



## 24<sup>th</sup> Newsletter



### TRIP REPORT – DiTECT visits EFSA

Professor **Christopher Brewster** visited EFSA, in Parma, Italy, on 6 March 2023, meeting with Dr Tobin Robinson. The agenda concerned both the work that DiTECT was undertaking and more generally the application of a variety of digital technologies to food safety issues that affect all European citizens.

We discussed the kind of approach being proposed in DiTECT to develop architectures to share data between food chain stakeholders and off-chain entities (food standards agencies and laboratories) in a manner that allowed commercial confidentiality to be protected while also enabling data to be shared for predictive modelling and other purposes. We discussed the wide range of studies and data sets that EFSA was developing including data on chemicals used in food, studies of pesticide toxicology, the use of animal and field studies.



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Great interest was shown in possibilities of using more NLP techniques to extra usable information from the wide literature (which is by now far to extensive for merely human mastery). Techniques developed in, for example, the drug-discovery methods used in the life sciences could be adapted to the needs of food safety research at EFSA. It is of key importance to recognise that risks associated with exposure to a chemical, or combination of chemicals.

There was further discussion about whether and how the FoodEx2 standard would become a semantic standard enabling greater use for interoperability, and more generally what uses AI technologies (i.e. ML/DL) can play in providing tools for the food safety community. Plans were made for further exchanges between the DiTECT project, Professor Brewster's team at Maastricht University and EFSA.