

## **European Metrological Network for Safe and Sustainable Food: implementation and strategies for coordinating metrology and research at European level**

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The provision of safe, high-quality food is vital for human health, and innovation in the food sector is needed to protect the environment, ensure sustainability, and respond to future needs.

EURAMET, the association of National Metrology Institutes (NMI) in Europe, approved in May 2022 the European Metrology Network (EMN) for Safe and Sustainable Food (EMN Food).

The EMN Food aims to foster collaboration and coordination in the measurement science community to meet metrology needs along the food chain, working within the European Union's Farm to Fork Strategy.

The network promotes a harmonised approach to food measurements, reference materials and standards, which will allow National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and Designated Institutes (DIs) across Europe to respond to stakeholders and regulations with confidence and quality. This will afford greater protection to citizens and the environment and accelerate the response to emerging and future metrology needs.

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the Network have been drafted to give as much of a comprehensive overview as possible of the major metrological challenges faced by workers in the food safety and sustainability area, as envisaged by stakeholders of this field and specialists in metrology.

Based on the outcomes of dedicated surveys, the stakeholders needs have been identified and addressed by specific training courses and workshops. The EMN has also contributed to specific activities in the framework of the World Metrology Day 2023: "Measurements supporting the global food system". It has also supported exchanges of researchers across Europe for sharing knowledge and experience and for promoting interaction with key stakeholders such as European Reference Laboratories.

The EMN-Food has also promoted scientific activities related to metrological research in food safety and sustainability, and in the framework of national and European projects, for guaranteeing an adequate economical support of the EMN activities.

A key objective of the EMN is the definition of a common approach for the production of Certified Reference Materials and Reference Materials for food and food-related matrices and analytes

In this presentation, the SRA and the EMN strategy for reference materials will be presented, together with the national and international projects involving the consortium and aligned with the scope of the EMN.

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