



## Minutes

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Focal Point Network Virtual meeting 06 - 07 May 2020

**Chair: Victoria Villamar / Julia Finger**

Members	
Austria	Johann Steinwider Sonja Mika
Belgium	Laurence Ballieux Frederic Denauw
Bulgaria	Donka Popova Lilyana Polihronova
Croatia	Sanja Milos Vlatka Buzjak Sluzek
Cyprus	Christophoros Papachrysosotomou Georgios Stavroulakis
Czech Republic	Petr Beneš
Denmark	Birgitte Helwich
Finland	Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen
Estonia	Piret Priisalu
France	Coralie Bultel Céline Bahuon
Germany	Julia Schoene Majlinda Lahaniatis
Greece	Foteini Tzoumanika Danai Papanastasiou
Hungary	Judit Sali Renàta Prisztòka
Iceland	Grimur Olafsson
Ireland	GrainneRedmond
Italy	Luca Busani Maria Girolama Falcone
Latvia	Elina Ciekure
Lithuania	Giedrė Čiuberkytė Rima Živatkauskaitė
Luxembourg	Elisa Barillozzi



Malta	<i>Giannella Pisani</i>
Netherlands	<i>Linda Kox</i>
Norway	<i>Gisle Solstad</i>
Poland	<i>Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos</i> <i>Sarogini Monteiro</i>
Romania	<i>Alexandru Supeanu</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Katarína Kromerová</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Spain	<i>Maria José Rubio</i> <i>Ana Canals Caballero</i>
Sweden	<i>Karin Nyberg</i> <i>Eva Warensjö Lemming</i>

#### Observers

Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri</i>
Bosnia Herzegovina	<i>Dalibor Vidačak</i>
Kosovo*	<i>Fisnik Rexhepi</i>
North Macedonia	<i>Sanja Ilieva</i>
Montenegro	<i>Ana Velimirovic</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak</i>

#### FP Secretariat

<i>Sofia Altesini</i>	<i>Martina Kurisova</i>
<i>Milo Bystricky</i>	<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>
<i>Julia Finger</i>	<i>Drago Marojevic</i>

#### EFSA

<i>Ana Afonso</i>	<i>Panagiotis Kalavros</i>
<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>Martina Kurisova</i>
<i>Milo Bystricky</i>	<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>
<i>Elisa Corsini</i>	<i>Drago Marojevic</i>
<i>Julia Finger</i>	<i>Eileen O'Dea</i>
<i>Barbara Gallani</i>	<i>Sergio Potier Rodeia</i>
<i>Gisele Gizzi</i>	<i>Adrian Cesar Razquin</i>
<i>Georgia Gkrintzali</i>	<i>Victoria Villamar</i>
<i>Claudia Heppner</i>	<i>Gabriele Zancanaro</i>

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence



## 1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Julia Finger welcomed FPs to the first virtual FP meeting, especially new members: Katarína Kromerová from Slovakia and Alex Supeanu from Romania. 13 countries have decided to participate with both member and alternate (AT, BE, BG, DE, ES, GR, HR, CY, HU, LT, IT, SE, PT).

## 2. Matters arising

Given the fact that DMS is no longer a platform for exchange and TEAMS has its limits, it is proposed to introduce **Sharepoint** for FPs. An example can be seen in the Sharepoint micro-site of the Communication Experts Network (CEN): The Network's internal micro-site is shared with the participants for information and sample purposes. A draft of the FPs Network Sharepoint micro-site will be shared with FPs before summer. **TEAMS** will remain for exchange and conversation and is interconnected with the Sharepoint site.

**The FP amendments 2020** have been uploaded in the country folders. It is requested that the amendments are signed electronically by the person that has also signed the agreements. Alternatively to an electronic signature, it is also possible to print, sign and scan. Deadline proposed: **18 May**.

By September we will have a **check on the execution of tasks**. The reason is to allow for adequate budgeting until year end. FPs will be requested to submit foreseen changes to the plan that has been submitted in spring.

**Check-point meetings on TEAMS** have been an excellent proposal by the FPs and should continue on a monthly basis. Next one is proposed for **16-17 June**.

The meetings are on volunteer basis.

## 3. Cooperation in Crisis – COVID 19

This agenda point offered discussions on the difficulties that the current working situation due to the coronavirus brings for FPs and FP activities. It also included an exchange on best practices for online tools and virtual meetings.

## 4. FPs as Knowledge Brokers & RARA 2020

Stef Bronzwaer provided an update on how FPs can conduct the Knowledge Broker function. FPs are invited to collect a funding opportunity overview, which can be reported under the Knowledge Broker task. Stef also informed that RARA will not take place in 2020 but is postponed to 2021.

## 5. EURAA and MS RA Databases

Drago Marojevic informed FPs that both databases have been temporary down and are available since the very day. Due to data loss, FPs that have a recent download are asked to send it to EFSA.

## 6. FP support to Data activities

Milo Bystricky provided an overview on FP support to DATA activities.

- **guide for MSs on how to provide data to EFSA**: FPs are invited to watch and disseminate the [tutorial video](#)
- **task force draft report**: the draft report is available to the AF. FPs are asked to liaise with their AF member.
- **quality/timeliness templates**  
the templates have been shared on TEAMS in the dedicated channel.
- **training needs**  
an example for a structure on how to collect the training needs can be found on TEAMS
- **SIGMA**  
A dedicated meeting will be held to clarify SIGMA tasks



## **7. Competent organisations management: state of play and way ahead**

Martina Kurisova gave an overview on networking possibilities, the updated Art.36 list and open calls. MSs asked a prolongation of the deadline for application for partnering and thematic grants.

**\*\*\*End of meeting on Day 1\*\*\***

## **8. Welcome by Barbara Gallani**

Barbara Gallani, Head of COMCO Department welcomed FPs on this second day of the meeting. This second day is dedicated to the Transparency Regulation and its implementation. In this context Barbara gave an outlook on EFSA's contribution to the General Plan for Risk Communication (GPRC)

## **9. Impact of the Transparency Regulation**

Gisele Gizzi highlighted the impact on sustainability of risk assessment at EU brought in by the new provisions in the Transparency Regulation (TR). The new provisions introduced in the GLF (namely in paragraph 5e of Article 28) will apply as of June 2022 - and today we wish to share with you our preliminary thoughts, reflections, ideas to kick-off this journey together, aiming to build and establish a strong future partnership model.

## **10. Cooperation 2020: Partnership Model**

Sergio Potier Rodeia informed FPs about ongoing ideas for defining a concept for a new partnership model to be rolled out in the future, allowing for a more systemic and strategic partnership management. The main challenge for EFSA and MSs will be to ensure that the same EFSA quality standards and provisions for confidentiality and independence are applied throughout established partnerships. The future partnership model will also contribute to the further development and deployment of risk assessment capacity in MSs. Partnerships both for delivering risk assessment opinions and supporting development activities are part of the main sustainability pillar of the EFSA 2027 strategy under development.

## **11. Focal Point External Review**

Julia Finger introduced the plan of an external review of the FP Network. The review focuses on getting clarity on the role of FPs and their situation in a new governance set-up of MB, AF, FP.

## **12. FP meetings planning**

Reshaping FP meetings planning is benefitting from an internal learning process taken place with the AF where it has been acknowledged by both MS and EFSA to have a yearly plan agreed with main topics.

## **13. New function: Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office (SPIDO)**

Claudia Heppner provided an overview on this new function asking FPs to liaise for further engagement with the AF members.



## 14. AOB

### 14.1 Comms Products and Dissemination

Elisa Corsini gave a presentation about the upcoming survey that EFSA will conduct with the FPs on the products catalogue and best practice dissemination task which is part of the Transparency Implementation

### 14.2 EFSA career infokit

Panos Kalavros and Annafranca Loparco followed up on the last FP meeting presenting a career kit (in the form of a MS Sharepoint page) for FPs to promote calls and job opportunities in EFSA: [https://efsa815.sharepoint.com/sites/FocalPointsNetwork/SitePages/Careers-at-EFSA-Infokit-for-Focal-Points\(1\).aspx?&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9IZnNhODE1LnNoYXJlcG9pbnQuY29tLzpw1Oj9zL0ZvY2FsUG9pbnRzTmV0d29yay9FWTJfVTI1WVg2SkZ0dWUtaX01uNEJ5NGhKWIVHOXFaSkhQazJFc0N6LXIRP3J0aW1IPWREemdGUWp3MTBn](https://efsa815.sharepoint.com/sites/FocalPointsNetwork/SitePages/Careers-at-EFSA-Infokit-for-Focal-Points(1).aspx?&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9IZnNhODE1LnNoYXJlcG9pbnQuY29tLzpw1Oj9zL0ZvY2FsUG9pbnRzTmV0d29yay9FWTJfVTI1WVg2SkZ0dWUtaX01uNEJ5NGhKWIVHOXFaSkhQazJFc0N6LXIRP3J0aW1IPWREemdGUWp3MTBn)

### 14.3 Outlook on Crisis Preparedness Training for FP and feedback on survey

Ana Afonso and Georgia Ggrintzkali provided feedback on the input that has been collected by FPs through a survey and give an outlook on the planned crisis preparedness training. Since the next FP meeting is an online meeting, the idea is to have the training outside the meeting agenda, probably on the day before (22 September) and a wrap-up during the FP meeting as well as follow-up actions. A background document will be shared after the meeting for further input.

## 15. Ecosystems: The world we work in

Eileen O'Dea referred to **the presentation of Paul Devalier** given during the last FP meeting in November.

## CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Victoria Villamar closed the meeting by thanking all FPs for their commitment and contribution during the workshop and FP meeting.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	EFSA	Propose draft Sharepoint site for FPs
Action 2	FPs	Upload signed FP amendments until 18 May
Action 3	EFSA	To conduct check on execution of tasks by September
Action 4	FPs	To propose discussion items for check-point meeting on 16-17 June
Action 5	FPs	To collect national funding opportunities under Knowledge Broker task
Action 6	FPs	To share eventual downloads of EURAA and MS RA Databases



<i>Action 7</i>	FPS	To check material in TEAMS channel on data related matters
<i>Action 8</i>	EFSA	To set special meeting on SIGMA tasks
<i>Action 9</i>	EFSA	To send background document on crisis preparedness training for comments