



Athens, 11th June 2018

PRESS RELEASE

"EU-FORA" training programme

Today, the last training course, namely Module 3, under the frame of "EU-FOR A" programme starts. Athens, as the closing city of this ambitious European programme, initiated by EFSA, hosts fellows from 11 European countries for the last 5-day training course, as the fourth one out of a series of four training modules. The course is organized by the Hellenic Food Authority – EFET and will be held from Monday 11th of June, morning, until Friday the 15th June, afternoon in the Athenaeum Grand Hotel, located in Athens.

The training course is dedicated to address different and extensive topics on risk assessment such as issues on emerging risks, nanotechnology, risk ranking, adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP), Mode of Action (MoA) and Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA). Distinguished Greek and foreign tutors coming from the Hellenic Food Authority (EFET), the Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI), the Agriculture University of Athens (AUA), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OAW), SAFOSO, the Netherlands Food and Consumer product safety Authority (NVWA), the University of St. Thomas (USA), University of Ottawa (CAN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will disseminate knowledge and promote constructive discussions in order to elaborate useful conclusions and why not to come up with future proposals that could be adopted in the risk assessment from a new and fresh looking perspective.

The "EU-FOR A" (European Food Risk Assessment) Fellowship Programme is a European pioneer project initiated by EFSA, aiming at training the future generation of risk assessors in the field of food safety on a European level. Consumers all over Europe will benefit from it. A four-part partnership consortium led by AGES (BfR, SAFOSO, AGES, EFET) was tasked to fulfill the "EU-FOR A" programme and to successfully address the high standards and demanding training requirements set by EFSA.

The one-year programme combined the on-the-job "learning by doing" by placing fellows at organizations on different hosting sites (of the Scientific Cooperation Network of EFSA, namely Article 36) as well as complemented by a total of six weeks joint training modules located in Parma (EFSA), Vienna (AGES), Berlin (BfR) and Athens (EFET).

Let all wish that these training initiatives will continue to gain ground across Europe towards an EU integrated approach to food safety by assuring a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

