

47th Focal Point Network meeting
Virtual meeting, 29-30 September 2021

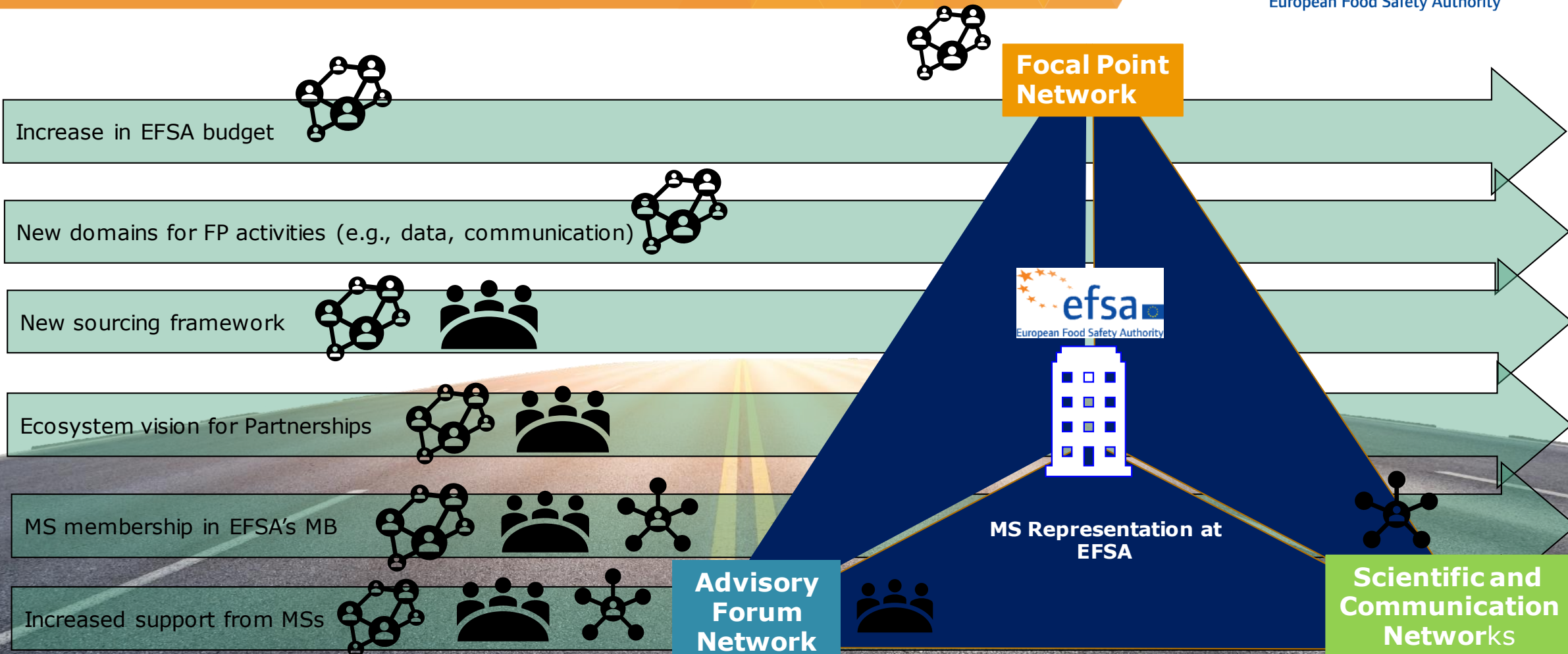
Focal Point Network Review

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Trusted science for safe food

FP Network Review - Drivers

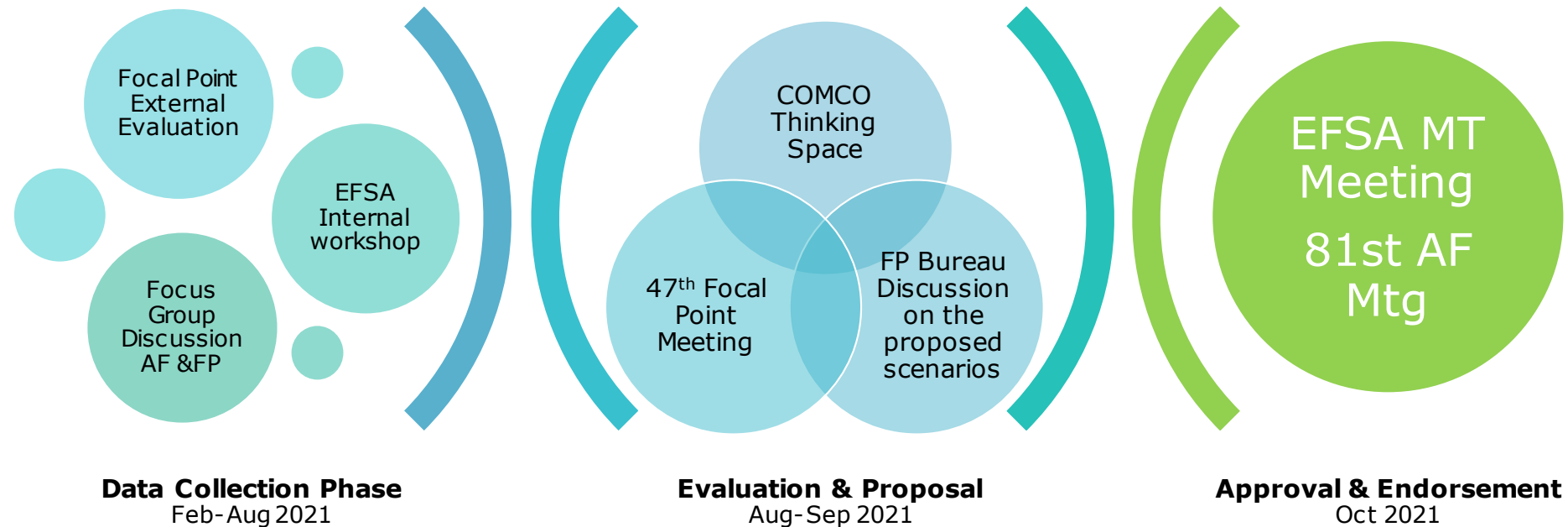
DRIVERS FOR CHANGE



TR: Transparency, Sustainability and Communication pillars

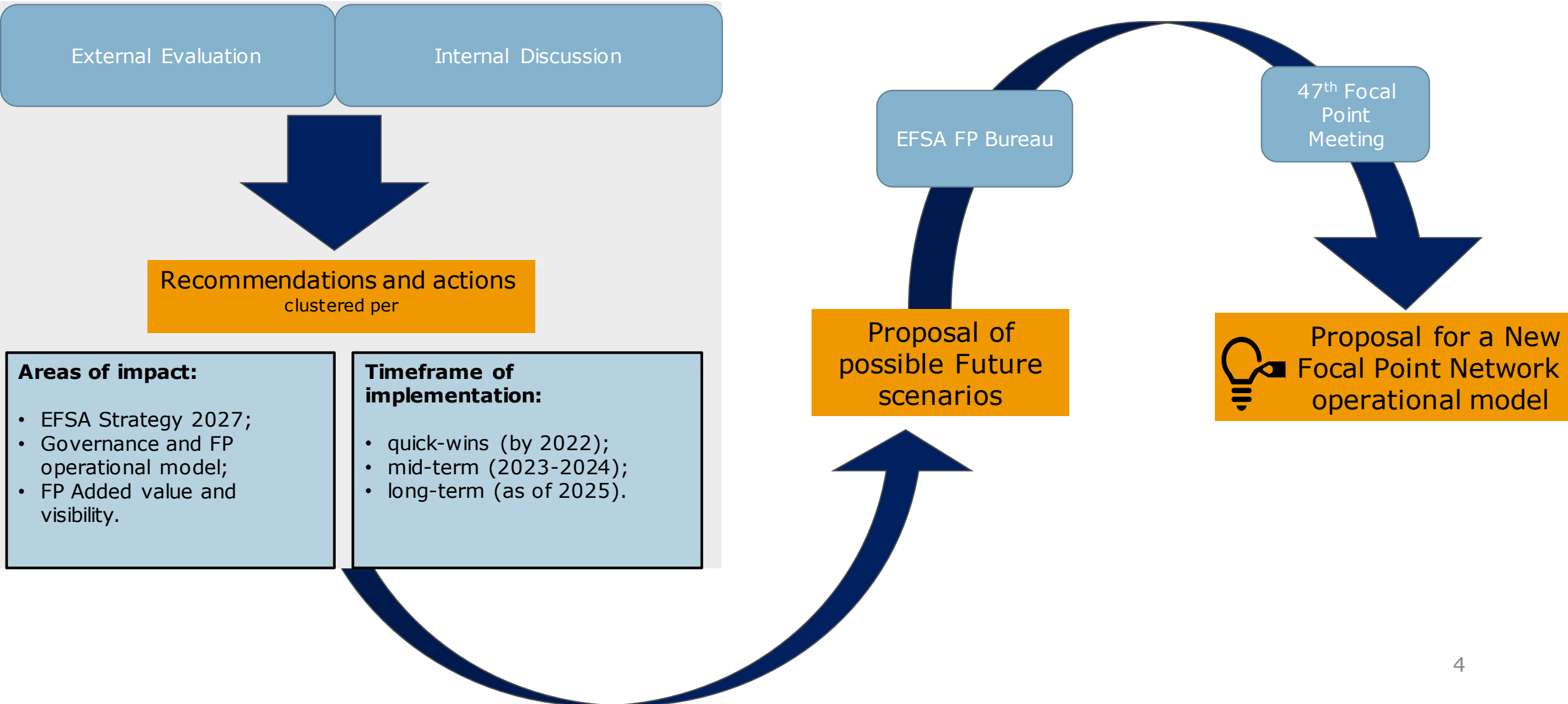
Strategy 2022 -2027: trust, preparedness, engagement (SOs)

Main steps of the FP review



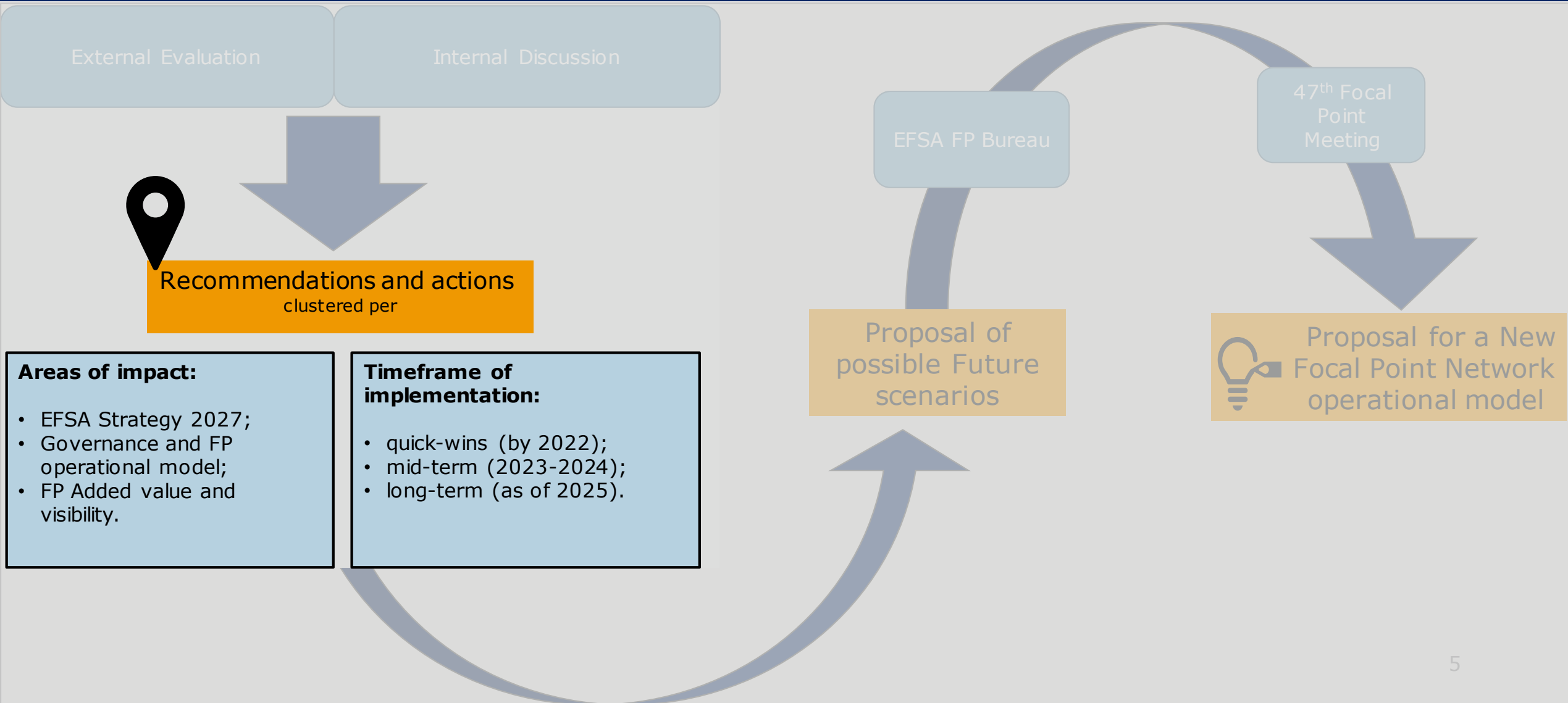
A journey toward a new FP operational model

Review Process



A journey toward a new FP operational model

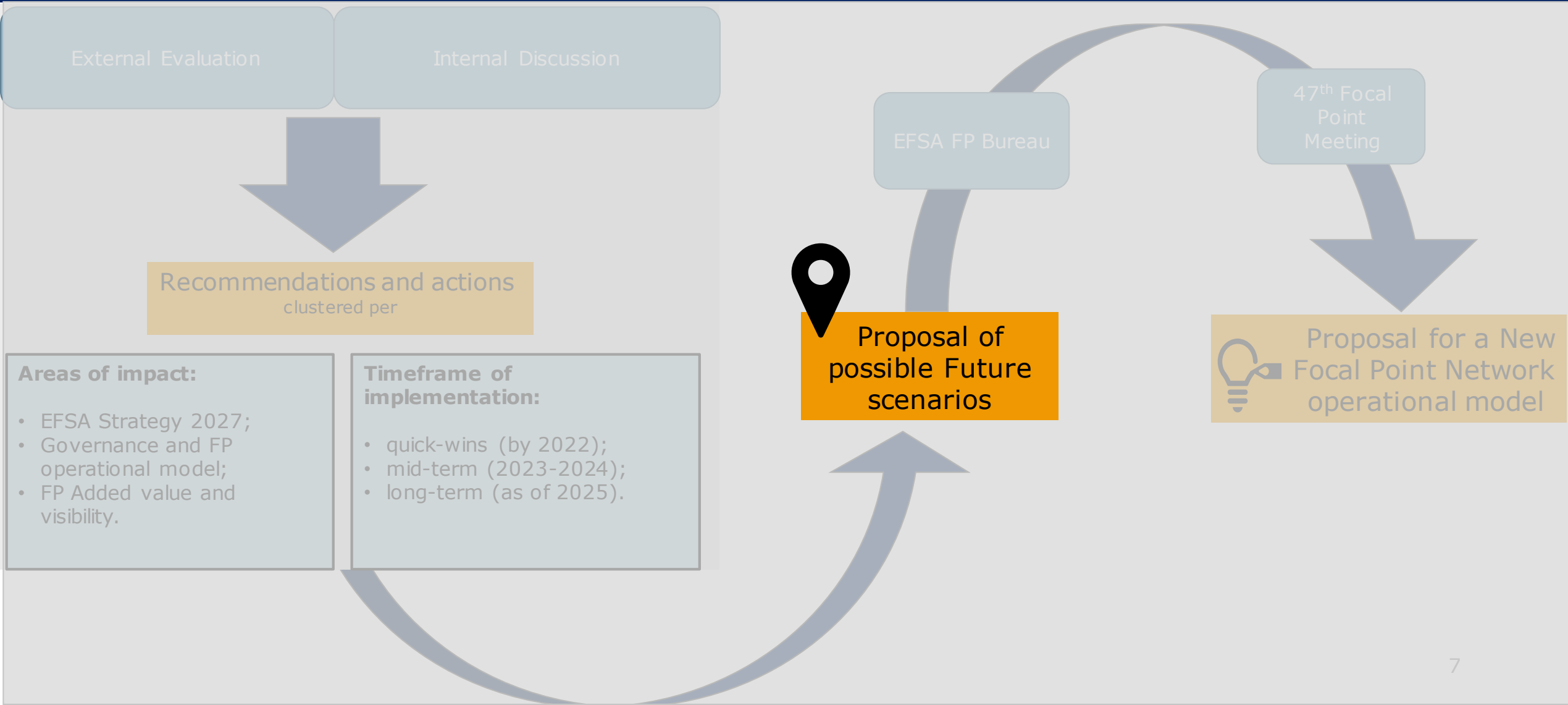
Review Process



1) EFSA STRATEGY 2027	R1	Enhancing the role of the FPs as "orchestrators of information and stakeholders" through the use of digital platforms for implementing the FPs activities at national level and beyond
	R2	Increase cooperation with FPs networks of other organizations (e.g. ECHA, EMA, ECDC etc.) working under "One Health" approach
	R3	Accentuate FPs as key actors in the capacity building and partnership initiatives
2) GOVERNANCE & FP OPERATIONAL MODEL	R4	Revision the operational model of FP Network
	R5	Increase combined (EFSA-MS) support to FPs in achieving planned activities
	R6	FPs to perform self-assessment to create basis for tailor-made support
	R7	MS to ensure a function of the FP rather than having a single person working on the FP activities
3) ADDED VALUE	R8	Strengthen the status of FPs within their countries (legally or otherwise)
	R9	Organize the awareness-raising on the FPs within EFSA.
	R10	Further integrations of EFSA Units (closely working with the FP Network) with the future FPs operation and activities

A journey toward a new FP operational model

Review Process



Scenario 0

Status quo - No changes in the legal framework (keeping the current model) with the introduction of 5 Working Packages (WP) addressing quick wins.

Scenario 1

Changes in the legal framework which will allow the implementation of tailor-made contracts with FP core tasks and introduction of clustered activities giving the possibility to a group of MSs to work on the same domain(s) during one agreement cycle.

Scenario 2

Change in the legal framework: individual contracts with specific tasks per country.

Next steps

Approval from
EFSA Management Team
of the new FP Network
operational model (22nd of
October)


Endorsement of new FP
operational model by the
Advisory Forum during
AF plenary meeting (27-28
October 2021);

Gradual implementation
of new FP operational
model (starting from 2022
and full implementation as
of 2023)

Main objective

The exercise aims at collecting **MSs' input** on activities which could be potentially envisaged under different working packages during 2022, addressing the recommendations of the review process.

5 Working Groups

-  WG1 - Data
-  WG2 - Ecosystems & Digital Platforms
-  WG3 - Crisis Preparedness
-  WG4- Partnership brokers
-  WG5 -Risk communication and cooperation with the CEN



Working group 1

Moderator	Adrián César Razquin
Title	Data
Driver for discussion	Which MS's needs are to be addressed to facilitate FPs' active support to data collection activities?
Participants	Romania; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Netherlands; Turkey; Malta; France (JR)

- What is the role of FP dealing with data? Problem with data ownership. FP not to interfere with data networks. Clear definition of role needed.
- Clearly defined activities - activities based on MSs needs, not just top-down
- Check point meetings/events at national level together with data providers to address issues related to data reporting. FPs as linking pin between EFSA and national data providers.
- How to cooperate with data owners? Raise awareness of FP and their role in data tasks, avoiding duplication of activities with data networks.
- Knowledge exchange regarding data reporting - to rise awareness on reported data and EFSA outputs. EFSA sharing all data that are reported to EFSA. FP link between EFSA and national organisations about data published by EFSA. Transparency.
- **FPs coordinate work on solving bottlenecks – bringing together experts and managing workshops, trainings and exchange of best practices.**

Working group 2

Moderator	Eileen O'Dea
Title	Ecosystems & Digital Platforms
Driver for discussion	How can FPs become "orchestrators" in a digital ecosystem? How to constitute a clear and central role for the Focal Points within the digital ecosystem?
Participants	Germany (KU); Ireland; Latvia; Serbia; Austria; Estonia; Switzerland

- Data is a core element
- FPs as "double" orchestrators – it is much more than data, important but difficult is the coordination work among the different institutions involved in the collection of data
- Key role for FP is to bring people together and facilitate, FP does not have to have the knowledge himself
- Everybody needs to contribute under a OneHealth Perspective, sometimes there are difficulties with the Network representatives
- Databases for RA community should have broader access in order to be more participative and enable interaction of the whole RA community
- FP disseminate information but would need feedback from their peers, as orchestrators two-way communication would be essential, automated and targeted information could support
- Co-editing: Problem is the overload of experts, often engaged in national RA, it would be helpful to have an overview on experts working with EFSA
- Translation of scientific work, especially into RM decisions, is a national challenge
- If there is no law for data collection, then national resources are not allocated
- No duplication of platforms – we should have European platforms, easy to use for everyone

Working group 3

Moderator	Georgia Gkrintzali
Title	Crisis Preparedness
Driver for discussion	How to enhance the FPs response and management to crises?
Participants	Portugal; Sweden; Montenegro; Kosovo; Italy

How to enhance the FP activities / participation in crises preparedness, response and management to crisis?

- Important to clearly define the role of the FPs, which kind of information FPs can provide **uniquely**, otherwise there is the risk of including an additional step in the crisis response.
- FPs to act as facilitator in the crisis response and preparedness;
- There is already a streamlined procedure set at national level in most of the countries and this should be taken into consideration;
- Importance of clarifying the national context of crisis response to clarify the role of FPs in the system
- In crisis situation we must be aware of the flow of information/actions, FPs might be able to support/supply EFSA with info in framework of Rapid Risk Assessment, being connected with CEN Members – important to be on the flow of the crisis response management
- Harmonized procedures as well as messages during the crisis: the unique network of national experts can be "solicited" with specific questions

Do you believe that in the case of a food/feed crisis FP members will be able to efficient react if needed?

- FPs could support Preparedness, supporting trainings, capacity building, expanding the network of experts, at national level
- Barriers identified:
 - Confidentiality of the sent information could prevent a lean flow of communication
 - Risk of overlapping if the role & tasks of the FPs are not clarified at national level
 - Different roles of the FPs set at national level could imply different tasks they can perform in crisis response

Working group 4

Moderator	Rory Harrington
Title	Risk communication and cooperation with the CEN
Driver for discussion	How to strengthen FPs' risk communication coordination and cooperation between the FPs and the CEN?
Participants	Finland; Lithuania; Slovakia; Greece; Czechia; Hungary; Poland; Luxembourg

- Long term coordination plan for the CEN-FP comms activities can help the planning (CEN members can share 6-months forward planner about future outputs/ comms activities);
- Creation of the joint CEN-FP plans by group of MSs in lead (addressing the EFSA's SC opinions, campaigns, etc.) supported by the FP budget;
- National partners should do more - where possible in organisational terms - to coordinate better. Best practice in some MS could be shared on how to do this effectively (i.e. through the WG)?
- FP/CEN members should inform EFSA/other FP/CEN members about national communications plans (e.g. create a regular practice of sharing of the information via TEAMS, etc.);
- FP / CEN can work together to support on use of tools, e.g. social media channels, multimedia formats;
- FP to follow regularly the CEN meetings / Joint CEN/FP meetings
- Optimising risk comm coordination mechanisms – Establish optimal national pathways using RC coordination/cooperation Mapping Report framework as a guide.

Working group 5

Moderator	Gorgias Garofalakis
Title	Building and making use of Partnerships
Driver for discussion	Redefining the FP role in partnering: From information dissemination to Partnership building and knowledge management
Participants	Cyprus; Spain; Slovenia; Albania; Norway; France; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Germany (ML)

Consortium building and partnering

New activities

- Be able to provide support to the teams interested in applying
- Training/ support on the administrative procedures of participation.
- EURAA activities could feed into future calls (provided alignment with future needs), advise coordination of activities across MS

Spotting the needed expertise

New activities

- Create contacts beyond the art.36 group
- Liaise with orgs that have information on e.g., research activities, researcher profiles, etc.
- Identify experts looking at activities beyond EFSA's activities = FP to be aware of relevant developments (e.g., in research projects, conferences, etc.)

Knowledge management across the community

New activities

- MS publications could be helpful, offering an adding a route of communication
- Stimulate openness, making sure results/data are available to the public (but respect confidentiality)
- Connect with organisations beyond the EU, if they are significant sources knowledge



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