

EU Risk Assessment Agenda – Funding Opportunities

The aim of the EU Risk Assessment Agenda is to agree on prioritised risk assessment (support) activities to be carried out jointly with other members of the EU risk assessment community. The Agenda shall be a planning instrument to agree on common priorities in food safety, to identify resources needed, and to agree who-does-what. As mentioned in the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap, establishing a common EU risk assessment agenda will help to:

- define common priorities;
- clarify who is involved in which activities;
- avoid duplication of efforts;
- provide justification to obtain needed funds and resources.

The results of the Delphi study - presented at the last AF meeting - identified 28 common food safety priority topics for cooperation. The next steps are to identify the proper processes and resources to actually implement activities / projects under the priorities identified. The 4 pillars that will steer such implementation are:

- 1. Process** – to agree who takes the lead on which priority and with whom (which partners);
- 2. Topics** – to translate identified priority topics into concrete activities and/or joint projects;
- 3. Consultation** – on identified priorities and possible actions with third parties (e.g. EU Agencies, International Organisations);
- 4. Funding opportunities** – to secure resources/funding at national and international level;

As regards 'Funding opportunities' (pillar 4), the landscape regarding funding schemes for Risk Assessment (RA) related activities is quite diverse across Europe, hence there will not be a single approach that will fit all. It is therefore important to explore different funding opportunities at all levels (international, national, and regional) to ensure sustainability of RA activities. As mentioned, speaking with one-voice, having an EU RA agenda with common priorities should help to be heard by potential funders and influence priority setting at national level.

Thus, as a first step, we are aiming - with FP support - to establish a portfolio of possible funders for each country and at European/ international level. FPs are asked to carry out an analysis of the funding landscape in their countries, so to map what is currently available at national, regional and international level, which might ultimately allow to do a regional landscape analysis across the EU.

Various national portfolios, in addition to a European portfolio, of funding options will be the base of a "whole lifecycle" funding model allowing for a more sustainable, transparent and long-term budget for RA activities in the EU. To create such a portfolio of funding opportunities, FPs are asked to:

- a. Compile a list of national funding opportunities for RA activities in their country (using the template provided in table A - filled out for Portugal);
- b. Add to the list of international funding opportunities for RA activities (using table B already filled but to be completed).