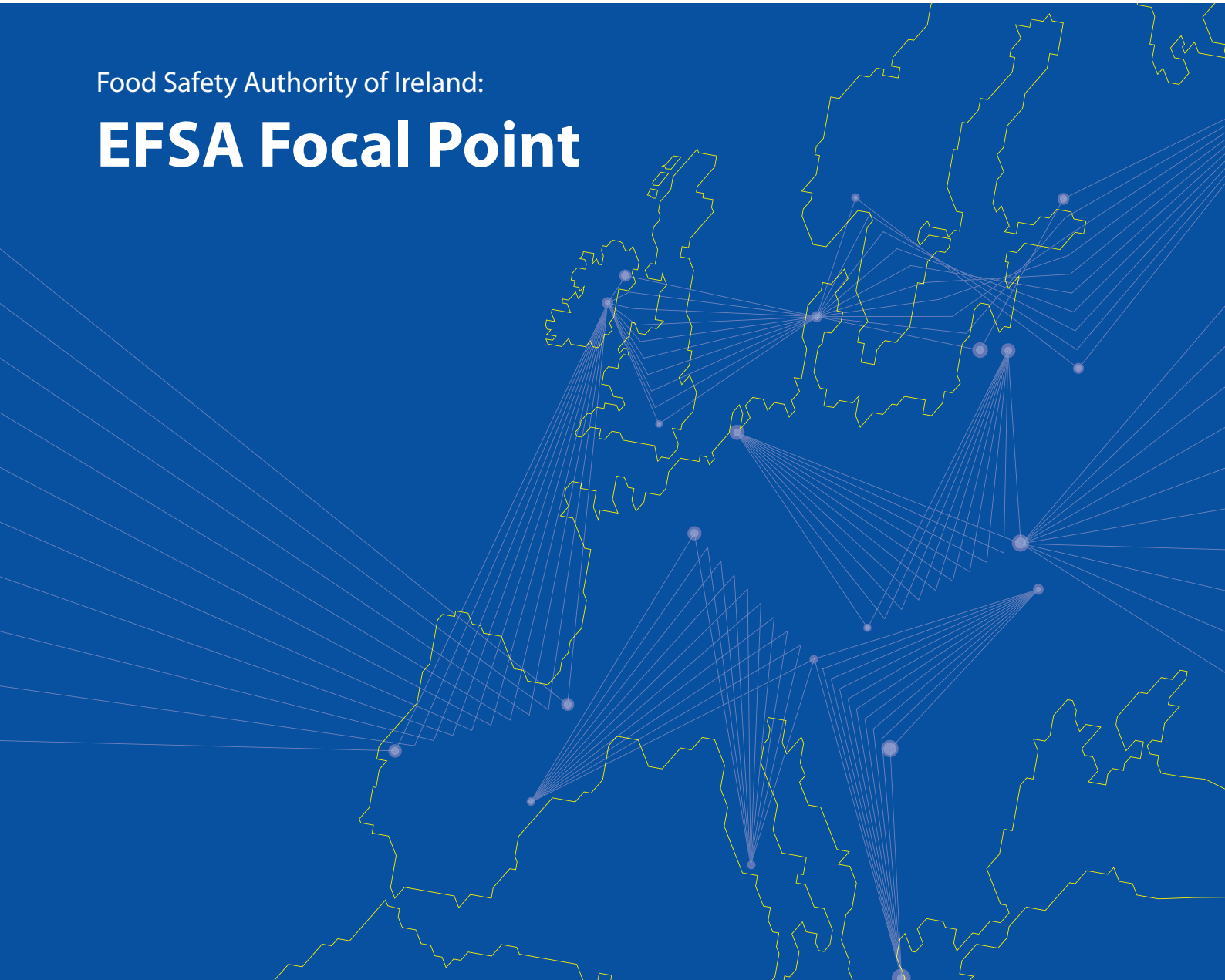


Food Safety Authority of Ireland:

EFSA Focal Point



Background

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was formally set up in 2002 and is the keystone of food and feed safety risk assessment in the European Union. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice on existing and emerging risks.

EFSA has established Focal Points in EU Member States to act as an interface between it and national food safety authorities, research institutes, consumers and other stakeholders. The network of Focal Points ensures the exchange of food safety information between EFSA and national stakeholders and is made up of members from all 28 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. Focal Points are considered EFSA's 'ambassadors' in the Member States. This network allows Member States and EFSA to work together to exchange scientific information and data, coordinate work programmes, pool resources and cooperate on joint projects.

In Ireland, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is the Focal Point for EFSA.

Role of the Focal Point in Ireland

The role of the FSAI as the Irish Focal Point is to act as a collaborative centre in Ireland with primary responsibility to support the Irish representative of the EFSA Advisory Forum in gathering data and transferring information between EFSA and relevant bodies in Ireland. These include risk managers, national authorities, stakeholders and research institutes in the fields of risk assessments on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal and plant health and animal welfare.

TASKS INCLUDE:

1. Exchanging information on:

- The development of important risk assessment initiatives in Ireland and in EFSA
- Results of relevant scientific research projects
- Ongoing risk assessments and opinions under preparation
- Issues that may give rise to potential divergences of opinions between Ireland and EFSA
- Work programmes
- Requests for specific information

2. Providing advice on:

- Scientific actions of common interest that could be undertaken within the network
- Proposals for new designations to the list of competent organisations in Ireland (Article 36 List (see following))
- Assignment of tasks to competent organisations on the Article 36 List
- Progress and performance of scientific work undertaken by Irish organisations on the Article 36 List
- The development and maintenance of databases of scientific experts and research organisations in Ireland that could assist EFSA and the national authorities in conducting collaborative work in support of risk assessments in the area of food and feed safety

3. Supporting EFSA on:

- Making requests to national experts
- Disseminating relevant materials and resources within Ireland
- Coordinating the exchange of information and documentation concerning scientific activities
- Providing an interface between EFSA and national stakeholders
- Raising EFSA's visibility in Ireland

Article 36 List

The Article 36 List is a list of competent organisations that are eligible to assist EFSA in its tasks through responding to calls for proposals (Article 36 grants).

The organisations included on the Article 36 List are designated by Member States with the support of EFSA Focal Points and must comply with criteria (see below) set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004. Since organisations evolve and needs change with regards to scientific and policy developments, the list is regularly reviewed. The Article 36 List can be viewed on EFSA's website at www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/art36listg.pdf

Networking with these organisations facilitates the coordination of activities, exchange of information, development and implementation of joint scientific projects, as well as the sharing of expertise and best practices in the fields within EFSA's remit.

Scientific projects are supported by EFSA through grants and public procurement. Organisations can submit proposals for grants following the publication of calls for proposals (open to Article 36 organisations only) or following publication of calls for tenders (open to all applicants according to the specifications of the call).

WHY BECOME AN ARTICLE 36 ORGANISATION?

- Funding opportunities
- Access to information
- Networking and cooperation opportunities

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organisations must comply with criteria set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004, as follows:

- Be a legal entity pursuing public interest objectives
- Possess a high level of scientific or technical expertise in one or more field(s) of EFSA's mission
- Have the capacity to operate within the network of organisations on the Article 36 List
- Have the capacity to perform efficiently the types of tasks referred to in Article 4 of the Regulation
- Carry out scientific and technical support tasks in the field within EFSA's mission

Further details on the criteria can be found at: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/scorg

WHERE TO START

- Register online at www.efsa.europa.eu/art36/registration and log in as a guest user
- Complete the online questionnaire and upload supporting documents

The application will then be screened against the eligibility criteria. If it passes the screening process, the Member States' Permanent Representative formally proposes the organisation to the EFSA Management Board, which will make the final decision on eligibility.

If you have a query about the Focal Point or Article 36 List or would like support completing your Article 36 application, please contact us at focalpoint@fsai.ie

Further information can be found on our website at: www.fsai.ie/about_us/fsai_in_europe.html
or on the EFSA website at: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/scorg



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