

Management Board
22 June 2023

PARTNERSHIP FOR RISK ASSESSMENT



OUTLINE OF THE ITEM

Presentation - 50'

- The challenges for RA cooperation
- Cooperation to date: framework, investment and learnings
- *Questions and doubts*
- Partnerships: the concept and considerations to make it happen
- Partnership opportunities
- Conclusions

Discussion - 45'

Objectives:

- Present and discuss the **state of play** of EFSA's cooperation and the **opportunities** for RA partnerships
- Discuss the **role** of the MB to help build partnerships
- Discuss **advocacy approaches** for MB members



THE CHALLENGES FOR RISK ASSESSMENT COOPERATION

Big picture



- New emerging risks
- Global changes: climate, demography...
- Safety vs Security vs Sustainability
- New political priorities
- Societal expectations

Responsiveness



- Protect consumers
- Enable innovation in the market.
- Support EU policies and strategies
- Crisis preparedness

Complexity



- Transdisciplinary and One Health
- Novelty, breadth, uncertainty, availability of data...
- Risk communication

Evolution of science



- New methodologies, technologies and disciplines
- New competences, evolving expertise

Diversity of actors



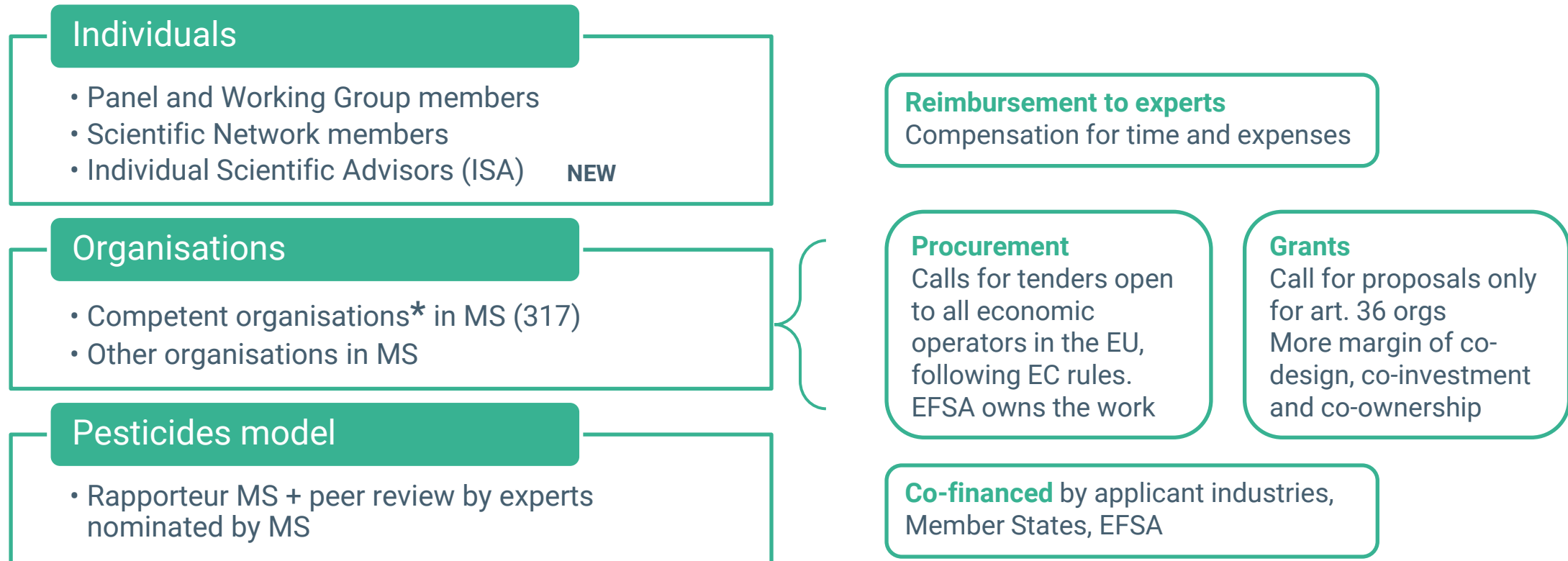
- RA community: EU and national agencies + scientific bodies
- Risk managers
- Broader ecosystem: industry, academia, NGOs, citizens, international orgs...



FRAMEWORK FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Cooperation is provided for by the Founding Regulation and ingrained in EFSA's operating model

Expertise across the EU is mobilised in three ways:



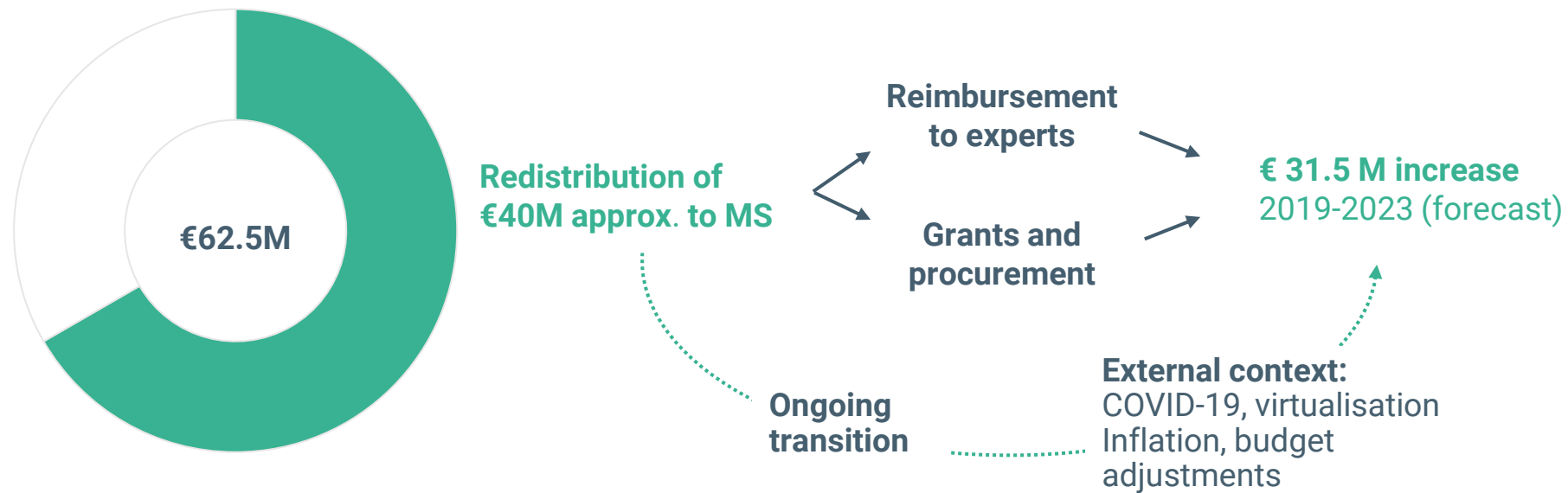
*Research institutes, universities, laboratories, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other scientific bodies



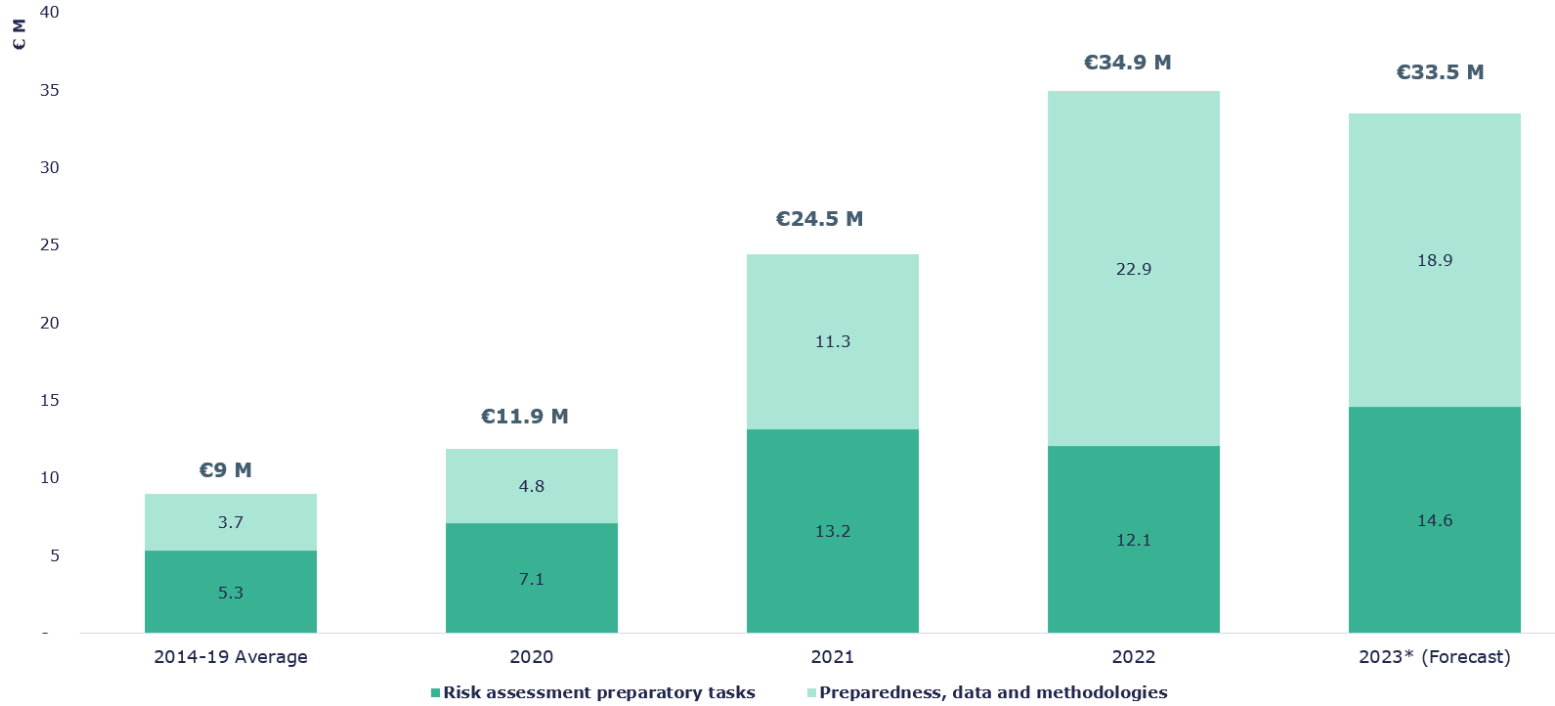
COOPERATION GROWTH SINCE TRANSPARENCY REGULATION

Transparency Regulation: increased cooperation for the sustainability of the EU RA

- Broadened scope: up to draft opinion
- Increased resources: €62.5 million



GRANTS & PROCUREMENT EVOLUTION



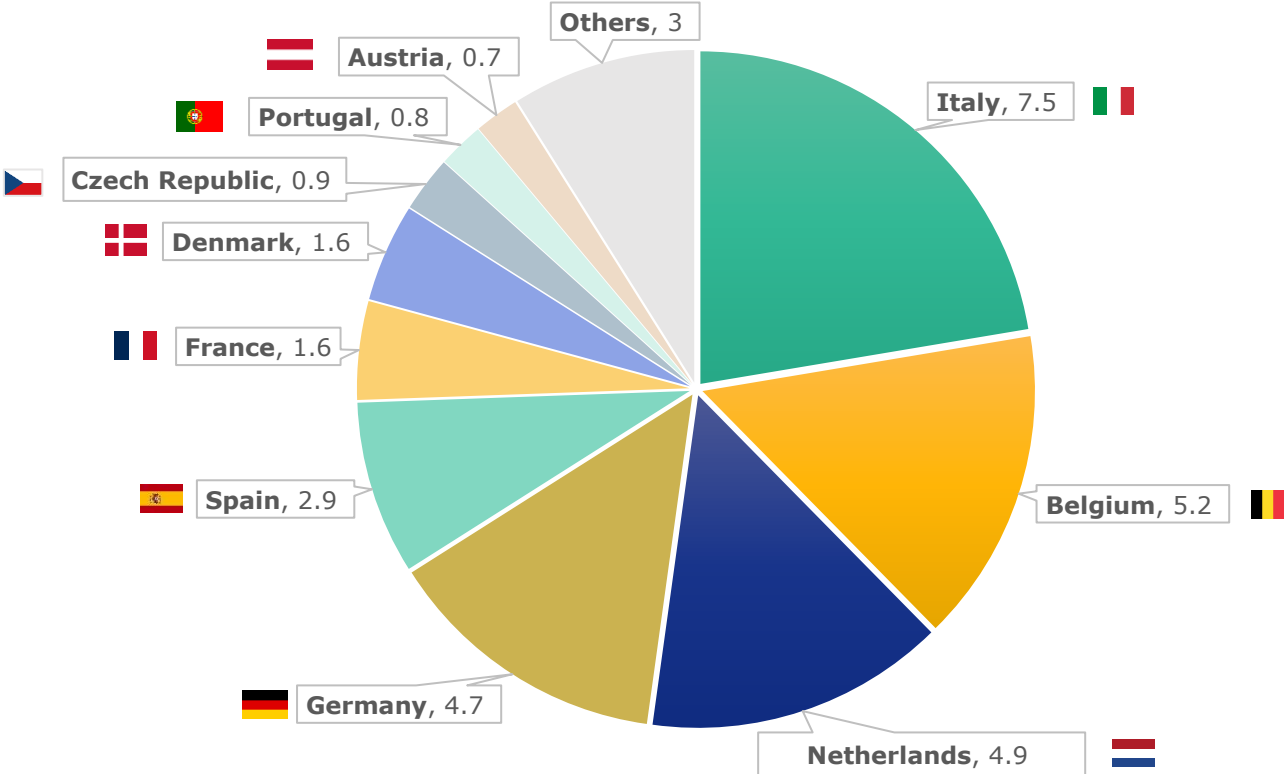
Expenditure in **G&P** has **increased** and now **stabilized**

EFSA aims to **invert the balance** and increase cooperation in preparatory tasks for RA

GRANTS AND PROCUREMENT EXPENDITURE PER CATEGORY, 2014-2023



MEMBER STATES ENGAGEMENT ON GRANTS & PROCUREMENT

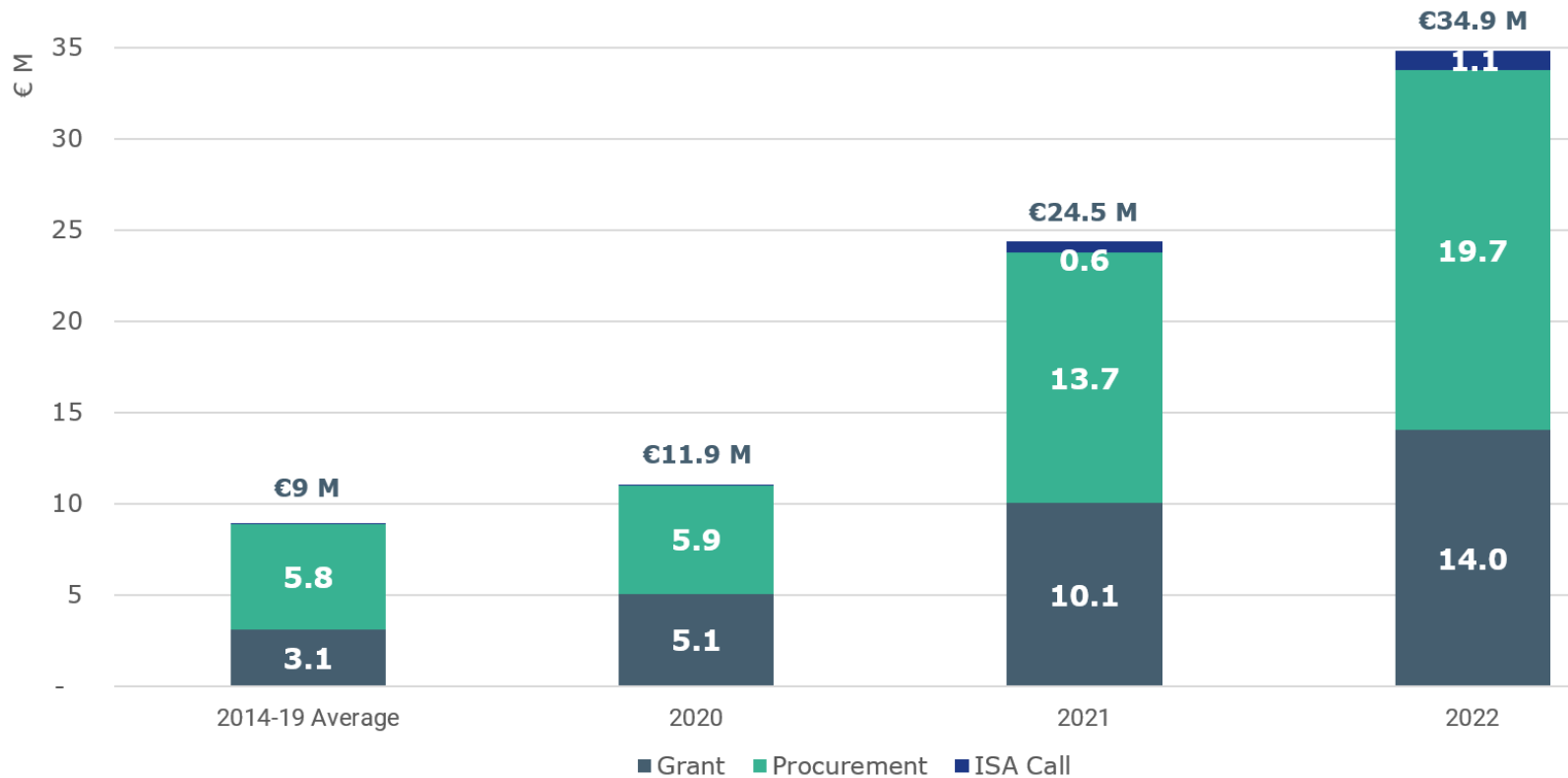


Nationality of entities acting as **consortium leader** or sole contractor

TOP 10 COUNTRIES BY G&P EXPENDITURE IN 2022 (€M)



GRANTS VS. PROCUREMENT



EXPENDITURE PER INSTRUMENTS, 2014-2022

Why is procurement used more than grants?

- Expertise required not available on the article 36 list
- Need to sub-contract core tasks of the project (grants don't allow it)

*Aim should be to give way for **more grants**, as more fit for partnership or structured cooperation (co-design, co-ownership...)*



GRANTS & PROCUREMENT: BLOCKERS, ENABLERS

Technical, operational

Financial conditions
Administrative burden
Predictability of calls
Legal restrictions
Transparency and independence standards

Many **operational** improvements implemented in recent years



Structural, incentives

Lack of available staff or organisational capability
Finding relevant expertise
Knowledge development and visibility aspirations

Ongoing **structural** initiatives:

- Capacity building and systematic training
- Exploit Art. 36 mechanism (involving current orgs., enlarge list)
- Authorship recognition



Strategic, political

Organisations' strategic interest
Steering by risk managers and policy makers

Strategic levers:

- Align areas of strategic interest (market, societal and policy drivers)
- Co-design work programme



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



FROM COOPERATION TO PARTNERSHIPS

A **new approach** to increase volume, consistency and impact of cooperation



Concept of partnerships:

- First outlined in EFSA strategy 2020
- Promoted by TR and established as L/T goal by EFSA strategy 2027

AF definition

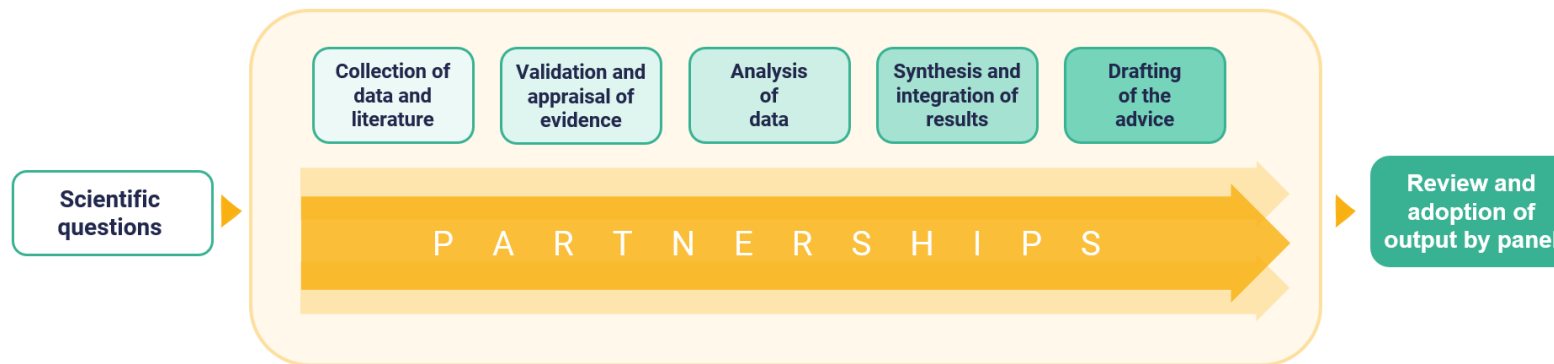
A **long-term, trust-based** cooperation, built on **common values and goals**, with attractive **win-win** elements, primarily between **EFSA** and **competent organisations in Member States, EU Agencies, EC Services**, where **risks and benefits are shared** and that generate, among others, **tangible outputs**.



PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT RISK ASSESSMENT

Why? Efficiency and sustainability of EU Food safety system

What? RA workflow, entrusted end-to-end or broken down in specific tasks. Especially suitable for covering recurring issues or new needs in RA



How?

- Contractual elements
- Standards for quality, transparency, and independence will apply
- Resources by EFSA: G&P funding, digital platforms, networking and capacity building, new Focal Point framework
- Resources by national authorities and competent organisations



PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE

Advisory Forum

- **Community** of EU risk assessors
- **Coordinate**: strategize, align work planning, stimulate participation of competent organisations

Focal Points

- **Connection hubs** between EFSA and competent organisations
- **Support and facilitate**: expanded mandate enables more initiatives

Management Board

- **Representatives** of MS, EU institutions and stakeholders.
- **Connect and advocate**: liaise with risk managers and policy makers, generate political will



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Pesticides

Specific model for active substances...

- 👍 Structured work sharing, reduced divergences
- 👎 Slow process, limited capability and uneven participation

...complemented by new partnerships (under development):

- Preparatory tasks of RA (2021) - Framework Agreement with FR, GR, IT, NL (recurrent tasks)
- Recent calls on Cumulative RA and Protocol for emergency authorisations (new tasks)

Strategic Drivers »»

- Political attention
- Safety vs security vs sustainability
- One Health
- Evolving regulatory framework (F2F, Chemical strategy)
- Innovation



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Novel Food

Increased workload under centralised procedure

New potential partnership under development:

- 2022 Framework Agreement - AT, BE, ES, GR, IT, SK
- Currently limited to specific RA tasks, potential to expand in volume and scope (end-to-end)



Food and feed additives, enzymes and flavourings

Past difficulties to establish a partnership on enzymes

New comprehensive approach launched:

- 2023 Framework Agreements covering all additives' areas - AT, BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, GR, IT, NL, NO, PT and SE
- Potential for a set of comprehensive partnerships, careful piloting ongoing

Strategic Drivers >>>

- Innovation and competitiveness
- New options for consumers
- Sustainability and security



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Animal Health

Long cooperation history on monitoring and surveillance

- Successful projects ongoing on data - VectorNet, EnetWild, SIGMA – yet limited on geographical/MS coverage.
- Broader scope initiatives launched (RA tasks/knowledge gaps), e.g. African swine fever partnership(2022/23)



Plant Health

Policy priority, surveillance and RA work in constant increase

- Good partnership effort: 15 cooperation agreements (e.g., commodity RA, pest categorisation) – 10 MS involved
- Participation/deployed MS capacity is still limited geographically and for dealing with innovation/new methodologies

Strategic Drivers >>>

- One Health/biosecurity
- Food security
- Sustainability
- Crisis preparedness



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Other opportunities



Aquatic diseases, animal and fish welfare: national organisations as potential expertise hubs.



Data mapping and retrieval: development of innovative information systems and tools.



Common tasks in RA: national expertise hubs in recurrent tasks (e.g. chemical exposure, toxicology, etc.)



Capacity building: platforms for knowledge transfer



Trainings and competency development on harmonised risk assessment methodologies



CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

Principles and concepts:

- Partnerships is key for the **sustainability of EU RA system**
- Priority is **co-production of RA** (draft opinions), preferably through **grants**
- Need for more engagement by **national authorities and art. 36 orgs.** (strategic alignment, joint planning and deployment of resources, capacity building)
- **Political will** is essential
- **MB members can advocate** to risk managers and policy makers
- Advocacy **approaches may differ** based on MB members' position and MS administrative set-up
- Need for close interaction between **MB members, AF members and FP** at national level

Questions for discussion:

1. Any considerations on the **opportunity** of expanding partnerships for co-production of RA?
2. How can the different MB members contribute to **advocating** for partnerships and how can EFSA support such efforts?
3. How should the **follow-up** of this discussion be structured?

