



22 February 2024

[Luxembourgish EFSA Focal Point](#)

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

24-02

Calls

Call for EU-FORA hosting sites and fellows 2024-2025 | deadline 14.03.

The call for the selection of hosting sites and fellows for the EU-FORA cycle 2024-2025 is open until **14 March 2024**.

For details, you can consult the [call documents](#), including the instructions on how to apply for this e-grant through the [EU Funding and Tenders portal](#) and the document attached.

The Call intends to fund the placement of 15 fellows by awarding grants to consortia made of two Art. 36 List organisations from two different MS, Iceland and Norway:

- one acting as hosting site and responsible for the training of the fellow, and
- the other as fellow sending organisation, identifying a fellow to be trained.

To further facilitate the creation of consortia, you can either:

- contact your [National Focal Point](#) expressing your interest in this call, either as a hosting site or as a fellow sending organisation. Note that the same organisation can act as both in different consortia, and/or
- Check the file [“Partner searches for the creation of consortia”](#) on the Call webpage. This file is updated on a weekly basis.

Organisations can make use of existing joint projects and partners from former projects and EFSA/EU grants. Some of the currently existing large EU projects could be a good starting point for organisations to search for partners.

You can find further information on the EU-FORA Programme and this Call on the [EFSA's dedicated website](#), and should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at EU-FORA@efsa.europa.eu.

See all EFSA open calls for [grant proposals](#), [calls for data](#) and [calls for tender](#).

Public consultations

On 15 February, EFSA launched Public Consultations on **three NDA Panel Draft Guidance Documents**. Alongside the public consultation on the **draft updated novel foods guidance**, EFSA is also hosting a [webinar](#) open to all interested stakeholders.

Date: 21 March 2024, 15.00 - 18.00 (CET).

Deadline for registration: 19 March 2024, 12:00 (CET).

Authorisation of a novel food | deadline 14.04.

Public Consultation on the Draft guidance on the scientific requirements for an **authorisation of a novel food** in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

[Comment here.](#)

Authorisation of traditional foods from third countries | deadline 14.04.

Public Consultation on the Draft guidance on the scientific requirements for a notification and application for **authorisation of traditional foods from third countries** in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

[Comment here.](#)

Substances proposed as new micronutrient sources | deadline 14.04.

Public Consultation on the Draft guidance on scientific principles and data requirements for the safety and relative bioavailability assessment of **substances proposed as new micronutrient sources**.

[Comment here.](#)

Public Consultation on draft scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level for preformed vitamin A and β -carotene. | deadline 22.03.

EFSA's Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit has launched a public consultation on its draft scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level for preformed vitamin A and β -carotene. This document re-evaluates the safety of preformed vitamin A and β -carotene and provides revised ULs for preformed vitamin A.

[Comment here.](#)

Public Consultation on draft scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for iron. | deadline 01.04.

EFSA's Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit has launched a public consultation on its draft scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level for iron. This document re-evaluates the safety of iron and provides a safe level of intake for it.

[Comment here.](#)

Public Consultation on draft guidance of EFSA's Scientific Committee on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments. | deadline 02.04.

EFSA's Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) unit has launched a public consultation on the draft guidance of EFSA's Scientific Committee on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments.

[Comment draft updated guidance here.](#)

Public Consultation on the Draft Guidance on Risk-Benefit Assessment of Foods (RBA) | deadline 02.04.

EFSA has updated its 2010 guidance on the risk-benefit assessment (RBA) of foods. The update addresses methodological developments and regulatory needs.

A public consultation on the draft updated guidance document has been launched on 19th of February. In this context, EFSA is organising an info-session to present the guidance document to representatives of Member States, Focal Points and experts from International Organisations.

[Comment draft updated guidance here.](#)

Info session to present the draft guidance document, share further information on its scope and technical content, invite feedback from relevant stakeholders, and provide context for the public consultation:

Date: 5 March 2024 from 14.30 to 16.30 (CET).

Deadline for registration: 29 March 2024, 12:00 (CET). [Register here.](#)

See all open public consultations [here](#).

Events

Info Session: (Re-)Evaluating Food Additives 19.-20.03.

EFSA is organising a hybrid event on food additives on 19-20 March 2024 in Parma and online.

The event is intended to serve as a platform for updates and dialogue on food additives evaluation, providing stakeholders with insights into recent, ongoing and future assessments. Additionally, it will offer an opportunity to discuss and gather input for the ongoing revision of the "2012 ANS Panel's food additive guidance for submission for food additive evaluations".

[Register here](#) for in-person participation no later than 20 February 2024 at 24:00 CET.

The event will also be **web streamed** on [the dedicated EFSA webpage](#). **No registration** is needed to follow the web streaming.

Stakeholder webinar on the Novel Food guidance documents 19.03.

Participants: the webinar is intended for all stakeholders with expertise and/or interest in the area of novel foods.

Date: 21 March 2024, 15.00 - 18.00 (CET).

Deadline for registration: 19 March 2024, 12:00 (CET).

[Register here.](#)

Info-session on the updated guidance document concerning the Risk-Benefit Assessment (RBA) of foods 29.03.

EFSA is organising a info-session to present the draft guidance document, share further information on its scope and technical content, invite feedback from relevant stakeholders, and provide context for the public consultation.

Participants: the meeting is intended for risk benefit assessors and managers from the European Commission and Member States, other national authorities, international organisations, as well as stakeholders and experts.

Date: 5 March 2024 from 14.30 to 16.30 (CET).

Deadline for registration: 29 March 2024, 12:00 (CET).

[Register here.](#)

16th Scientific conference of the Bulgarian EFSA Focal Point 16.05.2024, Sofia

We are pleased to invite you at our **16th Scientific conference of the Bulgarian Focal Point of EFSA** under the motto “**Science. Responsibility. Safety.**”, that will be held on **16 May 2024** in Grand Hotel Sofia - [Five star hotel in the middle of Sofia city \(grandhotelsofia.bg\)](#).

Additional information is available in the attached invitation letter.

The registration for the event shall be made in advance on-line on the Bulgarian focal point website at the following link: <https://focalpointbg.com/?event=13>, not later than **25 March 2024**.

The Program of the Conference will be published additionally at the Bulgarian focal point website - <https://focalpointbg.com/>.

The participation in the Conference **is free of charge**. All the other expenses of the participants have to be covered by their organization.

Trainings

eLearning: In silico models and other relevant modelling approaches | deadline 29.02.

We are pleased to inform you that the EFSA's training course on “In silico models and other relevant modelling approaches” is now open for registration. This **eLearning** course will introduce the **main principles of different structure based in-silico approaches for estimation of mainly human health toxicological endpoints**.

Participation

The participation is **restricted to members of organisations belonging to EFSA's List of Art.36 Competent Organisations**.

EFSA reserves the right to select the trainees from all registered organisations. Should the number of registrants exceed the available places, the first-come first served principle will be applied. All registrants will be informed about the outcome of the registration and the selected ones will receive credentials for eLearning.

Objective

The acquired expertise will support experts in their **contributions to EFSA's partnership initiatives** where EFSA methodologies are implemented, ultimately contributing to the sustainability and harmonisation of food safety risk assessments in the EU.

Content

In this course you will learn:

- Statistical and rule base quantitative structure activity models (**QSARs**) and how to assess the outcome of these predictions by using expert review.
- **Read-across**, mostly applied in case that the toxicological properties of a data poor target compound is predicted from data rich similar source compounds.
- **TTC** (threshold of toxicological concern) used for unknown compounds occurring at low levels in feed/food.
- Exercises will give the opportunity to train on tools such as the **OECD QSAR toolbox or Vega**.

Structure

The training is composed by **4 modules for a total duration of 6 hours**. Each module consists of one registered presentation and several quizzes. In addition, participants will be supported through online webinars to perform the tests.

Dates

E-learning modules available **from March 15 to May 15 2024**.

All information and **registration (until 29 February)** available [here](#).

12th BfR-Summer Academy on Risk Assessment and Risk Communication in Food Safety 24.-28.06., online

we are pleased to announce that the registration for the 12th BfR-Summer Academy on Risk Assessment and Risk Communication in Food Safety is now open!

The '12th BfR-Summer Academy 2024' will be held online. The participation is free of charge.

The course is intended for members of staff of public organisations engaged in food and feed safety, who already have experience in risk assessment analysis. The participants will gain deeper understanding in risk assessment analysis and in risk communication measures. The course will be conducted by highly qualified and experienced scientists from the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) or partners with profound and long-standing experience in risk assessment of

chemical or microbial risks as well as risk communication. Consequently this BfR-Summer Academy is from professionals to professionals.

This year's 12th BfR-Summer Academy will be a digital event. It will take place from 24–28 June 2024, 12:30 – 15:30 UTC+2 (Berlin time).

Please apply until June 9, 2024. More details and the link to the application form can be found here: <https://www.bfr-akademie.de/english/events/bsa-2024.html> and in the attached flyer.

Please contact summeracademy@bfr.bund.de in case of questions or for further details.

Publications

Antimicrobial consumption and resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals

Fourth joint inter- agency report on integrated analysis of antimicrobial agent consumption and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food- producing animals in the EU/EEA JIACRA IV – 2019–2021 [Link to the publication](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) | European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) | European Medicines Agency (EMA)

See all EFSA publications [here](#).

EFSA recruitment

EFSA is looking for talented candidates to fill the currently open staff positions and would kindly ask for your help to distribute the following job opportunities.

Budget Officer | deadline 28.02.

Are you passionate about governance, assurance and performance with expertise in budgetary and financial management?

Are you interested in applying your skills to coordinate EFSA's budgetary planning and monitoring activities ensuring legality and regularity, and contribute to the performance of EFSA's operations?

The jobholder will work in the Management and Services Department. The mission of the department is to provide services and solutions ensuring sound governance and accountability, efficient use of resources and an inspiring working environment.

[Vacancy notice](#)

Communication Officer | deadline 04.03.

Are you a dedicated communication officer with experience in engaging with a large and diverse pool of stakeholders and delivering clear and impactful communications to them?

Are you interested in applying your skills to enhance the visibility and reputation of EU decentralised Agencies vis-à-vis EU institutions and citizens using a large range of tools and communication vehicles?

The jobholder will work in the Brussels-based Shared Support Office (SSO) of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN), to which EFSA is one of the most active members.

[Vacancy notice](#)

See all open EFSA Professional opportunities [here](#).

Other

Survey: Use of biomarkers of effect in regulatory risk assessment of chemicals | deadline 30.04.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has initiated a project ([EFSA-Q-2023-00583](#)) towards developing a **guidance on the use of biomarkers of effect in regulatory risk assessment of chemicals**, implemented with the support of a working group of experts established under [EFSA's Scientific Committee](#). The intention is to develop a horizontal guidance to support the risk assessors and to achieve an internationally agreed guidance by establishing consultation and co-creation mechanisms with EU and international organisations, contributing to the [EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) and its action on 'One Substance - One Assessment'.

To create awareness regarding the project and to collect input from stakeholders that could support EFSA's initiative, EFSA has developed a [survey](#) to map existing definitions and applications of biomarkers of effect in regulatory contexts in the EU and beyond.

The survey is addressed to different Organisations (e.g. EU Member States and non-EU national regulatory agencies, EU agencies, European Commission services, International Organisations) with a focus on regulatory-relevant activities linked to this topic. The information received from responders will be analysed and used by EFSA for discussion and further elaboration of the feasibility study.

EFSA would very much appreciate your Organisation's input to the survey **by 30 April 2024 EOB**. To facilitate the collection and consolidation of answers within your organisation, a Word version of this survey is included in the survey and available under "Background documents". However, only responses submitted via the online [EU Survey form](#) will be considered.

We remain available to provide further clarifications on the context, objective and scope of this survey and we look forward to receiving your Organisation's input by 30 April 2024.

[Link to the survey.](#)

Survey to assess knowledge about ciguatera poisoning in the EU | deadline 15.04.

In the context of the [Eurocigua II project](#), the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority (ASAE), together with the Catholic University of Portugal, have developed a survey that will allow them to assess the degree of knowledge about ciguatera poisoning in the EU in different stakeholder groups. The survey will facilitate shaping the dissemination strategy and will allow a better reporting of cases and outbreaks.

We kindly seek your help in disseminating the survey to all the relevant national stakeholders: consumer associations, healthcare professionals, fisheries sector, food associations and any other institution you may consider.

[Link to survey.](#)

You can find additional information about the survey (translated in seven languages) on the [EuroCigua II website](#).

Uni.lu survey on the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and research administration | deadline 31.03.

The Research Facilitators at the University of Luxembourg are currently conducting an online anonymized survey on the utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and research administration for a publication at the EARMA conference taking place in Denmark in April this year. Your expertise and insights are highly valued, and we are reaching out to request your input on a questionnaire designed to gather valuable information in this field.

Your experience and perspective are crucial in shaping a comprehensive understanding of the impact of AI on research practices and administration. Your participation in this survey will contribute significantly to the depth and breadth of insights we aim to achieve.

The questionnaire consists of 24 questions and should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential and will only be used for research purposes.

[Link to the survey.](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the questionnaire or the research itself, please feel free to contact us at AI.survey@uni.lu

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please send an email to focal.point@alva.etat.lu