



UPDATE ON THE REVISION OF THE REGULATION ON FOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS (FIC)

DG SANTE

E1 - Food information and composition

*Plenary meeting of the Advisory Group on
the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health*

6 May 2022



Content

- **Steps taken so far**
- **Update & next steps**
 - EP reports
 - External study
 - Consultations
 - Additional input to IA
 - Next steps

Milestones reached

Food labelling initiatives in the Farm to Fork Strategy and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

F2F Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly EU food system by 2030

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Sustainable Food Processing & Distribution



Set **nutrient profiles** restricting nutrition and health claims to stimulate reformulation

Sustainable Food consumption



Harmonized, mandatory **front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

Extending mandatory **origin indication** to certain foods

Food Loss & Waste Prevention



Revision of EU rules on **date marking**

Sustainable cancer prevention



Labelling of **alcoholic beverages** (nutrition declaration and list of ingredients)

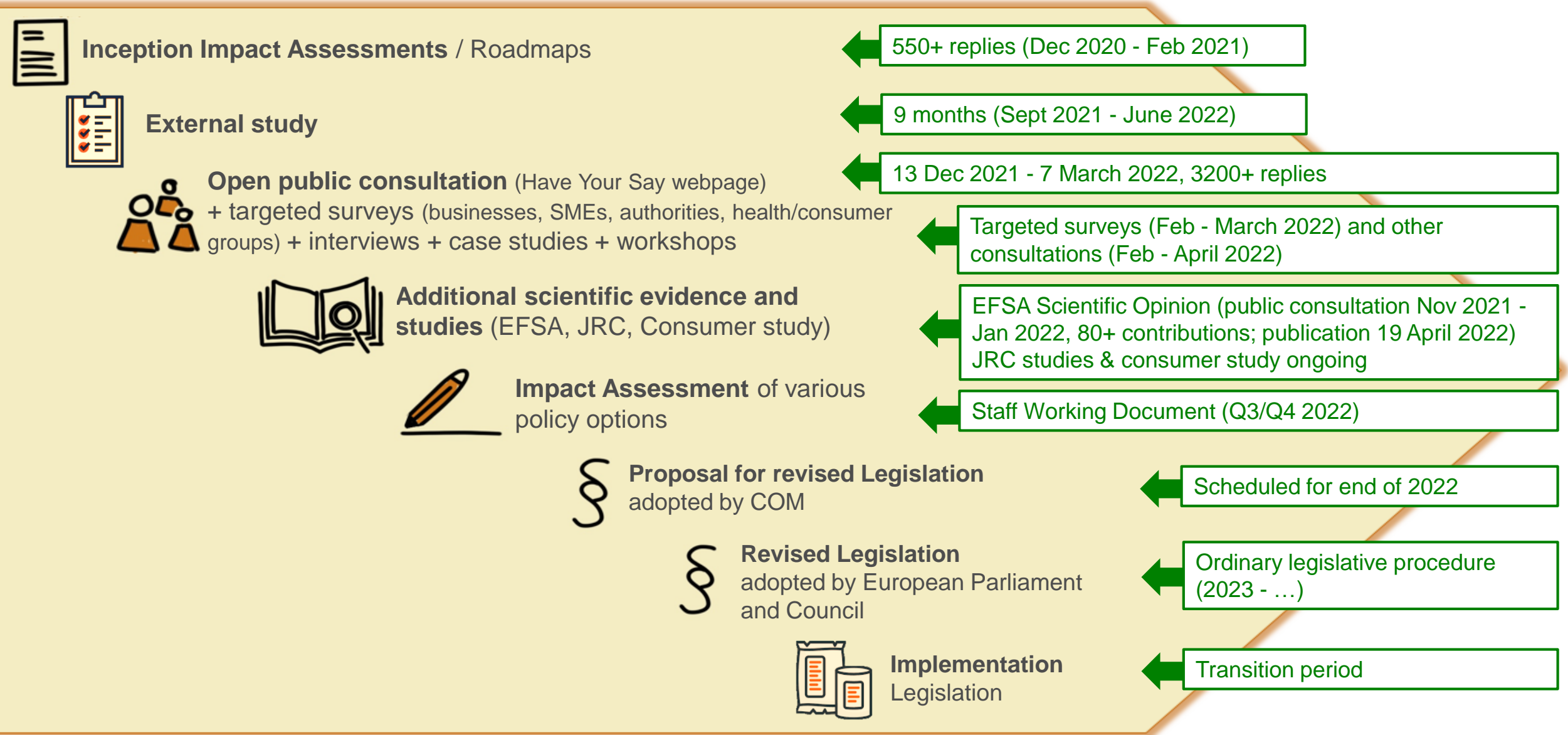
Harmonized, mandatory **front-of-pack nutrition labelling**

Proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC)

Important milestones reached

- **Inception impact assessment** (published in December 2020)
- **Inception impact assessment** alcohol labelling (published in June 2021)
- Terms of Reference **external study** (May 2021) & launch of study (August 2021)
- **Open Public Consultation** (Dec 2021- March 2022) & **Targeted Surveys** (Feb - March 2022)
- **EFSA advice** published on 19 April 2022

Key Steps – IA and Revision of FIC Regulation



Reports European Parliament

Reports of the European Parliament

EP resolution of 20 October 2021 on the F2F Strategy

- **FOPNL:** Call for mandatory and harmonized EU front-of-pack nutritional label; FOPNL is a key tool to help consumers make more informed, more balanced and healthier food choices. Label should include an interpretive element to provide transparent, comparable and harmonized product information, and take into account the specific characteristics of single ingredient products and products under European quality schemes.
- **Setting of nutrient profiles for restricting claims on foods:** remains pertinent and necessary.
- **Origin labelling:** emphasizes that the FIC Regulation needs to be revised with a focus on milk and meat as ingredients.
- **Date marking:** welcomes the proposed provisions to clarify the current EU rules on date marking in order to prevent and reduce food waste.

EP report on strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy adopted on 15 February 2022

- **Alcoholic beverage labelling:** supports the provision of better information to consumers by introducing the mandatory indication of the list of ingredients and nutritional information.
- **FOPNL:** asks the Commission to adopt a mandatory and harmonized EU front-of-pack nutritional label that is developed based on robust and independent scientific evidence.

External study

Study to support the Impact Assessment

- **Contractor: ICF** (August 2021 – beginning June 2022)
- **Purpose and scope of the study**
 - Identify and collect evidence and carry-out a detailed and data-driven analysis
 - Gather evidence, views, opinions from all relevant stakeholders and consult them on the various policy options
 - Analyse and compare the economic, social and environmental impacts of the proposed policy options
- **Tasks**
 - Develop the methodology for the IA
 - Member States and stakeholder consultations
 - Case studies
 - Analysis and comparison of the policy options

Impact indicators - steps

- ✓ Draft **list of criteria** for each labelling initiative
- ✓ **Focus groups** (small groups) organised to check relevance and completeness of list: Member States ; businesses ; consumer & health NGOs
- ✓ **Collection of evidence** to measure (in qualitative or quantitative terms) the scale of potential impacts
 - Targeted surveys, case studies, modelling, study team assessment,...
 - Expert assessment: Workshops on FOPNL / NP and origin labelling
 - Validation workshops on FOPNL / NP and alcoholic beverage labelling
- ✓ Socrates tool (JRC)

Consultations

Consultation Strategy

To gather evidence and opinion

Open Public Consultation

Open for 12 weeks on the “Have Your Say Portal”

Targeted Surveys

For businesses, SMEs, authorities, health/consumer groups

Interviews

Approx. 60 interviews with e.g. EU organizations, business networks, NGOs and experts

Workshops

Three different types of workshops: expert elicitation (3), stakeholder evidence (6) and validation workshops (2)

Case Studies

Targeted interviews with stakeholders in a sample of 11 Member States (IT, FR, EE, SE, IE, HR, DE, SE, DK, LT, GR)

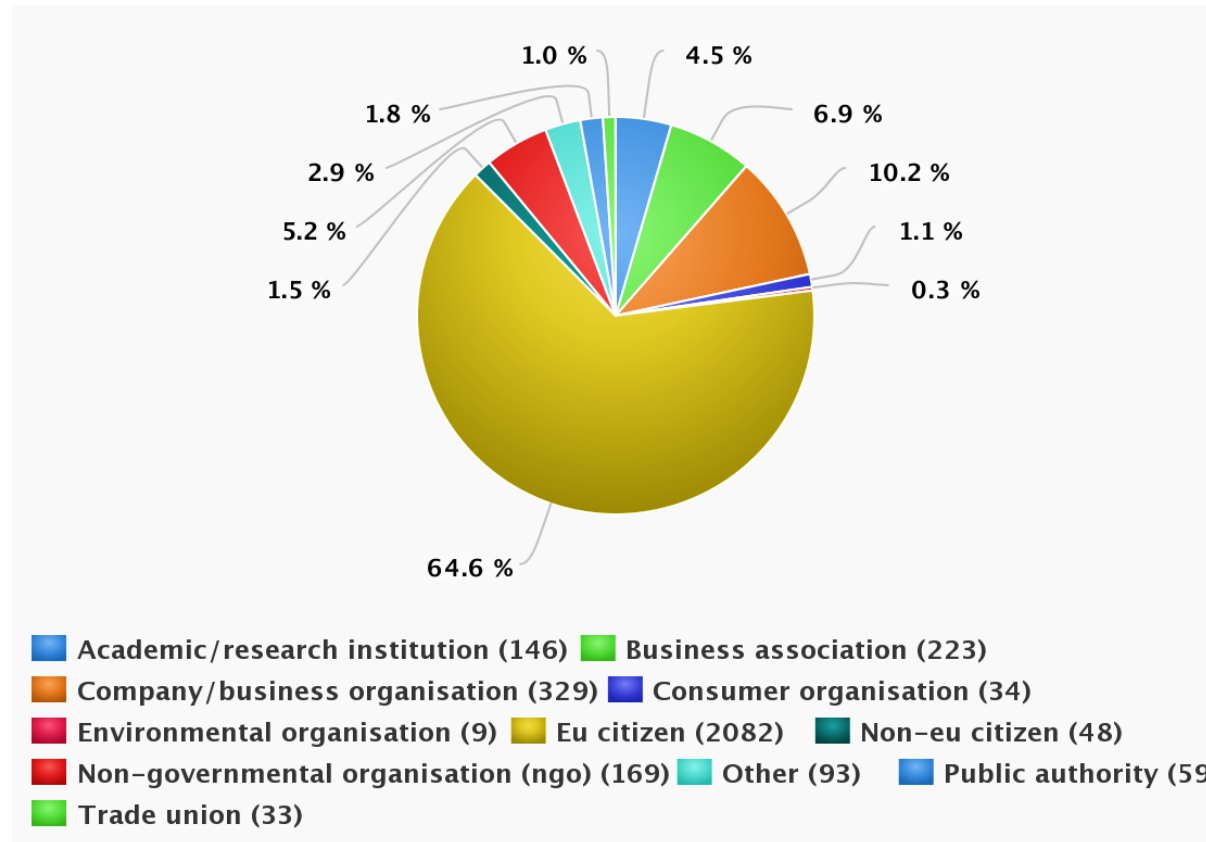
Stakeholder consultations



- **Open public consultation** (13 December 2021 – 07 March 2022)
 - 20 closed and open questions structured around the four initiatives
 - To seek stakeholder opinion on fundamental aspects of the proposed revision – in particular stakeholders' agreement with key elements of the problem definitions and objectives of the policy options being proposed
- **Targeted surveys for Member States and stakeholders** (14 February 2022 – 18 March 2022)
 - Four different surveys for: [Businesses and business associations](#), [SMEs](#), [consumer / health / environment groups](#) and [National Competent Authorities](#)
 - To collect quantitative data and technical information on the policy options and on the potential impacts
 - **200** contributions received

Results of the OPC

- **3225** contributions received
- Most contributions come from EU citizens (64.6%) and companies and business associations (17%)



- Respondents are mainly from France (37%), Germany (13%), Spain (9%) and Italy (8%)
- **Factual Summary Report** published on 3 May 2022

Additional input to IA

Additional input to Impact Assessment

FOPNL / NP

- **EFSA scientific advice** for development of harmonized mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods (adoption 24 March; publication 19 April 2022)
- **JRC FOP literature review** (update literature review published in 2020)

Origin Labelling

- **JRC literature review** to assess **consumers' understanding of origin information** on food packages and its impact on their attitudes, perceptions, consumption and purchase behaviour
- Inventory of standards and legislations in third countries

Alcoholic beverages Labelling

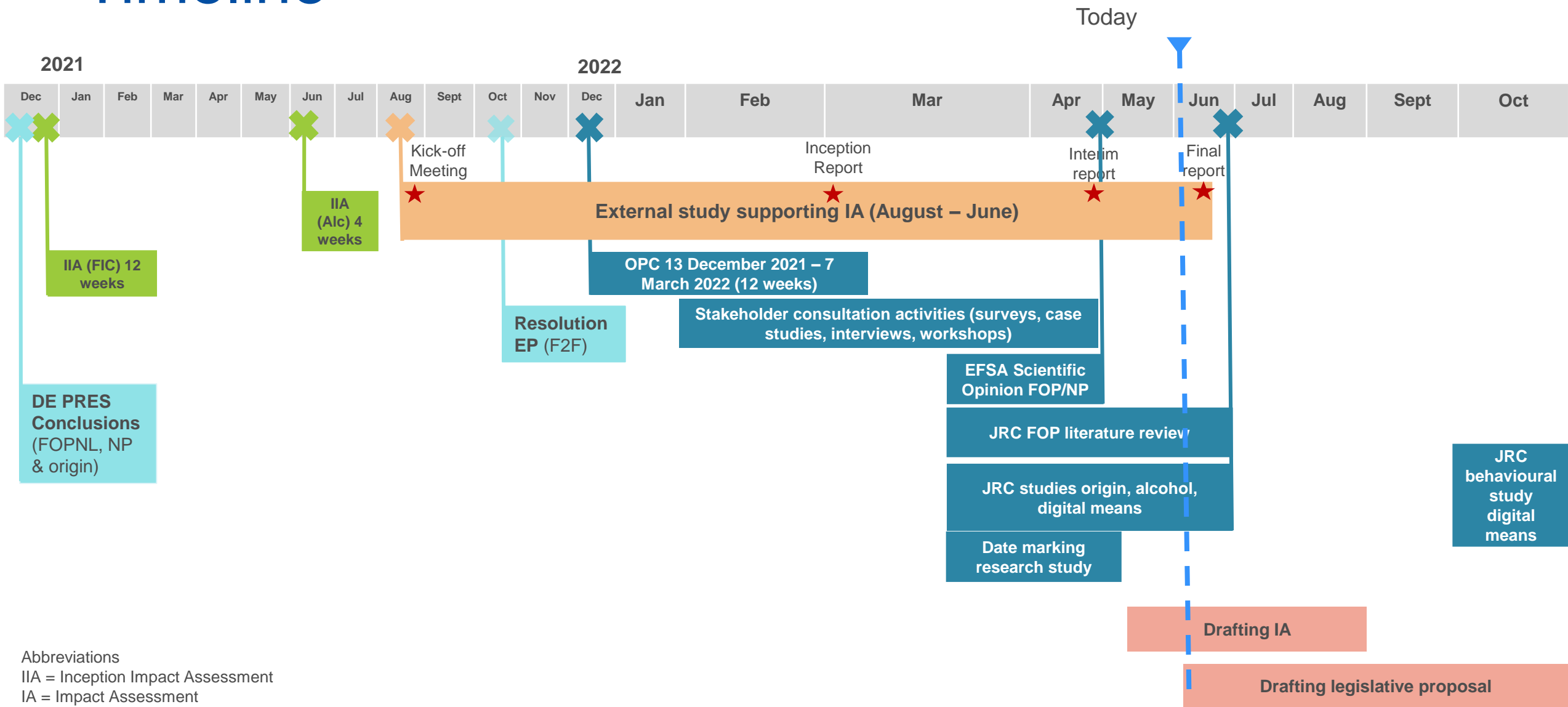
- **Market analysis by the JRC** to assess the **presence/content of nutritional and ingredients information on alcoholic beverages** across EU Member States
- **JRC study** on the provision of food information to consumers by FBOs through **other means than on labels** including digital means: literature review, inventory of standards and legislations in third countries and behavioral study

Date Marking

- **EFSA Guidance** (part 1 published in Dec 2020 and part 2 published in April 2021)
- **Consumer research study** to explore, test, and validate possible new ways of expressing date marking (March 2021 - April 2022)

Timeline overview

Timeline



Abbreviations
IIA = Inception Impact Assessment
IA = Impact Assessment
FOPNL: front-of-pack nutrition labelling
NP: nutrient profiles for restricting claims
ISSG: inter-service steering group

Thank you

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https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/labelling-and-nutrition_en



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