



Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø

Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Independent risk assessments

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AESAN: Risk Assessment Driving Food Safety

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Independent risk assessment in a small country



An independent scientific committee

Working on food safety, animal health and the environment



What we do

Provide independent risk assessments and scientific advice



Who we deliver to

Norwegian Food Safety Authority
Norwegian Environment Agency
Other public authorities when asked

No labs, no risk management, arms length from politics

VKM

Norway – outside the EU, inside the scientific collaboration

Norway is not a member of the EU

Work closely with EFSA

VKM is Norway's national contact point to EFSA

Norway's integrated EFSA cooperation model (VKM)

Focal Point

Advisory Forum

CEN/MSCC – Risk comm.

EFSA Scientific Networks

Article 36 organisations

National stakeholders



VKM has interdisciplinary competence

**VKM has approx. 120 scientific members,
10 scientific panels**

Members are employed at research inst. in Scandinavia

VKM is run by a secretariat staffed by scientists (23)

**Independent institution, not governed by a ministry or
board**

A knowledge hub – not a research institute

We do not do research or produce data

Instead, we:

- **Review research**
- **Compare studies**
- **Assess uncertainty**
- **Give scientific assessments**
- **National authorities use our work for:**
 - **Developing regulations**
 - **Risk management**
 - **Policy decisions**

From global knowledge to national advice

Global evidence (reports and peer-reviewed studies)

International assessment methods (aligned with best practice)

Multidisciplinary expert groups

Open documentation – traceable and public



Chronic wasting disease in wild reindeer (new prion disease)

How VKM's CWD-reports covers the full chain

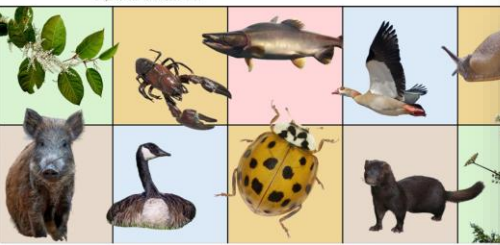
- Animal health
- Food safety
- Ecology
- Environment
- Long-term effects



Examples of other assessment by VKM

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VKM Report 2026: 03




Cumulative impacts from co-occurring non-native species

Gaute Velle, Anders Bryn, Kyrre Kausrud, Lawrence R. Kirkendall, Martin Malmstrøm, Brett K. Sandercock, Paul Ragnar Berg, Kjetil Hindar, Johanna Järnegren, Erlend B. Nilsen, Eva B. Thorstad and Anders Nielsen

Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biodiversity of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

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VKM Report 2020: 10

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) from an environmental perspective

A short summary of assessments prepared by VKM in the period 2017-2020.




VKM Report 2022: 15

Impacts of climate change on the boreal forest ecosystem

Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Alien Organisms and Trade in Endangered species (CITES) of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

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VKM Report 2022: 17

Benefit and risk assessment of fish in the Norwegian diet

Scientific Opinion of the Steering Committee of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

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VKM Report 2024:2



Risk assessment of grilled and barbecued food

Espen Mariussen, Jan Alexander, Barbara Alexandra Bukhvalova, Lisbeth Dahl, Ann-Karin Hardie Olsen, Helen Engelstad Kvaalem, Martin Schlabach, Heidi Amlund, Rita Hannisdal, Anders Ruus, Ingunn Anita Samdal, Helle K Krutusen

Over 20 years –
more than 700 scientific assessments

Risk assessment beyond food – biodiversity and trade

VKM also works on:

- **biodiversity**
- **endangered species**
- **sustainable trade**

Under CITES, VKM is:

- **Norway's scientific authority**
- **providing assessments for decisions on trade in endangered species**

National priorities shape risk assignments

- **National priorities shape risk assignments**
- **We focus on:**
 - **safe food for the whole population**
 - **animal health and animal welfare**
 - **antimicrobial resistance**
 - **links between food and environment**

Trust and transparency

Small country – strong trust in governmental systems

- **Strong scientific networks**
- **Independent experts**
- **Clear roles**
- **Transparency and open access to reports**
- **Independence from policy decisions**
- **International collaboration**

**In a complex world with geopolitical instability,
independent risk assessments are more important
than ever**



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Thank you for your attention!



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