

Minutes

44th Meeting of the Focal Point Network 18 - 19 November 2020

Chair: Victoria Villamar/ Drago Marojević

Members	
Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>
Belgium	<i>Laurence Ballieux</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Donka Popova</i> <i>Lilyana Polihronova</i>
Croatia	<i>Sanja Miloš</i> <i>Vlatka Buzjak Služek</i>
Cyprus	<i>Christophoros Papachrysosotomou</i> <i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>
Denmark	<i>Birgitte Helwich</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>
France	<i>Coralie Bultel</i> <i>Céline Bahuon</i> <i>Julia Raeke</i>
Germany	<i>Julia Schöne</i>
Greece	<i>Foteini Tzoumanika</i> <i>Danai Papanastasiou</i>
Hungary	<i>Jundit Sali</i> <i>Renàta Prisztòka</i>
Iceland	<i>Grimur Olafsson</i>
Ireland	<i>Gráinne Redmond</i>
Italy	<i>Maria Girolama Falcone</i> <i>Luca Busani</i>
Latvia	<i>Elina Ciekure</i>
Lithuania	<i>Rima Zivatkauskaitė</i> <i>Giedre Čiuberkytė</i>
Malta	<i>Giannella Pisani</i>
Netherlands	<i>Linda Kox</i> <i>Timme van der Lugt</i>
Norway	<i>Gisle Solstad</i>
Poland	<i>Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos</i>
Romania	<i>Alexandru Supeanu</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Katarina Kromerova</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>



Spain	<i>Maria José Rubio</i>
Sweden	<i>Karin Nyberg</i>
Observers	
Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri</i>
Bosnia Herzegovina	<i>Dalibor Vidačak</i>
Kosovo*	<i>Mentor Mulaj</i>
North Macedonia	<i>Svetlana Tomeska Mickova</i> <i>Sanja Ilieva</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak</i>
FP Secretariat	
<i>Drago Marojevic</i>	<i>Sofia Altesini</i>
<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>	<i>Clementina Piani</i>
EFSA	
<i>Sofia Altesini</i>	<i>Francesca Matteucci</i>
<i>Cristina Alonso Andicoberry</i>	<i>Johanna Nemess</i>
<i>Alessandra Fantini</i>	<i>Clementina Piani</i>
<i>Panagiotis Kalavros</i>	<i>Matthew Ramon</i>
<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>	<i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>
<i>Donna Lucas</i>	<i>Anne-Gaelle Vigneaux</i>
<i>Giovanni Mancarella</i>	<i>Victoria Villamar</i>
<i>Drago Marojevic</i>	

Apologies: Luxembourg

**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

Drago Marojevic from the Engagement and Scientific Cooperation (ENCO) opened the 44th FP meeting and welcomed FPs to the meeting. 10 countries have participated with both member and alternate (BG, CY, FR, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, MK, NL). The Chair welcomed Mentor Mulaj, new FP observer from Kosovo*; Milagros Martinez Nieto, new FP alternate from Spain; Wayne Anderson, new FP alternate from Ireland; and Jenny Aasa, new FP alternate from Sweden.

The plenary adopted the agenda.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Action Points

Drago Marojevic debriefed Focal Points about the fulfilment of the action points noted during the [43rd Focal Point Network Meeting](#).

2.2 FP Meetings Rolling Agenda

Drago Marojevic presented the upcoming FP meetings and reminded FPs about the opportunity to bring further items to the rolling agenda. Some changes were noted but the overall activities are in line with the agreed agenda. The speaker pointed out the preparation of RARA 2021, reminding a dedicated FP meeting in February 2021.



2.3 Execution of Tasks

Drago Marojevic gave an update on the execution of the FP tasks 2020, reminding FPs about the 'Q&A on Task document' - available in the Focal Point Network Teams tab, under the Exchange of Best Practices on Task channel. The file, drafted on the comments and suggestions received from FPs, aims to support MSs in the reporting phase.

Drago Marojevic addressed in particular tasks 1.3, 2.10, 4.5. Regarding this latter, EFSA carried out a survey to check the topics of major interest among the 15 counties who subscribed the task in the grant agreement, with the aim to support them in completing the task by the year end. According to this selection, a virtual workshop will take place the 14th and 15th December 2020 with the support of CY, LV and PT. For the moment, the training session is open only to the countries who subscribed 4.5 task. Nevertheless, the presentations will be recorded as the aim for the future is to share the training materials to a wider audience. The agenda will be finalised by the 27th November and shared with the FPs as soon as available.

Drago Marojevic concluded the agenda item reminding the upcoming Check Point meeting, likely to be postponed by the 16th-17th December.

Action Point 1: EFSA to keep Q&A updated including answers to FP request/questions on tasks.

Action Point 2: FPs to keep the national event excel in Teams channel updated.

3. EU RAA Update (task 1.6)

Chair introduced the topic of EU-RAA Analysis, providing a snapshot of the milestones achieved during the four-year project; indeed, EU-RAA initiative started in 2016 together with MSs, with the aim of identifying common food safety areas of work to be populated with concrete project and project ideas, feeding also the EFSA Strategy 2020.

The Chair gave the floor to **Sofia Altesini** who provided an overview on EURAA database and correspondent uptake with figures on successful materialized projects, currently open project ideas and most addressed Delphi priorities by MSs. The aim of the exercise is to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the performance of the database, fundamental in order to start reflecting on the future of the initiative.

Action Point 3: FPs to keep the database up to date, locking project ideas with the inclusion of a funding scheme if needed and providing information on strategic capabilities.

4. Exchange of experience on the update of the national funding opportunities (tasks 1.6, 2.6)

Drago Marojevic illustrated the FP grant agreement task regarding the update of national funding opportunities. This activity falls into the framework of FP role in supporting RARA 2021. The speaker reminded the launch of this activity during the 43rd FP meeting and the subsequent creation of a document library in Teams to facilitate MSs in uploading the updated information. FPs can perform this task on a voluntary basis and according to the yearly plan 2020; if performed by year end, this activity should be reported under task 2.6.

Action Point 4: FPs who subscribed to task 2.6 to provide the overview in the respective MS TEAMS country folder possibly by the end of the year. Other FPs to fill in on a voluntary basis by RARA 2021.

5. FP work in context: Stakeholder engagement blueprint

Chair gave the floor to **Matthew Ramon** to present the Stakeholder Engagement blueprint, focusing on the evolution of the framework, main achievements and next steps. FPs can act as amplifiers supporting preparedness and quality of science providing input to the overall process in light of their consolidated knowledge and mapping of stakeholders at national level.



Action Point 5: EFSA to keep FPs up-to-date on further steps of the new stakeholder engagement framework, methodologies and possible FPs involvement.

6. EU-FORA recommendations from external review

Cristina Alonso presented the main conclusions and recommendations stemming from the external review carried out by ICF last summer. Overall, the external review was quite positive, and Cristina Alonso thanked the FPs for the inputs provided. The recommendations will be used for improvement of the programme and for reflection on the development of an EU-FORA 2.0, targeting sustainability as a key element. Following the feedbacks from the AF – EUFORA working group, the AF plenary and the Management Board, the EU-FORA 2.0 is expected to kick off in autumn 2021.

Action Point 6: EFSA to further explore the possibility of engagement of former EU-FORA alumni in the promotion of EU-FORA 2.0.

7. FP External Review

Drago Marojevic provided a follow up on the status of the current FP external review call, which will close at the end of November 2020. In compliance with the requirements of the Transparency Regulation, the review will provide a cost-benefit analysis of the current operations and suggestions to ensure a fit-for-purpose FP Network. Drago Marojevic noted the tentative timeline and highlighted the importance of FPs feedbacks to improve the current system.

Action Point 7: EFSA to provide more information regarding the ToR for the external review when available.

*****End of meeting on Day 1*****

Victoria Villamar, Head of Engagement and Scientific Cooperation (ENCO), opened the second day of the FP meeting welcoming FPs.

8. Multilingualism at EFSA

Chair gave the floor to **Giovanni Mancarella**, new team leader of EFSA Coordinated Communication team.

Giovanni Mancarella introduced EFSA's plans for multilingualism, focusing on the steps toward full multilingualism in all EU languages of the website by 2022 (from 5 languages in 2020, to adding a further 5 in 2021, then all 24 EU languages in 2022).

- Currently, EFSA website is translated in 5 languages EN, DE, ES, FR, IT (ES has been introduced in 2020 after a pilot of one year) and the objective is to increase the number of languages in the upcoming years through the use of external consultant and neural machine translation providers.
- Next steps: by year end there will be a selection of possible neural machine translation providers and 2021 a pilot phase for testing the machine for new languages will be launched.
- Focal Points expressed their interest in having the abstracts of public consultations in all 24 EU languages in order to enhance participation at national/regional level. EFSA will take into consideration the proposal in the framework of the multilingualism approach; however the Chair stressed that the main working language will remain English as per EFSA linguistic regime rules.



9. Translations of communication and other products and tools (tasks 3.2, 3.4)

Alessandra Fantini presented the EFSA journey toward digitalisation of translation in light of the huge growth of online content and change of customer needs. The focus of the presentation has been on neural machine translation (NMT) and its advantages, which are mainly related to the presence of a new machine learning technology based on AI which teach software how to produce highly accurate translation results. In addition to this, free online machine translation have been presented to FPs in support of their role as liaison point and networking interface. Among the tools which are available online two can be of interest of FPs namely eTranslation, an automated translation tool provided by the European Commission and opened to public administrations and public sector service providers; and DeepL, which is an online translation tool.

10. Joint FP project on translation of the EFSA's glossary (tasks 3.2, 3.4)

Chair gave the floor to **Danai Papanastasiou** (Greece – FP alternate) to present the joint CY-GR project on translation of EFSA's glossary. The Greek and Cypriot Focal Points recognised the need of translating scientific terms to the Greek language to have a harmonised terminology when translating scientific information from EFSA or other organisations. The draft version of the glossary is currently used for the translation of EFSA's communication materials domestically disseminated and/or uploaded in Greek Organisations' webpage. The glossary also stands as reference point when drafting scientific texts in the Greek language by the two institutions. The final version will be uploaded in the webpage of both Greek and Cypriot Organisations as English - Greek dictionary. To highlight its visibility, it is currently under discussion the possibility to upload it in the EFSA's multilingual glossary.

11. ASF Campaign

Francesca Matteucci and **Drago Marojević** provided an update on the ASF Campaign, focusing mainly on the stakeholder engagement strategy and available preliminary results on targeted country. Overall, the performance of the campaign is particularly positive. Drago Marojevic reminded that, since there is no vaccine for ASF, prevention is key to curb the disease. In this context, EFSA elaborated a communication toolkit to be used to help inform on signs of ASF, safety measures to adopt and who to contact in suspected cases. These and other materials are available to download on the EFSA dedicated webpage.

The **Chair** thanked the Focal Points for their crucial role in supporting the ASF Campaign.

Action Point 8: EFSA to share the final report on ASF Campaign when available

12. Cyprus - National activities on networking, engagement and research

Chair gave the floor to **Georgios Stavroulakis** (Cyprus – FP alternate) who debriefed the Focal Points on the National Event on Research, held the 21st September 2020, and provided an update of the ImproRisk model.

13. Targeting talents in Universities

Following EFSA's Human Capital Unit contribution at [the 41st Focal Point meeting](#), **Panagiotis Kalavros** and **Anne-Gaelle Vigneaux** illustrated the current talent management activity in the frame the project to improve EFSA attractiveness, employment branding and recruitment tools. In this context, the Focal Point network could play an important role in targeting the right national organisations and tailoring the recruitment strategies, in particular:

- Identify top universities to target, namely the top 5 universities in food safety domain at national level and dedicated master or bachelor;



- Invite EFSA to participate to dedicated national events, namely career events or other events to increase the visibility of EFSA;
- Disseminate communications, namely share EFSA job opportunities to your contacts and integrate EFSA promotion material to your website and/or newsletters;
- Co-organise career events in your country, such as specific events for EFS or events for multiple organisations.

In compliance to this activity, the FP secretariat mentioned the EFSA [Career Infokit page in SharePoint](#), for the collection of information and promotional material.

Action Point 9: EFSA to provide further information on talent pools and share them with the FPs.

14. Feedback on EFSA surveys in MS

The **Chair** introduced this agenda item related to EFSA surveys recently launched in MS.

Donna Lucas provided the preliminary results of the survey to Art. 36 organisation ("EFSA Survey on partnering and engagement with Member State organisations"), presented in [the previous Focal Point meeting](#) and launched the 5th October 2020. The analysis of the replies currently carried out will be debriefed at Advisory Forum meeting in December and shared with Focal Points in the next FP meeting.

Donna Lucas thanked the Focal Point members for their valuable contributions and the excellent response rate.

Action Point 10: EFSA to share more analytics on Article. 36 Survey when available.

The **Chair** then passed the floor to **Johanna Nemess**, who shared some insights about the ongoing survey on Mapping Risk Communication Mechanisms in the EU. This survey is framed under the EC mandate for the provision of technical assistance in the field of risk communication, in support of the EC's implementation of the General Plan for Risk Communication.

Johanna Nemess gave a snapshot on the participation rate from the Member States. The speaker emphasized the requirement of one coordinated answer per country by the deadline 25 November 2020 COB and reminded the availability of bilateral meetings in case of need. As part of the projects, EFSA will prepare flowcharts based on the answers received.

Drago Marojevic and **Martina Kurišova** (FP and Art. 36 secretariat) briefed the FPs about a newly launched survey to prepare EFSA specialised scientific trainings on different aspects of risk assessment in 2022-2025. The survey has been sent to AF members in liaison with FP members, Art.36 organisations, as well as EFSA Scientific Committee, Panels and Working Groups.

Action Point 11: EFSA to share more details on the ongoing surveys.

15. Requests for Exchange of Information

Annafranca Loparco illustrated the latest achievements regarding the procedure to request the exchange of scientific information, making a comparison between the flow used in the past years and the current one in use since the introduction of MS Teams. The presentation focused on the quantitative and qualitative achievements made so far proceeding with the analysis of the comments received from FPs; corrective measures and best practices were proposed to prospect the ideal flow for FPs.

Action Point 12: FPs to provide draft text to support other FPs exchange of information circulating the request at national level.

Action Point 13: EFSA to archive requests exchanged from 2019 in separate folders.



CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Victoria Villamar closed the meeting by thanking all FPs for their commitment and contribution during the workshop and FP meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	EFSA	to keep Q&A updated including answers to FP request/questions on tasks.
Action 2	FPs	to fill in the national event excel in Teams channel.
Action 3	FPs	to keep EU-RAA database up to date, locking project ideas with the inclusion of a funding scheme if needed and providing information on strategic objectives.
Action 4	FPs	who subscribed to task 2.6 to provide the overview in the respective MS TEAMS country folder possibly by the end of the year. Other FPs to fill in on a voluntary basis by RARA 2021.
Action 5	EFSA	to further inform FPs on further steps of the new stakeholder engagement framework, methodologies and FPs involvement.
Action 6	EFSA	to better address the feasibility of the proposal on the Q&A session in the scope of EU-FORA 2.0.
Action 7	EFSA	to provide more information regarding the ToR for the external review when available.
Action 8	EFSA	to share the final report on ASF Campaign when available.
Action 9	EFSA	to provide further information on talent pools and share them with the FPs.
Action 10	EFSA	to share more analytics on Article. 36 Survey at the Check Point meeting in December or during the next Focal Point Meeting.
Action 11	EFSA	to share more details on the ongoing surveys.
Action 12	FPs	to provide draft text to support other FPs exchange of information circulating the request at national level.
Action 13	EFSA	to archive requests exchanged from 2019 in separate folders.