

**97TH ADVISORY FORUM
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THE EUROPEAN FOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (EU-FORA) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME - AN UPDATE

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The call was launched featuring two piloted improvements for the EU-FORA Programme, aiming at boosting its:

- Capacity building potential
- Partnership capacity



EU-FORA CALL 2025-2026 OUTCOME (1)

YEAR (CYCLE)	No. ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS	No. APPLICATIONS ABOVE THRESHOLD
2021 (2022-2023)	15	15
2022 (2023-2024)	19	19
2023 (2024-2025)	23	20
2024 (2025-2026)	23	20

The support of the Focal Points Network was essential !



EUFORA CALL 2025-2026 OUTCOME (2)

Organisation of origin	Country	Hosting site	Country
International Hellenic University	Greece	Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS)	Italy
AGH	Poland	University of Granada	Spain
University of Parma	Italy	Institute of Marine research (IMR)	Norway
USAMV Cluj-Napoca	Romania	University of Seville	Spain
BfR	Germany	RIVM	Netherlands
IZSLER	Italy	University of Cordoba	Spain
Warsaw University of Life Sciences	Poland	USAMV Cluj-Napoca	Romania
University of Vigo	Spain	Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB)	Portugal
University of Parma	Italy	DTU	Denmark
University of Porto	Portugal	University of Vigo	Spain
University of Vigo	Spain	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
University of Granada	Spain	AGH	Poland
University College of Dublin	Ireland	Polytechnic University of Cartagena	Spain
University of Zaragoza	Spain	University of Athens	Greece
Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)	Spain	Wageningen University	Netherlands



BOOSTING EU-FORA POTENTIAL IN CAPACITY BUILDING

HOW?

- New deliverable: BRIEF SLIDE SHOW
 - Narrated
 - With notes

LEARNING PILLS



WHY?

- The EU-FORA programme contributes to EFSA's effort in the capacity building area, mostly on the learning journey and contribution to pool of experts.
- This initiative can support the creation of materials for and by the Community and enhance the learning communities.



BOOSTING EU-FORA'S POTENTIAL FOR PARTNERSHIPS 1/2



- The call included a table of **18 “mini-projects”***, which could become part of the fellow's placement project.
- The mini-projects correspond to planned or ongoing work in various preparedness topics.
- Selecting one of the mini-projects was left as **optional**.

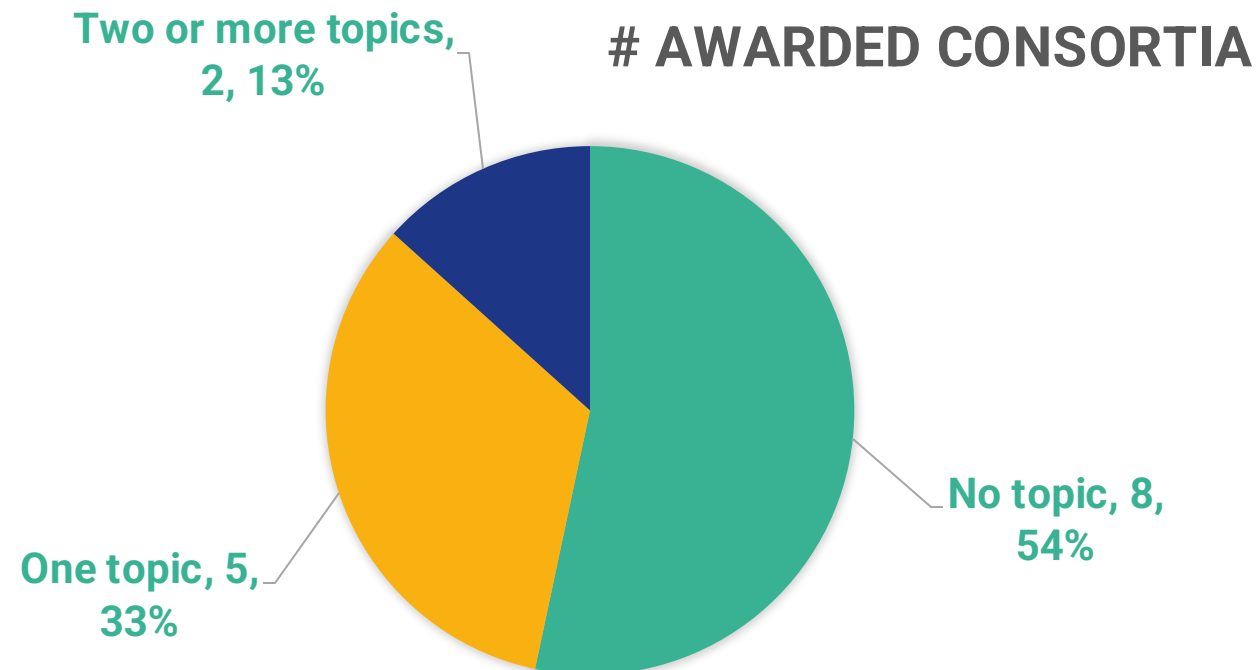
APPENDIX A. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC TOPICS FOR POTENTIAL USE BY THE APPLICANTS UNDER CALL EUBA-EFSA-2024-ENREL-01

No	Title	Description	Desirable Key Deliverables	Further info	Category	Free keywords
1	Improving the evidence base on the impact of plastics, including micro- and nano- plastics, on the food chain	Plastic pollution is becoming increasingly prevalent in all environments worldwide, meaning that organisms will inevitably be more exposed to plastic. Recent studies demonstrate the hazard of plastic and its impact to living organisms and their ecosystems. Microplastics may also act as a vehicle of other contaminants and concerns are raised.	More information is needed about the harmful effects of plastic pollution on human health and the environment. Of particular interest is information/research on the degradation of plastics within living organisms, as well as their biological absorption, distribution, elimination, and toxicity.	https://image.outreach.efsa.europa.eu/lib/fe3811717564047c711779/m/1/7a358789-b1fd-4fa2-abf3-d37fcbce1cb5.pdf	Contaminants	Plastic, plastic pollution, plastic degradation, toxicology
2	Improving the understanding of the risk of	Providencia spp. are ubiquitous, gram-negative, anaerobic, rod-shaped bacteria that belong to the Enterobacteriaceae family. There are currently	Data on the prevalence, pathogenicity of Providencia spp.	https://image.outreach.efsa.europa.eu/lib/fe3	Biological hazards	Providencia spp., prevalence



OUTCOME:

- 11 consortia out of 23 eligible applications selected one or more projects from the list.
- 7 out of 15 awarded consortia selected one or more projects from the list.



IN THIS REGARD...

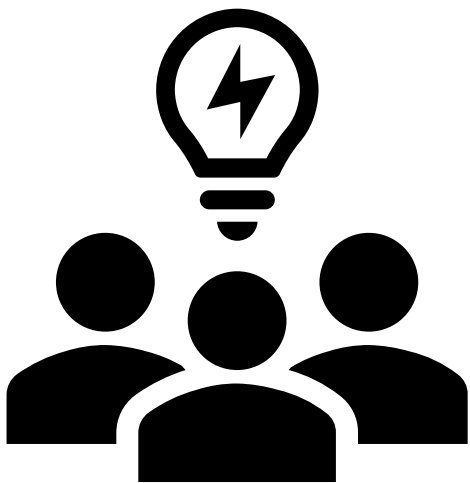
	Title	Contract type	Launch month	Estimated Budget (EUR)
■	Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme 2026	Direct Grant Agreements (up to 15)	November	825K
■	Developing, organizing and delivering of training activities under the EFSA European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme (EU-FORA)	Single Framework Contract	October	1.6M

Call for tender (procurement)

Call for proposals (Grant - Art. 36)



NOW WHAT?



- Recommendation in the award letters to the beneficiaries to have a **meeting between the core team and EFSA** at the beginning of the project.
- These meetings are NOT intended to change the work planned but, rather, allow for **discussion and identification of any opportunities** for further exchanges
- For **2026-2027, a new list of mini projects is being drafted** and will be annexed to the upcoming Call for selection of hosting sites and fellows.
- Any **input from the AF** on how to strengthen the partnership dimension of EU-FORA is welcome and appreciated!



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