Parma, 05/09/2016

Consultation on the indicative activities to be included in EFSA's final draft 2017 and preliminary draft 2018 Work Programmes for grants and procurements in science

Scientific cooperation between EFSA and Member States is a key priority for EFSA as it helps support the development of risk assessment within the Authority's remit by building on scientific expertise of Member States. To ensure the contribution of organisations from Member States and third countries in carrying out scientific cooperation projects, EFSA has implemented grant and procurement schemes.

In the previous years, the activities related to grants and procurements in science were presented on an annual work programme basis, which was approved by EFSA's Management Board following consultation with EFSA's Advisory Forum and the three EU agencies having complementary remits with EFSA (i.e. ECDC, ECHA and EMA). For the first time, within the framework of the new multiannual EFSA Strategy 2020, EFSA is developing a multiannual work programme implementing its strategic objectives. To this end, and in line with the new budgetary rules, EFSA shall present to its Management Board for approval in December 2016, both the final draft 2017 and preliminary draft 2018 work programmes on grants and procurements.

Annex 1 provides an overview of the activities related to EFSA's scientific work which may be outsourced by EFSA in 2017 and 2018. The activities and outsourcing tools are only indicative, higher than the currently proposed budget of 10.5M€ in the preliminary draft 2017 Work Programme for grants and procurement[1]. These activities were retained instrumental by EFSA towards the implementation of the new EFSA Strategy 2020.

As in previous years, we invite EFSA's Advisory Forum and the three EU agencies having complementary remits with EFSA (i.e. ECDC, ECHA and EMA) to provide comments on EFSA's indicative activities to be included in its 2017 and 2018 annual Work Programmes for grants and procurement in science, in particular with respect to their content and appropriateness, while identifying activities of common interest and thereby avoiding duplication of activities.

The feedback received from these consultations will be used in fine tuning the list of indicative activities and in the prioritization that will be carried out by EFSA before the final draft 2017 and preliminary draft 2018 work programmes are presented for the attention of the EFSA Management Board in December 2016.

Information about current and previous years' work programmes for grants and procurement in science are available on the EFSA website[2].

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[1] Available in the draft 2016-2019 Programming Document at: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/amp1619 .

[2] Current and previous years' work programmes for grants and procurement in science are available on the EFSA website at: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/procurement.

ANNEX 1

Table 1. Procurement - Open Calls

Nr.	Activity	2017	2018
1	International Cooperation: Reviewing and evaluating RA practices of experienced RA bodies worldwide	X	
2	PLH panel guidance on pest risk assessment and environmental risk assessment of plant pests updating: Integrate landscape/spatial dimension in Pest RA with case studies. Spatial explicit, GIS data used as support of Pest Risk assessment	X	X
3	Outsourcing research to fill up uncertainties for plant pests prioritised at EU level	X	X
4	Horizon scanning and web monitoring for the early identification of PLH risks: 1)mapping of existing processes in EC, MS and EPPO and 2) development of new tools e.g. literature, trade, risk ranking, advanded methodological approach for EU surveillance of priority pests (e.g. air trapping and molecular detection; digital image analysis and remote sensing); 3) support and training for plant health crisis preparedness as a follow up of the current pilot exercise	X	X
5	Crowdsourcing: increase Risk Assessment Capacity via crowdsourcing - 2nd initiative: Exploring the collaborative model	X	
6	Tracing food and feed products for outbreak investigations. Dynamic Exposure Models (DEMOS): Provision of realistic datasets suitable to test data structures and analysis tools	X	X
7	Testing for difference and equivalence in EFSA scientific assessment: 1) domains in EFSA where addressing equivalence is relevant; 2) inventory of the methodologies currently available on equivalence testing that could be applied in the EFSA context with strengths and limitations ; 3) case-studies; 4) workshop with sister agencies to share ideas on the issues related to testing hypothesis	X	
8	Develop a platform to host EFSA's methodologies and tools on EFSA's website and make them available to the public	X	X
9	Innovation in data collection process: How to use the internet and social media to conduct experimental studies that create data for EFSA's risk assessments		X
10	Norovirus baseline survey: molecular characterisation of norovirus from positive samples with sufficient viral levels		X

#	Description		2019
11	Application of Machine Learning Techniques to support risk assessment		
12	Update the self-task Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ Panel) on L. monocytogenes risk related to RTE foods (EFSA, 2008): Preparatory work for the provision of scientific advice on different levels of L. monocytogenes in RTE foods and the related risk for human illness	red	red
13	Self task for application and use of whole genome sequencing for risk assessment: support for the 1) extension of the joint EFSA-ECDC molecular typing database to WGS data and 2) new approaches in identifying and characterizing microbiological hazards, with particular attention to foodborne viruses		red
14	EU Menu: The acquisition of harmonised pan-European food consumption data within the framework of the EU Menu process "What's on the Menu in Europe?" (EU Menu). With reference to the EFSA Guidance "Guidance on the EU Menu methodology", dietary information will be collected and mainly used to estimate dietary exposure to food borne hazards and nutrients intake considered by EFSA's Scientific Panels and Units – support to additional Member States	red	
15	Structuring new data types: exploring the use of the rich datasets produced from on-going research projects by molecular and cell biology test systems (protein sequences and in vitro cell models)		red
16	Refined Protocol for in vitro digestion of proteins for allergenicity assessment: experimental data production, testing different proteins for their susceptibility to digestion using conditions described by the allergenicity WG of the EFSA GMO Panel in the context of an ongoing guidance development on the subject	red	
17	Optimising control experiments in regulatory risk assessment of pesticides: preparatory work with enphasis on the use of historical control data in the risk assessment of pesticides. Extensive literature search and data collection on use of historical control data, including use of background pathology data for laboratory animals used in the experimental regulatory toxicity studies (i.e. rodents species)	red	
18	Support to ongoing revision of GD on Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecotoxicology: Biological relevance of the magnitude of effects (considering mortality, sub-lethal and reproductive effects) observed in studies with amphibians and reptiles in view of population level impacts on amphibians and reptiles	red	
19	Epigenetics and Risk Assessment		red
20	Support to update the 2012 SC opinion on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) , taking into account the recommendations from the 2014 EFSA-WHO workshop		red
21	Prize contest on innovative ideas	red	red

Table 2. Procurement - Negotiated Procedures

Nr.	Activity	2017	2018
22	Scientific Network Coordination: external evaluation on the on-going process and recommendations for quality development	■	
23	EKE: Expert Knowledge Elicitation: e-learning methods	■	
24	Critical appraisal Tools: 1) an inventory of the existing tools for appraising evidence by study design, 2) classification and comparison of the tools according to criteria provided by EFSA, 3) investigation of applicability of the tools to the EFSA context based on real examples 4 case studies	■	
25	Preparatory work for the integration of knowledge from different areas in predictive modelling for biological risks	■	
26	Expert assistance on drafting the main EUSR including analysis of AMR data	■	■
26	Access to an online food labels database covering food and drink products from different EU MSs and access to market share data	■	
27	Validation of systematic literature review, for renewal dossiers in the GMO area - FWC launch (2017) and implementation of the FWC	■	■
28	Human biomonitoring data collection from occupational exposure to pesticides	■	
29	Specialised training courses in Risk Assessment	■	■
30	Additional systematic literature review for the development of the botanicals Compendium	■	
31	Application of a food ontology based text mining tool for emerging risks identification in food supply chain of oysters and salmon	■	■

Table 3. Procurement - Direct implementation of FWC

Nr.	Activity	2017	2018
32	Fellowship Programme - training material, organisation and logistics of induction training and training modules		
33	Harmonised data collection on arthropod vectors		
34	Wildlife health surveillance		
35	Training on expert knowledge elicitation		
36	Statistical programming: provision of services to EFSA R coding, programming, ad-hoc R consultation and provision of a scalable high performance computing environment upon request		
37	Support the EFSA Data Unit in a series of activities liked to improvement of data quality, training of Member States.		
38	Data Collection Roadmap: Support for new Data Collections		
39	Collection, preparation and updating of data on flavourings and flavouring substances”; Lot 1: Non-toxicity data to be summarised & Lot 2: Toxicity data to be summarised		
40	Preparation of summary reports from dossiers on food enzymes from Genetically Modified Micro-organisms or Genetically Modified Plants” / Preparation of summary reports of technical data from dossiers on food enzymes / Preparation of summary reports of toxicological data from dossiers on food enzymes”		
41	Statistical and toxicological support for evaluation of risk assessment of GMO dossiers		
42	Support for the evaluation of bioinformatics in the risk assessment of GMO dossiers		
43	Food and feed safety crisis preparedness training		
44	Further development and update of EFSA's Chemical Hazards DB		
45	Development of a mechanistic model to assess risks to honeybee colonies from exposure to pesticides under different scenarios of combined stressors and factors		

Table 4. Procurement - Implementation of FWC via reopening of competitions

Nr.	Activity	2017	2018
46	Generating, collecting, collating, synthesising and analysing evidence supporting preparatory work for evidence-based Scientific Assessment in EFSA including literature review in the area of animal health and welfare, plant health, biological hazards, contaminants, pesticides	■	■
47	Support services for expert knowledge elicitation	■	■
48	Applicant stakeholders' satisfaction survey		■
49	Literature search for BPA	■	
50	Literature search for the re-evaluation Food Additives - legal deadlines 2018-2020	■	■
51	Preparatory work for Novel Foods		■
52	Preparatory work for updating PRAS Guidances	■	■
53	Preparation of background document for the re-evaluation of shortcut values for bees and development of dilution factors based on residues trial	■	
54	(Eco)tox data collection for nanoparticles (likely to be) present in food/feed/agri		■
55	Literature search for Guidance on RA in nanomaterials	■	
56	EU Insights – Survey on EU-wide differences and commonalities in risk perception		■

Table 5. Grants

Nr.	Activity	Indicative outourcing tool	2017	2018
57	Establishment and validation of animal-based measures as diagnostic tools for welfare assessments on farm and in Animal Welare RA: As a pilot, a set of animal-based measures to detect pig and sheep welfare problems will be selected for validation in terms of sensitivity, specificity, predictive value and feasibility of assessment. Data collected by project participants will be reported to EFSA's DCF, followed by data analysis	*Grant - Open Call*	███	███
58	(OpenScaie project) Open - Single point of access for the deposition of information relevant for food and feed safety risk assessment: support for the population of OpenScaie with key literature (including grey literature e.g. IEP)	*Grant - Open Call*	███	
59	Scientific report on the occurrence of selected modified forms (metabolites) of zearalenone in food and feed. 1) Identification of relevant metabolites and relevant food/ feed groups; Evaluation of analytical methods/standards; development of sampling/analysis strategy. 2) Sample collection and analysis	*Grant - Open Call*	███	
60	Development of EU landscape-based environmental/ecological scenarios: Pilot Projects with MSs on 4 areas: pesticides soil, pesticides aquatic, plant health, multistressors	*Grant - Open Call*	███	███
61	Tracing food and feed products for outbreak investigations - Dynamic Exposure Models (DEMOS): Framework partnership agreement on 'Tracing' covering: - Support team during food and feed contamination crises (EC and MS level) - Access and enhance Food Chain Lab software to support outbreak investigations	*Grant - Framework Partnership Agreement/Direct Collaboration*	███	███
62	Framework Partnership Agreement on Data Quality with Member States (full scope implementation)	*Grant - Framework Partnership Agreement/Direct Collaboration*		**2019**
63	Framework partnership agreement on BPA	*Grant - Framework Partnership Agreement implementation*	███	███
64	Framework partnership agreement of 4 years aiming at using, testing and improving the MCRA tool for the cumulative exposure assessment of pesticide residues in food commodities and grants with MSs	*Grant - Framework Partnership Agreement/Direct Collaboration*	███	███

65	Framework Partnership Agreement on bees - implementation: Data collection at each of the three EU regulatory zones (see Annex I of EC No 1107/2009) for the calibration of the model (a quantitative tool to assess effects on honeybee colonies from exposure to pesticides under different environmental scenarios and multiple stressors/factors)	*Grant - Framework Partnership Agreement/Direct Collaboration*		
66	Fellowship Programme - grant call for fellow hosting sites	*Grant - Fellowship programme*		
67	30 Focal Point Agreements with EU/EEA Member States, Iceland and Norway - Focal Points act as interface between EFSA and national authorities, research institutes, and other parties, supporting AF members in the implementation of activities related to networking and scientific cooperation. The main areas of collaboration include information exchange, identification and exchange of expertise, coordination of the work of EFSA scientific networks, training and international cooperation	*Grant - Focal Points*		
68	Joint projects to support the implementation of joint activities agreed at the occasion of country visits of EFSA's Executive Director	*Grant - Joint Projects*		
69	Partnering projects: Grants to stimulate joint projects among 2 or more Member States to exchange knowledge and expertise, in support of the EU risk assessment agenda priorities. Such projects shall maximise return of existing risk assessment capacity in Member States, in order to strengthen Europe's capacity in food safety risk assessment	*Grant - Partnering projects*		
70	Thematic Grants - Grant schemes supporting scientific cooperation – Large, innovative networking projects which foster scientific cooperation and the exchange of expertise and best practices in certain thematic areas of EFSA`s mission	*Grant - Thematic Grants*		