

Funding Opportunities in the EFSA 2023 work plan  
13 December 2022

# A support mechanism for potential partners: The Focal Point Network

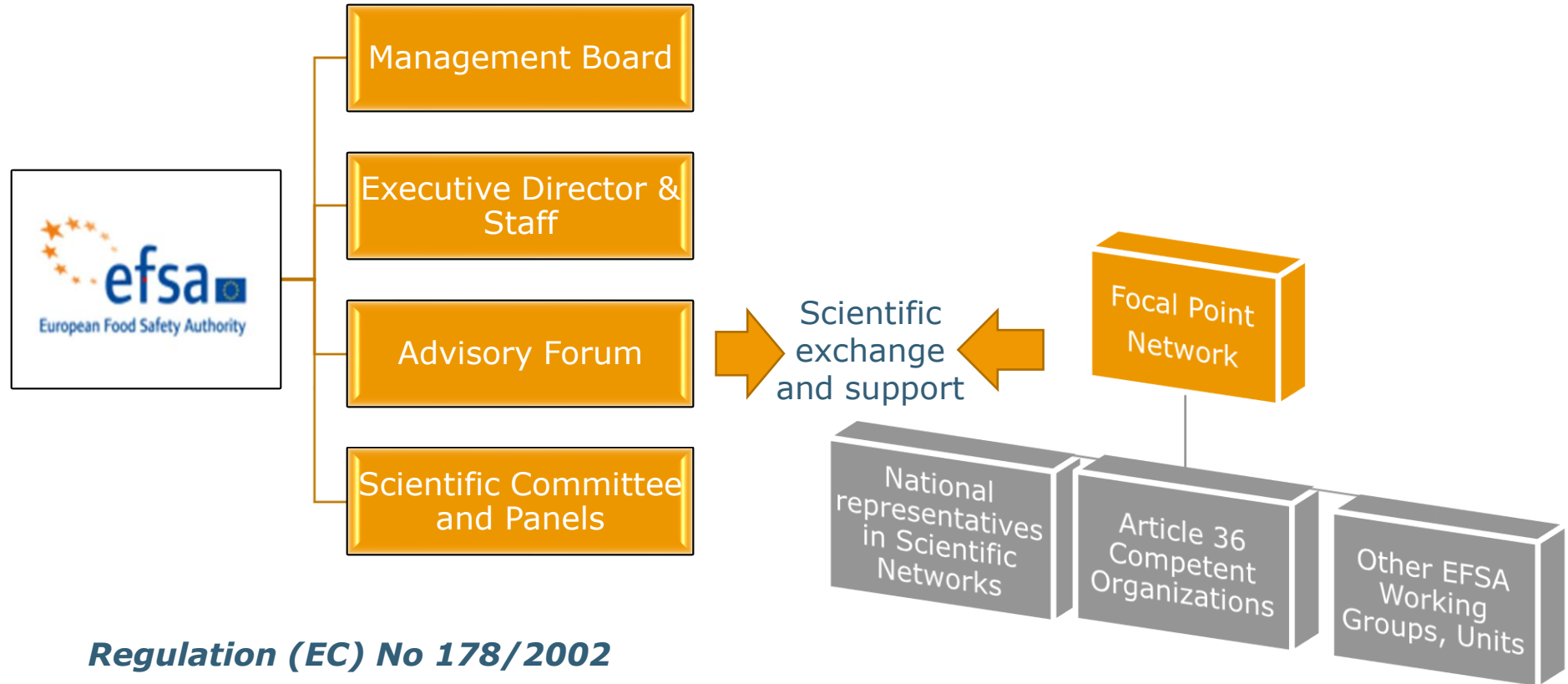
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EFSA Focal Point, Cyprus

Trusted science for safe food

- ❑ The EFSA Focal Point (FP) Network.
- ❑ Overarching areas of FP work.
- ❑ FPs tools for the support & promotion of collaboration and partnerships.
- ❑ How can you contact your National FP?

# The EFSA Focal Point Network



**Regulation (EC) No 178/2002**

## Establishment

Establishment and operation since **2008**,

Established by MSs, nominated by Permanent Representations,

Members from all 27 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, as well as observers from Switzerland and pre-accession countries.

## Mission

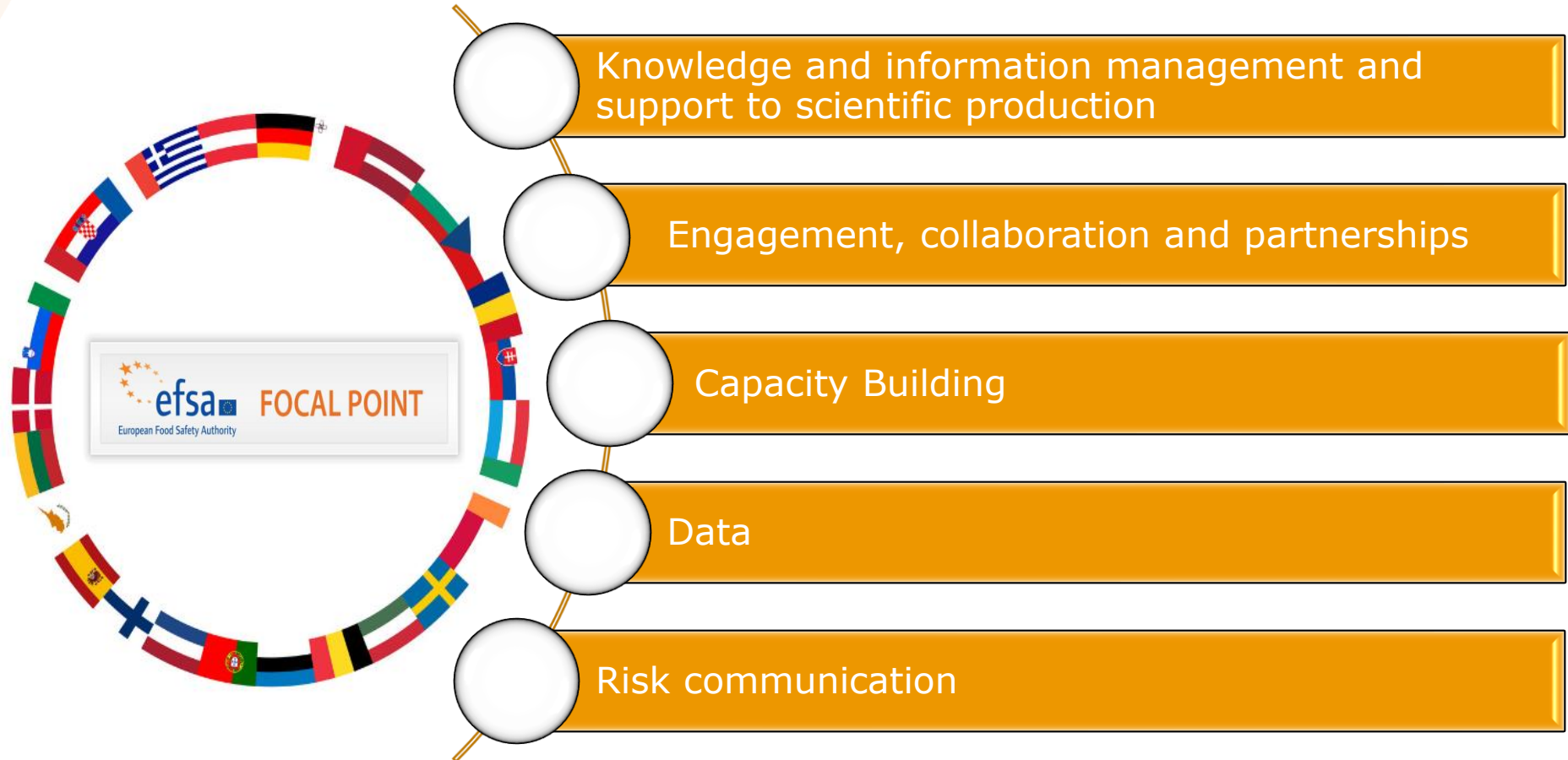
**Connecting hubs between EFSA and their relevant national actors** of the EU/EEA Member States and observer countries.

Collaborate with their national relevant actors and in partnership with EFSA, aim to contribute to a sustainable food safety system in Europe

## Main Objectives

**Support** of the EFSA AF Members,  
**Networking** between EFSA and MSs,  
**Raising visibility** of EFSA and its role in the EU food safety system,  
Ensure the **sharing** and dissemination of information,  
**Coordination** of the EFSA's Scientific Networks at National Level,  
**Promote** EFSA's scientific outputs / RA initiatives to the MSs

# Overarching areas of FP work



## Knowledge and information management and support to scientific production

- Address Requests for Exchange of Information sent by other FPs/EFSA,
- Collect information on National Planned RA activities & shares info with EFSA/ AF/ FPs,
- Share scientific outputs, datasets and other supporting documents through the relevant tools.

### Dissemination



- Information exchange on the Scientific Networks' activities between AF, MB and network members organizations,
- The participation of National Organizations in the EFSA risk assessment activities by providing assistance in the identification of opportunities and by raising awareness on RA methodologies in place.

### Facilitation



- To the National AF representatives,
- Act as an interface between the AF discussion groups, EFSA and the National level so as to support the implementation of actions stemming from the AF discussion groups,
- Mapping of expertise, including the identification of competences relevant to EFSA's work.

### Support



## Engagement, collaboration and partnerships

- ❑ FPs raise EFSA's scientific visibility in the MS and act as interface between EFSA and national stakeholders.
- ❑ Together with EFSA, support the establishment and operation of partnerships including the formation of the corresponding consortia and their interaction with the RA community,
- ❑ Support the exchange of information and implementation of research actions and funding opportunities.
- ❑ Organize national and/or regional events, convening the wider scientific community/ funders/policy makers.



## National FPs:

1. Key role in managing the competent organizations, specifically the Art.36 List as the main reference point,
2. Facilitate the MSs assessment of organizations compliance with the criteria indicated in Art. 1 of Com. Reg. (EU) 2230/2004 (e.g. possess a high level of scientific expertise in one or more fields with direct or indirect impact on food or feed safety).
3. Regularly review the list of competent organizations, as these were designated by the MS, or at least every 3 years.

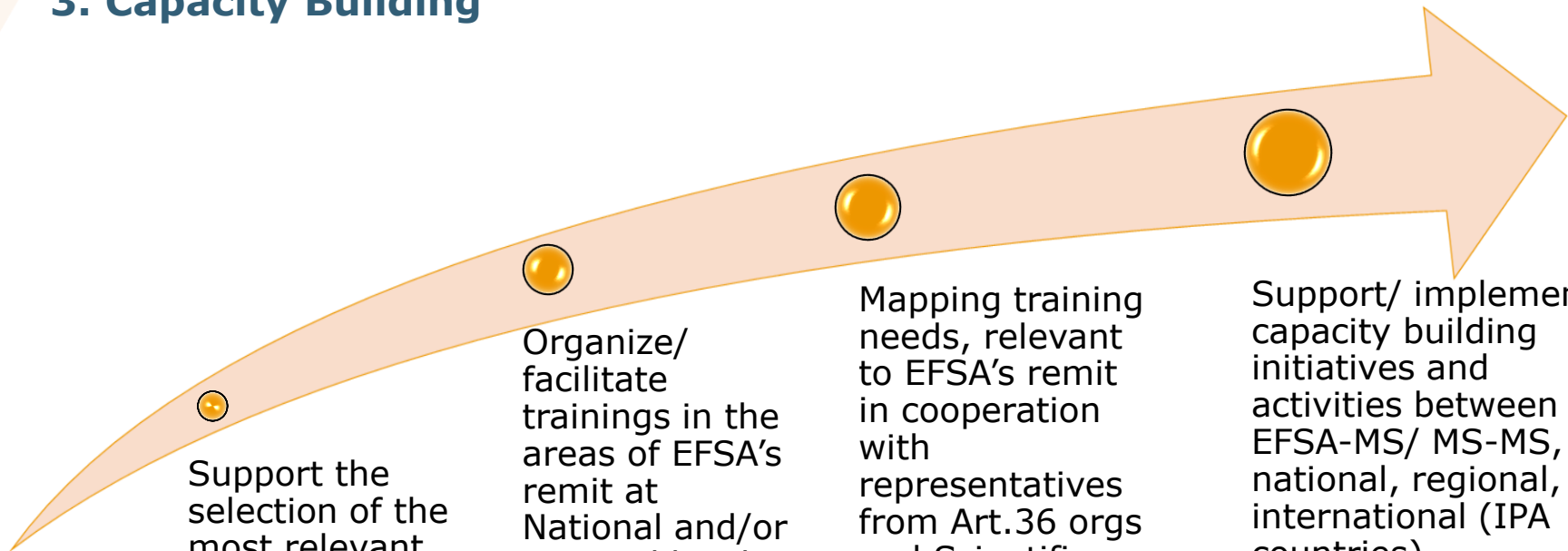
## Competent Organizations under Art. 36 of Reg. (EC) 178/2002

- **Legal entities** that pursue public interest objectives,
- Have technical and scientific capacity and are active in one or more fields in EFSA's remit,
- Have the capacity to undertake tasks assigned by EFSA (e.g. scientific or technical support) and perform them with **independence** and **integrity**.





## 3. Capacity Building



Support the selection of the most relevant participants for the BTSF Trainings on RA.

Organize/ facilitate trainings in the areas of EFSA's remit at National and/or regional level.

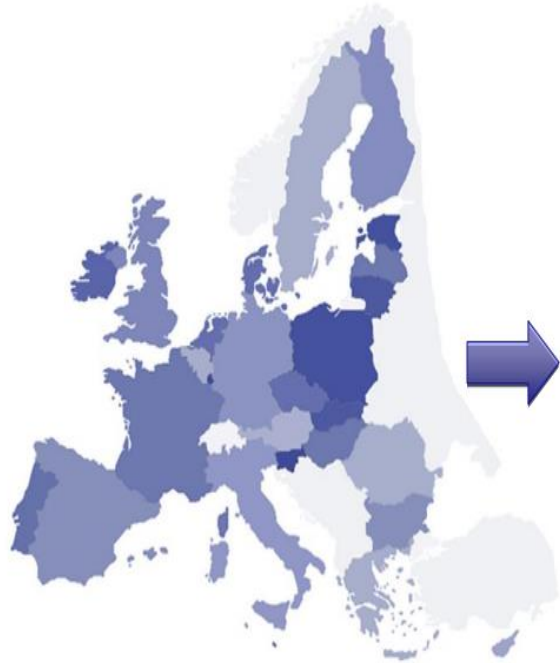
Mapping training needs, relevant to EFSA's remit in cooperation with representatives from Art.36 orgs and Scientific Networks.

Support/ implement capacity building initiatives and activities between EFSA-MS/ MS-MS, national, regional, international (IPA countries).



## Data

- EFSA collects data from EU countries (Art. 33, Regulation (EU) 178/2002).



## The role of the EFSA Focal Points:

FPs maintain an up to date list of National data providers across data domains.

Support EFSA in facilitating two – way communication with national data providers on a need basis.

Support the promotion of best practices for sharing public sector information

## Risk communication



Cost a concern for EU consumers, with

FPs support communication initiatives that raise EFSA's visibility and outreach



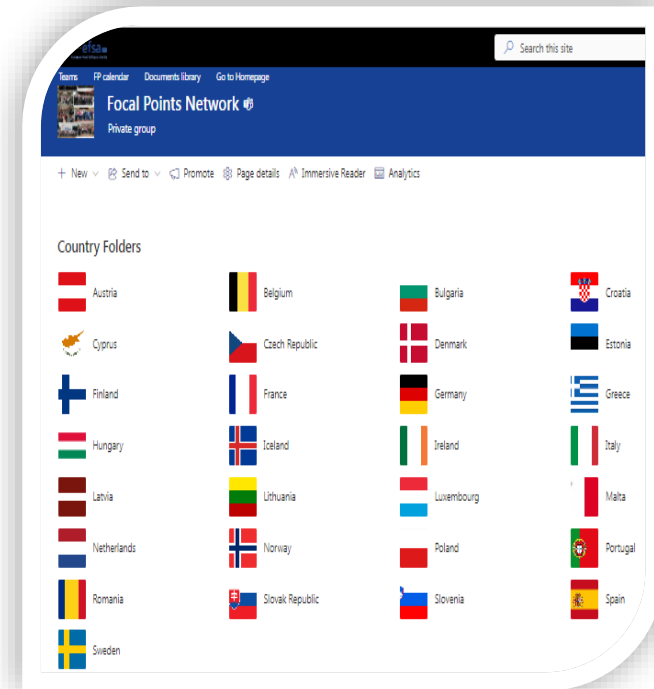
Support the Communication Expert Network (CEN) representative in the development, implementation and/or promotion of communication related activities



Adapt communication materials, tools, and other products to national needs by translating them and/or supporting translations.

## FP Network uses Teams and SharePoint in order to:

- i. Promote National meetings/events for the stimulation scientific cooperation
- ii. Present and promote main forthcoming RA activities at the MS level, facilitating potential cross - MS collaboration
- iii. Be informed for EFSA's events and other engagement opportunities (e.g. Open Calls for Grants, Open Calls for Data),
- iv. Access EFSA's Research Platform,
- v. Upload National Funding Opportunities in MSs, for the support consortia formation and help scientists find opportunities for research funding in food safety.



# FPs' tools to support & promote collaboration and partnerships



Regularly send emails/newsletters to their contacts regarding upcoming activities / calls etc.

Organization of national informative events facilitating potential partnerships.



Participation in national events so as to raise EFSA's visibility to stakeholders at national level.

## ❑ European Risk Assessment Agenda (EU – RAA)

Established in 2016

### ▶ Concept of the EU RAA

- Set up of **common priorities** with MSs that can be addressed through specific joint projects,
- Projects to be planned and resourced through EFSA's working programmes national programmes and/or through other means with transparent, coordinated and collaborative way.



EU-RAA


### ▶ Activities included under EU RAA

- **Collaborative activities**, benefitting from input by more than one partner,
- Activities **considered priorities for EFSA and MA**,
- New activities that support RA or mid to long term nature, not yet fully covered in existing work programmes,
- Addressing a thematic area (e.g. RA) or a key concept (e.g. a collaborative action for a single hazard).

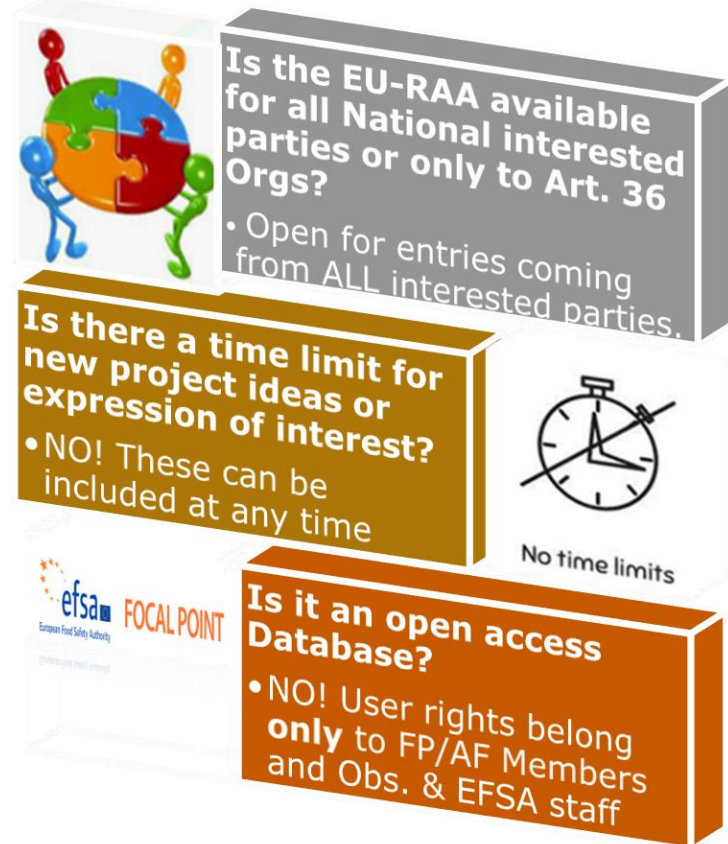
## European Risk Assessment Agenda (EU – RAA)

**EU – RAA:** is a 'lobby' for the Member States Risk Assessment Plans (**MS RA Plans**), where project IDEAS proposed by Organisations at National level can be added.

### FPs' Role & Tasks:

- ✓ Insert project ideas into the EURAA database & keep them updated,
- ✓ Support the creation of consortia by expressing interest in other projects 
- ✓ Extract & share EURAA activities with national parties and collects expression of interests

**Notification to the Project Leaders:** when an organization expresses interest for a project idea, only project leaders receive email notification.



## ❑ **Member State Risk Assessment Plans Database (MS RA Plans DB)**

The main aim is to exchange information on upcoming risk assessment plans both from a MS and EFSA perspective, for awareness raising, promoting synergies between overlapping activities, and as well avoiding duplication of work.



### ☑ **FPs' Role & Tasks:**

Share with EFSA, AF and other FPs information on national planned Risk Assessment (RA) activities (including mandates) through the MS RAA Plans database, so as to identify potential areas of collaboration.

**MS RA Plans and EU RAA Database are linked**

Once a project idea in EU RAA receives funding, it is locked and should be transferred to the MS RA Database.



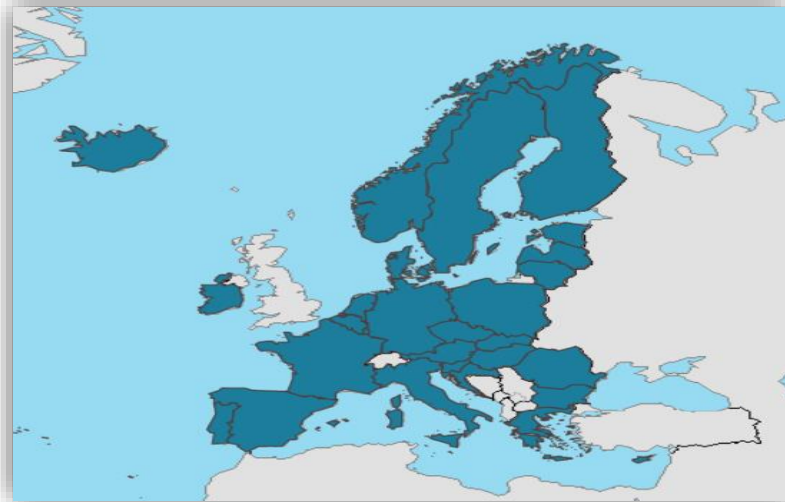
# How can you contact your National Focal Point?



Visit EFSA's website

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers#focal-points-eu-food-safety-interfaces>

## Focal points: EU food safety interfaces



# How can you contact your National Focal Point?



## Visit National Focal Points websites

	Austria		Denmark		Hungary		Luxembourg		Portugal
	Belgium		Estonia		Iceland		Malta		Romania
	Bulgaria		Finland		Ireland		Netherlands		Slovak Republic
	Croatia		France		Italy		Norway		Slovenia
	Cyprus		Germany		Latvia		Poland		Spain
	Czech Republic		Greece		Lithuania		Sweden		

Just keep in mind.....

Focal points are here to connect .....



so you can always come back to us when you need support !



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