COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

on cross-sectoral sharing and use of Whole Genome Sequencing and related data of foodborne pathogens for public health purposes between ECDC and EFSA

Annex IV.
Advisory Board on the Collection and Management of Molecular Typing Data

Purpose and Scope

The Advisory Board is a technical and scientific consultative body established by EFSA and ECDC under Article 4 of this Agreement. Its purpose is to provide expert input and advice on issues relating to the collection, management, and use of molecular typing data from human, animal, food, feed, and related environmental isolates.

The Advisory Board focuses on the technical specifications and practical aspects of data handling, without extending the scope of the Parties' mandates.

Functions

The Advisory Board shall:

- Advise EFSA and ECDC on the development, harmonisation, and application of technical specifications and standards for molecular typing data;
- Contribute to discussions on data quality assurance, interoperability, and alignment with EU data protection and scientific requirements;
- Provide recommendations upon request on scientific and technical questions arising during the implementation of this Agreement;
- Support communication and coordination between sectors involved in One Health surveillance and data exchange.

The Advisory Board's advice is non-binding. EFSA and ECDC decide whether and how to take it into account.

Composition

The Advisory Board shall consist of:

- One member and one alternate representing each Party to this Agreement;
- Representatives of the official EU reference laboratories (EURLs) from both the food and public health sectors;
- The European Commission may participate as an observer;
- Ad hoc experts may be invited to contribute on specific scientific or technical matters;
- Additional observers may be invited to meetings at the discretion of the Parties.

Operation

- The Advisory Board shall meet upon request of EFSA or ECDC, or as otherwise agreed between the Parties.
- Meetings may be held virtually or in person.
- EFSA and ECDC shall act jointly as secretariat for the Advisory Board, ensuring appropriate documentation and follow-up of meetings.
- The Advisory Board shall adopt its working procedures by consensus.

Consistency with Mandates

The establishment and activities of the Advisory Board shall remain fully consistent with the mandates and legal frameworks governing EFSA and ECDC. It shall not assume any decision-making or policy-setting functions beyond its technical advisory role.