

42nd Focal Point meeting  
Virtual meeting, 6-7 May 2020

# Focal Point tasks 2020

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Trusted science for safe food

### **2.6 FP works together with EFSA as knowledge broker between the wider scientific community and funders/policy makers**

through one or more of the following actions:

- support incoming **requests for partner search** and, when appropriate, consortium formation
- **liaise with relevant national organisations** interacting with (national and EU) research funders (e.g. national research bodies, national contact points Horizon 2020 and Programme Committee members).
- **formulate research needs** to inform national and EU research agendas, enhancing synergies between MS and EU Research Programmes.
- **avoid duplication** with Member State or Community research programmes fostering cooperation through appropriate coordination (in accordance with Article 32 of General Food Law - 178/2002/EC).
- react to **requests of relevant external research projects** (e.g. Coordination and Support Action '[Supporting the food safety systems of the future](#)')
- Exchange and **disseminate relevant information**, including selected funding news and upcoming calls, outcomes of selected research projects and collect relevant project ideas from national counterparts
- **Support research mobility and capacity building opportunities**, for example through Guest schemes and research grant opportunities.

## Research Platform

### Latest information on the COVID-19 situation:

EFSA is closely monitoring the situation regarding the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that is affecting many countries across the globe. There is currently no evidence that food is a likely source or route of transmission of the virus.

For more information, [click here](#).

A coordinated global research roadmap on COVID-19 provided by the World Health Organization can be found [here](#).  
Science Business has compiled a database of COVID-19 funding opportunities as a service to the global R&D community.

The database is daily updated and can be found [here](#).

EFSA's Research Platform is home for the wider food safety research community. It aims to support project ideas, promote consortia formation, and help scientists find opportunities for public research funding in food safety.

The Platform has been created in response to a call for coordination in the area of food safety research at EFSA's first Risk Assessment Research Assembly ([RARA](#)), where participants called on EFSA to be a knowledge-broker between scientists and policy makers.

The platform offers access to the following tools:


[Funding programmes](#): a selection of current funding opportunities that are most relevant to food safety.


[Upcoming calls](#): announced calls in EFSA's remit that are selected to allow researchers to monitor upcoming opportunities.


**Partner search**: there are useful websites to help you find partners or express your interest to [participate in consortia](#). In addition, EFSA has a large network of [competent organisations](#) and researchers we work with. To find partners in your country, please contact your national [EFSA Focal Point](#).


### 2.7 FP organises national and/or regional events, convening the wider scientific community and funders/policy makers

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#### Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA)

Utrecht , 7 February 2018

**EFSA organised the first Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA), with a view to stimulating new partnerships in food safety research to safeguard public health, and highlighting the importance of public funding.**



Bringing together EU and national research funders, policy/decision makers and leading food safety researchers, RARA served as a platform to:

- exchange research ideas, which may form part of future calls, and
- identify partners and possible ways of funding.

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#### Outcome

The first RARA attracted 200 scientists, risk assessors and policy makers from 40 countries. To learn more about the event, you can check out the event report, the programme and a leaflet highlighting the key outcomes.

- [Event report](#)
- [Event programme](#) 
- [Key outcomes](#) 

#### See also

- › EFSA's Advisory Forum calls for more public investment in food safety research
- › EU Member States
- › Competent organisations in Member States
- › Risk Assessment Research Assembly



## EU Risk Assessment Agenda: Funding opportunities across the EU and its Member States

Overview of opportunities covering Food Sciences  
topics offered by Member States

Last update 2016, available [here](#)

- Be a **knowledge base** for FPS and many other interested parties
- Be a tool to **avoid duplication** and create synergies of EU and national funding
- Prepare for RARA (national-like) event through networking & **creating dialogue**
- **Foster cooperation** among funding agencies
- **Identify what research investments** may be possible
- Consider how **national funding can support SDGs** and relevant EU policies
- Inform **developments in the European Research Area**

Useful to publish this information on the  
[EFSA research platform](#)



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