

Minutes

48th Meeting of the Focal Point Network 18 - 19 May 2022

Chair: Victoria Villamar

Members	
Austria	Johann Steinwider
Belgium	Frederic Denauw
Bulgaria	Ekaterina Koeva Donka Popova (online) Lilyana Polihronova (online)
Croatia	Jasenka Petrić Iva Dorić (online)
Cyprus	Christophoros Papachrysosotomou (online) Georgios Stavroulakis
Czech Republic	Petr Beneš
Denmark	Vibe Beltoft
Estonia	Piret Priisalu
Finland	Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen Celine Bahuon (online)
France	Coralie Bultel Julia Raeke (online) Marina Lechleider
Germany	Kei Udagawa (online) Phoebe Young (online)
Greece	Danai Papanastasiou (online) Foteini Tzoumanika
Hungary	Renata Prisztoka (online)
Iceland	Grimur Olafsson
Ireland	Gráinne Redmond
Italy	Luca Busani (online) Maria Girolama Falcone
Latvia	Jānis Ruško
Lithuania	Simona Bieliauskaite
Luxembourg	Elisa Barillozzi
Malta	Giannella Pisani (online) Linda Kox
Netherlands	Lodi Laméris (online) Timme van der Lugt (online)
Norway	Gisle Solstad (online)
Poland	Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska (online) Malgorzata Gajewska (online)
Portugal	Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos
Romania	Simona Rădulescu (online) Georgeta Popovici (online)
Slovenia	Maja Obreht (online)
Spain	Maria José Rubio (online) Milagros Nieto Martinez (online)
Sweden	Jenny Aasa Karin Nyberg (online)
Observers	
Switzerland	Barbara Engeli



Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri (online)</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Dalibor Vidačak</i>
Kosovo*	<i>Sara Preniqi</i>
Montenegro	<i>Ana Velimirović</i>
North Macedonia	<i>Svetlana Tomeska Mickova</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak (online)</i>
FP Secretariat	
Elina Ciekure	Julia Finger
Vanessa Descy	Riccardo Mantovani
EFSA	
Sofia Altesini	Claudia Heppner
Elina Ciekure	Riccardo Mantovani
Vanessa Descy	Drago Marojević
Julia Finger	Antonio Morell De Meer
Clémence Foltz	Plamen Panayotov
Gorgias Garofalakis	Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos (online)
Margherita Guidi	Victoria Villamar

Apologies:

Slovak Republic	<i>Milo Bystrický</i>
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**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

Victoria Villamar, Head of the Engagement and External Unit (ENREL) opened the 48th Focal Point (FP) meeting and welcomed the FPs.

12 countries (BG, CY, DE, ES, FR, GR, HR, IT, NL, PL, RO, SE) participated with both members and alternates of their national FP teams.

The Chair welcomed new representatives: Ms Simona Rădulescu and Ms Georgeta Popovici, respectively FP Member and FP Alternate of Romania; and Ms Maja Obreht, FP Member of Slovenia.

The plenary adopted the agenda.

Action Point 1: EFSA to organise a newcomers' session in one of the next checkpoint meetings.

2. Feedback from the Advisory Forum Steering Group (AFSG) on the FP Review

Drago Marojević provided feedback from the AFSG on the FP Review. The presentation outlined the progress made by the AFSG in defining the vision, mission, and goals of the future FP network. He provided hints on the proposed model based on three concepts: multiannual, flexible, and tailor-made. Drago explained the AFSG's approach to defining tasks for the new FP framework. The tasks are an evolution of current tasks and new proposed tasks by AFSG/AF discussion groups (WGs)/EFSA. Drago Marojević described the work performed to prepare a proposal for the new FP framework that will be presented during the 84th AF Plenary meeting to receive the endorsement of the new framework. The planned next steps, for AFSG, FPs and EFSA after the possible endorsement, were presented.



3. Session on the Future FP Tasks

Drago Marojević introduced the session by presenting new activities proposed by the AFSG and some of the revised current activities. The session also collected inputs helping the AFSG and EFSA to shape and finalise the proposal that will be submitted to the AF.

The proposed first draft activities were clustered into 4 areas: 1) Capacity building, 2) Collaboration and Partnerships, 3) Knowledge and information management and support to scientific production and 4) Networking and engagement. Activities under the risk communication and data areas will be discussed in relevant AF discussion groups (AFDGs).

The wording of activities will be improved after the AFSG and EFSA internal meetings taking place over the summer. EFSA and the Member States (MSs) will further develop the list of tasks (not complete yet).

The **Chair** thanked the AFSG members for supporting this session and thanked the group for the impressive work done.

Action Point 2: EFSA to inform FPs on the development of the list of tasks for the new FP framework and to organise sessions with FPs to discuss tasks/activities to be included under the new FP framework.

Action Point 3: EFSA to create a FAQ section about the new FP framework with an included overview and examples on possible tailor-made tasks to help countries to understand and apply for activities.

Action Point 4: Countries based on a proposal prepared by AFSG and other AFDGs or based on their national interest in specific areas for considering an application for activities under the tailor-made part of the new FP framework.

Action Point 5: EFSA, FPs and AFSG to discuss possible task ranking under the new FP framework.

4. Social Media Training

Clémence Foltz presented the results from a survey on the FPs' social media habits performed during the February 2022 FP checkpoint meeting. In high demand from the FPs, training on Twitter and LinkedIn was provided.

Margherita Guidi shared an overview of the use and benefits of social networks and how they facilitate the execution of the FPs' tasks. During the training, the FPs participated in several practical exercises about setting the account and finding the right target audience to follow.

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

Victoria Villamar, Chair of the meeting on the second day, opened the meeting welcoming FPs.

5. SPIDO: Calls for Grants & Procurement

Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos informed FPs on upcoming and ongoing project calls stemming from the development of scientific themes and their associated roadmaps for actions by SPIDO. He gave an overview of the development process of SPIDO themes and roadmaps pipeline 2020-2022, and information on the development of roadmaps for action calls in animal welfare, communication science and OMICS. Actions and project call for 2022, under the new approach methodologies (NAMs) roadmap, were presented. He provided a more detailed description of the NAMs project calls for 2022.



Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos informed that there will be an exchange of views on the feedback received on the NAMs roadmap project proposals after the 83rd AF meeting.

Action Point 6: FPs to explore and share feedback with EFSA on possible applicants interested in EFSA calls stemming from SPIDO actions.

Action Point 7: MSs are invited to join a working group of NAMs.

Action Point 8: EFSA to explore opportunities to use the TIM tool for scanning possible applicants for procurements for SPIDO activities and to share extracted information.

Action Point 9: EFSA to create an infographic on SPIDO.

Action Point 10: EFSA to organise a dedicated session during a checkpoint meeting to gather information and the best practices from FPs on the mechanism for reaching experts interested in applying for calls and challenges occurring during the promotion of SPIDO and other calls and communication with experts, including lessons learned from EU-FORA promotion.

6. Reinforcing the role of the FP in fostering Partnerships supported by EFSA's Grants and Procurement

Gorgias Garofalakis introduced the Thematic discussion on the role of FPs in fostering partnerships supported by EFSA's grants and procurement. The presentation stressed the increasingly frequent requests to the FPs to support EFSA in identifying organisations and experts and addressing needs in EFSA calls.

The objectives of the discussion were:

- 1) To understand how the need for fostering partnerships and support by the FPs is evolving.
- 2) To identify appropriate good practices, practical methodologies, and tools, which are either currently in use by individual FPs and suitable for general adoption by all FPs or should be considered for development and use by all FPs.
- 3) To take note of any further opportunities through which FPs can support the creation of partnerships.

Two case studies were prepared by the French, German and Greek FPs. One case study outlined experts' and organisations' identification in response to SPIDO requests. The other case study showed partner search in response to EFSA-funded calls and how to reinforce the FPs' role in fostering partnerships.

Gorgias Garofalakis highlighted that the Advisory Forum Discussion Group on the Future of Partnerships (AFDGFoP) and the AF will be informed on the possibility of the FPs fostering Partnerships (focusing on challenges, solutions, and pending issues).

7. FP Tasks Best Practices

7.1 FP Reporting 2021

Elina Ciekure provided a short overview of the reports on the 2021 execution of FP tasks held from 3 January to 28 January 2022. Elina Ciekure thanked the FPs for the timely submission of their reports and the high degree of cooperation during the report evaluation. It was noticed that the summary of tasks performance could support the definition of tasks for the new FP framework as it gives an overview of the execution of the tasks, highlighting the most and the least executed tasks by FP and feedback on issues related to the execution of tasks.



EFSA will provide updated the SIGMA tasks templates for the 2022 execution of FP tasks.

7.2 Best Practices EU-FORA FP Task: Visit of the EU-FORA fellows to AESAN

María José Rubio Mañas presented the best practices for the implementation of the FP task regarding The European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme to encourage other FPs to arrange EU-FORA-related visits to national bodies. She described how the FPs could better disseminate information on the programme using different tools and channels (e.g., infographics and presentations).

7.3 New social media account of the Bulgarian FP

Ekaterina Koeva shortly introduced the Bulgarian FP's new Twitter account and invited other FPs to follow it.

8. The Upgrade of the Dietary Exposure Assessment Model "ImproRisk" – The Role of EFSA and Other Stakeholders

Georgios Stavroulakis provided a brief timeline of the main developments of the dietary exposure assessment "ImproRisk" model. The presentation focused on how the interaction between EFSA, and other stakeholders facilitated the further development of the model. He followed up on the presentation given by Cyprus at the 84th AF Meeting.

9. Online Wiki Version of the Food Safety Almanac

Phoebe Young described the history and importance of the almanac project and the construction of the website. She outlined the importance for the FPs to update their countries' profiles on the website by June 2022 and promote the website.

Phoebe Young invited the FPs and EFSA to join in promoting the Online Wiki Version of the Food Safety Almanac website (June 2022 onwards). The German FP team will support the FPs in updating their countries profiles and providing website promotion materials.

The activities related to Food Safety Almanac website may be considered for inclusion in the new FP agreement.

Action Point 11: FPs to support The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on the finalisation of the Online Wiki Version of the Food Safety Almanac.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

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

Action Point 12: EFSA to consider the arrangement of an info session for Art.36 organisations on funding opportunities and research during the RARA event.

Action Point 13: FPs and EFSA to prepare information on the FP network during the RARA event in December 2022.



SUMMARY OF THE ACTION POINTS

Action 1	EFSA	to organise a newcomers' session in one of the upcoming checkpoint meetings
Action 2	EFSA	to inform FPs on the development of the list of tasks for the new FP framework and to organise sessions with FPs to discuss tasks/activities to be included under the new FP framework.
Action 3	EFSA	to create an FAQ section within the new FP framework with included overview and examples of possible tailor-made tasks to help countries to understand and apply for activities.
Action 4	FPs	based on the proposal prepared by AFSG and other AFDGs or based on their national interest in specific areas to consider the application for activities under the tailor-made part of the new FP framework.
Action 5	EFSA, FPs and AFSG	to discuss possible task ranking under the new FP framework.
Action 6	FPs	to explore and share feedback with EFSA on possible applicants interested in EFSA calls stemming from SPIDO actions.
Action 7	MSs	are invited to join a working group of NAMs.
Action 8	EFSA	to explore opportunities to use the TIM tool for scanning possible applicants for procurements stemming from SPIDO activities and to share information extracted.
Action 9	EFSA	to create infographic on SPIDO.
Action 10	EFSA	to organise a dedicated session in one of the upcoming checkpoint meetings to gather information and the best practices from FPs on the mechanism for reaching experts interested to apply for calls and challenges occurring during the promotion of SPIDO and other calls and communication with experts, including lessons learned from EU-FORA promotion.
Action 11	FPs	to support The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on finalisation of the Online Wiki Version of the Food Safety Almanac.
Action 12	EFSA	to consider the arrangement of an info session for Art.36 organisations on funding opportunities and research during the RARA event.
Action 13	FPs and EFSA	to prepare information on the FP network in the RARA event in December 2022.