



Insects and food security:
Food/feed safety considerations

Tilemachos Goumperis, Emerging Risks unit

Mission

EFSA is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks

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Mandate of EFSA on Emerging Risks

REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 January 2002

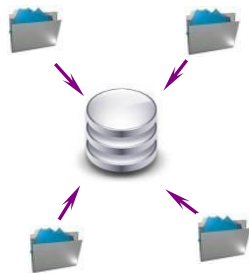
Laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

Article 34

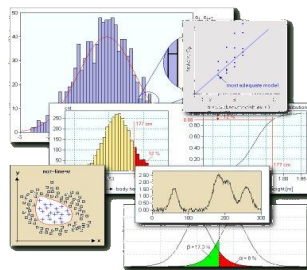
Identification of emerging risks

1. The Authority shall establish **monitoring** procedures for systematic searching for, **collecting**, **collating** and **analysing** information and data **with a view to the identification of emerging risks** in the fields within its mission.

Collecting and collating

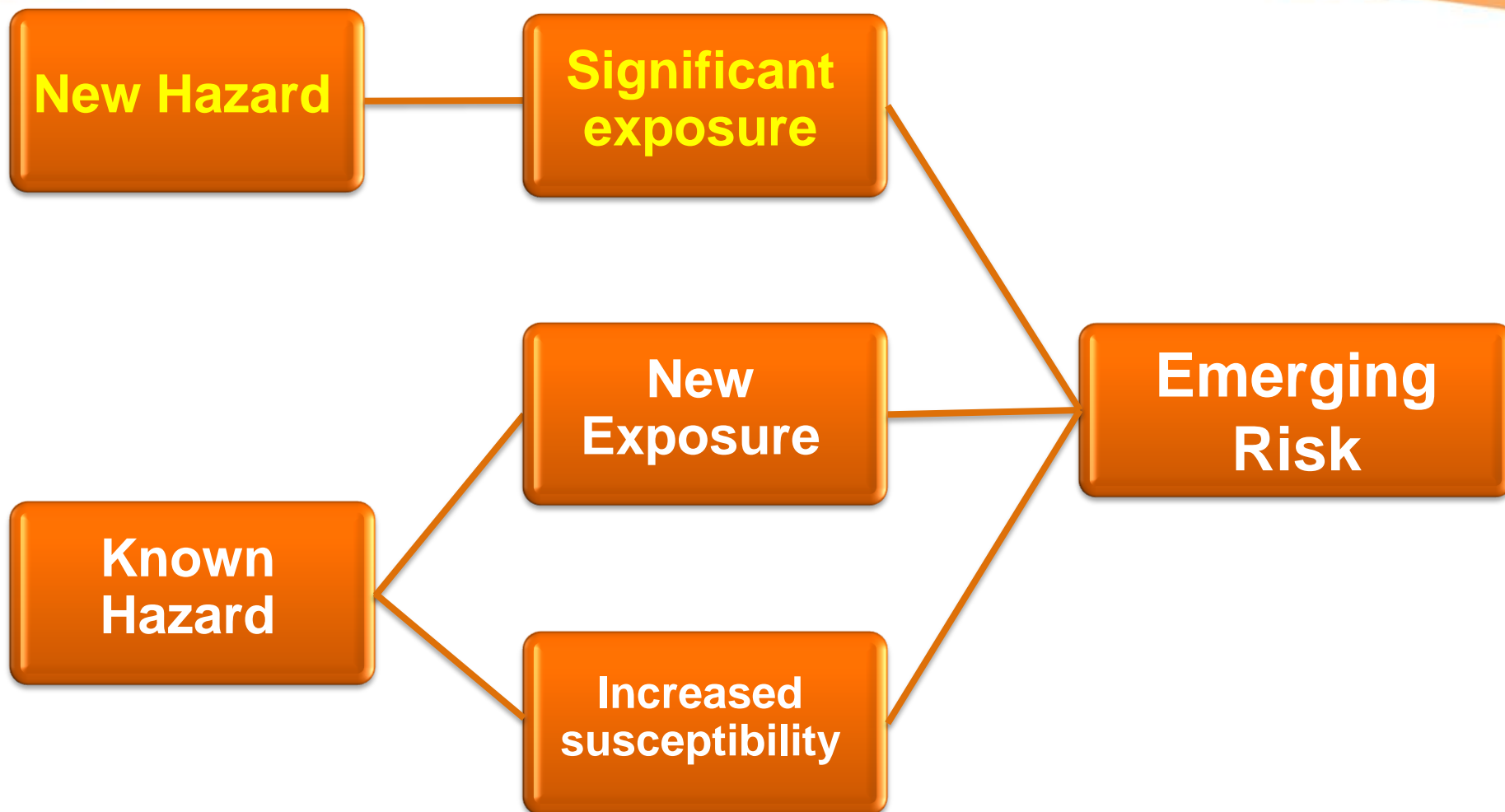


Analyse and filter



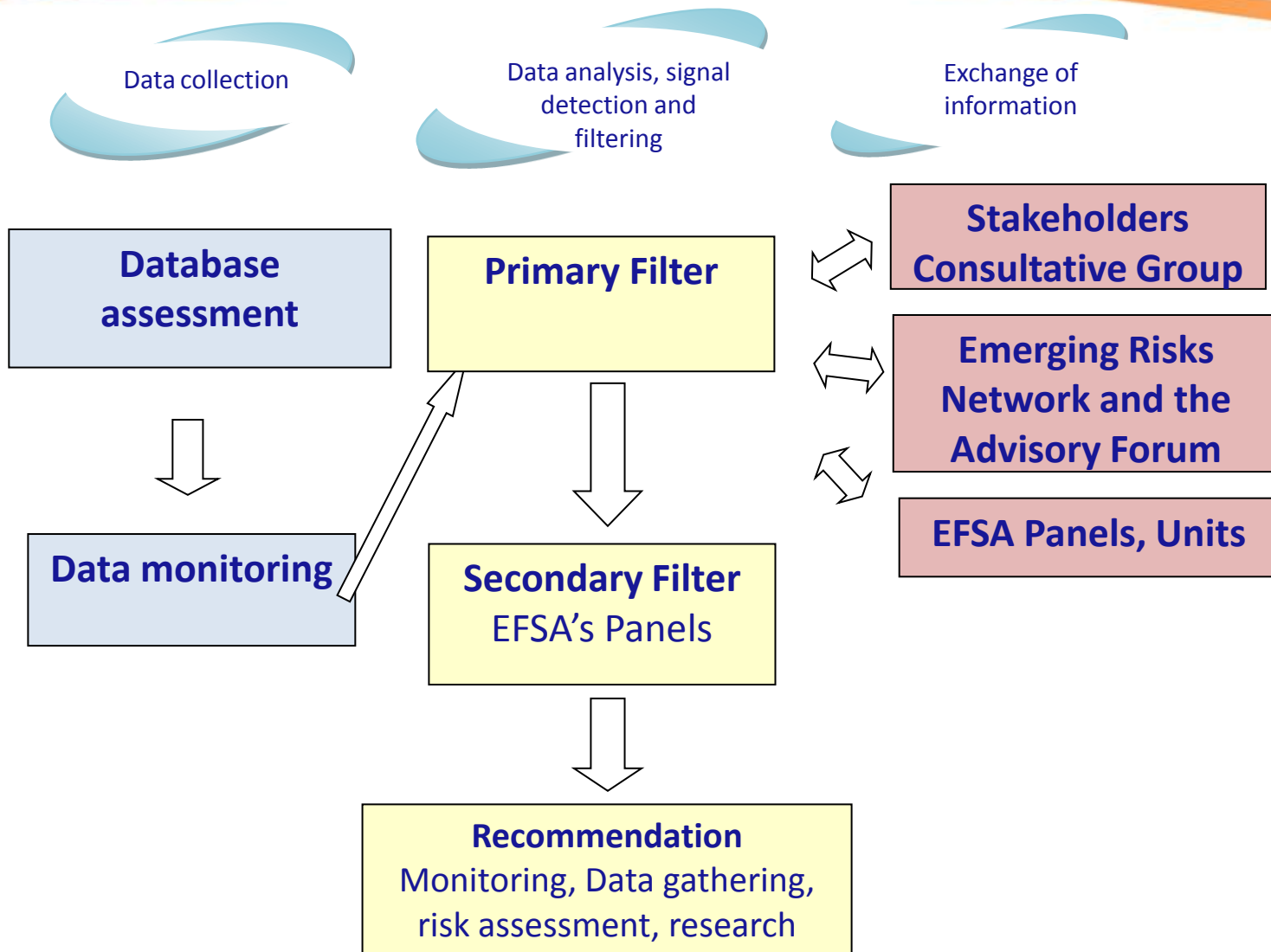
sharing

Definition of Emerging Risk



EFSA, 2007. Definition and description of « emerging risks » within the EFSA's mandate. Statement of the Scientific Committee, 10 July 2007.

Emerging risks identification system



Use as feed: insects or their protein extracts

Use as food: less likely to be included in the EU diet, but cannot be excluded (already on the market as novelty/niche foods, e.g. chocolate with ants, worm lollypop)

Their use in the EU (most probably) would require a premarket safety evaluation and authorization as novel food or ingredient

EFSA may be asked to carry out a risk assessment

- Microbiological
pathogens (for humans, plants and animals)
- Contaminants; for example:
 - pesticides
 - natural toxins
 - heavy metals
 - processing/veterinary residues
- Allergenicity
- Introduction of pests, animal and plant diseases into the EU

- Characterization of species used/to be used
- Farming and processing methods
- By-products of the food industry used as insects' feed
- Potential uses of insects or protein extracts as feed
- Potential uses of by-products/waste