



Q&A following Webinar on funding opportunities in the EFSA 2024 Workplan (04/12/2023)

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: Can a fellow work on an already ongoing project, e.g. a Horizon project?

Answer: An organisation applying as hosting site may offer a work programme related to an already ongoing project on which they are working, always keeping in mind the need to avoid the risk of EU double funding, by means of which, no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget.

In fact, EFSA encourages the use of existing networks and projects for the search of partners to apply for this Call.

Question 2: The fellow remains employed in his institution during the duration of the fellowship? The grant given is only for the stipend?

Answer: As indicated in the Call for Proposals section 1.2.3 *Obligations and benefits of becoming a fellow sending organisation*, the fellow's employer must continue to pay their salary, to maintain their administrative status throughout the period of fellowship and to inform EFSA of any change in the fellow's status in this regard.

As indicated in Section 1.4 *Information on the grant agreement*, 1.4.1 *Direct Agreement*, the total amount of the EFSA grant (€ 55,000) intends to support the costs incurred by the fellow sending organisation by releasing an employee of their tasks while they remain a staff member of the institution, as well as the costs derived from the payment of fellow expenses for physical attendance at hosting site. Moreover, the sum is intended to compensate the costs of supervision by the hosting site. Finally, the sum will serve to contribute to the administrative costs associated to the signature and implementation of the Programme by both organisations. The grant amount of € 55,000 is intended to support all costs of both the fellow sending organisation and the hosting site, and EFSA does not prescribe how the grant should be divided between the two organisations.

Evidence of actual costs incurred by both parties in the consortium are not required.

Additionally, please see the Clarification No. 2 on EFSA's website: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/art36/eubaefsa2023enrel01/clarification-2-euba-efsa-2023-enrel-01.pdf>

Question 3: Is the EUFORA fellow an individual working in an Organization as defined by Art 36 to be sent to another hosting organization?

Answer: Yes, both fellow sending organisations and hosting sites must be competent organisations under Article 36 of the EFSA Founding Regulation.

Important to note that fellows do not apply individually to this Call. It is the fellow sending organisation that identifies a staff member to be trained and, in consortium with the organisation that will act as hosting site, applies to this Call.

Question 4: EU-FORA is there an age limit for the fellow?

Answer: There is no age limit for the fellows. However, according to Selection criterion No. 7, fellow candidates are required to have a minimum of 3 years and maximum of 15 years of experience in performing scientific work or tasks related to food safety before their fellowship (Call for Proposals section 2.4 *Selection criteria*).