

Workshop on food safety risk assessment highlights, opportunities for collaboration and the new operational framework for the EFSA focal points 2023-2027 - Summary

in April 5th, 2023

Inese Siksna
EFSA focal point of Latvia



Workshop overview and content

3 main themes:

**40+ participants from
management, assessors,
academia, research institutes**

**General overview of risk
assessment landscape in
Latvia and Europe**

**New FP framework,
partnership and
collaboration with EFSA**

**Future needs of RA in EU
& Latvia**

Discussion session outcomes pt. 1

Food safety risk assessment		
Blockers	Good practices so far	
Resource Constraints	Regular Training and Development	Resource Allocation and Institutional Support
Inconsistent Legislation and Guidelines	Adoption of a Scientifically-Based Approach	Research and Knowledge Enhancement
Communication and Collaboration Issues	Strong Inter-Institutional Collaboration	Inter-Institutional Cooperation and Data Sharing
Knowledge and Information Gaps	Comprehensive Monitoring and Supervision	National Priorities and Legislation
Insufficient Local Focus	Active Participation at the European Level	Crisis Management and Contingency Planning
Varied Interpretation of Results	Utilization of EFSA Resources	Efficiency and Bureaucracy Reduction
Limited Engagement		Sustainability and Succession Planning

Discussion session outcomes pt. 2

Food safety risk assessment		Future needs
Resource Constraints	Regular Training and Development	Resource Allocation and Institutional Support
Inconsistent Legislation and Guidelines	Adoption of a Scientifically-Based Approach	Research and Knowledge Enhancement
Communication and Collaboration Issues	Strong Inter-Institutional Collaboration	Inter-Institutional Cooperation and Data Sharing
Knowledge and Information Gaps	Comprehensive Monitoring and Supervision	National Priorities and Legislation
Insufficient Local Focus	Active Participation at the European Level	Crisis Management and Contingency Planning
Varied Interpretation of Results	Utilization of EFSA Resources	Efficiency and Bureaucracy Reduction
Limited Engagement		Sustainability and Succession Planning

Discussion session outcomes pt. 3

Benefits in collaboration with EFSA / How could EFSA help Latvian risk assessment domain

Knowledge and information exchange

Capacity Building and Skills Enhancement

Funding and Resources

Networking and Cooperation

Improved Research and Scientific Opinions

Risk Communication

Recognition and Influence at the European Level

Bonus: comments

Invest more in true experts

Reduce bureaucracy

Objectivity in Self-Assessment

Expedite international processes

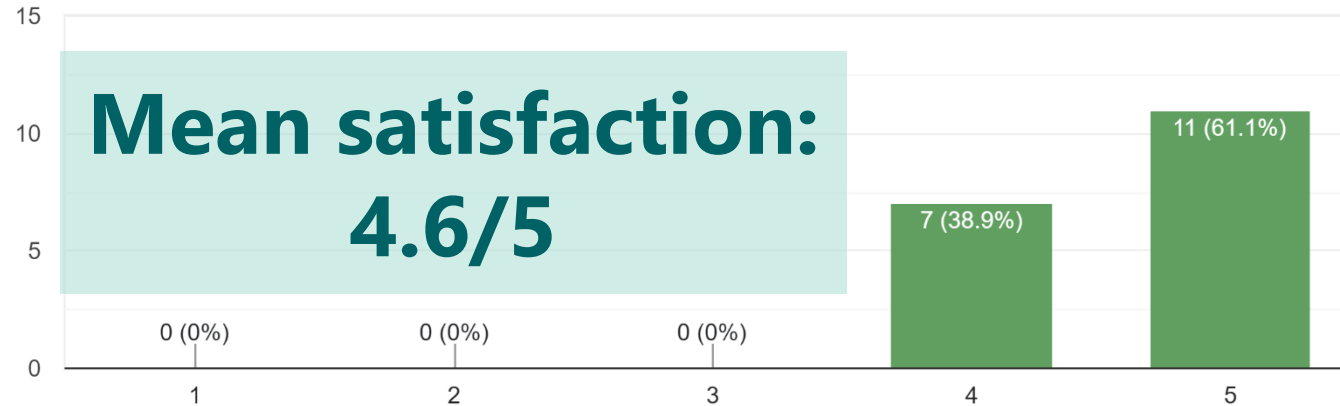
Assign responsibilities

Define priorities

Workshop satisfaction survey - preliminary results

Kā Jūs vērtējat kopējo semināra kvalitāti?

18 responses



Particularly interesting topics

General overview of risk assessment landscape in Latvia and Europe

72%

New FP framework, partnership and collaboration with EFSA

39%

Future needs of RA in EU & Latvia

56%

Discussion session

56%

Similar findings in the French and Latvian national events

Recent national reflections on partnership with EFSA	France	Latvia
Clear Communication and Knowledge Exchange: Emphasis on transparent communication and knowledge exchange with EFSA.	Need for understanding EFSA's rules and procedures – depending on the call types the rules vary. Lots of benefit in continuous communication efforts that are currently being implemented.	Benefits of staying updated with trends and challenges in risk assessment.
Networking and Cooperation	Benefits of EFSA's networking platform (teams/info-sessions/webinars) for cooperation and experience exchange.	Value of collaborating with experts from other EU countries through EFSA.
Simplified Processes and Reduced Bureaucracy	Simplified process for call submission to EFSA. Efforts are being made to streamline.	Reducing bureaucratic burdens for efficient risk assessment. Not specifically with EFSA, though, but in general.
Financial Support and Funding Opportunities: Both highlighted the importance of EFSA's financial support.	More budget on the calls to carry out the activities	Access to EFSA grants and project funding in general is seen as great.

Next steps

- Improve communications efforts and clarity
- Facilitate inter-institutional collaboration
- Address national priorities
- Foster collaboration

Similar findings in the French and Latvian national events

Recent national reflections on partnership with EFSA	France	Latvia	Next steps
Clear Communication and Knowledge Exchange: Emphasis on transparent communication and knowledge exchange with EFSA.	Need for understanding EFSA's rules and procedures – depending on the call types the rules vary. Lots of benefit in continuous communication efforts that are currently being implemented.	Benefits of staying updated with trends and challenges in risk assessment.	Improved communications efforts and clarity
Networking and Cooperation	Benefits of EFSA's networking platform (teams/info-sessions/webinars) for cooperation and experience exchange.	Value of collaborating with experts from other EU countries through EFSA.	Facilitate inter-institutional collaboration
Simplified Processes and Reduced Bureaucracy	Simplified process for call submission to EFSA. Efforts are being made to streamline.	Reducing bureaucratic burdens for efficient risk assessment. Not specifically with EFSA, though, but in general.	Address national priorities
Financial Support and Funding Opportunities: Both highlighted the importance of EFSA's financial support.	More budget on the calls to carry out the activities	Access to EFSA grants and project funding in general is seen as great.	Foster collaboration