

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Amendment of EFSA budget 2019

Executive summary

Article 34 of EFSA Financial Regulation foresees that EFSA submits for approval to its Management Board any amendment to the budget. This amending budget is subsequently published in the EU Official Journal.

Subject of this amendment:

- A. Grant agreement to be concluded between EFSA and DG NEAR of the European Commission for the implementation of cooperation activities with the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) countries as of the 1st of June, 2019 in the amount of € 500,000.00
- B. Bank interest for the year 2018 in the amount of € 33,343.59

Detailed information

A. Grant agreement between EFSA and DG NEAR

In October 2018, EFSA received a note from DG NEAR – Ref. Ares(2018) 5279026-09/10/2018 informing that EUR 500,000.00 are available for EFSA for the next Pre-accession project, under the Commission Decision adopting a Multi – country Action Programme for the year 2018 in particular the Action 4 “Preparatory measures for the participation of IPA beneficiaries in EU Agencies”. The funding will be made available by means of a grant agreement, PAGoDA2 (Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement). PAGoDA 2 is based on the Financial Regulation and on Regulation (EU) 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action. The grant will be paid in one instalment. The implementation period is 24 months, starting on 1st June 2019.

EU agencies, including EFSA, are active contributors to the EU IPA programmes through the EC multi-country action entitled “Preparatory measures for the participation of IPA beneficiaries in EU agencies”.

The action supports EU agencies, allowing them to carry out with the IPA beneficiaries and stakeholders the preparatory measures in view of their future participation in work of the EU agencies upon their membership or earlier. In addition to this, the support aims at knowledge transfer and capacity building in the area of expertise of the EU agencies.



The new Programme will continue to build on the progress made in recent years involving the relevant countries in its work. The focus will be on the risk assessment capacity building, increased involvement of the scientific community from the IPA countries in EFSA's working groups and projects and to enhance data exchange. It is crucial to progressively increase the participation of IPA countries in the EFSA's scientific cooperation and networks and to build capacity and expertise able to contribute to EFSA's work before and after the accession, in particular in collection and exchange of harmonised food safety data. Collection of accurate and reliable data is a prerequisite for informed risk assessment and risk management, especially during the food safety crises and emerging risks. Being part of the EFSA's networks will benefit the countries, as they can focus on the issues prioritised by EFSA, detect problems at an early stage, prevent food crises and protect consumers from food-related risks.

Based on the specific aim of the project, i.e. to increase involvement of IPA community into EFSA's scientific cooperation and priority food safety topics, the expected project outputs are:

- 1) Increased IPA's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community;
- 2) Increased scientific cooperation and networking activities among IPA countries, Member States and EFSA;
- 3) Increased harmonisation of IPA risk assessment and data collection methodologies with EFSA's methodologies and data reporting to EFSA;
- 4) Increased preparedness on common food safety issues, such are AMR, transboundary animal diseases.

Target groups:

The direct target groups are the competent food safety authorities and other relevant authorities responsible for food safety in IPA countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo¹, North Macedonia and Turkey), in particular those with a similar remit as EFSA's and also other scientific, academic and civil society organisations.

Main activities:

- Coordination of appointment/confirmation of IPA national coordinating institutions, final beneficiaries of the project (Ministries and Agencies responsible for risk assessment or competent food authorities) - based on the information provided by IPA countries in BfR food safety Almanac²;
- Signature of the Letters of Intent with IPA National coordinating institutions;
- Financial support to IPA national coordinating institutions for project coordination at national level.
- Coordination of Assistant coordinators agreements implementation;
- Coordination of the nomination, participation and follow up activities of IPA observers in Advisory Forum and Focal point networks;
- Coordination of the nomination and participation of IPA observers in EFSA's scientific networks for zoonoses data collection, chemical monitoring data, food consumption and exposure, animal health and welfare, plant health network³;

¹This designation (*) is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

² See [BfR Almanac](#)

³ See [EFSA scientific networks](#)



- Coordination of the IPA countries involvement in the “SIGMA” Project⁴, the aim of which is to automate data submissions on disease outbreaks, surveillance and domestic animal populations;
- Coordination of the organisation of the “Autumn school” in the field of Emerging Risks in food science for PhD and young post doc researchers from IPA countries in one of the EU Member States;
- Coordination of the organisation of the awareness events on EFSA’s and Programme’s activities in IPA countries;
- Coordinate capacity building activities on harmonisation of risk assessment and data collection methodologies with IPA countries;
- Liaison with Commission services (DG SANTE, TAIEX, DG NEAR) and sister EU agencies (ECDC, EMA, EEA) on cooperation with IPA and related developments of interest to EFSA;
- Conduct a survey with IPA experts to collect their input on the important areas for technical cooperation;
- Preparation of narrative and financial reports for the Commission services, as per contract and agreed reporting timeframe.

B. Integration of the bank interest for the year 2018

Article 58 of EFSA Financial Regulation states that the interest generated by funds paid to the Authority by the Commission by way of the contribution shall not be due to the general budget of the Union.

Bank interests have been credited on EFSA’s bank account at the end of every calendar year. This decision however covers the interest amount for the year 2019, cashed-in beginning 2019.

The Management Board is asked to integrate into EFSA’s 2019 Budget the amount of 33,343.59 €, corresponding to the bank interests received from the 1st January 2018 to the 31st December 2018.

The amount shall be allocated to the budget line 2001 – “Acquisition” that covers the payments (capital and interests) for the purchase of the EFSA seat. It therefore shall offset part of the interests paid.

⁴ See [SIGMA project](#)