

57TH FOCAL POINT MEETING

EFSA SCIENTIFIC TRAINING ROADMAP

12 FEBRUARY 2025



CONTENT

- EFSA' scientific training program set-up (**from 2026** onwards)
 - Objectives
 - Steps
 - Timing
- **2025** Scientific training program – available courses
- Enhancing expert training in Food and Feed Safety Assessment





EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET-UP



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

OBJECTIVES

The scientific training program in EFSA includes **courses on scientific subjects under EFSA's remit** paid and organized by EFSA

Key objectives of the scientific training program:

Enhance the scientific expertise of EFSA staff and experts

Ensure access to up-to-date scientific knowledge and training relevant to EFSA's activity

Foster a collaborative learning environment for continuous professional development

Design a flexible training framework that addresses the evolving scientific training needs of EFSA's stakeholders



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

Depending on the subject, the scientific training courses may be:

- specific to EFSA – on cross-cutting guidance documents or on sectorial guidance documents
- general, referring to general scientific principles covered by various areas within EFSA's remit (very unlikely to be organised by EFSA)

Scientific training courses included in EFSA's plan can take any of the following forms:

- Physical Training
- Virtual Training
- eLearning Product



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

STEPS



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

STEPS

Collecting needs (sources of needs; identification methods used)

Source of information	Focus
Internal needs collection: Scientific Units and Panels	Focus on staff and panel members' needs. Needs related to EFSA's cross-cutting guidance documents and sectorial guidance documents
External needs collection: Member States	Focus on national experts needs (Art 36 Organisations). Needs related to EFSA's cross-cutting guidance documents.



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

STEPS

Prioritisation exercise:

Initial Prioritisation	Needs are centralised (one document for internal and external collection) - criteria for prioritisation are applied
Agreement	The scientific training program agreed by internal bodies (including Scientific Committee)
Approval	The program is approved by EFSA management team



EFSA' SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET UP

TIMEFRAME

Step		Period	Year
Collecting needs	Internal collection of needs	March – April	N
	External collection of needs	November – February	N-1 to N
	Analysis of results	April - May	N
Prioritisation	First draft of the program	June-July	N
	Internal consultation and validation	August-September	N
	Management team approval	October	N
Execution	Execution	January – December	N+1





2025 SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM – AVAILABLE COURSES



2025 SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PLAN

SCIENCE (WIDER AUDIENCE)

PG 3 OF 4

Knowledge area	Learning Solution	Target audience*	Delivery Date**
<u>TKPlate 1.0</u> Practical training to describe and apply the TKPlate platform 1.0 for the integration of New approach methodologies (NAMs)	Classroom training	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG	Q1-2025
<u>BMD Modelling</u> Course on the use of the Benchmark Dose (BMD) approach for risk assessment, introduces Bayesian model averaging for deriving reference points that will then be used to establish health-based guidance values.	Classroom training	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG	Q1 - 2025
<u>The Risk-benefit assessment framework</u> An introduction to risk-benefit assessment of foods and diets, the process of formulating a risk-benefit question, the steps of the overall assessment process, and the utility of its results	eLearning (2-3 months self-paced + 2 hours webinar)	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q1-2025 & Q2-2025
<u>Critical Appraisal of Evidence</u> Understanding and practical implementation of (parts of the) systematic review methodology	2 days virtual seminar	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q2-2025
<u>Protocol development</u> An overview on the EFSA principles and processes on protocol development	2 days virtual seminar	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q2-2025
<u>Dietary Exposure Assessment</u> This course equips participants with key principles and tools for dietary exposure assessment. It covers chemical differentiation, population targeting, occurrence data handling, and EFSA tools.	2 days hybrid course	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG members	Q2-2025
<u>Microbiological and chemical risks integration in risk-benefit assessment (TBC)</u> An overview of methodologies for assessing these two types of hazard classes, their differences and similarities, their data requirements, and how they are integrated in risk-benefit assessments.	2 days virtual seminar	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q3-2025

Target audience*

EFSA can decide to also open trainings to representatives to Art 36 organisations, staff from EFSA sister agencies and representatives of other institutions that could be of relevance for the EFSA's work.

Delivery**

The delivery date is indicative, the final delivery dates will be communicated later on during the year.



2025 SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PLAN

SCIENCE (WIDER AUDIENCE)

PG 4 OF 4

Knowledge area	Learning Solution	Target audience*	Delivery Date*
<u>Dietary Exposure Assessment</u>	2 days hybrid course	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG Members	Q3-2025
Introduction to Systematic Review (including "Information Retrieval Techniques and Search Strategy Design for scientific assessments", "Article Selection," "Critical Appraisal of Evidence" and "Data Extraction, Synthesis and Interpretation")	eLearning (90 minutes)	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q4-2025
Distillers SR's AI tool supporting automated screening in systematic reviews and high-level workflow for the use of DAISY classifiers	eLearning (30 minutes)	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q4-2025
<u>Article Selection, Data Extraction, Synthesis and Interpretation</u> Practical implementation of (parts of the) systematic review methodology	Classroom training	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q4-2025
Microbiological and chemical risks integration in risk-benefit assessment (TBC)	eLearning (2-3 months self-paced + 2 hours webinar)	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q4-2025
<u>AOP and approaches for using mechanistic understanding for risk assessment</u> Role of the AOPs conceptual frameworks and of other constructs for the integration of NAM data into hazard assessment	eLearning (2-3 months self-paced + 2 hours webinar)	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network Members	Q4-2025
<u>Genotoxicity Risk Assessment</u> Gaining knowledge on DNA damage and EFSA's genotoxicity testing strategies	2 days virtual seminar	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG	Q4-2025
EKE	TBC	EFSA Staff, Panel/WG/ Network	TBC

Target audience*

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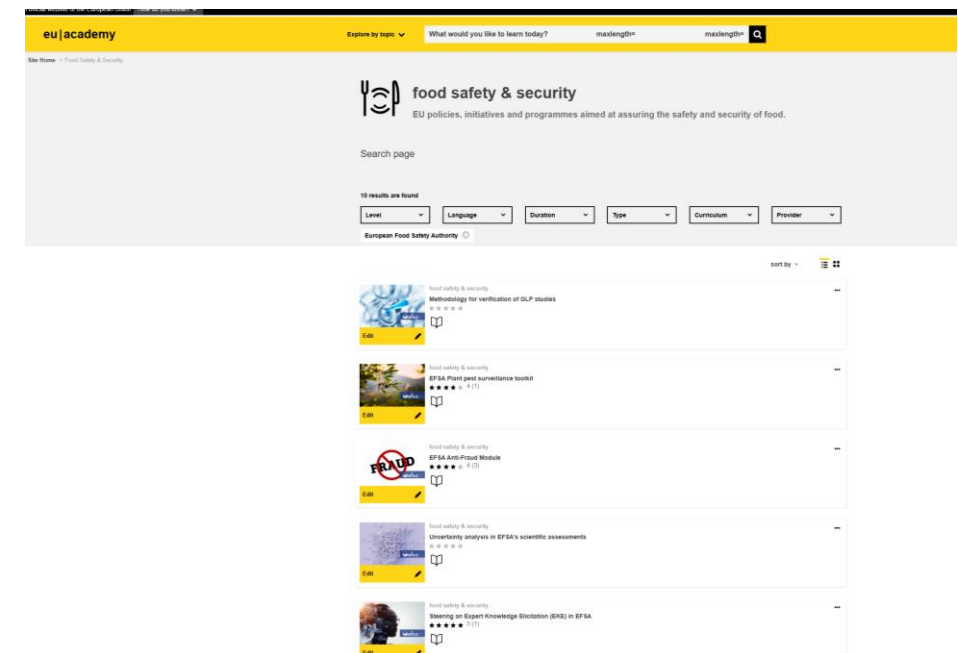


2025 SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM – AVAILABLE COURSES

(EU ACADEMY – EXISTING COURSES)

#	Title
1	Principles on EFSA genotoxicity assessment
2	Protocol development for scientific assessments in food and feed safety: EFSA's approach
3	EFSA's Weight of Evidence approach
4	Steering an Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) in EFSA
5	Uncertainty analysis in EFSA's scientific assessments
6	EFSA Anti-Fraud Module
7	EFSA Plant pest surveillance toolkit
8	Methodology for verification of GLP studies
9	IUCLID for Evaluators
10	IUCLID for Applicants

Link to EFSA courses on EU ACADEMY [here](#)



2025 SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM – AVAILABLE COURSES

(EU ACADEMY – POTENTIAL NEW COMERS)

#	Title	Availability (month)
1	Open MCRA	March
2	Risk Communication	July
3	EFSA Plant pest surveillance toolkit Webinars	Various modules throughout the year
4	Relevant modelling approaches (QSAR)	
5	The Risk-benefit assessment framework	
6	Protocol development (TBC)	End of 2025
7	General course -uncertainty (TBC)	End of 2026
8	Weight of evidence approach (TBC)	End of 2026
9	Microbiological and chemical risk assessment	





ENHANCING EXPERT TRAINING IN FOOD AND FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT



SCIENTIFIC TRAINING PROGRAM SET-UP: PROCESS UPGRADE

PURPOSE:

Make sure the needs collection process and the scientific training program are linked

Make sure we identify all potential expertise across Europe

1. Survey addressed to National Focal Points
 - aims to check the fit between courses offer and expectations
 - your support: please fill in the survey
2. Survey addressed to experts in MSs
 - aims to locate “pools” of expertise for various subjects (areas)
 - your support: please distribute the survey within your network



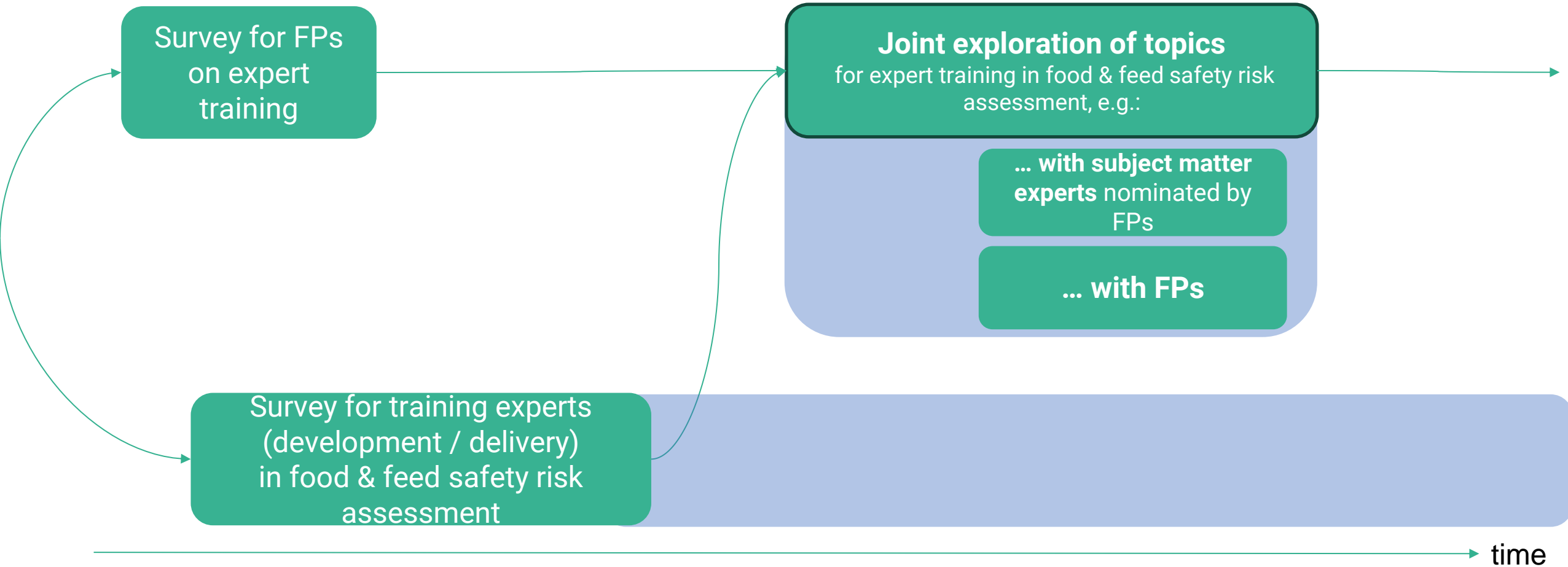
ENHANCING EXPERT TRAINING IN FOOD AND FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- EFSA is launching a strategic initiative to support expert training across EU Member States.
- **National Focal Points (FPs) are key partners** - representatives from national food safety authorities are fundamental for transforming knowledge and for bridging national perspectives.
- FP insights ensure that expert training in Food and Feed Safety Assessment are **relevant, impactful and tailored to real-world need**.
- FPs' participation in the initiative enables FPs to put forward their **needs and viewpoints for inclusion in EFSA's training strategies** supporting professionals in food and feed safety assessment.

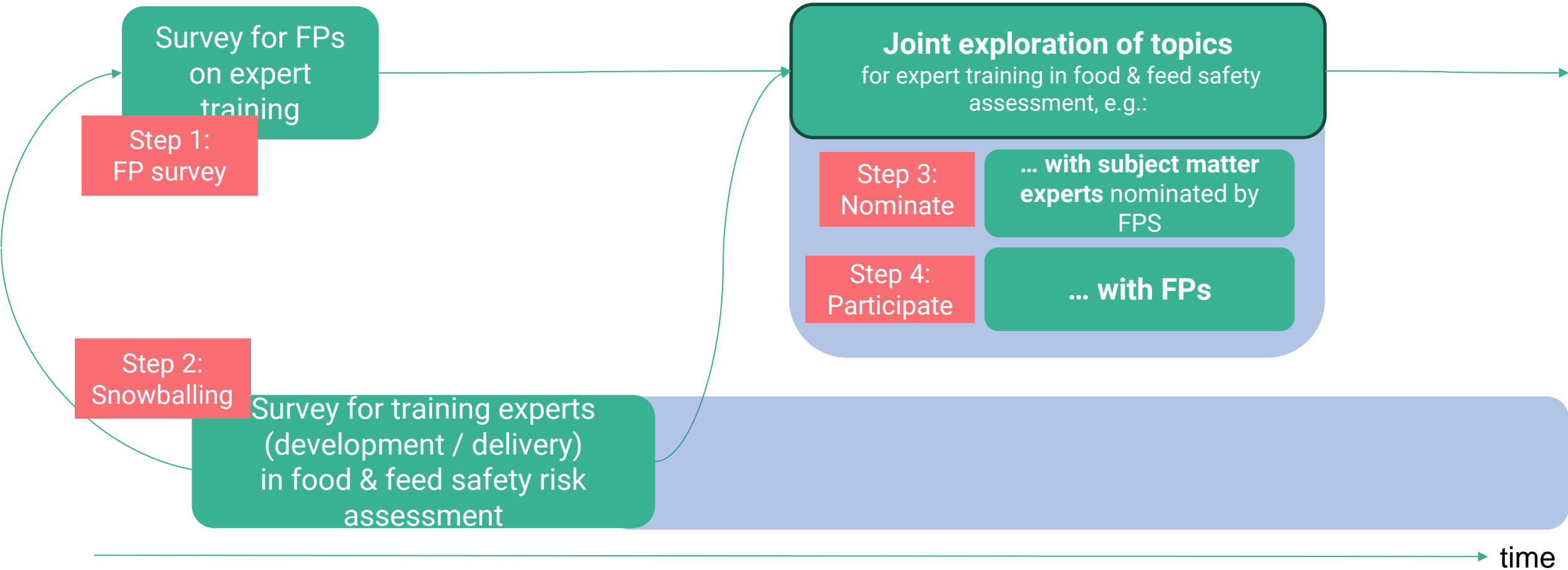
ENHANCING EXPERT TRAINING IN FOOD AND FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW OF NEXT STEPS



ENHANCING EXPERT TRAINING IN FOOD AND FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW OF NEXT STEPS



FPs and expert training

Step 1: FP Survey on expert training

What we kindly ask you to do

Fill in a survey that focusses specifically on expert training in food and feed safety risk assessment

- **Separate and different** from the general training need survey you have filled in before, outside this initiative.
- This is an **online survey** that takes **ca. 10 minutes to fill in**.

Why

- Gathers **your viewpoints and insights for inclusion** in the initiative.
- Builds **one basis** for the next steps in the initiative.

When

- Please complete the survey ([LINK](#)) by **24 February 2025**, ensuring that your viewpoints and insights are included.

FPs and expert training

Step 2: Snowballing to expert trainers / t. developers

What we kindly ask you to do

- EFSA conducts a survey for trainers and training developers in food & feed safety risk assessment

Snowball: Please widely forward the invitation in your network to trainers, training developers, informal networks, institutions, ...

- Please note:
 - If you can, please add personal notes to whom you are forwarding these; and fantastic if you can copy us in the e-mails, you forward.
 - If neither personalizing nor copying in is possible, do not worry: **the most important thing is that you snowball! Thank you.**

Why

- With the survey, we create a **much wider network of trainers and training developers** – supporting new training initiatives, topics, course development.
- Make sure the **experts and networks in your Member State are part of this.**

When

- Please do so at your **earliest convenience** after receive the email with the survey invitation to experts – expected **ca. 14 February 2025**. Please complete forwarding **latest** by **21 February 2025**.

BACKGROUND: JOINT EXPLORATION OF TOPICS

- Following the valuable input gathered through the FP and expert surveys, EFSA engages different groups in a focused **joint exploration of topics**.
- The joint exploration of topics takes place in **focus group sessions**.
 - These last for **2 hours**, are held **online** and are **professionally moderated**.
 - There are **different sets of focus groups**, e.g. with subject matter experts & FPs.
- The focus groups produce important input to the shaping future training approaches in food & feed safety assessment.
- More specifically, the focus groups are designed to:
 - *Expand the understanding of potential topical focus of future technical training.*
 - *Deepen the discussion on relevant such topics.*
 - *Review the experience so far on identification of trainers and training developers.*
 - *Consult on identification of trainers and training developers.*

FPS and expert training

Step 3: Nominate experts for the joint exploration of topics

What we kindly ask you to do

As FP, please identify two subject matter experts to take part in a first set of focus groups: one nominee, one replacement

- The nominee and replacement should have a good insight in the needs and developments for topics in food & feed safety risk assessment – they can be trainers and/or training developers themselves, yet do not have to be, as long as they have insights on needs for training topics.

Why

- Your identification allows to include in the joint exploration subject matter experts who have a broad perspective that you find important to include and that ensure a broad and deep understanding of topics.

How and when

- Please provide the nominee and replacement's name and contact details by email to linda.hornakova@netplus.solutions latest **by 28 February**

FPs and expert training

Step 4: Participate as FPs in the joint exploration of topics

What we kindly ask you to do

As FP, please register yourself for participation in a 2h focus group, joining other NFP colleagues

As FP, then participate at the chosen 2h focus group

Why

- By registering and participating, you ensure that **your Member State's perspective** is represented in the next steps for expert training on food & feed safety.
- You also take a step further, by exploring topics **together with your peers** from other FPs.

How and when

- Please **register** under the following link latest **by 4 March**: [LINK to register](#)
- **Several options for dates/time** are indicated - **first comes first**.

IN SUMMARY

Step 1:
FP survey

By 24 February 2025 (eob): Please complete the NFP survey.

Step 2:
Snowballing

By 21 February: Share the expert survey within your networks = snowballing.

Step 3:
Nominate

By 28 February: Submit the contact details for the 2 subject matter experts.

Step 4:
Participate

At earliest convenience: Select your preferred date for your participation in the online FP focus group session.

Join the focus group online at the chosen time.