

62ND FOCAL POINT MEETING
23 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

JOINING FORCES: UPDATE ON THE MICROBIOME COMMUNITY

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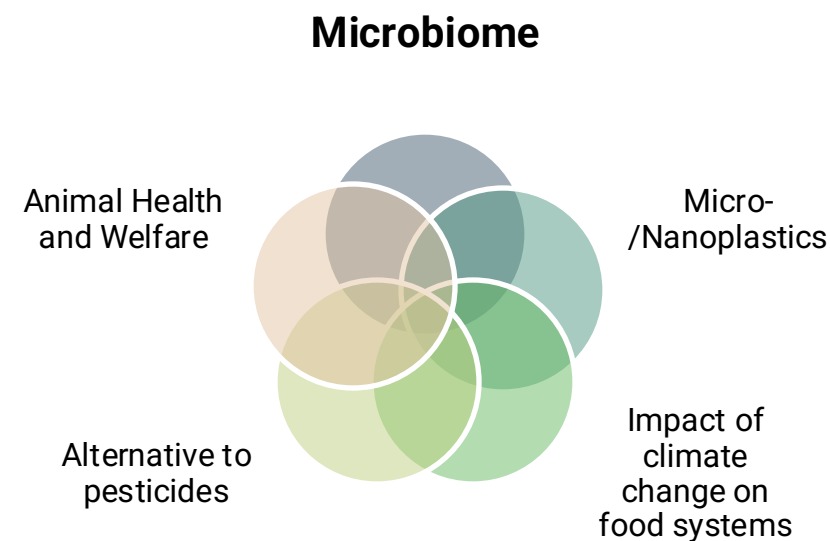
MICROBIOME: 59TH FOCAL POINTS MEETING - SEPT.2025

Microbiome : CSO Presentation of microbiome as an item of the 98th Advisory Forum meeting agenda in December 2025.

Topics emerged from the
Joining Forces exercise

- **1st Request for support**: MSs regulatory science-related activities on microbiome.

□ **Scope**: The information to feed 98th AF meeting discussions



98_AF_MEETING: MICROBIOME

- 1st Focal Point Outreach: "What microbiomes-related work is happening in your Country?"

14

Member States
With documented activity
or interest

4

Supporting EU Framework

5

Regulatory Science Active

Three Levels of Engagement

Tier 1

REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

- **Italy** – National Framework Proposal
- **Poland** – Long standing experience, Calls for EU FW
- **Germany** – Microbiome data assessment pipeline

Tier 2

ACTIVE PROGRAMS

- **Denmark** - Xenobiotic RA
- **Netherlands** -EU-wide reference database/EU vision
- **Cyprus** – Feed & soil health projects

Tier 3

RA GAP + RESPONSE

- **Lithuania** - Regulatory gap for fermented multi strain products, developing criteria

MICROBIOME COMMUNITY OF EXPERTS

98th AF meeting – Microbiome : Action Points

- ❑ Launch two project calls (Biomarkers & Metagenomics) - MSs to support the execution
- ❑ Organise a symposium/colloquium to consolidate collaboration and technical exchange, and identify priorities for future work
- ❑ Establish a technical discussion group/forum bringing together MS experts, EFSA and relevant stakeholders for knowledge exchange : **Formation of a Microbiome Experts Knowledge Community**

➤ 2nd Request to FPs for support:

Dissemination of the **call for Expression of Interest** for microbiome MS experts from academic and research bodies and competent authorities to participate in EFSA Microbiome Experts Knowledge Community.



MICROBIOME EXPERT KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

- 2nd Focal Point Outreach: “Call for expression of Interest”

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- ☐ Background in microbiome science (i.e. microbiology, toxicology, risk assessment, etc.).
- ☐ Ability to bridge microbiome science and regulatory risk assessment; (activity at the science-regulation interface).
- ☐ Active engagement in microbiome-related work (i.e. peer-reviewed publications, technical reports);

28

Applications

14

Member States

20?

Members/experts
selected



ACTION POINTS FROM 98TH AF MEETING

1. Microbiome Expert Knowledge Community

- **22?** Experts from Art.36 organisations

2. Two EFSA calls:

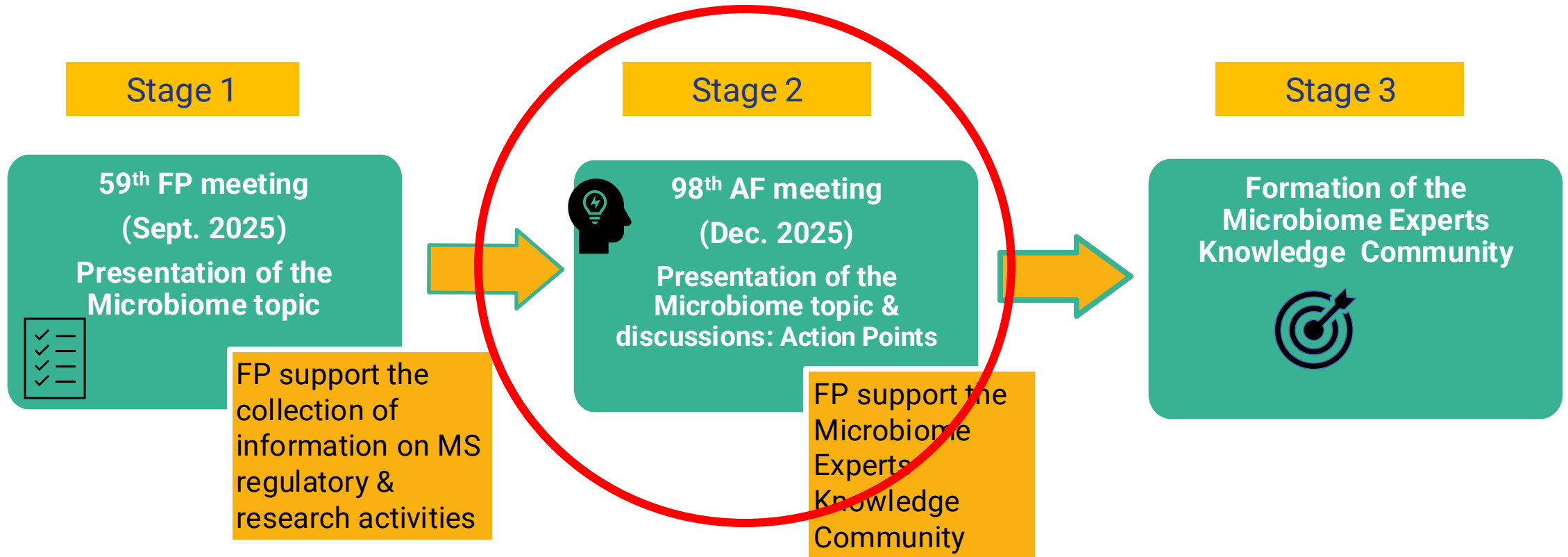
- ✓ Biomarkers : 14 proposals
- ✓ Metagenomics: 16 proposals
- Consortia included many Art.36 organisations (leaders or partners)

3. Scientific Colloquium 29 - Decoding the Microbiome: From Knowledge Gaps to Actionable Regulatory Science (Brussels, 23-24 November 2026)

- Registration: High interest public institutions (Art. 36 Org., RMs and other SHs)



TIMELINE OF FP INVOLVEMENT



LESSONS LEARNED

FP Scientific Cooperation

- Involvement at very early stages of a topic preparation (i.e. visibility on national level)
- Early engagement leads to alignment and prevents potential divergence
- Continuous involvement and feedback



Concrete outcomes:

- Improved the communication and engagement between EFSA and MSs, leading to effective and productive discussions
- High positive impact in the EFSA project calls on Microbiome (Biomarkers and Metagenomics)
- Colloquium registrations; High interest from many MS (Art. 36 Orgs.)

Development of a broader microbiome community



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