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Roadmap development to identify synergies and capabilities in the risk analysis system using multistakeholder participatory processes

a FS4EU Key Exploitable Result for

- EU and Member State Policy-makers
- Research and Technology Organisations
- Academia/Universities
- International Organisations (e.g., OECD, FAO, UN, etc.)

CONTRIBUTORS & OWNERS

WUR - WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH,
UGENT, UNIVERSITY OF
GHENT

Contact: Pieternel Luning e-mail: Pieternel.luning@wur.nl









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FS4EU project and platform

23 project partners and 50+ supporting partners of the Horizon 2020 funded project "FoodSafety4EU" are generating value to shape the EU Food Safety System (FSS) of the future by consolidating the network in the EU Food Safety platform, and gathering major actors from different levels from the EU FSS: institutions, authorities, EU Agencies, policy makers, research and academia, industry, enterprises, consumers, citizens and umbrella organizations.

The overall mission of the platform is to become a **Knowledge/Competence Centre for Food Safety in Europe** supporting the transformation towards a SAFE and SUSTAINABLE food system, by facilitating connections and cooperation among the platform members in a multi-level interactive participatory process.

This platform aims at participating in the EU dialogue on food safety by providing updated knowledge and toolkits, by joining high level expert groups, by sharing tested multi-actor approaches developed by the FS4EU project partners, using digital tools, and hosting any pilot action. It is open to collaboration and to enlarge its network, through available membership options for organizations and individuals (contact form).

Thanks to facilitated collaboration, communication, and co-creation among scientists, policymakers, and various societal stakeholders, the platform is expected to grow further in the next future, by valorizing the FS4EU Key Exploitable Results (**KER**), as the one described in the following pages.







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ROADMAP TO IDENTIFY SYNERGIES AND CAPABILITIES

Global societal and environmental challenges impact risk analyses and collaboration in the risk analysis system of (re)emerging food safety issues. To anticipate future food system needs, within the FS4EU project, a roadmap was developed providing steps and tools to identify synergies, capabilities, and recommendations for strengthening risk analysis procedures and stakeholder collaboration (i.e., the risk analysis system) through multi-stakeholder participatory processes.

The roadmap creation encompasses the following steps:

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- Exploration of food safety issues and risk analysis challenges.
- Mapping risk assessment and management status of defined food safety issue(s).
- Characterization of multi-stakeholder risk analysis system of defined food safety issue(s).
- Co-creation of pilot(s) to anticipate challenges in risk analysis of (defined) food safety issue(s).
- Identification of recommendations for improvement of risk assessment analysis and multistakeholder collaboration.

ROADMAP DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT: STEPS AND TOOLS

Step 1- Explore food safety issues and risk analysis challenges

The first step encompasses the exploration of past, current, re-occurring, and future food safety issues and associated challenges in risk analysis through semi-structured interviews with high-level experts from different (EU) countries. The qualitative data provide a broad insight into food safety and procedural issues to define food safety issue(s) for further analysis.

Step 2- Map risk assessment and management status of defined food safety issue(s)

The second step assesses the status of both risk assessment and management of the defined food safety issue(s) by an online survey. The survey has been designed for European countries up to the level of NUTS 3 (i.e., classification of small regions for specific diagnosis). The survey yields physical maps showing at regional level the risk assessment and management status of the defined food safety issue(s).

Step 3- Characterize the risk analysis system for defined food safety issue(s). The third step assesses the multi-stakeholder collaboration system in the risk analysis of the defined food safety issue(s) by using the Net-Map toolkit. The analysis provides in-depth insight into the stakeholders from science, policy, and society involved in the risk analysis system of the defined food safety issue(s); their goals, linkages, perceived influence, and constraints. The Net-Map analysis for the defined food safety is suitable for using in a specific country/region.

Step 4- Co-create pilot(s) to anticipate challenges in risk analysis of defined food safety issue(s)

The fourth step conducts a multi-perspective diagnosis of the food safety and collaboration issues (as emerged from steps 1-3) with a team of high-level experts from science, policy, and society by applying a social lab (FSOLab). The so-called FSOLab includes a systematic process of multiple cycles, i.e., ideas are generated on how to address the diagnosed emerging food safety issue(s) (cycle 1), based on which pilots are developed, refined and performed by the FSOLab team (cycle 2). The proposed actions in the pilots are evaluated (cycle 3) and can be further adapted and developed to create a continuous learning cycle.

The fifth step uses the outputs of steps 1-4 to further refine identified barriers in risk analysis and collaboration. One of the pilots included a round-the-table (RTD) discussion. This was designed and conducted with relevant experts from science, policy, and society (SPS) stakeholders who prioritized the barriers based on their SPS-role, expertise, and arguments. Barriers with highest priority were selected for development of recommendations on how to tackle them from a multi-stakeholder perspective.

Step 5- Conduct the pilots for generating/testing ideas for improvement.

The **roadmap** encompasses steps with (digital) tools enabling a comprehensive and multifaceted analysis of emerging food safety issues and barriers in current and future risk analysis systems. The tools support the co-creation of across-the-board solutions for current and forecasted barriers in the risk analysis system by systematically engaging stakeholders from society, policy, and science.

The digitalized tools enable the engagement of high-level experts in an effective and efficient way ensuring high-quality input at the different steps in the roadmap development process. The multistakeholder approach ensures a holistic view from science, policy, and society and results in comprehensive solutions to complex challenges in the current and future food safety system. The expert interview protocol supports in exploring past, current, reoccurring and future food safety and procedural issues to define food safety issue(s) for further analysis. The mapping tool enables a comprehensive insight into the actual state of the risk assessment and management of the particular food safety issue at a reginal and national level in Europe. Using the Net-Map toolkit allows for a systematic analysis of the risk analysis system for the particular FS issue in a particular country (or multiple countries for comparison). The detailed protocol for the social lab is useful for identifying barriers and co-creating pilots for the identified food safety issue and collaboration issues. As an example of a pilot, the digital round-the-table discussion with high-level experts from science, policy, and society supports in identifying across-the-board solutions for the food safety issue at stake.

The steps in the roadmap and its tool can be useful for researchers and policymakers and allow for a systematic multi-participatory stakeholder process to identify recommendations/solutions to overcome challenges in risk analysis systems.

The roadmap toolkit consists of the tools used in each step including the expert interview guide, the Survey Map Toolkit, the Net-Map toolkit, the FSOLab protocol, and RTD protocol. Find documents here.





FS4EU PARTNERS

CNR ISPA - NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL of ITALY

UGENT - GHENT UNIVERSITY

WU-WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT AGROTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SCIENCES

UCT PRAGUE - VYSOKA SKOLA CHEMICKO-TECHNOLOGICKA V PRAZE

TUM - TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET MUENCHEN

VTT - TECHNICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF FINLAND

ENEA - AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE

IBA BUCAREST - INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE CERCETARE-DEZVOLTARE PENTRU BIORESURSE ALIMENTARE

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ASAE - AUTORIDADE SEGURANCA ALIMENTAR E ECONOMICA

FDA – RUOKAVIRASTO

AKU - AUTORITETI KOMBETAR I USHOIMIT

INSSPA - INSTANCE NATIONALE POUR LA SÉCURITÉ SANITAIRE ET LA QUALITÉ DES PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES

Premotec GmbH

ZSI - ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION GMBH

APRE - AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA

EUFIC - EUROPEAN FOOD INFORMATION COUNCIL

ISEKI-Food Association

ILSI EU - INTERNATIONA LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE EU

FOODDRINKEUROPE

EURO COOP AISBL

FIPA - FEDERAÇÃO DAS INDUSTRIAS PORTUGUESAS AGRO-ALIMENTARES

FFDI - FEDERATION OF FOODS AND DRINKS INDUSTRIES CR



