



Draft Minutes¹

39th MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINT NETWORK Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 22-23 May 2019

Chair: Victoria Villamar, Julia Finger

Members

Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Donka Popova Mincheva</i>
Croatia	<i>Jasenska Petric</i>
Cyprus	<i>Christophoros Papachrysostomou</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>
Denmark	<i>Birgitte Helwich</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>
France	<i>Coralie Bultel</i>
Germany	<i>Majlinda Lahaniatis</i>
Greece	<i>Danai Papanastasiou</i>
Hungary	<i>Judit Sali</i>
Iceland	<i>Grimur Olafsson</i>
Ireland	<i>Edel Smith</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i> <i>Maria Girolama Falcone</i>
Latvia	<i>Elina Ciekure</i>
Lithuania	<i>Giedre Ciuberkyte</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Elisa Barilozzi</i>
Malta	<i>Giannella Pisani</i>
Netherlands	<i>Linda Kox</i>
Norway	<i>Gisle Solstad</i>
Poland	<i>Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos</i>
Romania	<i>Bogdan Licarete</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Milo Bystricky</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Spain	<i>Maria José Rubio</i>
Sweden	<i>Karin Nyberg</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Patrick Miller</i>

¹ For more details on each session please listen to the respective audiocasts available online



Observers

Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri</i>
Bosnia Herzegovina	<i>Dalibor Vidačak</i>
North Macedonia	<i>Svetlana Tomeska Mickova</i>
Montenegro	<i>Ana Velimirovic</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak</i>

FP Secretariat

<i>Julia Finger</i>	<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>
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EFSA

<i>Donna Lucas</i>	<i>Drago Marojevic</i>
<i>Gabriele Zancanaro</i>	<i>Gina Cioacata</i>
<i>Jacopo Alabiso</i>	<i>Julia Finger</i>
<i>Marco Conterbia</i>	<i>Saba Giovannacci</i>
<i>Sergio Potier Rodeia</i>	<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>
<i>Stylianos Koulouris</i>	<i>Victoria Villamar</i>
<i>Viktorija Krivova</i>	

Apologies: Kosovo*, Belgium

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence*

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Victoria Villamar, Head of Engagement and Cooperation Unit (ENCO) at EFSA, opened the 39th Focal Point (FP) meeting. The plenary adopted the agenda. EFSA welcomed the FPs, particularly two new members representing Cyprus (Christoforos Papachrysostomou) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dalibor Vidacak). The meeting started with a tour de table, with participants presenting themselves.

2. Welcome by Director of the Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Džemil Hajrić, Director of the Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, welcomed EFSA and FPs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He underlined the importance of the European project itself as well as the need of collaboration across borders in the area of food safety.

3. Cooperation of Member States (MS) and pre-accession (IPA) countries

3.1 Looking back on Collaboration Workshop 21/05

The plenary reflected on the "Twin it to win it" Collaboration workshop that took place on 21 May 2019 and was attended by 79 participants. Victoria Villamar highlighted that it was a collaborative effort of the MSs, IPA countries and EFSA. FPs that attended the workshop provided very positive feedback.

Action Point 1: FPs to propose ideas for future collaboration workshops



3.2 New IPA Programme 2019-2021

Drago Marojevic informed FPs that the European Commission (EC) had renewed the IPA agreement. The new 2-year programme will commence on 1 June 2019. Victoria Villamar congratulated colleagues on the successful application for the IPA funding.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Action Points from last meeting

Julia Finger informed the FPs that all action points from the previous meeting were concluded.

A training on Grants and Procurement was to be delivered later in the agenda.

4.2 Feedback from the last meeting

Feedback from the previous meeting was positive, FPs emphasised the importance of allocating time for discussion. Julia Finger encouraged the FPs to keep rating importance of the agenda items and asked FPs not to provide a feedback on the sessions that they do not attend.

4.3 Survey on audio recording

The 39th Focal Point meeting concluded a year-long pilot of audio recordings. To evaluate success of the exercise FPs were presented with a questionnaire.

The floor was given to the FPs to discuss the questions. FPs informed that they would like to add additional comments sections to the survey.

Victoria Villamar highlighted that recording action points and creating an environment where all FPs feel comfortable to express their opinions are of the highest priority.

Action Point 2: EFSA to send out an updated Audio Recording Survey to the FPs

5. EFSA campaign #EUandMyFood

Julia Finger gave an introduction on the EUandMyFood campaign and provided an overview on the different waves of dissemination. EFSA thanked the FPs for their support of the campaign.

Estonia and Latvia highlighted that translation had room for improvement.

Estonia and France indicated that in the future it would be helpful if everyone receiving a request for dissemination within their country was copied into the email to avoid duplication of work.

6. Update on EU RAA

6.1 Introduction

Drago Marojevic updated FPs on the steps taken in context of the EU RAA and the way forward.

6.2 Live Demo

Viktorija Krivova delivered a live demonstration of the EU RAA database. FPs were invited to log in with their credentials and follow the steps displayed on the screen. The live demonstration included the key features of the platform.

Action Point 3: resolve technical difficulties encountered by FPs during live demo

7. Renewal of the list of Competent Organisations

The agenda item on the renewal of the list of Competent Organisations was a follow up of the breakout session at the last FP meeting to monitor the update progress and identify needs for support. The floor was given to FPs for discussion.

Action Point 4: EFSA to follow up with Poland to address a difficulty in updating information of two organisations that are going through a reorganisation process



8. FP support to research activities

8 FPs have chosen the new task on support for research activities. To support the 8 FP that have chosen the task and encourage other MSs to join, Stef Bronzwaer presented actions to support them from EFSA's side. In addition, Stef Bronzwaer informed FPs that the European Commission (EC) launched a Mission Board Call for Horizon Europe.

Action Point 5: Stef Bronzwaer to provide more information about the research mobility instruments to the interested MSs

Action Point 6: FPs to express interest for a phone-conference to exchange best practices

9. Training on Grants and Procurement

In response to the Action Point from the previous FP meeting, Donna Lucas delivered a training on Grants and Procurement. The delivered material was tailored based on the feedback that was collected via a questionnaire.

Training session on grants and procurement concluded the first day of the 39th Focal Point meeting.

The second day of the FP meeting was opened by Victoria Villamar. Maria José Rubio, FP from Spain, reminded about the data collection request for the EuroCigua project and encouraged FPs to reply even if they have no data to contribute.

Action Point 7: FP to liaise with Spanish FP regarding the EuroCigua project data collection request

10. ANSES opinion on the risks associated with consumption of food supplements for joint comfort containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulfate

Coralie Bultel presented results of the research conducted by ANSES on the adverse reactions potentially associated with the consumption of dietary supplements containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulfate.

Action Point 8: EFSA to liaise with ANSES to further discuss results of the study

11. New edition of the Food Safety Almanach

Majlinda Lahaniatis, FP from Germany, informed about the upcoming Food Safety Almanach update, which will take place in electronic format and encouraged FPs to get involved. Several FPs expressed their interest in the initiative.

Action Point 9: Interested FPs to liaise with German FP on the update of the Food Safety Almanach

12. Sigma project

Gabriele Zancanaro delivered a presentation on the SIGMA project for a harmonised data collection on animal health across MSs. The key points were to minimise the workload of the data providers, increase the speed of the scientific feedback and deliver relevant and timely feedback to the Risk Managers.

EFSA encouraged FP to support the SIGMA project by contributing relevant data. North Macedonia thanked EFSA for recognising the importance of animal health data collection and organising a workshop event in Skopje.

13. Knowledge Junction feedback



Julia Finger initiated a discussion to collect feedback on the use of Knowledge Junction. Gina Cioacata joined via videoconference. It was highlighted that EFSA is ready to give any support needed for increased use of the tool on national level.

Greece raised concerns about reliability of the data uploaded to the platform. Latvia proposed to provide a short guide on uploads and download functions.

Action Point 10: EFSA to provide short guide on functions of Knowledge Junction

14. New world of work: New collaboration platforms

Marco Conterbia and Jacopo Alabiso, joining via video conference, explained the context of digital collaboration in EFSA and underlined the benefits of collaborative spaces. Saba Giovanacci presented the main features of the TEAMS software, EFSA's new working environment.

Julia Finger informed that the Focal Point Network in TEAMS will soon be populated by a group of volunteers. Seven FPs volunteered to set up the space together with EFSA.

Action Point 11: EFSA to present a populated TEAMS Focal Point Network at the next FP meeting in September

15. Involvement in EFSA Planning Cycle

Sergio Potier Rodeia informed on how MSs can get involved in EFSA Planning Cycle and outlined areas for improvement that were identified during the 2019 consultation.

Action Point 12: EFSA to share with FPs the outcome of the survey on MS input into EFSA's draft work plan 2020

Action Point 13: FPs to support AF members in preparing discussions at the upcoming AF meeting on the results of the survey

16. BTSF

Stylianos Koulouris presented updates on the Better Training for Safe Food (BTSF) training courses. EFSA informed that new cycle of BTSF trainings on Risk Assessment is expected to start in late 2019/early 2020. It will last for 1.5 years; each training will take place two times.

Ten e-learning BTSF courses, offered by the European Commission (EC), are now available on the BTSF Academy webpage in 5 different languages. Applicants can apply directly, while it is recommended the national contact points are informed about the participants. Number of participants is not limited.

National contact points should be aware that the trainings are more related to risk assessment than to risk management and the target participants should come from authorities that are involved risk assessment activities.

Portugal raised a question about adding a second national contact point.

Action Point 14: FPs to liaise with the national contact points for BTSF trainings in their countries to identify the most suitable candidates

Action Point 15: EFSA to liaise with the European Commission (EC) about indicating a second national contact point for the BTSF training courses registration

17. AOB

17.1 Feedback on AMR workshop in Belgrade

Drago Marojevic presented meeting conclusions and follow-up from the on AMR workshop in Belgrade.

North Macedonia informed that they submitted a project proposal to DG NEAR focusing on the One Health approach in the region.



Victoria Villamar expressed that EFSA will support North Macedonia's project proposal after doublechecking to avoid duplication.

Action Point 16: EFSA to discuss potential country visits to access the AMR situation

Action Point 17: EFSA to liaise with North Macedonia regarding the project proposal submitted by them to DG NEAR to avoid duplication of activities

17.2 New organisation of the FP in Luxembourg

Elisa Barillozzi, FP from Luxembourg presented the new political authorities of Luxembourg and outlined the new organisational structure, also affecting the institution of the FP.

17.3 EFSA-BfR Joint Crisis Training

Majlinda Lahaniatis, FP from Germany presented the upcoming Joint Crisis Training, which is a joint EFSA-BfR initiative and includes the following MS: Germany, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg.

17.4 FP meeting in Bulgaria

Donka Popovka, FP from Bulgaria announced the next FP meeting.

17.5 FP meetings in 2020

Julia Finger provided information about the next year's FP meetings and thanked the hosting countries. Two meetings will take place at EFSA's headquarters in Parma, Italy. The other two meetings will take place in Lithuania and Estonia.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The chair closed the meeting by thanking all FPs and representatives from the IPA countries for their participation and expressed EFSA's gratitude to Bosnia & Herzegovina for hosting the meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	FPS	propose ideas for future collaboration workshops
Action 2	EFSA	send out an updated Audio Recording Survey to the FPS
Action 3	EFSA	resolve technical difficulties encountered by FPS during live demo
Action 4	EFSA	follow up with Poland to address a difficulty in updating information of two competent organisations that are going through a reorganisation process
Action 5	EFSA	provide more information about the research mobility instruments to the interested MSs
Action 6	FPS	express interest for a phone-conference to exchange the best practices
Action 7	FPS	liaise with Spanish FP regarding the EuroCigua project data collection request



Action 8	EFSA	<i>liaise with ANSES to further discuss study results on the adverse reactions potentially associated with the consumption of dietary supplements containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulfate</i>
Action 9	FPS	<i>liaise with German FP on the update of the Food Safety Almanach</i>
Action 10	EFSA	<i>provide short guide on functions of Knowledge Junction</i>
Action 11	EFSA	<i>present a populated TEAMS Focal Point Network at the next FP meeting in September</i>
Action 12	EFSA	<i>share with FPS the outcome of the survey on MS input into EFSA's draft work plan 2020</i>
Action 13	FPS	<i>support AF members in preparing discussions at the upcoming AF meeting on the results of the survey on MS input into EFSA's draft work plan 2020</i>
Action 14	FPS	<i>liaise with the national contact points for BTSF trainings in their countries to identify the most suitable candidates</i>
Action 15	EFSA	<i>liaise with the European Commission (EC) about indicating a second national contact point for the BTSF training courses registration</i>
Action 16	EFSA	<i>discuss potential country visits to assess the AMR situation</i>
Action 17	EFSA	<i>liaise with North Macedonia regarding the project proposal submitted by them to DG NEAR to avoid duplication of activities</i>

Document history

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