

Final Minutes

31st MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINT NETWORK HELSINKI (FINLAND), 17th -18th MAY 2017

Chair: Jeff Moon

Members

Austria	<i>Katja Herzog</i>
Belgium	<i>Laurence Ballieux</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Donka Popova-Mincheva</i>
Croatia	<i>Sanja Miloš</i>
Cyprus	<i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>
Denmark	<i>Birgitte Helwich</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>
France	<i>Adrienne Pittman</i>
Germany	<i>Lea Herges</i>
Greece	<i>Gorgias Garofalakis</i>
Hungary	<i>Judit Sali</i>
Iceland	<i>Grimur Olafsson</i>
Ireland	<i>Edel Smyth</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i>
Latvia	<i>Elīna Ciekure</i>
Lithuania	<i>Jurgita Savickaitė</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Elisa Barillozzi</i>
Netherlands	<i>Jacqueline Castenmiller</i>
Norway	<i>Gisle Solstad</i>
Poland	<i>Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Melo de Vasconcelos</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Milo Bystrický</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Spain	<i>Maria Angèles Capon Garcia</i>
Sweden	<i>Karin Nyberg</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Patrick Miller</i>

Observers

Bosnia-Herzegovina	<i>Nadja Ustamujik</i>
Montenegro	<i>Drago Marojevic</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak</i>

FP Secretariat

<i>Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i>	<i>Julia Finger</i>
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EFSA Staff (videoconference)

<i>Ana Afonso</i>	<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>
<i>David Caira</i>	<i>Wolfgang Gelbmann</i>
<i>Nicoline Le Gourierec</i>	<i>Kerstin Gross-Helmert</i>
<i>Stylios Koulouris</i>	<i>Marina Koussathana</i>
<i>Donna Lucas</i>	<i>Cristina Martin</i>
<i>Jelena Vracar Filipović</i>	

Apologies: Malta, Romania, Albania, FYR of Macedonia.

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Jeff Moon from EFSA's Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit (AFSCO) and Chair of the meeting opened the 31st meeting of the Focal Point (FP) network. Jeff welcomed in particular Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska, new FP member from Poland and Maria Angèles Capon Garcia, new FP alternate for Spain, who attended a FP plenary meeting for the first time.

Jeff informed that the minutes of the 30th FP meeting were published on EFSA's website on 3rd of March 2017. The Agenda for the current meeting was adopted by the plenary with additional items regarding the newest EU Food Safety Almanac (Germany), as well as the renewal of FP agreements in 2017 and 2018 (Germany) and the weekly media monitoring roundup (Czech Republic). These items were included under Agenda item 14.7 (AoB). Finally, Oral Declarations of Interest (ODOI) were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interests were declared.

2. WELCOME BY FINNISH FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY EVIRA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL

Jeff Moon welcomed Matti Aho, Director-General of the Finnish Food Safety Authority EVIRA and Finnish member of the EFSA Advisory Forum (AF) to the meeting. Matti welcomed FPs to Finland and presented an overview of the food safety system in Finland. Matti explained the key principles of risk analysis for food safety based on a functional separation, but practical interaction of risk assessment (RA) and risk management (RM), both institutionally located within EVIRA. This includes the definition of RA as science; the acknowledgement of the view of the citizens; the interactive risk communication; and quantifying uncertainty.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IN FINNISH FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY EVIRA

Pirkko Tuominen, Head of the RA Unit at EVIRA, and EFSA AF and FP alternate member, was welcomed to the meeting. Pirkko gave an insight of the work of the Unit of Research and RA within the context of EVIRA, its historical development, its tasks and outputs, and main ongoing activities. Pirkko concluded with an invitation to the RA research Unit's seminar to take place on the 19th of May, the day after the FP meeting, with confirmed participation of some FPs.

4. NOVEL FOODS

Wolfgang Gelbmann from EFSA's Nutrition Unit joined the meeting via videoconference and presented to FPs the new EU Regulation and consecutive practices in the area of novel foods. The new Regulation (EU) 2283/2015 no longer involves MS in the RA of novel foods but foresees evaluations by EFSA after applications are sent to the EC and a notification for traditional foods from third countries assessed by MS and EFSA within 4 months. Wolfgang explained the details of application and notification procedures and the preparation within EFSA for the new Regulation, with opportunities for MS collaboration: MS are invited to participate in a new EFSA Scientific Network on Novel Foods, which was agreed at the 63rd AF meeting and is now open for MS nominations. Furthermore, MS organisations will have the possibility to apply to a call on the preparatory work for assessment of novel foods, which will be launched in June 2017.

On question from the Netherlands, Wolfgang clarified that the call will likely not be limited to Art. 36 organisations, but this is yet to be further defined. He further explained that Panel, Working Group and the new Scientific Network members should collaborate to best gather available expertise. Jeff further informed participants that FPs (along with AF members) will receive an e-mail with the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the new network. FPs were also informed about a webinar on Novel Foods taking place on 15th June 2017, for which registrations¹ are now open.

Action Point 1: *EFSA to send to FPs the ToR and request for nominations for the Scientific Network on Novel Foods.*

5. EU RISK ASSESSMENT AGENDA (EU-RAA)

5.1. STATE-OF-PLAY

Stef Bronzwaer informed FPs, via videoconference, about the state-of-play of the EU-RAA. The EU-RAA catalogue now contains 118 project ideas from 28 MS and expressions of interest from 26 countries including observers. FPs have received the latest version of the EU-RAA catalogue as a background document to the meeting together with a summary paper on proposals and expressions of interest related to the priorities of the initial Delphi study. An overview of selected funding opportunities from Horizon 2020, Marie Curie funds and EFSA grants was also provided. Stef underlined in this context the new EFSA Partnering Grants, to be presented later at the meeting. The next step foresees action from project proponents in elaborating their project proposals, contacting interested partners and applying for funding opportunities.

Germany proposed that ideas for leading projects can still be submitted after the closure of the first round. Stef confirmed that project ideas can still be sent by filling the respective template, and that they will be included on the catalogue once it is re-opened. New versions of the catalogue are expected, at this stage, to be published on a yearly basis, although the mid-term goal aims the setting up of a flexible EU-RAA tool so to include (and update the status of) proposals at any time. Details will be decided in the AF Discussion Group on the EU-RAA (AF DG EU-RAA).

Norway sought clarity on the concrete next steps in terms of collaborative activities and on the role of FPs as coordinator of such activities. Stef underlined that the kick-off of

¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170615>

projects is not meant to be driven by EFSA, but by the partners themselves. Therefore, project proponents should take the lead, since EFSA, as a potential funding institution, cannot undertake a prioritization exercise due to conflict of interests. Greece suggested splitting the proposals in the catalogue in “mature” projects and ideas yet on conceptual stage, which can be taken into consideration once a monitoring tool is set up. Portugal remarked that the exercise has created high expectations among MS organisations. Stef underlined that FPs can play an important role in pushing lead partners to kick-off the projects and apply for funding, also considering national funding sources.

5.2. EU-RAA NETWORKING EVENT

Kerstin Gross-Helmert presented via videoconference the current plans for an EU-RAA conference as a networking event to bring interested project partners and funding institutions together. The conference is planned for February 2018 as a back-to-back meeting with both AF and FP meetings in order to allow a wide participation of MS institutions. It is meant to provide for a physical platform for parties to meet and discuss, including poster sessions, plenary discussions and info-stalls. Kerstin explained that potential funders present could be the EC, DG-RTD and the EU-COST programme, but also international organisations such as WHO and FAO. On question from Denmark on who can attend the meeting, Kerstin noted that, in addition to AF, FP and EC representatives, institutions made project proposals on the EU-RAA catalogue should ideally attend, as well as national funding coordinators. Further details will be discussed in the AF DG EU-RAA and presented to the AF on their next meeting in June.

5.3. PROMOTING THE EU-RAA TO STAKEHOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Gorgias Garofalakis, FP from Greece, presented information on the promotion of the EU-RAA at national level, on difficulties encountered and suggestions for improvement. Gorgias underlined that the EU-RAA differs from classical national funding schemes as well as from national R&D priorities, which led to challenges on its promotion at national level. Gorgias underlined that challenges partly derive from the transnational dimension of priority setting and funding, and partly from the fact that national R&D priorities often address additional objectives beyond advancements on RA, such as socio-economic objectives like increased competitiveness, employment, etc. However, as the current experience suggests, common ground is usually feasible to be found for some topics.

At the practical level of promoting the EU-RAA to potential participants, it may be worth considering the inclusion of information on the status and maturity level of proposals on the EU-RAA catalogue. Networking events, demonstrating best practices and success stories on the implementation of projects, might also help.

Challenges also exist in the stage of identifying and exploiting the EU-RAA relevant outputs after the implementation of the various research projects, especially on those cases where their scope is relatively wide.

On question from France, Gorgias explained that transnational funding is not normally possible from national sources, thus partners from other MS have to provide their own funding in cases where cooperation areas would be identified. Italy underlined that many of the challenges mentioned also occurred in discussions with national stakeholders, asking about the role and nature of stakeholders involved. Gorgias explained that the primary stakeholder approached with regards to the EU-RAA was a funding body. Interaction with the other stakeholders was achieved via participation in a discussion group set up by the funding body. This discussion group included members with different interests such as industry, researchers and public bodies, with the objective to draft a common context and agenda of applied research topics.

6. ED VISITS

6.1. CURRENT STATUS

Marina Koussathana provided via videoconference an update on recent and upcoming visits of the Executive Director (ED visits) to MS. Marina presented the latest visits to

Malta (6th of March), Bulgaria (4th – 5th of April) and Iceland (15th – 16th of May) and gave an outlook on future visits to occur in 2017. Marina thanked FPs for their support in the preparation and follow-up of the visits and agreed joint projects agreed. Following Marina's presentation, 2 examples of joint projects were presented.

6.2. FOOD-CHAIN-LAB PROJECT

Lea Herges, FP from Germany, presented the joint project agreed on the occasion of the ED visit to Germany on 30th October 2014. The Food-Chain-Lab is a tool that allows the collection, handling and analysis of substantial amounts of data in outbreak investigations. Various events and trainings have taken place and will still take place with a number of MS involved. Italy confirmed the positive feedback received from national organisations regarding the new tool.

6.3. SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

Gisle Solstad, FP from Norway, informed the plenary about the planning of a Symposium on ERA, to take place on 26th – 27th of October 2017 in Norway. The initiative was agreed on the ED visit to Norway on 7th – 8th April 2017 and was born as a result of the mutual interest on the topic from both VKM and EFSA. FPs will soon receive an invitation to join and disseminate information on the Symposium, which aims to involve RAs, RMs and to NGOs. Finland and Italy welcomed the initiative.

Action Point 2: *Norway to share invitation to the ERA Symposium once registrations open.*

Action Point 3: *FPs to disseminate information regarding ERA Symposium.*

6.4. WORKSHOP ON MYCOTOXINS

Luca Busani, FP from Italy, gave an outlook on the Scientific Conference on Mycotoxins that will take place in Rome on 15th December 2017. The conference with the title "*The burden of mycotoxins on animal and human health*" follows a proposal in the EU-RAA catalogue and is linked to the ED visit to Italy on 14th – 15th December 2017. The scientific conference will also be the opportunity to present the joint scientific project of EFSA and ISS on "*Biomonitoring data as a tool for assessing Aflatoxin B1 exposure of workers*", which includes partner institutions from Portugal, Hungary and the UK.

7. ADVISORY FORUM (AF)

7.1. Feedback from the last meeting

Jeff Moon gave feedback on the 63rd AF meeting that took place on 7th – 8th March 2017, in Malta, on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency to the EU. Jeff highlighted the session on international cooperation, with the presentation of EFSA's draft International Scientific Cooperation Workplan 2017 - 2020 and the new AF DG on International Capacity Building, which presented its ToR and first steps. The central topic was the evolution of the Art. 36 list, which was discussed in breakout session, to which FPs had delivered preparatory work. The outcome and conceptual paper was shared with FPs as a background document.

7.2. Upcoming 63rd meeting

Jeff Moon gave an outlook on the 64th AF meeting which will take place on 8th – 9th June 2017, in EFSA premises. A dedicated session will be held on endocrine active substances, with the participation of ECHA and the EC, as well as on plant health, with reports from the Panel, Scientific Network and the EC. Jeff highlighted the Agenda item on research and collaboration with MS, where EU-COST and EU-ANSA representatives will present opportunities for joint projects. Jeff also underlined expected feedback from the Stakeholder Forum, which is going to happen before the AF meeting. Further items have been received from MS and will be included in the final Agenda.

8. IMPROVING INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON NATIONAL RA ACTIVITIES

Sérgio Potier Rodeia informed FPs about planned improvements on the regular exchange of information on upcoming RA activities. A dedicated database, set in R4U, is going to be created during 2017, to enable a more agile and reliable tool for information exchange of this data. A specific contract is going to be signed in May 2017, with a testing phase for both FPs and EFSA foreseen to kick-off in September 2017. During the FP meeting of November 2017, FPs will be invited to provide final comments on the prototype of the web application, expected to be ready for use over December 2017.

On question from the UK, Sérgio confirmed that, until the new tool is in place, the information exchange will continue to be done via the current tool, i.e. MS Office 365. Belgium asked if there could be one access per country and in combination with the access to the Knowledge Junction. Sérgio confirmed that discussions on access rights are ongoing. On question from Germany if the same or a similar database is also planned to log information and monitor projects under the EU-RAA, Sérgio mentioned that the idea was already briefly discussed within EFSA, although this database (R4U) does not seem, on a first analysis, suitable to this purpose.

As next steps, a concept paper for this database will soon be shared with FPs. In the meantime, FPs are requested to update the current file on Office 365 until 22 May 2017, in preparation of the next AF meeting.

Action Point 4: *FPs to update table of national RA activities until 22 May 2017.*

9. KNOWLEDGE JUNCTION

9.1. Upload of historical metadata & orphan data

Jeff Moon gave the floor to Stylianos Koulouris, explaining via videoconference the current progress made for implementing the Knowledge Junction. The evolution of the new tool is divided into two parts: the upload of historical data, currently ongoing; and the upload of the second set of data, the so-called "orphan data". Stylianos explained, on question from Cyprus, that orphan data comprises data that has been gathered by MS since the phase out of the IEP but could not be shared. The upload of orphan data will be done following the different training initiatives being planned for FPs on the new tool.

The change from the IEP to the new tool comprises a shift of concept, as the IEP had restrictions regarding both the uploading and end-user access rights / shared documents (objects). The Knowledge Junction will allow for a broader group of users from each MS to upload objects, thus FPs will be requested to train such users. In addition to mandates, scientific outputs and work programmes, other relevant data, such as datasets, visual and media material and software are also welcome to be uploaded. All uploaded objects will automatically get a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Thus, in case a document already detains a DOI, this should be used to avoid different references to the same object.

Denmark, Austria and France remarked that only few documents are available for upload in case that the system does not foresee the upload of links, as many documents are already published on other platforms/sites. Stylianos clarified that nevertheless such objects can still be uploaded in the Knowledge Junction, which offers for the opportunity of a permanent repository, whereas publications tend to disappear from other platforms / websites. Finland asked for a user-manual for the new tool. Jeff confirmed that additionally to the concept document shared as background document, working instructions are being prepared so to be available during the training period. Portugal underlined that a tracing system would be important to identify the uploaders of data, ensuring credibility and reliability of organisations, also because industry might be tempted to upload documents in support of their interests. Stylianos acknowledged that the new tool contains potentially more difficulties in filtering credible from non-credible

information, requiring additional effort of the researcher similar to web search machines. This however is a common problem of open source tools. The advantage though is access rights for a broader audience. Jeff added that the instrument of curation is highly important to ensure that the relevant meta-data is stored and maintained. On question from Norway on the timeframe for uploading historical data, Stylianos explained that an external contractor is taking care of the transfer, which is envisaged for the end of July at latest. Denmark remarked that the time-frame is very short, considering that consultation on the documents has to take place on national level. Stylianos underlined that a deadline of end of July for the upload would be beneficial for all, however can be re-negotiated with the contractor.

9.2. Grant for FP training and sharing of new tool

Sérgio Potier Rodeia informed that a grant is foreseen to train FPs on the Knowledge Junction. The grant will complement the current FP grant upon its renewal at the end of 2017 with an extra amount to be used by FPs to receive training and then deliver training to national networks. The grant is a one-off payment of equal amount to all MS. The training plan foresees the development and sharing of working instructions, a webinar in June/July, demonstration of the tool at the FP meeting in September and practical exercises at the FP meeting in November. FPs are meant to deliver training to national authorities during 2018.

10. WORKSHOP ON PLANT HEALTH CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

Jeff Moon gave the floor to Filipa Melo de Vasconcelos, FP from Portugal, to give feedback on the Workshop on Crisis Preparedness in the area of Plant Health that took place on 8th – 9th March 2017 in Portugal. The Workshop was attended by 29 representatives, plant health scientists and risk managers from Cyprus, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Spain and Portugal, together with participants from EFSA, EPPO (European & Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) and the EC. The Workshop followed a structure developed by EFSA, with a 3-day Agenda with the objective to enhance the collaboration of EFSA with its institutional stakeholders in the area of crisis preparedness and in line with the EFSA strategy 2020. Filipa presented the key objectives and practical recommendations deriving from the Workshop. A report with these recommendations and conclusions is going to be published on EFSA's website.

11. PRE- ACCESSION PROGRAMME

11.1. New Pre-Accession EC Grant

Jelena Vracar informed FPs by videoconference about the new grant from the EC for the Pre-Accession (IPA) Programme. Confirmation for the grant has been given to EFSA by DG-NEAR in March 2017. The programme will be submitted for approval of EFSA's MB in June 2017 and is meant to start on 1st December 2017. The programme aims at increasing the involvement of IPA countries in EFSA's work, reporting tools and networks through capacity building in RA and RC of the IPA food safety scientific community. Jelena presented the outcome of a survey recently conducted among IPA experts to collect their input, views and priorities for technical cooperation with EFSA. Jelena then invited IPA observers of the FP Network to present some ongoing activities.

11.2. Ongoing Lumpy Skin Disease Activities

Drago Marojevic, EFSA contact point in Montenegro and FP Observer, presented ongoing activities regarding Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). Drago gave an overview on the work concluded in 2016 and ongoing scientific cooperation with EFSA. IPA countries are involved together with affected MS in collaboration activities resulting from EFSA's mandate on LSD from September 2016. Under this mandate, a first report has been issued in April 2017; and a new one is expected during 2018. A workshop is being prepared in Montenegro, with EFSA participation, tackling also other transboundary animal diseases of importance in the region. France informed about a report on the risk of introduction of LSD into France recently published and soon available in English. Italy

informed about having various activities on LSD ongoing, on which information could be shared.

Action Point 5: *France to share report on LSD in English.*

Action Point 6: *Italy to share information on current national LSD activities.*

11.3. International Food Safety Conference in Serbia

Nadežda Dukić, EFSA Contact Point in Serbia and FP Observer, informed the plenary about the development of RA in the area of food safety in Serbia, and in particular about a Twinning Project with the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forestry. The Twinning Project comprises three components: first the development of a strategic, institutional and legal framework in line with EU requirements; secondly an improved capacity of the national Authorities to implement and enforce standards and regulations on zoonotic, food-borne diseases and AMR control; and finally an overall increased awareness among stakeholders and the general public on zoonoses, food borne diseases and AMR. The first component includes the establishment of a risk ranking calculator, a tool that raised interest from other FPs.

Nadežda invited then FPs to an International Conference in Serbia, which is going to take place on 1st – 4th October 2017 with the participation of around 250 international researchers. The main topics are food safety, food quality, food technology, food legislation, and food & environment. FPs are invited to register until 15th September 2017. On question from Austria, Nadežda confirmed to circulate an invitation by e-mail.

Action Point 7: *Serbia / Hungary to share information on the risk ranking calculator.*

Action Point 8: *Serbia to circulate the invitation to the International Food Safety Conference via email.*

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Jeff Moon then closed the meeting for the first day.

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12. GRANTS AND PROCUREMENT

12.1. Call for Partnering Grants

Jeff Moon opened the meeting of the second day giving the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia, to inform FPs about the pilot Call for Partnering Grants. The Call has been launched on 31st March 2017 and is open until 15th September 2017, with a co-funding rate of 50%. The main objective of the Call is capacity building and the creation of joint activities between MS organisations. Project proposals should aim at knowledge transfer / exchange between organisations. Project details can be defined by the applicants; however, they need to focus on capacity building initiatives under EFSA's remit. The EU-RAA catalogue could be a source for project ideas.

Denmark reminded that the use of fixed costs according to pre-defined salary table results in practice in a co-financing lower than 50% given that in some countries salaries are higher than those indicated on the table. Sérgio explained that EFSA is indeed using Unit Costs for expenses such as salary costs in the context of grants. Greece asked if other criteria than capacity building will be decisive for selection purposes, for example geographical spread of partner organisations. Sérgio explained that consortium partners must originate from different MS but geographical spread is not one of the criteria as such. On question from Germany, Sérgio confirmed that only projects aiming at capacity building are eligible, however EFSA cannot provide additional direction on this for the sake of equal treatment of applicants. Austria remarked that, in projects that relate to knowledge transfer, the providing organisation might want to get a full coverage of costs. Italy also asked if the 50% co-funding could be completely used for salaries. Sérgio explained that financial arrangements have to be made between consortium

partners and that EFSA has no role on this matter. Sérgio also confirmed that EFSA's co-funding could be used completely for salaries as long as eligible. Denmark suggested to specify in future calls a co-financing of "up to 50%" not to create wrong expectations. Donna Lucas explained that this was already clear in the Call for proposals in Section 1.10, page 11, where it is stated "The projects to be supported under this Call are co-financed by EFSA at maximum 50% of the total eligible project costs". Austria asked for more information concerning Unit Costs, which was agreed. Sweden asked if the Call could be used for projects funded by external sources, for example under the European Joint Project Scheme. Donna Lucas clarified that any additional national funding must be declared, but combination with other EU funding sources is not possible, as stated in Section 1.9, page 11 of the Call. On question from Greece, Sérgio clarified that the overall budget for this Call is of 600.000 Euros, with a maximum ceiling of 100.000 Euros per project. On question from Italy, it was clarified that only costs incurred and declared by Art. 36 organisations can be claimed.

All clarifications rose which were specific to the Call for Partnering Grants have also been published as clarifications to the Call and are available on EFSA's website².

Action Point 9: EFSA to circulate the ED Decision about Unit Costs for EFSA Grants.

Action Point 10: FPs to regularly promote the Call on Partnering Grants.

12.2. Upcoming calls

Cristina Martin provided by videoconference an overview on upcoming calls in 2017. A list has been shared as a background document to the meeting. On question from Norway, Cristina explained that the concept of a Framework Contract in Procurement foresees a contract over a longer period of time, which is kept quite general, with exact details in time and quantity to be defined in single specific contracts. An example is the Framework Contract regarding Novel Foods. The Framework Contract on RA Training is a continuation of the former training cycle, open also for Panel members and Scientific Network representatives, as clarified upon question from Italy. Denmark asked about consequences, if a contractor faces time problems within a Framework Contract. Cristina explained that Framework Contracts can be awarded to more than one Contractor, thus if the first cannot deliver (or not deliver in the specific time-frame) the second listed Contractor could be asked to provide such deliverable.

12.3. Infographic on Grants

Kerstin Gross-Helmert presented by videoconference a recently created infographic on EFSA's main grant types. Kerstin also explained the main differences between grants and procurement procedures, as well as general grant principles. Kerstin highlighted the recent launch of a Thematic Grant in the area of airborne plant pathogens and on allergens, with deadline for submission of applications set for 25th October 2017, asking FPs to promote the Call. In this context, FPs were asked to ensure that all relevant national organisations are included in the Art. 36 List. Norway asked for clarification regarding the co-funding rate of the Thematic Grant. Kerstin clarified that co-funding of EFSA is up to 50%, with a maximum of 375.000 Euros per project.

Action Point 11: FPs to regularly promote the Call for Thematic Grants.

Action Point 12: FPs to ensure that relevant organisations are included on the Art. 36 List.

Action Point 13: EFSA to share link to the EFSA webpage where the new infographic on main grant types is available and can be downloaded for national use.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/qpefsaafsc0201701-c2.pdf>

13. ISSUES RAISED BY FOCAL POINTS AND EFSA

13.1. Update on the EU-FORA state-of-play

Nicoline Le Gourierec, informed FPs by videoconference about the state-of-play of the EFSA Fellowship Programme (EU-FORA). Nicoline thanked FPs for their strong support on the promotion of the calls both for hosting sites and for fellows. EFSA received 18 applications for hosting sites from 14 different MS with 34 different programme proposals and 85 applications for fellows from 21 MS, both numbers exceeding the set target. Nicoline outlined the milestones for the following months: during May, 30 fellows will be matched with the 15 highest ranked work programmes proposed by hosting sites. In June 2017, a summer workshop is foreseen for hosting site supervisors, tutors, training team and EU-FORA Team. The first cycle of the programme will start in September, with the initial 3 weeks induction training at EFSA. In October, the calls for the second cycle will be published. Nicoline invited FPs to send their feedback and suggestions for improvement.

The UK, Italy and France asked about actions that could be undertaken by FPs to help fellows to be successful in the next call, suggesting the sharing of examples of successful applications of fellows as well as additional information on topics and areas of RA that did not match between hosting site suggestions and fellows. Nicoline explained that hosting sites have not been evaluated in terms of the content of their proposals, but some applying hosting sites sent unclear information regarding the practical programme for the fellow as well as regarding trainings offered, supervisors, languages and thus did not succeed in the current call. Finland noted that it would be positive to open additional places for the initial training also to young scientists other than to PhD graduates. Nicoline confirmed that the induction training has been opened for additional applicants of which 6 PhD graduates have been selected. This number could be increased however the programme gives priority to a 12 month training cycle. Nicoline asked FPs to further support the programme, particularly to promote the next Call for hosting sites.

Action Point 14: FPs to send feedback and suggestions for improvement regarding the EU-FORA Programme to EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu.

13.2. Current FP activities in Germany

Lea Herges, FP from Germany, gave an update on FP activities. Lea informed about the progress of the AF Discussion Group on International Capacity Building (AFDGICB), which had a first physical meeting last February in Berlin hosted by the BfR, followed up by a presentation at the AF meeting in Malta. Lea made reference to the ToR and to possible comments they may provide on them to their AF members. Additional discussions will take place at the next AF meeting with the aim to establish a Technical Report for adoption at the December AF meeting. Lea further presented current national activities, particularly a Symposium of the EFSA FP with the title "*Food with added values? Assessment and authorisation at national and European level*" that had taken place last March at the 54th Scientific Congress of the German Nutrition Society (DGE) which is one of the Art. 36 organisations in Germany.

13.3. Emerging Risks Information Exchange

Ana Afonso, from the Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit, briefed FPs by videoconference on information exchange on emerging risks. Ana gave an overview on emerging risks activities and on the discussions held in breakout sessions at the past AF meeting in December 2016. The session aimed at improving the collaboration between MS and the engagement of the AF in the area of emerging risks, for which the following actions were identified: to reinforce and maintain an emerging risks community with the support from FPs; to revise the level of sensitivity of the information shared; to create an online platform for information sharing; and to establish a communication strategy and supporting tools. Ana underlined that FPs are meant to get more involved in the sharing of this type of information.

Denmark noted that representatives of the Scientific Network on Emerging Risks claim most information as confidential, which places obstacles to its exchange. EFSA is now gradually moving to open access to data and information. In this context, the Scientific Network on Emerging Risks is now explicitly asked to mark information that cannot be shared as confidential, while all other information is to be shared. Also, as a principle, confidentiality does not apply to the sharing of information between EFSA, FPs, AF and Scientific Networks, as all are bound by the same rules of confidentiality. Portugal reminded of the workshop on emerging risks that is going to be organised in Portugal, inviting FPs to register until 22nd November 2017.

13.4. New RA on CWD in Norway

Gisle Solstad, FP from Norway informed the plenary about the second RA published in Norway on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Gisle informed about the background of the disease and the specific outbreak in Norway. Conclusions from the first RA were revisited, and strategies for control measures were described with their respective potential to contain the disease and as background for ongoing and future activities. Up to now, a total of 3 cases in reindeer and 2 cases in moose have been detected. As next steps, culling and testing of the affected population of animals will take place, together with elimination of potential hot-spots of disease transfer and confinement of CWD-infected populations. National surveillance of CWD will be increased to ensure future evidence-based RM decisions. Montenegro asked if there are indications of a spill-over from reindeer and moose to other species. Gisle replied that this can be neither excluded nor confirmed, due to the very long incubation period of the disease. However, the possibility that other animal species transmit the disease has not been excluded. France asked about possible transmission of the disease to humans. Gisle explained that, based on the scientific input available, the disease in reindeer has been known since the 1970s in Northern America and no cases of transmission to humans have been identified. However, the disease in moose is caused by a new prion type and no scientific information on species barriers is available. France informed about the presentation of a Canadian team working on CWD in *Cynomolgus macaques* that will be presented at the next prion congress in Edinburgh in May 2017.

13.5. Update of food consumption guidelines for French adult population

Adrienne Pittman, FP from France, presented an ANSES update on food consumption guidelines for the French population. This work aimed to formulate, for the first time, consumption guidelines for the main food groups in order to meet the nutritional requirements of the adult population, while taking into account the challenges associated with the presence of certain chemical contaminants in food, preventing chronic diseases, and taking into account current dietary habits and preferences. Adrienne gave an overview of the main conclusions of the study, particularly with regards to changes on previous recommendations.

13.6. Celebration of 80+3 years of the ISS

Luca Busani, FP from Italy, gave an overview on the history of the ISS and of the celebrations around its 80+3 anniversary.

13.7. How safe is our food –RIVM Report

Jacqueline Castenmiller, FP from the Netherlands, presented a report on "*How Safe is our Food*" as a background to the overarching report on "*What is on our plate? Safe, Healthy and Sustainable Diets in the Netherlands*". The recent report focuses on possible health gains for the population through a healthy diet and the impact of dietary habits on the environment. Jacqueline explained that different actions will follow the results of the report, which can be circulated among FPs.

Action Point 15: NL to circulate report on "*How Safe is our Food?*"

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1. Scientific Cooperation Annual Report

Jeff Moon informed about the publication of EFSA's Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2016 that has been shared with FPs both online and as a printed version. Jeff pointed out that the graphical depiction of the EFSA partners in MS, Norway and Iceland, which is an annex to the report, has changed its layout and includes now also the Pre-Accession countries. FPs are asked for feedback regarding the layout to be used for the future poster format.

Action Point 16: *FPs to give feedback on the preferred layout of the graphical depiction of EFSA partners in MS, NO, IS and IPA countries.*

14.2. Scientific Cooperation Newsletter

Jeff gave an update on the upcoming Scientific Cooperation Newsletter. The next version of the newsletter is going to be published on the 3rd of July, thus contributions should be sent until Friday 23rd May 2017. Feedback on the newsletter is also welcome.

Action Point 17: *FPs to send contributions for the Scientific Cooperation Newsletter by Friday 23rd May 2017.*

14.3. Panel Renewal 2017-2018

David Cairra informed FPs about the renewal of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels by videoconference. David informed that the submission of applications will open as of the 1st of June and will close on 8th September 2017. A pre-registration stage, for applicants to create their user-profile and receive notifications was open on the 1st of May. FPs are asked to promote the Call. EFSA banners and slides, along with other promotional material concerning the Call, have been shared and should be used for this purpose.

On question from Italy, David clarified that the target number of submitted applications is 1500, compared to the 1000 applications received during the last Call. In addition to the generic news-story available on EFSA's website, tailored teaser web-stories regarding the different Panels will be made available.

Action Point 18: *FPs to promote the Call for the EFSA Panel Renewal 2018 using the different promotional material made available.*

14.4. FP Feedback from the 30th meeting

Sérgio Potier Rodeia gave an overview on the feedback received from FPs regarding the last meeting. Sérgio noted that improvements could be made regarding the relevance of items presented in plenary by FPs and that future feedback on the last FP meetings will be made against a baseline set on historical data.

14.5. Upcoming FP meetings and other FP/National events

Sérgio Potier Rodeia gave an outlook on upcoming FP meetings and other national events: the 32nd FP meeting will take place on the 13th – 14th of September in Prague and the 33rd FP meeting will take place on the 15th – 16th November in Parma. Sérgio also gave an overview of national events in the upcoming months, reminding FPs to update the relevant table available on DMS.

Action Point 19: *FPs to continue updating the table on FP and other national events available on DMS.*

14.6. Next FP meeting in Prague

Petr Benes, FP from the Czech Republic, invited FPs to the next FP meeting, to take place in September, in Prague.

14.7. AoB

- **Germany: EU Food Safety Almanac**

Lea Herges, FP from Germany, informed about the publication of the 4th edition of the EU Food Safety Almanac. The English version can be downloaded from the BfR website and EFSA will share the respective link after the meeting. The version will be translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Chinese – links to be provided by Germany. Printed versions can be provided on demand. Lea also informed about a specific Almanac for the Portuguese speaking countries, including 9 country profiles and available in Portuguese and English languages. Another specific version about the European Neighbourhood countries is in progress.

Action Point 20: *EFSA to circulate the link to the English version of the EU Food Safety Almanac; Germany to circulate link to other (language) versions once available.*

- **Germany: Renewal of FP Agreements in 2017 and 2018**

On question from Germany, Sérgio explained that FP agreements will be renewed in 2017 according to the current procedure. In 2018, the cycle of renewals will conclude and a 4 year-review review of the activities is expected during the course of 2018. A dedicated breakout session with FPs will take place to further prepare the review process and provide input to future FP Agreements.

- **Czech Republic: Weekly Media Monitoring Roundup**

On question from the Czech Republic, Jeff confirmed that the weekly media monitoring roundup that was being sent to FPs in the recent past has been discontinued. The reason for this was a decision of the EFSA Management Board for which the media roundup was originally created and who deemed the exercise not necessary. Jeff asked FPs on their interest on this feedback, as the exercise could possibly be resumed. The plenary mainly gave positive feedback regarding the media monitoring. Jeff agreed to follow-up on this item, also including as target the Communications Exchange Network (CEN).

Action Point 21: *EFSA to investigate the possibility to resume the weekly media monitoring roundup for FPs.*

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Jeff Moon closed the meeting, thanking participants for their attendance to the meeting and active contribution, and expressed particular appreciation to the Finnish hosts and EFSA colleagues supporting the preparation of the meeting both in Helsinki and Parma.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	EFSA	To send with FPs the ToR and request for nominations for the Scientific Network on Novel Foods
Action 2	Norway	To share invitation to ERA Symposium once registrations open
Action 3	FPs	To disseminate information regarding the ERA Symposium
Action 4	FPs	To update table of national RA activities until 22 May 2017
Action 5	France	To share report on LSD in English
Action 6	Italy	To share information on current national LSD activities
Action 7	Serbia / Hungary	To share information on the risk ranking calculator
Action 8	Serbia	To circulate the invitation to the International Food Safety Conference via email
Action 9	EFSA	To circulate the ED Decision about Unit Costs for EFSA Grants
Action 10	FPs	To regularly promote the Call on Partnering Grants
Action 11	FPs	To regularly promote the Call for Thematic Grants
Action 12	FPs	To ensure that relevant organisations are included on the Art. 36 List
Action 13	EFSA	To share link to the EFSA webpage where the new infographic on main grant types is available and can be downloaded for national use
Action 14	FPs	To send feedback and suggestions for improvement regarding the EU-FORA Programme to EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu
Action 15	NL	To circulate the report on "How Safe is our Food?"
Action 16	FPs	To give feedback on the preferred layout of the graphical depiction of EFSA partners in MS, NO, IS and IPA countries
Action 17	FPs	To send contributions for the Scientific Cooperation Newsletter by Friday 23 rd May 2017
Action 18	FPs	To promote the Call for the EFSA Panel Renewal 2018 using the different promotional material made available
Action 19	FPs	To continue updating the table on FP and other national events available on DMS
Action 20	EFSA & Germany	EFSA: to circulate the link to the English version of the EU Food Safety Almanac Germany: to circulate link to other (language) versions once available
Action 21	EFSA	To investigate the possibility to resume the weekly media monitoring roundup for FPs

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