



# Better aligned food safety policies through collaborative projects within the EU

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EU Food Safety Platform



Overview of the project's objectives

FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM OF THE FUTURE

Multi-stakeholder Platform for Food Safety in Europe



### H2020 Coordination and Support Action: a policy driven call

### **OUR GOAL**

- ✓ To design, develop and release a multistakeholder platform for Food Safety in EU
- ✓ To establish a long term Science-Policy-Society interface: a collaborative space where citizens, scientists, companies, EC, EFSA, and Food Safety Authorities (FSAs) co-design new schemes to advance the FSS from a reactive system to an interactive one.
- ✓ To provide digital knowledge and tools, and competences as scientific advice and technical support for EC and EFSA



A) Fostering coordination and integration among the different FS actors



B) Co-creation and alignment of future research programmes, at national and EU level



C) Enhancement of **public confidence** through
transparency and access to
integrated knowledge

### The **FS4EU approach dynamic participatory process** intended to:

- ✓ structure a network of FSS actors
- ✓ inform and mobilize the actors within the FS system.
- ✓ host and facilitate the co-creation of input for future FS polices

### A consolidated physical and digital network:

- ✓ A multi-actor consortium made by 23 partners
- ✓ 80+ external experts, including independent advisors from EFSA, JRC, and EU agencies
- √ 62 supporting partners
- √ 10+ European projects with their networks and expertise

Gathering major actors from **different levels** from the EU food safety system: institutions, authorities, EU Agencies, policy makers, research and academia, industry, enterprises, consumers, citizens and umbrella organizations – **from almost al EU MS and some associated countries** 

### **FS4EU Layers of Connection and Interaction**



### FoodSafety4EU Hubs

Areas that face similar issues in the local food safety systems and have different food production chains, market dynamics and innovation/technological levels

The 4 Food Safety hubs catalysed main local experts into the participatory process

### FoodSafety4EU Operational Labs

Social Labs pathway:

- ✓ carry out a diagnosis
- ✓ co-create ideas on how to address the diagnosed issues.
- define and implement pilot actions
- ✓ end up with recommendations roadmaps and best practices





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tegration through

emerging food safet

unregulated and



Research programmes & funding opportunities

including national



nnovation Agenda





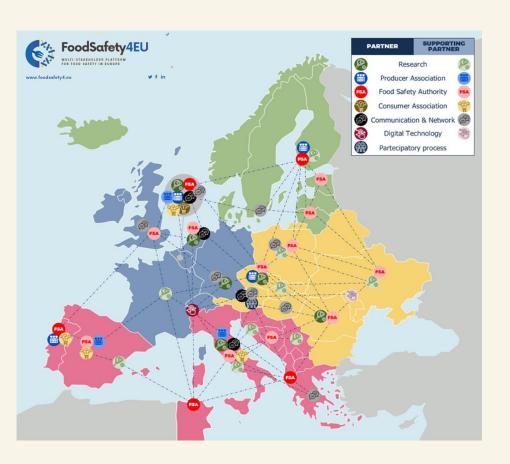
Topic #4:

Developing innovativa pproaches and models to inform civi society about food safety research and the risk assessment approach.

Digital tools and digital methodologies

afety4.eu

### **FS4EU Layers of Connection and Interaction**



Key stakeholders and partners involved in the initiative:

the SCIENCE – POLICY – SOCIETY platform

















































### FS4EU HUB

# RUDKAYIRASTO EUfic









### **Food Safety Authorities**









### National Associations









































### A growing network

### **EU** Food Safety Platform



# The EU Food Safety Platform Towards a more engaged and cooperative food safety system in EU

FSS actors targeted involvement based on the stakeholders portrait and gains















### Integrate information

news tools experiences solutions

## Share approaches

surveys opinions expertise

### Take Part

events meetings initiatives

### Collaborate

Develop new tools Co-design solutions

### **Participate**

Share decision making Co-create value Knowledge

### Lead

Structure and feed the platform as Member ToR

### **INCLUDE**

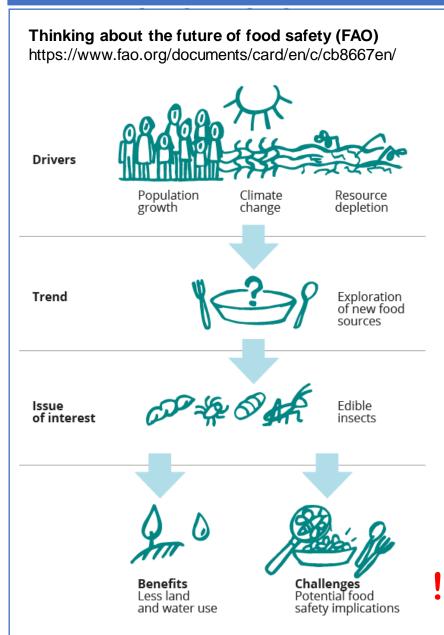
SHAPE

**ACT** 



- The importance of harmonizing food safety policies across EU member states.
- Specific challenges and strategies for policy alignment within the EU

### **Global Food Systems Transformation**









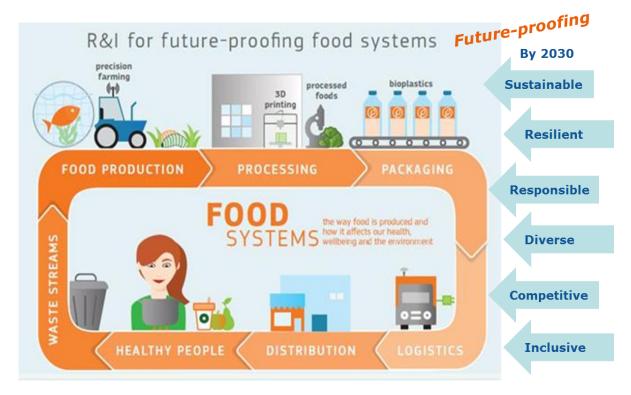
Through its Farm to Fork strategy and the broader European Green Deal policy and Bioeconomy strategy, the European Commission is strongly committed to drive and accelerate the food system transformation towards increased sustainability

heavy metals (Cd, Ni) allergens (gluten) Pathogens doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2022.EN-7226

### Food 2030 is the EU's research and innovation policy for food and nutrition security.

Food 2030 sets out a vision for research and innovation that covers the entire food **system**, linking multiple sectors from primary production (from land and water) to food processing, retail and distribution, packaging, waste and recycling, food services and consumption.





https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/researcharea/environment/bioeconomy/food-systems/food-2030 en

The ambition of Food 2030 is to support research and innovation that can deliver **co-benefits** to these 4 thematic priorities:



**NUTRITION** for sustainable and healthy diets



**CLIMATE** smart and environmentally sustainable food systems



CIRCULARITY and resource efficiency of food systems



**INNOVATION** and empowerment of communities

### 11 pathways to achieve the goals

It will concentrate on 11 areas known as **pathways for action** where research and innovation can concretely deliver co-benefits to nutrition, climate, circularity and communities



Funding is available under Horizon Europe

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/food-2030-pathways-action-research-and-innovation-policy-driver-sustainable-healthy-and-inclusive-food-systems en





PATHWAY 10
DATA & DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION



PATHWAY 11
ZERO-POLLUTION
FOOD SYSTEMS

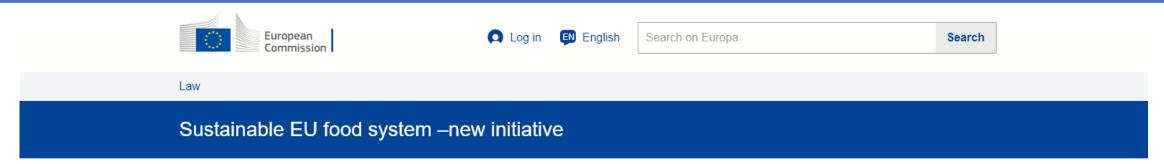
This thematic area it is

at the centre of FOOD

2030 and linked to all

its pathways

### Framework for a Sustainable Food System



- ☐ Type of act: proposal for regulation
- Commission adoption planned for the third quarter of 2023 ⇒ delay
- This initiative aims to make the EU food system
   sustainable and to integrate sustainability into all foodrelated policies.

It will lay down:

common definitions, general **principles and objectives**, **requirements and responsibilities** of all actors in the EU food system.

Combined with certification and labelling on the sustainability performance of food products and with targeted incentives, the framework will allow operators to benefit from sustainable practices and progressively raise sustainability standards so as to become the norm for all food products placed on the EU market.

How to integrate the upcoming sustainability policy framework within the principle of food safety?





Include, shape, act

#### THE NEW SUSTAINABILITY REGULATION: HOW TO INTEGRATE IT INTO FOOD SAFETY?

Key insights from the FoodSafety4EU Pre-Forum 2022 full report: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7621172

#### BACKGROUND

The new legislative framework for sustainable food systems is expected to be adopted by the Commission by the end of 2023. Its goal is to accelerate and ease the transition by integrating sustainability into all food-related policies. Looking at the new framework from the food safety angle, the FoodSafety4EU platform hosted a multi-actor dialogue to discuss present and future challenges to be addressed to ensure a safe transition towards increased sustainability.

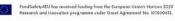
Strongly committed to be part of and support this transition, the FoodSafety4EU platform members and stakeholders jointly indentified key leading challenges for a multi-actor implementation of the new sustainability framework principles and objectives.

#### LEADING CHALLENGES

- Metrification of sustainability performance
- Strategic implementation in a longer timeframe Adequate funding and financial instruments
- Legal operationalisation and organisational capacity
- (at EU and Member State level)
- Complementing risk analysis with sustainability analysis
- Feeding regulatory science providing policy supporting results
- Considering food environment aspects (access to food) Implementing systemic approach and multi actor approach
- . Innovating communication and education engaging with youngs
- · Societal challenges: sustainability is a society choice

Vernoira MT Lattanzio CNR ISPA PSAFII Coordinate









#### Include, shape, act

#### FOOD LAW

The framework law on Sustainable Food System should define principles objectives, requirements, minimum standards, responsibilities or how the horizontal elements for sustainability analysis complement the existing risk analysis. This would require a longer implementation window: from Farm to Fork strategy to integration with the General Food Law. The metrification of sustainability should be the basis for any legal objectives, policy measures and actions.

#### INDUSTRY

EU's food safety is a shared responsibility, but it needs a logical and reasonable division. Main challenges arising from the cross-over of regulations are: excessive application of the precautionary principle; intensification of a hazard-based approach; the proliferation of national rules on food safety, leading to a patchwork; the existence of double regulation for certain chemicals: the decrease of impact assessments.

#### CONSUMERS

Consumers can play a key role in Sustainable Food System by reducing the food wasted, increasing vegetable protein intake, buying organic and locally grown food, increasing recycling. An adequate legal framework for a SFS should tackle overarching issues: fight food speculation, modulate incentives for bioenergy, internalise the negative externalities of food price, and ensure a level playing field among business models for food

#### **EU FOOD BANKS**

36.2 million EU citizens cannot afford a quality meal every 2nd day. Ensuring food safety while fostering food donation is a priority for EU Food Banks, that advocate and support the implementation of hygiene practices to recover, collect, store, and redistribute food for charitable purposes while assuring food safety.

#### FS4EU YOUNGS

Young students raised important points for improvement of communication within a safe and Sustainable Food System: i) the need of well-designed social media campaigns to inform the public, ii) mandatory investment by food producing companies in their own communications and direct contact with food safety authorities, iii) rapid sharing of verified information.

www.foodsafety4.eu

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#### FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITIES

Population growth will require getting the right trade-offs between sustainability, food security and food safety. These aspects must not be considered apart from food sovereignty and food equity. These overarching challenges are increasing the complexity in risk analysis. Feeding the regulatory science is of utmost importance to support the food safety authorities' mission.

#### AGRIFOOD SECTOR

New sustainability requirements are possible but need adequate support mechanisms. Higher sustainability is a society choice. If this transition is not managed strategically, farmers will go out of business and those who survive will concentrate the market share, externalisation of production to third countries, sustainability leakage, risk for food safety, because operators might be tempted to cut costs.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY

The new SFS framework law should ensure policy coherence, adopt a food environments approach, set time and legally binding targets, define strong accountability/performance mechanisms to monitor progress. Globally, 38% of edible food is lost/wasted. This could be reversed only if a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach is implemented with ambitious targets, coherent implementation and rigid monitoring.

#### RESEARCH

ilMultidisciplinary collaboration is needed to fully exploit the huge potential of the stakeholders network in the food safety system: ii combining research and communication innovation has the potential to change consumer habits; iii) systemic approach in the food safety system



Safety4EU has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101000613. Population growth will require getting the right trade-offs between sustainability, food security and food safety. These aspects must not be considered apart from food sovereignty and food equity.

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#### Contributors

Veronica MT Lettanzio, CNR ISPA, FS4EU Coordinator Nunzia Cito, CNR ISPA – APRE

www.foodsafety4.eu

oodSafety4EU has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101000618.







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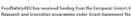


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### The MULTI-ACTOR Approach

- Co-creation processes to involve scientists, policy makers (in the area of food safety) and society by developing food safety operational labs on 4 topics
- Science-policy-society interface generating <u>multi-actor policy briefs</u>
- Participatory methodologies based on social innovation have been adapted to specific project context in a digital environment: <u>FS4EU virtual social lab</u> <u>quide</u>
- Digital <u>platform</u> was co-created to support continuous engagement of food safety stakeholders hosting <u>key results</u>





Include, shape, act!

THE NEW SUSTAINABILITY REGULATION: HOW TO INTEGRATE IT INTO FOOD SAFETY?



Include, shape, act!

Co-creation of the SRIA -Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Food Safety

#### a FS4EU Key Exploitable Result for

- Public or private funding institutions
- EU and Member State Policy-makers
- · Research and Technology Organisations
- Academia/Universities

# Emerging challenges between food safety and sustainability: the FoodSafety4EU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda



The main issues to be addressed by the new SRIA are:

- ✓ What are the future research needs to be addressed to ensure a SAFE transition towards sustainable food systems under the edge of the new sustainability regulation?
- ✓ How to assess/ensure the safety of innovations? What tools, methodologies, knowledge do we need to address food safety hazards and risks (re)-emerging in circular, biobased, sustainable food systems of the future?

CO - CREATION

by a multi-actor expert group



### THE SOCIAL LAB METHODOLOGY





### Topic #3:

Food Safety Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). ✓ The co-creation of the SRIA was based on the social-living lab methodology

✓ These labs are rooms for discussion, co-creation, experimentation, cross learning and fertilization, where multi-actor groups co-design input for the EU Food Safety System.



# Co-creation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on Food Safety: emerging/novel food hazards and risks



A multi-stakeholder group of selected experts has co-designed the contents, discussed and defined the main topics to be addressed by a new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), that matches the future challenges of the European Food Safety System.

### **Further Key Steps of the participatory process:**

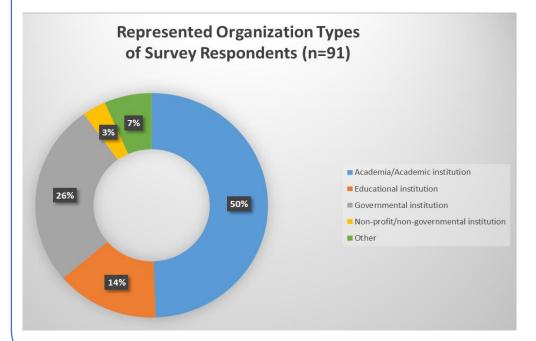
- Public Consultation
- Sharing the strategy and outcomes at institutional level

**Open Consultation**: the survey was recirculated in social networks and high-level expert networks









### **Consultation workshop** with representatives from:

- EFSA
- EC-JRC
- EC DG RTD and DG SANTE
- FoodPathS project (working on the definition of a SRIA supporting Food2030 priorities)
- ASAE (FSA Portugal and EFSA focal point)



### R&I and policy framework: strategic documents as background for the FS4EU SRIA





FOOD 2030, PATHWAYS FOR ACTION FOOD 2030. Research policy as a driver for sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems

Future-Proofing our Food systems through Research and Innovation

Food 2030, PATHWAYS FOR ACTION, Research and innovation policy as a driver for sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems, 2020





Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, FACCE-JPI: Strategic Research Agenda 2020

Strategic Research Agenda. February 2019 (3rd edition). Joint Programming Initiative "A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life"



5th SCAR Foresight Exercise. Conclusions



European Technology Platform, Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda - 2021 Update. Food for tomorrow's consumer



EFSA Strategy 2027. Science, Safe food, Sustainability, April 2021



The International Food Safety Authorities Network, INFOSAN Secretariat Strategic Plan, 2020-2025



TPorganics: Strategic Research Agenda for Organic Food and Farming



**World Health** Organization

Advancing Food Safety Initiatives. Strategic Plan for Food Safety Including Foodborne Zoonoses, 2013-2022

Foscollab Data Quality Working Group. Guidance Document for The Integration of Data in Foscollab



Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) on Soil Carbon. Research priorities for the alignment of International Research on SOC sequestration in agriculture. Coordination of International Research Cooperation on soil Carbon. Sequestration in Agriculture (CIRCASA)

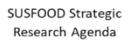


Digital technologies for a sustainable agrifood system: A strategic research and innovation agenda



BioBased Industries: Strategic Innovation & Research Agenda (SIRA)





Food and Agriculture Organization of the



FIT4FOOD2030, Towards FOOD 2030 - future-proofing the European food systems through Research & Innovation



H2020 CICERONE: Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on Circular Economy September 2020



Keeping Food Safety on the Agenda through 2030





HEALTHEIP

jpiamr

**FACCEJPI** 



Include, shape, act!

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Food Safety in Europe

> FS4EU input for fast-response SRIA on priority challenges in emerging/novel food hazards and risks



The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on Food Safety emerging/novel food hazards and risks outlines the framework for future research, development, and innovation to achieve the EU's food safety policy goals: to ensure safe, nutritious food, high animal health and welfare standards, plant protection, and clear product information.

It provides input to assess/ensure the safety of food innovations, by proposing tools, methodologies, knowledge to address food safety hazards and risks (re)-emerging in circular, bio-based, sustainable food systems of the future.

### Challenges

- Climate change and food security
- Food Supply Chain: Traceability & Transparency
- Integration & Improving Risk Assessment Methodologies
- Rapid Technological Advancement & Emerging Technologies
- Sustainable Production/Processing
- Ethics and One Health Systemic Approach
- Science-based Decision Making
- Food Safety Related Issues and Sharing Information & Resources



FoodSafety4EU has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020

Bioresources

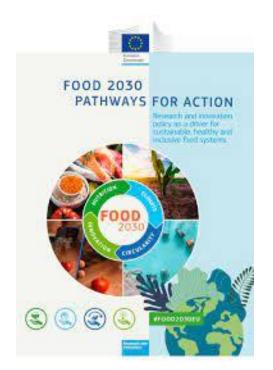
Contact: Prof. Nastasia Belc e-mail: nastasia.belc@bioresurse.ro

 ☐ Technical University of Munich

### Participatory process evaluation by high level experts

The **social laboratory methodology** delivered results in a concrete and pragmatic way, despite the complexity of the topic. It successfully enabled the **multi-actor approach** 





It will be central to make a link from the FS4EU SRIA to FOOD2030 policy framework and other food policies  $\Rightarrow$  The project experience was brought in the EC participatory workshop "Food2030 Pathways for action" and specifically in the update of Food Safety System of the Future pathway for action.

A more practical use of the SRIA for future users could be obtained with a topic categorisation in:

- research oriented,
- ii) innovation oriented
- iii) technology transfer oriented



The industry users are important target groups: it is important to hydrate practical measure into industry and translate guidelines for industries. ⇒ The participation of industry representatives in the co-creation process was acknowledged.





The DISH Cluster is a synergy created within the Horizon Result Booster, a European Commission initiative for steering research towards strong societal impact, concretising the value of R&I activity for societal challenges between <u>SafeConsume</u>, <u>Eat2benice</u>, FoodSafety4EU, <u>Stance4Health</u> and <u>One Health EJP</u> TOXOSOURCES.







#### Bridging science and society

Risk Assessors meet Social Scientists on food safety matters

October 12th, 2022 | on line event

h. 10:00 - 12:00 CET





The role of Estonia and other EU member states in these projects.



### Participation in project actions as Supporting Partner



Ministry of Rural Affairs X of Republic of Estonia EE FSA

The state is obliged to monitor that the consumed in our diet is safe despite its origin. To this end, the Ministry of Rural Affairs develops requirements and legislation and organises national inspection and monitoring of the food chain. In order to ensure food safety, the Ministry develops legislation related to food hygiene, food additives and contaminants and labelling, food contact materials and articles, novel foods and genetically modified organisms and other food groups or participates in the development of this legislation in the European Union decision-making process.

Piret Priisalu

- ✓ Involvement as ESFA focal point including participating and/or disseminating surveys
- ✓ SRIA consultation (participating and promoting)
- ✓ Participation in Food Safety Operational Lab 4 on co-creating innovative and novel communication methods informing civil society about food safety research and the risk assessment process.
- ✓ Participation in depth interviews for map and gap analysis of procedures and enforcement
- ✓ Participation in new project proposals

# Main outcomes and results (FSOLab outcomes): input for new communication models and materials

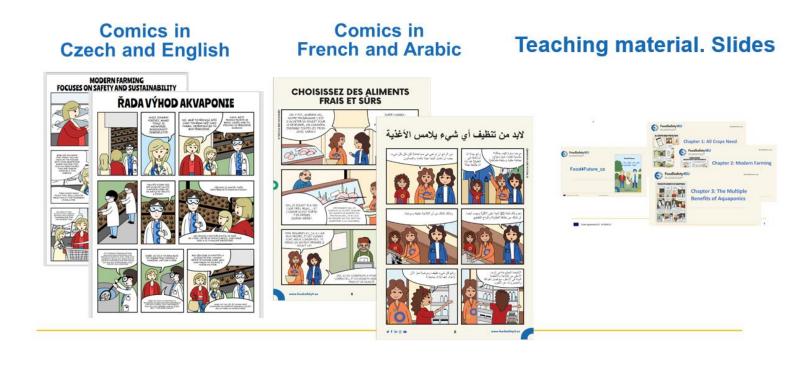
Videos - https://www.zenodo.org/deposit/8338030

Material for teachers - https://www.zenodo.org/deposit/8339181

Comics - https://www.zenodo.org/deposit/8373181

FoodSafety4EU Key Exploitable Results booklet (zenodo.org)







- Opportunities for Estonian stakeholders to engage and contribute to the project
- Plans for future collaboration within the EU

### Signature of the TERMS of REFERENCE

The ToR defines the framework of the EU Food Safety Platform, its main features and expected functioning.

Three membership levels are available to join the EU Food Safety Platform.

- EU Food Safety Platform MEMBER as a private or public organization out of the FS4EU Consortium – Participate in the Management Board and/or Steering Committee
- SUPPORTING PARTNER (SP) is a private or public organization a "corporate user" can be involved in the platform activities, at different levels (dissemination and communication, projects, initiatives, working group, consultations).
- **INDIVIDUAL USER** as **an individual** who subscribes as USER of the digital platform to receive updated information (newsletters). He/she doesn't gain the status of EU Food Safety Platform member.



### PLATFORM STRATEGY:



1. feed network and share updated knowledge



2. get funds



3. boost EU dialogue



4. exploit and export methodologies and practices



5. set alliances and exchanges with EU funded projects



6. synergize with policymakers, also at country level

### **PLAN**



1. NETWORKING&COMMUNICATION: enlarge the base of the network on voluntary subscription (ToR) and feed the Platform -> Food2030, Knowledge Center on Food Safety



2. FUNDING: applying to forthcoming European calls for proposals, tenders and funding opportunities (COST, Horizon EUROPE, etc.)



3. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS -> EU FOOD SAFETY FORUM (input for SRIA/EU policies)



4. EXPLOITATION of results in other projects and inititatives, i.e. integration with other platforms (UpRise, Holifood, FoodSafeR)



5. PARTNERSHIP: set agreements with other projects (i.e. FoodPathS)



6. ENGAGEMENT: participate in initiatives at EU/National level (i.e. Ministery)







Potential areas for further development to enhance food safety and public health outcomes of the 1st EU food Safety Forum panel

# Positioning and future of the EU Food Safety Platform Outcomes of the EU Food Safety Forum

### **New synergies**

- ✓ Synergy and cross-fertilization with **Food.eu** a citizen focused pilot platform developed by EFSA
- ✓ Synergy with HEU ongoing projects: the **FS4EU knowledge centre** can host new results on food safety risks -> Leverage projects' outcomes and merge the communities

### Looking at the complexity of the system from the food safety angle

- ✓ In the **SFS partnership**, Food Safety is a key topic: we are responsible of safeguarding that the fundaments remains there keep the focus and contribute to set the scene, the boundaries, the concept, in which the SFS partnership can operate
- ✓ The FS4EU specificity is to facilitate bringing the knowledge generated by other projects together from the food safety perspective

# Positioning and future of the EU Food Safety Platform Outcomes of the EU Food Safety Forum

### Widen the perspective

- ✓ Impact on the environment should be more acknowledged in the future -> include new actors
- ✓ FS4EU could look at connecting with the **Regional Innovation Ecosystems** exploring the potential that the plaftorm has with the exhisting innovation ecosystems (at local, regional level)

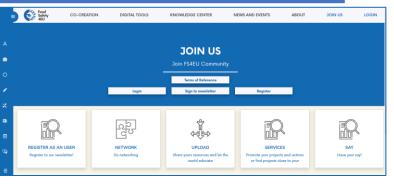
### **Institutional interactions**

- ✓ Keep on going public (no fees)
- ✓ Continue to be an experimental space (institutional actors are limited in this)
- ✓ EC JRC is eager to continue this cooperation and proposes a more formalized collaboration thorugh the EC JRC instruments (f.i. scientific collaboration agreement)

### **KEY MOMENTS**

Consolidating Connections within the system (digital and physical)









**EU FOOD SAFETY** of the future 28-29.11.2023





Establishment of a long-term Science-Policy-Society interaction Terms of Reference (TOR)



28-29 November 2023 The 1st EU Food Safety Forum and the ToR Signature

# KEY MOMENTS Leveraging the platform at institutional level



#F00D2030EU

#### **FOOD 2030**

GREEN AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

**EVENT AGENDA** 

### Food 2030 Conference 4-5 Dec 2023 Exhibition @Food Village

FOODSAFETYAEU
Molti-stateholder
Yorn for feel safety
Input

FOODSAFETYAEU
Molti-stateholder

FOODSA

Summary of relevant research and innovation projects

The Food 2030 projects relevant to this pathway include those presented in the following table.

### PROJECT NAME & FUNDING INFORMATION

#### PROJECT AIM/OUTCOME

#### FoodSafety4EU

Multi-stakeholder platform for food safety in Europe

**2021–2023**, EUR 3.0 million (Horizon 2020), CSA, Food 2030

#### DAFFI

Safe food for infants in the EU and China

**2020–2024**, EUR 4.0 million (Horizon 2020), RIA, Food 2030

#### DITECT

Digital technologies as an enabler for a continuous transformation of food safety system

**2020–2023**, EUR 4.1 million (Horizon 2020), RIA, Food 2030 Among other objectives, this project aims to create a platform for stakeholder engagement on food safety.

This project plans to improve risk-based food safety management of biohazards through omics and predictive microbiology.

This project aims to develop a standard-based, modular, big-data-enabled platform capable of predicting the food safety parameters of food products based on data collected in real time using cost-efficient sensors and incorporating blockchain processes.



# Presentation of the platform Launch of the SRIA consultation







Food2030 Pathway
Food Safety System of the
Future



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### THANK TO ALL

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