



SAFEFOODERA-WORK PACKAGE 4 – JOINT ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOP ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FOOD SAFETY RESEARCH IDEAS FORUM

Gustav Stresemann Institute (GSI), Bonn – 30-31 October 2006

PROGRAMME

30 October 2006

13:00 – Registration, Lunch

14:00 – **Welcome**

Barbara Gessler, Head of the regional representation of the European Commission in Bonn

Presentations

14:15 – **FP7 and food safety research**

Dyanne Bennink DG RTD, European Commission

14:45 – **How can cooperation create added value – experiences from the Nordic Council of Ministers**

Tryggvi Felixson, Head of Department for Environment and Resources, Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat, Norway

15:15 – **Strategy of food safety in Germany and the research in the BfR**

Professor Dr Alfredo Lampen, Head of Food Safety Department, Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Germany

15:45 – Coffee

16:15 – **1st workshop session** – Defining a successful ideas forum

17:45 – **Report on increasing the impact of National Research Programmes through Transnational Cooperation and Opening**

Angus Hunter, Managing Director, Optimat Ltd

18:15 – Close first day

19:00 – Leave GSI for dinner at the Petersberg





31 October 2006

09:00 – 2nd workshop session – Identifying the constraints and barriers to setting up an ideas forum

10:30 – Coffee

11:00 – 3rd workshop session – Developing a road-map to an ideas forum

12:30 – Conclusions/next steps

13:00 – Close – lunch for those who want it





Workshop functioning: for each workshop session, break out groups will be organised. There will be at least one member of the Safefoodera team responsible for setting up the workshop in each group to help keep things on track.

Each group will have a nominated chair and rapporteur. For each workshop session there is likely to be about 45 minutes for discussion in the break out groups and then 30-40 minutes for feedback/discussion in plenary.

Workshop session 1 – Defining a successful research ideas forum

Participants will be asked to imagine that they are now several years in the future and that the research ideas forum proposed has been set up and is working well. They will be asked to try to describe what the objective(s) of the forum is/are and how it operates. In setting out their ideas, as far as possible, participants should try to ignore any potential problems that they can see in achieving this vision and assume they can be addressed, which will be covered in the next workshop sessions. To help in doing so, before coming to the workshop, they are asked to consider the following:

- What do you see as the objective of your organisation in being part of such a forum?
- What are the strengths of the forum?
- What opportunities does the existence and membership of the forum offer?

Each working group should bring a summary of the key points made back to the plenary, either in written or electronic form.

Workshop session 2 – Identifying the constraints and barriers to setting up an ideas forum

Having identified what a successful forum might look like in the first workshop, participants will now be asked to focus on issues which would cause them problems in being part of such a forum, or barriers they can see which might prevent setting up/operating the ideas forum. This may cover a whole range of things such as operational/systems problems, policy/political problems etc.

Some issues to consider will be:

- What are the potential weaknesses of the ideas forum?
- What are the threats to its successful operation?
- Are there procedures or policies within your organisation/region/country which may/would cause difficulties in joint funding research with organisations from another region/country? What are these? Can they be altered to facilitate joint funding in the future?





Workshop session 3 – Developing a road map to an ideas forum

Having identified what the barriers might be, and assuming there is enthusiasm and a willingness to take the idea further, participants will be invited to develop a road map/information needs (and perhaps a timetable) on overcoming these with a view to establishing a workable ideas forum.

This could address several issues:

- What sort of tools could be used to establish, and aid the operation of, the forum – e.g. a special database, an informal electronic network, something else?
- Are there some basic information needs (over and above contact details) that would need to be held within the tools and start defining what these might be e.g. some key procedures/policies on funding that are non negotiable, timing constraints in funding procedures etc?
- What are the steps that would need to be undertaken on the road to initiating the ideas forum?

