

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Cooperation with US sister agency FDA

Following the inaugural meeting for the cooperation between the BfR and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA), joint areas of work have been defined as well as other long-term projects. Four topics are currently in focus: foodborne disease outbreaks, whole genome sequencing, tattoo inks and new

animal-free testing methods in risk assessment.



EFSA visits Berlin

In December 2022, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)'s second Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) took place in Berlin, with the BfR playing a significant role in organising the agenda. The exchange between experts from the scientific community, risk management and politics focused on en-

hancing cooperation in research and international risk assessment in the field of food safety.

Humboldt scholar visits the BfR

Dr Abeni Beshiru has been working at the BfR as a visiting scientist for two years since March 2023 as part of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Sustainable Development. The scientist from Western Delta University in Nigeria is researching the influence of biocides and environmental factors on horizontal gene transfer. This type of gene transfer between two organisms plays an important role in the spread of antibiotic and biocide resistance genes.

PUBLICATIONS



BfR Online World Food Safety Almanac

The BfR's World Food Safety Almanac has been online since 2022 and has since been viewed by many users around the world. The Almanac

provides an overview of the structure of public food safety institutions in each participating country. It contains 37 country profiles so far. The BfR is planning to expand the project to other nations in the coming years.

More information: <https://worldfoodsafetyalmanac.bfr.berlin>

Handbook for risk communication

The coronavirus pandemic and heavy rain events have shown how important it is for society to address risks, take precautionary measures and make recommendations with regard to conduct. The BfR and the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) have published a joint handbook to support authorities and civil protection organisations in this task and to develop strategies for practical, successful risk communication.

More information:



Risk communication handbook (in German)

Safe tattoo inks

In autumn 2022, the BfR appointed a committee for tattoo inks to assess and reduce health risks from tattoos even more comprehensively. An independent expert panel has nominated 23 international experts as honorary members. Discussions focus on the composition of tattoo inks, their analysis as well as methods for the toxicological testing of pigments contained in them. The inaugural meeting, at which the chairpersons were elected, took place in March.

Ukraine Fellows am BfR

The BfR has accepted three scientists from Ukraine as part of its own Werner Baltes Fellowship Programme for 2022 – 2023. An appeal for donations has enabled the BfR to provide two guest houses. This allowed three fellows, two of them with their families, to live in Berlin and work at the BfR in their fields of expertise.

EVENTS



Risk communication in times of crisis

From 13 July to 15 October 2023, the exhibition “#Krisenalltag – Kommunikation in der Pandemie” at the Berlin Museum for Communication will show the challenges of risk and crisis communication using the example of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are based on initial findings from the BfR-led network project on “Optimising risk and crisis communication by governments, authorities and health security organisations – MIRKKOMM”, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research with around two million euros.

➔ **More information:** www.mirkkomm.de (in German)

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