

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

mb260625-i4

3rd Amending Budget 2026 of the European Food Safety Authority

Background

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

EFSA and DG ENEST of the European Commission intend to sign a Contribution Agreement to support the “*Preparatory Measures for the Participation of Candidate and Potential Candidates in the European Food Safety Authority’s (EFSA) Work*”. The Action aims to support the seven pre-accession beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye), as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in progressively aligning with the EU food safety *acquis* and integrating into activities related to the work of EFSA, Member States and EU institutions, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

The Action will run for 36 months from 1 August 2026 and will build on previous IPA cycles in order to enhance the beneficiaries’ capabilities in risk assessment, communication, data collection and networking. The additional budget under this Contribution Agreement amounts to EUR 2,200,000.00 and will be paid in one pre-financing instalment.

The funding will cover, *inter alia*, the cost of two Contract Agents (CA) and a Seconded National Expert (SNE).

One Substance, One Assessment (OSOA)

On 1 January 2026, a new legislative framework establishing the *One Substance, One Assessment* (OSOA) approach entered into force. The legislative package comprises three acts, two of which—Regulation (EU) 2025/2455, establishing a common data platform on chemicals, and Regulation (EU) 2025/2457, amending several existing regulations to reallocate scientific and technical tasks and strengthen cooperation among EU agencies—assign new responsibilities to EFSA.

These legislative proposals are accompanied by a [working document](#) setting out the additional funding and staffing foreseen for EFSA under the LIFE Programme.

The Contribution Agreement will provide EFSA with additional revenue of EUR 3,000,000 over a total duration of 40 months, with implementation to commence on 1 July 2026. The proposed amending budget of EUR 1,008,600.00 covers the first of three pre-financing payments and is expected to be received during the 2026 financial year. The remaining funds will be received in two further annual instalments.

The funding will cover the costs of three Contract Agents recruited under the agreement, together with the direct operational costs required for EFSA’s contribution to the establishment of the European Common Data Platform on Chemicals (EU-CDPC).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Additional details IPA-NDICI:

Budget

The Action is to be pre-financed with a total budget of EUR 2,200,000.00 derived from two policy instruments, namely:

- IPA (EUR 1,400,000.00, with an increase of EUR 250,000.00 compared to the Action 2023–2026), focusing on the Western Balkans and Türkiye.
- NDICI (EUR 800,000.00), focusing on Ukraine and Moldova.

Further information

EFSA has successfully implemented previous IPA-funded actions entitled “Preparatory measures for the participation of IPA beneficiaries in the European Food Safety Authority” (2017–2019, 2019–2023 and 2023–2026), which provided capacity-building and collaboration opportunities for the IPA beneficiaries, as well as between the IPA beneficiaries and the Member States. Nevertheless, further efforts remain necessary in the areas of food safety, animal health and plant health in view of the continued need for alignment with the EU food safety *acquis* and the European Commission’s strategic ambitions regarding EU enlargement. Against this background, the European Commission has proposed to provide financial support for activities aimed at helping the above-mentioned beneficiaries to progressively align with the EU food safety *acquis* and integrate into activities related to the work of EFSA, Member States and EU institutions, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

These long-term enlargement objectives, which are intended to support the beneficiaries’ gradual integration and ensure sustainability and continued progress, will therefore remain central to the new Action, thereby ensuring continuity with previous efforts. The main focus will be on integrating the beneficiaries into EFSA’s work and the EU food safety system. In addition, through the new Action, EFSA will strengthen the beneficiaries’ awareness and understanding of its role within the EU food safety framework and of its scientific outputs. It will also enhance the credibility of, and trust in, the scientific basis for European measures taken in the areas falling within EFSA’s remit.

The direct target groups of this Action are the competent food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary authorities, as well as other relevant authorities responsible for food safety in the beneficiary countries, in particular those with a remit similar to that of EFSA. In addition, as EFSA’s remit covers the entire food chain, the Action will also involve other scientific, academic and civil society organisations and, indirectly, the citizens of each beneficiary.

The forthcoming Action will focus on three core pillars:

- **capacity building:** enhancing risk assessment and risk communication capabilities, improving data collection and reporting processes, and increasing the preparedness of national authorities, in the areas of EFSA’s remit;
- **networking, engagement and cooperation:** supporting deeper integration with EU and Member State networks, and fostering the involvement of experts from beneficiaries in EU and Member State research and risk assessment initiatives;
- **risk communication/visibility:** increasing coordinated and efficient communication and visibility by strengthening national communication activities, promoting consistent messaging and engaging citizens with accessible and evidence-based information.

In view of the continued need for alignment with the EU food safety *acquis*, further efforts are required to support the IPA beneficiaries. In addition, Moldova and Ukraine will also be supported in their efforts to progress towards EU accession, drawing on the experience gained with the IPA beneficiaries. As Moldova and Ukraine have not so far participated in EFSA’s activities, particular emphasis will be placed on onboarding them swiftly, facilitating their progressive participation in EFSA’s systems, platforms and networks as observers, and accelerating their training so that they reach the level of preparedness required for possible accession.

Additional details OSOA:

Budget

The total budget of EUR 3,000,000.00 will be allocated indicatively as follows:

- EUR 793,200.00 for 36 months to cover the cost of three EFSA Scientific Data Officers (newly recruited CAs FGIV), to perform the operational tasks related to:
 - data lineage, handling, conversion and sharing,
 - contribution to the establishment of standard formats and controlled vocabularies,
 - day-to-day collaborative work with EC and other stakeholders.
- EUR 2,206,800.00 for 40 months for outsourcing the work on the necessary IT development and data handling.

These resources will be required for the full duration of the development of the EU-CDPC Minimum Viable Product (MVP) scheduled for go-live on 2 January 2029, together with additional period for hypercare and maintenance of EFSA's data pipelines and IT infrastructure, as well as analysis to support subsequent work following the MVP go-live, for a total amount of EUR 3,000,000.00.

Specifically, for the first 12 months (July 2026 - April 2027):

- EUR 216,600.00 for salary of EFSA Scientific Data Officers,
- EUR 792,000.00 for outsourcing the work on the necessary IT development and data handling.

The total amount for the first 12 months is therefore EUR 1,008,600.00. This amount also constitutes the first instalment to be incorporated into the EFSA budget through this amendment.

Further information

The funding will be used to:

- Complete all the tasks related to its contribution to the EU-CDPC specified in the Data Regulation for the first three years (i.e. delivery of the MVP as specified in the Regulation (EU) 2025/2455).
- Set up secure IT infrastructure and data pipelines in a way to ensure sustainable addition and maintenance of datasets and related data formats, including quality control and curation of data, and preparation for the whole EU-CDPC development, which will continue after the end of this Contribution Agreement.
- Establish internally to EFSA a sustainable workflow for continued contribution to the platform which will continue after the end of this Contribution Agreement.

EFSA envisages organising the work into the following activities:

1. Data Lineage and Selection

- Identify datasets within EFSA's remit to be included in the EU-CDPC MVP, in line with those listed in Annex IV of the Regulation (EU) 2025/2455.
- Analyse the current format, structure, and connectivity capabilities of the identified datasets.

2. Establishment of Standard Formats and Controlled Vocabularies

- Confirm with ECHA, the European Commission, and other stakeholders on the target standard formats and controlled vocabularies for each dataset, especially where not already defined by law or EFSA standards (e.g., outside SSD2, IUCLID or OECD templates).
- Take measures to monitor and identify potential divergence between standard formats and controlled vocabularies and resolve divergences when they occur.
- Establish the exchange format, maintain and make available for inclusion into the EU-CDPC standard formats and controlled vocabularies for EFSA relevant datasets.

3. Data Preparation, Curation and Transformation

- Curate and validate datasets for completeness and conformity with common requirements.

- Include necessary context data in line with requirements in governance scheme and flag non-public data.
- Establish sustainable procedures in line with the governance scheme for continuous dataset updates and corrections.

4. IT Protocols and Infrastructure for Data Exchange

- Discuss and agree with ECHA and other stakeholders on the IT infrastructure and protocols for secure data exchange, including regular updates.
- Develop EFSA's IT infrastructure to:
 - enable secure exchange of relevant datasets with ECHA;
 - ensure security measures for handling non-public data;
 - support sustainable preparation and updating of datasets;
 - host chemicals data upon request of the European Commission.
- Set up EFSA internal processes to send regular updates to ECHA.
- Establish infrastructure and processes for hosting and exchanging new data provided voluntarily by Member States or other stakeholders.

5. Support for the Governance of the Common Data Platform

- Participate in the platform steering committee and support its tasks.
 - Cooperate with ECHA on the development and operation of the EU-CDPC, including required functionalities and dedicated services.
 - Provide technical cooperation to enable data incorporation and publication, including participation in project teams developing common dataset requirements.
 - Contribute to data security activities and platform testing.
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