



CLARIFICATION N°4

Call reference: EUBA-EFSA-2023-ENREL-01

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

Question 1: I have a request from a fellow whose nationality is outside the EU, he wants to become fellow. Is he eligible?

Answer: The eligibility and selection criteria are listed under section 2 of the Call for Proposals and along the Call text.

Both applicants (hosting site and fellow sending organisation) need to be part of the List of national Competent Organisations according to Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation. Both organisations must be from two different EU countries, Norway or Iceland.

- Fellows must be a staff member of a competent organisation under Art. 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation; they must have worked for their employer under a permanent or contract basis for at least 12 months before their fellowship and shall remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of fellowship and must not have been a fellow in past editions of the EUFORA Programme.
- The fellow must have a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three (3) years attested by a diploma in a relevant field.
- The fellow must have a good knowledge of English language (at least B2 level according to CEFR), with strong ability to communicate clearly and effectively in both spoken and written English.
- The fellow (and alternate fellow, if applicable) must have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 years of experience in performing scientific work or tasks related to food safety (including risk assessment, risk communication and risk management aspects) before their fellowship.

The nationality of the fellow is not a requirement under the eligibility or selection criteria.

Question 2: a) Last year, we couldn't find any matches with EFSA to proceed with the fellowship program. This year we would like to retry but are unsure how it will pan out. Can you explain something about the renewed approach?

b) At the same time, we may also have possibilities for both sending and receiving fellows (>1 fellow in both cases) at our department. In this case, can you explain how a consortium system could work? Any suggestions in this regard could be extremely helpful. I'm also available for a call this afternoon or tomorrow morning, if necessary.

Answer: a) As indicated in the Call for Proposals, specifically in Section 1.5 'Eligible organisations', in order to achieve the objectives of the call proposals must be submitted by a consortium of two eligible organisations (organisations from an Article 36 List) from two different EU countries, Norway or Iceland. The applicant (consortium leader) is responsible for identifying consortium partners. The fellow hosting site will be the consortium leader (applicant) and will propose a work programme and be responsible of the training of the fellow. The other partner in the consortium is the fellow sending organisation and will propose a fellow to be trained under the proposal.

b) According to section 1.2.5 of the Call for proposals, competent organisations may undertake different and accumulated roles in the participation of the EU-FORA programme. They can apply to

become a fellow hosting site and/or send fellows to participate in the programme. In this case, they will participate in different consortia (with a hosting site if they apply as sending organisation or with a sending organisation if they apply as hosting site).

Furthermore, it is possible for a single hosting site to train more than one fellow, e.g. via participation in more than one different consortium or in a consortium where more than one fellow is identified by the fellow sending organisation. The maximum number of fellows to be trained in a hosting site under the same work programme is three (3) fellows. The maximum number of assignments per country is set to a maximum of five (5) fellow placements per country.

Question 3: Are lab activities foreseen within the fellowship period for potential fellows – e.g. analyses, wet lab experiments, etc.? From the attached (the 4 modules), it was not immediately clear.

Answer: The work programme to be proposed in the application needs to meet the criteria specified in section 2.5 Award criteria of the Call for Proposals, specifically those in section 2.5.1. Please check below, the EFSA Journal special issues published at the end of each cohort for a reference on the type of projects past fellows have been involved in:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/fellowship#documents>

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/18314732/2023/21/S1>

Moreover, the modules referred to in the document attached are mandatory training modules (classroom training) that, together with the 3-week induction training at the beginning of the traineeship (also mandatory) complement the fellowship and the programme offered by the hosting site.

These 7 weeks of training are organised and delivered by EFSA via a framework contract. Hosting site and fellow sending organisation are not involved. However, as indicated in Section 1.2.3 Obligations and benefits of becoming a fellow sending organisation, the sending organisation shall ensure that the appointed fellow be released from their regular duties in order to perform the work programme, including participation in the common scheduled training activities where the fellow is obliged to take part, i.e. the induction training and the four specific one-week training modules spread throughout the 12-month fellowship period. The fellow sending organisation will ensure that any activity performed by the fellow will not prevent them from performing the work programme and following the mandatory trainings.