European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare Initiatives for Rapid Risk Assessment

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Introduction

- The surveillance systems and veterinary programmes under EU Regulation 2016/429 serve as the basis for monitoring and surveillance, but there is a need to further develop methodologies to assess risk related to new dynamics of pathogen transmission.

- "Epidemic intelligence" encompasses all activities related to rapid risk assessment of unexpected health threats.

- This requires systematic monitoring of various sources of information and methods to enhance early detection, expand and/or adapt available risk assessment approaches, and predict infectious disease introductions.

Methodology

1. Build capacity

Epidemic intelligence alliance

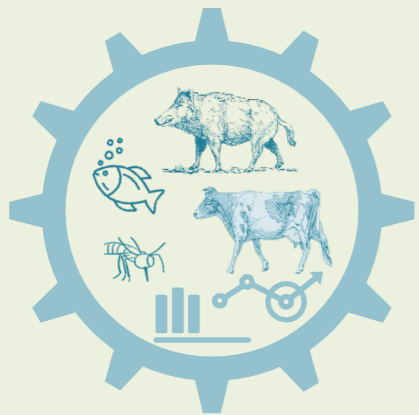**2. Evaluate risk assessment tools and models**

Qualitative, semi-quantitative, and quantitative risk

3. Develop a data link model

Indicator and event-based data

4. Generate forecasting models

Aquatic, wildlife, and terrestrial emerging, re-emerging and endemic diseases

5. Assess transboundary spread

Highly contagious animal diseases at EU level

6. Create dashboards and guidelines

Visualisation and communication, including uncertainties of outcomes 3-5 in line with current EFSA guidelines

Results

- **Outcome 1.** 18 partners from 10 countries are involved in the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare - "Rapid Risk Assessment", with the potential for the alliance to expand in the coming years.

- **Outcome 2.** A first inventory identified 26 generic risk assessment tools, such as qualitative and quantitative risk assessments of disease incursions, disease prioritizations, and decision support tools for the selection of the most appropriate risk assessment methodologies (Figure 1).
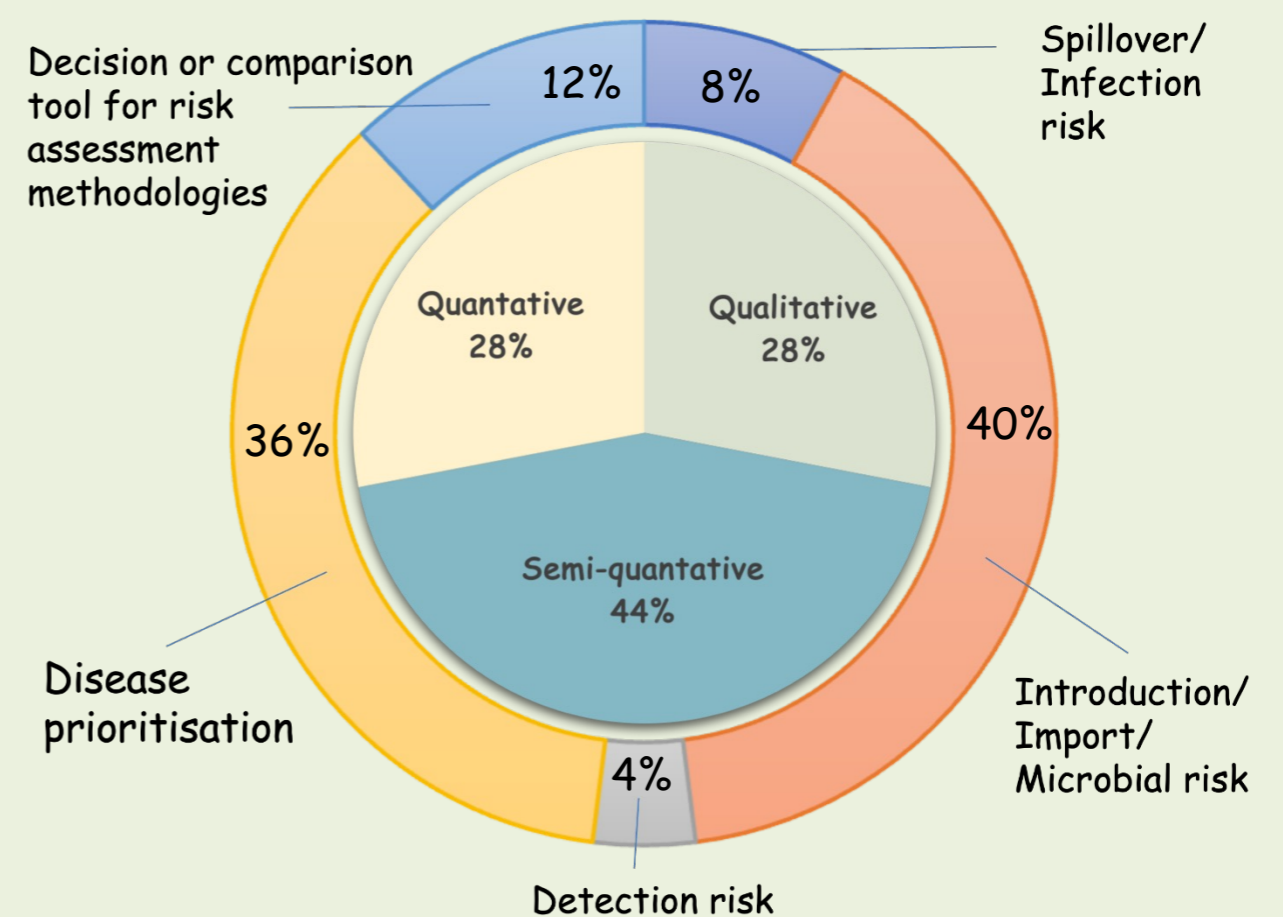

Figure 1: Categorisation of different risk assessment tools

Decision or comparison tool for risk assessment methodologies — 12%

Spillover/ Infection risk — 8%

Quantative 28%

Qualitative 28%

Disease prioritisation — 36%

Semi-quantative 44%

Introduction/ Import/ Microbial risk — 40%

Detection risk — 4%

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