

## 52nd FP Meeting

**Location:** European Food Safety Authority, online

**Attendees:** Chair Victoria Villamar and co-chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia

Countries	Attendance	
<b>Austria (AT)</b>	Johann Steinwider	
<b>Belgium (BE)</b>	Tom Storms	
<b>Bulgaria (BG)</b>	Lilyana Polihronova	Ekaterina Koeva
<b>Croatia (HR)</b>	Vlatka Buzjak Služek	Jasenka Petrič
<b>Cyprus (CY)</b>	Christoforos Papachrysostomou	
<b>Czech Republic (CZ)</b>	Petr Beneš	
<b>Denmark (DK)</b>	Vibe Beltoft	
<b>Estonia (EE)</b>	Piret Priisalu	
<b>Finland (FI)</b>	Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen	
<b>France (FR)</b>	Coralie Bultel	Celine Bahuon
<b>France (FR)</b>	Samuel Contreras	Julia Raeke
<b>Germany (DE)</b>	Marina Lechleider	Sophia Bergelt
<b>Germany (DE)</b>	Phoebe Young	
<b>Greece (EL)</b>	Foteini Tzoumanika	Danai Papanastasiou
<b>Hungary (HU)</b>	Renáta Prisztóka	Tamara Tamas
<b>Iceland (IS)</b>	Grímur Ólafsson	
<b>Ireland (IE)</b>	Gráinne Redmond	
<b>Italy (IT)</b>	Cinzia La Rocca	
<b>Lithuania (LT)</b>	Rima Živatkauskaitė	
<b>Luxembourg (LU)</b>	Miriam Fougeras	
<b>Malta (MT)</b>	Giannella Pisani	
<b>Netherlands (NL)</b>	Linda Kox	Timme Van der Lugt
<b>Norway (NO)</b>	Danika Grahek-Ogden	
<b>Poland (PL)</b>	Monika Jarzebska	Joanna Furs
<b>Poland (PL)</b>	Liliana Jurczyńska	
<b>Portugal (PT)</b>	Sarogini Monteiro	
<b>Romania (RO)</b>	Simona Radulescu	



<b>Slovak Republic (SK)</b>	Gabriela Dringušová	
<b>Slovenia (SE)</b>	Blaža Nahtigal	
<b>Spain (ES)</b>	Beatrix Martinez Llarena	Laura Cebadera
<b>Sweden (SE)</b>	Jenny Aasa	
<b>Observers and others</b>		<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Albania (AL)</b>	Valbona Paluka	
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina (BA)</b>	Dalibor Vidacak	
<b>Kosovo*<sup>1</sup></b>	Sara Preniqi	
<b>Montenegro (ME)</b>	Mirjana Lekic	
<b>Republic of North Macedonia (MK)</b>	Jasmin Hadji Vasilev	
<b>Serbia (RS)</b>	Nadezda Dukic	
<b>Switzerland (CH)</b>	Barbara Engeli	
<b>Austria (AGES)</b>	Ian Kopacka	
<b>Netherlands (NVWA)</b>	Joost Meekes	
<b>Italy (IZS Teramo)</b>	Sabrina Mazzagufo	
<b>Portugal (ASAE)</b>	Paulo Carmona	
<b>Sweden (Livsmedelsverket)</b>	Ylva Nordstrom	
<b>EFSA Representatives</b>		
Federica Amiconi (FP Team)	Elena Caprioli (Hucap)	Elina Ciekure (FP Team)
Simon De Maeseneer (Hucap)	Alejandro Garcia Lopez (KNOW)	Arthur Healy (COM)
Sanja Ilieva (IPA Coordinator)	Martina Mannis (FP Team)	Luca Pasinato
Sérgio Potier-Rodeia (Co-Chair)	Victoria Villamar (Chair)	

**42 FP** attended the meeting among Members and Alternates. Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Spain participated with both FP Member and Alternate.

**Apologies:** Inese Siksna, FP of Latvia.

**New nominations since the 51<sup>st</sup> FP Meeting, 24-25 May 2023:**

**Bulgaria:** Alternate Ekaterina Koeva

<sup>1</sup> Kosovo (\*) - 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.



**Poland:** Member Liliana Jurczyńska and Alternate Monika Kolodziejczyk

**Spain:** Member Beatriz Martinez Llarena

**Switzerland:** Observer Alternate Stefanie Strauch

**Norway:** Observer Member Danica Grahek-Ogden

## **Day 1 : 27 September 2023, 9:30-12:30**

### **I. Action points from the 51st FP meeting and matters arising**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** provided an overview of the action points (AP) stemming from the 51st Focal Point (FP) Meeting on 24-25 May, noting that two action points 3 and 11 were completed, AP related to IPA III, activity 4.3b and subcontracting were meant to be covered during this meeting; most of the AP are still ongoing because they are long lasting activities and there is constant work on them. VV informed on the progress of internal and external activities aiming at raising visibility and strengthening the FP Operational Framework 2023-2027.

**Chair Victoria Villamar** then gave the floor to **Martina Mannis** (EFSA) who informed about the simplification of the tool to submit tailor-made (TM) proposals by creating a single-entry point. The rationale behind the decision were concerns raised by FP on the complexity behind the division of activities in collaborative and country(-ies) specific activities. The new approach for submitting new proposals allows FP to indicate whether they are looking for additional partners or not. MM informed of another improvement in terms of visibility on the activities thanks to the Power BI tool, which allows an advanced visualization of the activities. Finally, she invited FP to get acquainted with opportunities given by the dedicated microsite and use it as the source of information on TM activities. At the conclusion of this agenda item, floor was given to **Federica Amiconi** (EFSA) who informed on updated monitoring file of FP National events. The file aims to gather detailed information on the events organized by MS as part of the implementation of principal and tailor-made activities. Information gathered supports the FP reporting, gives visibility and best practices of activities implementation, and feeds EFSA KPIs on the FP Framework.

### **II. Focal Point Operational Framework 2023-2027: Milestones on current activities**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** opened the second agenda item by thanking all the FP for their active work in the implementation of activities – both principal and tailor-made.

#### **2.1 World Food Safety Almanac maintenance (TM activity 1.12a, Germany)**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave the floor to **Phoebe Young**, FP Alternate of Germany, to present the work conducted under the TM Activity 1.12a's group on the BfR World Food Safety Almanac. The presentation informed FP about the group's work regarding the maintenance concept aimed at encouraging FP to become active users of the online Almanac ensuring it is kept up-to-date. PY noted that based on the outcome from the discussion with the FP, the output will be incorporated into the activity. Finally, PY anticipated that in early October the German FP will send an invitation to all FP to update their profiles and to perform an accuracy check for their Almanac profiles. It is foreseen that, in the future, the maintenance of MS profiles in the online almanac will be run under existing principal activities.



## **2.2 Training on tools and methods for risk assessment II (Country specific TM activity under area 3: Capacity building, Finland)**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** introduced the next speaker **Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen**, FP of Finland, who informed on present milestones in TM activity on Training on tools and methods for risk assessment II and how FP can support this activity. She informed that FP will be invited to disseminate information about Plant Health (PLH) webinars at national level to relevant experts/networks/organisations.

## **2.3 Inspections and samples: risk-based versus random (Country specific TM activity under area 4: Data, Austria and Netherlands)**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** introduced the agenda item on the TM activity in the area of Data on “Inspections and samples: risk-based vs random” and gave the floor to **Ian Kopecka** (AGES, France) and **Joost Meekes** (NVWA, the Netherlands). The presentation informed on preliminary results of the activity run in 2023 built on the current situation regarding the use of risk-based and random controls at AGES and NVWA. A review of the literature on the topic of combining risk-based and random controls led to the development of the approaches to a) re-use data from risk-based controls for representative purposes; b) split controls into separate random and risk-based samples and allocate resources based on objective criteria.

It is envisaged that, in 2024, AGES and the NVWA intend to build on the results of phase 1 of this activity in three ways: 1) by continuing theoretical development of the approaches developed; 2) by building practical use cases for the approaches developed and 3) by communicating the approaches developed.

During the presentation it was announced that a new TM activity proposal will be submitted, and that additional partners are invited to join the activity in 2024.

## **2.4 Area 4: Data – overview on all activities and updates from activity leaders – 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6**

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave the floor to **Luca Pasinato** (EFSA) who informed on the activity 4.3a on Data Flow Mapping Methodology: participation. The activity aims to address the need identified by Advisory Group on Data (AGoD) members for systematic knowledge about the internal data flows and data processes at Member State (MS) level in multiple data domains with a focus on existing bottlenecks and “pain points” and to propose possible common solutions. He informed that MS involved in the development of the Data Flow Mapping Methodology were DK, HU, IT, LV, NL and NO. IT and LV piloted the methodology on different data flows to evaluate its effectiveness in two MS. LP informed that the developed methodology will be presented to the AGoD on 29<sup>th</sup> of September for endorsement, while EFSA is working on agreements with a contractor supporting the implementation of the follow up activity 4.3b – mapping of data in MS on different domains.

Before giving the floor to the next speaker, **Chair Victoria Villamar** congratulated FP/MS (Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Germany and Denmark) for successful hybrid kick-off meeting of activities 4.4 and 4.6 taking place in EFSA on 18-19 September in Parma.

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave floor to **Ylva Nordstrom** (Lifesmedelsverket, Swedish Food Agency, Sweden) who informed on the progress of one of the approaches for the **TM activity 4.4a Data Mapping Tool: Lead, Pre-study** led by Sweden. This pre-study aims to propose suitable features and relevant functionalities tailored to meet the identified needs and to recommend a technical



solution to deliver the vision for a Data Mapping Tool by converting data in national formats to EFSA's formats with the help of AI. In case the outcome from the preliminary study is considered suitable to proceed with, a new activity proposal will be necessary to implement the proposed solution.

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave floor to **Sabrina Mazzaguffo** (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Abruzzo Molise, Italy) to inform on the development of the second approach of the TM activity

**4.4a Data Model Mapping Tool: Lead** led by Italy. The activity envisages adaptation of the existing SIGMA-EST mapping tool that has been already functioning and used for certain Animal Health data collections and reporting to EFSA (currently for African Swine Fever and for Avian Influenza [AI] in the near future). The current activity will adapt the tool to be used for other data reporting domains.

Finally, **Chair Victoria Villamar** gave the floor to **Paulo Carmona** (ASAE, Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica - Economic and Food Safety Authority, Portugal) who informed about progress on TM activity **4.6 Development and implementation of a tool for Data Capture @Point of Sampling**. PC informed that the approach taken is to work and evolve the already existing IDRisk tool and, based on experience and new needs identified, to create IDRisk2.0. This TM activity implementation includes steps for developing and improving the existing mobile tool to capture sampling data in EFSA's SSD2 format at the point of data creation, installation of the application in the partners' entities of the participating countries, onboarding their needs, supporting the necessary adaptations of existing systems and web services for transmitting data to their servers, and field tests for improvement of weaknesses detected.

**Action Point 1:** FP to perform an accuracy check of the World Food Safety Almanac profiles following receipt of communication from the German FP to be circulated among FP in early October.

### III. EU Academy

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** presented **Alejandro Lopez Garcia** (EFSA) to debrief on the initial stages of piloting the EU Academy as a hosting and training delivery platform within the context of EFSA's scientific Capacity Building framework. This agenda item was stemming also from the discussions held with EEL project members where EFSA colleagues provided support in the identification of a possible platform for one of the deliverables of their tailor-made activity (EEL web platform). The objective of the presentation was to provide FP with an overview on the analysis and testing of the EU Academy as a potential centralized platform for trainings by making trainings materials accessible to all parties. The platform is meant to be further developed in the future by hosting EFSA past training materials with the ambition to become the learning reference platform in EFSA & for EFSA partners. Finally, the Chair thanked the speaker and closed the agenda item by inviting FP to explore the platform and join available trainings.

### IV. Focal Point Operational Framework 2023-2027: Operational aspects

#### 4.1 Tailor-made activities 2024

**Sérgio Potier Rodeia** (EFSA) debriefed on TM activities proposals currently submitted and activities vision for 2024, meaning expected next steps for currently running activities either



materializing as new proposals or yet to be concluded. Presentations provided an overview of the state-of-play of proposals already submitted in 2023 from Germany and Netherlands, highlighting that they are currently at the stage of internal assessment, while the advice from AF trio on them will be run together with the advice on proposals received under the third submission window.

SPR further informed on the expected activities' continuation for each area of work.

Activities under Area 1: Knowledge, information management and support to scientific production, are expected to be finalized in the beginning of 2024 and leading FP (Germany) has already informed EFSA that no follow up proposals are expected. FP were invited to submit follow up proposals or to consider potential integration of these activities under existing principal activities.

Regarding activities under Area 2: Engagement, collaboration and partnership, it is planned to implement two activities - one related to fostering joint planning of RA activities; and effective knowledge transfer across the RA community. Both activities are updated on already existing activities.

Regarding Area 3: Capacity building, while activity on training on tools and methods for RA led by Finland continues to be implemented, the EEL activity is expected to finish mid-2024 and is planned to be continued via a follow-up proposal by the FP consortium.

In the Area 4: Data, as already discussed under previous agenda items, continuation on activity 4.3 is expected by running activity 4.3b Data Flow Mapping in a MS, while other activities on tools creation are expected to be continued during 2024. Finally, a new proposal is expected as a follow-up of the activity "Inspections and samples: risk-based vs random". SPR highlighted two activities on tools co-creation prioritised in 2022, however not implemented during 2023 – Business Rules Engine and FoodEx2 Smart Coding App, where MS are invited to express interest in joining both as leading or participating countries.

Finally, under the Area 5: Risk communication, "MS Communication Coordinators" is foreseen as a fully implemented activity; a follow up activity proposal on the risk communication summer school is also expected to be submitted.

It was noted that there is visible interest and active communication from FP/MS side and EFSA internal interest on proposals submission.

SPR also reminded on expected budget forecast for 2024 that is aligned with the financial investment forecast presented during the 87th AF meeting in March: 6M for 2024 – 2M for principal activities and 4M for tailor-made activities.

Regarding the advice process from the AF Trio, the current procedure was adopted at the end of July, and the advice on proposals submitted will be communicated after the third assessment window.

SPR also informed that based on discussions with AF trio it was decided that, after closure of submission window, EFSA will notify the AF Trio, for information, about all proposals under assessment in support of the preparation for their advice.

Finally, SPR noted that the third assessment window is currently running until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 and that FP are invited to submit new proposals. Under the third assessment window, the AF trio's advice will also take place for the first time and the reporting back on their experience is expected during the upcoming AF meeting.

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** closed day 1 of the 52nd FP Meeting by thanking all the participants for active engagement and participation and invited FP to connect the next day for the 2nd day of the meeting.

**Closing of the 1<sup>st</sup> day**



## Day 2: 28 September 2023, 9:30-12:30

### IV. Focal Point Operational Framework 2023-2027: Operational aspects (continuation)

#### 4.2 Feedback on mid-term check on principal activity implementation – identified strengths and points for improvement.

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** gave the floor to **Federica Amiconi** (EFSA) who informed on highlights stemming from mid-term check on principal activities' implementation carried out from 15 August until 15 September. Mid-term check is considered an important exercise this year as it provides feedback on the implementation of principal activities under the new FP framework and supports timely identification of possible points for improvement. Overall, the mid-term check highlighted the smooth running of principal activities' implementation. In total, 26 FP participated in the mid-term check, with most of the FP informing that there are no major deviations from the original planning, with only one FP informing on a reduced number of implemented activities. Finally, the presentation provided an insight on the identified strengths and areas of improvement based on FP's feedback.

#### 4.3 Activities reporting 2023 and planning for 2024

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** gave the floor to **Elina Ciekure** (EFSA) who informed on the timeline of activities planning for 2024 and reporting for 2023 for both principal and TM activities. The presentation also included supporting information on activities reporting both technical and content wise.

Planning for principal activities 2024 will be kicked-off on 10<sup>th</sup> October, while its specific agreements to be signed until end of the year, meanwhile reporting for 2023 will be carried out during January 2024.

It was acknowledged that reporting on tailor-made activities reporting is a complex process and multiple solutions for leaning of the process where provided.

EC informed that currently it is envisaged that planning for Area 2 will be carried out in parallel with principal activities' planning in October-November 2023, while the planning for other areas is planned to take place in Q1 and Q2 2024.

The signature process of specific agreements for tailor-made activities that are planned to be implemented as of January/February 2024 will start at the end of December 2023 and signature by EFSA to be done in the beginning of January.

The reporting on TM is foreseen to take place in February, March and Q2 2024, and will follow a similar approach to reporting on principal activities. Support to reporting and planning will be provided via monthly Check Point meetings and regular meetings on TM activities.

#### 4.4 Retroplanner 2024

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** gave the floor to **Elina Ciekure** (EFSA) to present the updated retroplanner 2024 on TM activities proposals submission and assessment windows. The need to update the retroplanner was stemming from concerns and feedback provided by FP and experiences on submission and assessment process during the pilot year following understanding that concluding 3 submission and assessment windows is not feasible and brings additional workload to both MS (AF Trio) and EFSA. Updates in the retroplanner and process are also based on the removal of division between country specific and collaborative TM activities. The updated retroplanner for 2024 includes 2 assessment and submission windows instead of 3 and envisages extended time for necessary process steps.



#### 4.5 Updates on subcontracting

To conclude the item on the operational aspects of the Focal Point Operational Framework 2023-2027, **Sérgio Potier Rodeia** reminded on the effort done by EFSA and FP during the pilot year of FP Operational Framework to identify challenges in its implementation and solutions to reduce them. One of the most important challenges identified so far concerns the restrictions deriving from subcontracting of FP activities, which is currently only possible towards non-core tasks, as outlined in the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA). This was perceived by FP as hampering the achievement of the key objectives of the new framework, as the capacity to effectively implement FP activities often lies with different national organisations other than the FP ones. In order to address this limitation, EFSA has identified a possible solution to overcome such restrictions and proposes to amend the FPAs by including the possibility for FP to subcontract core activities forming part of an action to organisations on the List of Competent Organisations only. The proposed solution is in line with the EU Financial Regulation, enables direct access of FP organisations to important competences and expertise outside the FP organisation, and promotes a leaner involvement of Article 36 organisations in FP activities, enhancing collaboration and networking at national and EU level.

SPR reminded that subcontracting needs to be always communicated to EFSA and assessed case by case, and that FP will always retain the overall responsibility of the implementation of the SA vis-à-vis EFSA.

The proposed solution and amendments of FPAs will be presented to the AF during the 89<sup>th</sup> AF meeting in October and, afterwards, EFSA will follow up with the signature process that is planned to be carried out until the end of the year and countersigned by EFSA before January 2024 to implement amendments starting on January 2024.

**Action Point 2:** EFSA to provide supporting information on activities reporting including information on consequences in case expected deliverables are not met.

**Action Point 3:** EFSA to kick-off planning exercise for principal activities and TM activities.

**Action Point 4:** EFSA to inform AF on FPA amendments related to changes in sub-contracting restrictions and to kick-off signature process of amended FPA.

### V. IPA III: Overview of activities included in the action and activities in field of AMR

**Chair Victoria Villamar** introduced the new IPA Coordinator **Sanja Ilieva** (EFSA) and invited her to debrief on EFSA's IPA III Action 2023-2026, an agenda item that is stemming from an AP of the 51<sup>st</sup> FP Meeting. The presentation covered general information and an update on the IPA III Action. It provided an overview on IPA countries' contributions to EFSA scientific opinions via data reporting, with specific emphasis on AMR, explaining the link as well between FP activities and IPA action activities, raising the visibility of cooperation opportunities between EU MS and IPA beneficiaries. SI highlighted the different tools used in support of One-Health responses against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Western Balkans. It was noted that updates on the progress of implementation of the IPA III Action, including IPA beneficiaries' activities updates, will be included in the FP agenda as a standing agenda item so to continue to raise FP awareness of the objectives of the IPA III Action and work done by countries.

**Action Point 5:** EFSA to organize a dedicated session with FP and IPA countries on IPA countries possibilities to support TM activities.



## VI. Opportunities for FP support and collaboration with EFSA

### 6.1 Food Risk Assess Europe (FRAE)

**Chair Sérgio Potier Rodeia** gave the floor to **Arthur Healy** (EFSA), the project manager of FRAE, to present the development steps and scope of Food Risk Assess Europe, the new publication platform for national scientific assessments. FRAE was set up in Spring 2023 with the publication of the first articles. The journal is intended as an open access repository of selected scientific articles from the national food safety authorities of the MS. The presentation described the scope, quality assurance and requirements for publications and the next development steps including the redirection of any national articles from the Knowledge Junction to FRAE. FP were invited to support FRAE by raising the visibility of the platform among national authorities and by supporting the planning of MS publications and the estimation of the number of articles to be published in 2024.

### 6.2 EFSA Careers opportunities: FP survey and actions stemming from results

**Chair Victoria Villamar** introduced **Elena Caprioli** (EFSA) and **Simon De Maeseneer** (EFSA) and invited them to present an item related to EFSA as an employer of choice. The presentation started with an overview on applications data by country, highlighting the FP as an important source of information on career opportunities at EFSA. The presentation included an analysis of the results from the survey carried out over summer among the FP on their support raising awareness of EFSA career opportunities. The feedback illustrated concrete steps for a way of closer collaboration between EFSA and FP in the promotion of EFSA Career opportunities. With the objective of improving the geographical balance of applicants, EFSA colleagues draw up a strategy to better inform the EU wide community about job opportunities at EFSA, also by making themselves available to support FP's national events/career fairs with both physical and online participation.

**Action Point 6:** FP to support EFSA in promoting FRAE in the Member State authorities as well as planning of publications for 2024.

## VII. AOB

### 7.1 Upcoming meetings

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave the floor to **Elina Ciekure** (EFSA) who provided information on the draft dates of the upcoming FP plenary meetings and highlighted that communication received from MS's side on the benefits of having 2 face-to-face meetings was taken into consideration. Therefore, spring and early autumn meetings will be organized as hybrid events.

### 7.2 The best practice on information requests

**Chair Victoria Villamar** gave the floor to **Gráinne Redmond**, FP of Ireland, to inform FP on the brief "Best Practice to initiate an Information Exchange Request" document prepared by her and to be published in FP MS Teams channel for FP consideration.

**Chair Victoria Villamar** thanked FP, speakers and the FP Team for the great work undertaken as well as for the fruitful exchange alongside the meeting and wished everyone good work until the next 53<sup>rd</sup> FP Meeting to be held on 15-16 November 2023.



### **Summary of Action Points**

<b><u>Action 1</u></b>	<b>FP</b>	To perform an accuracy check of the World Food Safety Almanac profiles following receipt of communication from the German FP to be circulated among FP in early October.
<b><u>Action 2</u></b>	<b>EFSA</b>	To provide supporting information on activities reporting including information on consequences in case expected deliverables are not met.
<b><u>Action 3</u></b>	<b>EFSA</b>	To kick off planning exercise for principal activities and TM activities
<b><u>Action 4</u></b>	<b>EFSA</b>	To inform AF on FPA amendments related to changes in sub-contracting restrictions and to kick-off signature process of amended FPA.
<b><u>Action 5</u></b>	<b>EFSA</b>	To organize a dedicated session with FP and IPA countries on IPA countries possibilities to support TM activities.
<b><u>Action 6</u></b>	<b>FP</b>	To support EFSA in promoting FRAE in the Member State authorities as well as planning of publications for 2024.