



12th January 2021

http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/point_focal/index.html

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

21-1

Calls

EU-FORA fellow and hosting site selection: upcoming deadline

Only a week left to apply as a fellow for the next cycle of EU-FORA!

It is still possible to apply to be a fellow for the next cycle of the EU-FORA Programme, by the **15th January**. Please widely disseminate this information and encourage applications among early to mid career professionals!

For any further questions on the programme, please find more information in [the dedicated webpage](#). To apply: [here](#)!

The deadline for applications for the hosting sites are open until **12 February**

Do not hesitate to contact EFSA at EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu, may you need additional information.

[LinkedIn](#): 3 reasons to apply for the European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme

EFSA Hackathon - Design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news - CONTEST/EFSA/AMU/2020/01 | DL 28/01/2021

Hackathon contest “**Design of an Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news using EFSA’s body of scientific opinions to safeguard the credibility of information in EU about food and feed safety**” – reference: **CONTEST/EFSA/AMU/2020/01**

The overall objective of this Innovation Prize is to enhance some of EFSA key values such as openness and innovation in order to enable stakeholders to understand the basis EFSA’s scientific work in an innovative manner. The specific objective of the present contest is to come up with a prototype of Artificial Intelligence solution to detect fake news in the area of Food and Feed Safety leveraging whole EFSA’s body of Scientific Opinions, from its foundation to present days.

Please note that the deadline for registration of applicants is **Thursday 28 January 2021 at 14:30 CET**

More information: **Contest -** [CONTEST/EFSA/AMU/2020/01 - EFSA Hackathon “fake news detection”](#)

In case of any queries related to this public procurement, please do not hesitate to address them to EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu.

Public Consultations

Public consultation: EFSA calls on risk communication experts and specialists for feedback | Deadline 17/01/2021

This is a gentle reminder to please send your feedback on EFSA's [open consultation on a draft scientific report on Technical assistance in the field of risk communication](#). This document will support the European Commission to implement a new provision of the 2019 'Transparency Regulation' 2019/1381: a General Plan for Risk Communication in the area of EU food safety. Feedback and input from academic experts and from national and international partners are essential to ensure the quality of this output so that the General Plan for Risk Communication has a sound scientific basis in theory and best practice.

We are counting on your support for input and/or to remind the relevant networks to send relevant feedback **by the deadline of 17 January 2021**. Please, note that this reminder has been shared with the Advisory Forum and the Communications Expert Network members as well.

For further questions, do not hesitate to contact the specific Unit's functional mailbox: socialscience@efsa.europa.eu

Events

Credibility of scientific expertise and public decision – online International Symposium | 18/1/2020

ANSES would like to invite you to the online International Symposium on "**Credibility of scientific expertise and public decision. New challenges for health risk governance in a changing world.**"

The symposium will be held in January and February:

- the afternoon of **20 January, framing presentations**
- the afternoon of 21 January, initial lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis
- a series of 10 thematic webinars held on the afternoons of 26 January, 2 February, 8 February and 9 February.

Program and registration are available following this link: <http://ptolemee.com/ANSES2021/index.html>

Closing date for registration: 18/1/2020

Sustainable Use of Pesticides - first remote stakeholder event | 19/1/2021

We would like to inform you about the first remote stakeholder **event** on the **Sustainable Use of Pesticides** taking place on 19/1/21.

The Commission is currently performing a Better Regulation evaluation of the sustainable use of pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC and an impact assessment of its planned revision. This is the first in a series of planned stakeholder consultation events by which stakeholders can express their views on this topic and give specific input to the process.

The agenda and registration link for the event have been published on the Commission's website

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/sustainable-use-pesticides-first-remote-stakeholder-event-2021-jan-19_en

Training

JRC Summer School on "Non-animal Approaches in Science: The Three R...evolution" | Deadline : 17/1/2021

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and its EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM) are organising [the JRC Summer School on "Non-animal Approaches in Science: The Three R...evolution"](#) on **17th - 21st May 2021**.

The JRC Summer School provides **students or early-career scientists** (max. 4 years after masters or PhD) with a strong interest in **non-animal approaches** with a **unique opportunity** to learn from experts in the field, share knowledge and experience with peers, and build a professional network, all while having fun too!

The applications are still open (deadline the **17th January 2021**) and if you are aware of any interested party, we would be grateful if you could share this initiative.

For further information and how to apply, do not hesitate to visit the dedicated page: [the JRC Summer School on "Non-animal Approaches in Science: The Three R...evolution"](#) Please, note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation the school will be **online**.

Webinar: Use of the XETA in the assessment strategy of the ECHA/EFSA Guidance on Endocrine Disruptors | 1 February 2021

We would like to invite you to participate to the webinar **"Use of the XETA in the assessment strategy of the ECHA/EFSA Guidance on Endocrine Disruptors"**.

This webinar will explain how to consider Xenopus Eleutheroembryonic Thyroid Assay (XETA), a new test methodology published by OECD in 2019, in the assessment strategy of the ECHA/EFSA Guidance. Feedback received during the webinar will be considered for the finalisation of the annex to the ECHA/EFSA Guidance.

For your information, the webinar is scheduled on **Monday 1st February 2021, from 15.00 to 16.00 (CET)** and the registration to attend is open.

Please find more information about agenda and registration on the link at the bottom of this email. Should you have any questions or doubts, please contact EFSA at webinars@efsa.europa.eu

Publications

New rules on transparency: detailed arrangements for stakeholders

As you may know, recent EU legislation – known as the [Transparency Regulation](#) – means that important changes to the way EFSA operates will come into application in a few months. We are writing to let you know how these changes may affect the way you or your colleagues work with us.

The aim of this new Regulation, which becomes applicable on 27 March 2021, is to increase the transparency of risk assessment in the food chain. Strengthening the reliability, objectivity and independence of the scientific studies submitted to EFSA and reinforcing the governance of EFSA to ensure the Authority's long-term sustainability are key aspects of this Regulation. It was developed in response to a European Citizens' Initiative on pesticides and the findings of the review of the General

Food Law Regulation that was completed in January 2018. Further background information on the Transparency Regulation is available on the [European Commission website](#).

Practical arrangements – new rules and measures

As part of the implementation process for this legislation, EFSA has published details of how the new rules and measures specified in the regulation will operate in practice. The arrangements are aimed primarily at EFSA's stakeholders, such as applicants who want to place food products on the EU market.

The "[practical arrangements](#)" (PAs) for implementing the regulation will help stakeholders to better understand how the new processes and tools affect them and what adjustments they need to make to operate effectively in the new environment. They were drafted following extensive consultation with stakeholders, the European Commission and EU Member States throughout 2020.

The PAs cover areas such as proactive transparency, confidentiality, notification of studies, pre-submission advice and consultation of third parties. EFSA has already published PAs on the [processing of applications for access to documents](#) held by EFSA.

Please share this information with all colleagues, members and partners that you think will be impacted by these changes by forwarding this email or via your social media channels and website.

Support for stakeholders

To further support stakeholders preparing for the new arrangements, over the next weeks and months EFSA will be producing a range of supporting materials such as animated tutorials, as well as holding a series of training and engagement sessions. A calendar of planned activities can be found on the [EFSA website](#).

*The Luxembourgish EFSA Focal Point Team wishes you
all the best for 2021!*