



## CLARIFICATION 6

**Call reference:** GP/EFSA/FIP/2022/01

**Call title:** Support to EFSA in the Risk Assessment of Food Enzymes, Food Additives, Food Flavourings and Feed Additives

### QUESTION 1:

A general feed-back from partners in the potential consortium is that the output values are too low and can result in the following:

- Lack of interest because basic personnel costs are not covered
- Institutions prioritising their own mandates rather than co-financing the consortium
- Institutions prioritising bringing in tasks fully covering their costs (e.g., project applications) when short-time capacity is available
- Unintended geographic differences (geographical bias) in terms of participation due to differences in member state staff cost levels
- Unintended institutional differences (institutional bias) in terms of participation as it is anticipated that such calls will “fit” certain types of institutions more than others within the article 36 network, due to the levels of potentially needed co-financing.

Based on the above, would EFSA review the level of the rates/output values in this call taken into consideration that the cost should be covered by EFSA as is also stated in the call, that “there is no need of co-financing from the partner”; this would be more fitted to the financial reality of several of Europe’s scientific institutions?

### ANSWER 1:

*Corrigendum n. 2 to the call for proposal will be published to increase the output values. The total value of the call will also increase accordingly. The corrigendum n.2 will also include an extension of the call deadline until the 13 January 2023.*

### QUESTION 2:

Specifically concerning the output values, they are based on a daily rate of EUR 440, the important (and quite extensive) coordination roles and eventual travel included – It’s an “all-inclusive” rate.

EFSA’s Expert Compensation Guide sets out a daily rate of EUR 450 for 1 day participation in meetings, or 1 day preparation. No coordination costs are included in this rate and no travel costs are included. 1 day participation or 1 day work = EUR 450.

The important (and extensive) roles of the coordinator have a price – and these roles cannot be done “pro bono”. When deducted from the rates/output values in the call, it becomes difficult for many institutions to participate in such calls, as the levels of the daily rate to the risk assessor will be even lower than in table 4.

Leaving the partners to decide on the monetary division of the rates/output values might be both a transparent and effective way of handle this matter in the case of two partners, as we have recently seen in the EUFORA call. However, it seems that if larger consortiums apply to such a call where multiple levels of information are taken into account in the price-setting of the tasks (lots, complexity level, numbers of days based on lot and complexity level), the price-setting of the coordination role is difficult and might not be as transparent as it should be.

It seems that a predefined allocated sum for the coordination roles on top of the (increased) rates/output values for the scientific work would be a more transparent and financially fit way of handling this transversal task. This allocated sum could be linked to the lots and complexity levels.

Travel expenses should be handled apart from the output values (flights, accommodations, daily expenses), according to EFSA's mechanisms of reimbursement of travel expenses.

The introduction of the grants not linked to costs are an important tool of getting more interests for the article 36 calls. However, with such a detailed framework around the rates/output values, the value the new grant tool brings to such as project is reduced.

Based on the above, would EFSA review the level of the rates/output values and find a more transparent and financially fitted way of handling the costs of coordination and eventual travel?

**ANSWER 2:**

*Please refer to answer 1 above with regards to output values. With regards to travel costs, please note that, with Corrigendum n. 2, the requirement to attend in person some meetings in EFSA premises will be removed from the call.*