

Call for expressions of interest in
joining EFSA's stakeholder
community on applications for food
and feed products



- 1 Contents**
- 2 *About the call*..... 3**
- 3 *Objectives and functioning of the community* 3**
- 4 *Who we are looking for* 4**
- 5 *Selection of members and prioritisation criteria* 5**
 - 5.1 Eligibility requirements 5**
 - 5.2 Multiple members from the same organisation 6**
 - 5.3 Prioritisation in the selection process 6**
- 6 *How you can apply* 6**
- 7 *Notification of the outcome*..... 7**
- 8 *Publication of community-related documents* 7**
- 9 *Timeline* 7**
- 10 *Inquiries* 7**



2 About the call

In line with EFSA's commitment to keeping its engagement mechanisms up to date and responsive to stakeholder needs, EFSA is launching **a second call for expressions of interest** to join the stakeholder community on applications for food and feed products. Following the community launch in 2025, EFSA established an initial group of members and initiated topic-based discussions on application-related aspects. With this call, EFSA aims to expand the community with additional stakeholders who will bring further perspectives to discussions and contribute to ongoing and upcoming initiatives related to applications for 'regulated products'.

Since the establishment of the community, EFSA has initiated several topic-based exchanges, including on procedural aspects, digital tools, and applicant support initiatives. Meetings, written consultations and calls for topics were used as different engagement tools for these exchanges. Building on this initial experience, the second call aims to broaden participation and ensure balanced representation across stakeholder categories and food and feed domains.

The community is open to all stakeholders involved in or interested in various application-related topics, including not only business operators and consultants but also representatives from other organisations such as NGOs, universities, research centres, and laboratories/contract research organisations. This call remains exclusively dedicated to stakeholders, while participation from Member State competent authorities will be addressed separately. In line with the topics under discussion and the community's work programme, EFSA will launch a dedicated call for delegates from Member State competent authorities. Delegates appointed through this process will act on official representation of their respective Member States.

Please note that **existing members will remain part of the community**. This call serves exclusively to **identify new members** as defined in Section 4 below. Existing members are requested not to apply again, as they will continue to be part of the community without the need for reapplication.

3 Objectives and functioning of the community

The community is a collaborative forum whose main objective is to empower its members to play an active role in shaping discussions and initiatives related to the application process.

Community members have the opportunity to share their views, experiences, and suggestions with EFSA and their peers, working together towards the common goal of streamlining the process and improving application quality, thereby facilitating the delivery of fit-for-purpose and timely risk assessments. The discussions within the community focus on topics related to applications and their processes, structured in four main areas that are transversal to all food and feed domains:

1. **Procedural aspects:** Discussions focus on the practical aspects of the application procedures.
2. **Digital tools:** This area covers feedback and suggestions for improving the IT tools used in the application process (e.g., EFSA's portals and assessment calculation tools) and related user guides.
3. **Support initiatives for applicants:** Discussions focus on gathering inputs from users on the effectiveness of existing and potential EFSA's support initiatives during the



application lifecycle. Focus is also given to initiatives targeting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

4. **General aspects related to guidance documents:** This area covers general discussions on the creation, updates and accessibility of guidance documents used in the application process and on standard data formats.

Community's discussions involve subgroups of members interested in the specific topics. EFSA proposes topics for discussion when a need is identified. Parallely, members are also encouraged to actively suggest topics, for example via dedicated calls for topics.

Through this topic-based engagement mechanism, EFSA aims to ensure that discussions on any given matter include those members with a specific interest and expertise to actively contribute, while leaving the possibility to other community members to join or follow the discussion. Depending on the topic, EFSA designs the format for discussion and exchange, consulting with members as necessary.

More information on the nature of the community and what members can expect is available in the [Terms of Reference](#).

4 Who we are looking for

This call is open to all categories of stakeholders who have an interest in regulated product application topics (e.g., business operators, consultants, NGOs, laboratories/contract research organisations, etc.). The call will be reopened periodically to allow new members to join and contribute to the community.

Members are expected to contribute to the definition of the topics under discussion and participate actively in discussions based on their interests and experience. This may result in leading agenda items, providing practical insights on available support initiatives, and offering input for further improvement of the application process. Examples of activities include:

- attending meetings relevant to their topics of interest (e.g., to discuss issues and collectively consider possible solutions);
- actively participating in calls for topics;
- contributing to written exchanges and surveys (e.g., to provide feedback or views on IT tools, procedural aspects, applicant support initiatives, etc.).

The following box provides examples of activities carried out in 2025, offering newly interested members an indication of what participation in the community may involve:

Revamp of EFSA's application webpages

Through an online form, community members were invited to provide feedback on mock-up webpages. This input was considered by EFSA when finalising the revamped application webpages.

ESFC enhancements

Interested members were invited to participate in an online meeting during which EFSA initiated a dialogue on the ESFC, with the aim of exploring new ideas, jointly prioritising future improvements, and exchanging insights to ensure that the tool continues to meet users' needs.



Support initiative for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Through an online form and follow-up online exchanges, members provided in-depth insights into the needs of SMEs, including unmet needs, feedback on existing services for applicants, and concrete suggestions for improvement.

5 Selection of members and prioritisation criteria

5.1 Eligibility requirements

For an expression of interest to be considered, applying members must meet the following requirements:

1. Be involved in, or have a professional interest in, at least one of the areas for applications for regulated products, defined as:
 - Animal welfare (i.e. stunning methods)
 - Biological hazards (i.e. on animal by-products and decontamination substances)
 - Additives for use in animal nutrition (feed additives)
 - Food contact materials
 - Food improvement agents
 - Genetically Modified-Organisms (GMOs)
 - Novel foods and traditional foods
 - Nutrition (i.e. health claims, infant and follow-on formulae, food allergies, nutrient sources)
 - Pesticides

and

2. Belong to one of the stakeholder categories identified by EFSA:
 - Company: small to medium-sized enterprise (SME)
 - Company: large enterprise
 - Consultancy
 - Laboratory/Contract Research Organisation¹
 - Environmental or health NGO
 - Industry association
 - Academia
 - Consumer organisations
 - Distributors and HORECA
 - Farmers and primary producers.

Note: Being part of the EFSA Registered Stakeholders scheme is not a prerequisite to join the community.

¹Laboratories and contract research organisations are invited to select the stakeholder category that best reflects their legal status.



5.2 Multiple members from the same organisation

The submission of interest to join the community is on an individual basis and not at the organisational level. EFSA acknowledged that some organisations may prefer to have multiple members from the same entity participating in the community, as they may have interests in different topics or areas of work.

In principle, the participation of multiple members from the same organisation is allowed. However, should it become necessary to ensure efficient exchange dynamics, EFSA reserves the right to limit participation from multiple members from the same organisation, particularly when they cover overlapping areas of work or interest.

Nevertheless, since the activities of the community will be structured around initiatives focused on themes that may involve subgroups, it will still be possible, where relevant, for a community member to nominate alternates – who are not part of the community on a standing basis – to participate in specific initiatives.

5.3 Prioritisation in the selection process

To ensure efficient exchange dynamics within the community, EFSA may limit the number of accepted members, prioritising those who demonstrate strong expertise and interest in relevant topics, as indicated in the submission form. Additionally, EFSA will ensure fair representation across food industry sectors and organisations' sizes.

6 How you can apply

Stakeholders interested in joining the EFSA's stakeholder community on applications for food and feed products are invited to submit their interest via the

DEDICATED FORM

Deadline: 30 April 2026 23:59 CEST.



7 Notification of the outcome

The composition of the community is expected to be finalised **by the end of May 2026**.

Applying members will be notified of the outcome of their request to join the community via e-mail, using the address provided in their expression of interest form.

8 Publication of community-related documents

To ensure transparency in the management of the community, documents related to its establishment and operations are published on the [EFSA's website](#) and updated as relevant documents related to this call become available. These documents may include references to the companies or organisations that community members represent, but, unless specific consent is requested and provided by the members, no personal data will be featured, such as individual names, surnames, or email addresses.

9 Timeline

Opening of the call	10 March 2026
Deadline to submit interest via the dedicated form	30 April 2026
Notification of the outcome of the request	By end of May 2026
Community connect: introduction and alignment online session	By end of June 2026

10 Inquiries

Any questions or requests for assistance regarding this call should be sent via the [Ask a Question service](#) indicating in the subject "Stakeholder community on applications for food and feed products – call for expressions of interest".