



FoodSafety4EU

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM
FOR FOOD SAFETY IN EUROPE

Include, shape, act!

Guideline for the alignment of joint
transnational research programmes

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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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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GUIDELINE FOR ENGAGING WITH RESEARCH FUNDERS (PROCEDURAL MODEL)

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.

A procedural model for engaging with research funders was developed to share information on national research programs and funding practices, and to build reciprocal relationships capable of facilitating greater networking and long-term collaboration. The exact **workshop process** as well as all needed templates are summarized in this guideline report to allow an easy recreation of the pilot action conducted in the FS4U project under [FSOLab 2](#), in order to gain further insight into the field of Food Safety Research funding.

Replicating the pilot activity with more experts from different Member States and generating more data is necessary to strengthen **transnational funding activities** as well as to transform and improve the currently existing **funding system for food safety research** in Europe.

MAIN STEPS

1

Step 1: Contacting research funders/experts

A multi-actor group of experts from different backgrounds (academia, Food Safety Authorities, Food Business Operators) are elicited by a Steering Committee (as leading committee) or rallied from internal contact networks. The four Hub leaders then establish personal contact via mail or initiated the process for interviews with funders. During the recruitment process, benefits for the participants as well as on what is expected from them must be clearly communicated.

2

Step 2: Preparing the Workshop

To facilitate the workshop organization, the Steering Committee developed a topic-specific standardized questionnaire comprising a total of 24 questions, as well as an information sheet for prospective participants. After the interviews were conducted, the Steering Committee evaluated and discussed the results, which formed the basis for the following online workshop.

3

Step 3: Structuring the Workshop

After a general overview of the FS4EU project and especially the activities of FSOLab 2, the outcome of the conducted interviews was presented to the participating funding organizations in an online workshop. The participants then collected ideas and shared personal experiences in an open panel discussion, which was moderated by the FSOLab 2 managers. During this discussion, recommendations for improving the European funding

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Step 4: Preparation and Dissemination of results

To put greater emphasis on the activity of the FSOLab 2, the importance of sharing and promoting the research results and communicating their impact on the food safety system in the EU was highlighted during the workshop and considered an essential value. Results of the FSOLab 2's pilot action were disseminated in form of an opinion paper, a report and a policy brief.

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 Member States are imperative.

The described 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 (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
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