

59th FP meeting
24-25 September 2025



MAKING THE MOST OF EFSA'S PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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SESSION OUTLINE - 60'

Partnerships; an evolving effort

- Partnerships: an ongoing effort in continuous evolution
- FP strengths and weaknesses
- The overarching challenge: Get involved in Partnerships

The “perfect” Partnership enabler

- Know your audience (and help them get onboard)
- Support your national needs and ambitions
- Grow in and with your ecosystem

+ Contributions from Greece and Finland

Tools: the starter pack

- Information on forthcoming calls & call announcements
- **Risk Assessment Initiatives Hub** & the Art. 36 Database
- Partnership-supporting events
- EFSA & FPs collaboration platform

Sky is the limit!

- EFSA call case study
- **Discussion**
- Additional considerations? Ideas?

+ an update on the partner analysis exercise (PLH & AHAW)



RESULTS OF PARTNERSHIPS ISLAND EXERCISE

Tasks	Countries That Find It Easy	Countries That Find It Difficult
General awareness of the benefit of working with EFSA	RS, ME, CZ, FI, AL, LT, BH, KO, CH	NO, SE, DK, LU, LV, MT, AT
Dissemination of published workplan	FR, DE, HU, NO, GR, CY, HR, CZ, BG, IE, ES, PL, NL, LT, EE, BH	TR
Mapping of potential applicants in relevant scientific areas (Art. 36 and not)	DE, GR, CY, IE, DK, FI, BE, LT, EE, CH	FR, RS, ME
Engagement with Art. 36 with capacity in requested scientific areas	ES, LT, EE, TR	IE, BE, PL, NL, MT
Engagement with organisations (not Art. 36) in requested scientific areas	NO, CY	HU, GR, BG, IE, LV, BE, NL, LT
Support during designation process (if eligible)	SE, CZ, PL	GR, CY, HR, LT, TR, KO, MT
Support in identifying partners and form consortia	GR, LU, KO	HU, RS, ME, CY, ES, PL, NL, LT, BH, MT
Networking events	HU (online), HR, LU, LV, LT, TR	HU (in person), NO (in person), CY, CZ, FI, AL, KO, MT
Updates in the RA Initiatives Hub	SE, FI	DE, HU, HR, CZ, DK, LU, AL, EE, MT, AT



QUESTIONS-REMARKS BY FOCAL POINTS

- Regarding becoming a Competent Organisation or applying to a Partnership call:
 - How to convince their peers or management on the value of participation
 - How to onboard them as Competent Organisation (explaining possibilities, networks, etc.)
- Regarding the Risk Assessment Initiatives Hub:
 - Submitting projects/collaboration proposals in the Risk Assessment Initiatives Hub is time-consuming and results are not always clear.
 - Clear definition of which types of risk assessments should be included in the Hub.
 - What is the added value for Art. 36 organisations in sharing their plans or collaboration proposals in Hub?



THE “PERFECT” PARTNERSHIP ENABLER 1/3

- **Know your audience** (and help them get onboard)
 - What are their priorities? (E.g., for a researcher, networking and publishing are important; for a manager in a Competent Authority actions highlighting its mission; for a research coordinator, diversifying funding that can fuel studies on a given topic)
 - Where can they add value? (E.g., contribute new data, develop models, do risk assessment, test tools, utilise scientific advice, advocate for regulatory science)
 - What do they need to get onboard? (E.g., clarity on what working with EFSA & RA bodies can offer; arguments to convince management and peers)



CASE STUDY – GREECE

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES TO FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS (TMA 2023, 2024)

Strengths

- Increase the visibility of EFSA
- Enhance the reputation of Hellenic Food Authority and build trust with other organisations
- Promote the role of the Focal Point as connecting Hub with EFSA and the MS
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and showcase expertise (speakers)
- Facilitate rapid identification of interested parties to the topic
- Opportunity for networking among experts of different organisations and / or EFSA (physical event)
- Targeted engagement with Art. 36 organisations of Greece (and experts from other countries) (audience)
- Opportunity to know better the audience and their needs to support them getting involved in regulatory science (at national level or EFSA) through a face-to-face exchange

Limitations

- Significant allocation of resources
- The event is a starting point -> Setting new collaborations (with EFSA) requires further effort



The event on “risk ranking” triggered our Eol to participate to the **TM proposal on “Improving tools and capacity for data-centered control planning” (2025)**



THE “PERFECT” PARTNERSHIP ENABLER 2/3

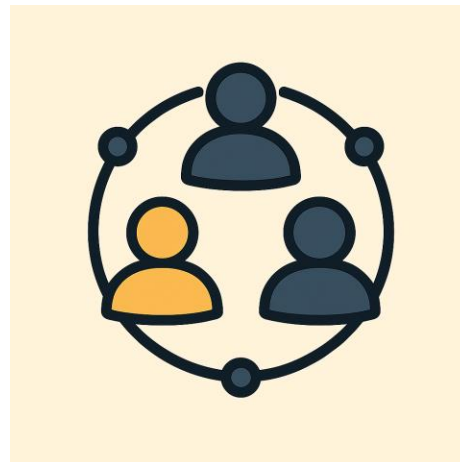
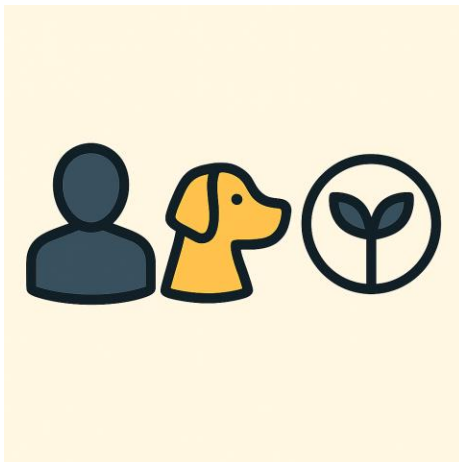
- **Support your national needs and ambitions** (and bring or generate value to/from them)
 - Where does the current “food safety” work focus (risk assessment and risk management)?
 - Are there emerging risks or areas of increasing concern from the authorities or the public?
 - Are there any major ongoing initiatives for relevant research, data collection, etc.?
 - Have the competent authorities set new ambitious targets for RA capabilities or performance?
 - Who/What can help you choose where to focus your efforts?



THE “PERFECT” PARTNERSHIP ENABLER 3/3

- **Grow in and with your ecosystem**

- Are there (new) actors increasingly relevant for risk assessment in areas of remit, e.g., research groups, state services, etc.? Could those become Competent Organisations?
- Are there One Health actors to which you are not connected, not directly relevant to your areas of remit but probably relevant to future risk assessment needs?
- Are there actors abroad with similar mission or objectives with whom you could join forces in risk assessment, share information, jointly reach out to new audiences, etc.?
- What value can you add to and find in those other partners? How do you make it sustainable?



CASE STUDY – FINLAND

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH CLOSER MS-MS COLLABORATION



added value

- creating a network for risk assessment (between two small neighboring countries)
- increase risk assessment capacity via pooling expertise resulting in better use of existing resources and data sources
- help avoid overlapping work, share information and data and to identify data gaps
- joint research projects, communication and events (webinars, trainings etc.)
- possibility of developing common methods/models
- joint consortia (EU-FORA, EFSA calls etc.)
- collaboration could serve as a “model” for a broader regional/EU wide risk assessment network



TOOLS: THE STARTER PACK

2025 Scientific Cooperation Plan:

<https://europa.eu/nyxhhcjb>



Information on forthcoming calls & call announcements

- Enables early identification of partnership opportunities and common priorities between EFSA and each MS.
- Encourages timely engagement and funding success by allowing partners to prepare high-quality proposals in advance.

Art. 36 Database

- Strengthens collaborative networks across the EU by centralising qualified partners and their key contact details.
- Supports targeted outreach by identifying partners with relevant competencies.

Risk Assessment Initiatives Hub

- Gives EU-level visibility of national priorities and projects.
- Stimulates collaboration on concrete proposals;
- Helps to avoid duplication and identify synergies.
- **Regularly consulted by EFSA; Can help MS-MS cooperation.**

Partnership-supporting events

- Promote and clarify forthcoming calls while attracting interest from competent partners who may wish to apply
- Provide a collaborative space for partners to meet, exchange ideas, identify shared priorities, and build trust.

EFSA & FPs Teams collaboration platform

- Strengthens daily collaboration and responsiveness through real time communication, shared files, and active partner engagement.
- Facilitates strategic discussions and timely updates on partnership opportunities to keep momentum across regions.



TOOLS: ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

CORDIS – EU research results

- Identify relevant projects, partners, stakeholders/actors and project results
- <https://cordis.europa.eu/search>

COST – European Cooperation in Science & Technology

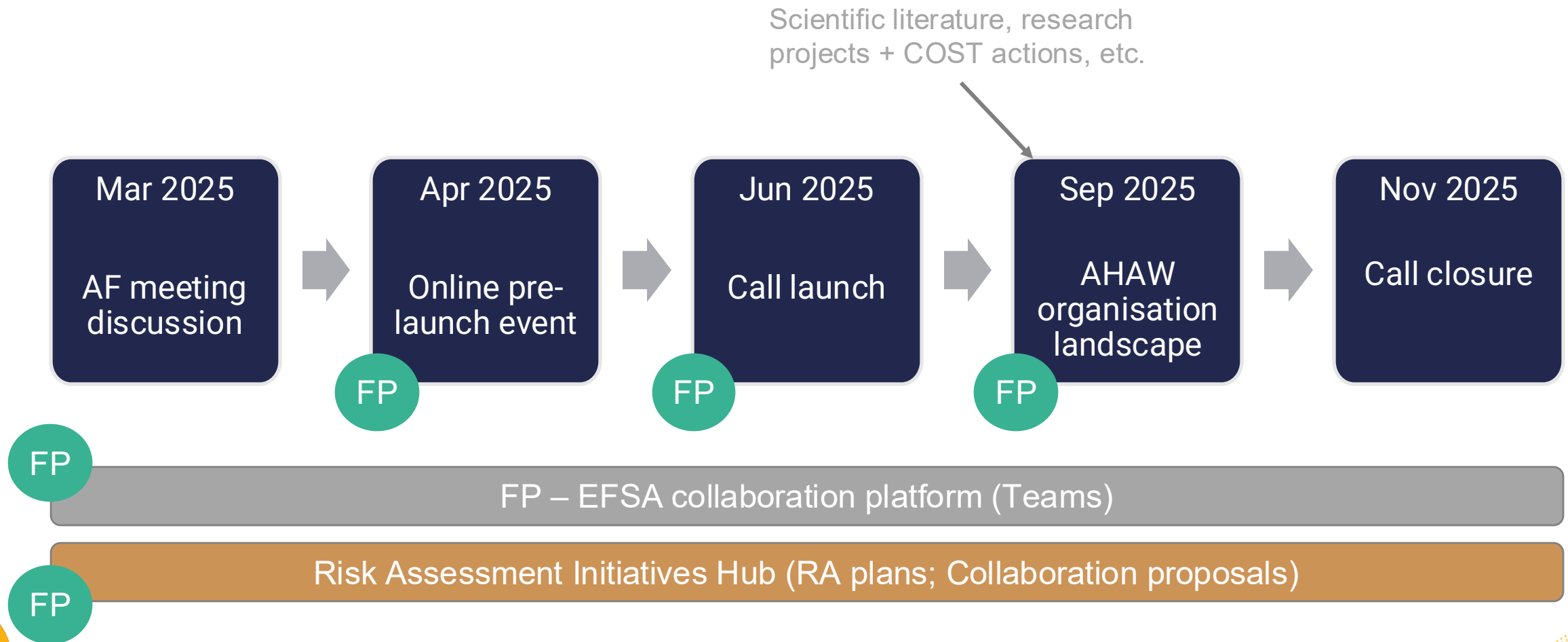
- Identify partners and interests
- Ongoing COST actions offer opportunities for engagement and networking
- <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions/>

Various repositories

- [Knowledge Junction](#), [European data](#), [DANS](#) (which contains the OpenGrey repository), [NUŠL](#), [Didaktorika](#), ...
- Institutional repositories for publications, reports, etc. (possibility to add those in the Art. 36 database)



CASE STUDY – CALL: “WELFARE MONITORING: DATA DRIVEN RISK ASSESSMENT IN FAST AND SLOWER GROWING BROILERS (BROWARD)”



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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UPDATE ON PARTNER ANALYSIS EXERCISES (PLH AND AW)

Katerina Vlachou KNOW, EFSA

PLANT HEALTH – PARTNER ANALYSIS



134 new organisations identified via the analysis

Results from the analysis were shared with the FPs for further engagement.



76 organisations were screened for potential inclusion

16 of 26 relevant FPs screened the results based on relevance, eligibility, and interest and replied to our feedback survey.



11 organisations initiated Art.36 inclusion

8 of 16 FPs, representing 28 orgs, indicated via the survey they are either exploring eligibility or have initiated the Article 36 process for inclusion.



4 new
Art. 36 orgs

Numbers updated after June's MB meeting 2025.
Total 166 organisations designated as competent in Plant Health.



ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE – PARTNER ANALYSIS



64 new organisations **identified** via the analysis

Results from the analysis were shared with the FPs for further engagement.



Deadline to submit your feedback via the survey: 5th November 2025 !



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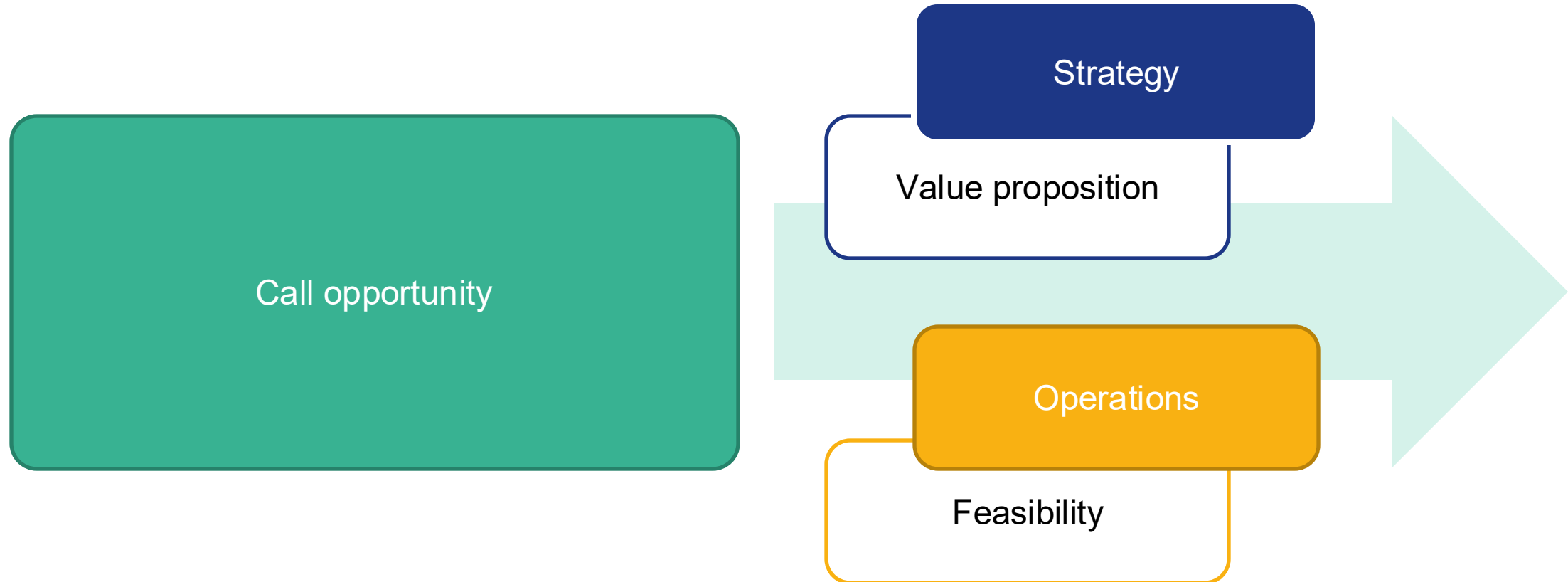
efsa.europe.eu/en/contact/askefsa



ANNEX – FACTORS ORGANISATIONS MAY CONSIDER BEFORE RESPONDING TO AN EFSA CALL. (SLIDES FROM THE TRAIN-THE-TRAINER EVENT OF 01/06/2023)



KEY FACTORS FOR PARTICIPATION (OF AN MS COMPETENT BODY TO AN EFSA CALL)



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- Understand the **value proposition** behind a call opportunity (or a call lot)
 - Does it foresee work that is in-line with the **mission** of the organisation?
 - Will the work foreseen contribute to or benefit from the **day-to-day tasks** in the organisation?
 - Will it lead to **new knowledge** or offer access to new tools or data that will be useful in the future?
 - Does it lead to noteworthy **networking opportunities**?
 - Will it improve the **reputation** of the organisation?
 - How does working with EFSA **compares to other opportunities**? E.g., Horizon projects, COST actions, national initiatives, etc.?
- **Possible outcomes:**
 - Yes, aligned with current strategy or mission
 - Yes, may allow further strategy development
 - No, poorly aligned with current strategy or mission

It is useful to have an established “buy-in” at strategy level, in the organisation, for participation in EFSA’s work.



COMPATIBILITY WITH OPERATIONS

- **Evaluate the feasibility of participation in a call opportunity (or a call lot)**
 - Does the work it foresees utilise **skills, data or knowledge** that the organisation already has? If not, can I find the right partners within the time available?
 - Are the **human resources** needed for participation at the desired level of involvement available? If not, can I secure those via partnering or outsourcing?
 - Are there **competing opportunities** that perhaps should be prioritised, instead? E.g., other calls
 - Are the **timings for the deliverables** and any subcontracting (if foreseen) appropriate?
 - Are the **call type, funding** rate and volume and the anticipated **cash flows** adequate?
- **Possible outcomes:**
 - Yes, fully feasible (the organisation could even address the call as a sole applicant)
 - Yes, but only with support from other partners (to share workload or get access to needed know-how and resources)
 - No, participation would put the organisation in high risk with regards to resources, timelines, administrative procedures, etc.



OPTING FOR A CONSORTIUM

- **Advantages:**

- Easier to **fully address the requirements** of a call with regards to:
 - Know-how, expert engagement mechanisms
 - Data, data collection mechanisms, data processing, etc.
 - Higher availability of resources, better responsiveness to requests (important for addressing needs in FPAs)
- **Resilience** during implementation, especially if there is some degree of competence overlap
- Cooperation with partners often leads to **benefits beyond the project funding**. E.g., new project opportunities

- **Disadvantages:**

- Preparation of application needs longer times
- The funding intensity per organisation changes (and may dynamically change during execution)
- Consortium coordination adds to the complexity and cost of the activity
 - Cooperation may, at times, lead to friction (for big or complex projects, a consortium agreement may be considered)
 - IP considerations, for projects where new knowledge is created



FINDING PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- **Prerequisites:**

- Participation endorsement from the **organisation management** or clarity on the management requirements and timeframe for endorsement
- Is the organisation interested in having the **leading role**?
- What can the organisation **offer** (role, knowledge, resources)? At what **cost**?
- What skills or resources from others does the organisation **need**?
- Are there **practical limits** to the cooperation options? (e.g., geographical options, need for specific infrastructure, etc.)
- What is the **timeline** for preparing the application?

EFSA publishes a plan of calls for grant and procurement. Specifically for large calls for tender, EFSA publishes Prior Information Notices.

