

# FoodSafety4EU: a step towards improved engagement, interactivity and transparency in the European Food Safety System

Frederic Bayer<sup>1</sup>, Veronica MT Lattanzio<sup>2</sup>, Nunzia Cito<sup>2</sup>, Biancamaria Ciasca<sup>2</sup>, Antonio F. Logrieco<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> EU-FORA 2021/2022 Based in National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Sciences of Food Production

<sup>2</sup> National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Sciences of Food Production

## Intro : complex, new constrains require new features for our Food Safety System (FSS)

Yet **unassessed risks** emerging from recent changes in food sector dynamics (ex. re-use of resources, shift to more sustainable diets, fake news, etc.)

Immediacy of media reaction and relatively low transparency of the FSS leading to higher risk of **consumer misinformation** in times of food safety crisis, global or local

Society tendencies to reach zero risk and growing public mistrust in authorities leading to **fewer interaction and trust between Scientists, Policy Makers and Food Business operators.**



# FoodSafety4EU

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM  
FOR FOOD SAFETY IN EUROPE

**Collaborative platform** enabling FSS actors to efficiently access updated resources, exchange scientific knowledge, as well as sustain partnerships and joint activities

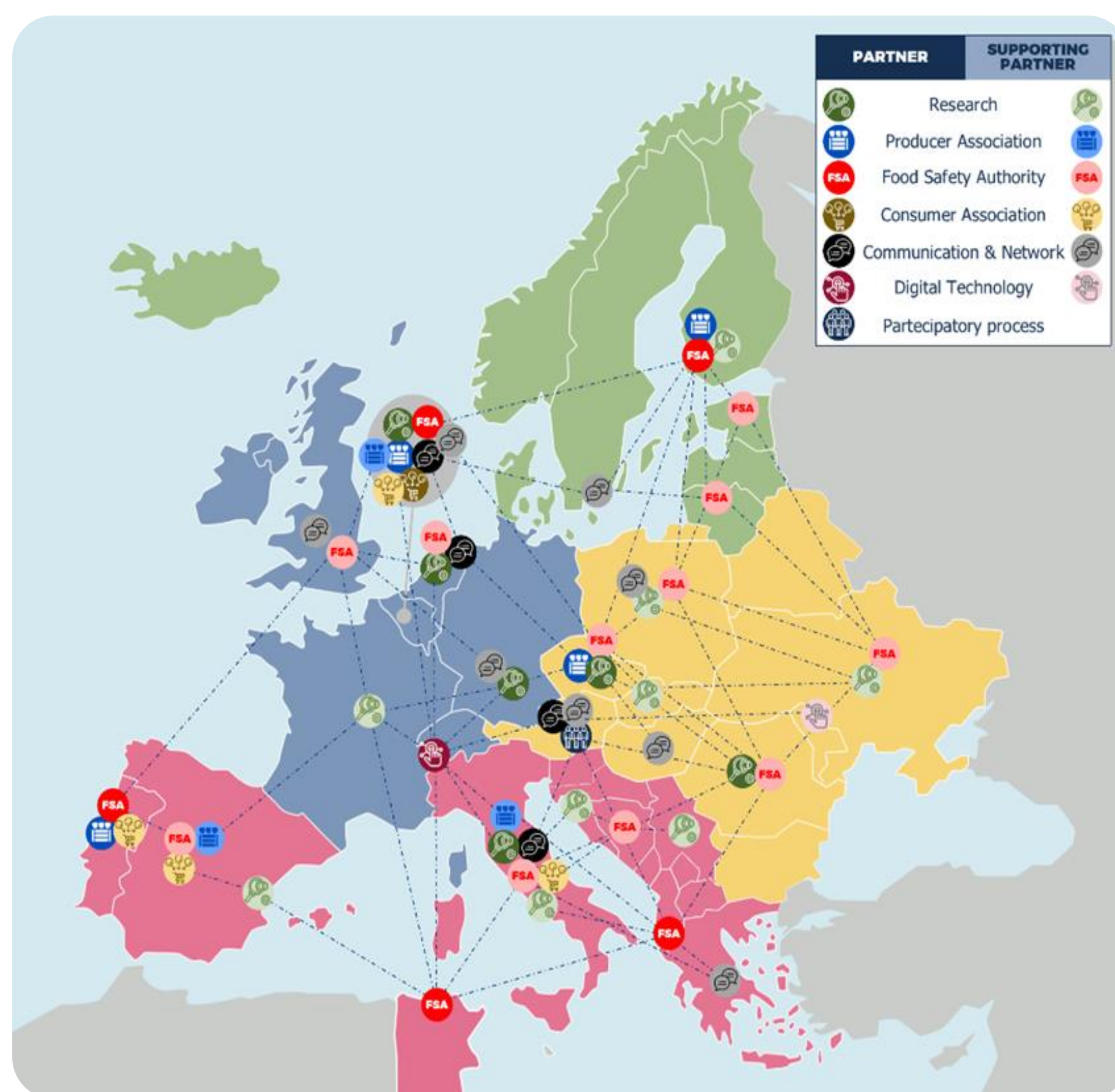
Proactive, educational, context-driven, **targeted food safety communication campaigns** towards citizens, rather than reactive, top-down information.

**New Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** to gradually support the European FSS transition to an interactive, adaptive system, more than a reactive one.

## The FoodSafety4EU platform is built on multi-layered cooperation

### Layer 1: geographical FoodSafety4EU Hubs

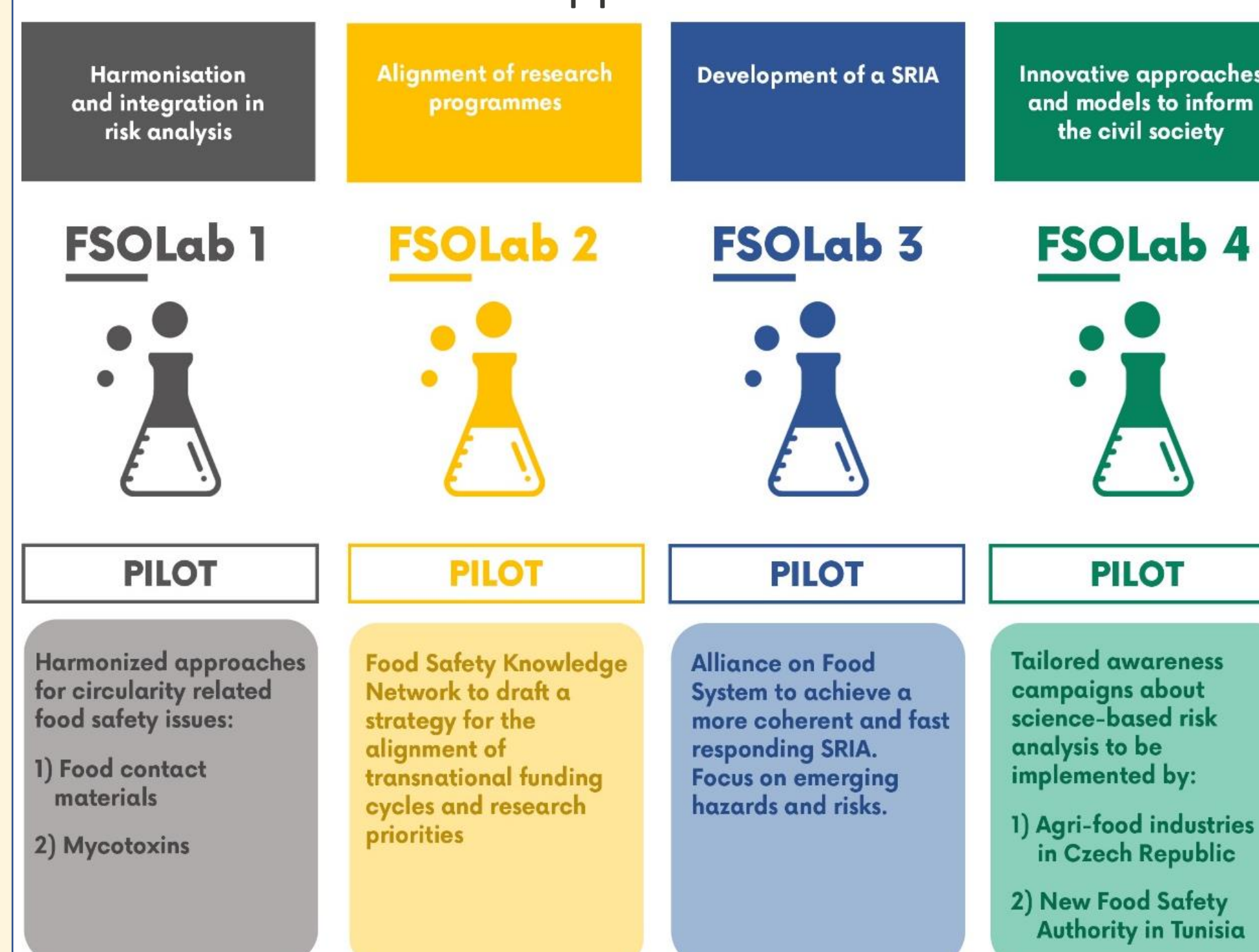
**4 Hubs** to bring together the main actors of the respective geographical areas and feed **contextual, locally relevant, solution-driven discussions.**



As of today, the project involves **50 Supporting Partners (in addition to the 23 beneficiaries)**. The project is still open to new collaborations.

### Layer 2: Food Safety Operational Labs

Involved FSS experts interact through **4 virtual "rooms" for social experimentation, addressing complex food safety related topics** with a systemic approach.



In each FSOLab, experts first **co-created possible solutions to address the identified issues**, then **developed pilot actions** to be tested under real conditions: the process will run until late 2022. **Results obtained will then be translated into new outputs to be shared with relevant players and eventually adopted by European FSS stakeholders.**

### Layer 3: embedded Digital Tools



The FS4EU digital platform embeds **apps** that enable a **fluid interaction among the numerous FSS actors** and support them in **accessing to a variety of resources and data:**

- **Real-time information** about running FSOLabs including results and options to give feedback.
- **Expert finder app:** look for and connect with experts (or projects' contact points), based on their expertise, location, job, etc.
- **Open catalogues for datasets, apps, services,** and other materials allowing users to search, share or collaborate on resources of their interest.
- **Information on relevant news and appointments,** with custom reminders for upcoming activities (i.e., events, webinars)

### Layer 4: setting stage for the EU Food Safety Forum

**By the end of 2023, the FoodSafety4EU platform will pave the way to the EU Food Safety Forum :** a permanent, open interface for long-term science-policy-society cooperation within the European FSS.

The first step towards this Forum was taken in **December 2021**, with the **first edition of the Pre-Forum**, attended online by more than 120 participants – Supporting Partners and other stakeholders. From introductory inspirational pitches, the event turned into a participatory discussion, the audience asking questions to the experts, expressing opinions and sharing ideas via real-time polls.

These gathered insights are supporting FoodSafety4EU in the current design of the **2nd Pre-Forum, scheduled in December 2022.**



## Conclusion : FoodSafety4EU contributes to the shaping of the future European FSS

Through a digitally-supported, inclusive, participatory process, the FoodSafety4EU platform fosters the **co-design of future research and innovation strategies** for the European FSS. As well, by engaging actors in a **structured dialogue with society**, FoodSafety4EU aims to support a better public understanding of scientific evidence at the base of risk management decisions, thus **enhancing citizens' confidence in the European FSS.**