



CLARIFICATION 3

Call reference: GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/04

Call title: Selection of hosting sites for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme

Question 3:

We are an organization based in Belgium considering applying to be a hosting site under the EU-FORA Programme. Belgian regulation imposes on an employer the obligation to retain tax and social security contributions on the salary of its employees, which differ according to several criteria including the family situation of the family concerned. We understand however that the Call for Proposals expressly states that the fellow is not an "employee" of the hosting site and the lump sum grant which the fellow hosting site receives and which should then be paid to the fellow each month (monthly subsistence allowance) is not a "salary".

We would therefore have difficulty to comply with the fellow-payment requirements as stated in part 1.3.1 and 1.7 of the call for proposals. Would it be possible to "employ" the fellow under the legal status of being Self-employed. For this self-employed activity, the fellow would then be solely responsible to comply with his or her own tax obligations.

If the fellow is already working as a 'self-employed person' in the EU Member State of origin, he/she will remain subject to the social security legislation of the Member State of origin for the duration of the fellowship, in accordance with article 12 of EU Regulation No 883/2004 of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems. If the fellow is not already working as a 'self-employed person' in the EU Member State of origin, he/she would have to register an enterprise in the Belgian Crossroads Bank for Enterprises in accordance with the Belgian Code of Economic Law and will be required to pay social security contributions in Belgium.

In view of the issues described above, can you confirm that with the proposed solution of self-employment, our organization would meet the payment-requirements stipulated in the Call for Proposals and can therefore submit an application as a hosting site?

Answer 3:

Whilst the proposed solution of self-employment may comply with the internal rules of your organisation and the Belgian legislation about responsibility for payment of taxes and social security contributions, if your organisation was selected as a hosting site, EFSA cannot impose a requirement on any of the fellows to be self-employed in their member state of origin or to set up self-employed status in Belgium.

Question 4:

'Our institution is preparing the documents for applying to GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/04 call and we have a doubt regarding Annex 6. Declaration of honour on selection criteria. We have participated in the last calls, so we have already provided some documents as the Institutional and Individual DoI, but both were sent last time in 2019 (so more than one year ago). If nothing has changed, is it still mandatory to add them again?'

Answer 4:

With regards Institutional and Individual Declaration of interest, they must be updated and submitted with the application for this call as they must include all interests at the time of the call application. For any other documents which have been submitted for this or another EFSA call, they should be resubmitted if they are more than one year old.