



FoodSafety4EU

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM
FOR FOOD SAFETY IN EUROPE

Include, shape, act!

Participatory process
for the alignment of joint transnational
research programmes & opportunities

a FS4EU Key Exploitable Result for

- Public or private funding institutions
- EU and Member State Policy-makers
- Research and Technology Organisations
- Academia/ Universities

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KER

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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.





Include, shape, act!

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF JOINT TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH

To improve the overall performance of the EU's R&I funding systems with respect to food systems in general and food safety in particular, a targeted and coordinated approach and a deeper understanding of existing research funding systems, thematic prioritization processes in national R&I programs, and funding practices applied in different EU MS/AC are imperative.

The FS4EU [FSOLab 2](#) – a multi-actor social lab addressing research funding opportunities across EU Member States led by a lab team - has released a participatory process model for engaging with research funders to share information on national research programs and funding practices, and to build reciprocal relationships capable of facilitating greater networking and long-term collaboration was developed.

The results of this process can help to design transnational funding activities for Food Safety, e.g. the design of the forthcoming European Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems.

MAIN STEPS

1

Co-designing a pilot idea to align EU funding mechanisms

A multi-actor group of experts from different backgrounds (academia, Food Safety Authorities, Food Business Operators) jointly develop a pilot idea and a detailed pilot plan during several consecutive laboratory workshops, by setting a temporary Steering Committee supported by the FSOLab team in a 8 months timeframe.

2

Supporting the pilot idea with selected information from funding bodies

The lab manager conducts harmonized in-depth interviews through *standardized questionnaires* with selected research funders from among several European countries in order to gain a better understanding and knowledge to both funding and topic selection processes associated with food safety by exploring funding frameworks, mechanisms and decision-making processes applied in the different national funding entities.

3

Sharing input and co-creating recommendations

The Steering Committee shares input from interviews in a dedicated *online structured workshop* together with funders to derive recommendations how the existing research funding system in Europe could be optimized, respectively on where current bottlenecks or shortcomings exist.

4

Developing a Guideline for Policy Makers in the EC and the EU Member States, an opinion paper and a policy brief for international research community

The lab team generates:

- a *guideline (procedural model)* for engaging with research funders to share information on national research programs and funding practices, and to build reciprocal relationships capable of facilitating greater networking and long-term collaboration
- an *opinion paper* to be submitted to scientific reviews for publication outlining collected recommendations for improving the European research funding landscape
- a *policy brief* with recommendations for policy-makers to improve the European funding system for food safety research.

Better alignment of food safety research programs and funding across EU Member States is an important lever to drive innovative research activities to sustain the safety and resilience of the European food system towards emerging or persistent hazards on a transnational scale.

The participatory process model for the alignment of joint transnational research can serve as a basis and catalyst for further downstream activities aimed at transforming and even improving the funding system for food safety research in Europe with additional clout (e.g., in the context of the forthcoming European Partnership on Sustainable Food Systems).

It can be exploited as a mean that can contribute to influence Policy Makers and Ministries in the EU Member States in aligning their funding for Food Safety with those from other Member States and to use this information as templates for their own funding activities, thus increasing the impact of funding for Food Safety.

It can be adapted to specific contexts/countries after translation of the materials, and addresses the following Business Sector/Policy Area:

- Food safety
- International cooperation and development
- Research and innovation

Find documents [here](#).



www.foodsafety4.eu



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
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APRE - AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA
EUFIC - EUROPEAN FOOD INFORMATION COUNCIL
ISEKI-Food Association
ILSI EU - INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE EU
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