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Funding opportunities in the EFSA 2023 Workplan (other areas)

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Trusted science for safe food

DISCLAIMER:

*The information provided herein for call not yet published, is based on EFSA's current **draft** work programme and is subject to change. Parties interested in applying should always consult the published call text.*



European Food Safety Authority

Title: Support to EFSA in the Risk Assessment of Food Enzymes, Food Additives, Food Flavourings and Feed Additives

- Though this call EFSA seeks to involve Art. 36 organisations in the preparation of draft opinions (specific sections or in full) for four regulatory domains: food enzymes, food flavourings, food additives and feed additives.
- The Call consists of 7+1 lots.
 - Each of the lots 1-7 correspond to a specific area of expertise, needed to perform a task that is part of the RA process in the aforementioned regulatory domains (e.g., Assessment of the data regarding the identification and characterisation of microorganisms used as such or as production strains; Assessment of toxicological safety; Dietary exposure, etc.).
 - Lot 8 corresponds to the assemblage of the draft opinion.
- The [call is currently open](#) (deadline 13/01/2023)!



2022



3.5M



Grant, FPA



Title: Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EU-FORA Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme

- EFSA wants to ensure preparedness for future risk analysis needs through increased risk analysis capabilities (knowledge, expertise, methodologies, and data).
- The EU-FORA programme establishes a 12-month learning-by-doing fellowship to:
 - increase the pool of experts available in Europe;
 - stimulate the involvement of MS in regulatory risk assessment work;
 - build a common EU culture for risk assessment.
- The call seeks to identify **consortia** of hosting sites – fellow sending organisations.
- Launched annually, in autumn. The [2022 Call is open for applications](#) with dedicated **info-sessions on 20/12/2022 and 07/02/2023!**



Annually



825 K*



Grant

*55k per grant, per fellow



Title: Knowledge Organization Tool for Repetitive tasks

- The project consists of two parts
 - Existing **publications of EFSA's repetitive tasks** should be analysed to identify and separate "Knowledge bits" (e.g., paragraphs, table entries etc.). Meta data should be automatically attached to each "Knowledge bit" using rule-based approaches and AI solutions. Finally, **"knowledge bits" and their metadata should be stored** in a structured file format (e.g., json).
 - An **interface allows search of "knowledge bits"** in several structured files, provides them for review, selection, and **copy-edit (e.g., in MS WORD)**. Correct citation information will be added automatically.
- The contractor should develop and provide the corresponding tool(s) for the EFSA software environment (e.g., using Shiny-R).



2023



300 K*



Tender

* indicative

Title: Role of the water used in pre- and post-harvest handling and processing operations of fresh and frozen fruits, vegetables and herbs (ffFVHs) in the prevalence, concentration and amplification of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria (ARBs) and antimicrobial-resistance genes (ARGs).

- In a recent Scientific Opinion on the “[Role of the food-producing environment on AMR](#)” (EFSA, 2021), irrigation and surface water were considered as AMR sources and transmission routes of major importance in the plant-based production environments. With this call we want:
 - to **gain further insights on ARB/ARGs in water used during the preharvest and post-harvest handling and processing of ffFVHs, as well as in those products.**
 - **to evaluate the methodologies most suitable for the detection** of public health important ARBs/ARGs in these production systems, thinking on potential surveillance.
 - **to assess the efficacy of various water disinfection treatments for the elimination of ARB/ARGs** used in different pre- and post-harvest handling and processing operations of ffFVHs.
- The results will fill some of the data gaps previously identified and help assess the role of this water on AMR spread.



2023



950 K



Tender, 3 years direct contract

* indicative

Title: Support to EFSA in the evaluation of alternative methods for the use and disposal of Animal by-products (ABPs) and derived products.

- Evaluations of alternative methods for the use or disposal of animal by-products (ABPs) or derived products are carried out by EFSA the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ Panel) and its standing ABPs Working Group (previously done by the EU Scientific Steering Committee).
- With this call, EFSA is exploring a new opportunity to involve Article 36 organisations in the support to this work in two areas (Lot 1 and 2):
 - **Lot 1. Preparatory work for the assessment of alternative methods for the use and disposal of animal by-products and derived products** (carrying out different tasks during the pre-assessment phase, evaluation phase and/or final adoption /post adoption phase, following the [ABPs applications workflow](#));
 - **Lot 2. Review, comparative analysis and harmonization of previous EFSA and EU Scientific Steering Committee publications on ABPs.**



2023

Lot 1

€

440,000 K
(110,000/year)



Grant, 4 years FPA with specific grant agreements per application

Lot 2

€

100,000 K



Grant, 1 yr direct grant agreement

Title: Advancing Environmental Neuroscience

Aim: Advancing understanding of the impact of chemical exposure on **brain health and disease**.

- EFSA has worked, in the past years, to promote NAMs for developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) and has engaged in using NAMs for the assessment of pesticides considered as potential risk for Parkinsonian syndromes, Neurotoxicity (NT).
- The project will build on existing experience through **3 actions**:
 - **Generate NAMs data** for **DNT** and **NT** hazard characterization.
 - **Implement the NAMs data** (i.e., inter-laboratory/reproducibility data; database in vivo concordance analysis).
 - **Use the data for risk assessment** (i.e., development of real RA IATA* case studies).

*NAMs: New Approach Methodologies

IATA: Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment



2023-2026



3.6 M



Tender (3 Lots) **

** to be determined

Title: Implementation of a multi-OMICs workflow to derive human reference points and health-based guidance values (HBGVs) from quantitative in vitro data

- Assays used in food and feed safety are still largely based on legacy endpoints and in vivo studies.
- OMICs and Organ-on-chip (OoC) technologies emerged in the last decade as a highly promising alternative to animal studies in toxicology.
- The overarching goal of the project is to define, validate and apply a standardised workflow (experimental and computational) for deriving reliable human reference points and health-based guidance values (HBGVs) using cutting edge in-vitro approaches, namely Organ-on-chip (OoC) platforms and multiple OMICs endpoints (transcriptomics, metabolomics, and epigenomics).



2023



3M



TBD*

* to be determined

Title: Monitoring and surveillance data for chemical risk assessment needs in EFSA: exploring new opportunities

- **Identify and prioritise EFSA's needs** in terms of **monitoring and surveillance data** for human health risk assessment and environmental risk assessment of chemicals
- Identify all possible **data sources** for the prioritised needs by combining different methodologies (e.g., interviews, surveys, literature reviews, crowdsourcing etc.)
- Derive **recommendations** for:
 - data **harmonisation** and data **sharing**
 - **modifications** to the existing data generation pipelines
 - new data **generation** (through dedicated projects or monitoring programmes) to fill data gaps with fit for purpose data



2023



250 K*



Tender

* indicative

Title: Scientific and Technical support in the area of emergency pesticide authorisations

- The Commission is requesting that EFSA provides additional support to the Member States to harmonise the methodology for assessing requests for exceptional authorization of plant protection products in emergencies.
- A contractor is sought to help develop a risk assessment methodology. This should take into account the information collected through the emergency authorisation process and information already available in past authorisations.
- The work will include a state-of-the-art review of alternatives to chemical PPPs.
- The work requested in this call will be divided into around 5 lots. The exact distribution of tasks in each lot is currently under consideration.



2023



750 K*



Tender/ FWC**

* indicative

** to be determined

Title: Model development to predict environmental concentrations of chemical substances in marine sediment when the substance is applied via feed in marine aquaculture (sea cages).

- The current possibilities of assessing the exposure in this scenario stop in tier one with a formula that is rather conservative. A model to refine the exposure is needed in a second tier.
 - **Exposure scenarios** must be defined **to represent marine aquaculture in the EU**
 - **Data** will have to be generated **to calibrate and validate the model**
 - **A web-based model interface solution** is needed
- **The model should suit the needs** of predicting environmental concentrations in marine sediment **of the CVMP/ERA[†] working party (EMA), ECHA and EFSA.**

[†]CVMP/ERA: *The Environmental Risk Assessment working party which advises the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products of EMA*



2023



1 M*



Tender/FWC**

* indicative

** to be determined

Title: Model development to predict environmental concentrations of chemical

Title: Collection of environmental data relevant for the exposure scenario of freshwater sediments from small edge-to-field water bodies in EU.

- Update of the freshwater aquatic sediment parameterisation would enable an improved risk assessment of the sediment dwelling organisms.
 - **Available data from the published scientific literature** should be reviewed to determine the needs of experimental data
 - **Experimental data to optimise the models input parameters** should be generated according to the already defined water bodies (streams, ponds, ditches) scenarios.
- **The dataset should be representative for the European Union.**
- This procurement will be launched **within** the open Framework Contract of the FEEDCO Unit of EFSA related to modelling the PECsed in marine aquaculture



2023



150 K*



Tender/FWC**

* indicative

** to be determined

Title: Identification of emerging risks related to food supplements*

- Increase preparedness for future risk assessment challenges in the field of food supplements
 - Focus on stimulants and selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS)
 - Customise a semi-automatic system for the identification and characterisation of food-supplement-related emerging issues (potential emerging risks [ER])
 - Identify sources of relevant information
 - Develop a proof-of-concept for methods/algorithm for ER identification in area of food supplements
 - Start regular use of the algorithm and support transfer to interested MS bodies
 - Final report characterising the issues identified, in accordance to agreed criteria, with recommendations on how to build a system covering a wider range of food supplements.

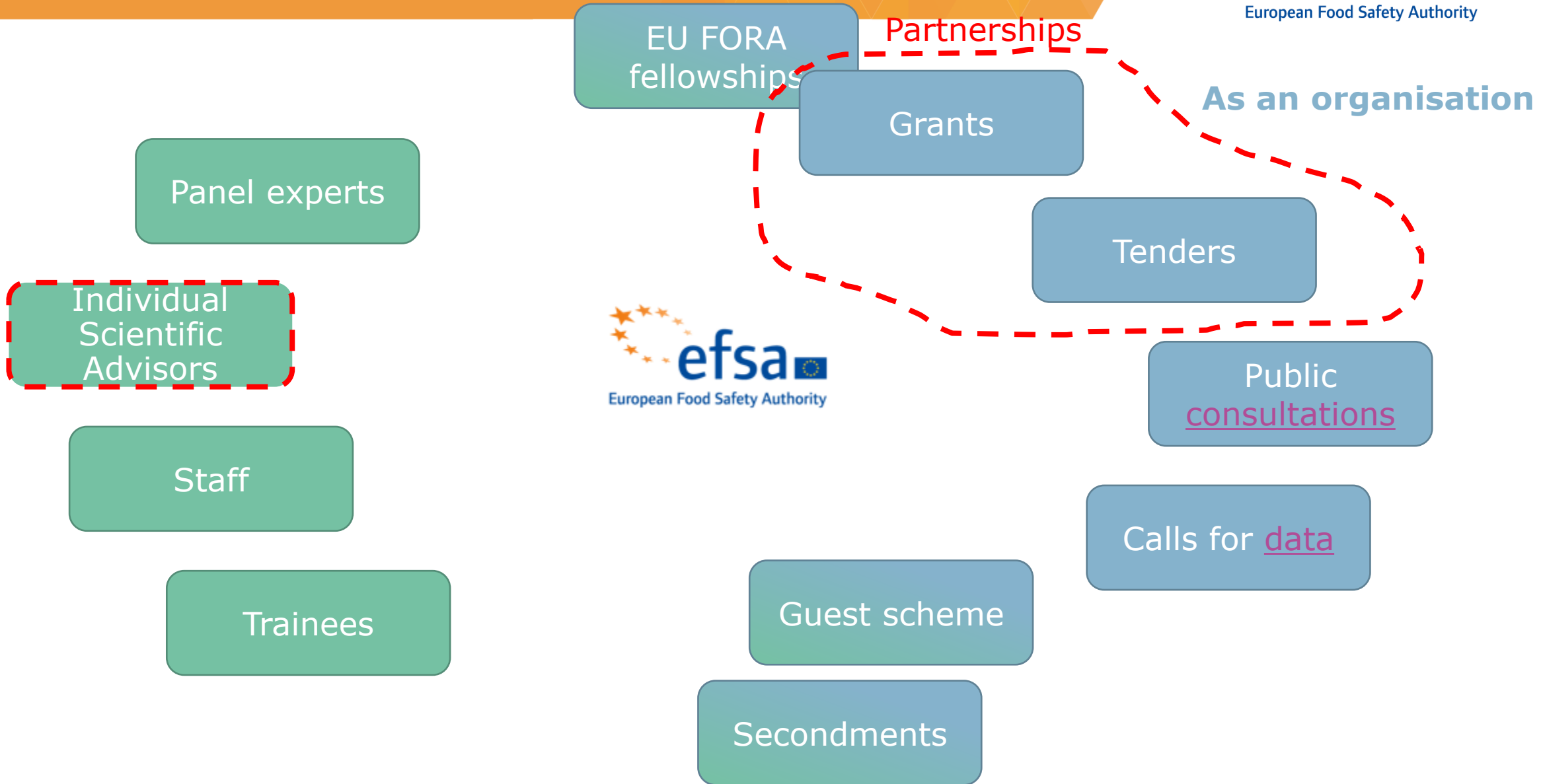
*Exact specifications and type/level of collaboration with interested MS will be defined in Jan 2023.

	2023	€	100 K**		TBD***
	2024		100 K**		TBD***

** indicative

*** to be determined

Cooperation paths



As an individual

- **Individuals** with scientific expertise to assist EFSA in carrying out preparatory work in support of EFSA's scientific and risk communication activities.
- Eligibility and selection criteria established, incl. university degree, 3 years professional experience and **2 relevant publications/reports**.
- Reserve list valid for 5 years
- Fixed remuneration (EUR 360/d) subject to a maximum over the duration of the call.
- Tasks falling in the areas of
 - Animal Health and Animal Welfare,
 - Biological Hazards,
 - Chemical contaminants,
 - Pesticides,
 - Plant health,
 - Genetically Modified Organisms for Food and Feed uses,
 - Food Additives,
 - Food Contact Materials,
 - Food Enzymes,
 - Food Flavourings,
 - Feed additives,
 - Novel Food and Nutrition
 - Social Sciences.



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