



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Annual Report 2016

Scientific Cooperation

Annual Report 2016

of the European Food Safety Authority

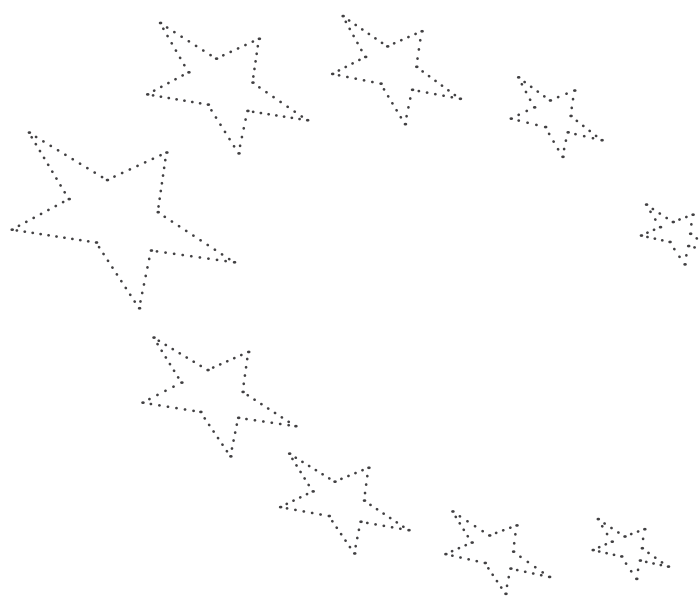


Table of Contents

Foreword	5
Summary	6
Introduction	8
Scientific cooperation activities in 2016	9
Advisory Forum	9
■ Activities of the Advisory Forum	9
■ EU Risk Assessment Agenda	9
■ The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group	10
Country visits of EFSA's Executive Director	10
Focal Point network	12
■ Focal Point agreements	13
■ Focal Point activities	13
Capacity Building	14
Article 36 network	15

Scientific networks	17
European Neighbourhood Policy & European Enlargement	17
■ European Neighbourhood Policy	17
■ European Enlargement	17
International cooperation	19
■ Support the EU in its international commitments	19
■ Cooperation with international organisations and multilateral liaison groups	19
■ Bilateral relations with third-country risk assessment organisations	20
Inter-Agency cooperation	20
Outlook	21
Abbreviations	22
ANNEX A - EFSA partners in Member States	24
ANNEX B - EFSA partners in IPA countries	54
ANNEX C - Scientific Cooperation Toolbox	60

Foreword

Cooperation with partners in Member States and at international level is one of EFSA's core values. It is a pleasure for me to present this 2016 report marking the transition from the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016 to EFSA's Strategy 2020.

The vision for the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap was a common EU risk assessment agenda, based on priorities shared by 28 Member States and resulting in a range of joint projects. It gives me great pleasure to see this vision become reality with support from Focal Points and the involvement of pre-accession countries.

With Member States taking a more leading role in setting priorities and steering activities through our Advisory Forum, the year 2016 saw the signing of a Declaration of Commitment to reaffirm the Advisory Forum's continued support for and partnership with EFSA.

The work carried out with our European and international partners has created new synergies and confirms that it is in our DNA to collaborate in the areas of methods, capacity and innovation. In response to finite resources and global challenges, EFSA's international take on harmonisation, sharing of expertise and exchanging best practices is contributing to the generation of innovative ideas and interactions. The activities of the past year include, among others, 23 bilateral engagements, two new memoranda of cooperation, two new international liaison groups, and revised risk communications guidelines.

Scientific knowledge is rapidly evolving, and we are responsible for ensuring continuous investment in building scientific capacity. I am proud that in 2016 we launched EU-FORA, the first fellowship programme in food safety risk assessment, offering a unique opportunity for scientists in Member States to move country for a 12-month learning-by-doing placement in one of the competent organisations working with EFSA.

Achievements of the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016 have provided a solid basis on which to continue to work together to deliver "Trusted science for safe food".



Bernhard Url
Executive Director, EFSA



Summary

The EFSA Strategy 2020 is built on cooperation as one of its five fundamental values. This annual report gives an overview of the activities undertaken by EFSA in 2016 together with different partners, in particular with Member States. It highlights how EFSA contributed to building scientific capacity and harmonising risk assessment practices.

- The members of the Advisory Forum signed a **Declaration of Commitment**, agreeing to collaborate on a range of activities to ensure that EFSA and the Advisory Forum can together meet future challenges in the area of food safety and so protect European consumers.
- By establishing a common **EU Risk Assessment Agenda**, members of the Advisory Forum indicated in which projects their respective countries would take a lead role. At the end of the year, 117 projects from 23 countries were identified.
- The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG) changed its governance model from an institutional working group to a scientific network, the **Communications Expert Network** (CEN). The AFCWG prepared a joint campaign to promote the EU Insights report on risk perception of AMR in farm animals.
- EFSA's Executive Director visited **nine countries** in 2016 as part of his tour around the EU. In addition to a number of new joint activities, agreed to be carried out between Member States and EFSA, many of the activities agreed in the previous year kicked off in 2016.
- The **Focal Point network** continued to contribute to building the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community. The network promoted training in risk assessment, provided support to Article 36 organisations, and raised EFSA's scientific visibility.
- EFSA undertook capacity building activities with academia and food safety related training programmes across Europe. EFSA launched **EU-FORA**, the first EU food safety risk assessment fellowship programme to strengthen food risk assessment capacity and develop a pool of future EU risk assessors.
- By the end of 2016, EFSA's Article 36 list contained **351 organisations** from 30 countries (EU Member States, Iceland and Norway). As a result of the 2016 thematic grant call for proposals on methodology development in risk assessment, EFSA awarded a total amount of over EUR 1 million to three innovative grant projects.
- The Advisory Forum updated the list of all nominated **scientific network** members. By the end of the year, the total number of networks had increased to 16 due to the inclusion of the former AFCWG as CEN network.
- In February 2016, EFSA finalised an EC-funded project on preparatory measures for the participation of **ENP countries** in EFSA's activities. The aim is to get these partner countries acquainted with the work of EFSA.
- EFSA continued implementing a project on the cooperation with **pre-accession countries** financed by the European Commission under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II).

- In line with EFSA's Multi-annual Programme on International Scientific Cooperation 2014-16, EFSA continued to provide scientific and technical support to the European Commission in Codex Alimentarius related activities. EFSA also maintained close working contacts with a range of **international partners** active in its remit. EFSA prepared the terms of reference for a new International Risk Communications Liaison Group (IRCLG). The Authority signed Memoranda of Cooperation with ACHIPIA (Chile) in October, and with CFSA (China) in November.
- EFSA continued to have an active, coordinating role at the level of the **EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice** (EU-ANSA). EFSA chaired the EU-ANSA until July 2016 when the chairmanship was handed over to ECHA. In October, the Executive Directors of EFSA, ECHA and ECDC set the basis for a new strategic approach to cooperation through the Network of Agencies in areas such as data exchange and interaction.



Introduction

Scientific cooperation has gained a multi-annual perspective with the **Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016**¹ and EFSA's Multi-annual Programme on International Scientific Cooperation 2014-2016². Scientific cooperation is an integral part of EFSA's Strategy 2020³, providing a long-term vision and building on activities initiated under the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap. EFSA's Strategy 2020 highlights cooperation as one of the five fundamental key values that guide EFSA in its activities. Under the key principle "Trusted science for safe food", the strategy strengthens the concept that working together and exchanging knowledge between food safety experts and organisations ensures excellence and efficiency, and maximises Europe's risk assessment capacity and potential.

This annual report gives an overview of the activities undertaken in 2016 by EFSA, Member States and other parties with the aim to stimulate and optimise scientific cooperation. In addition, it highlights how EFSA supports the European Commission in its enlargement programmes and contributes to harmonisation efforts with international partners, EU institutions and agencies.

1. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/scientificcooperationroadmap1416.htm>

2. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/iscmap1416.htm>

3. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/151008.pdf>



Scientific cooperation activities in 2016

Advisory Forum

The EFSA Advisory Forum was established in 2002 under Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 (EFSA's Founding Regulation), setting out the principles of the General Food Law and the establishment of EFSA. Its main role is to provide **strategic advice to the Executive Director** on EFSA's work.

The Advisory Forum plays a key role in EFSA's collaborative approach to working with Member States. Through it, EFSA and Member States combine resources to address European risk assessment and risk communication needs.

■ Activities of the Advisory Forum

On the occasion of the 61st Advisory Forum meeting in September 2016, its Members signed a **Declaration of Commitment** reaffirming their continued support for EFSA and its work. They agreed on a range of measures and activities that will ensure that EFSA and Advisory Forum members can together meet future challenges in the area of food safety and so protect European consumers. The 19 measures include the sharing of work plans, promoting scientific excellence and networking, supporting international collaboration, and identifying research needs. The declaration was signed on the tenth anniversary of the Declaration of Intent, which set out a range of measures the Forum agreed to collaborate on, primarily in the area of data and information sharing.

Following the review of the Advisory Forum in 2015, the Decision on the operations of the Advisory Forum was revisited to reflect all the roles the Forum and its members assume. As a result, the operating procedures were revised and expanded to provide additional clarity on the role of the Forum in relation to scientific networking and working on scientific divergence (as set out in Articles 30 and 36 of the founding regulation).

■ EU Risk Assessment Agenda

The EU Risk Assessment Agenda has been developed to identify and address common long-term needs and actions in support of EU risk assessment through collaborative projects between EFSA and Member States. Using the priority areas identified in a Delphi-like study, through the Advisory Forum and the ED's visits to Member States throughout the year, **117 projects from 23 countries** were identified and compiled in a catalogue.

In a separate exercise and with the assistance of the Focal Point network, potential funding sources, apart from EFSA, were identified at national and EU level. This list can be used by organisations to identify possible alternative funding opportunities to initiate certain projects. While EFSA grants are restricted to organisations of the Article 36 framework, other funding sources have different requirements, thus opening up the EU Risk Assessment Agenda catalogue to more organisations. As a first step in 2016, members of the Advisory Forum indicated the projects for which their respective countries would take a lead role.

■ The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group

The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG) provides an important mechanism to exchange information and experiences. It provides the basis for the strengthening of coherence and coordination of communications activities between the national authorities and EFSA.

The AFCWG produced a joint document outlining best practices and guidelines for incidents and food safety related outbreaks, titled '**Best Practice for Crisis Communicators**'⁴. The guidelines were tested during a crisis simulation exercise at the end of 2015 and published in March 2016. The AFCWG also prepared a joint campaign to promote the **EU Insights report on risk perception of AMR** in farm animals, the first survey to gauge perception of antimicrobial resistance in animals in the EU.

After several consultations with its members and the Advisory Forum, the AFCWG decided to transition its governance model from an institutional working group to a scientific network. The new Terms of Reference were approved in December at the Advisory Forum meeting. The focus of the network, named **Communications Expert Network (CEN)**, will be on 'the science of communications'. Its aim is to strengthen expertise in how social sciences can be applied to enhance risk communications processes and improve outreach on potentially sensitive or controversial topics.

Country visits of EFSA's Executive Director

EFSA's Executive Director visited **nine Member States** in 2016 as part of his tour around EU countries during the first three years of his mandate. The main aim of these visits is to stimulate scientific cooperation and agree on tangible initiatives with the Member States. The visits in 2016 resulted in a number of concrete **joint activities**:

- A small-scale study with national reference laboratories on fluoroquinolone resistance in *Campylobacter* in the area of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), led by Denmark;
- A joint workshop with the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) to share experiences in risk-benefit modelling;
- An international workshop (planned for September 2017) on the implementation of EFSA's environmental risk assessment (ERA) guidance, led by the Norwegian food safety committee (VKM);
- A joint project, led by Greece, on assessing the risk of listeriosis caused by the consumption of non-packed ready-to-eat foods handled by food retailers. The results will be disseminated to EU Member States at a workshop in 2018;
- A second Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) on cumulative exposure assessment of pesticide residues in food and feed commodities;

4. http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/crisis_manual_160315.pdf

- Update of RIVM's PROAST⁵ tool on the 'R Services for EU projects' (R4EU) web platform and contribution to the construction of an EFSA online platform to perform benchmark dose analysis;
- A joint project on 'Physico-chemical characterisation and exposure analysis of the fraction of engineered nanomaterials (ENM) in food additives in the context of risk assessment', led by Belgium;
- A regional project on mapping the spread of vector-borne diseases and parasites was discussed with Slovakia and will be considered further in 2017;
- Joint effort between Finland and Sweden on 'Evidence-based risk ranking of chemical and microbiological hazards in food' within the framework of the EU's common Risk Assessment Agenda;
- Hungary will work on the development of systems and tools to identify emerging risks, as partner of the consortium 'DEMETER – DEtermination of METrics of Emerging Risk', which was awarded a grant under Lot 1 of EFSA's thematic grants 2016⁶.

As follow-up on the Executive Director's 2015 visits, the subsequent **projects kicked off in 2016:**

- EFSA and the BfR (Germany) signed a multi-annual framework partnership agreement on the development of risk assessment tools for the safety of global food and feed supply chains (2017-2020);
- EFSA and AECOSAN (Spain) signed a multi-annual framework partnership agreement on ciguatera food poisoning in Europe (2016-2019), involving 13 Article 36 organisation from six EU Member States, four EU collaborators and advisory members from the European Commission (SANTE, JRC), EU agencies (EFSA, ECDC) and universities from Japan and USA;
- In February 2016, EFSA supported a regional crisis preparedness training involving the Baltic countries and Poland, aimed at capacity building in crisis preparedness for a food crisis and stimulating inter-sectorial collaboration during outbreak investigations;
- In February 2016, EFSA supported an international workshop⁷, led by the United Kingdom, on foodborne viruses, focusing on Norovirus, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis E, with the aim to identify gaps in the current knowledge that need to be tackled by future shared research and surveillance programmes;
- In May 2016, EFSA, in cooperation with the European Commission, supported a lumpy skin disease (LSD) workshop with the involvement of Greece and Bulgaria as well as affected EU neighbourhood countries to increase awareness and strengthen cooperation between countries on prevention and control;
- In May 2016, EFSA supported a training workshop led by Cyprus on dietary exposure assessments and the use of the IMPRORISK model. The workshop was open to all Member States and pre-accession countries.

5. http://www.rivm.nl/en/Documents_and_publications/Scientific/Models/PROAST

6. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170223-0>

7. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/sp.efsa.2016.EN-1103/pdf>

Focal Point network

EFSA's Focal Points act as an interface between EFSA and national food safety authorities, research institutes and other stakeholder groups. The Focal Point network is made up of members from all 28 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, as well as observers from Switzerland and EU pre-accession countries. Focal Points support their Advisory Forum counterparts in the **practical implementation of activities** related to networking and scientific cooperation, in particular:

- Ensuring the exchange of scientific information between national authorities and EFSA;
- Supporting competent organisations under Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation;
- Promoting at national level the setting up of networks of organisations and scientific experts to support EFSA's activities;
- Raising EFSA's scientific visibility and increasing outreach;
- Supporting capacity building activities, in particular training on risk assessment;
- Promoting an efficient and timely information flow between Advisory Forum members and national representatives in EFSA's scientific networks, strengthening national networking;
- Assisting EFSA and Advisory Forum Members in sharing relevant information on international scientific cooperation activities related to risk assessment.

■ Focal Point agreements

Within the current cycle of Focal Point grant agreements signed in 2015, all were renewed in 2016. Switzerland and the pre-accession countries – Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey – participated in the network activities of 2016 as observers.

■ Focal Point activities

Focal Points contributed significantly to the implementation of EFSA's Strategic Objective 3 – 'Build the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community' – through **cooperation, networking, partnering and clear communication**.

During 2016 all Focal Points carried out all mandatory activities. Within a selection of mandatory and optional activities (that make up each of the six main activities), Focal Points were more active in promoting training opportunities in risk assessment, supporting Article 36 organisations, and raising EFSA's scientific visibility (89%, 85% and again 85%, respectively – see Figure 1). These values are similar to those in 2015. The activity indicators with the lowest scores in 2016 (72% and 50%, respectively) relate to information exchange and international scientific cooperation.

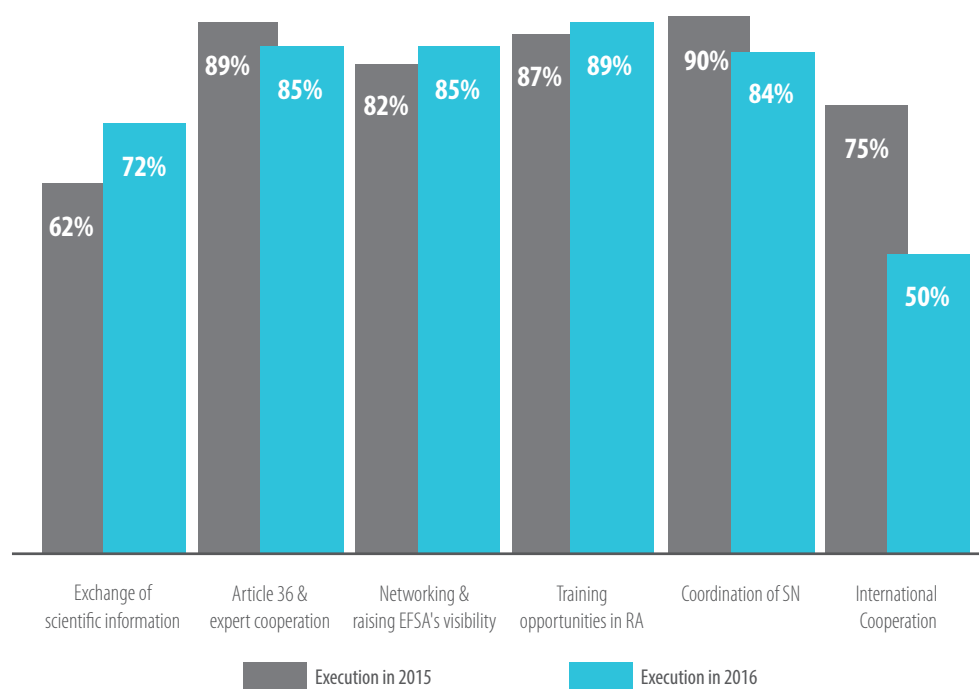


Figure 1: Focal Point members participating in Focal Point activities in 2015 and 2016 (%)

In addition to the support provided to promote 'Better Training for Safer Food' (BTSF) risk assessment training courses, Focal Points promoted at national level also other EFSA risk assessment training courses that were opened during 2016 to external experts with links to EFSA activities.

Focal Points continued to **support Article 36 organisations**, promote their networks and their applications to calls for proposals and tenders launched by EFSA. Focal Points organised a total of 80 meetings – the highest yearly number in the past five years – to stimulate the interest of new organisations in joining the Article 36 list. They also provided information and assistance regarding grant and procurement opportunities.

Focal Points invested significantly in the **promotion of national networking** and the **raising of EFSA's scientific visibility**. Figure 2 illustrates that all Focal Points maintain websites or dedicated webpages where they highlight and promote key EFSA activities and outputs. They use these outlets to maintain networks of organisations/partners other than those on the Article 36 list, to whom targeted information concerning EFSA's activities is disseminated. Figure 2 shows for 2016 a 10% increase in the number of national events organised on topics falling within EFSA's remit.

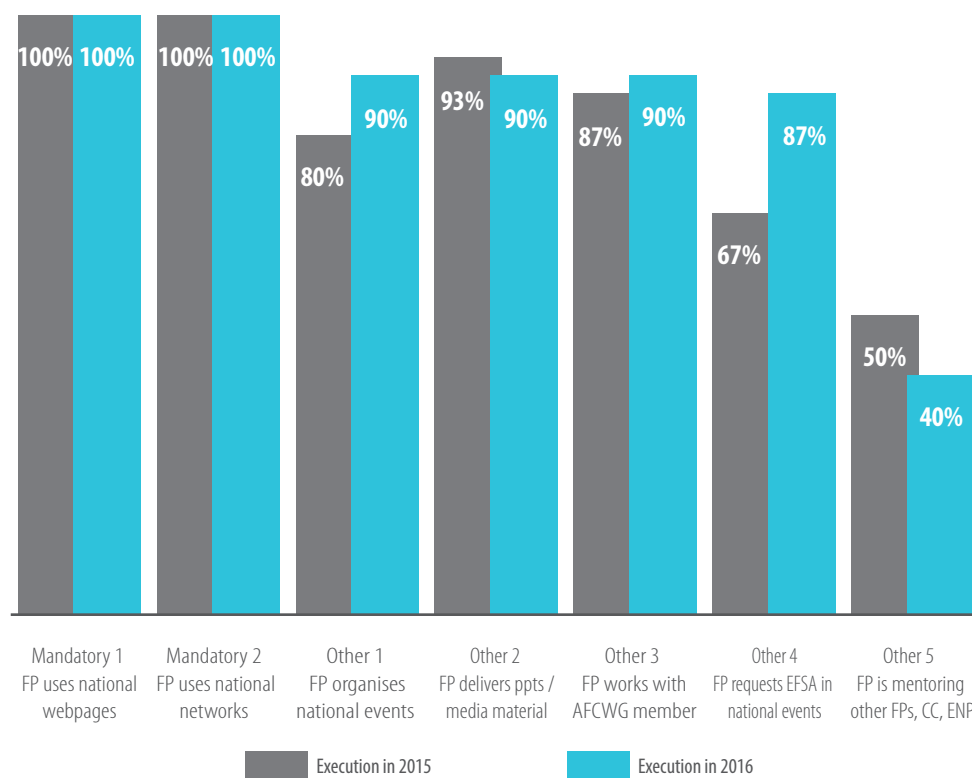


Figure 2: Focal Point members participating in networking and visibility activities (%)

Capacity Building

In support of EFSA's Strategic Objective 3, 'Build the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community', EFSA established the **EU Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme** (EU-FORA). The programme centres on a one-year learning-by-doing placement, complemented by a uniform risk assessment training programme. As part of the programme, EFSA launched two calls: one call for expression of interest to attract early to mid-career scientists from competent organisations listed under Article 36 with limited experience in food risk assessment, as well as a grant call for proposals from Article 36 organisations to become fellow hosting sites. Selected fellows will be placed in organisations with solid risk assessment expertise to build capacity across organisations and Member States. The programme will contribute to the EU-wide harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies and practises.

The second cycle of risk assessment training courses for Member States and candidate countries under the **BTSF programme** of the European Commission concluded in 2016. Since 2012, EFSA has steered the scientific and technical content of this programme, providing input at different stages of its implementation. This made possible the delivery of training opportunities to about 800 national experts over four years, and thus

contributed to the harmonisation of risk assessment practices across the EU. Out of the 16 courses planned for 2014-2016, the last 3 were delivered in the first quarter of 2016, with the contribution and participation of EFSA observers, who provide structured feedback to the BTSF organisers. By end of 2016, the new training cycle for the 2017-2018 courses was agreed upon, with strong support from EFSA. More information on these training courses is available on the BTSF website⁸.

EFSA also continued to deliver other types of **risk assessment training courses**, most of them open to external experts who collaborate with EFSA. Members of scientific panels and working groups as well as staff from scientific network organisations participated in these courses, which included training on environmental risk assessment, benchmark dose modelling, computational toxicology and modelling tools, steering expert knowledge elicitation, and systematic literature reviews.

EFSA developed targeted engagements and **partnerships with academia** and food safety related training programmes across Europe. These activities included: workshops and study visits at EFSA for students of academic postgraduate scientific courses; lectures given by EFSA staff in the context of the Erasmus project 'Quantitative Tools for Sustainable Food and Energy in the food chain' (Q-Safe)⁹ and other relevant postgraduate seminars; supporting the design of relevant scientific PhD curricula and master courses at European academic institutions; organising visits of guest scientists; and – as a pilot project – PhD placements at EFSA. The outcome of the first three PhD placements – in terms of learning value for the students as well as high quality research value for the participating scientific units – will serve as a basis for EFSA to consider the continuation of the scheme.

Article 36 network

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation¹⁰ provides the legal basis for the cooperation with **competent organisations in Member States**. EFSA continued to assist organisations and Member States in reviewing the Article 36 list. EFSA provided overviews on the status of Article 36 organisations, and country profiles on the involvement of such organisations in EFSA's grant and procurement projects.

In late 2012, a review of the list was launched. Since then, updating the list has continued to include new organisations, in many cases replacing previously included parts of the organisations (see Figure 3). By the end of 2016, the Article 36 list included **351 organisations from 30 countries** (Member States, Iceland and Norway). A total of 24 new organisations were included in the list, and 20 entries were deleted from the list.



Figure 3: Number of entries on the Article 36 list per year.

8. <http://www.trainsaferfood.eu/Trainings/RiskAssessment.aspx>

9. <http://www.um.edu.mt/healthsciences/projects/q-safe>

10. Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24, as last amended.

Organisations on the Article 36 list can work together on EFSA's scientific projects, and participate in **grants or procurement activities**. Focal Points disseminated EFSA's open calls for proposals (grants) and calls for tenders (procurement) to competent organisations. Each year of the period 2012-2016, 55 grant agreements (to the amount of EUR 11.26 million) and 30 Focal Point agreements (amounting to EUR 4.64 million) were successfully awarded to Member States, Norway and Iceland. EFSA signed over 500 scientific procurement contracts (to the amount of EUR 36.16 million) (see Figure 4).

In 2016, the budget allocated through grants more than tripled compared to the previous years. This increased use of cooperation agreements (grants) was mostly thanks to: i) thematic grants being fully in place; and ii) a number of new project ideas jointly developed with Member States following country visits of EFSA's Executive Director (section 2.2).

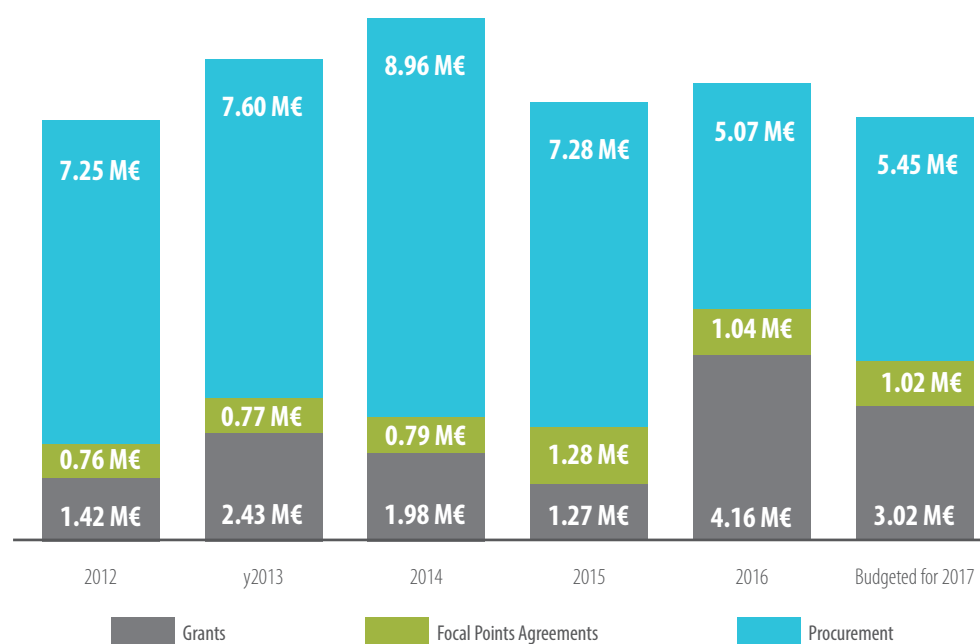


Figure 4: EFSA budget under EFSA's grant and procurement schemes 2012-2017
(Source: EFSA Programming Document 2016-2019¹¹)

The external evaluation carried out to determine the impact of science grants and procurement projects on the delivery of EFSA's tasks¹² showed that these projects had a **strong benefit for networking and cooperation**. The review recommended to further increase the impact of EFSA's science spending by supporting longer-term and larger grant-funded projects. As a response, EFSA developed the thematic grants as a new cooperation tool.

Thematic grants aim at facilitating scientific cooperation across the EU through the development and implementation of large, innovative networking projects. Following a successful pilot call in 2015 on 'new approaches in identifying and characterising microbiological and chemical hazards', the 2016 thematic grant called for proposals related to 'methodology development in risk assessment'. EFSA received applications from six consortia, representing 28 different Article 36 list organisations from 15 countries. Three grant projects were awarded for a total amount of over EUR 1 million.

11. http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/amp1619.pdf
12. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/695e.htm>

Scientific networks

EFSA has currently **16 scientific networks**, including the new Communication Expert Network (CEN), the former Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG). AFSCO coordinates the nomination process of members and representatives, acting as an interface between the Advisory Forum member – as the nominating authority – and EFSA's scientific units, maintaining contact with the nominated experts. AFSCO is organising regular meetings of all staff involved in network organisations to exchange best practices and explore further harmonisation of activities within EFSA.

Focal Points continued to play an important role in following up on the work of the scientific networks at national level, supporting the Advisory Forum members on the designation of new network representatives. Meetings of network representatives have been organised by 13 Focal Points at national level with the aim to promote and facilitate the information flow.

European Neighbourhood Policy & European Enlargement

■ European Neighbourhood Policy

In February 2016, EFSA finalised an EC funded project titled '**Preparatory measures for the participation of ENP countries in EFSA**'. The general objective of the project was to get ENP partner countries acquainted with the work of EFSA, with a view to facilitating future cooperation between the ENP partners and EFSA. A technical report on the implementation of the project is published on the EFSA website¹³.

In May 2016, ENP partner country representatives from Jordan, Lebanon and Israel participated in the joint EFSA-DG SANTE **lumpy skin disease (LSD) regional workshop**, enabling the transfer of information and practical knowledge from ENP countries affected by this trans-boundary animal disease spreading to EU Member States and pre-accession countries. The purpose of this initiative was to increase awareness about the epidemiological situation and establish synergies at regional level for the improvement of LSD surveillance, prevention and control.

The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) encouraged EFSA to use **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) funds** of the European Commission to bridge the gap between the completed project and future funding. In cooperation with DG SANTE, EFSA helped Spain to obtain funding for a scientific workshop on emerging risks in Zaragoza, to be held in March 2017.

■ European Enlargement

EFSA continued implementing a dedicated project on cooperation with pre-accession countries financed by the EC under the **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance** (IPA II).

Key areas of cooperation include capacity building in food safety risk assessment and risk communication, and the facilitation of data collection and reporting to EFSA. Joint regional cooperation initiatives among EFSA, EU Member States and pre-accession countries aim at increasing preparedness and awareness on common food safety issues, as well as the promotion of EFSA's work and of international networking.

13. <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/1037e>

Capacity building events in the areas of food safety risk assessment and risk communication as well as on data collection and reporting methodologies, organised by EFSA and/or Member States, were attended by pre-accession country representatives, as was the **joint EFSA/DG SANTE regional LSD workshop**.

In May 2016, EFSA organised a pre-accession training course on **basic concepts and methodologies in food safety risk assessment** in Montenegro, where EFSA presented the EU menu project and the related call for “Support to national dietary surveys in compliance with the EU menu methodology”. Following the promotion of this project at national level by EFSA contacts in the pre-accession countries, four of the five eligible pre-accession countries applied for the call.

Using its experience as a former candidate country and building on its participation in EFSA’s activities as a full EU member now, Croatia is actively involved in the pre-accession project. Through their food safety authorities, Croatia shares its experience on various aspects of risk assessment and communication methodologies, including data collection and analysis. The Croatian Food Agency also coordinated the organisation of the pre-accession study visit in Osijek, which took place in October 2016.

Also in October 2016, EFSA organised a dedicated pre-accession training course on **data collection**, which gave participating countries the possibility to familiarise themselves with the requirements of data collection and reporting tools for zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food-borne outbreaks. A list of next steps for the involvement of these countries in EFSA’s data collection framework was identified and agreed with the training participants. A related event report is published on EFSA’s website¹⁴.

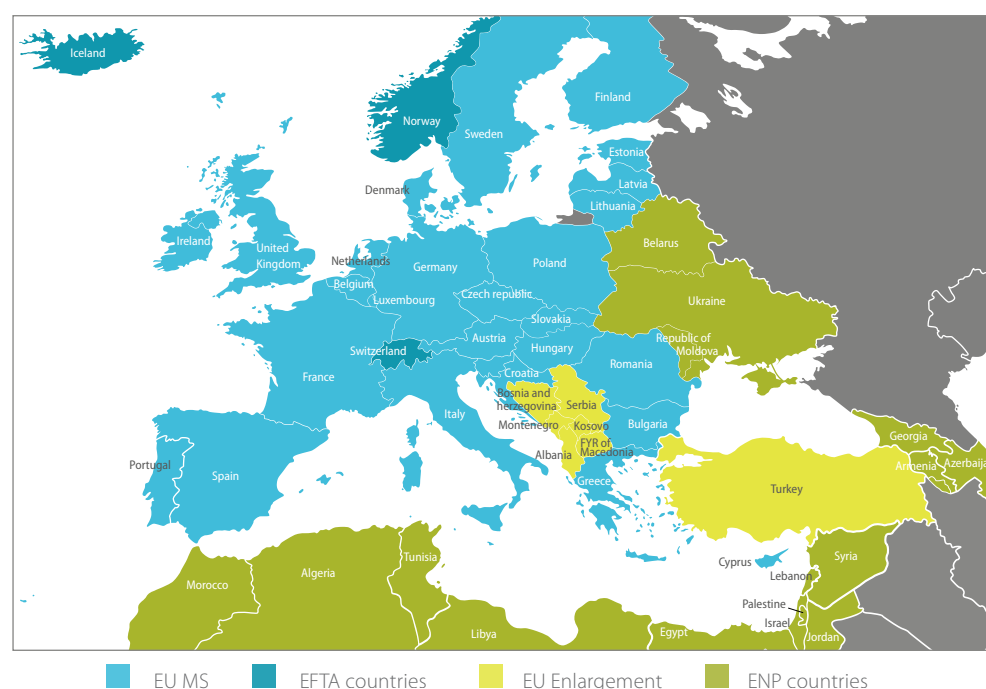


Figure 5: Countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy & European Enlargement

14. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/1139e>

International cooperation

In line with its Multi-annual Programme on International Scientific Cooperation 2014-16, EFSA continued to provide scientific and technical support to the European Commission in Codex Alimentarius related activities, and maintained close working contacts with a range of international partners active in its remit.

■ Support the EU in its international commitments

EFSA provided scientific and technical advice to the European Commission on activities related to the **Codex Alimentarius** in response to an annual request from DG SANTE. It further responded to seven calls for data and experts for evaluations by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees. The Authority also contributed to seminars on pesticide risk assessment in India, a conference on the new EU regulation on novel foods, and a training workshop on AMR, both in Thailand.

EFSA's involvement in Codex Alimentarius activities included participation in meetings of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe, the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, and the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.

■ Cooperation with international organisations and multilateral liaison groups

EFSA had **18 multilateral engagements** with international organisations providing scientific advice or setting international standards. This includes collaboration with organisations such as WHO, FAO, EPPO, OECD and OIE. EFSA further continued its regular information exchange with the multilateral liaison groups in the area of food chemical safety, microbiological food safety, and health claims. Together with the new **International Risk Communications Liaison Group** (IRCLG), EFSA prepared the terms of reference for a platform of regulatory risk assessment agencies to implement best practice in risk communication at international level.

Good progress was noted in the cooperation among EFSA, WHO and FAO aimed at the introduction of harmonised approaches for the collection of food consumption and composition data at international level. EFSA's activities in 2016 included:

- **Organising an OECD** workshop on developmental neurotoxicity in Paris;
- Participating in the **Global Summit on Regulatory Science** meeting on nanotechnology standards and applications in the US;
- Contributing to the second meeting of the **World Food Research & Innovation Forum** in Parma;
- Contributing to and participating in an international seminar on 'Risk assessment of pesticides, chemical contaminants and novel food' jointly organised by ACHIPIA, BfR, AECOSAN and EFSA in **Chile**;
- Participating in the **China International Food Safety & Quality Conference** in Shanghai, where EFSA, together with the European Commission, organised a seminar on priorities in food safety.

■ Bilateral relations with third-country risk assessment organisations

EFSA welcomed two delegations from Japan and one from Taiwan. EFSA also welcomed six guest scientists, and carried out 23 other bilateral activities. As in previous years, many of these bilateral activities were aimed at international capacity building. In 2016, however, EFSA also undertook initiatives to intensify cooperation with its existing partners in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and USA on issues of strategic relevance for EFSA, such as open data, risk assessment harmonisation, and alternative methods to reduce animal testing.

EFSA had its 4th bilateral meeting with the **Food Safety Commission of Japan**. EFSA also participated at the **FSANZ 25th Anniversary Symposium in Australia**, and at an **International Food Safety Summit in Taiwan**. In October, an EFSA delegation visited ACHIPIA and the Ministry of Agriculture in Chile, and in November an EFSA delegation met with CFSA and CFDA in Beijing. On both occasions, EFSA signed new **Memoranda of Cooperation**.

Inter-Agency cooperation

EFSA continued to have an active, coordinating role at the level of the **EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice** (EU-ANSA). EFSA continued chairing the EU-ANSA until July 2016, when the chairmanship was handed over to ECHA. During 2016, EU-ANSA addressed horizontal challenges for EU Agencies providing scientific advice in the areas of peer review, research needs, uncertainty, and open data. EU-ANSA finalised a reflection paper on its member agencies' engagement with research for publication, underlining the added value to be gained by EU institutions from identifying common research needs among agencies, and highlighting that agencies represent a pool of expertise. The description of six broad research areas (referred to as 'research clusters') of common interest to several agencies will be finalised in view of common research priorities, their role and relevance for the future, and opportunities for collaboration between agencies.

EFSA's Executive Director had bilateral meetings with his counterparts in ECHA and ECDC, and set the basis for a new strategic approach to cooperation in areas such as data exchange and interaction through the **Network of Heads of Agencies** (HOAN). Joint activities with sister agencies include:

- Scientific guidance to enable the identification of endocrine disruptors, developed by EFSA and ECHA in 2016, and to be finalised in 2017;
- Coordination between EFSA and EMA on the integration, or non-integration, of a DNA plasmid vaccine into the salmon genome;
- Joint scientific opinion of EMA and EFSA on measures to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents in animal husbandry in the European Union, and the resulting impact on food safety (Reduction of Need for Antimicrobials in Food-producing Animals – RONAFA);
- Exchange on early warning tools/emerging risks and risk assessment between the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and EFSA.

EFSA participated in an informal network of EU Agencies working with the EC's IPA and ENP instruments, to share experiences and good practices, and to foster better coordination among agencies. Under this network, EFSA launched the 'EU agencies' aiming to raise the visibility of EU agencies working with IPA and ENP countries.

EFSA hosted a delegation of the secretariat of DG SANTE's non-food scientific committees to exchange information on the on-going activities of EFSA's Scientific Committee, EFSA's Emerging Risks Unit and the non-food scientific committees, i.e. the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) and the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER).



Outlook

Building on the foundation created by the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016, EFSA will continue to work together with Member States and international partners on capacity building and the strengthening of the wider risk assessment community. These activities aim to make best use of resources and reduce divergences in EU and global risk assessment, thereby increasing trust in the EU food safety system.

During 2017, priorities for cooperation identified under the common EU Risk Assessment Agenda will be addressed by identifying partners and initiating joint projects with Member States. To further strengthen partnership, the Executive Director will continue his tour around the EU and visit the remaining 10 Member States, stimulating joint projects among them with the support of EFSA.

The Advisory Forum will further strengthen its strategic role in steering the EU risk assessment agenda, interacting with other networks such as Article 36 organisations, actively supported by the Focal Points. Scientific cooperation through EFSA's scientific networks may be strengthened further following an external review of the networks to be undertaken in 2017. The new Article 36 concept will be further developed to bring cooperation beyond the use of grants.

EFSA will expand the use of thematic grants and framework partnership agreements. The Authority will introduce a new grant scheme for partnering projects, which will support knowledge transfer and capacity building among Member States. The kick-off in 2017 of the EU-FORA fellowship programme will strengthen food safety risk assessment capacity in the Member States and thus in Europe.

With the implementation of an international scientific cooperation work plan 2017-2020, EFSA will prioritise multi-lateral cooperation and increasingly liaise with international agencies, promoting harmonisation of methodologies and tools, and the development of guidance. In 2017, EFSA will host the first meeting of a new International Food Safety Risk Assessment Liaison Group (IFSRA).

EFSA will continue to facilitate the integration of pre-accession countries into its scientific networks, and support networking with EU Member States. The pre-accession project activities of the next period will focus on enhancing data collection and reporting to EFSA, specifically in the areas of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks, and in close cooperation with ECDC.

Starting with ECHA, EFSA will step up the interaction and exchange with its sister agencies, to achieve efficiency gains and better align the delivery of services to EU citizens.



Abbreviations

ACHIPIA	- Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality
AECOSAN	- Spanish Consumption, Food Safety and Nutrition Agency
AFCWG	- Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
AFSCO	- Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit
AMR	- Antimicrobial resistance
BTSF	- Better Training for Safer Food
CC	- Candidate Countries
CEN	- Communications Expert Network
CFDA	- China Food and Drug Administration
CFSA	- China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment
DG	- Directorate-General
DG SANTE	- Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
EC	- European Commission
ECDC	- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECHA	- European Chemicals Agency
EEA	- European Environmental Agency
EEAS	- European External Action Service
EFTA	- European Free Trade Association
EU-FORA	- European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme
EMA	- European Medicines Agency
EMCDDA	- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
ENP	- European Neighbourhood Programme
EP	- European Parliament
EPPO	- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
ERA	- Environmental Risk Assessment
EU	- European Union

EU-ANSA - European Agencies Network on Scientific Advice
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPA - Framework Partnership Agreement
FSANZ - Food Standards Australia New Zealand
IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IRCLG - International Risk Communications Liaison Group
JRC - Joint Research Centre
MS - Member State
OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE - World Organization for Animal Health
SN - Scientific network
WHO - World Health Organization

ANNEX A - EFSA partners in Member States

The following visuals provide an overview of the Advisory Forum (AF), Focal Point (FP), AF Communication Working Group (AFCWG), Article 36 organisations and organisations with regular representatives in EFSA's Scientific Networks per country (Member States, Iceland and Norway), as on 16 March 2016. For most up-to-date information, please refer to EFSA's website: Article 36 List (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/scorg>), and details of AF, FP, AFCWG and Network organisations' representatives (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers>).

AUSTRIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



5
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES)



■ Environment Agency Austria Ltd
■ University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)
■ University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
■ University of Vienna — **1**



■ Federal Ministry of Health — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**14 Networks
representatives**

BELGIUM



17
Scientific networks
representatives



12
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Federal Public Service (FPS)
Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment



- Catholic University of Louvain
- Centre d'Economie Rurale (CER Group)
- Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) — **5**
- Ghent University
- Hasselt University (Universiteit Hasselt)
- KU Leuven
- Own Capital of the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
- Scientific Institute of Public Health (IPH) — **4**
- University of Liege — **1**
- Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (CODA-CERVA) — **2**
- Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W)



- Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**4 Networks
representatives**

BULGARIA



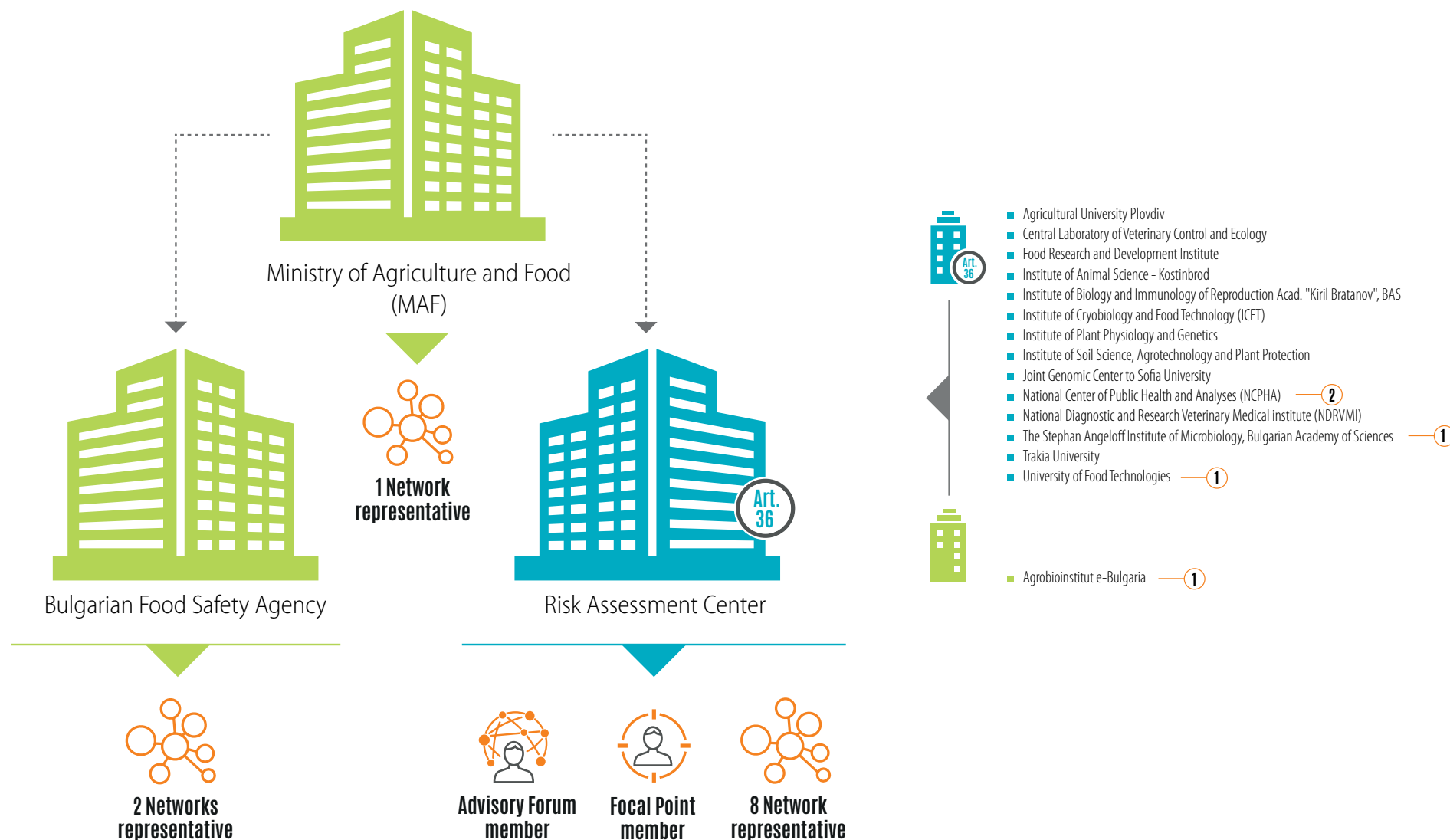
17
Scientific networks
representatives



16
organisations



3
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



CROATIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



2
organisations



5
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Croatian Food Agency (HAH)



■ Croatian Veterinary Institute — **2**



■ Croatian Centre for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Institute for Plant Protection — **2**
■ Croatian National Institute of Public Health — **1**
■ Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb — **1**
■ Ministry of Agriculture — **1**
■ The Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**8 Networks
representatives**

CYPRUS



15
Scientific networks
representatives



7
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



State General Laboratory (SGL)



- Agricultural Research Institute
- Cyprus University of Technology
- Department of Agriculture — **2**
- Environmental Health Services
- University of Cyprus (UCY)
- Veterinary Services — **3**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**10 Networks
representatives**

CZECH REPUBLIC



16
Scientific networks
representatives



13
organisations



5
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic



- Biology Centre, the Czech Academy of Sciences (BC CAS)
- Crop Research Institute — ①
- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze)
- Food Research Institute Prague
- Institute of Animal Science
- Institute of Chemical Technology Prague
- Mendel University in Brno, Faculty of Agronomy, Department of Animal Breeding
- National Institute of Public Health — ⑤
- University of Ostrava
- University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice
- University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno
- Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)



- Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture — ①
- Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority — ①
- Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic — ①
- State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic — ②
- State Veterinary Institute Jihlava — ①



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**4 Networks
representatives**

DENMARK



17
Scientific networks
representatives



3
organisations



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Technical University of Denmark



- Aarhus University (AU)
- University of Copenhagen



- Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, Danish AgriFish Agency — **2**
- Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, Environmental Protection Agency — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**14 Networks
representatives**

ESTONIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



7
organisations



3
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Ministry of Rural Affairs



- Estonian Environmental Research Centre
- Estonian University of Life Sciences — **1**
- Estonian Veterinary and Food Laboratory
- National Institute for Health Development — **1**
- University of Tartu
- Veterinary and Food Board — **8**



- Estonian Agricultural Board — **2**
- Ministry of Environment - Nature Conservation Department — **1**
- National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**2 Networks
representatives**

FINLAND



16
Scientific networks
representatives



8
organisations



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA)



- Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
- Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes) — ①
- National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) — ①
- Natural Resources Institute Finland
- Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)
- University of Helsinki
- University of Turku



- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health — ①
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland — ①



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**12 Networks
representatives**

FRANCE



16
Scientific networks
representatives



17
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



French Agency for Food, Environmental and
Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)



- Agrocampus Ouest
- Centre International d'Etudes Supérieures en Sciences Agronomiques (Montpellier SupAgro)
- Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort
- Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (ENVT)
- French Agriculture Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
- French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS)
- High Council for Biotechnology (HCB) — ①
- Ifremer
- Institut Pasteur (Paris)
- Institut Pasteur de Lille
- Institute for Higher Education and Research in Food, Animal Health, Agronomic and Environmental Sciences (VetAgro Sup)
- National College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering, Nantes Atlantique (Oniris)
- National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
- National Institute for Research in Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA)
- Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO)
- University of Burgundy (uB)



- Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt (MAAF) — ②



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**13 Networks
representatives**

GERMANY



16
Scientific networks
representatives



10
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
(BfR)



- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) — ①
- Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) — ④
- Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Federal Research Institute for Animal Health — ②
- German Environment Agency (UBA)
- German Nutrition Society (DGE)
- Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) – Federal Research Institute for Cultivated Plants — ①
- Max Rubner-Institut (MRI), Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food — ①
- Research Institute of Child Nutrition (FKE)
- Robert Koch Institute (RKI)



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**7 Networks
representatives**

GREECE



15
Scientific networks
representatives



16
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Hellenic Food Authority (E.F.E.T)



- Agricultural University of Athens
- Alexander Technological Educational Institution of Thessaloniki
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki — **1**
- Benaki Phytopathological Institute
- Harokopio University
- Hellenic Agricultural Organization - DEMETER
- Hellenic Health Foundation (HHF)
- Ministry of Finance, including: General Chemical State Laboratory
- Ministry of Rural Development and Food — **6**
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"
- NTUA, School of Chemical Engineering, Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Technology
- University of Crete
- University of Ioannina
- University of Thessaly



- Hellenic Research Foundation, Institute of Biology, Medical Chemistry & Biotechnology — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**7 Networks
representatives**

HUNGARY



16
Scientific networks
representatives



11
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



National Food Chain Safety Office



- Centre for Agricultural Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Cereal Research Non-Profit Company
- Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Food Science
- Hungarian Dairy Research Institute
- National Agricultural Research and Innovation Center
- National Center of Epidemiology
- National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science
- Research Centre for Natural Sciences
- Szent István University Faculty of Veterinary Science
- University of Debrecen



■ Ministry of Agriculture — **3**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**13 Networks
representatives**

IRELAND



16
Scientific networks
representatives



15
organisations



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Food Safety Authority of Ireland



- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Cork Public Analyst's Laboratory
- Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
- Dublin Public Analyst's Laboratory
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Marine Institute
- National University of Ireland Galway
- National University of Ireland Maynooth
- SafeFood
- Teagasc
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- University College Cork – National University of Ireland, Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick, Department of Life Sciences



- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine — **6**
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**9 Networks
representatives**

ITALY



17
Scientific networks
representatives



28
organisations



4
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS



**Focal Point
member**



Ministero della Salute
Direzione Generale degli Organi
Collegiali per la Tutela della Salute



**Advisory Forum
member**



**1 Network
representative**



**5 Networks
representative**



- Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna
- Azienda Socio Sanitaria Territoriale (ASST) Fatebenefratelli Sacco
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
- Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA) — ①
- Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Mezzogiorno (IZSM)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZSPLVA) — ①
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia-Romagna (IZSLER) — ①
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Puglia e della Basilicata (IZSPB)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia "A. Mirri" (IZSSIC)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSAM) — ②
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana (IZSLT)
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVE) — ①
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche (IZSUM)
- Agenzia Nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA)
- Sapienza, Università di Roma (UNIROMA1)
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro" (UNIPMN)
- Università degli Studi di Foggia (UNIFG)
- Università degli Studi di Milano (UNIMI)
- Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE)
- Università degli studi di Palermo (UNIPA)
- Università degli Studi di Parma (UNIPR)
- Università degli Studi di Pavia (UNIPV)
- Università degli Studi di Perugia (UNIPG)
- Università di Napoli Federico II
- Università di Bari Aldo Moro
- Dipartimento innovazioni tecnologiche e Sicurezza degli impianti, prodotti ed insediamenti antropici (INAIL) — ①
- Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali — ①
- Ministero della Salute – Direzione Generale della Sanità Animale e dei Farmaci Veterinari (DGSFV)
- Ministero della Salute - Direzione Generale per l'igiene e la sicurezza degli alimenti e la nutrizione (DGISAN) — ③

LATVIA



11
Scientific networks
representatives



6
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and
Environment (BIOR)



- Food and Veterinary Service — **5**
- Latvia University of Agriculture
- Riga Stradins University (Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte)
- State Plant Protection Service — **2**
- University of Latvia: Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Chemistry



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**4 Networks
representatives**

LITHUANIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



6
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



State Food and Veterinary Service



- Aleksandras Stulginskis University
- Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS
- Health Education and Disease Prevention Centre, Ministry of Health
- National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute — **9**
- State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture — **2**



- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania - Department for Protection of Nature — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**4 Networks
representatives**

LUXEMBOURG



15
Scientific networks
representatives



5
organisations



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Organisme pour la sécurité et la qualité de la
chaîne alimentaire (OSQCA)



- A Centre de Recherche Public-Gabriel Lippmann (CRP-GL)
- Laboratoire National de Santé
- Luxembourg Institute of Health — **1**
- Ministry of Health of Luxembourg — **6**



- Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et de la Protection des consommateurs (MAVPC) — **7**
- Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre (BE) — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**

MALTA



11
Scientific networks
representatives



1
organisation



2
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



Malta Competition and Consumer
Affairs Authority (MCCAA)



■ Environment and Resources Authority — **1**

■ Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change — **4**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**6 Networks
representatives**

THE NETHERLANDS



16
Scientific networks
representatives



8
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



Netherlands Food and Consumer Product
Safety Authority (NVWA)



- Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) — ①
- Erasmus University Medical Centre Rotterdam
- Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) — ①
- Stichting Wageningen Research — ①
- Utrecht University – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- Wageningen University



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**13 Networks
representatives**

POLAND



16
Scientific networks
representatives



7
organisations



5
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



Chief Sanitary Inspectorate



- Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants
- Research Institute of Horticulture



National Institute of Public Health
National Institute of Hygiene



- Institute of Plant Protection - National Research Institute — ①
- National Veterinary Research Institute — ③
- The National Food and Nutrition Institute — ①



- Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation Institute — ①
- Voivodeship Sanitary - Epidemiological Station in Warsaw — ①
- Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Department — ①
- Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences — ①
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences - Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture — ①



**1 Network
representative**



**Focal Point
member**



**5 Networks
representatives**



**Advisory Forum
member**

PORTUGAL



16
Scientific networks
representatives



27
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Portuguese Authority for Food and
Economic Safety (ASAE)



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**3 Networks
representatives**



- Área Departamental de Ciencia e Tecnologia de Alimentos, Escola Superior Agrária Instituto Politécnico de Beja
- Clínica Universitária de Medicina - Faculdade de Medicina - Coimbra
- Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV) — **6**
- Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa
- Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade do Porto (FFUP) — **3**
- Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto
- Faculty of Sciences and Technology / UNL
- ICETA Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias Agrárias e Agro-Alimentares
- Instituto de Ciências Agrárias Mediterrânicas
- Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge, I.P. — **2**
- Instituto Politécnico de Bragança
- Instituto Politécnico de Leiria (IPL)
- Instituto Politécnico de Santarém
- Instituto Superior de Agronomia
- Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Egas Moniz
- Instituto Superior de Engenharia — Universidade do Algarve
- ITQB-UNL
- National Institute of Pharmacy and Medicines — INFARMED
- Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa — **1**
- Universidade de Lisboa
- Universidade de Lisboa Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
- Universidade do Minho
- University of Aveiro - Food Biochemistry Group
- University of Coimbra
- University of Porto, Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences



- Ministry of Agriculture — **1**

ROMANIA



15
Scientific networks
representatives



9
organisations



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Romanian Sanitary Veterinary and
Food Safety Authority



- Banat's University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine
- Dunarea de Jos University
- Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health
- Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health
- Ministry of Public Health — ①
- National Institute of Research and Development for Food Bioresources- IBA Bucharest
- Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate of Bucharest — ①
- University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine – Cluj Napoca



- Romanian Fito-Sanitary Agency, Romanian Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry — ①
- Ministry of Environment — ①



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**11 Networks
representatives**

SLOVAKIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



10
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
of the Slovak Republic (MARD)



- Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture
- Institute of Parasitology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- National Agricultural and Food Centre
- Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
- Regional Public Health Authority in Poprad
- Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra
- State Veterinary and Food Institute — **1**
- University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Kosice
- Water Research Institute



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**15 Networks
representatives**

SLOVENIA



16
Scientific networks
representatives



11
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



National Institute of Public Health



■ Ministry of the Environment and
Spatial Planning — **1**



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food



- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
- Jozef Stefan Institute
- National Institute of Biology (NIB)
- National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food
- Nutrition Institute
- Slovenian Forestry Institute
- Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing
- University of Ljubljana
- University of Maribor



**Focal Point
member**



SPAIN



17
Scientific networks
representatives



34
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food
Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN)



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**5 Networks
representatives**



- Agència Catalana de Seguretat Alimentària (ACSA)
- Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) — **1**
- Agri-Food Laboratory
- Basque Institute for Agrarian Research and Development (NEIKER)
- Canary Health Service (Servicio Canario de la Salud)
- Departamento de Nutrición, Bromatología y Tecnología de los Alimentos, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Complutense
- Drug Analysis Service, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
- ELIKA - Fundación Vasca Para La Seguridad Agroalimentaria
- Fundació Centre de Recerca en Economia i Desenvolupament Agroalimentari UPC-IRTA (CREDA)
- Institute of Agriculture and Food Research and Technology (IRTA)
- Institute of Health Carlos III (Instituto de Salud Carlos III, ISCIII)
- Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology (INITYA)
- Laboratorio de Biología Molécula, Nutrición y Biotecnología, Universidad de las Islas Baleares
- Laboratory of Mycology (UCM)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA) — **5**
- National Institute for the Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA) — **2**
- Nutrición y Bromatología, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Murcia
- Saluvet Group
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Universidad de Almería
- Universidad de Córdoba — **1**
- Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- Universidad de León
- Universidad de Sevilla
- Universidade de Vigo
- Universitat Politècnica de València — **1**
- Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- Universitat Jaume I de Castellón
- University of Barcelona (UB)
- Universidad de Castilla- La Mancha, UCLM
- University of Santiago de Compostela — **1**
- University of the Basque Country
- University of Valencia
- Departamento de Patología Animal, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Zaragoza — **1**



SWEDEN



16
Scientific networks
representatives



6
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



National Food Agency



- Karolinska Institutet
- Linnaeus University
- National Veterinary Institute — **3**
- Swedish Chemicals Agency — **2**
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



- National Board of Agriculture — **2**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**9 Networks
representatives**

UNITED KINGDOM



16
Scientific networks
representatives



39
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



UK Food Standards Agency (FSA)



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**8 Networks
representatives**



- Aberdeen City Council
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Cranfield University
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), — **5**
- Dundee City Council Scientific Services
- Fera Science Limited
- Food and Nutrition for Health Unit, University of Central Lancashire
- Glasgow City Council
- Hampshire Scientific Service
- Harper Adams University
- Health and Safety Executive — **2**
- Institute of Food Research
- Kent County Council
- LGC Limited
- Moredun Research Institute
- MRC Collaborative Centre for Human Nutrition Research
- Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich
- Public Health England (PHE) — **1**
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust
- Royal Agricultural University
- Royal Veterinary College
- SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
- Staffordshire County Laboratory and Scientific Services
- The James Hutton Institute
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Birmingham, Food Safety and Production Group
- University of Glasgow, Research and Enterprise
- University of Hertfordshire Higher Education Corporation
- University of Hull
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Newcastle upon Tyne
- University of Plymouth
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey
- Worcestershire Scientific Services

ICELAND



9
Scientific networks
representatives



3
organisations



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority
(MAST)



■ Matis Ltd
■ Unit for nutrition research, Landspítali-University Hospital and University of Iceland



■ Directorate of Health — **1**



**Focal Point
member**



**Advisory Forum
member**



**8 Networks
representatives**

NORWAY



16
Scientific networks
representatives



11
organisations



0
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Norwegian Institute of
Public Health

Norwegian Scientific Committee for
Food Safety - Secretariat



2 Networks
representatives



Advisory Forum
member



Focal Point
member



7 Networks
representatives

- Bioforsk - Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental
- National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research (NIFES)
- Norwegian Food Safety Authority — **5**
- Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
- Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)
- Norwegian School of Veterinary Science
- Department of Nutrition, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Department of Animal- and Aquacultural Sciences — **1**
- Norwegian Veterinary Institute — **1**



ANNEX B - EFSA partners in IPA countries

An overview of EFSA partners in the pre-accession countries (March 2017).

ALBANIA



7
Scientific networks
representatives



4
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



National Food Authority



- Food Safety and Veterinary Institute — **4**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration — **1**
- Public Health Institute — **1**



**Focal Point
observer**



**Advisory Forum
observer**



**1 Network
representative**

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



8
Scientific networks
representatives



2
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Food and Veterinary Agency



■ Ministry of Agriculture, Phytosanitary department — **1**



**Focal Point
observer**



**Advisory Forum
observer**



**7 Network
representative**

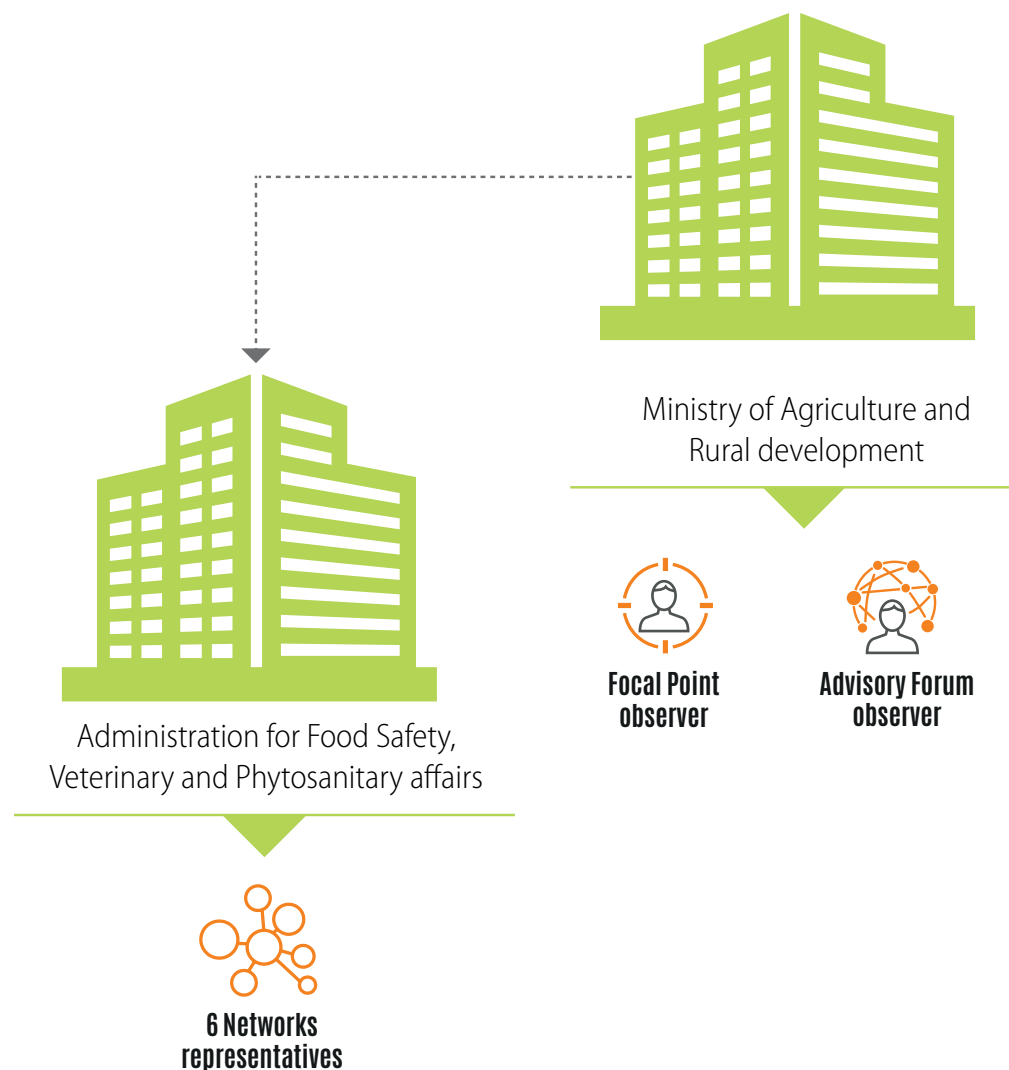
MONTENEGRO



8
Scientific networks
representatives



4
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



■ Center for ecotoxicological research (CETI) — **1**
■ Public Health Institute — **1**

SERBIA



5
Scientific networks
representatives



3
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



Ministry of Agriculture and Enviromental
Protection of the Republic of Serbia



- Centre of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade — **1**
- Institute for Meat hygiene and Technology — **1**



**Focal Point
observer**



**Advisory Forum
observer**



**3 Networks
representatives**

TURKEY



9
Scientific networks
representatives



1
Non-Article 36
organisation with
network representatives



Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock



**Focal Point
observer**



**Advisory Forum
observer**



**9 Networks
representatives**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



9
Scientific networks
representatives



2
Non-Article 36
organisations with
network representatives



Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina



■ Veterinaty Faculty University of Sarajevo

①



**Focal Point
observer**



**Advisory Forum
observer**



**8 Network
representative**

ANNEX C - Scientific Cooperation Toolbox

EFSA Strategy 2020

Strategic objective 3: Build the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community

Platforms

- Advisory Forum
- Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
- Focal Point network
- Article 36 network / competent organizations
- Scientific networks
- Scientific Panels and Working Groups
- Pre-accession programme
- European Neighbourhood Programme
- International cooperation
- Inter-Agency cooperation



Tools

- EU risk assessment agenda, food safety priorities
- Information exchange, document sharing
- Public consultations and pre-notifications
- Events, seminars, study tours, conferences
- Staff exchange (guest scientists, fellowship, national experts in professional training, seconded national experts, PhD exchange)
- Training (advance RA courses, cooperation with academic institutions, BTSF)
- Visits (ED visits, international delegations, national FP events)
- Procurement (direct calls, framework contracts)
- Grants (specific grants, thematic grants, framework partnership agreements, twinning projects, focal point agreements)
- Joint projects

