



FoodSafety4EU

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM
FOR FOOD SAFETY IN EUROPE

Include, shape, act!

Digitalized Net-Map tool
to analyze complex risk assessment systems
from a multi-stakeholder perspective

a FS4EU Key Exploitable Result for

- EU and Member State Policy-makers
- International Organisations (ex. OECD, FAO, UN, etc.)
- 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.





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DIGITALIZED NET-MAP PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP

The original NET-MAP methodology is an interview-based mapping tool that can be used by researchers, facilitators, and implementers to:

- visualize implicit knowledge and understand the interplay of complex formal and informal networks, power relations, and goals of the actors/stakeholders.
- unravel possible sources of conflicts as well as potentials for cooperation.
- enable the exchange of knowledge and stimulate learning processes.
- provide a basis to develop visions and strategies to achieve common goals.

The Net Map methodology has been digitalized in FoodSafety4EU. It includes the organization of a workshop, guided by an expert in the field, a facilitator, a technical assistant, and two knowledgeable people who can make notes during the tasks. Participants (10-12) can be experts in science, policy or society contributing to risk analysis or have broad expertise in risk analysis of food safety issues. The NET-MAP toolkit includes all protocols and technical formats necessary to conduct a participatory workshop and create NET-MAPS of risk analysis systems.

CONTENT NET-MAP TOOLKIT

1

Protocol to prepare and conduct a digitalized Net-Map participatory workshop

The protocol describes the preparatory activities including defining the food safety case; predefining stakeholders, goals, and linkages; recruiting high-level experts; roles and tasks of the workshop organisers. Furthermore, it contains a detailed description of all steps in conducting the Net-Map analysis, i.e., identification of stakeholders and classification into science, policy and society, identification of stakeholders' goals in risk analysis, characterisation of stakeholder linkages (e.g., legally required information sharing, public communication, etc.), assessing stakeholder influence as perceived by experts, and defining constraints in the risk analysis system network.

2

Technical template for MIRO board

A technical template for a MIRO board has been designed including all steps described in the Net-Map protocol. The template can be adjusted to the specific case study and country/region.

3

Data processing template

An Excel file has been developed to transfer the data/information collected during the workshop into a format suitable for visualization software such as UCINED, yED, Gephi.

Using a multi-stakeholder approach can yield many new insights from and for science, policymakers, and society. This is especially true in complex systems such as those that exist within the food safety system.

Net-Mapping can be a useful tool to identify the different stakeholders that can (or need to) be included in a multi-stakeholder process. In a digitalized form, it allows for easy-to-participate workshops with high-level experts that will help to identify relevant stakeholders, their goals, influence, and relationships. Bringing these experts together can facilitate open discussions, while simultaneously increasing engagement. When performed multiple times, the effects of intervention policies can be investigated.

This **digitalized tool** can be useful for researchers, policymakers, and industry, to identify formal and informal stakeholders, their (inter)connections, their influence, and constraints in the risk analysis systems of emerging food safety issues to enhance understanding of these systems and for co-creation of mitigation measures.

This tool can be replicated also at the national level to **map and analyze stakeholder relationships** in other complex collaboration systems (e.g., sustainable food systems) and as an input for better stakeholder involvement along decision-making processes like:

- Development of legislative proposals
- Communication in case of food crisis

The [toolkit](#) involves a detailed protocol to organize and conduct an online workshop and summary tables for data collection; the technical template for the MIRO board; and the data processing template.



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FS4EU PARTNERS

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