

'Big data' are considered to represent the black gold of the 21st century. On one hand, the application of big data is mostly underexplored despite the production of increasing volumes of data at an increasingly fast pace. Yet, a very small percentage of them are structured or organized in such a way they can be easily exploited. On the other hand, lack of transparency in the use of big data, has recently alarmed society and has animated the public debate.

The advanced analysis of big data opens vast potential for different stakeholders in the food chain. However, the application of big data for food safety purposes remains up till now rather exceptional, certainly by national authorities which are confronted with scattered data across the food chain and lack of expertise and fit-for-purpose tools for data- and process analysis.

Various aspects of data science application in the food chain will be discussed during this symposium by national and international experts in this domain. It is hoped that this symposium will trigger new developments and future projects around risk assessment and risk control in the food chain.

The target audience consists of an international public of risk assessors, risk managers, policy makers, stakeholders, producers, consumers, consultants and students.

The symposium will be given in English. Simultaneous translation in Dutch and French will be provided.