

Partnering Grants Concept Paper

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Building on successful recent grant initiatives, such as the Thematic Grants and Framework Partnership Agreements, a new grant form will be launched in 2017, namely the Partnering Grants. These Grants will enable capacity building as planned under Strategic Objective 3 of EFSA's Strategy 2020 – to build the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge Community.

BACKGROUND

The concept of Partnering Grants (formerly named Twinning Projects) was mentioned first in the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap 2014-2016 as a possible cooperation outsourcing tool for promoting mentoring and exchange of knowledge / expertise among MS, optimising the use and build-up of risk assessment capacity. In EFSA's Single Programming Document (SPD) the launch of the Partnering Grants is planned in 2017.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Differently from other grant initiatives, Partnering Grants aim to stimulate joint initiatives between 2 or more MS, enabling knowledge and expertise transfer/exchange in support of capacity building activities linked to the EU risk assessment (EU RAA) priorities. Such grants shall make use and maximise return of existing risk assessment capacity in MS in order to strengthen Europe's capacity in food safety risk assessment.

CONCEPT

Partnering Grants aim for either or both of the following:

- **knowledge transfer** between **beneficiary countries / organisations** wanting to strengthen RA capacity in specific scientific domains; and **mentoring countries / organisations** having such RA capacity and willing to share it with the beneficiary countries / organisations;
- **knowledge exchange** between **partner countries / organisations** willing to share & acquire RA capacity in specific scientific domains; with **other partner countries / organisations** who can share & acquire in a complementary manner such RA capacity, thus being of mutual benefit for all parts involved.

STATE-OF-PLAY

The plan is to launch a **call** for Partnering Grants **during the first quarter of 2017**. The call would stay open for 2-3 months to maximise the submission of proposals by mentoring / beneficiary / partner organisations from different countries. Based on experience gained during the pilot-year, future calls for partnering grants may be adapted.

STRUCTURE OF THE CALL

The plan is to launch **1 call** with a **1-stage process**, i.e. partner organisations from different MS can submit one (or more) joint proposals for knowledge sharing or knowledge transfer. While supporting EFSA's strategic objective, these projects shall deliver added value to the beneficiary countries / organisations. The **co-financing rate by EFSA will be 50%**. A first source for identifying possible topics to be included in the call is the current **Project Catalogue** being set up under the EU RAA. However, the call shall not restrict itself to the EU RAA priorities but also allow for other areas that may enable the strengthening of RA capacity at EU level through mentoring and knowledge / expertise transfer / exchange.

EFFICACY OF OUTCOME OF PILOT-CALL

Clear outputs will need to be delivered from the different actions proposed, whether they are project-based or activity-based. These deliverables should either be concrete outputs related to the project objectives (for project-based topics, e.g. external scientific reports); or activity reports that demonstrate the "increase in RA capacity" resulting from the activities implemented (for activity based-topics).

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES:

- a. 08-09.12.2016** - presentation of concept for pilot-call of 2017 to AF members;
- b. First Quarter of 2017** – launch of pilot-call of Partnering Grants;
- c. Second Quarter of 2017** – submission of proposals and selection of Grants;
- d. Third Quarter of 2017** – signature of selected Partnering Grants;
- e. Fourth Quarter of 2017** – kick-off meetings of Partnering Grants.

Document history

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