

The European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme

Coming up soon: Opening of calls for fellows and fellow hosting sites

What is the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme?

One of EFSA's strategic objectives is to strengthen the European food risk assessment (RA) capacity and knowledge community. In this context, in close cooperation with the Advisory Forum and the Focal Points, EFSA is setting up the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship programme.

The objectives of this 12-month learning-by-doing fellowship are to

- Attract and motivate young to mid-career scientists to become risk assessors,
- Intensify exchange and cooperation among national food safety agencies and EFSA,
- Contribute to harmonising food RA practices across Europe,
- Further develop food RA methodologies in Europe.

The fellowship programme will start in September 2017 projected to enrol 15 fellows per year. The focus will lie on Chemical and Microbiological RA (see attached curriculum).

Eligible candidates for the programme have to be employed by an [Article 36 organisation](#) for at least one year. They have a maximum of 15 years' experience in food safety related positions and a limited experience in food RA.

The core of the programme is an on-the-job training taking place in an Article 36 organisation with a strong capacity and extended experience in food RA (so called fellow hosting site). Fellows will be placed in a fellow hosting site in a country other than where their institution of origin is located. They will work under the supervision of experienced risk assessors.

Besides this opportunity for an on-the-job learning experience fellows will receive a complementary uniform training programme (in English). A [Fellowship Procurement Call](#) for the development, organisation and delivering of this training programme is open until September 15, 2016. A three-week introductory training course will take place in Parma in September followed by three specific one-week training modules spread across the rest of the 12-month placement. These modules will be hosted by national food RA authorities in Vienna, Berlin, and Athens.

Participate in the programme!

There are several ways for Article 36 organisations and their staff to become involved in the fellowship programme activities. Here you can learn more about it:

Institutional level

- **Become a fellow hosting site**

Article 36 organisations with a strong capacity and extended experience in activities relevant to food RA can apply for becoming fellow hosting sites. Through a grant scheme launched in fall 2016, EFSA will be selecting 8-10 of such organisations to accommodate of up to three fellows.

Candidate fellow hosting sites have to meet requirements and take responsibilities described in the grant scheme. Among others, the fellow hosting sites need to appoint a supervisor for each fellow and develop a portfolio of activities and projects in which the fellow will be involved in during his/her 12-month placement.

Via the grant agreement with EFSA, fellow hosting sites will provide each fellow with a net remuneration equivalent to 12 months x €2,200 x correction factor to national cost of living (ex. EUROSTAT figures).

- **Support your staff to become a fellow**

Would you like to support talented staff members on their way to becoming future European RA experts? EFSA invites Article 36 organisations to encourage individual scientists matching the eligibility criteria to participate in the fellowship programme.

Individual level

- **Become a fellow**

EFSA is looking for 15 talented 'early to mid-career scientists' who would like to specialise in food RA. Eligible candidates need to be employed by an Article 36 organisation for at least one year at the closure date for applications. Further, they need to have a degree in a field relevant to food safety and not more than 15 years of work experience in food safety related positions. Candidates need to be nationals of the EU or an [EFTA](#) member state and have to have a good command of English

(See: [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#))

- **Become a fellow hosting site supervisor**

Are you an experienced risk assessor with a passion for teaching and mentoring young talents? If you are working for an Article 36 organisation which qualifies as a fellow hosting site you could take an important role in the fellowship programme. As a fellow hosting site supervisor you propose the scientific programme for the fellow, and participate in the fellow selection process. Throughout the 12-month period of training you will provide scientific guidance to the fellow. You will also be invited to become a member of the fellowship alumni network.

Your benefits from the Programme

Fellow:

With the participation in the fellowship programme you will gain extended knowledge of all scientific aspects related to food RA including how to select and apply RA methodologies, how to collect and analyse relevant data (concentration and consumption), how to use computer models in RA, how to provide effective risk communication, how to cooperate with/be part of scientific panels and working groups.

Even more important, by learning-by-doing in the fellow hosting sites, you will have the opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in food RA.

Get inspired by the many interesting, innovative and enthusiastic people of the food RA knowledge community you will meet during the 12-month period. Stay in touch with these colleagues by actively shaping the fellowship alumni network.

Your participation in the programme will be rewarded by a certificate and your scientific achievement will be recognized through publication(s) in a special issue of the EFSA journal.

Fellow hosting site supervisor:

You will enjoy working with an enthusiastic team of fellowship programme coordinators. You may also appreciate getting to know colleagues from across Europe which are as engaged as you are in supporting and promoting promising talents of the food RA community. However, mostly you may embrace the opportunity to pave the road to success for a spirited colleague in the early stages of his/her RA career.

Fellow hosting site:

As a fellow hosting site your team will have the opportunity to profit from the skills and knowledge a fellow will bring from his/her institution of origin. You will get a chance to understand the problems and perspectives of colleagues in other countries. This particular inside-view may help to strengthen bilateral co-operations with other institutions.

During the year of the programme the fellows will become an integral part of the scientific workforce of the fellow hosting sites, contributing to their tasks and activities.

The fellow hosting site will also benefit from the participation of the appointed supervisors to the fellowship alumni network.

Additionally, all the material produced by contractor's team for the modular training throughout the year may be used also for teaching purposes in the fellow hosting sites.

Institute of origin:

The institute of origin will benefit from the knowledge and experience in different aspects of food RA that the fellow will bring back after the completion of the programme, the direct contacts with the fellow hosting site and the use of the network of which the fellow becomes a member.

Benefits for EU, EFSA and MS:

The scientists that will participate as fellows, supervisors, tutors, programme coordinators and others in the programme may provide a future pool of experts that EFSA and MS can use for their own needs.

The programme will contribute to strengthening the overall capacity in food RA in Europe allowing more countries in a greater extend to support EU activities in food RA.

The exchange of staff through the programme and the interaction with supervisors, tutors, coordinators and others from different EU countries and different EU institutions, will greatly contribute to the harmonisation of food RA methodologies in Europe.

Important Milestones

- **15th September 2016 =>** Close of the procurement call for the development and delivering of the training activities.
- **September 2016 – January 2017 =>** Call and selection of the fellow hosting sites (n=8-10).
- **October 2016 – January 2017 =>** Call and selection of fellows (n=15).
- **February – March 2017 =>** Matching the chosen fellows to the selected hosting sites.
- **June 2016 =>** Summer Workshop in Parma to clarify any open questions and fine-tune last details and ensure all actors involved are aligned. Participants will be, amongst others, programme committee members, fellow hosting site supervisors, and team of the contractor providing the 3-week induction training and the one-week training modules.
- **September 2017 => Start of the first European food risk assessment fellowship cycle**

Be an ambassador of the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme!

Help EFSA and the enthusiastic fellowship programme committee to spread the news about this exciting new opportunity to promote food RA across Europe!

Various communication actions, tools and channels are projected to ensure regular updates on the programme. At the 29th EFSA Focal Point meeting in Parma and the 61st Advisory Forum meeting in Bratislava we will introduce our communication strategy to you in greater detail.