



Foundation and activities of the EU-FORA Alumni: an evolving network of scientists who successfully completed EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme

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INTRODUCTION

The EU-FORA Alumni is an active network of scientists trained in food safety risk assessment. It was created in June 2018 to connect the fellows who participated in the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme (EU-FORA) initiated by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in September 2017 (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/fellowship>). EU-FORA is a one-year 'learning-by-doing programme' that aims to increase risk assessment expertise and capacity in Europe and promotes the creation of networks between fellows, supervisors and institutions involved in the programme. The EU-FORA Alumni is one of the outcomes of the strong interpersonal and professional bonds that were developed between and within each fellowship series.

METHODOLOGY

The EU-FORA Alumni connects scientists associated with the EU-FORA Fellowship Programme and promotes transdisciplinary collaborations between them, thereby facilitating the advancement and exchange of knowledge in the field of food safety risk assessment in Europe and beyond.

The EU-FORA Alumni aims to promote and enhance national and international cooperation on food safety risk assessment between experts, to facilitate the scientific exchange of expertise via conferences, workshops and training programmes and to support the development of a safer, healthier and more sustainable society.

RESULTS

During this three-year journey, the EU-FORA Alumni Board has faced many challenges and overcome several obstacles. It has successfully created platforms to connect new and

former EU-FORA fellows, developed an EU-FORA Alumni logo and set up a webpage (<https://www.eufora-alumni.org/>) that acts as an interactive communication platform. Over the next year, the EU-FORA Alumni Board is planning to transform the EU-FORA Alumni into a legal entity, to expand the membership area of the website and to undertake elections for the next EU-FORA Alumni Board and it aims to include more members in Alumni activities.

DISCUSSION

Ultimately, the EU-FORA Alumni is expected to form a strong network of experts trained in food safety risk assessment which will offer support and can be called upon by EFSA or any Member State organisations involved in such activities.