



Cooperation between EFSA and the Member States: the way forward

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Founding Regulation 178/2002

Cooperation

- 178/2002 provides overall cooperation framework.
- Several other 'sectoral' Regulations establish specific requirements eg for Peer review of pesticides, GMO environmental risk assessments

Governance

- EFSA governance – balance between EFSA's independence (eg. MB, Scientific Committee and Panels) and cooperation through the AF and other Cooperation and Networking activities

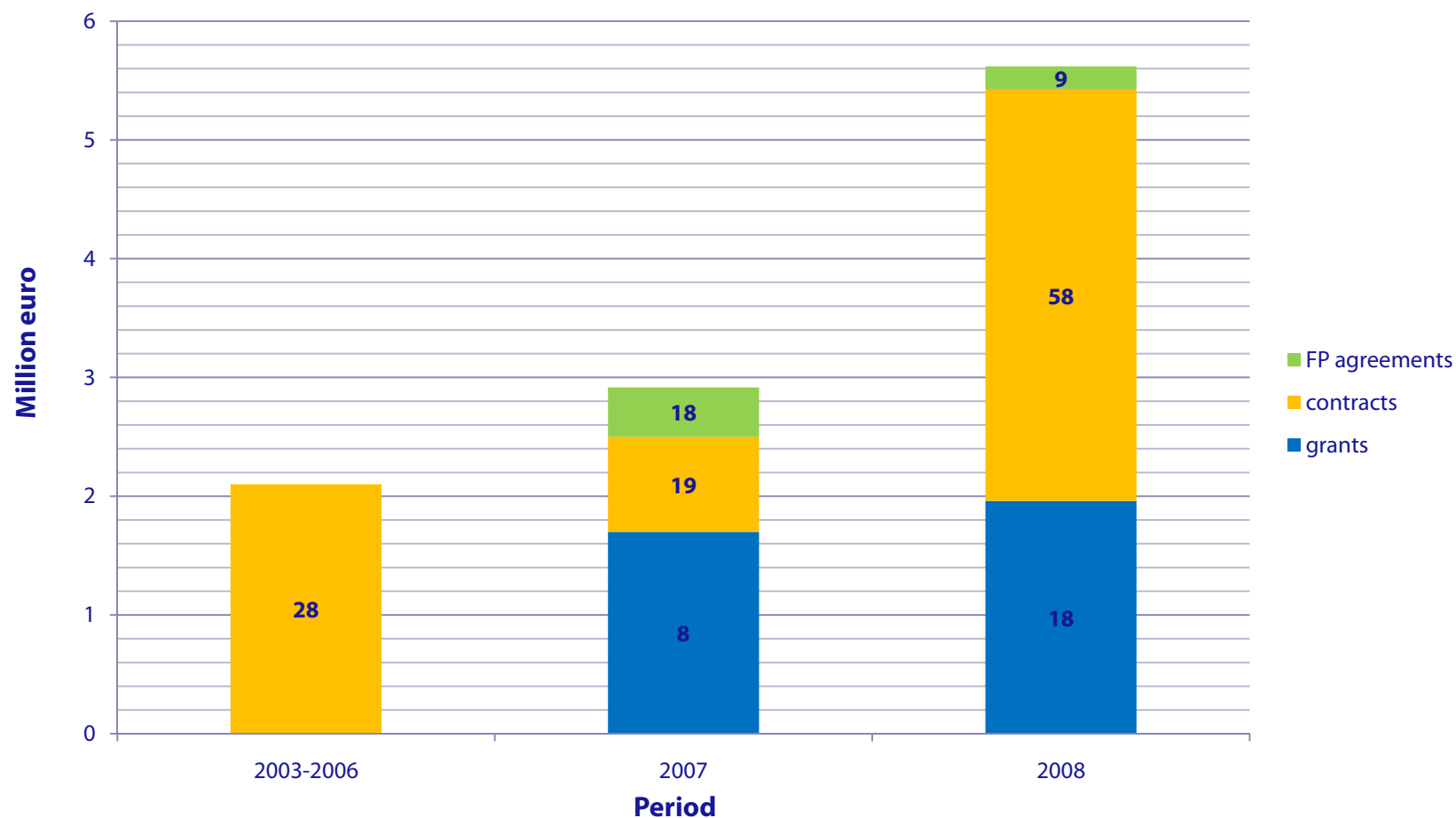
Activities since 2006

Strategy on Cooperation and Networking - 2006 (reviewed 2008)

- Four priority areas:
 1. Exchanging and collecting scientific data and information
 2. Sharing risk assessment practices
 3. Contributing to the harmonisation of methodologies for risk assessment
 4. Promoting coherence in risk communication
- Creation of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate in 2008
- Results so far :
 - Establishment Focal Point network and special AF networks on Plant Health and Animal Health
 - MSs networks for Data Collection and for specific Risk Assessment areas (GMO, BIOHAZ)
 - Establishment art. 36 list of organisations
 - Establishment of expert database
 - Establishment of Information Exchange Platform
 - Several Scientific Cooperation (ESCO) projects conducted

EFSA grants & scientific contracts

Budgets / numbers of signed grants and science contracts



Activities since 2006

Interim review of the Strategy on Cooperation and Networking (endorsed by MB Dec 2008)

- Survey results: MSs support EFSA's approach in cooperation
- Identification of top priorities:
 1. Continue streamlining of data collection and data exchange
 2. Scientific Cooperation Projects (ESCOs) - need for clearer, concise mandates
 3. Priorities in harmonisation identified: work of WGs will commence in 2009
 4. Training on risk assessment
 5. Increased activities in Communications - enhanced cooperation:
 - revision of Terms of Reference of AFWGC
 - sharing of best practices, information

BOTTOM LINE – Substantial progress made in short time, need to maintain and enhance efforts

Boosting risk assessment capacity across Europe

- EFSA + national agencies + other scientific bodies = EU risk assessment capacity in European food safety system
- National agencies:
 - Differences between organisations e.g. responsibilities, roles;
 - Different availability to participate in European projects
- Need to boost overall risk assessment capacity by strengthening expertise in national agencies and other scientific bodies
- Maximise involvement in EFSA's activities through better planning:
 - Sharing of medium term work programmes
 - Informed choices about growing, maintaining or not specific capabilities
 - Better capacity building to better plan cooperation
 - More permanent cooperation activities through networks e.g. on GMOs

- Strategic Plan 2009-2013
 - Need to build further on existing cooperation
 - Need to enable MSs to work effectively with EFSA
- Cooperation with MSs:
 - Overall increased
 - So far focused on yearly activities
 - Need for longer time frame to enable MSs to anticipate and better planning their inputs accordingly
- Member States
 - Focus on developing specific expertises
 - Build complementary activities

Boost overall E.U. risk assessment capacity