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## **Q&A**

# **Info session on the Call for proposals - Support to EFSA for the risk assessment of pesticides**

### **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED DURING THE INFO SESSION**

**Question:** Does EFSA have one or more areas for which additional support is especially required?

**Answer:** All tasks and areas included in this call result from a joint effort by several EFSA units and are therefore considered equally important at this stage. EFSA's priorities and needs may evolve over the four-year duration of the framework partnership agreement.

**Question:** Does it matter how many people from my team work on a task?

**Answer:** It does not matter how many people from an organization/team work on a task.

**Question:** How many beneficiaries did you have for the previous grant which expires at the end of the year?

**Answer:** Four beneficiaries were awarded under the grant GP/EFSA/PREV/2021/01, each covering different area/task combinations.

**Question:** All the activities defined in the tasks need to be addressed by a beneficiary? Or we can just focus on specific aspects?

**Answer:** Proposals may focus on specific aspects within an area/task combination, and all relevant outputs submitted will be considered during the evaluation. Once the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) is signed, EFSA will propose specific deliverables to the beneficiary ranked first in the cascade system. The beneficiary will then have the opportunity to accept or decline the proposed assignment.

**Question:** Is it permitted to further specify the own proposal further for the combination of task 5/ area 3 by explicitly apply for supporting the work on the revision of the terrestrial guidance document and the new guidance on indirect effect?

**Answer:** Applicants may submit outputs demonstrating their experience with the revision of the terrestrial guidance document and the development of guidance on indirect effects. However, proposals will be evaluated based on the award criteria specified in the call for proposals, not on a preference for specific subtopics within a task/area combination.

**Question:** The different complexity levels for budget are not clear to me can you add some details?

**Answer:** The levels of complexity and the corresponding budget estimates for deliverables are outlined in Table 2 of the call for proposals. EFSA will determine the level of complexity for each deliverable requested from a beneficiary. A single specific agreement may include one or more deliverables, and the total budget for that agreement will be calculated as the sum of the budgets corresponding to each deliverable included.

**Question:** Do you have a rough idea/estimation about the number of specific agreements you will launch under the FPA?

**Answer:** At this stage, it is not possible to provide a precise estimate of the number of specific agreements that will be launched under the FPA. However, EFSA intends to make extensive use of this call for proposals to support and accelerate the risk assessment of pesticides.

**Question:** Some areas and tasks seem to be on the same topic. For example, task 3 and area 2. What is the distinction?

**Answer:** Applicants must indicate precisely in their proposal for which area/task combination(s) they apply. While there may appear to be thematic overlaps, each area and task has a distinct focus. For example, area 2 covers residues in food and feed and the related risk assessments from a broader perspective. In contrast, task 3 refers specifically to providing scientific contributions to EFSA outputs related to pesticide residues in food and feed treated with plant protection products, including the corresponding risk assessments. Task 3 can be combined with areas 1, 3, and 6, while area 2 can be combined with tasks other than task 3.

**Question:** With the award criteria, is it taken into account the number of area/task combinations you submit a proposal for? E.g. is there a max to how many area/tasks one organisation can be included in the FPA?

**Answer:** There is no maximum number of area/task combinations an organisation can be included in under the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). A beneficiary may be proposed for an FPA for any area/task combination where its proposal meets the award criteria thresholds and ranks among the top four for that specific combination. The FPA proposed by EFSA will specify the area/task combinations for which the organisation is selected, along with the respective rankings.

**Question:** Are the deliverables chosen only by the applicants according to the call or EFSA has some specific requests?

**Answer:** The points awarded during the evaluation of proposals will determine the ranking of beneficiaries, which will be used to establish a cascade system. EFSA will consult the beneficiary ranked first to conclude a specific agreement for the implementation of work. The content of each specific agreement will be based on EFSA's needs and may involve one or more area/task combinations.

**Question:** I could not find the template for annex 6. Is it hidden or not yet published?

**Answer:** To download all templates for this call for proposals, applicants should log in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal and click on "Start submission." This will redirect to another page where all the templates, including Annex 6, can be downloaded.

**Question:** Was the unsuccessful call you mentioned on review of GD on terrestrial ecotoxicology you mentioned under task 5, means that it is sure that this call will not be re-launched?

**Answer:** EFSA intends to review the Guidance Document (GD) on terrestrial ecotoxicology, or parts of it, under this call for proposals. However, other options for reviewing the GD cannot be excluded at this stage.

**Question:** At the moment, we have to submit a proposal or the complete project?

**Answer:** Applicants are required to submit a proposal, not the complete project, following the instructions provided in section 3.1 of the call for proposals. Detailed guidance can also be found at the following link on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/euba-efsa-2025-prev-02>

## **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD OF THE INFO SESSION**

**Question:** How can we become an article 36 organisation?

**Answer:** Information can be found in the EFSA's website:  
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/scorg>

**Question:** Approximate time needed for the different tasks.

**Answer:** The time required for each area/task combination is not predefined and is therefore not specified in the call for proposals. The timelines for each Specific Agreement under a Framework Partnership Agreement will be determined based on the complexity of the tasks assigned to the beneficiary.

**Question:** Does applying as a consortium significantly enhance the chances of being considered for a grant?

**Answer:** When applying as a consortium, the collective capacities of all consortium members are evaluated. Each area/task combination in the proposal will be assessed individually by EFSA. The evaluation and award criteria will be applied consistently, regardless of whether the proposal comes from a single entity or a consortium.

Therefore, the success of a proposal depends on meeting the eligibility, exclusion, selection, and award criteria, as well as the overall quality of the proposal in relation to the call's objectives. While a consortium may bring together more resources and experience, which could result in a stronger and more competitive proposal, there is no automatic guarantee that applying as a consortium will directly increase the chances of being considered.