



## CLARIFICATION N°8

**Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2023-ENREL-01**

**Call title: Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme**

**Question 1:** I am going to apply for the EU-FORA scholarship as a fellow, and while reading the guidelines, I have a question about the timeline. From the moment the scholarship is awarded until the beneficiary goes to the hosting center, how much time can elapse? Would it be possible, if I receive the scholarship, to start in October?

**Answer 1:** The fellowship lasts 12 months (from September 2024 to August 2025), during which time the fellow will follow the work programme offered by the hosting site. During the 12-month fellowship, seven weeks of **mandatory training** are scheduled:

- Three-week induction training at EFSA's premises (Parma, Italy) in September 2024.
- Four one-week training modules spread along the year of fellowship; approximately, one per term.

Please check the Section 1.2.8 The training programme to complement the 'learning by doing' fellowship in the [Call for proposals and guide for applicants](#) for the estimated dates.

Note that as indicated in Section 1.2.4 Obligations and benefits of becoming a fellow, attendance to EU-FORA induction training and training modules is **mandatory**, and both hosting site and institution of origin shall facilitate this.

Whilst the vast majority of the work programme can be performed **remotely** (i.e. from the fellow sending organisation), a stay of **minimum of 3 months** is foreseen at the hosting site. The stay at the hosting site can be split into several shorter periods with no limitation as long as the total length of the stay remains within the stated range (minimum of 3 months, no maximum prescribed). EFSA does not prescribe when this stay at the hosting site needs to happen, and it will depend on the agreement reached between the fellow sending organisation and the hosting site at the moment of application.

Finally, kindly ensure that all the criteria in Section 2.4. Selection criteria are met.

**Question 2:** I am checking the documents required for the application (i.e., Part B annexes) and those that awarded consortia are expected to provide during the 12-month fellowship (i.e., grant agreement draft and deliverables).

Regarding the first deliverable (Agreed work programme), could you please send me a copy of the template that you provide to the awarded consortia? Understanding the points and the degree of detail required by this template would be very useful for me at this point to guide the ongoing discussion and the negotiation of the working program proposal with my institute partner.

**Answer 2:** During the application process the fellow sending organisation and the hosting site (applying in consortium) will need to provide the documents required for the assessment of the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria (Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 of the [Call for Proposals](#)). The corresponding annexes are available in the Funding and Tender Opportunities portal for downloading once the organisation starts drafting the application. For those requirements without a dedicated annex in the Call, please check the Call text for the documents requested to show evidence (e.g. Europass CV, statements, etc.).

Regarding the deliverables, these will only be required once the grant is awarded and only from awarded institutions. The templates will be provided by EFSA upon signature of the Grant Agreement. Therefore, they are not needed in the application phase.

Finally, please remember that the proposal needs to be submitted by the consortium, composed by the hosting site (applicant) and the fellow sending organisation (partner). Please check Section 1.6 Roles and responsibilities for further clarification.

**Question 3:** [...] We understand that eligibility to participate as a fellow sending requires being an Article 36 organization. At present, our organisation does not fall under this category, which we perceive as a significant barrier to our participation in this program. We are reaching out to inquire if there might be any provisions, exceptions, or alternative arrangements that would allow an organization such as ours to engage with the EU-FORA fellowship program [...].

**Answer 3:** According to section 1.5 of the call for proposals, eligible organisations are only organisations in the List of National Competent Organisations under Art. 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation and Commission Regulation (EC) 2230/2004, from EU MS, Norway or Iceland.

**Question 4:** We will be the Sending Institution and we have some doubts regarding the eligibility of the fellow that we want to present in our proposal. Could you please confirm if the fellow I describe below is eligible for this programme?

The fellow is Master graduate, that currently is a PhD student and she will graduate this year (2024). She has more than 3 years of experience in performing scientific work. Our doubts are related with the requirement n.4 of the call (page 23). She has not a work contract with our institution. Nonetheless she has a PhD scholarship sponsored by the National Agency for Science [...] to support her science activity and her PhD studies in our institution. This scholarship ends in the end of 2024.

**Answer 4:** The situation described is considered as having a working relationship with the fellow sending organisation, since it's not unusual that PhD/PostDoc grants are funded by national funding institutions and not by the University where the grant holder is pursuing their work. Moreover, the University is responsible for all the working arrangements.

However, kindly note that as stated in Sections 1.3. Obligations and benefits of becoming a fellow sending organisation and 2.6 Selection Criteria, fellows must have worked for their employer for at least 12 months before their fellowship and shall remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of fellowship (i.e. until 31st August 2025).