project on the implementation of FoodEx 2 as part of the Standard Sample Description for the electronic submission of harmonized chemical occurrence data to EFSA” (October 2012 - May 2013).
- “CFT/EFSA/DCM/2013/02 - Support to the National Dietary Surveys in compliance with the EFSA guidance in view of a pan-European dietary survey”- Lot 1 & Lot 2 (August 2013 - February 2018)
- “OC/EFSA/DCM/2013/05 - Pilot project on the implementation of SSD2 in the frame of the electronic transmission of harmonized data collection of analytical results to EFSA” (June 2014 - September 2016).
- “NP/EFSA/DATA/2014/05 - Re-coding of the food descriptors of EFSA Chemical Occurrence Database entries according to the FoodEx 2 food classification and description system” (September 2014 - July 2015).

For more information:

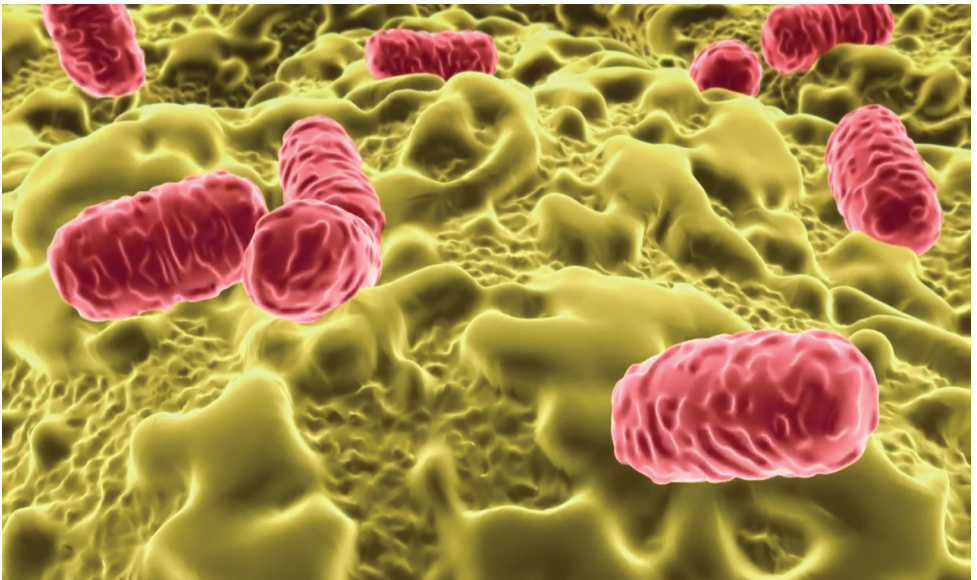
www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/procurement.htm

b. Scientific Data Collection

The Authority is responsible for the harmonization of the **Scientific Data Collection methodologies**, for collecting and providing access to pan-European Data for its own purposes and for the benefit of Risk Managers and the National Risk Assessment Bodies. This has already benefited the area of zoonoses, food contaminants, and pesticide residues. Other initiatives, such as the collection of evidence for the development or existence of chemical substances in food & feed and the comprehensive food consumption database, which includes data from the Member States, will ease the risk assessment work Europe-wide.

Subsequently, EFSA regularly publishes calls for Data Collection associated to its mission and according to its needs.

All calls are published on EFSA website:
www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/data.htm



c. Training on Risk Assessment

After initiative of the European Commission BTSF, a series of training programs on **risk assessment** for experts are carried out by the food safety authorities of the Member States, **towards harmonization of risk assessment methodologies**. EFSA staff also participate in these training programs.

Furthermore, EFSA wishes the organization of Risk Assessment training programs in the Member States, and this can be achieved in collaboration with the National Contact Points of EFSA & BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food).

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/food.html>

d. Expert Database

EFSA, in cooperation the member states, has created a database of external scientific experts, able to assist its scientific committee, Scientific Panels, EFSA networks and respective working groups. Any candidate with relevant experience and who meets the eligibility criteria is invited to apply and will be included in the database. Each time EFSA needs the support of an external expert for a specific task, a shortlist of potential experts is chosen from the database. The candidates who match the required profile are then contacted to check on their availability and interest in participating in the identified task.

For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/expertdb.htm>

4. Useful Information

a. Publications from the State General Laboratory (SGL)

- Leaflet for the Focal Point of Cyprus with EFSA - SGL 2011
- Book marker for EFSA - SGL 2011
- Leaflet for the prevention/reduction of chemical risks through food - SGL 2013

b. Relevant websites

- SGL: <http://www.moh.gov.cy/sgl>
- Food Safety Council (FSC): <http://www.moh.gov.cy/fsc>
- EFSA: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>



Publication: SGL 2015, (EFSA Focal Point Cyprus)