



**FRENCH
COOPERATION
WITH EFSA**

**ANSES
FOCAL POINT 2021**

French cooperation with EFSA

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I. ANSES and EFSA



The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) was created on 1 July 2010 by the merger of the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) and the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (AFSSET). Its missions, set by Order No. 2010-18 of 7 January 2010, cover risk assessment in the fields of food, the environment and work, with a view to informing public authorities in their health policy. A public administrative institution, the Agency is placed under the supervision of the Ministers of Health, Agriculture, Environment, Labour and Consumer Affairs.

Through its integrated risk assessment, research and reference approach, ANSES takes into account the exposures of different populations (citizens, consumers, workers) in a transversal and global way, in order to assess risks and formulate recommendations as closely as possible to the realities of daily life.

ANSES coordinates, at national level, the assessment of the hazards, risks and efficacy of active substances, biocidal products and fertilizing materials for which dossiers are submitted in France. Since July 2016, the Agency is responsible for issuing, withdrawing and amending marketing authorisations for these products.



The agency was entrusted with the coordination of toxicovigilance and, more broadly, the vigilance activities of the poison control centres as well as the deployment of the phytopharmacovigilance system.

ANSES has been designated to handle the reception of declarations and notifications, the storage, processing and analysis of information provided by manufacturers and importers of tobacco and vaping products.

ANSES participates in the work of many European and international bodies, and some cases represents France at the request of the Government. It is in this capacity that ANSES represents France in the EFSA Advisory Forum and acts as its French focal point.

For further information on the role of the focal point:

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/anses-national-focal-point-efsa>

And to contact us: pointfocal@anses.fr

This document, prepared by the French focal point for EFSA, aims to present French cooperation with EFSA, which can be through national representatives in different bodies and also on an institutional and individual basis. In addition, this document aims to provide information on the cooperation tools available to strengthen French participation in EFSA's work.

The factual elements of EFSA's presentation and operation are taken from the EFSA website (specific links are provided for each section).



The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), established in 2002 under its founding Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, is responsible for the European Union for risk assessment related to food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare and plant health and protection.

EFSA is an independent European agency funded by the European Union budget and operates separately from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States.

The European food safety system is designed to separate risk assessment from risk management. As its role is to assess risks, EFSA provides scientific advice and guidance to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States, which take risk management decisions.

To fulfil its mission, EFSA works closely with partners and stakeholders across Europe and around the world by sharing scientific expertise, data and knowledge.



Its partners include EU Member States (national authorities, food safety agencies), EU institutions and bodies (European Commission, European Parliament, EU agencies), scientific organisations (ministries, public research institutes, universities), civil society stakeholders (consumer associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry organisations, media), international partners (international organisations, European neighbourhood, third countries).



II. Bodies and channels of cooperation

EFSA's cooperation with the Member States takes place through several channels, including the existence of:

- an *Advisory Forum* whose tasks are defined in Article 27 of the EFSA founding Regulation (EC) No 178/2002
- a network of national *focal points*
- scientific networks supporting the EFSA units
- a list of competent organisations under Article 36 of its founding Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, which may assist it in its tasks
- a stakeholder forum

Cooperation can therefore be achieved:

- as a **national representative** (representative in the EFSA Advisory Forum, focal point, representatives in the scientific networks and Communication network)
- in an **institutional** capacity (cooperation with competent organisations under Article 36 of the EFSA founding Regulation, stakeholders)
- **individually** (participation in panels, working groups)

For further information on cooperation with EFSA: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/about/partnersnetworks>

It should be noted that this document does not cover national cooperation channels with EFSA for which there is a specific European regulatory framework involving the Member States and EFSA, with a specific role and contributions for each, such as, for example, when evaluating active substances and plant protection products or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

1. National representation

a. The EFSA Advisory Forum

The EFSA Advisory Forum is the link between EFSA and national food safety authorities in the 27 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. It is chaired by the EFSA Executive Director. The members of this forum respectively represent the national bodies responsible for risk assessment in the Member States. Switzerland and the candidate countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Republic of Macedonia, Albania) also participate as observers.

The Advisory Forum advises the Executive Director in the exercise of his responsibilities under the founding Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 (article 27), in particular with a view to preparing a proposal for the EFSA work programme. The Executive Director may also request the opinion of the Forum on the prioritisation of requests for scientific advice.

The Advisory Forum is a mechanism for the exchange of information on potential risks and the sharing of knowledge. It ensures that close cooperation is maintained between EFSA and the competent

authorities of the Member States. The Forum meets four times a year. The meetings are chaired by EFSA and also include observers from Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the EU candidate countries, as well as the European Commission.

ANSES is the French representative in the Advisory Forum.

In September 2016, the members of EFSA's Advisory Forum signed a Declaration of Commitment, following on from the Declaration of Intent signed in 2006, reaffirming their support for EFSA and its work.

In February 2018, in a joint statement with EFSA, the Advisory Forum called for more public investment in food safety research. This statement was published on the eve of the first Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) organised by EFSA in Utrecht (the Netherlands), aiming at stimulating new partnerships in food safety research to protect public health and highlighting the importance of public funding.

In July 2019, a declaration of intent on independence was endorsed by the members of the Advisory Forum. With this Declaration, the AF Members take note of the overarching principles supporting the impartiality of food risk assessment (independence, transparency, accountability, compliance) and engage in a common effort aimed at ensuring that their respective scientific evaluation systems comply with these principles.

Visit EFSA's partners and networks page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers>



73rd meeting of the Advisory Forum, Helsinki, 18-19 September 2019

b. The network of national focal points

EFSA has a *National Focal Point* (FP) in each Member State, most often placed within the National Risk Assessment Agency. The focal points act as an interface between EFSA and national food safety authorities, research institutes and other stakeholders. They support the members of the Advisory Forum in the implementation of joint projects between the Member States and EFSA.

EFSA regularly exchanges information with the focal points and from 2021 normally meets with them three times a year. The meetings are chaired by EFSA and also include observers from Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the EU candidate countries. Other exchanges take place outside these meetings, in particular *via* monthly checkpoints.

Created in 2008, the main mission of the focal points is to be EFSA's interlocutor for the implementation of its scientific cooperation policy on the assessment of food-related health risks. The focal points aim to improve scientific cooperation and networking activities between and among Member States, and with EFSA by:

- Assisting in the exchange of scientific information and experts, in particular through the development of a tool called "multilateral requests", allowing the dissemination of specific technical issues from the national focal point of a Member State to counterparts in other Member States.
- Providing advice on cooperation activities and scientific projects, in particular within the framework of the European Risk Assessment Agenda (EURAA).
- Promoting training in risk assessment.
- Raising EFSA's scientific visibility and outreach in Member States.

This is achieved in several ways, notably:

- Participation in the focal point meetings organised by EFSA.
- Support for the ANSES representative in the EFSA Advisory Forum (AF).
- Analysis and dissemination of calls for tenders and proposals, public consultations and calls for data from EFSA.
- Analysis and dissemination of information, from EFSA or other national focal points, on training opportunities, international cooperation and information on symposia within EFSA's remit.
- Dissemination of "multilateral requests" to the network of national focal points.

In France, ANSES is the French national focal point for EFSA.

Visit EFSA's partners and networks page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers>



35th EFSA Focal Points meeting, Oslo (Norway), 18-19 April 2018

c. Networks supporting EFSA units

EFSA coordinates several networks of designated national organisations at Member State level (via the member of the Advisory Forum) with expertise in specific scientific fields (see table below). The networks are chaired by EFSA and assisted by the relevant units within EFSA. Representatives of the European Commission and other organisations, including those outside the EU, with specific expertise may be invited to join an EFSA network.



Networks facilitate scientific cooperation by coordinating activities, exchanging information, developing and implementing joint projects and exchanging expertise and best practices. EFSA also organises subgroups from the networks to work on specific scientific issues in collaboration with the Member States.

To date (January 2021), the following scientific networks have been set up in the following areas:

Domain	Title of network	French representative organisation
Animal health and Welfare	Animal Health and Welfare Risk Assessment (AHAW)	ANSES
Biological hazards	Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	ANSES
	BSE/TSE	ANSES
Cross-cutting issues	Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN)	ANSES
	Risk Assessment of nanotechnologies in food and feed (NANO)	ANSES
Food ingredients and packaging	Subgroup on Materials in Contact with Food (FCM)	ANSES
GMOs	GMO Risk Assessment (GMO)	Food and feed: ANSES
		Environment: Higher Council for Biotechnology (HCB)
Plant health	Plant Health Risk Assessment(PLH)	ANSES
Pesticides	Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)	ANSES
Data	Zoonosis monitoring data	ANSES
	- <u>Antimicrobial resistance</u> specific subgroup	- ANSES
	- Specific subgroup on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)	- ANSES
	- <u>Food Borne Outbreaks</u> subgroup	- Santé publique France
	Food consumption data	ANSES
	Chemical monitoring Data collection	Directorate for food of the French Agriculture ministry (DGAL) / Joint Laboratory Service (SCL) of the Ministry of Finance and Public Accounts and the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs / ANSES
Nutrition	Novel foods network (Novel Foods)	ANSES
Communication	Network of communication experts (CEN)	ANSES

Visit the EFSA Scientific Working Groups and Networks page:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/wgs-and-networks>

Communications Expert Network



A "communication" network has been created, which allows the communication services of the national food safety agencies and EFSA to work together to share best practices in communicating risks associated with the food chain and promote consistency of messages across the EU.

The network plays a particularly important role in food-related emergencies, coordinating the exchange of information between Member States with a view to harmonising messages for consumers and affected persons.

In particular, this group is regularly informed of EFSA's planned schedule of publications and/or communications. ANSES is the French representative in the communications network.

2. Institutional representation

a. Cooperation with scientific bodies under Article 36 of the EFSA founding Regulation

Currently, more than 300 universities, institutes, government, public and other scientific bodies form a network of national organisations active in the fields covered by EFSA's mission. Article 36 of the EFSA founding Regulation describes the networking of scientific organisations in the Member States. This is why they are called "Article 36 organisations".



Networking activities promote links between these organisations through the coordination of joint activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint scientific projects. They also strengthen the sharing of expertise and best practices in these scientific fields.

These organisations carry out various tasks on behalf of EFSA, in particular some preparatory work for scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, data collection and the identification of emerging risks. Some of these tasks may be supported financially (grants).

The organisations included in the list of competent organisations are proposed to the EFSA Management Board by the Member States, with the support of the focal points. As organisations evolve and needs may change in response to observed scientific or regulatory developments, this list is updated regularly.

To date (January 2021), 16 competent organisations are designated for France. ANSES, as the focal point, maintains the dynamics of this network by sending information relating to EFSA (dissemination of calls and consultations, various information), by organising an annual art36 network meeting, and participates in the updating of this list.

- French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)
- French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
- French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)
- French National research institute for agriculture, food and environment (INRAE)
- French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer)
- High Council for Biotechnology (HCB)
- Institute of Higher Education and Research in Food, Animal Health, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (VetAgro Sup)
- Joint Service of the Laboratories of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry (DGCCRF and DGDDI) (SCL)
- National Veterinary School of Alfort (ENVA)
- National School of Veterinary Medicine, Food and Agriculture, Nantes-Atlantique (ONIRIS)
- National Veterinary School of Toulouse (ENVT)
- Pasteur Institute of Lille
- University of Burgundy (uB)
- University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA)
- University of Rouen Normandy
- University of Western Brittany (UBO)

EFSA initiated a comprehensive review of the list of relevant organisations in 2019.

The organisations eligible for inclusion in the list must meet the eligibility criteria laid down in Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004¹:

- Criterion 1: The organisation must carry out scientific and technical support tasks in the fields within the scope of EFSA's mission.
- Criterion 2: The organisation must be a legal entity pursuing general interest objectives.
- Criterion 3: The organisation must possess a high level of scientific or technical expertise in one or more areas relevant to EFSA's mission.
- Criterion 4: The organisation must have the capacity to operate in a network on scientific actions such as those referred to in Article 3 of this Regulation, and/or the capacity to effectively carry out the types of tasks mentioned in Article 4 of this Regulation which may be entrusted to them by EFSA.

If your organisation is interested, contact the national focal point: pointfocal@anses.fr

Visit the dedicated page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/scorg>

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 as regards the network of organisations operating in the fields within the mission of the European Food Safety Authority

b. Involvement of stakeholders²

For EFSA, stakeholder participation is crucial for its work and reflects the importance it attaches to openness, transparency and dialogue.

EFSA stakeholders are representative organisations with an interest in the work of EFSA or in the wider food and feed sector. EFSA divides stakeholders into seven major groups:



- Consumer organisations
- NGOs and advocacy groups
- Business and food industry
- Distributors and HORECA (hotels, restaurants and cafés)
- Practitioners' associations
- Academia
- Farmers and primary producers

How can stakeholders cooperate with EFSA?

EFSA has reviewed the modalities for stakeholder participation. EFSA's approach to stakeholder involvement is based on a continuous registration process, open to all stakeholders with an interest in its work. Registered stakeholders will be able to cooperate with EFSA through a combination of permanent or *ad hoc* platforms, depending on their interests and skills. Two permanent bodies have been created:

The Stakeholder Forum: members of the Stakeholder Forum provide strategic input to EFSA's work plans and future priorities on an annual basis. The themes and topics of each annual forum are suggested by the registered stakeholders and according to the priority areas identified by EFSA.

The Stakeholder Bureau: the Stakeholder Bureau advises EFSA on the involvement and dialogue with stakeholders on civil society concerns related to health, environment, food production and other issues within EFSA's remit. The Bureau also contributes to the development of the agenda of the Stakeholder Forum. It is composed of seven representatives, one selected from each of the stakeholder groups listed above. Representatives are proposed by the stakeholders themselves, to act in the interest of the category they represent.

In addition to these two permanent bodies, EFSA has a number a number of targeted platforms through which it engages with stakeholders on specific technical issues.

Visit the dedicated page: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/stakeholder>

² Information from the EFSA website

3. Individual "*intuitu personae*" cooperation through participation in the EFSA Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

EFSA's *Scientific Committee* and *Panels* are composed of independent scientific experts with a three-year mandate. The experts are appointed following an open and transparent selection procedure, on the basis of their proven scientific experience and independence.

The Scientific Committee develops harmonised risk assessment methodologies on scientific matters of a horizontal nature within EFSA's remit where EU-wide approaches are not already defined. It also provides general coordination to ensure consistency in the scientific opinions prepared by EFSA's Scientific Panels. It also provides scientific strategy advice to EFSA's management.

EFSA's ten scientific panels carry out scientific assessments and develop related assessment methodologies. They cover the following areas:



- Animal Health and Welfare;
- Biological Hazards;
- Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, and Processing Aids;
- Contaminants in the Food Chain;
- Food Additives and Flavourings;
- Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed;
- Genetically Modified Organisms;
- Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens;
- Plant Health;
- Plant Protection Products and their Residues.

If necessary, EFSA may set up working groups dependent on these scientific panels or on its Scientific Committee. Working groups composed of EFSA scientists and external experts with the required expertise carry out the preparatory work for the assessments.

In 2021, about twenty French scientists are members of EFSA Panels and about twenty French people are involved in working groups.

Visit the dedicated page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels>

III. Cooperation tools

1. Calls and consultations

EFSA regularly publishes calls for tenders, calls for proposals (grants), calls for data and public consultations on various scientific issues within its remit, whose results can be integrated into EFSA's work and products, such as scientific opinions and guidance documents. Different types of calls and consultations are used by EFSA, the first two (calls for proposals and calls for tenders) are funded by EFSA. The table below summarises the characteristics of these two funded calls:

	<i>Calls for proposals (CFP) = grants</i>	<i>Calls for tender (CFT) = procurements</i>
Purpose	Encouragement of actions recognised as useful by EFSA, but which fall mainly within the scope of the beneficiary's activities	Purchasing of products or services that EFSA needs for its own activities
Most frequent use	Collaborative projects in the general field of risk assessment, data collection	Support for the assessment of authorisation dossiers (more targeted scope), data collection
Legislative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 - Financial rules of Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 and its implementing rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directive 2004/18/CE - financial rules arising from this directive
Initiative and control	The request for funding comes from the beneficiary, who submits a proposal to EFSA to support the activities it carries out or plans to carry out in response to EFSA's call for proposals. The proposal sets out the specifications (the specifications) for the action to be carried out within the framework set in advance by EFSA	The initiative and control is entirely based on EFSA: it is EFSA that places the initial order for a product or service and produces the detailed specifications. The successful bidder must comply with these specifications (the specifications)
Ownership	As a general rule, the beneficiary of the grant is the owner	Since the product or service has been purchased and paid for by EFSA, it generally belongs to EFSA in its entirety
Financial contribution	The grant cannot usually be used to fund the total costs of the action, except in duly justified exceptional cases involving external actions	EFSA usually pays 100% of the fixed price
Mutual obligations Supervision Profits	The conditions are attached to obtaining the grant, but there is no specific direct link between individual obligations on each side (EFSA and the beneficiary). EFSA has the right to monitor the technical implementation of the action and the use made of the funds allocated.	The contract is bilateral: it imposes reciprocal obligations on EFSA and the economic operator, with the operator providing EFSA with a product or service that it has ordered. EFSA shall control the supply of the product or service it has ordered
Profits	The grant must not have the purpose or effect of producing a benefit for the contractor	EFSA pays the economic operator. The operator's remuneration includes a profit component
Procedures	Grant applications are received in response to a call for proposals	Bids are received under open, restricted or negotiated procedures (depending on the amount allocated)
Who can respond	Only the competent organisations designated by the Member States in accordance with Article 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anyone, if it is an open procedure - Targeted organisations or people, if it is a restricted or negotiated procedure
Legal form	Agreement	Contract

An indicative regularly updated list of forthcoming calls funded by EFSA is available on the EFSA website via the link:

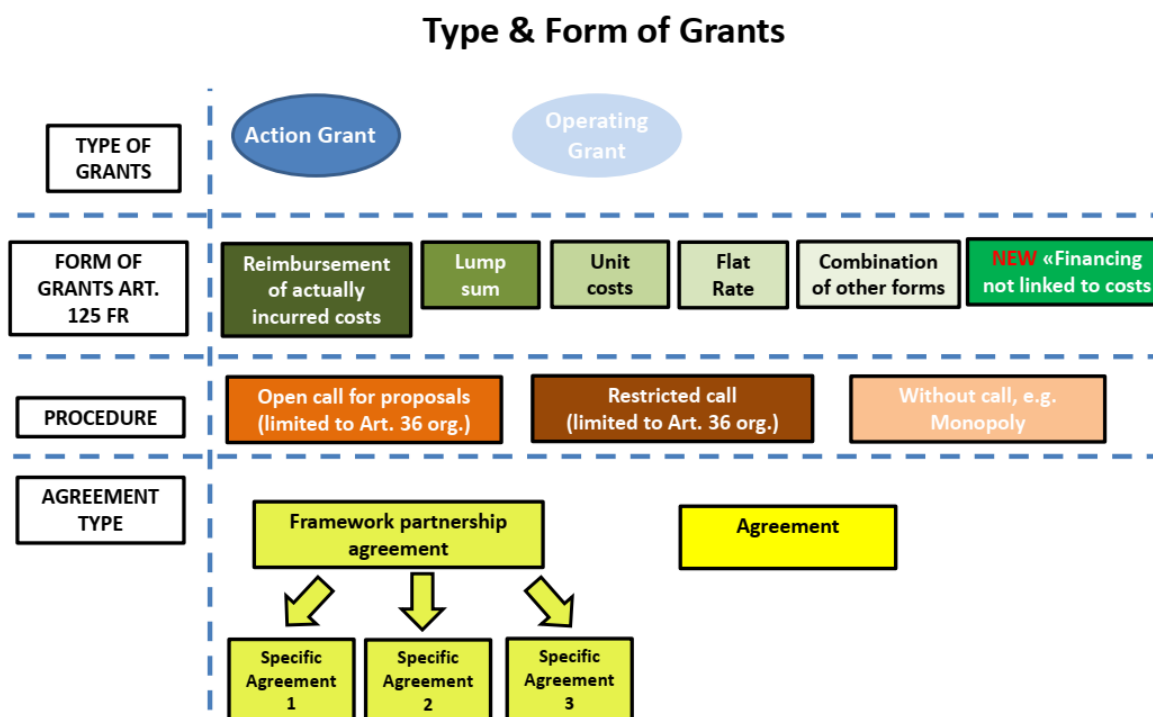
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/engage/Procurement/forthcominglist.xlsx> .

a. Calls for proposals

EFSA regularly awards grants for projects and activities that contribute to its mission in the following areas:

- data collection,
- preparatory work for scientific opinions, and
- other types of technical and scientific assistance.

The types and forms of grants are illustrated in this diagram:









Only the competent organisations under Article 36, designated by the Member States, may respond to calls for proposals: grants pursuant to Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

The variety of grants is illustrated by the following figure:





Yes, we grant!

Are you working at one of the Article 36 organisations? EFSA awards grants to competent organisations designated by Member States. Check out the available grants listed below.

EFSA's main grant types

Specific grants		Provide EFSA with access to specific expertise in competent Member States organisations. Example Genotoxicity studies to refine risk assessment.	Implementing distinct projects
Tasking grants		Allow direct scientific and technical support from Member States organisations. Example Support in assessing large volumes of pesticide dossiers.	Receiving direct support
Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA)		Establish long-term partnerships with organisations for recurring scientific and technical support or novel project. Example Risk characterisation of ciguatoxin poisoning by 14 organisations from 6 Member States and EFSA.	Creating long-term partnerships
Thematic grants		Enable innovative scientific cooperation between Member States organisations by creating consortia. Example Develop new methodologies for the identification of emerging risks.	Encouraging innovation
Fellowship grants		Allow future risk assessment experts to train at hosting sites in different Member States. Example Train a fellow in the risk assessment of mycotoxins at a Member State organisation.	Building expertise
Partnering grants		Support capacity building of Member States organisations in certain risk assessment areas. Example A highly experienced organisation shares best practices in data collection.	Exchanging knowledge


Grant principles

 co-financing	 non-cumulative	 non-profit	 non-retroactive
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Information:

- Contact your national EFSA Focal Point to get more information
- Focal Points are the interfaces between EFSA and relevant national organisations

More information about competent organisations is available on EFSA's website, at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetwork/scorg>


 EFSA logo and contact information: ISBN 978-92-9199-065-8 | doi:10.2805/19171 | TM-01-17-01-EN-0
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 Photo: iStockphoto.com

This content is for illustrative only. Any grant awarded is subject to the terms and conditions laid down in the respective call for proposal and grant agreement.

Calls for proposals: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/art36grants>

b. Calls for tenders

EFSA purchases the services and supplies necessary for its operation through public procurement calls, in accordance with EU legislation, and in accordance with fundamental principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination, widest competition, proportionality and sound financial management.

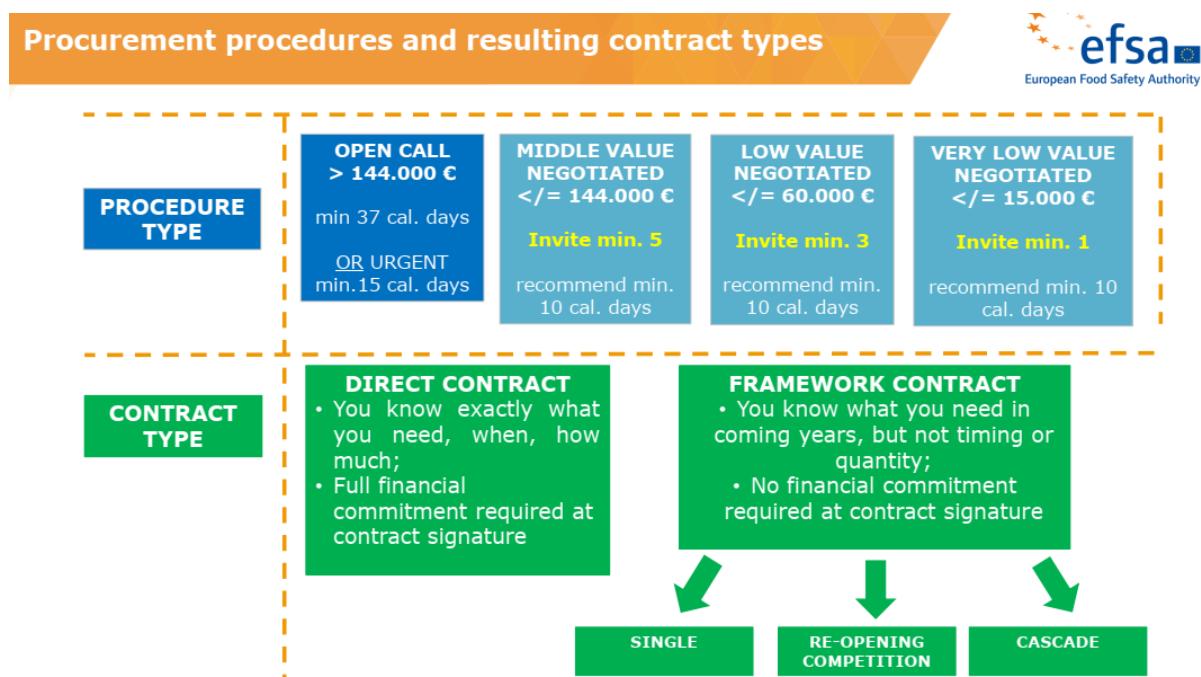
This makes it possible to identify the applicable tender procedure, i.e. open, restricted or negotiated. The procedure to be followed depends on the estimated allocated budget. Any contract awarded by EFSA is done so subsequent to a strict tendering procedure. The rules governing EFSA's procurement system are based on a wide range of provisions in the European Union legislation.

Calls for tenders exceeding €139,000 are published on the following systems:

- the electronic platform for public tenders: <https://ted.europa.eu>
- the EFSA website (following the publication in the electronic database of public procurement notices (TED))
- the supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union

Calls for tenders from €15,000 to €139,000 are advertised in advance of their launch on the EFSA website.

The types of procurement procedures and resulting contracts are illustrated in this diagram:



Calls for tenders: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/procurement>

c. Calls for data

The availability of reliable data is crucial for EFSA's scientific assessments. EFSA regularly publishes calls for data on scientific topics specific to its mission to collect data from Member States, the European Commission, research institutes and industry.

Calls for data: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/data>

d. Public consultations

EFSA regularly publishes calls for public consultations on scientific subjects specific to its remit and thus offers the opportunity to share ideas, submit data or otherwise contribute to the preparation phase of EFSA's scientific assessments or institutional initiatives.

EFSA regularly consults the scientific community and other stakeholders on guidance and scientific outputs of significant public interest. Where appropriate, EFSA incorporates the new information collected in the final output and always provides feedback on the contributions received during the public consultations.

Consultations: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/consultations>

2. Research

EFSA has set up a research platform on its website which is the home of the wider food safety research community. It aims to support project ideas, promote consortia formation, and help scientists find opportunities for public research funding in food safety.



The Platform has been created in response to a call for coordination in the area of food safety research at EFSA's first Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA), where participants called on EFSA to be a knowledge-broker between scientists and policy makers.

The platform offers access to the following tools:

- Funding programmes: a selection of current funding opportunities that are most relevant to food safety.
- Upcoming calls: announced calls in EFSA's remit that are selected to allow researchers to monitor upcoming opportunities.
- Partner search: there are useful websites to help scientists find partners or express their interest to participate in consortia. In addition, EFSA has a large network of competent organisations and researchers they work with. The role of national EFSA Focal Point in this context is explained.
- Research projects and ideas: links and contacts are provided to find information on current research projects or to share research ideas.

Research platform: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/research-platform>

3. Conferences and training courses

a. Conferences

EFSA also organises and participates in many events on scientific issues relevant to its remit. These include workshops, conferences and round tables. These events allow EFSA to inform its partners and interested stakeholders about developments related to scientific issues within its remit, but also to gather comments, information and various points of view on ongoing work.

In particular, since 2004, EFSA has organised at least one symposium each year to deepen the understanding of fundamental scientific issues related to the assessment of risks associated with food and feed safety. Symposia provide many opportunities for exchanging views.

After each symposium, EFSA publishes a report on the deliberations and main conclusions of the symposium.



For more information: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/advanced-search>



Since 2012, EFSA has been organising a major conference on a dedicated theme every 3 years or so. EFSA's 3rd conference "Science, Food, Society", which took place from 18 to 21 September 2018, focused on the theme "Contextualising food safety risk assessment".

More than 1100 participants from all over the world attended the conference and the live broadcast was followed by 800 other people.

Link to the special issue of the EFSA Journal: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/18314732/2019/17/S1>

Documents (programme, video recordings, abstract book, presentations and communication materials): <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180918>

The next EFSA conference "ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference 2022" will be held in June 2022, shaped in partnership with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

b. Training courses

EU-FORA

In 2016, EFSA launched a fellowship programme entitled "EU-FORA" for "*EUropean FOod Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme*", a fellowship programme in food risk assessment, whose first cohort was set up in 2017-2018.

This programme aims to provide an opportunity for early/mid-career scientists from EU national risk assessment authorities and other bodies on the list of competent organisations within EFSA's remit to improve their knowledge and experience in food safety risk assessment.

It operates on the principle of "*learning-by-doing*". Fellows are placed for 12 months in a European organisation involved in food safety risk assessment in a country other than their home country. They must be integrated in the organisation and participate in its work, gain first-hand experience and increase their knowledge of scientific aspects relevant to food safety risk assessment.

EFSA launches specific annual calls to select hosting sites and fellows.

For more information on this program: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/fellowship>



2018-2019 alumni of the EU-FORA programme, Parma (Italy), September 2018.

Training courses open to experts from expert committees and representatives in scientific networks

EFSA organises risk assessment training courses open to experts from expert groups (*Panels*, working groups) and scientific representatives in the EFSA networks.

BTSF training courses



The **Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF)** programme, a European Commission training initiative, provides training on European food and feed law, animal health and welfare and plant health rules.

It is implemented, since 2009, by the *Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency* (Chafea). These training courses are organised on the initiative of the European Commission for experts working for the competent authorities. EFSA is naturally involved in food safety risk analysis training both in programme development and as trainers for part of the programmes. In order to be able to identify the experts concerned and to have an optimal participation per Member State, EFSA requests the collaboration of the Focal Points.

For more information on these training opportunities:

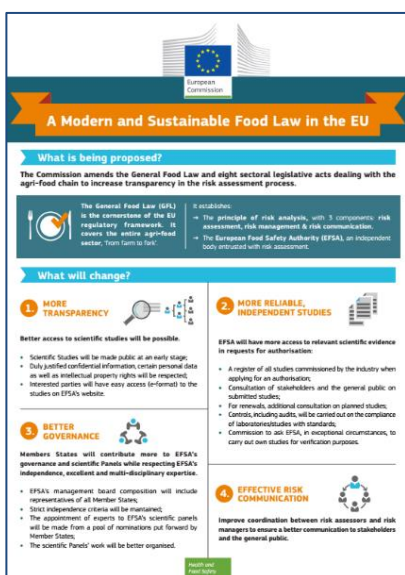
http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf/index_en.htm

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/food/index.html>

IV. Useful links

1. Founding regulation

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishes the European Food Safety Authority and lays down procedures in matters of food safety. The full text of the Regulation is available at the following address: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R0178>



Important changes will soon be implemented under the new legislation on transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain following the revision of the General Food Law (Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 Applicable on 27 March 2021 after its publication in the Official Journal on 6 September 2019), which impacts different aspects of EFSA's activities.

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/general_food_law/transparency-and-sustainability-eu-risk-assessment-food-chain_en

2. EFSA publications, EFSA JOURNAL, EFSA HIGHLIGHTS, and Knowledge Junction platform

EFSA publishes all its scientific outputs, including its scientific opinions, in **the EFSA Journal**, a scientific journal which brings together all EFSA scientific documents (opinions, guidelines, declarations, conclusions, scientific reports, etc.).

For its publication, EFSA signed a partnership with John Wiley & Sons. This journal is available on the publisher's online platform: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/18314732> with access to the archives from 2003.



EFSA also publishes a range of **supporting publications**, as well as **institutional publications**.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/publications>

EFSA publishes various **newsletters** on its website and for which an online subscription is available to receive them by e-mail, including *EFSA highlights* which is a short weekly newsletter dealing with news on the EFSA website, sent to subscribers in the middle of each week.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters>

The **Knowledge Junction platform** is an open repository organised by EFSA and created to improve the transparency, reproducibility and reuse of evidence used in food and feed safety risk assessments.

<https://zenodo.org/communities/efsa-kj/?page=1&size=20>

3. Email alerts

Alerts are updates sent by e-mail on the most recent information about EFSA's work, based on your selection. These alerts are useful in particular to be informed of calls for tenders, public consultations...

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/alerts>