

‘food for thought’

Speakers and Panellists



*The event aims at stimulating **new partnerships**
in **food safety research**, and highlighting the importance
of **public funding***

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Introduction

This abstract booklet is the *`food for thought`* for Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) participants provided by invited speakers in advance of the event.

The one-page abstracts are provided in this summary, accompanied by short biographies introducing in order of appearance on the programme the:

- ✓ keynote speakers (3),
- ✓ panellists (11) of morning and afternoon discussion panels, and
- ✓ facilitators (4) of four parallel break-out sessions.

I. Keynote Speakers

Opening and keynote speeches will be delivered by:

- Bernhard Url, Executive Director, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA);
- Michael Scannell, Director for the Food Chain, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE);
- Pamela Byrne, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).



Bernhard Url was appointed Executive Director of EFSA in June 2014, having served as Acting Executive Director for seven months. He joined EFSA in June 2012 as Head of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department. A qualified veterinarian by training, he brings high-level management experience from food-safety organisations to his role at EFSA.

Prior to joining the Authority, Mr. Url was Managing Director of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), which represents Austria on EFSA's Advisory Forum. From 2008 to March 2012, he also served as a member of EFSA's Management Board. During his 10 years at AGES, he was in charge of technical and scientific affairs with a remit that included the timely delivery of risk assessment and risk management services across a wide range of areas. This included ensuring effective risk communications during urgent food safety-related events. Prior to AGES, he spent five years as an Assistant

Professor at the Institute of Milk Hygiene and Milk Technology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna before running a food quality control laboratory from 1993 to 2002.

Mr. Url graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna in 1987 and became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. He has published in the field of veterinary medicine with a particular focus on listeria and milk hygiene.

Opening:

Importance and means of working together in shaping further the European Research Area

Recent papers reflecting on developing the future of research and innovation in the EU, such as the "[Lamy report](#)" and the [Tallinn call for Action 2017](#), highlight the need for future research to be more mission oriented and impact-focussed to address global challenges. They call on the responsibility of policy makers, researchers, businesses and others in ensuring that research is a real priority in EU policy making and in increasing trust in research.

EFSA's strategy is based on collaboration with its strategic partners, including research needs. EFSA and its partners in the Member States stand ready to be an active player in the European Research Area, as reinforced in a Joint Statement with the Advisory Forum formalising this commitment.

More specifically in the food safety risk assessment space, the [background paper to the FOOD2030 High Level Conference](#) and a range of other papers have highlighted the challenges in the integrity/safety of the food system – all of which have potential to impact on consumer confidence in the food supply. Numerous recent issues around food authenticity call to invest more in the public control, assessment and preparedness functions to ensure the safety of the food system and safeguard consumer confidence in the food supply.

The on-going DG SANTE Roadmap consultation on transparency and sustainability of the EU Risk Assessment model in the food chain, and the General Food Law Fitness Check highlight further the need for food-law to be science-based and to find ways to improve trust in the science used for food safety.

This builds a compelling case for public funding of research in risk assessment, and underpins the objectives of the Research Assembly. Today marks a start of an important dialogue to help EFSA and the wider risk assessment community to identify how best to support future research programming.



Michael Scannell is an official of the European Commission since 1991. He is currently Director for the Food Chain – Stakeholder and International Relations in the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

He was until recently Director of the Food and Veterinary Office which was responsible for promoting proper enforcement and compliance with EU requirements on food safety, animal and plant health in both EU Member States and third countries. His previous positions included chief spokesperson for the EU in the Codex Commission and in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee of the World Trade Organisation between 2002 and 2010. He also worked from 1995 to 2002 in the private offices of Commissioners, with particular responsibilities in the area of tobacco control, trade, economic, food safety and animal health regulatory issues. This period included the BSE and foot and mouth diseases crisis and the creation of a specific Directorate General for Health Protection and of the European Food Safety Authority.

Mr Scannell is Irish and a graduate in economics and politics from University College Dublin.

Keynote:

Investing in food safety research and innovation: from re-activeness to pro-activeness

Investing in research and innovation is fundamental to human and planetary wellbeing. It provides the opportunity to tackle the vulnerabilities that our society is constantly facing. Today's food systems are already vulnerable: limited resources, impact from and on climate change, malnutrition, new and emerging food safety risks.

Traditionally, efforts made via research and innovation to address critical risks faced by food systems have been reactive. The recent but almost already forgotten Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE) crisis is an example of such reactivity. The European Union (EU) via the Research and Innovation (R&I) Framework Programmes (FP) and the Member States (MS) via their own programmes mobilised at the time significant resources and put this as a top priority in agri-food research and innovation agendas. Continuous R&I efforts along the years have been able to significantly reduce the scientific uncertainty behind BSE, but have also opened new questions. Those efforts have contributed to a dynamic risk-based review of the EU policies in place aimed at overcoming the BSE crisis.

Today's society and the food systems themselves are requesting that our efforts become proactive. The EU commitments towards meeting Sustainable Development Goals, citizens' requests for sustainable and safe food and our knowledge on the vulnerabilities of the food systems are the key ingredients for building a proactive approach. Future FP9 and MS R&I programmes have to be ambitious and provide the EU food regulatory sciences community with the right tools to timely react to future challenges and crises. They will also need to provide us with instruments to assess the innovations already underway in our food systems such as the use of whole genome sequencing in risk assessment, evaluating the safety of new breeding techniques or developing robust tools for invitro and in-silico chemical toxicity assessment.

This task is not easy: it calls not only for interdisciplinary efforts but also for multi-actor engagement in order to build a common understanding on what are the key needs, how to prioritise those, what type of results should be expected and ultimately their translation via policy into tangible and implementable outcomes and, of course, what resources are needed. For example: while innovative R&I instruments like the 'mission-oriented' component of FP9 may be able to provide concrete impacts in many areas including food systems, realising these impacts would not be possible unless regulatory science and related policies are able to provide robust frameworks for assessing the safety and efficacy of innovation in the food chain.

Maintaining the EU high level of scientific expertise in risk assessment should also be part of R&I policies both at EU and MS level. The close links between education and R&I funding programmes provides opportunities to build the next generation of experts to contribute to the future EU food safety risk assessment system; yet again, the need to be proactive.



Pamela Byrne is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). She holds a PhD in Environmental Toxicology from University College, Cork (UCC); an MSc in Aquatic Resource Management from Kings College, University of London; a BSc in Zoology from UCC and a Higher Diploma in Environmental Law from the University of Aberystwyth in Wales.

Prior to taking up the position of CEO at the FSAI in March 2015, she held the role of Director of Regulatory Policy and Intelligence with Abbott Nutrition. Having previously held senior positions in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, she has extensive experience of the food regulatory environment, as well as expertise in risk assessment and food safety management at both national and international levels.

During her time at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, she gained a deep knowledge of the food sector as an environmental toxicologist and risk assessor, and was instrumental in developing Ireland's research and innovation policy programmes in relation to food and the bio-economy. Pamela Byrne also worked in the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation - Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn.

Pamela Byrne is the Chair of the Management Board of the Joint Programming Initiative A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life. She is also the Chair of the Strategic Advisory Board of the Institute of Food and Health at University College Dublin, Ireland.

Keynote:

Importance of public funding for food safety research

Consumers of today have high expectations – they expect the food they purchase and consume will not cause them harm and that they can trust it. They expect national governments to play a significant role in protecting their health and their interests in accordance with the food regulatory framework. While the food industry is legally obliged to only put safe food on the market, the Authorities of member states and the European Commission, including EFSA, are ultimately responsible for removing food from the market where that food poses a risk to consumers' health. These organisations must base their decisions on science.

Access to the outputs of robust food safety science is therefore central to these organisations' ability to make fully informed decisions: science determines risk. These organisations cannot carry out robust risk assessment in the absence of rigorous research and high quality data. Therefore, it is crucial that research in food safety receives adequate and prioritised funding to:

- a) Ensure that robust risk assessments can be carried out; and,
- b) That new and emerging harms are researched.

Investment in food safety science thus enables those involved in protecting consumers to be more proactive in managing, mitigating or removing risks to consumers of food produced in Europe. This presentation will explore the importance of public funding for food safety research and will also offer examples of prioritised investments in food safety science which have resulted in a positive impact within the context of risk analyses. It is clear that as consumer expectations remain high with regard to the safety (and trustworthiness) of their food, there is an ongoing need to develop a high-quality risk surveillance and risk assessment capability in respect of food borne hazards – and this can only be achieved by investment in science. It is vital that scientific expertise in food safety is available to support the regulatory Authorities in their mission to protect public health and the early detection of emerging risks in the food chain.

II. Panellists

The panel speakers (panellists) will discuss and engage with the audience in two panel discussions on the following topics:

- i) morning panel session on **`Making the Case for Public Funding`**
aimed at providing views on the key factors to be considered in putting a compelling case for the importance of public funding of research and informing wider research agendas;
- ii) afternoon panel session on **`Making it happen: Challenges and Opportunities`**
aimed at providing views on the rationale for, and the practicalities of, accessing funding for collaborative calls/projects; developing and delivering, collaborative calls and/or projects; highlighting the drivers, challenges, opportunities and solutions.

The one-page written contributions are listed in the following summary accompanied by short biographies and photos introducing each panel speaker of the morning (6 panellists) and afternoon (5 panellists) sessions.

i) Morning panel speakers (6):



Razvan Anistoroaei - Research Policy Officer, Agri-Food Chain Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). Razvan is trained as a veterinarian and obtained his PhD in Genetics & Bioinformatics at the University of Copenhagen. Later he completed a MBA in Bio-Business and Entrepreneurship with focus on innovation and co-creation. He is Research Policy Officer the Agri-Food Unit in the Bioeconomy Directorate at Directorate General research and Innovation – European Commission.

Razvan manages a wide portfolio of FP7 and H2020 projects and is the contact point from DD RTD on a series of relations and dossiers such as EFSA and DG SANTE entry point, AMR plan, "One Health" plan, Endocrine disruptors" dossier and "trans-fatty acids" strategy.

Written contribution, prepared by **Dyanne Bennink** - Deputy Head of Agri-Food Chain Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD):

Guaranteeing food and nutrition security in a changing world has become a huge challenge, due to the compounded effects of climate change, resource scarcity and population dynamics. Access to (safe) food is a major driver in the current migration crisis that Europe is experiencing.

These developments provide a framework for action, reflected in the Commission priorities, COP 21 climate commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It also provides an opportunity for Europe to take a leadership role in transforming and future-proofing our food systems.

Commissioner for Agriculture Phil Hogan and Carlos Moedas, launched the first phase of the FOOD 2030 initiative during the 2015 MILAN EXPO. It set out a debate with a wide diversity of stakeholders on the role of Research and Innovation (R&I) in futureproofing our currently unsustainable food systems. The result was the publication of a baseline assessment of EU food and nutrition security R&I in 2016.

We are now entering the second phase of FOOD 2030 that will prepare the ground for the next EU R&I Framework Programme and outlook towards 2030.

The European Commission aims to tackle the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) challenge with research and innovation (R&I) policies designed to future-proof our food systems to make them sustainable, resilient, diverse, inclusive and competitive for the benefit of society.

This systemic approach, which aims to connect, scale-up and boost EU R&I, is referred to as FOOD 2030, and will provide solutions to four overarching priorities:

- 1) Nutrition for sustainable and Healthy Diets
- 2) Climate smart and environmental sustainable food systems
- 3) Circular and resource efficient food systems
- 4) Innovation and empowerment of communities.

The first FOOD 2030 priority focuses on fostering R&I on nutrition for sustainable and healthy diets. The challenges under this priority include tackling malnutrition and obesity, improving nutrition for healthy ageing, sourcing protein alternatives to reduce meat consumption, developing new food authenticity and safety systems, reviving forgotten crops for nutrition and resilience; and supporting healthier and more sustainable diets in Africa. This priority aims at supporting the further development and implementation of EU food safety policies, the EU Nutrition Policy Framework and relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, 8 and 10.

Food safety remains a global concern, with related social and economic costs unacceptably high. Almost one third of all deaths from food-borne diseases occur in children under five, although they make up just 9 % of the global population. Setting up increasingly robust and ICT-enabled fraud and food safety systems – including early warnings and coordinated management of national and global health risks – would help to strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and managing health risks, a target of SDG 3.



Jean-Charles Cavitte - Research Policy Officer, European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI).

After having led the food safety department in the French regional veterinary service, Dr Cavitte joined the European Commission in 1994. He started as a veterinary inspector in the Food and Veterinary Office, where he led the BSE team until he moved to veterinary legislation in DG Health and Consumer Protection at the end of 1999. There, he was responsible notably for the revision of the EU zoonoses legislation, in particular the Directive on zoonosis monitoring and the Regulation on Salmonella control.

At the end of 2005, he moved to DG «Research and Innovation» - Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology. There he was responsible for defining orientations and supervising EU funded research projects in the domain of animal production and food safety. Jean-Charles

Cavitte joined DG AGRI in May 2014, in the "Research and Innovation" Unit. He is in charge of policy development and research programming in the animal sector (which includes bees!); from animal health and zoonoses to breeding, feeding and husbandry, as well as livestock production systems.

He holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine from "École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort" and a subsequent specialisation at the French national school of veterinary services. Mr Cavitte background is mainly on veterinary public health.

Written contribution:

DG AGRI co-manages with DG RTD the implementation of Horizon 2020, Societal Challenge 2. DG AGRI is 'chef de file' on primary production, including many domains in the remit of EFSA, from animal to plant health, pesticides, animal welfare, anti-microbial resistance, pre-harvest food safety etc.

As per Horizon 2020 legal basis, "the specific objective of SC2 is to secure sufficient supplies of safe, healthy and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive, sustainable and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low-carbon supply, processing and marketing chains. " The challenge is complex, affects a broad range of interconnected sectors and requires a holistic and systemic approach.

The strategic approach to agricultural research and innovation published by DG AGRI in 2016¹ aims to harness EU investments in research and innovation for the following main objectives: ensure food security in the long term; address the environmental sustainability and resilience of competitive land-based primary production for food and non-food systems; and boost the sustainable growth of rural territories. In addition, the strategy seeks to improve the delivery of research results for policy use. The strategy focuses on land-based primary production from agriculture and forestry and extends to food and non-food chains and the rural economy. The five priorities identified in the strategy (1: Resource management (notably soil, water and biodiversity); 2: Healthier plants and animals; 3: Integrated ecological approaches from farm to landscape level; 4: New openings for rural growth; 5:

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/agri_strategypaper_web_1.pdf

Enhancing the human and social capital in rural areas) fed into Horizon 2020 programming activities for 2018-2020 and are expected to be taken into consideration in the longer term.

The recent Communication on the future of food and farming² highlights the role of research and innovation as "part of the foundation of progress concerning all the challenges which confront the EU's farm sector and rural areas: economic, environmental and social." It also highlights that "The CAP is one of the EU policies responding to societal expectations regarding food, in particular concerning food safety, food quality, environmental and animal welfare standards. ... The CAP should become more apt at addressing critical health issues such as those related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) caused by inappropriate use of antibiotics. In line with an ambitious and encompassing approach with regard to human and animal health - as embodied by the "One Health" concept – it should also promote the use of new technologies, research and innovation to reduce risks to public health."

As regards healthier plants and animals (priority 2), resilient agriculture and forestry systems require robust plants and animals with increased resistance to pests and diseases. Tackling numerous and highly dynamic biotic threats will require integrated approaches and the development of a wide range of tools for prevention, monitoring, control and management of pests and diseases along with risk management strategies. This includes seeking alternatives to contentious plant protection products and antimicrobials. The establishment of links between health and other disciplines and aspects of production are sought. In the area of animal production, one-health approaches receive particular attention.

Priority 3 on integrated ecological approaches from farm to landscape levels provides in particular the ground for better understanding and use the potential of ecosystem services for primary production. It allows exploring the functional role of biodiversity in the delivery of ecosystem services to increase resilience at farm and landscape levels vis-à-vis biotic and abiotic threats.

Building the European Research Area (ERA) is a key objective of Horizon 2020. Within this, encouraging synergies between Member States and the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is essential to achieve greater impact and efficiency of funding activities. Most of the issues dealt with in the strategy have a global dimension and require increased international cooperation to pool existing expertise and capacities in the most effective way. International research cooperation contributes also to the competitiveness of European food and non-food systems in the global economy, and in agriculture and forestry complements the EU's external policy, notably with regard to meeting commitments to Sustainable Development Goals and COP 21 objectives.

The process to design the H2020 bi-annual work-programmes is based on different steps (scoping and strategy papers; legal procedures) and involves internal consultations (other Commission Services; Advisory Group), external consultations (public consultations, e.g. on scoping paper), possibly workshops, takes into account various events such as conferences, and inputs (e.g. from ETPs, JPIs, EIPs).

Main H2020 SC2 projects/topics relevant to EFSA remit:

Animals:

1. Projects
 - Vaccines (SFS-1-2014; scope B): SAPHIR (<http://www.h2020-saphir.eu/>), Paragone (<https://www.paragoneh2020.eu/>)
 - Sustainable livestock production (ISIB-12-2015): SusAn ERA-NET (<http://www.era-susan.eu/>).
 - European Joint Programme Co-fund on One Health (zoonoses – emerging threats) (SFS-36-2017): EJP One Health (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Project-ANR-16-MRSE-0008>)
 - Secretariat of STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium on animal health (SFS-12-2016): SIRCAH (http://www.star-idaz.net/?page_id=10)
 - Diagnostics (SFS-13-2017): VIVALDI, SWINOSTICS
 - Host-Pathogen Interactions (SFS-14-2016³): DELTA-Flu (http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/210501_en.html); PALE-BLU

² COM(2017) 713 final

³ topic partly designed following a scientific workshop with EFSA

(http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/210491_en.html) ; PIGS
(http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/210504_en.html)

2. Topics

- SFS-10-2017: emerging diseases
- SFS-16-2017: bee health and sustainable pollination⁴ (topic largely designed following Workshop with EFSA)
- SFS-46-2017: Alternative production system to address anti-microbial drug usage, animal welfare and the impact on health
- SFS-07-2018: Making European beekeeping healthy and sustainable⁵
- SFS-08-2018-2019: Improving animal welfare
- SFS-11-2018-2019: Anti-microbials and animal production
- SFS-12-2019: A vaccine against African swine fever
- (indicative) SFS-02-2020 - Healthy livestock gut ecosystem for sustainable production
- (indicative) SFS-10-2020 - Epidemiology of contagious animal diseases

Plants:

1. Projects

- XF-ACTORS [website](#) Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy
- MUSA Microbial Uptakes for Sustainable management of major banana pests and diseases: [CORDIS](#)
- TROPICSAFE Insect-borne prokaryote-associated diseases in tropical and subtropical perennial crops: [CORDIS](#)

2. Topics

- SFS-08-2017: Organic inputs – contentious inputs in organic farming
- SFS-10-2017: emerging diseases
- SFS-13-2017: validation of diagnostic tools for animal and plant health
- SFS-17-2017: innovations in plant protection
- SFS-01-2018(-2019-2020): Biodiversity in action: across farmland and the value chain
- SFS-04-2019(-2020): Integrated health approaches and alternatives to pesticide use (Scope A 2019)
- SFS-05-2018-2019(-2020): New and emerging risks to plant health
- SFS-06-2019-2020: Stepping up integrated pest management

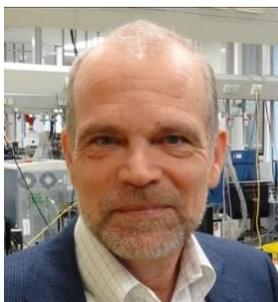
Food:

1. Projects

- Biological contamination of crops and the food chain (SFS-13-2015): MycoKey (<http://www.mycokey.eu/>); MyToolBox (<https://www.mytoolbox.eu/>)
- Overall transparency of processed agri-food products (SFS-45-2016): EU-China-Safe (http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/210500_en.html)

2. Topics

- SFS-37-2019: Integrated approaches to food safety controls across the food chain.



Robert van Gorcom - Vice-chair of the EFSA Management Board and Managing Director at RIKILT, Wageningen UR

Robert van Gorcom graduated in Molecular Sciences at Wageningen University (1981) and got a PhD in Molecular Genetics at the University of Amsterdam (1997) on the analysis of gene expression in filamentous fungi. He worked for 20 years at the Dutch Organization of Applied Scientific Research TNO as project leader and department manager on microbial and plant biotechnology. In 2000 he became managing director of the glasshouse horticulture research stations of Wageningen University & Research and in 2002 he joined Wageningen UR's food safety research

⁴ topic partly designed following a scientific workshop with EFSA

⁵ topic contributing to operationalise EFSA Healthy-B

institute RIKILT as BU manager. He was appointed as general director of RIKILT on 1-1-2010. In July 2014 he also became a member (and in 2016 vice chair) of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority where he also is a member of the Audit committee.

Written contribution:

EFSA's Management Board discusses on a regular basis EFSA's strategy and work programme, its priorities and resources. Like other organisations, resource constraints limit also EFSA to financially support all research activities that are needed to fill knowledge gaps. As networking organisation EFSA has an important role to drive research on knowledge gaps identified and to inform research agenda's. This will mean that EFSA will need to work with EC and national counterparts to identify resources for research more and more from other sources.

Recent H2020 work plans make only limited mention of food safety related topics. It would be a lost opportunity if the 9th Framework Programme FP9, were to focus solely on innovation for business aims, risking to neglect public aims. Food safety innovation is such a (predominantly) public aim.

With negotiations over the next EU programming period on-going, the [Tallinn Call for Action](#) provides a strong rationale for increasing research funding, calling on the responsibility of policy makers, researchers, businesses and journalists in ensuring that research is a real priority in EU policy making, increasing trust in research. Tallinn calls on:

- EU and national governments to increase expenditure in research
- researchers to be more active in communicating the impact of their results in order to build confidence in research to the general public.
- universities and research institutions to actively promote excellent research and innovation ecosystems that support interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange, and encourage the mobility and career development of researchers. Therefore, increased and more stable funding should be guaranteed for universities and research institutions.

One important driver for research organisations to release time of their experts to work for EFSA (e.g. as Panel members) is return of investment by being exposed to peers at EU level to be informed on latest scientific developments, identifying knowledge gaps and bringing home suggestions for research and collaboration opportunities.

Important for those who wish to inform future research agendas - whether in organisations such as EFSA, national authorities or research institutes - is to build good working relationships over the long term with those who are involved in programming - to understand what is driving developments in the area and to formulate input in shaping future calls.

Of particular importance to research Institutes, like the **RIKILT Wageningen University & Research**, are the grant schemes to support the costs of research. More and more funds ask significant contributions from the research institutions itself. EFSA is ranking low in the list of funders, providing only a limited amount of co-funding.

In developing research agendas, it will good to focus on emerging areas for which additional funding is necessary, including natural toxins, on site tools for detection by consumers, inspectors and businesses, and cumulative risk assessment.



Marta Hugas - Chief Scientist at the European Food Safety Authority(EFSA). This position addresses the development of EFSA's scientific strategic direction; acting as focal point on scientific matters and facilitating the understanding of science; fostering scientific cooperation as well as leveraging connections and networks for promoting EFSA's research priorities. She joined EFSA in 2003 and since then Marta has held several positions: Head of Biological Hazards Unit (BIOHAZ), Head of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department a.i. (RASA) and Head of the Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit (BIOCONTAM).

Marta holds a BSc in biological sciences, an MSc in genetics and microbial biotechnology and a PhD in food microbiology. Prior to joining EFSA, she worked for the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) in Spain, where she was Head of the Food Microbiology and

Biotechnology Unit and led a research group on applied research on meat and food safety. From 1992 to 2004 she was an Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona. Marta's areas of expertise focus on: food hygiene, development of starter and bio protective cultures, probiotics for the safety of poultry meat, emerging preservation technologies as well as risk assessment of biological hazards. She has extensively published papers and book chapters.

Written contribution:

The Estonian Presidency of the EU, published the [Tallinn call for Action 2017](#) addressing all the stakeholders involved in R&I, and identifying several priorities very relevant in the reflections for the FP9. In particular, the second priority calls for increasing the impact of research and innovation (R&I) investments including **strengthening the role of research in policy making**. Similarly, the so-called "[Lamy report](#)" lays out a vision to maximise the impact of future EU R&I programmes, and recommends to adopt a **mission-oriented impact-focused approach to address global challenges**. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) would serve as a global reference framework for defining EU's R&I missions. Already in H2020, the EU support to R&I strengthened **the evidence-base for policy-making**, of which the results of EU funded projects related to antimicrobial resistance are an example.

EFSA and the national food safety agencies as well as our sister agencies (ECHA, EMA, ECDC) have a privileged knowledge, from daily operations, in identifying gaps in knowledge that are often neglected or given low priority in research programmes as they are directed to the "creation of knowledge" from a more academic than a regulatory perspective. Notwithstanding that filling the knowledge gaps might have a positive impact in the pre-market authorization of regulated products as well as in decreasing the burden of disease in the generic risk assessment areas of chemical and biological contaminants.

The European Union Agencies Network for Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA) which consists of technical and regulatory agencies that provide scientific advice to EU policymakers and inherently have an interest in enhancing the evidence base in their domains, recently published a reflection paper that proposes actions by which EU agencies could enhance their added value to EU research actors and policymakers in the EU institutions by engaging in the **research knowledge cycle**. This is conceptualised as a sequence of **identification** of research needs, in the **advocacy** of these needs to EU research funders, as assistance in the **assessment** of research proposals and as an **engagement** with ongoing EU research projects.

EFSA and the other EU Risk assessment bodies benefit from an excellent access to the EU and global pool of expertise which can be used to facilitate the creation of consortia to apply to call of proposals. Networking is carved in EFSA's DNA as we operate networks of Member States experts in a broad range of disciplines from Animal Health and Welfare to Plant Protection Products, understanding food safety in the widest context as per our founding regulation. An enhanced use of these expertise and scientific networks will bring greater return of investment and reduce fragmented approaches in benefit of the EU sustainability and competitiveness.

Additionally, The Lamy report recommends making international R&I cooperation a trademark of EU and research innovation. In this respect, EU Risk assessment bodies are well positioned to contribute in the alignment of EU and international regulatory research activities to allow for a clearer pathway to impact, pulling through the outputs of research projects.



Eduardo Augusto dos Santos Rosa - Member of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Science Europe, full Professor at the Department of Agronomy at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro in Portugal. Eduardo Rosa has over 35 years' experience in research and is currently Director of the International PhD Programme AgriChains. He has published more than 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings and has co-ordinated, or been involved in, more than 50 national and international projects. He is a member of the Scientific Council for the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT) and is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the 'Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture'.

Written contribution:

Science Europe is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels that represents major Research Funding and Research Performing Organisations across Europe. It supports these organisations in their efforts to foster European research and its relevant outcomes for society. Through collaboration and advocacy work, as well as direct engagement with key partners, Science Europe strengthens the European Research Area (ERA). In doing so, it is informed by direct representation of all scientific communities in its reflections on policies, priorities and strategies, via the **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)**. The SAC consists of 30 high-profile active researchers from all over Europe. SAC member, Eduardo Augusto dos Santos Rosa is a Professor in the Department of Agronomy at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal. Prof. Rosa's expertise is focused on sustainability and competitiveness of the food production value chains, under the present biotic and abiotic challenges, whilst meeting high standards of food quality and safety.

Prof. Rosa and the multidisciplinary SAC worked on the topic of research 'Impact and the Societal Value of Science' in 2016. In order to convey the richness and diversity of science, the committee approached the topic from the viewpoint of a range of scientific disciplines. They made the case for a qualitative narrative through a story-telling approach, in which scientists emphasised the importance of presenting case studies and examples of research that created societal impact, to **help facilitate a better understanding of the broad value that research brings to society**. Their work highlights the importance of mutual trust between science and society and of balancing needs, expectations, and behaviors of both parties. Science Europe's key messages on impact and impact assessment can be found [here](#) and [here](#), and work is ongoing.

The SAC has also recently addressed the topic '**Science without Borders**' to steer discussion and devise solutions with policymakers for challenges in key sectors of science. Open Science, Researcher Mobility, Cross-border Collaboration, Careers, Funding, and 'Inner Borders' were deemed relevant, with 'inner borders' ranked most important. These borders were defined as those between disciplines and sectors when it comes to collaborating on research, but also as those between scientists and citizens in engaging and involving the latter in research efforts. A number of barriers were brought to the table, such as difficulties in evaluating multidisciplinary research, limited funding opportunities, and a too narrow view of innovation. A report on these discussions can be found on the Science Europe website soon.



Ioanna Stavridou - Science Officer at COST Association, Brussels, where for the last 10 years she has promoted research collaboration and coordinated high-level networking activities on topics of food, agriculture and biomedical sciences. She received a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. in Biological Sciences and Plant Biotechnology, respectively, from Imperial College, London, U.K. and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Cambridge University, U.K. She worked as a research scientist in U.K. and Cyprus before joining the COST Association in 2007.

Written contribution:

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a pan-European intergovernmental framework with more than 45 years of experience of creating open networks of excellence in all scientific fields. It is a unique means for researchers to jointly develop their own ideas and initiatives across all fields of science and technology, while promoting trans-disciplinarity. As a precursor of multi-/ inter-disciplinary research, COST plays an important role in building the European Research Area (ERA) and enhance European excellence.

COST is supported by Horizon 2020. COST anticipates and complements the activities of the EU Framework Programmes. Through funding of bottom-up networks COST nourishes open, free spaces where people and ideas grow, it creates integration between European countries and their diversities, it builds trust and long-lasting networks enabling defragmentation of research and at the same time

increased access opportunities to EU funding. COST aims at bridging the innovation divide in Europe and provide opportunities for younger generations.

COST networks (COST Actions) are selected through a proposal and evaluation process that is peer-reviewed, simple, transparent and competitive. COST Actions grow through a four year funded period and use networking tools, such as workshops, conferences, short-term lab exchanges and training schools to address the identified common challenge of the network participants. COST networks promote brain circulation within Europe by integrating all types of specialists (researchers, innovators, policy makers, civil society) and provide space where science and society can meet and build a mutual trust.

In 2016, 327 COST Actions were running, with more than 45,000 researchers involved. The Actions, being bottom-up networks, cover a wide range of topics from astrophysics, civic rights and democracy, to food challenges of drylands. The bottom-up nature of the networks allows COST to be in the forefront of enabling researchers to answer to any new challenges that they face and to a certain extent to the societal needs. Based on a mapping of current, and recently ended, COST Actions to the EU Risk Assessment Agenda (EU RAA) project ideas, a number of overlaps can be identified; this includes topics on wildlife disease, harmful organisms in animal health, foodborne diseases, allergenicity, invasive alien species, application of Next Generation Sequencing for the detection and diagnosis of plant viral diseases, plant substances and biocontrol agents in crop production and others.

The fact that COST Actions have an average of 27 COST Countries as active partners renders them as ideal platforms to capitalise on, since it suggests that 27 COST Countries agree that the challenge to be addressed is relevant to each one of them. Stakeholders can use the expertise and knowledge generated through the COST Actions to strengthen the excellence and efficiency of the European Food and Nutrition Security research contributing to the achievement and protection of a resilient society.

ii) Afternoon panel speakers (5):



Stef Bronzwaer - Research Coordinator, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). He graduated as medical doctor at the University of Amsterdam (1995) and completed his Master of Public Health (2001), and his PhD in Medical Sciences (2003). Having worked shortly as medical doctor in a slum-area near Manila, the Philippines, he moved to the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome, Italy, and then to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven (NL), as project leader of the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (EARSS). From 2002 to 2005 he worked at the DG Health and Consumer protection at the European Commission in Luxembourg, mainly on the implementation of the Community strategy against antimicrobial resistance. Since 2006 he

works at EFSA, first on the monitoring of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks, and later to lead EFSA's work on scientific cooperation with the Member States.

Written contribution:

The Research Assembly reinforces the case for more R&I investment, the need for public funding for food safety and the importance of close cooperation to inform research agenda setting. Today is a **tangible proof that there is a wider risk assessment community** active and committed to improve food safety, ready to join forces in research projects that impact on public health.

EFSA performs regulatory science, assessing the latest science to inform policy decisions, and has **established a large network in and beyond Europe**. Many partners exchange data, information, expertise and also staff through the Advisory Forum; Focal Point network; the (Article 36) network of 350 competent organisations, including public authorities, universities and research organisations; 16 operational scientific networks including a network of Communication Experts; and several international networks and liaison groups.

EFSA's 2020 Strategy is based on collaboration with its strategic partners, including research needs. National authorities and EFSA have performed a large [Delphi study](#) to identify joint priorities in food safety. Subsequently, they developed the **EU Risk Assessment Agenda** (EURAA), addressing these

common priorities through joint projects. In the past 3 years, almost 40 joint projects started with EFSA's support, involving over 75 partners that represent an active risk assessment community.

With a **decreasing budget for scientific cooperation** EFSA will not be able to support many other joint projects. External resources are needed to support this networking and cooperation. This meets also the interest of funders and policy makers, given the **mutual benefits of interaction between funders, EU agencies and national partners**, such as:

- More efficient and sustainable use of the expertise pool and infrastructure bringing greater return of investment and avoiding fragmented approaches;
- Joined up thinking to generate more impactful calls and research;
- Enhancement of networks and geographical balance, including possible research clusters with other EU agencies and international partners.
- Enhancing synergies between MS and EU Research programmes to achieve greater impact of funding activities, creating cooperation opportunities outside the EU.

As indicated in recent discussions with the Advisory Forum, EFSA is ready to support networking and research agenda setting further. It can support and facilitate the formation of consortia through the network of EFSA national Focal Points, inform research agendas priorities based on the knowledge and research gaps identified in risk assessment, and facilitate access to and understanding of existing funding opportunities such as H2020, COST, and regional funds.



Jack de Bruijn - Director of Risk Management, European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). He started working at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) right from the start in September 2007. He is currently heading the Risk Management Directorate that is responsible for implementing the authorisation and restrictions processes under REACH, managing the tasks resulting from the CLP Regulation and managing and coordinating ECHA's scientific evaluations and assessments under the Biocidal Products Regulations (BPR). Before joining the Agency Mr de Bruijn worked at the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC/EC) in Italy where he coordinated the development of the guidance documents for REACH. Before joining the ECB he worked for many years for the Dutch national authorities in the area of regulatory risk assessment of chemicals.

Mr de Bruijn is chemist by training and has a PhD in environmental toxicology.

Written contribution:

The Risk Assessment Research Assembly, organised by EFSA, provides an excellent opportunity for its sister agency ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) to follow and draw lessons from this interesting initiative. ECHA as a regulatory agency focusses on the implementation of the chemicals legislation REACH, CLP, Biocides and PIC and has as such no opportunities for receiving funding through collaborative calls/projects; in fact this is prohibited through its financial regulation. ECHA's work in developing sound science-based decisions and opinions is though highly dependent on relevant high-quality scientific EU research and hence the Agency is interested in influencing the EU research agenda to increase the likelihood that the results of EU funded research will support the short-, medium or even long-term regulatory questions we are faced with. As our mission and vision strongly relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) we consider that future research in relation to chemicals should be judged, with a holistic perspective, on how it contributes to sustainable development and use of chemicals.

The Agency is well aware that it cannot influence the EU research Agenda on its own. Therefore ECHA is working closely together in the EU Agencies Network for Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA) which is a multidisciplinary network comprising 13 EU agencies that provide scientific information and advice to EU institutions and national authorities in the EU across a broad range of domains. Whereas the content of the work in each Agency is highly specialised and unique, a common interest to all ANSA Agencies is the production of scientific evidence to inform policy and regulatory requirements. Agencies have a deep understanding of the research knowledge available, and also where knowledge gaps limit the quality of advice produced.

EU-ANSA recently analysed the extent to which Agencies are engaged in the EU research knowledge cycle which is conceptualised as a sequence consisting of **identification** of research needs, **advocacy** of these to EU-research funders, assisting in **assessment** of research proposals and **engagement** with on-going EU research projects.

ECCHA's engagement in all these four areas has been relatively limited during the first 10 years of its existence. We consider however that there is a strong need for the Agencies to identify both their individual and common research priorities and ensure we communicate better on what matters for regulators, both to the research community as well as to the funding organisations. Through the creation of relevant networks with Member States authorities, these research priorities can be better analysed and communicated and critical mass can be sought. We also consider that in addition to steering the agenda setting, staff of the Agencies can provide a valuable contribution to an independent evaluation of specific research proposals and ensure that public research funding will be spent sensibly and that its outcome is optimised towards successfully addressing policy issues.



J. (Jos) A. Cornelese - Research Strategy Senior Advisor, Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) . He has a degree in Food technology (MSc) at the Netherlands University of Wageningen (1984) and is at present senior advisor research and knowledge strategy of the office for risk assessment and research at the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). The main task of the NVWA is to safeguard public health, plant and animal health and animal welfare. Therefore it monitors feed, animals, food and consumer products. The Authority controls the whole production chain, from raw materials and processing aids to end products and consumption. The three main issues of the VWA are: supervision, risk assessment and risk communication.

In 2017 Jos Cornelese was projectmanager of a multi-annual project on risk assessment of supply chains in which hazards and risks on food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health were identified, assessed and compared. The risk assessment and advice on the dairy supply chain, egg chain, poultry meat chain was finalized in 2017. Other supply chains will follow.

A significant part of its work involves liaising with ministries and research institutes and universities. Activities include research programming, discussions on research infrastructure, research agenda's etc.

Jos was active in several ERA-NET's (SAFEFOODERA, EMIDA, ANHIWA) and responsible for the coordination of topics within all ERA-NET's relevant for the NVWA.

In previous jobs Jos was active in the field of research programming, within the NVWA, in the ministry of Agriculture (food and non-food innovation in industry, food safety, fisheries) and within the European Commission. In several European frameworkprogrammes Jos was Dutch member of the programme committee in the field of life sciences.

Written contribution:

This contribution is to highlight some aspects of international cooperation in research programming from the Dutch perspective (Office of Risk Assessment & Research).

Reasons for international cooperation/partnerships/.. etc are obvious and well spelled out in the European Union gremia. The framework programmes, EUREKA, COST,... are well known and contribute hugely to international research cooperation.

I have learned from my experience as research financier that it may be obvious, but it isn't easy to accomplish. Each country has different systems and rules to finance research. There are also within each country different type of organisations which finance research with different objectives. A combination of those different type of organisations in e.g. an ERANET makes it difficult to finance a project even when we all think it is worthwhile.

The goal of financing research can be different: aimed at solving a particular problem; promoting science in general; promoting international collaboration or innovation oriented on a specific theme or topic. If the goal is different the scope of a call is mostly different and the selection of projects and financing it encounters possible problems.

I distinguish roughly five phases from starting to think about topics until the final financial discharge of research projects. In this contribution I focus upon the first phase, because this is decisive for the type of research which is funded:

1. Articulation phase (selection of themes, topics and research question, descriptions, choice of financial models, procedures and preliminary commitment of partners on topic(s),)
2. Call announcement (announcement, guidance and explanation to research community, call administration);
3. Selection and commitment phase (expert judgement, selection of projects and consortium agreement);
4. Running period (guidance of the project, reporting, reviews);
5. Discharge phase (approval final report, dissemination, financial discharge).

Ad 1. In almost all calls for projects of ERANET's and in general of framework programmes the model of consensus for themes and topics is used. This model fits well with large groups of funders. The principle of this type of call is that it starts from a consensus between partners on general research themes (e.g. antibiotic resistance) and/or topics (e.g. ESBL's). In some way themes and topics are gathered, clustered and prioritised leading to a number of themes/topics of interest for the funders.

However my organisation is interested in financing research that is problem oriented. The results should directly contribute in solving the problem or to innovation. We have learned over the past years that this consensus model is not well suited for this purpose.

I would therefore like to propose the 'dating model' or continuous calls.

The principle of this call model is that a call for research projects is possible as long as a few partners collectively agree to finance a topic. The only condition for a topic call is the willingness of partners from different countries to work together and their agreement on the scientific and the financial conditions.

Dating at any time

The vision is that a central organisation acts as a *platform* (or market place) for funders to meet and agree on transnational activities. Funders can 'post' a topic at any time and invite other funders to join the call. This topic can be based upon a Strategic Research Agenda, an incident, a political discussion et cetera. Other interested funders can join and work out the call text and define conditions (e.g. virtual or real common pot; no open call but joining forces with fixed institutes/universities/labs;). The already developed guidelines, agreements et cetera in former ERANETS can be used.

The proposed items can be small or big activities, being research calls, training, education et cetera.

The call is at any convenient time for these funders and in principle throughout the year.



Gorgias Garofalakis - Nutritional Policy and Research Officer, Hellenic Food Authority (EFET).

Dr. Gorgias Garofalakis is a Chemical Engineer with a PhD in Food Science. He has worked extensively in the development and implementation of research, innovation and knowledge transfer collaborative projects for the agro-food sector. Within that framework, he has cooperated with small and medium enterprises in addressing various technological challenges and in developing new products. He has contributed to cross-actor dialogue initiatives supporting the identification of research priorities at the sectoral or at the regional level. To that end, he has helped towards the establishment of the Hellenic Technology Platform "Food for Life".

In 2011, Gorgias joined the Directorate of Nutrition Policy and Research in the Hellenic Food Authority. Currently, he is a member of the Greek EFSA Focal Point team there, supporting networking and scientific cooperation between Greek experts and EFSA on risk assessment issues. Gorgias participates in the advisory platform of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, the main research funding body in Greece, for the thematic area of Agro-food and Nutrition.

Written contribution:

`Promoting risk assessment research priorities towards research stakeholders`

Using resources from existing “mainstream” research funding channels towards the implementation of EU RAA topics or, in general, research activities with a narrow focus on risk assessment may present several of challenges for interested parties. While the exact challenges vary across Europe and across the different types of risk assessment actors, one or more of the following issues may be apply:

- Research funding programmes have a wide scope in terms of themes and actors, featuring objectives that go beyond risk assessment, often aiming to have impact on important socio-economic parameters, such as competitiveness, sectorial development, boosting of the academia-industry cooperation, employment, etc.
- Risk assessment actors may not be in a position to provide adequate input during the consultation processes leading to the formulation of the funding programmes and/ or the subsequent calls.
- Research calls may require consortia of organisations of prescribed composition, sometimes with geographical limitations, often with strong industrial participation, which, in turn, puts focus on achieving outputs with direct industrial relevance. Contrary to that, risk assessment often requires developing methodologies, producing, collecting or collating data, etc.
- Even in the cases where funded projects involve work with relevance to risk assessment, this work may not come in the form of discrete, identifiable, re-usable outputs (e.g., tables of data, publications).

There is no single approach for mitigating all of the aforementioned challenges. Ideally, sufficient dedicated funds to support risk assessment research should be considered. In any case, our experience suggests that opening and maintaining communication channels with the funding bodies and participating in the consultation processes, together and in cooperation with other stakeholders, where possible, can help raise the visibility of the risk assessment relevant priorities. If a common ground between risk assessment research priorities and funding programme objectives is identified, that and can lead to the inclusion of such priorities within research calls. In many cases, this does not require changing the scope or the implementation mechanisms of funding programmes, e.g., where the desired risk assessment-relevant methodologies or datasets can find application to the development of outputs with industrial relevance.

The follow-up step of increasing the exploitation of any intermediate or final research project outputs that may be of relevance to risk assessment, involves having the capacity to monitor research outputs and the resources to interface with the output owners and request access to the material(s) needed.

Key advice:

- Risk assessment bodies need to maintain an overview of current (and emerging) research funding schemes and calls.
- Risk assessment bodies need to have the capacity to communicate and actively cooperate with funding bodies and all other research stakeholders in order to promote relevant priorities.
- Risk assessment bodies need to develop strategies to identify and exploit relevant outputs from the work carried out under publicly funded research projects.



Oddur Gunnarsson - Chief Intellectual Property Officer, Matis - Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D.

Oddur has been working in the field of Research and innovation management since 1987 First at the Development Centre of South Iceland where his responsibilities were the daily management of South Iceland developing found, Consulting municipalities in southern Iceland on matters of Entrepreneurship, funding Innovation assisting with business development of running companies and feasibility studies.

From 1997 Oddur was a senior adviser at Nordic Innovation, Oslo a Nordic organisation working to promote cross-border trade and innovation in close contact with companies, R&D institutes and universities in initiating.

Oddur was program manager for the NordFood programmes NF1 had that had four main themes: Food packaging, food quality, hygiene and new food technologies and processes. NF2 was smaller with main themes as food safety together with new market trends and consumer perspectives. the SME Forum with the objective to develop a policy program and political guidelines regarding SME's, then he was a WP leader in the FP6 project PROFORSAFE. The primary objective of the PROFORSAFE project was to establish a sound foundation for a future ERA-NET. SAFEFOODERA.

2003 Senior adviser for RANNÍS Icelandic Centre for Research, Managing the Technology developing fund. Supporting R&I activities aiming towards innovation in Icelandic industry. Managing the peer-reviews for natural science in the Research fund. The role of the Icelandic Research Fund is to support scientific research in Iceland. Member of the board of The Icelandic Student Innovation Fund. Coordinator for SAFEFOODERA a project within FP6. a co-ordination action ERA-NET of 18 Countries and 2 regional organisations.

2008 Oddur moves to work for Matis Ltd. an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute First as Director for business development responsible for Marketing, human resources, accounting and utilization and commercialization of R&D results. Responsible for moving and combining all Matis operations and laboratories at one place in Reykjavik. As Acting Managing Director for 12 months, and currently as Chief Intellectual Property Officer (CIPO).

Oddur has been the Icelandic delegate in the program committee for Thematic priority FP6, Thematic priority 2 FP7 and now Societal Challenge 2 in H2020.

Written contribution:

In the beginning of this century there was a great focus on food safety. Following a series of food crises in the late 1990s:

- EFSA was set up in 2002 to be a source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain.
- National food safety authorities were established around Europe
- The European Parliament and the Council adopted the Regulation laying down the general principles and requirements of food law

In the area of research, one of 7 PRIORITY THEMATIC AREAS in The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) was "Food quality and safety". Under the FP 6 a new tool was introduced, the EraNet, and Safefoodera (which ran from 08/2004 - 05/2009) was among the first Era-Nets.

Through the work of Safefoodera it came clear that there was a great overlap between national projects and programmes and the same problem was being dealt with in many national projects e.g. out of 490 projects identified working with pathogens, 111 were working with Campylobacter and this made it possible, with relatively light funding, to create synergies between the national projects.

I think it's fair to say that we are still benefitting from all these developments and consumer trust has broadly increased (though can be easily reduced as some recent events have shown). But at the same time the focus has moved away from food safety as a discrete issue, particularly in research programming, and today there has been a trend to look at food safety as a part of food security.

But the scene is changing - with drivers such as the demand for sustainability, reduction of food waste, utilisation of new sources of proteins, global warming and the development of the bioeconomy - we are seeing a systemic, holistic approach to food production which can unlock the full potential of the food chain, even resulting in a ZERO WASTE SITUATION as waste itself gets re-defined as useable by-products. Using waste and by-products as input for food production is strictly regulated for reasons of food safety and the implementation of the bio-economy may put pressure on these regulations (as indeed can issues related to the other drivers) and lead to new food safety challenges.

The complexity of these challenges should be addressed through SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND RESEARCH POLICY which calls for increased cooperation between the EU and national funding bodies dealing with food safety research. This could be done by setting up a forum/platform where the funding bodies could meet on a regular basis. The aim would be to generate synergies between ongoing activities, creating a natural arena for discussions with stakeholders such as Consumer organisations, RTD organisations eg. SafeConsortium and FoodForce, DG Research and innovation, DG Sante, SCAR and FoodDrinkEurope to name some. A platform like that could be facilitated by EFSA.

In my experience one key impact of the Era-net was that for the first time a wide range of national funding bodies from across Europe met to organise common calls for transnational research funding, dealing with the complexity of harmonising dates, project evaluation and agreeing on research topics. The Commission is not launching more EraNets. The focus is on CofundActions where the bulk of the funding comes from the European budget. National funding bodies should be able to harvest from the experience from the Era-Nets and establish transnational calls or develop tools enabling national R&I bodies to collaborate across borders on national funding.

There are many challenges waiting, which call for an open mind, a flexible attitude, trust in each other and an understanding that there are many tools and approaches available to deal with different tasks.

III. Facilitators

Biographies and photos of the event facilitator and the four facilitators of the parallel break-out sessions on research ideas are provided below.



Alisdair Wotherspoon – the facilitator of this event

Over 35 years' experience in the UK public sector, with around 25 years in the food science area. Retired in 2016 after 14 years as Head of Research Coordination/ Head of Science Delivery at the Food Standards Agency. Responsible for:

- Development/implementation of the governance around how the FSA prioritised, commissioned, managed and communicated its evidence portfolio,
- Development of partnership working with national/international organisations,
- UK EFSA Focal Point and EFSA Advisory Forum alternate.

Current activities: Elected Fellow of the Institute of Food Science and Technology and deputy chair of its Science Committee; Science Governor on the Council of the British Nutrition Foundation; Member of advisory groups for the Innovative Food Systems Teaching and Learning (IFSTAL) initiative (www.ifstal.ac.uk) and the H2020 funded project COMPARE (www.compare-europe.eu).

Significant representational experience at national/international level over career including:

- member of international steering committee of the Global Microbial Identifier Initiative (www.globalmicrobialidentifier.org);
- Member of the cross Govt/funder UK Global Food Security Programme and a member of the Programme Management Group;
- Impact assessor for Research Excellence Framework 2014 in Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science area;
- FSA research contact with national/international funding organisations.
- Work package leader on the EU FP6 funded food safety and quality focussed ERANET, Safefoodera; head of the international steering committee for latter part of the project.
- Science lead of the UK delegation to the EU Commission WG on feed additives and bioproteins and the food and agriculture conformation of the EU FP6/7 Programme Management Committee.
- Regularly invited to participate/present at national and international meetings, particularly on the impact of science on policy.

Alisdair holds BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry and FIFST.

LinkedIn: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/ajwotherspoon>



Marta Hugas - Facilitator of the break-out session group A

Chief Scientist at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
(ref. as already introduced above among the morning panellists)



Hans Verhagen - Facilitator of the break-out session group B

Head of EFSA's Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department (RASA)

He has 32 years of professional experience, both in the public and private sector. Before joining EFSA, he held management positions at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and TNO Nutrition and Food Research Institute, both in the Netherlands. He also worked in Unilever Research and at the Universities of Maastricht and Nijmegen, in the Netherlands and the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland.³

He was a member of EFSA's NDA Panel from 2006 until June 2015. He was editor in chief at "Food & Chemical Toxicology" and the "European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety".

He has published widely on subjects related to toxicology and nutrition.

Hans Verhagen studied chemistry (University Nijmegen, The Netherlands and Université de Paris VII, France). He obtained his PhD from the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. He is a board-certified toxicologist and a board-certified nutritionist (Foundation for Biomedical Scientific Research Training, the Netherlands).



George Kass - Facilitator of the break-out session group C

Senior Scientific Officer, EFSA's Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks (SCER) Unit

He was trained as a biochemist. He received his PhD in biochemical toxicology from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in 1990. After a post-doc at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich he returned to the Karolinska Institute as Assistant Professor. In 1994 he moved to the University of Surrey in the UK as Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Molecular Toxicology and was subsequently nominated Full Professor of Toxicology. He moved to the European Food Safety Authority in 2009.

George Kass was awarded a DSc from the Karolinska Institute and the University of Turku in Finland and he holds or has held visiting posts with the University of Surrey, the University of Newcastle, the University of Turku and the University of Rome.

He has published over 100 papers and abstracts in the field of Toxicology. A substantial part of his research has focused on the molecular mechanisms of drug toxicity and on liver injury. He has been an invited speaker at many national and international conferences and currently is Associate Editor of the journal Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology and on the editorial board of Chemo-Biological Interactions.



Guilhem de Seze - Facilitator of the break-out session group D

Head of EFSA's the Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO) Department - a Department providing independent scientific advice on pre-marketing risk assessment of substances, products and processes intended for use in the food chain, and substantiation of claims made on foods.

He joined the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on 1 September 2016. From 2008 he worked for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki, where in 2011 he became a Head of Unit, first for Substance Identification and Data Sharing, and then for Evaluation; both units were in charge of assessing scientific and technical information about chemical substances and their hazardous properties. Before this, Guilhem worked in the field of hazardous chemicals management in academia and in the chemical industry for over ten years. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana State University, USA, specialising in environmental exposure to pollutants.

