

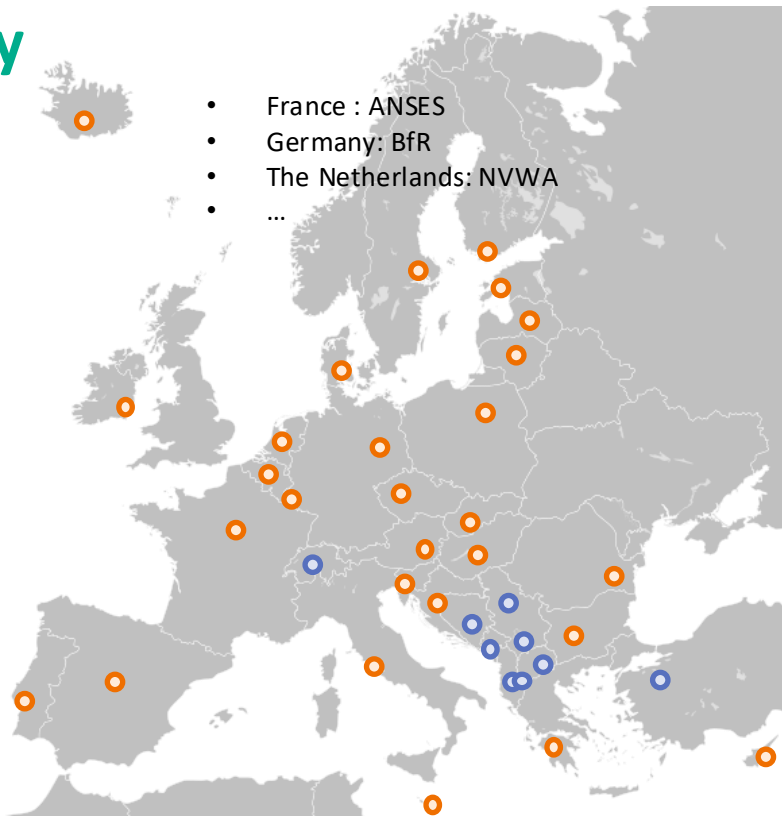
COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT : THE EXAMPLE OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY'S (EFSA) NETWORK OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

THIRD AFRICAN FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM (AFRAF)
“ADVANCING AFRICA'S INTEGRATED FOOD REGULATORY FUTURE”

**SALMA ELREEDY, Sc.D. / ANSES (FRENCH AGENCY FOR FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH & SAFETY), FRANCE**

National Focal Points: EU food safety “connecting hubs”

- Established in **2008**, the Focal Point (FP) Network consists of **representatives from the national food safety authorities** : members from all 27 EU Member States (MS), Iceland and Norway (**orange**), as well as observers from Switzerland and EU candidate countries (**violet**)
- Mission:** National FPs act as **connecting hubs** between EFSA and their relevant national actors and actors of the other countries
- Vision:** A “fit-for-purpose” and sustainable network of national FPs, working together with their national relevant actors and actors in the other network countries, in partnership with EFSA, to **contribute to a resilient food safety system in Europe**



Since 01/01/2023, a new operational framework (until 31/12/2027)

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/focal-point-network#infographic-documents>

Focal Point Network

Established in 2008, the Focal Point (FP) Network consists of representatives from the **national food safety authorities** of the Member States (MSs), Iceland and Norway, as well as observers from Switzerland and EU candidate countries. FPs act as **connecting hubs** and operate in a multilateral, **flexible and tailor-made** system, focussing on different areas of work.



STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

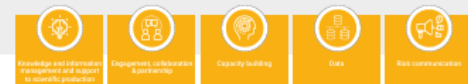
VISION

A fit-for-purpose and sustainable network of national FPs working together to contribute to a **resilient food safety system** in Europe.

MISSION

- FPs to act as **connecting hubs** between EFSA, national actors, and relevant actors from other countries.
- FPs to address EFSA's and national **needs and priorities** for a **resilient food safety system** in Europe.
- FPs to foster the creation of **partnerships**.

AREAS OF WORK



TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

- Core activities of the network that **define the functioning** of the role of FPs
- Are the same** for all FPs and remain constant throughout the lifecycle of the framework
- Facilitate **information exchange, networking and partnerships**, as well as operational support to AF

TAILOR-MADE ACTIVITIES

- Activities addressing **specific priorities** of MSs and EFSA
- Proposed by MSs and/or EFSA**, including their communities
- Fit with EFSA's **needs and strategy**
- Bring **short- and mid-term benefits** to the EU food safety ecosystem
- Support the **establishment of long-term partnerships**
- Support **preparedness** for future risk assessment work
- Follow an **inclusive and choice-driven** approach

For more detailed information on EFSA's cooperation with Member States, please check the EFSA webpage on EU Member States and in the infographic How EFSA works with EU Member States. For more details on Competent organisations in Member States please see the EFSA webpage here.



www.efsa.europa.eu

EFSA and its network build its resilience and ability to deliver collaboration with national actors to open up to solutions with its stakeholders. EFSA is a non-independent authority, advice and other communication are shared with the Commission.

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FPs' operational framework

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

VISION

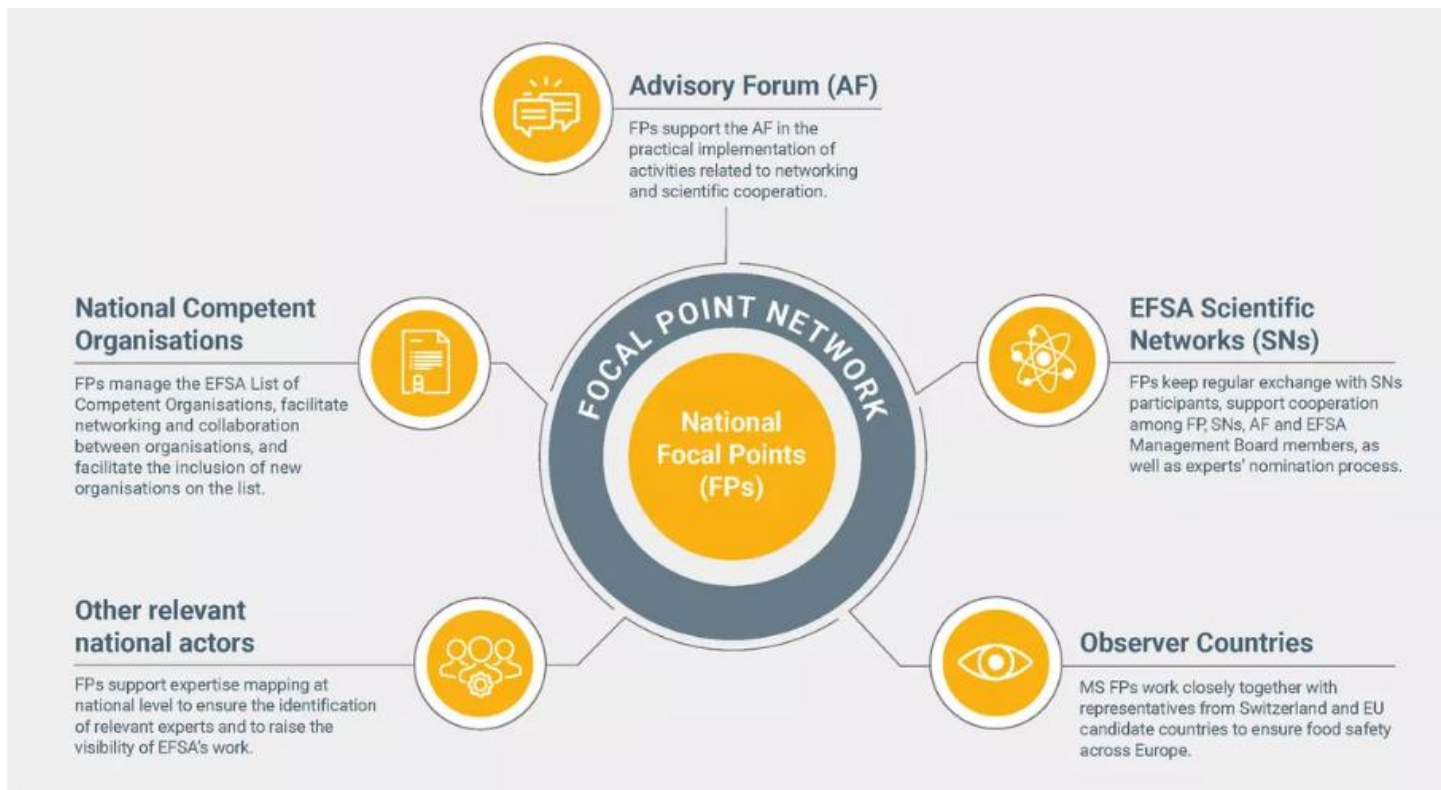
A **fit-for purpose** and **sustainable** network of national FPs working together to contribute to a **resilient** food safety system in Europe.

MISSION

- FPs to act as **connecting hubs** between EFSA, national actors and relevant actors from other countries.
- FPs to address EFSA's and national **needs and priorities** for a cohesive food safety system in Europe.
- FPs to foster the creation of **partnerships**.



FPs' operational framework



FPs' operational framework

AREAS OF WORK



Knowledge and information
management and support
to scientific production



Engagement, collaboration
& partnership



Capacity building



Data



Risk communication

- Multilateral requests,
- Risk assessment plans,
- EU Library for food safety guidance,
- FRAE (Food Risk Assess Europe), ...

- EU-FORA (EUropean FOod Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme),
- xORA (eXcellent One Health Risk Assessment Education), ...

Food Risk Assess Europe (FRAE)



Online ISSN: 2940-1399
Print ISSN: 2940-1399

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Food Risk Assess Europe (FRAE) is an open access journal publishing selected scientific articles from the national food safety agencies of the EU Member States. Published on behalf of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the articles are selected to inform the work of the European risk assessment community for food and feed safety and to leverage the knowledge generated by the national agencies for the benefit of all.

Articles

Most Recent | Most Cited

Risk assessment of the production of seaweed in the Netherlands; food safety and nature
S. M. Schrap, J.W.H. Bleserbos, M. Bovers, A.E.I. de Jong, S.N. Kuper, D.T.H.M. Sijm
First Published: 4 June 2026
[Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | [References](#)

Report of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) on Hereditary Fructose Intolerance (HFI), or aldolase B deficiency, and fructose malabsorption (intestinal fructose intolerance)
Araceli Díaz Perales, Irene Bretón Lesmes, Ángel Gil Izquierdo, Gema Nieto Martínez, Silvia Pichardo Sánchez, María de Cortes Sánchez Mata, María Ángeles Carlos Chillerón
First Published: 4 June 2026
[Abstract](#) | [PDF](#) | [References](#)

Mycotoxins in plant-based drinks (soy, almond and oat): the BfR updates its assessment of their health risks based on newly collected data
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
First Published: 23 April 2026

- An open access repository of selected scientific reports from national food safety agencies across the EU.
- National food safety agencies perform scientific assessments primarily related to their national boundaries, and these can also be relevant at the European level.
- Member States can enhance their contribution to European food safety by submitting their scientific assessments to FRAE, giving more visibility to their work and leveraging knowledge for the benefit of all.
- FRAE provides English abstracts and summaries where needed. The articles can be filtered by country and language.

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/publications/food-risk-assess-europe>

EU Library of Food Safety Guidance

EU Library of Food Safety Guidance Documents

Published: 8 April 2026

The EU Library gathers guidance documents related to food safety and produced by EU national competent organisations and risk assessors.

The EU Library includes entries collected by members of [EFSA's Advisory Forum](#) with the support of the national [Focal Points](#). It will be updated at least annually to ensure the inclusion of any new guidance and updates of existing ones.

Showing 14 documents

Integration of the exposome in ANSES's work ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2023 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

OPINION of the National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety on a supporting document for the guidelines of the decree of March 7, 2011 concerning the evaluation of antimicrobial efficacy of processing aids used as decontamination agents for foodstuffs of plant origin ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2023 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

OPINION of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety on a guide for assessing the specific health risk of nanomaterials in products intended for food ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2021 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

OPINION of ANSES on guidelines for assessing claims relating to animal feed - Assessment of dossiers containing evidence of function claims ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2018 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

OPINION of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety regarding the update of the guidelines for the evaluation of guides to good hygiene practices and the application of HACCP principles ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2018 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

Scientific and technical support note from the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety related to "rules for the constitution of applications for authorization of food processing aids and the acceptance of theoretical calculations related to exposure assessment" ⓘ

Country: France Publication year: 2018 Institution: Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)

The EU Library gathers guidance documents related to food safety and produced by EU national competent organisations and risk assessors

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/eu-library-food-safety-guidance-documents>

BfR World Food Safety Almanac

German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
(BfR)



EU Food Safety Almanac: overview of the public authorities responsible for food safety in each EU country

- Supported by EFSA and by National Focal Points

Special editions (in 2017) for the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (including Morocco and Tunisia), and one the Community of Portuguese Language Countries

<https://worldfoodsafetyalmanac.bfr.berlin/>

Thank you for your attention!

For more information on how EFSA works with national risk assessment agencies such as ANSES:

ANSES website :

<https://www.anses.fr/en/europe-and-international/maintaining-close-links-european-union-agencies>

EFSA website:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/eumembers#focal-points-eu-food-safety-connecting-hubs>

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Safety)**

