

# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL FOOD CONTROLS OF RESTAURANTS IN EUROPE

Eduard Grau-Noguer<sup>1,2</sup> / Samuel Portaña-Tudela<sup>1</sup> / Maica Rodríguez-Sanz<sup>1</sup> / Remo Suppi-Boldrito<sup>3</sup> / Jordi Serratosa-Vilageliu<sup>2,4</sup>

1. Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (Public Health Agency, Barcelona), Spain

2. Departament de Ciència Animal i dels Aliments, Facultat de Veterinària, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

3. HPC4EAS Research Group, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

4. 2017 SGR 01606 Research Group, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

✉ Eduard.grau@uab.cat

## Introduction

- Barcelona Public Health Agency implements **official food safety control** in Barcelona city with the intention to ensure compliance with food regulations, detect and handle potential food safety problems and prevent consumer health. **Data-driven controls** are crucial to guarantee effectiveness, consistency, fairness and quality of risk management activities.
- Data and information** have been historically collected, analysed and interpreted analogically, fact which may be influenced by human, individual- or experience-factors, among others. When non-compliances and law violations occurred, **differences between inspectors** have been reported concerning scoring and enforcement actions<sup>1,2</sup>.
- Digital technologies**<sup>3,4</sup>:
  - enable **electronic data collection**, which can be further digitally analysed, synthesised, shared and visualised.
  - can be employed as a support tool for **monitoring and predicting food risks** through risk assessment methodologies (quantitative), for **work planning and prioritisation** (e.g. inspections or follow up procedures) or **decision-making** (e.g. automated algorithm- or rule-based instructions).
  - can create new models of **communication and consultation** channels between stakeholders (e.g. consumers, food business operators and competent authorities).

## Objective

The goal of this project is to qualitatively assess the digital transformation (DT) of municipal official food controls implemented and enforced for restaurants by competent authorities in the EU context. This investigation aims at answering the following research and sub-research questions (RQ):

**MAIN RQ:** Are municipal official food safety controls for restaurants being digitally transformed in Europe?

- 1- Why competent authorities are digitally transforming?
- 2- What are competent authorities digitally transforming?
- 3- How are competent authorities digitally transforming?
- 4- To what end competent authorities are digitally transforming?

## Methodology

Based on the following three main steps:

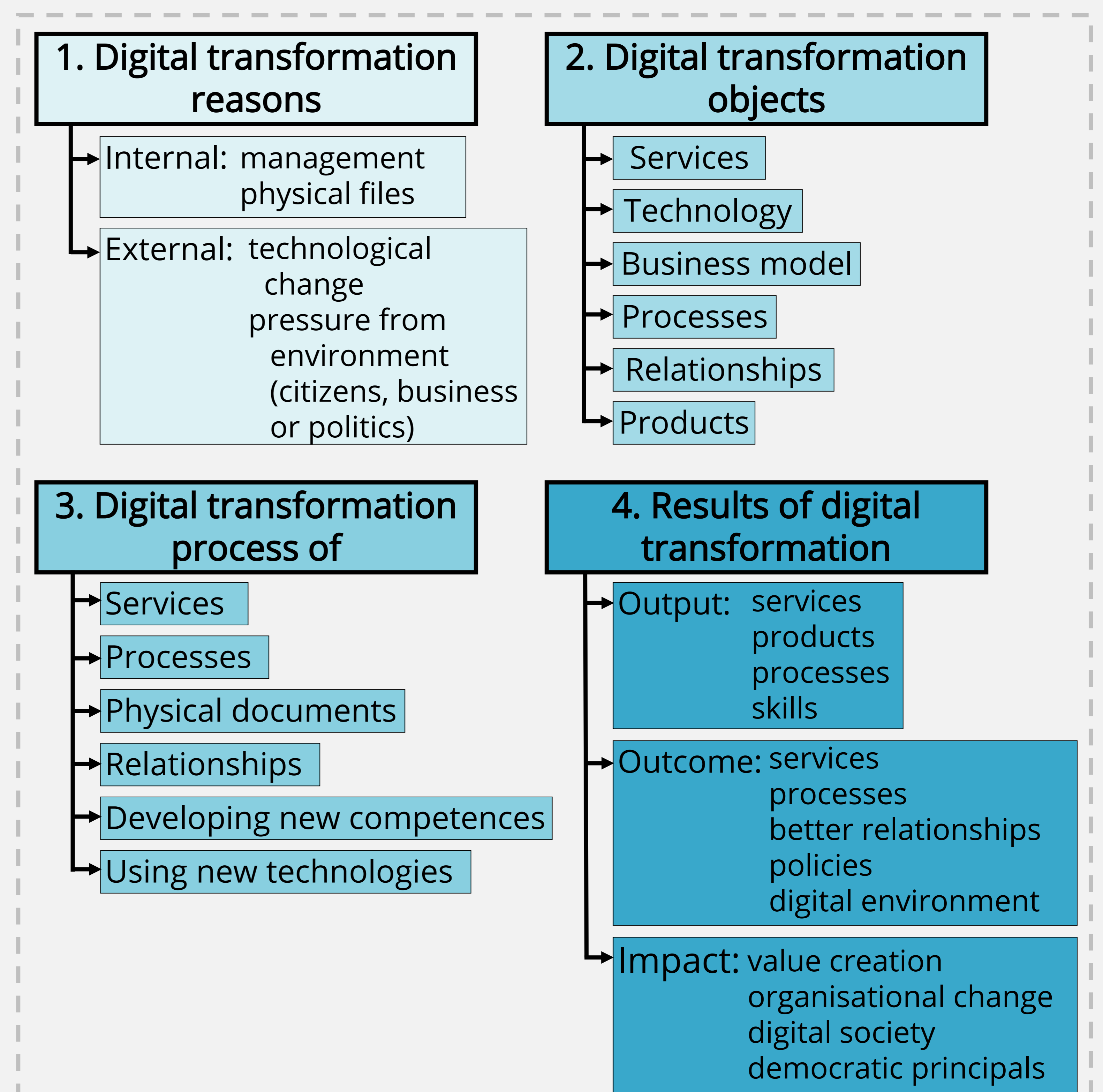
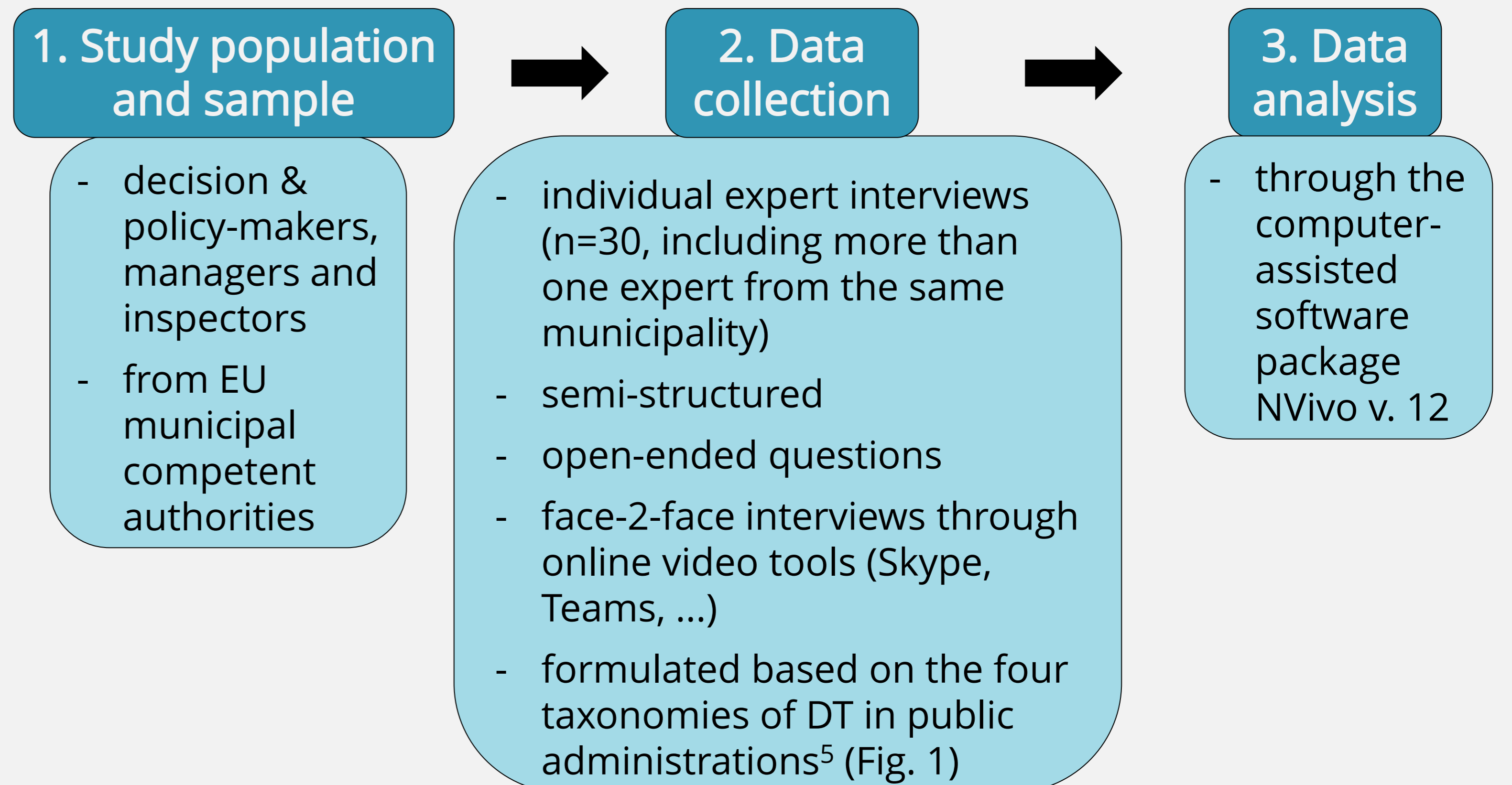


Fig. 1- Four taxonomies of digital transformation in public administrations, based on Mergel et al.<sup>5</sup>.

## Expected results

1. Collect information about the **Why, What and How** the official food safety controls are being digitally transformed.
2. Information valuable to **describe the current situation of DT** in the EU scenario, as well as to **identify opportunities** for improvement and **possible barriers and facilitators** of DT in this field.
3. Results and feedback obtained **may be useful to guide and support** competent authorities in the way to digitally transform official risk management activities.

## References

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