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Greek FP event, University of Thessaly

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EFSA AND MS COMPETENT BODIES

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COOPERATION PATHS



Experts

Individual
Scientific Advisors

Operational
Support Advisors

Trainees

As an individual

EU FORA
fellowships

Grants

Scientific cooperation and
Partnerships

Tenders

Public
consultations

Calls for data

Guest scheme

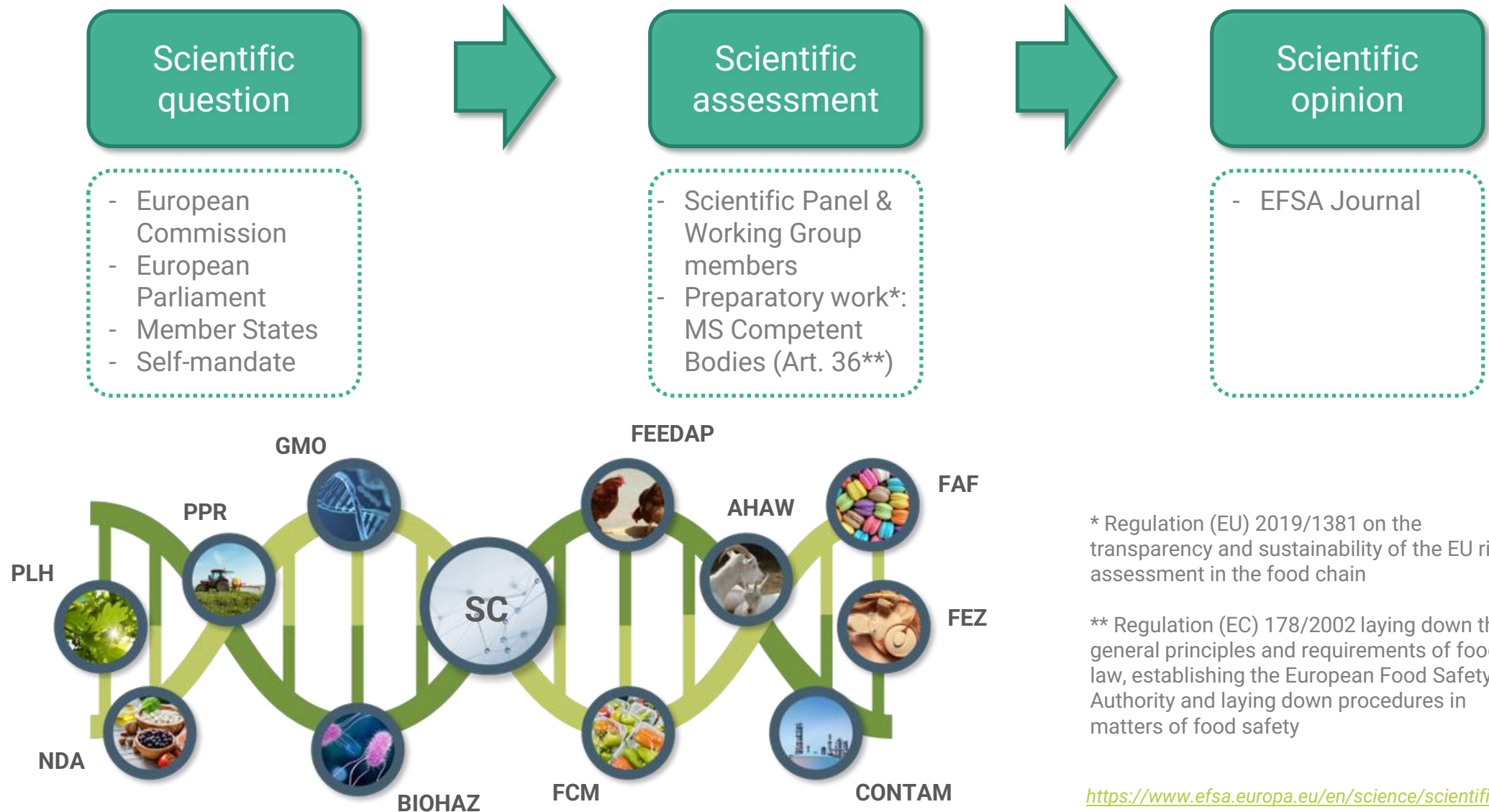
Secondments

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**

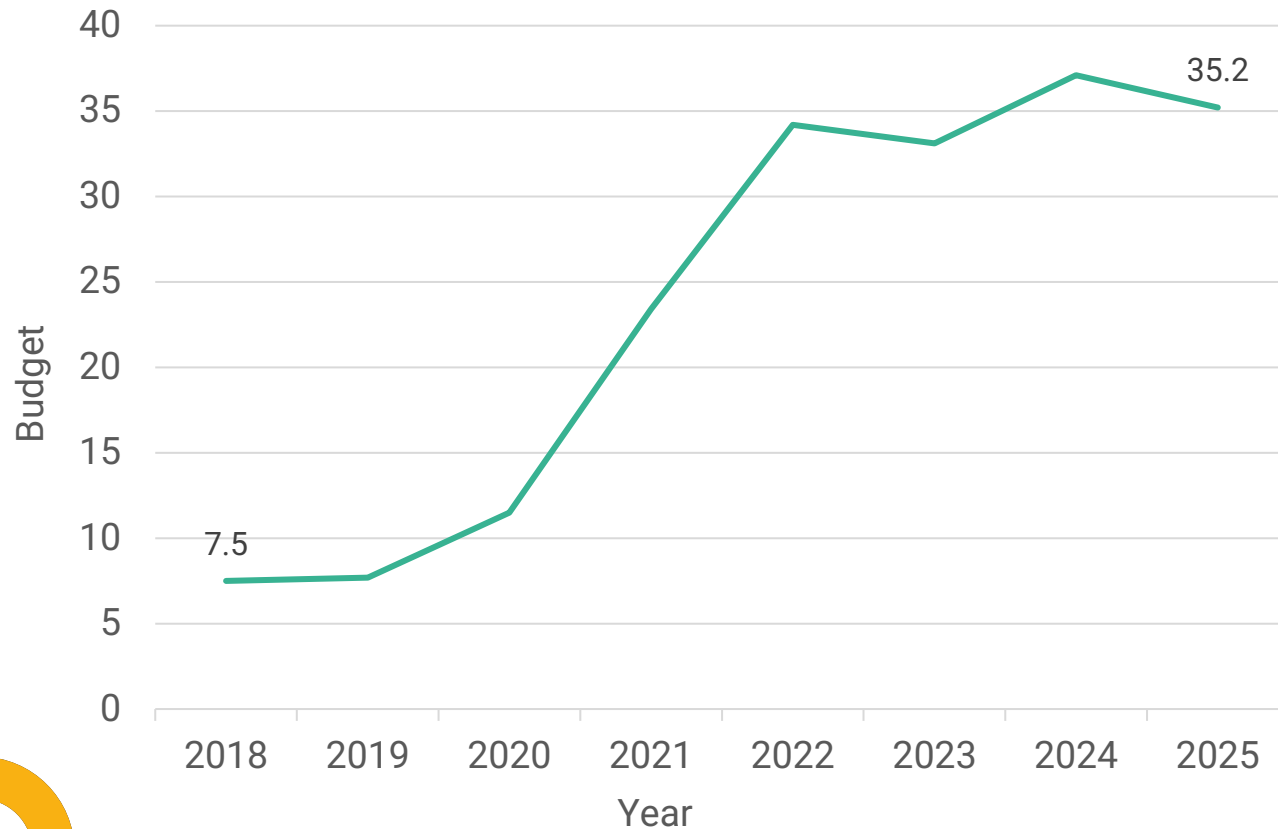
Benefits:

- 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

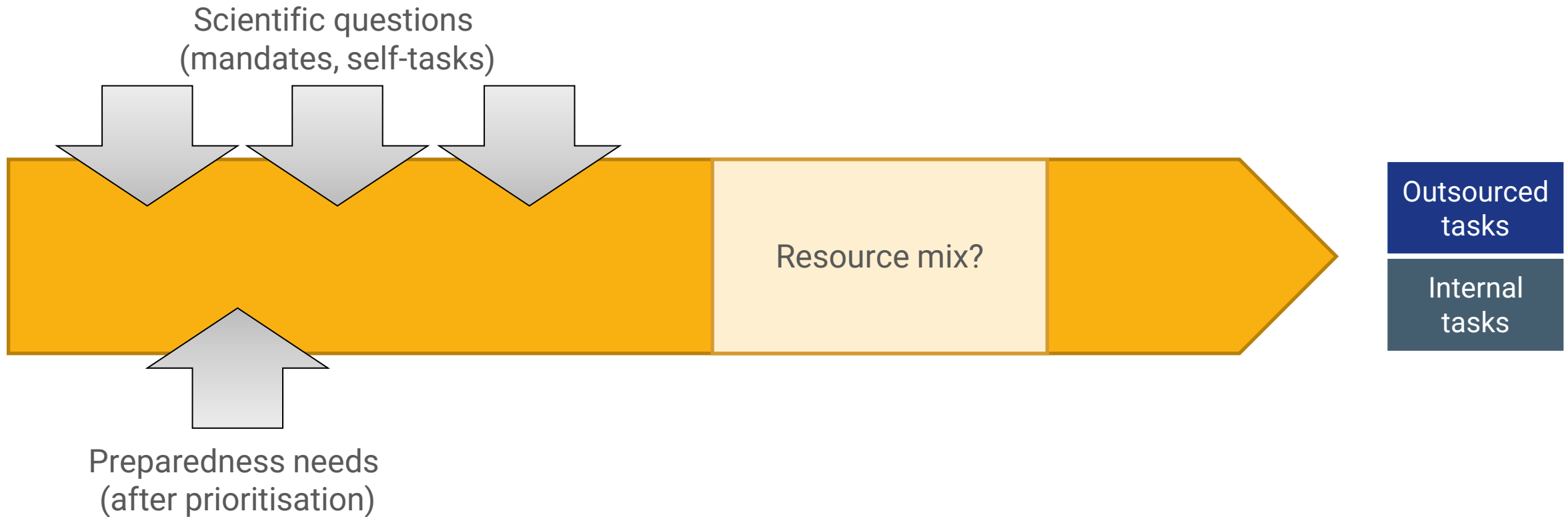
Science G&P budget (in M€)*



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



DECIDING ON WHICH TASKS TO IMPLEMENT VIA PARTNERSHIPS*



**Simplified overview*



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 knowledge and networking skills of the FP

There is public data available that can help finding partners



PARTNERSHIPS: REFLECTIONS

- Each partnership project is an individual case.

Typical benefits	Typical Challenges
• Additional expertise that might be missing • Additional FTEs that improve workload management capacity	• Predictability of workload and financing • Coordination, e.g., in large consortia • Partnership onboarding ↔ Quality of outputs • Knowledge management → Speed, consistency

- **Opportunities** that lead to BETTER partnerships:
 - Placement opportunities so as **to get to know EFSA's processes and tasks**
 - Cooperation with other **partners in consortium**
 - **Follow developments & engage** in your area of interest at EFSA



GENERATING (MORE) VALUE FROM COOPERATION

- Value can be found via ALL cooperation possibilities (not just funded projects).
- Indicatively:
 - Visibility
 - Networking
 - Utilisation of new knowledge for regulatory purposes
 - Advocacy at national and EU levels
- The Focal Point plays a key role in understanding how to create new value via cooperation
- EFSA survey on cooperation to be launched in June 2026!



CALLS CURRENTLY OPEN



Call for proposals (Grant - Art. 36)



Call for tender (procurement)



Title	Contract type	Closing date	Maximum Budget (EUR)
Evaluation of microbiome-relevant human biomarkers and in vitro models for xenobiotic risk assessment	Direct contract	11/06/2026	300 K
Novel strategy for allergenicity risk assessment of proteins in regulated food and feed products	Framework contract	23/06/2026	1,300 K
Strategies for grouping chemicals	Direct contract	26/06/2026	400 K
Support with the coordination of scientific training courses: - Lot 1: Coordinate the logistical and administrative aspects involved in the development and delivery of EFSA's Scientific Training Courses - Lot 2: Development of eLearning solutions - Lot 3: EFSA's external virtual learning platform support and account maintenance	Framework contract	29/06/2026	600 K
Metagenomics Adoption in EFSA Risk Assessment (microbiome)	Direct contract	12/08/2026	1,250 K



FORTHCOMING CALLS *

Title	Call timing	Agreement type	Estimated budget
Support to EFSA in the risk assessment of food additives and flavourings	2026 Q3	Framework Partnership Agreement	300K
Extensive and harmonised collection of welfare data in pigs - Pathway to animal welfare quantitative risk assessment	2026 Q4	Grant Agreement	1,500 K
Emerging risks identification related to plant based for supplements	Jun. 2026	Direct contract	200 K
Further develop the database on alternatives to pesticides (used in the protocols for pesticide emergency authorisations)	Sep. 2026	Grant Agreement	500 K
Support to EFSA in the risk assessment of alternative methods for the use and disposal of animal by-products and derived products	Sep. 2026	Framework Partnership Agreement	300K
Foresight activities to support Plant Health (<u>tentative</u>)	Sep. 2026	Grant Agreement	800 K
Partnership on exposure (<u>tentative</u>)	Oct. 2026	Grant Agreement	100 K (TBC)
EU-FORA – Selection of hosting sites and fellows	Nov. 2026	Grant Agreement	(x15) 55K

* According to current planning. Planned calls for proposals and tender are available [here](#). Calls for proposals are open only to Competent Organisations



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