

Management Board
8 October 2008
Parma, Italy

Palazzo Ducale

Meeting :	Management Board			
Subject :	2010 work program for art 36 grants			
Summary:	The 2010 work programme for grants has to be adopted by the Management Board and published on EFSA's website. It is submitted to the MB already in October to start its timely implementation. The programme is conditional to the EP approval of EFSA's budget 2010 and will be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals.			
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ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS COVER NOTE

The annual work programme for grants has to be adopted by the Management Board and published on EFSA's website as per Article 110 of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 1605/2002 as amended by Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 1995/06) which states that: "*Grants shall be subject to an annual programme to be published at the start of the year*" (before the 31st March). A similar programme was adopted by the Management Board and published on the EFSA website for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

This programme is an important tool for implementing the strategy on cooperation adopted by the Management Board in December 2006.

With a view to the increasing workload, the main objective of this programme remains that competent organisations in Member States support EFSA's Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels in their risk assessment tasks.

After consultation with the Advisory Forum and the Scientific Committee, the proposed priority areas are as follows:

- a) Support for the examination of authorisation dossiers, in the areas of plant protection products and genetically modified organisms.
- b) Preparatory work for risk assessment in the areas of emerging risks, animal health and welfare, biological hazards, plant health, toxicology, and contaminants.
- c) Data collection and analysis supporting risk assessment and risk monitoring, in the areas of emerging risks, food composition, probability risk assessment, plant protection products, food classification and harmonisation of data

In addition to the programme of grants under Article 36, scientific cooperation with Member State organisations also takes place via public procurement procedures and other specific agreements. Figure 1 gives an overview on the amounts (in thousand €) for projects under grants and procurements/contracts launched since the start of the first grants programme in 2007. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the amounts for the 3 priority areas as listed above plus any additional activities under "horizontal issues and scientific cooperation" (mainly Focal Point contracts).

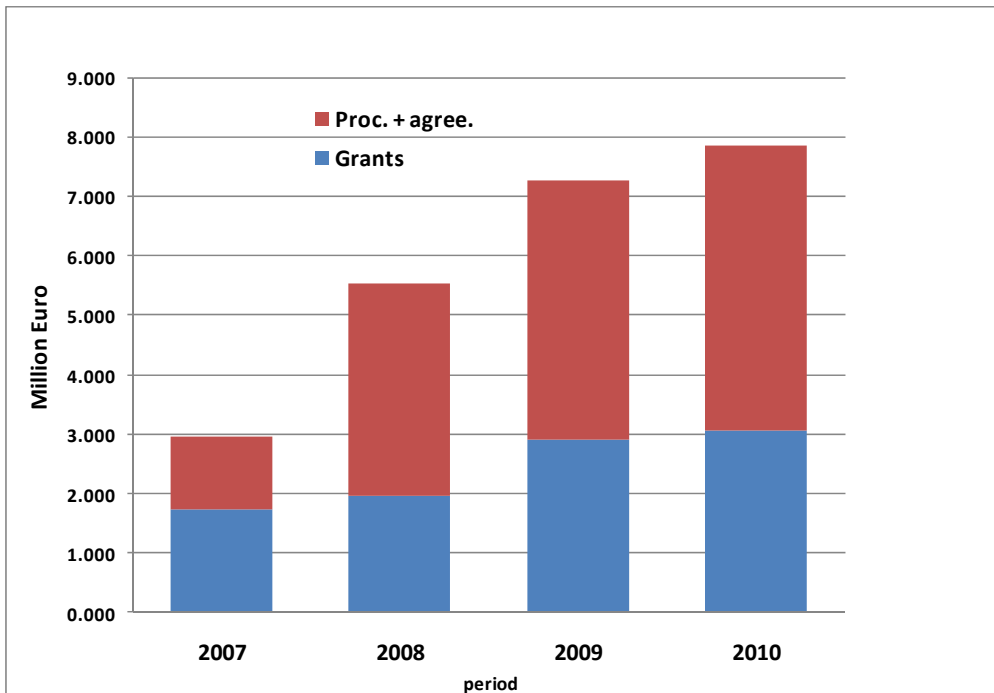


Figure 1: Total amounts committed (in €) for procurements/agreements and grants between 2007 and 2010. For 2007 and 2008, the amounts represent the funds effectively committed, for 2009 the current (September 2009) estimate, and for 2010 the proposed amount. For more details, please see Annex 1.

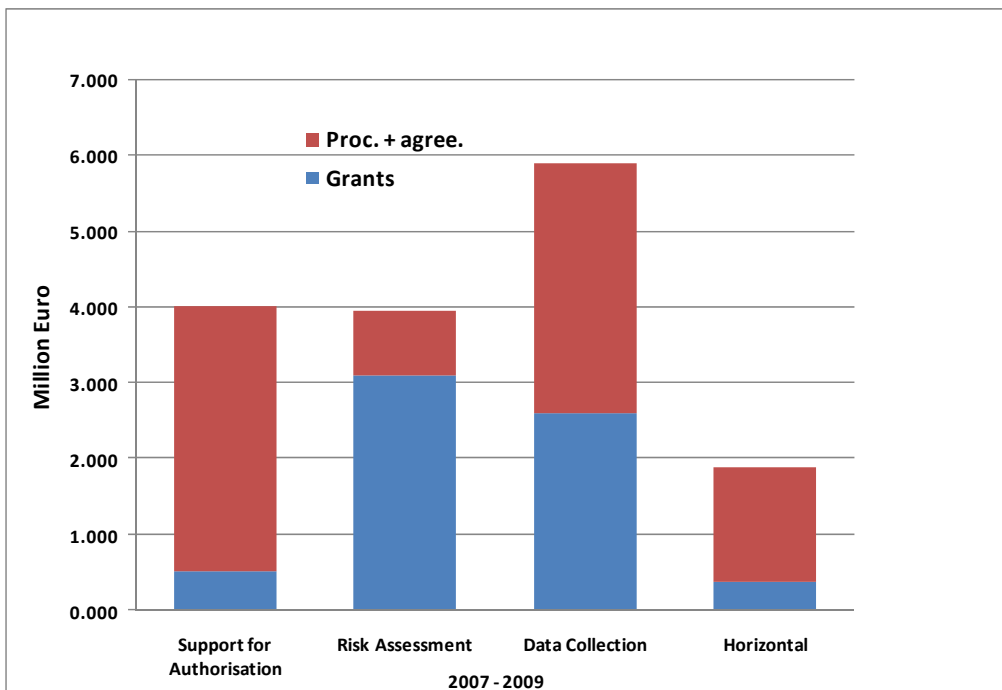


Figure 2: Total amounts (in €) committed (2007 and 2008) and estimated (2009) in the 4 activities for procurements/agreements and grants between 2007 and 2009. For more details, please see Annex 1.

Main lessons to date

The 2 figures demonstrate that the total amount of funds spent or planned for cooperation projects with institutions and organisations in Member States to support EFSA in its scientific tasks has considerably increased (nearly threefold) between 2007 and 2010.

Grants are limited to the organisations on the Article 36 list, but also most of the contracts under procurement have been signed with public organisations in Member States, some of them being also on the Article 36 list. (see Figure 1).

The increase of the available funds has been most pronounced for the "Support for the evaluation of authorisation dossiers" from around 0.5 million € in 2007 to nearly 3 million planned for 2010, representing more than one third of the totally available funds in 2009 and 2010 (see Annex 1).

Funds for cooperation projects for risk assessments activities and data collection have also significantly increased and represent between 20 and 30 % each of the budgets in 2009 and 2010 (see Annex 1).

Between 2007 and 2009, grants have been proven to be a very good tool for cooperation projects in the area of risk assessment (80 % of the cooperation projects have been done via grants in 2009). Regarding data collection, both grants and procurement can be considered appropriate tools and have been equally used (see Figure 2).

In the same time period, procurement was the more suitable tool for support for the evaluation of authorisation dossiers (around 90 % of the projects have been carried out as procurements, see Figure 2). Questions on ownership of the outcome, the necessity to respect specific deadlines, and lack of interest of organisations on the Article 36 list to co-fund specific projects aiming to contribute to the evaluation of authorisation dossier are among the main reasons for having opted for a procurement procedure rather than a grant. In addition, some Member States have taken a restrictive approach when nominating organisations for the Article 36 list, which led to the fact that some specific expertise is difficult to find.

Contracts on horizontal issues are mainly Focal Point agreements with Member States, an activity resulting from the "Strategy on Co-operation and Networking", endorsed by the Management Board in December 2006. After a test phase starting in 2007 and following the review of the "Strategy on Cooperation and Networking", these contracts have been renewed in 2008 with increased funds.

Proposal for 2010 Grants and Procurements

The experiences from the years 2007 until 2009 have influenced the planning for 2010, where most projects proposed to support the evaluation of authorisation dossiers are proposed to be carried out as procurement procedures, and the majority of projects for risk assessment and data collection as grants under Article 36. In addition, due to the nature of the award procedure, grants will only be used for larger projects.

Table 1 below shows the proposed distribution of the total 2010 budget to the different activities as well as the type of procedure proposed. The total budget proposed for Article 36 (grants) is planned to be € 3 065 000 €.

In order to anticipate the implementation of the 2010 work program for Article 36 grants, the program is presented already in the October Management Board Meeting. This will allow EFSA to anticipate the preparation of the calls as well as their launch in 2009. We expect that this measure will optimise the use of this procedure, in line with the recommendations by the Court of Auditors. The programme may need adjustment in December 2009 to match final approval of the budget by the budgetary authority.

Conclusion:

Acting on this proposal of the Executive Director, the Management Board is requested to adopt the annual work programme for grants (see below).

Table 1: Budget proposed to be allocated in 2010 to scientific cooperation with organisations in Member States for the main scientific activities of EFSA (in thousand €)

Activity	Procurement ¹ (€) (for information)	Grants (€)	Total (€)
1. Support for evaluation of authorisation dossiers	2560	300	2860
2. Risk assessment	400	1290	1690
3. Data collection	1020	1475	2495
4. Horizontal issues and Scientific Cooperation	45	0	45
Total	4025	3065	7090

In addition, it is intended, as in 2009, to conclude Focal Point agreements for a total amount of 770 000 €², thus bringing the total budget to **7 860 000 €**.

¹ Excluding agreements

² In 2009, Focal Point agreements were concluded for 735.000 € For 2010, it is planned to also conclude agreements with Norway and Iceland.

Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate

Annex 1: Amounts (in thousand €) for procurements/agreements³ and grants spent in 2007 and 2008, estimated (in September) for 2009 and planned for 2010

Year	2007 (spent)		2008 (spent)		2009 (estimated)		2010 (planned)		2007 - 2009	
Type of cooperation/ Area of cooperation	Proc. +agree.	Grant	Proc. +agree.	Grant	Proc. +agree.	Grant	Proc. +agree.	Grants	Proc. & agree.	Grants
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Support for the evaluation of authorisation dossiers	382	110	890	162	2 233	235	2560	300	3505	507
	492		1 052		2 468		2860		4012	
Risk assessment	8	1 097	434	729	410	1 275	400	1290	852	3101
	1 105		1 163		1 685		1690		3953	
Data collection	417	515	1 984 ⁴	912	900	1 170	1020	1475	3301	2597
	932		2896		2070		2495		5898	
Horizontal issues and scientific cooperation	416	0	272	153	830	215	815	0	1518	368
	416		425		1045		815		1886	
Total	1 223	1722	3 580	1 956	4 373	2 895	4795	3065	9176	6573
	2945		5 536		7 268		7860		15 749	

³ Agreements are mainly with Focal Points under “Horizontal issues issues and scientific cooperation”. Procurements exclude projects carried out under IT framework contracts.

⁴ Specific cooperation agreements with Member States on food consumption surveys have been concluded in 2008 and 2009, targeted to develop the comprehensive EU database on food consumption as the basis for risk assessments. This is the reason for the unusual high figure under “data collection” in this year.

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Article 5 (2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2230/2004 foresees that financial support for tasks entrusted to organisations on the article 36 list shall take the form of grants awarded in accordance with EFSA's financial regulation and implementing rules. Based on these rules the grants shall be subject to a public annual work programme which, as a rule, will be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals.

2. BASIC ACT AND FINANCING SOURCE

- **Basic Act:** Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council article 36 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2230/2004.
- **Budget lines:** 3001, 3011, 3021, 3031, 3041, 3051, 3061, 3071, 3081, 3091, 3101, 3111, 3121, 3131, 3141, 3144, 3151, 3211.

3. TASKS TO BE ENTRUSTED, THE OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED, AND PRIORITY AREAS

- d) Support for the examination of authorisation dossiers, in the areas of plant protection products, and genetically modified organisms.
- e) Preparatory work for risk assessment in the areas of emerging risks, animal health and welfare, biological hazards, plant health, toxicology, and contaminants.
- f) Data collection and analysis supporting risk assessment and risk monitoring, in the areas of emerging risks, food composition, probability risk assessment, plant protection products, food classification and harmonisation of data.

4. ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS

- The applicants must be on the list adopted by the Management Board of EFSA on the 20th of December 2006 as updated (implying fulfillment of the criteria set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2230/2004);
- The applicants shall not be, at the time of a grant award procedure, in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1605/2002) as amended.

5. SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The eligible proposals will be evaluated against the selection criteria indicated in each specific call. In general there are two sets of selection criteria to be assessed:

1. Financial capacity
2. Technical capacity

The proposals which meet the selection criteria will be evaluated against the award criteria indicated in each specific call. In general there are three sets of award criteria to be assessed:

1. Quality of the proposal
2. Quality of the management
3. Cost effectiveness

6. MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 80% of the eligible costs

7. SCHEDULE OF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR 2008

Launch of calls for proposals: October 2009 – October 2010⁵

8. INDICATIVE AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR 2008

- a) Support for the examination of authorisation dossiers: Calls will be launched for approximately 300 000 €.
- b) Preparatory work for risk assessment: Calls will be launched for approximately 1 290 000 €.
- c) Data collection and analysis supporting risk assessment and risk monitoring: Calls will be launched for approximately 1 475 000 €.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Prof. Diána Bánáti, Chair

⁵ In case a project tendering is launched before the official approval of the budget, a respective clause will be added to indicate that the project is subject to the approval of EFSA 2010 budget by the European Parliament and no grants/contract will be awarded before such approval.