



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EFSA AND MS COMPETENT BODIES

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# COOPERATION PATHS



Individual  
Scientific Advisors

Experts

Trainees

As an individual

EU FORA  
fellowships

Grants

Scientific cooperation and  
Partnerships

Tenders

Public  
consultations

Calls for data

Feb '26

Guest scheme

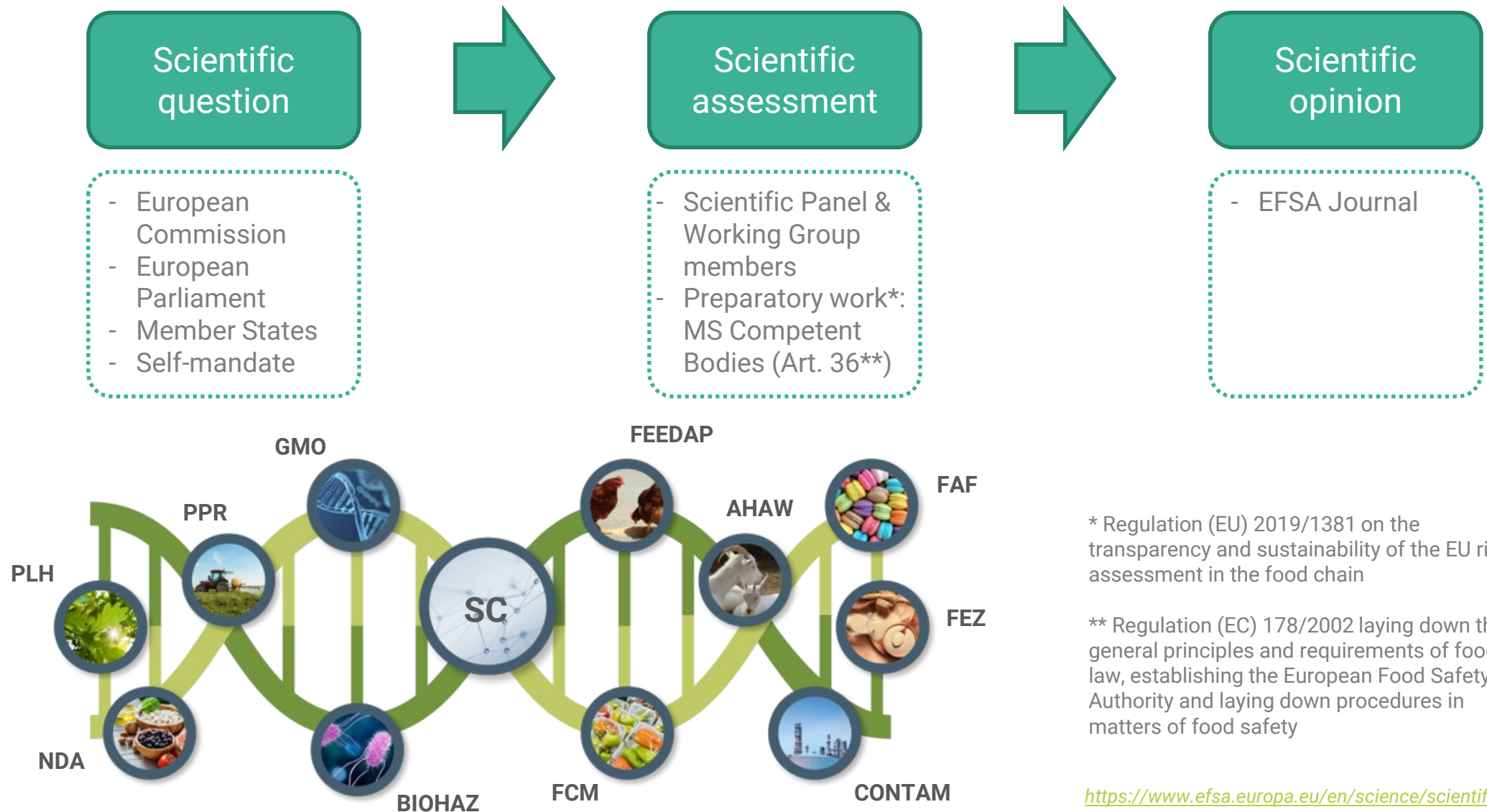
Secondments

Stakeholder  
Communities

As an organisation



# THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS (HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW)



# AN INCREASING ROLE FOR PARTNERING WITH MS COMPETENT BODIES



**Definition:** A long-term, trust-based **cooperation**, with attractive **win-win** elements, primarily between EFSA and MS/ EEA Competent Organisations, EU Agencies, EC Services, where risks and benefits are shared and that generate, among others, **tangible outputs**

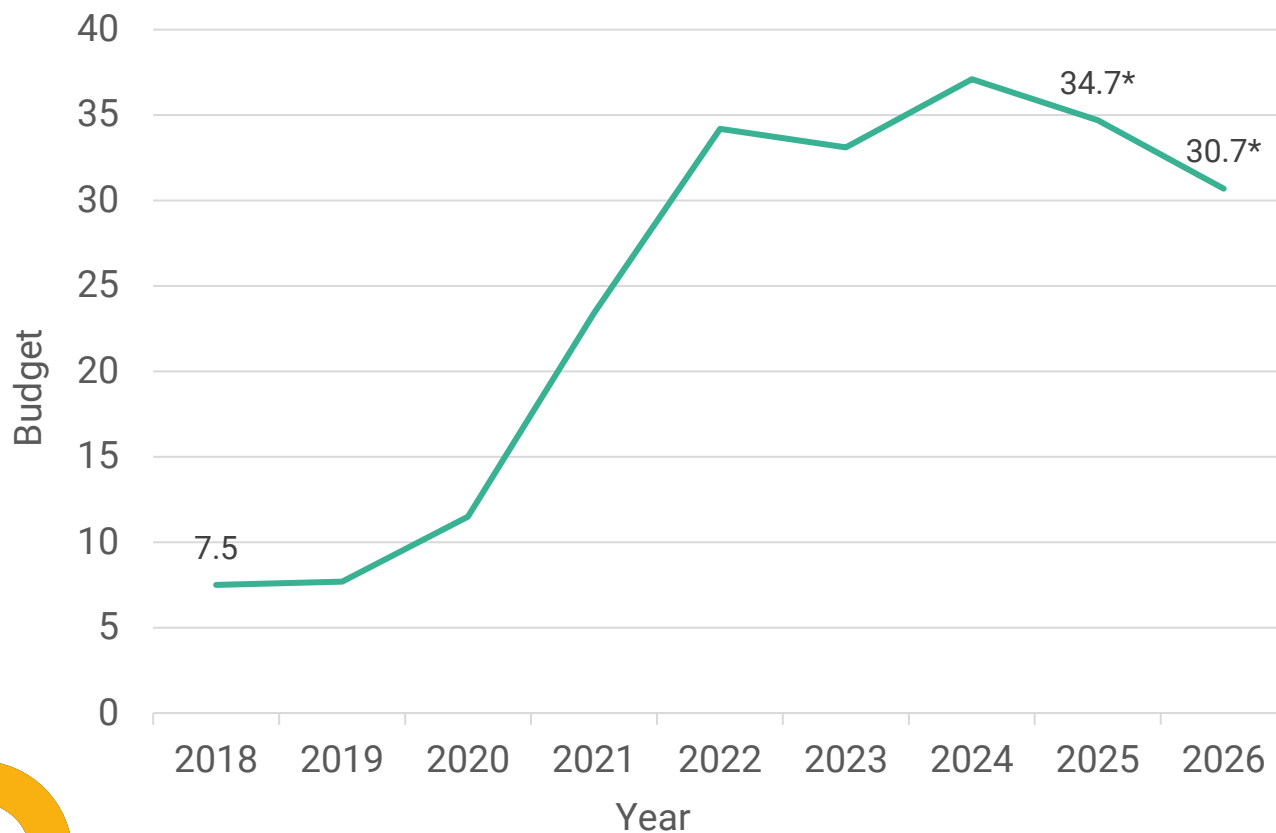
## Benefits:

- Reduced risk of duplication
- Higher pool of experts, i.e., easier to address scientific complexity and work volume peaks → Higher responsiveness
- Better sustainability of the RA system



# EVOLUTION OF EFSA SCIENCE GRANTS & PROCUREMENT BUDGET

Science G&P budget (in M€)



\*The figures for 2025 and 2026 are estimates

- Science G&P budget evolution:
  - Until 2019: ~ **7.5M€**
  - 2021: **3x** 2019 Budget
  - 2022-today: **4-5x** 2019 Budget
- Expected trend ('Partnership'):
  - ↓ Number of calls per year
  - ↑ Calls leading to 'Framework' agreements
  - ↑ Budget per call
  - ↑ Duration per agreement
  - ↑ Participation; often involving consortia

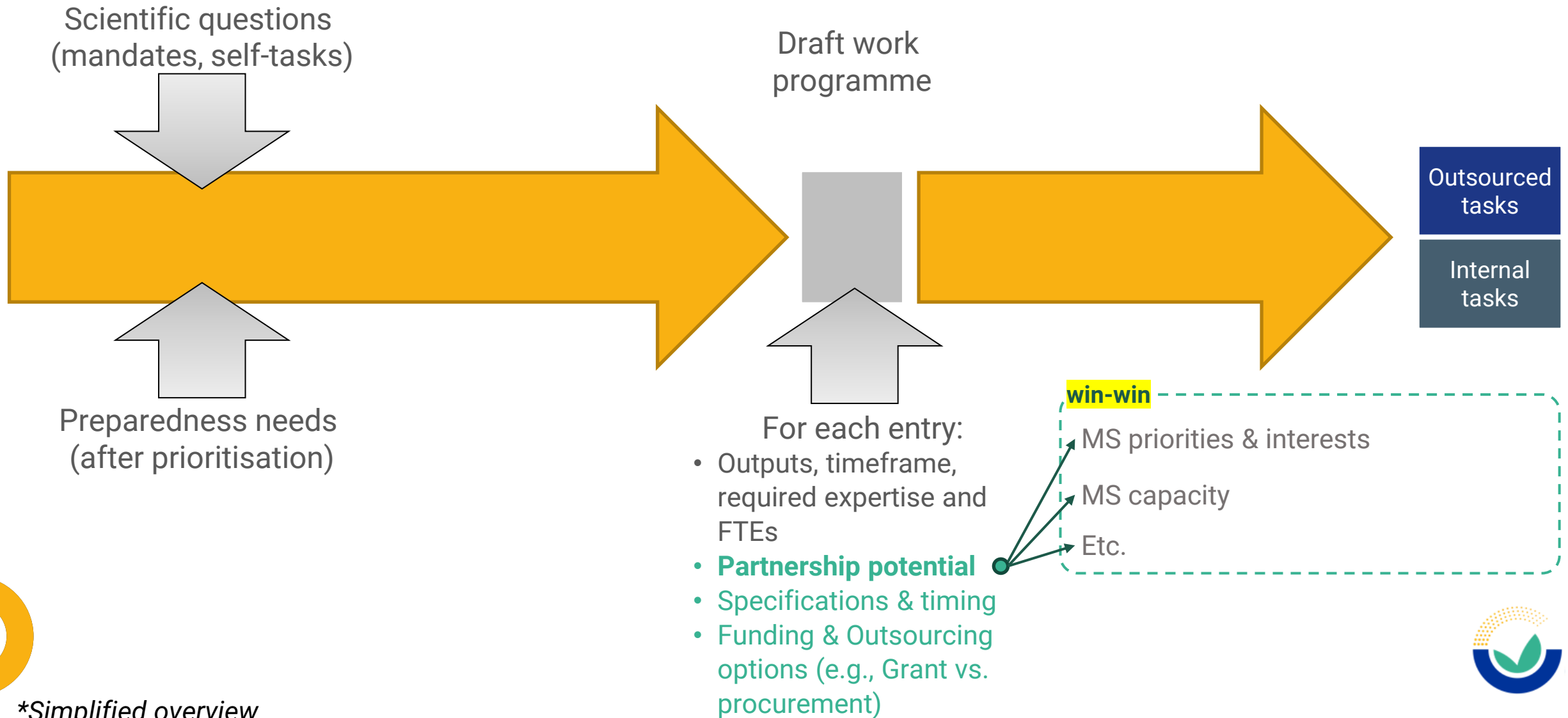


# WHAT TOPICS CAN BE FOUND IN EFSA'S CALLS?

- Topics can fall into any of the areas in the remit of EFSA. E.g.:
  - Plant health
  - Animal health
  - Animal welfare
  - Nutrition
  - Biological hazards
  - Chemical contaminants in food and feed
  - Feed additives
  - Novel food
  - Plant protection products
  - GMO
  - Environmental RA
  - Food ingredients and packaging
  - Emerging risks
  - Data, incl. food consumption
  - Cross-cutting science
  - Methodologies for RA
  - Risk communication
  - Etc.
- Each year, EFSA's calls usually fall into a subset – only – of those topics
- Tasks vary greatly among calls. However, EFSA does not fund research, per se, unless to address specific knowledge gaps.



# DECIDING ON WHICH TASKS TO IMPLEMENT VIA PARTNERSHIPS\*



# DECIDING ON WHICH TASKS TO IMPLEMENT VIA PARTNERSHIPS

MS priorities & interests

MS capacity

- Risk Assessment Initiatives Hub (esp. the MS RA plans)
- Advisory Forum/ Focal Point discussions
- Recent/ current activity in G&P & FP TMA and experience thereof
- Scientific literature, Horizon projects, etc.
- Published reports from MS Authorities
- Dedicated events before/after call launch
- Etc.

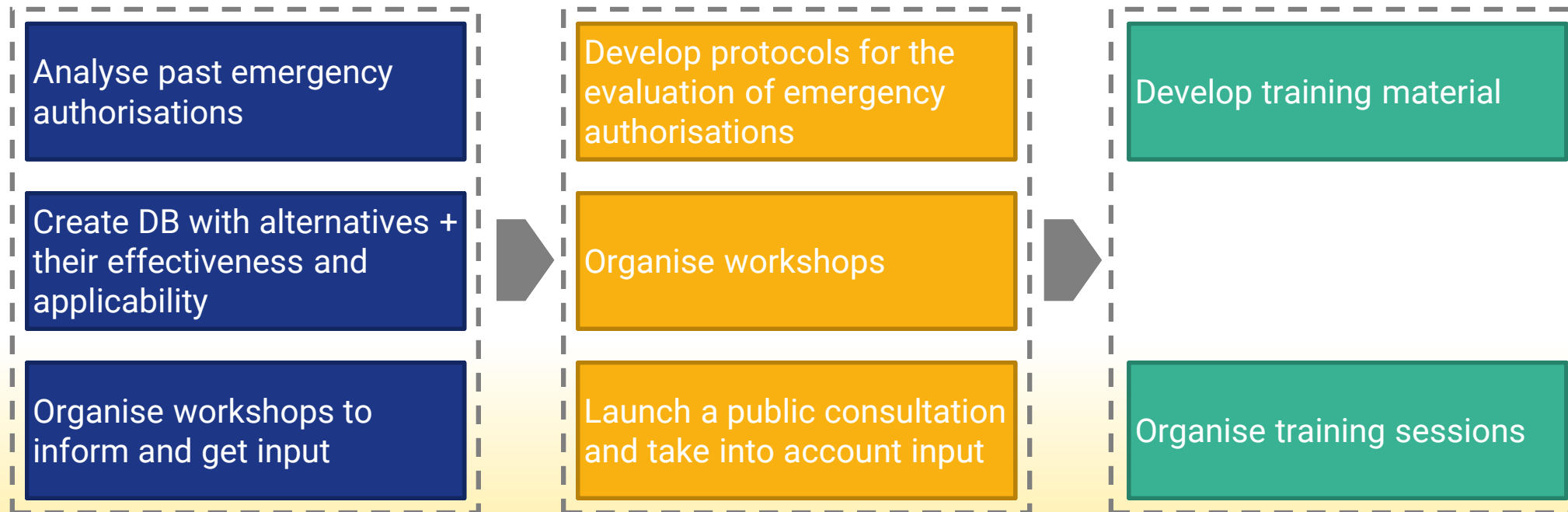
Make use of the  
"Connect"  
function of the FP

There is public  
data available  
that can help  
finding partners





# EXAMPLE: SUPPORT TO URGENT AUTHORIZATIONS ON PLANT HEALTH AND PESTICIDES (ARTICLE 53 OF REGULATION (EU) 1107/2009)



Engagement with the scientific community, RA/RM groups and the public along knowledge creation



# EXAMPLE: SUPPORT TO EFSA IN THE RISK ASSESSMENT OF **FOOD ENZYMES**, **FOOD ADDITIVES**, **FOOD FLAVOURINGS** AND **FEED ADDITIVES**

<u>Lot</u>	Title	Domain
1	Assessment of the data regarding the identification and characterisation of microorganisms used as such or as production strains	◆◆◆
2	Assessment of the identity and characterisation of a food enzyme, food additive, food flavouring or feed additive	◆◆◆
3	Assessment of toxicological safety	
	Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Elimination studies	◆◆◆
	Genotoxicity and toxicological studies	◆◆◆
	QSAR analysis	◆◆◆
	Toxicological testing relevant for user safety	◆
4	Allergenicity assessment	◆
5	Dietary exposure	◆◆◆
6	Assessment of efficacy and safety for target animal species	◆
7	Environmental risk assessment	◆
8	Opinion assemblage	◆◆◆



# EXAMPLE: SUPPORT TO EFSA FOR THE RA OF PESTICIDES (EUBA-EFSA-2025-PREV-02)

- **Area 1** - Toxicological and metabolism studies and related risk assessment, including the assessment of non-dietary exposure and studies related to investigation of endocrine disrupting properties;
- **Area 2** - Residues in food and feed and related RA;
- **Area 3** - Chemistry, physico-chemical properties, analytical methods, fate and behaviour in the environment and related RA;
- **Area 4** - Ecotoxicological studies and related RA, incl. studies related to investigation of endocrine disrupting properties;
- **Area 5...**

- **Task 1** - Scientific contribution to the evaluation of active substances (excluding those covered by task 2 and 3), their related co-formulants, impurities, safeners and synergists and to the drafting of the respective part of the EFSA outputs (applicable to areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5);
- **[...]**
- **Task 5** - Scientific contribution to the drafting of EFSA guidance documents related to the RA of plant protection products, and to related tasks [...] (applicable to areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- ...

	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Task 7	Task 8	Task 9	Task 10	Task 11	Task 12
Area 1								NA				
Area 2								NA			NA	
Area 3						NA		NA				
Area 4			NA			NA		NA				
Area 5			NA			NA		NA			NA	
Area 6	NA	NA			NA	NA					NA	NA



# PARTNERSHIPS: REFLECTIONS

Each partnership project is an individual case. However, the following areas tend to receive more attention:

- Financing (e.g., financing level, timing and predictability thereof)
- Coordination (e.g., in large consortia in cases of experts turnover)
- Partnership onboarding  $\leftrightarrow$  Quality of outputs
- Knowledge Organisation & related tools  $\rightarrow$  speed, consistency, clarity

The Partnership concept is evolving. This leads to improved calls and practices. For (potential) partners, the following can help:

- Use opportunities to **get to know EFSA work and way of working**. Event participation and placements can be useful.
- Consider **working with other partners** that may be more experienced.
- **Follow developments** in your area of interest at EFSA (AF, Scientific Networks, etc.)



# THE ROLE OF THE EFSA FOCAL POINTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

- At all times:
  - Support the **Advisory Forum scientific work incl. the planning of RA work**. E.g., they maintain a database on MS RA plans. This information is used by EFSA when work towards a scientific question starts.
  - Inform interested parties on the work of EFSA and the different cooperation routes.
  - Support/ Inform on thematic discussions or **workshops that provide input towards view partnership opportunities**.
  - Take note of bottlenecks for cooperation and work with EFSA in resolving them.
- After a call is launched
  - Inform relevant parties on the call launch and on relevant events for the promotion of the event (e.g., webinars, networking events)
  - Can support the **networking** of interested parties across countries
  - Can provide support to interested parties regarding the application modalities

...but - in 2026 - opportunity for the MS to refine the function and services of the FPs



# CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN



Call for proposals (Grant - Art. 36)



Call for tender (procurement)

Title	Contract type	Closing date	Maximum Budget (EUR)
Welfare monitoring: data driven risk assessment in fast and slower growing broilers (BROWARD)	Grant Agreement	08/01/2026	2.5 M
Joint programming for risk Assessment in vector-borne diseases	Framework Partnership Agreements	15/01/2026	6 M
Developing, organizing and delivering of training activities under the EFSA European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme (EU-FORA).	Framework Contract	22/01/2026	1.6 M
Hypercare, maintenance, support, and further development of the EFSA Spatially Explicit Environmental Data (SEED) platform in Databricks	Framework Contract	23/02/2026	550 K
Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme.	(15) Grant Agreements	26/02/2026	55 K (x15)
Support to detection of EU plant pests: trapping (LOT 1), eDNA (LOT 2) and remote sensing imagery (LOT 3)	Framework Contract	26/02/2026	1.6 M
Generic simulation models for climate suitability analysis of new and emerging plant pests (2 Lots)	Grant Agreement	22/04/2026	750 K



# CALLS PRESENTED IN THE EVENT OF 12/12/2025\*

Title	Call timing	Agreement type	Estimated budget
Support to EFSA in the risk assessment of food additives and flavourings	2026 Q3	FPA	300K
Preparatory support on bioinformatics for the evaluation of GMO dossiers	2026 Q2	FWC	320K
EU-FORA – Selection of hosting sites and fellows	Call open +Nov.2026	GA	(x15) 55K
-OMICS for chemical grouping	Jan. 2026	Contract	500K
Strategies for grouping chemicals	Q1 2026	Contract	400K
Adoption of metagenomics approaches for risk assessment (microbiome)	Q1 2026	Contract	1.25M
Evaluation of microbiome-relevant biomarkers and microbiome metabolic capacity upon xenobiotics exposure	Q1 2026	FWC	0.3 + 1M
Novel Strategy for Fit-For-Purpose Allergenicity Risk Assessment	Q2 2026	FWC or contract	1.3M
Support to EFSA in the risk assessment of alternative methods for the use and disposal of animal by-products and derived products	Q3/4 2027	FPA	400K

\* The “Info session on [EFSA’s 2026/2027 funding opportunities](#)”. The calls listed are based on current planning; hence, the information should be considered as tentative and subject to change.



# CALLS PRESENTED IN THE EVENT OF 12/12/2025\*

Title	Call timing	Agreement type	Estimated budget
Research to reduce risk assessment uncertainties on new and emerging plant pests	2026	GA	TBD
Implementation of Pest survey toolkit in EFSA Azure Cloud data lake architecture	Jan. 2026	Contract	1.2M
Support to EFSA Horizon scanning activities in Plant Health	May 2026	GA	650K
Maintenance and evolution of the open access European food composition database: filling gaps and keeping the database up-to-date to serve risk assessment work of EFSA	2027	TBD	300K
Support to national dietary surveys in compliance with the EU Menu methodology	Q1 2027	Contract	Up to 500K/country
Exposure from food supplements	Q1 2027	TBD	400K
Emerging Risks identification in Botanical Food Supplement	Q1 2026	TBD	200K
Human Biomonitoring at EFSA	Q3 2026	TBD	600K

- + Presentation + video from the event on the funding opportunities for 2026/27
- + new version of the EFSA Scientific Cooperation plan in Jan. 2026

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