

NEXT FRAMEWORK CONCEPT – UPDATE FROM THE TASK FORCE ON THE NEXT FRAMEWORK

23 September 2026

FOCAL POINT MEETING – 23RD SEPTEMBER

- Task Force update
- Art 36 Organisation Survey
- Coffee break
- E2E Support to science



TASK FORCE UPDATE



Work systematically on Support, Connect and Incubate Functions



Advisory Forum endorsement



Involvement of Focal Points and AGoD members



Ongoing discussions with EFSA's scientific units



Survey to Art 36 organisations



E2E SUPPORT

Support

Facilitates
dissemination, Eol,
sharing of evidence

Interface between
AF/MB/SN

End-to-end support to
science

Connect

G&P support

Partnership

Training, Capacity
Building

Incubate

Tailor-made
activities



THE WAY AHEAD





SURVEY TO ART 36 ORGANISATION

23 September 2026

RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- **Target:** 2,568 contacts.
- **Sample achieved:** 170 respondents.
 - ⇒ **6,6%** response rate.
- **Respondent profile:**
 - ⇒ **85% prior awareness of their national FP's role.**
 - ⇒ **82% familiar with their org's cooperation with EFSA.**



- Results reflect the perspective of **highly engaged institutions** already integrated into EFSA's ecosystem.
- **The high non-response rate** highlights a broad base of "disconnected" organisations.



RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

CORE FINDINGS

1. High engagement among connected orgs.

- **Strong baseline:** survey reflects highly qualified, satisfied, and knowledgeable core base of active organizations:
 - ⇒ 85% prior awareness of their national FP's role.
 - ⇒ 82% familiar with their organization's cooperation with EFSA.



The high non-response rate suggests that a large group of entities may be disengaged

National FPs proactive outreach strategy needed.



RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

2. Baseline information delivery works well

- ⇒ 67% satisfied with clarity.
- ⇒ 69% satisfied with timeliness.



3. Shift From Top-Down to Two-Way Flow

- Survey finds clear demand for a two-way, tailored exchange that gathers local needs and delivers targeted alerts by expertise.



RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

4. Demand for Interactive & Practical Engagement

- Project participation is constrained by **internal resource limits** and **complex procedures**.
- Organizations request **national networking events** (36%) and **targeted info-sessions** (39%) to operationalise EFSA calls over generic email broadcasts.



Role Ambiguity as the Primary Obstacle

31% of respondents state that their main barrier to requesting FP support is simply not knowing what the FP can assist with.

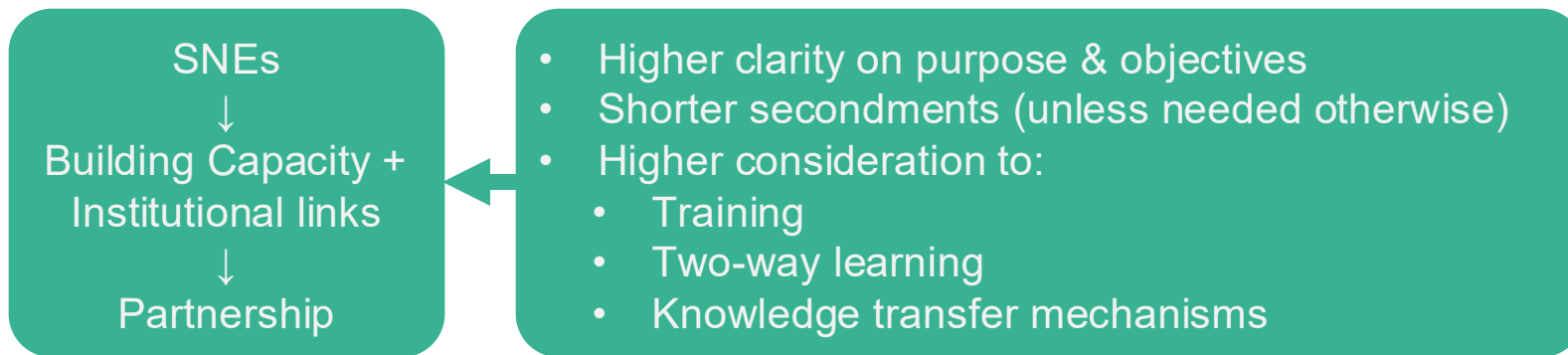


RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

5. Seconded National Experts as Opportunity for cooperation

- Secondments would be more attractive if they involve work & skills relevant to the current ones (similar or expanding)
- Clarity with regards to benefits & visibility and possibility to have work agreed in advance in a project-like way, are also appreciated

Internal
reflections



Resource shortage

Respondents give less attention to possible long-term benefits vs. short-term challenges, such as the impact of having less resources during the secondment period



RESULTS OF ART 36 SURVEY

6. Value of cooperation

Value seen already **now**:

- Gaining knowledge useful to advance own work
- Networking with new organisations
- Strengthening of role/mission at EU level

Likely **future** value:

- Strengthening own advocacy power
- Putting to use own know-how
- Leads for new projects



CORE RECOMMENDATIONS

Evolving the FP framework toward active facilitation

- Consideration could be given to supporting national FPs in gradually expanding from passive dissemination channels toward active connectors. FPs might explore prioritizing targeted project info-sessions (39%), national networking events (36%), and tailored expertise alerts (34%), supported by adequate FP resourcing where feasible.

Exploring procedural simplification and flexible mobility:

- With regards to partnership projects, simplified procedures and better budget/workload predictability would help. Piloting more flexible mobility schemes could mitigate institutional resource constraints and help up-take.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching into a cardboard box filled with fresh produce. The person is wearing a white shirt with black polka dots. The box contains dark leafy lettuce, red bell peppers, a green avocado, and a yellow squash. A small blue and white circular sticker is visible on one of the peppers. The background is blurred, showing a white wall and a wooden surface. The image is overlaid with a large yellow curved shape on the right side.

COFFEE

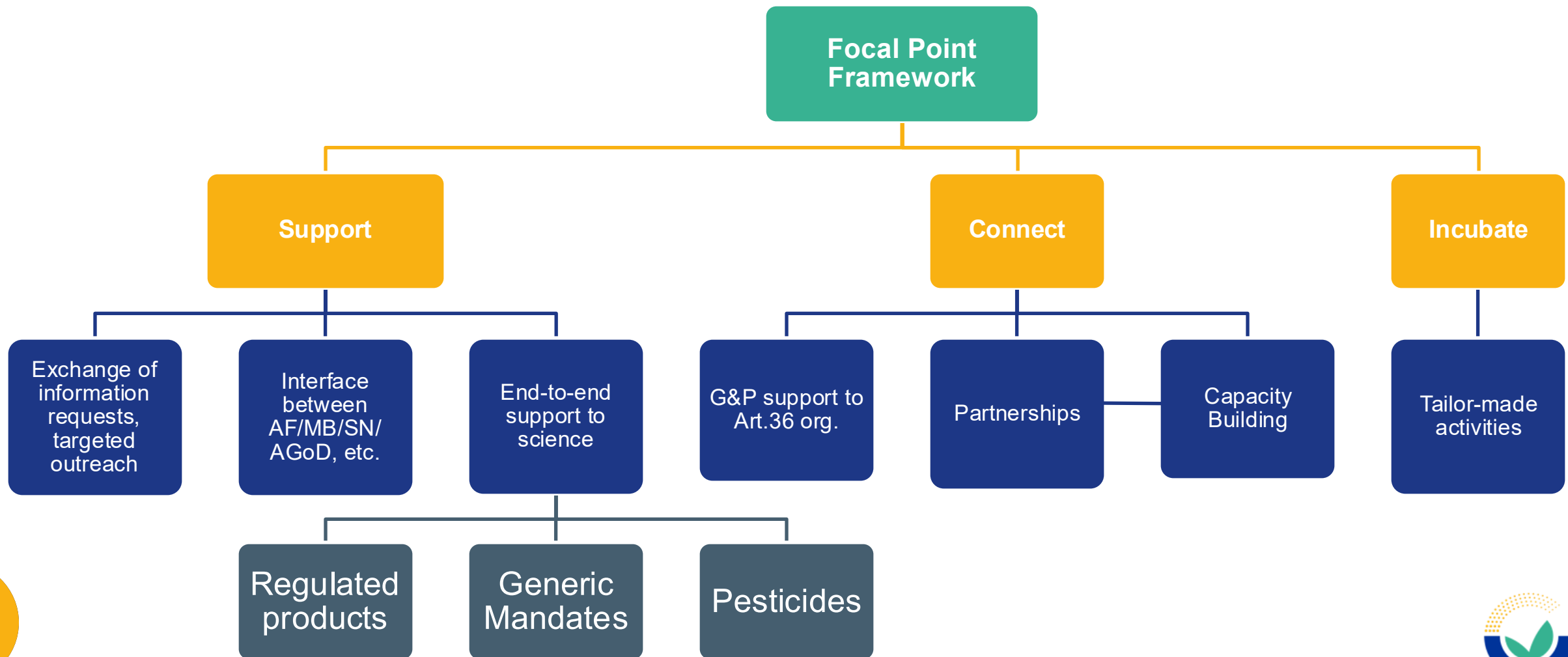




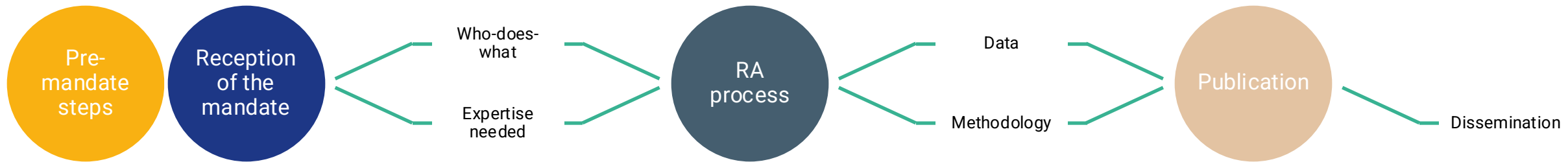
END-TO-END SUPPORT TO SCIENCE

23 September 2026

FUTURE FOCAL POINT FRAMEWORK



SUPPORT FUNCTION - E2E SUPPORT TO SCIENCE

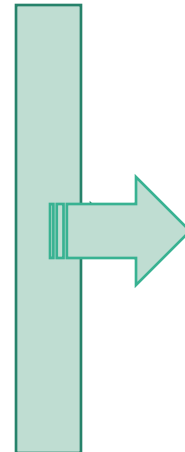


EFSA prepares

- ☐ FP workplan in year N-1 for year N
- ☐ Preparatory session with FPs in N-1

FPs collaborate with

- ☐ Scientific Network representatives
- ☐ AF, CVOs, COPH, etc



Delivery and Integration

- ☐ FP delivers aggregated national information to EFSA
- ☐ Systematic integration into EFSA's work



FOCAL POINTS SUPPORT TO ANIMAL HEALTH

Inma Aznar
Team Leader Animal Health

OBJECTIVES

- Present the state of play of past/ongoing collaborations between AH and Focal Points
- Present some recently developments regarding data sources for risk assessment in the area of Animal Health
- Overview of commonalities but also divergences in data lifecycles among the projects
- Present a proposal for a harmonised visualisation of the projects with the support of Focal Points



PREVIOUS COLLABORATION: COUNTRY CARDS

Who is the data owner

Focal Points



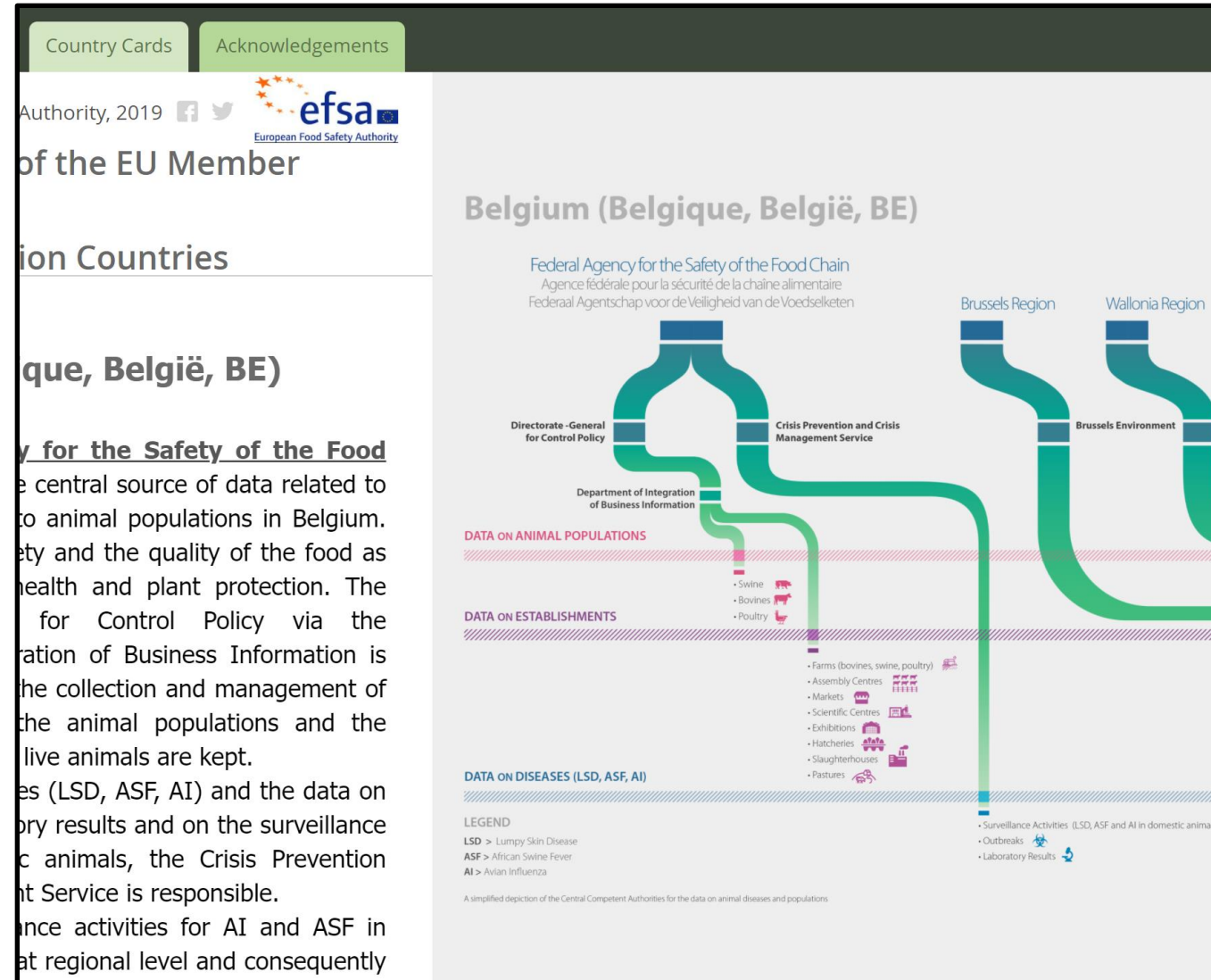
EU Survey



EFSA staff (generation of the content)



ArcGIS



PREVIOUS COLLABORATION: DATA FLOW

What is the data flow

Experts indicated by Focal Points



Interview

(based on ad hoc EFSA methodology)



Generation of the report



EFSA
Journal



The screenshot shows the EFSA Supporting Publications page for the "Country Report of Austria for Chemical Contaminants Occurrence business data collection". The page includes the EFSA logo, "SUPPORTING PUBLICATIONS", and an "OPEN ACCESS" badge. It identifies the document as an "External scientific report" and provides the title, authors (Nikolaos Kollaros, Konstantinos Theofilopoulos, Anna Polychroniou, Network Research Belgium (NRB) S.A.), and the publication date (07 October 2025). A DOI link and a "VIEW METRICS" button are also present. The abstract describes the analysis and mapping of national data flows relevant to EFSA's business data collections. On the right, there is a sidebar with a "Recommended" section listing related reports, such as the "Country Report of Hungary for Chemical Contaminants Occurrence business data collection" and the "Country Report of Ireland for Chemical Contaminants Occurrence data collection".

Visual representation (Power BI dashboard) is in pilot mode



NEW WORK ON DATA SOURCES

Where is the data kept



EFSA + partners

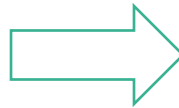


Identify and compile data sources
for data used in animal health RA

International + National



ARC-GIS Publicly available
dashboard



The screenshot shows the cover page of a document titled "Data Sources for Risk Assessment of Animal Diseases". At the top left is the EUP AH&W logo. The title is in large, bold, black font. Below the title, it says "This is a DRAFT for internal use with the EUPAHW partners, not yet ready for further dissemination". The author is "Sotiria-Eleni ANTONIOU" and the date is "May 30, 2025". There is a "Get started" button. A paragraph mentions co-funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe. On the right side, there is a diagram of the "Epidemiological Triangle" with three circles: "Data on Pathogens" at the top, "Data on Hosts" at the bottom left, and "Data on Environment" at the bottom right. A red triangle in the center is labeled "Infectious Diseases Risk Assessment". Below the diagram is the word "Introduction". At the bottom, there are two sections: "European & International Data..." with a collage of images, and "National Data Sources" with flags of Greece and Portugal. A grid of logos for various institutions is shown at the bottom, including the University of Copenhagen, IZS, CIRAD, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Vetsa, and others. The word "Acknowledgements" is at the bottom right.

<https://arcg.is/11yPnL3>



DATA LIFECYCLE OVERVIEW

SIGMA COUNTRY CARDS

- **Who** is the data owner
- Publicly available in ArcGis (StoryMaps)
- Dismissed



EUPAHW DASHBOARD DATA SOURCES DEPOSITORY

- **Where** can I find data to perform RA
- Publicly available in ArcGis (StoryMaps) through EFSA website
- ONGOING (to be completed by the end of 2026)

DATA FLOW MAPPING

- **How** the data flow from national repositories to EFSA works and which are the **strengths** and the **bottlenecks**
- Publicly available as Country Reports (dashboards - coming soon)
- ONGONING & LIVE



PROPOSAL FOR HARMONISATION (PILOT IN 2027)

General
Public



Consult
2027

I
N
T
E
R
F
A
C
E

Focal
Points
Members

Update
2028



website

SIGMA COUNTRY CARDS
(Animal health)

EUPAHW DASHBOARD
(Animal health)



DATA FLOW

Pesticides / Foodborne outbreaks / Food consumption /
Chemical contaminants / Food additives / Vet Med
residues / Prevalence of zoonoses and pathogens

+

Avian Influenza / TSE (starting soon)



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MS SUPPORT IN APPLICATIONS FOR REGULATED PRODUCTS (NON-PEST)

Patricia Romero Fernández

FDP unit

23/09/2026

OUTLINE

- 01 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 02 ROLE OF MEMBER STATES IN NON-PEST REGULATED-PRODUCT APPLICATIONS

- 03 PROPOSALS FOR MEMBER STATE SUPPORT – NON-PEST APPLICATIONS

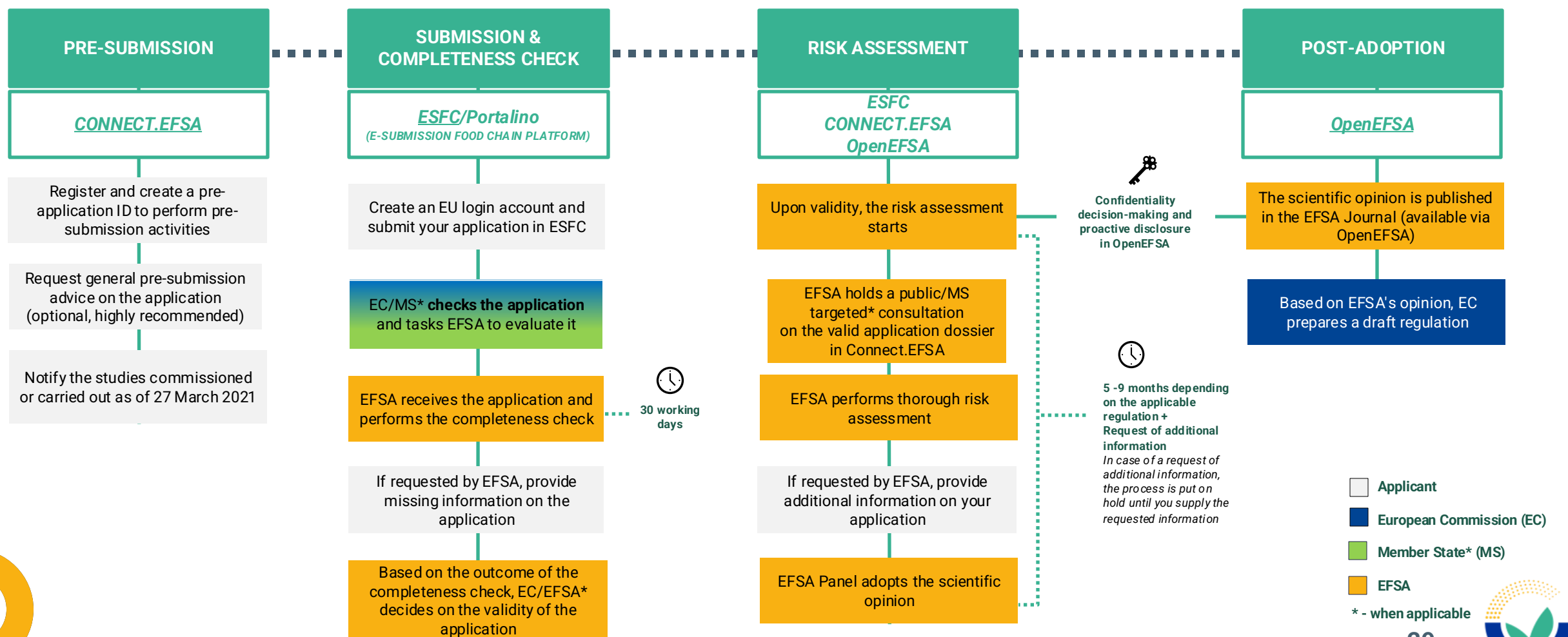
- 04 ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CLAIM APPLICATIONS



APPLICATIONS PROCEDURE



APPLICATIONS PROCEDURE



ROLE OF MS IN APPLICATIONS NON-PEST

Novel Food applications

Genetically modified organism (GMOs)
Plastic recycling process
Substances used in plastic food contact material
Smoke flavouring
Health claim
Alternative methods of animal by-products

MS shall be consulted by the operator in case of Novel Food status is unclear

Promote GPSA to potential applicants

Check scope of dossier submitted in ESFC in line with applicable Regulation

Draft and send mandate in line with dossier

Health Claim applications

MS are responsible for the validation of Health Claim Applications

Traditional Food applications

MSs check dossier in ESFC and submit comments during suitability consultation

MSs may raise duly reasoned safety objections during the evaluation period

FEED Additives and GMO applications

Targeted consultation before the risk assessment starts



ROLE OF MS IN APPLICATIONS NON-PEST

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PROPOSALS FOR MS SUPPORT APPLICATIONS NON-PEST

OBJECTIVE

Focal Points strengthen national capacity so applications are handled by MSCA consistently, efficiently and in line with sector-specific rules – before being forwarded to EFSA.

01 NETWORK MANAGEMENT

- Keep national authority and contact-point networks current by regulated-product area.
- Enable timely sharing of information.

02 AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

- Clarify institutional roles, share submission, regulatory and applicant-support information;
- Expand information on EFSA guidance, tools and procedures nationally.

APPLICABLE FOOD DOMAINS

- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- Plastic recycling processes
- Substances used in plastic food-contact materials
- Smoke flavourings
- Health claims
- Alternative methods for animal by-products



TASK 1 — NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Keep national networks accurate, connected and ready to support regulated product applications

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--|
| 01 | MAP THE CURRENT SITUATION | Map current authorities, contact points, processes and EFSA platform access by regulated-product area. |
| 02 | MAINTAIN THE NETWORK | Maintain and regularly update the list of national competent authorities and contact points receiving applications in each area. |
| 03 | VERIFY ANNUALLY | Confirm at least once a year that contact details remain accurate and notify EFSA promptly of changes. |
| 04 | PRESERVE CONTINUITY | When contacts change, provide relevant information materials and direct new colleagues to EFSA resources. |
| 05 | ENABLE PLATFORM ACCESS | Support access and use of IT tools as ESFC and help competent authorities maintain it. |

Outcome: a reliable contact network with sustained knowledge and access to EFSA tools.



TASK 2 – AWARENESS & KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Consolidate/build knowledge, promote early support and help national authorities act with confidence.

CLARIFY ROLES & SHARE INFORMATION

Focal Points clarify Member State roles, tasks and share the information authorities need to handle applications consistently and engage EFSA early.

INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES

1

EFSA GUIDANCE & TOOLS

Disseminate EFSA guidance, tools and procedures nationally.

2

SCOPE & ESCALATION

Reinforce scope checks; contact the Commission or EFSA for unclear scope, missing expertise, deficient dossiers or novel cases.

3

ESFC MONITORING

Monitor new dossiers, requests and actions requiring national involvement.

4

APPLICANT READINESS

Promote GPSA, pre-submission support, study notification, transparency and early engagement among applicants.

5

CONTACT EFSA FIRST

Seek EFSA support early for unusual, complex or non-standard applications.

Outcome: better-informed authorities and applicants, with issues resolved earlier in the process.



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CLAIM APPLICATIONS

Member States have a specific legal role in validating Health Claim applications and verifying their completeness including Notification of Study obligations.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 01 | INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION | Ensure the EFSA Health Claims information package reaches all relevant competent-authority contacts, and facilitate communication between EFSA and national authorities. |
| 02 | TRAINING & KNOWLEDGE RETENTION | Join EFSA training on Article 15, validity and completeness, Notification of Studies, confidentiality and ESFC; multiply this knowledge nationally. |
| 03 | APPLICATION HANDLING | Promote ESFC monitoring, support understanding of validity and completeness requirements, and encourage consultation with EFSA when dossier or procedural questions arise. |
| 04 | APPLICANT READINESS | Promote GPSA and other pre-submission services, explain study-notification and transparency requirements, and encourage applicants to contact EFSA before submission. |
| 05 | FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENT | Collect feedback on recurring handling difficulties and share lessons learned and good practices through the Focal Point network. |

Result: consistent validation, retained expertise and earlier resolution of application issues.



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



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PESTICIDES AND FOCAL POINTS

For 23 September 2026

BACKGROUND

WHY: Since June 2026, the FDP-PREV-LA Task Force has been exploring how to improve and streamline pesticide completeness checks, identifying a range of potential measures.

WHAT: Among the options under consideration is a role for Focal Points in offering general support on pesticide-related matters.

HOW: Today's discussion is intended to outline our initial ideas for how FPs might support pesticide work, while inviting feedback on both the proposals and their practical implementation. At this stage, our priority is an open dialogue on what is realistic and feasible.

WHEN: As a next step, the ideas will be presented to the PSN on 15/16 October, reflecting the feedback received from FPs. Subject to the outcome of those discussions, the proposals could then be incorporated into the 2028 FWC.



PESTICIDES AND FP

CURRENT IDEAS:

- ☐ Assist with training / knowledge-sharing with MS (e.g. logistics support for webinars),
- ☐ Assist with communication between EFSA and MS during DAR/RAR development process

QUESTIONS:

- ☐ What do FPs think about these general ideas?
- ☐ What practical support for training/knowledge-sharing regarding pesticides would be feasible?
- ☐ What type of support for assisting with communication would be feasible? How could this work in practice?
- ☐ Any other advice/input for us in developing these ideas further?

