



COMMUNITY CONNECT: WELCOME AND ALIGNMENT ONLINE SESSION

Chair: Matthew RAMON,
Head of Unit, FDP, EFSA

AGENDA

Welcome | 10:00–10:05
Matthew RAMON, EFSA

Opening remarks by EFSA and the European Commission | 10:05–10:15
Bénédicte VAGENENDE, EFSA
Anastasia ALVIZOU, European Commission

Community composition | 10:15–10:35
Patricia ROMERO FERNANDEZ, EFSA

Community Terms of Reference | 10:35–11:10
Lucia PARRINO and Enrica MANNINI, EFSA

Community working methods and tools: focus on the Teams channel | 11:10–11:25
Enrica MANNINI, EFSA

Ongoing and future community activities | 11:25–11:45
Sara DE BERARDIS, EFSA

Open floor and concluding remarks | 11:45–12:00
Matthew RAMON, EFSA



OPENING REMARKS BY EFSA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Bénédicte VAGENENDE, Head of
Department, ENABLE, EFSA

Anastasia ALVIZOU, Deputy Head of Unit,
SANTE E1, European Commission



COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

Patricia ROMERO FERNANDEZ, Team Leader,
FDP, EFSA



WHO IS IN THE COMMUNITY?

Stakeholders

Identified via calls for interest.

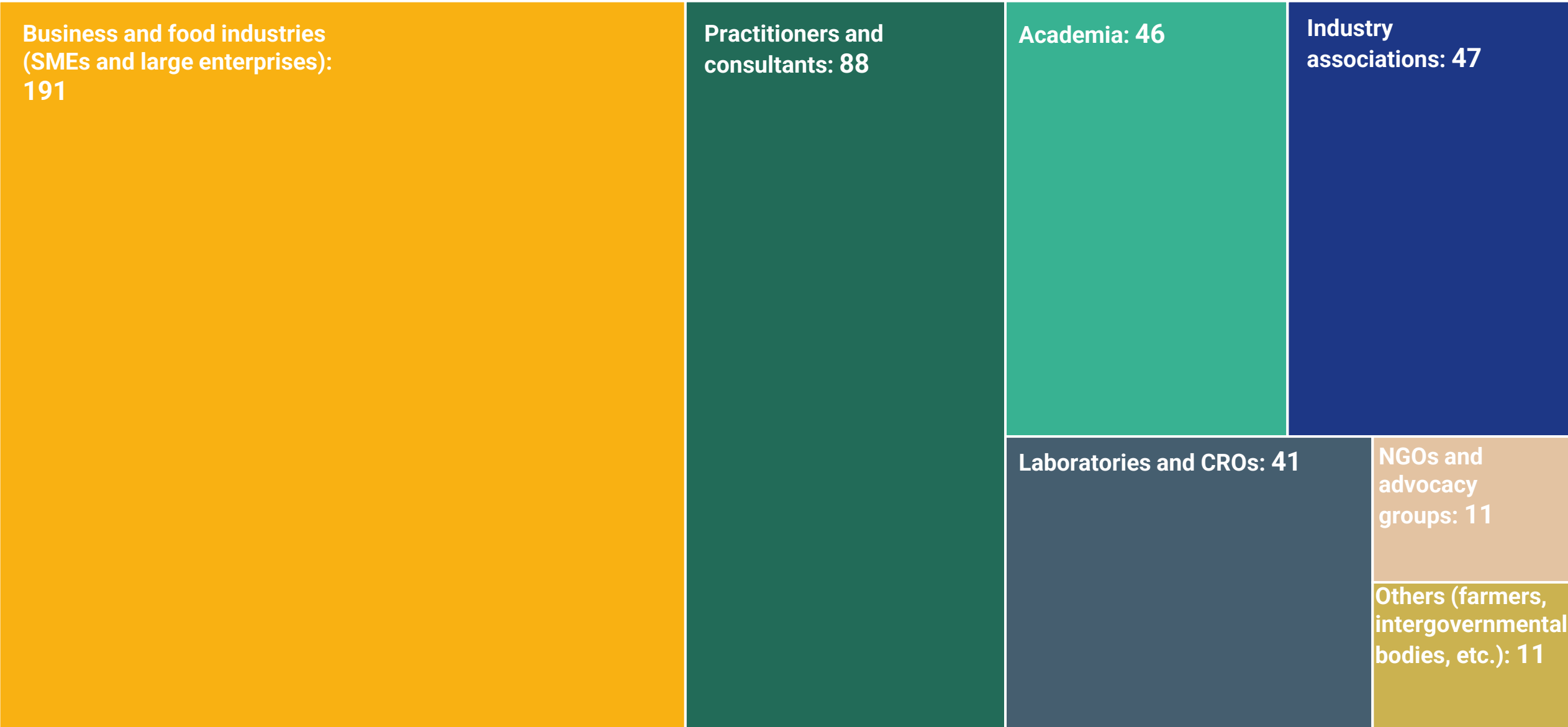
2025: **310** members onboarded.

2026: **141** members onboarded.

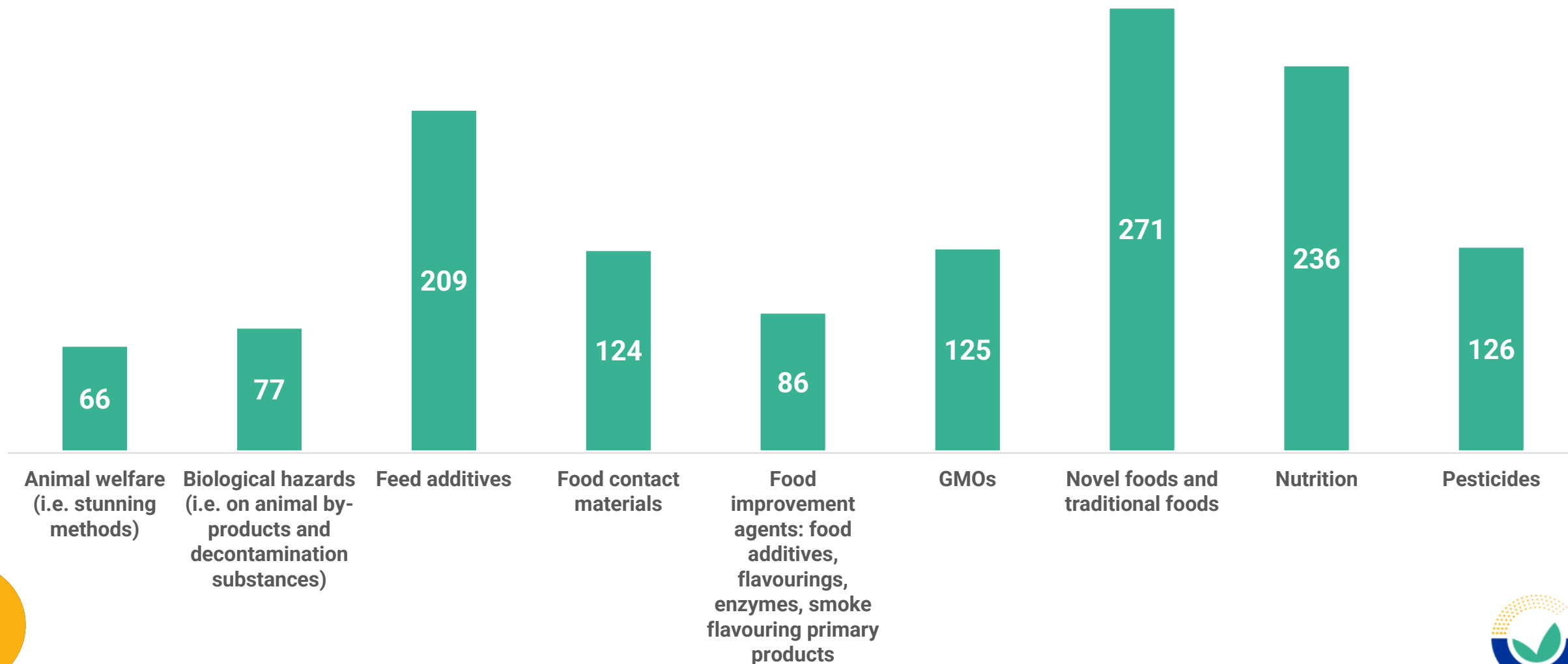
European Commission and Member States

Representatives participating on an ad hoc basis.

WHO IS IN THE COMMUNITY: STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS BY CATEGORY



HOW THE COMMUNITY IS COMPOSED: STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS' INTERESTS BY AREAS



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about yourself!**

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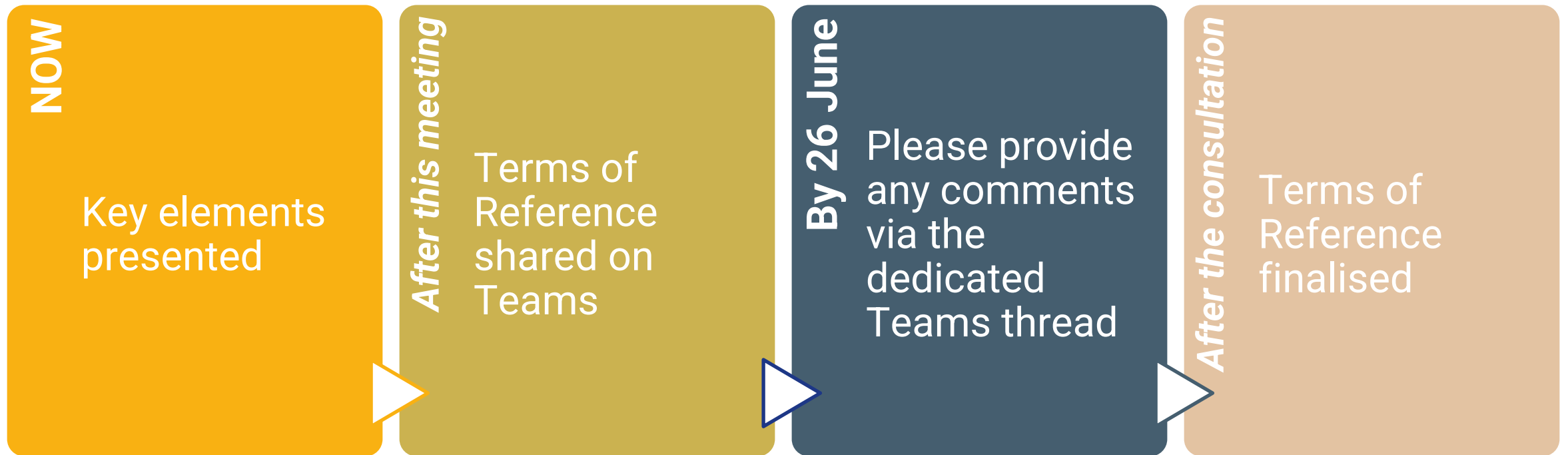


TERMS OF REFERENCE

Lucia PARRINO, community coordinator,
FDP, EFSA

Enrica MANNINI, community moderator,
FDP, EFSA

COLLECTIVE FINETUNING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE



MISSION



Collaborative forum empowering members to shape discussions and initiatives



Active participation in sharing proposals, engaging, and suggesting solutions



Facilitating end-to-end application process through stakeholder contributions



Platform for promoting initiatives (e.g., info sessions, webinars)





OBJECTIVES



Create a **regular discussion platform** through a mix of meeting-based and asynchronous interactions



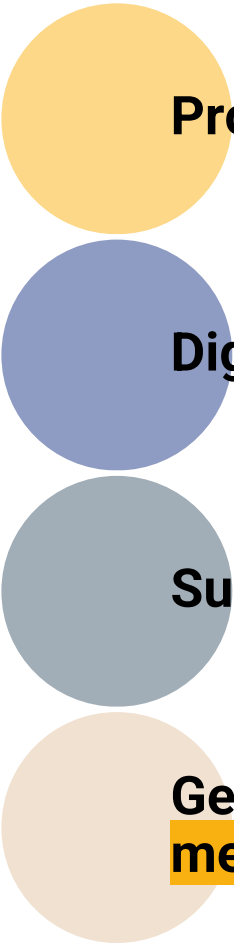
Ensure an **active role of members** in setting the agenda of topics and proposing related solutions



Ensure community exchanges contribute to **improving EFSA's work in the four key areas**



KEY AREAS



Procedural aspects

Digital tools

Support initiatives for applicants

General aspects related to guidance documents and methodology developments

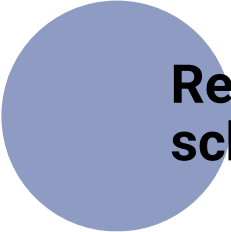
Proposed update to the ToR



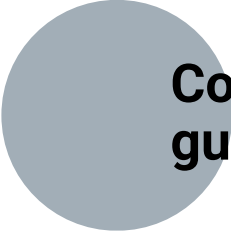
WHAT THE COMMUNITY WILL NOT DO



Propose changes to regulatory frameworks



Replace other stakeholder engagement initiatives and schemes



Comment on the development or update of scientific guidance documents



Provide input to specific risk assessments



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT



Community meeting on ESFC

Meeting jointly organised by EFSA
and the European Commission

For the **ESFC users** within the
community

Aimed at structuring dialogue on
tools and collaboratively shaping
priorities for future enhancements



Revamp of the EFSA application webpage

Written consultation via Form

For all community members

Aimed at gathering feedback
to finetune and finalise the redesign
of the EFSA website pages
dedicated to application
procedures

Discover more in the
[Activity report March 2025 – April 2026](#)



OPERATING MODEL

Teams
main communication channel **more details coming shortly**

MEETINGS



Online

At least once per year

Interaction tools for an effective engagement

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION



Used exceptionally, mainly for meeting organisation and Teams activities digest

LANGUAGE



The working language is English



THE OPERATING MODEL: AN EXAMPLE OF TOOL INTEGRATION



Survey on services for SMEs

- Written consultation
- The purpose was to collect initial feedback and perceptions from community members



Focus group discussion on SMEs initiatives

- Meeting
- Built on the input received through the survey and to gather more in-depth insights



Call to action

- Written consultation via thread on teams
- Aimed at reviewing and commenting on the actions proposed for 2026



MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES



UPDATES IN MEMBERSHIP

Change of a member's organisation/institution

- Membership is **individual-based**
- Members may **continue participating** if their new role remains relevant

Alternates and ad hoc participants

- Members may **appoint an alternate** from the same organisation
- Send an email to FDP@efsa.europa.eu, cc-ing your colleague to inform the community moderator

Replacements

- A member may be **replaced by a colleague** from the same organisation
- Applies when the member can **no longer participate**
- Requests are assessed **case by case**, considering the needs of the organisations involved

Proposed update to the ToR



PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY-RELATED DOCUMENTS & TIMELINE





COMMUNITY WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS: FOCUS ON THE TEAMS CHANNEL

Enrica MANNINI, community
moderator, FDP, EFSA

MICROSOFT TEAMS & CHANNELS



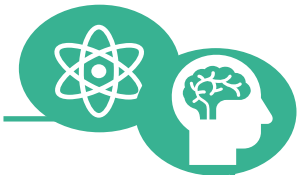
Stakeholder community on
applications for food and
feed products

General channel



- Main channel for all major information and updates
- Main platform for interactions

Topic channels



- Dedicated to specific discussions





FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Please write to:
servicedesk@efsa.europa.eu

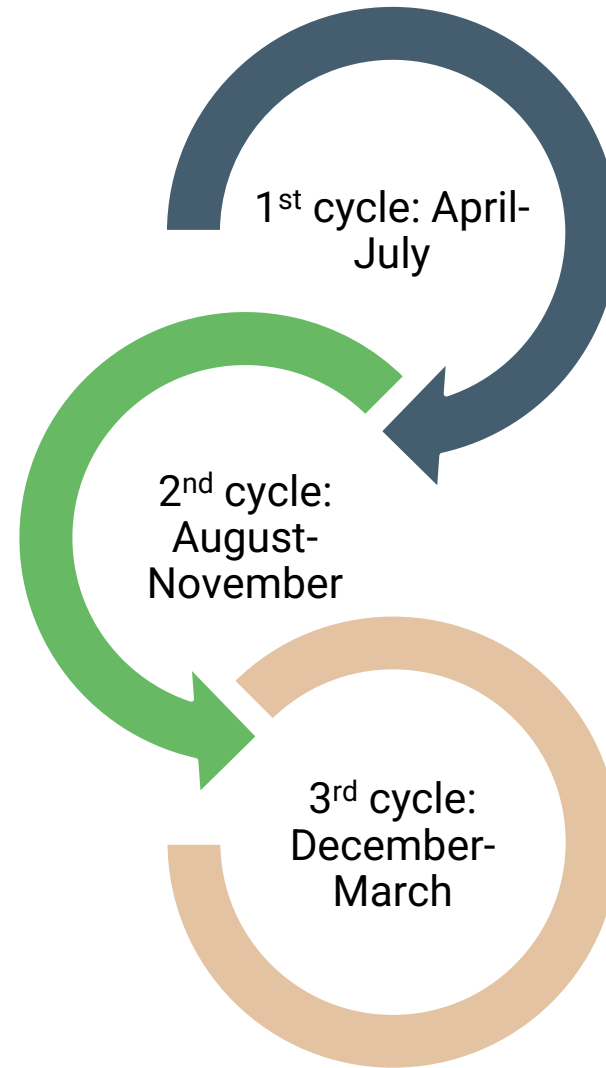




ONGOING AND UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Sara DE BERARDIS, team leader, FDP, EFSA

WORK PROGRAMME: COMMUNITY WORK CYCLES



CYCLE 1: APRIL–JULY | ONGOING

Catalogue of Guidance Documents



Format: Survey and follow-up interviews

Audience: All members

Objective: Gather views and suggestions based on user experience, and availability for follow-up interviews

Timeline: Survey open until 19 June; interviews to be held later in 2026

Report back on



EFSA Applicant Learning Series

Available now on EU Academy!

Channel “You Asked, We Answer”



Format: Teams channel

Audience: All members

Objective: Make available in one central place relevant information and clarifications on application-related queries emerging from community exchanges

Timeline: Ongoing



CYCLE 1: APRIL–JULY | UPCOMING!



Feed administrative guidance document

Format: written consultation on the pilot

Audience: all members

Objective and timeline: more information will be shared in the Teams channel



Report back on

- **Digital tools** (open.EFSA, connect.EFSA, Calendar section of the EFSA website)
- **ESFC**



Launch of the new call for topics

Format: thread on Teams

Audience: all members

Objective: gather suggestions within the community remit

Timeline: From 1 to 24 July



CALL FOR TOPICS

1-24 July

Submit proposals for the topics you would like to see addressed

A thread on Teams in the dedicated **channel** will be the **tool** used to collect topics and proposals

EFSA will select and **prioritise** topics and may consult members in prioritising pre-identified ones

Call for topics will be reopened periodically



**NEXT
FEW
DAYS:
STAY
TUNED!**



Finetuning the ToR together
17-26 June

Call for topics
1-24 July





CONCLUDING REMARKS

Chair: Matthew RAMON, Head of Unit, FDP,
ENABLE

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