

Expertise needed: EFSA Advisory Panels recruit new members

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The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a call for expressions of interest for the renewal of its Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee. The call is open to all experts with relevant scientific expertise who are motivated to contribute to the protection of human and animal health and the environment in Europe. Scientists who would like to be considered for membership in one of EFSA's ten Scientific Panels or Scientific Committee have until 3 April 2023 to apply.

EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels are renewed every five years following a thorough and transparent selection process.

The panels are the scientific backbone of EFSA. They draw up opinions and advise the EU Commission on food safety issues. The panels thus create the scientific basis for the Commission's decisions aimed at improving consumer health protection in Europe.

The Scientific Committee is responsible for supporting the work of the Panels on cross-cutting scientific issues. It focuses on the development of harmonised methodologies for risk assessment in areas where EU-wide procedures have not yet been established.

The experts for these panels are selected by EFSA staff from the applicant pool. EFSA's Management Board is responsible for the final selection, with scientific qualifications and independence as key evaluation criteria alongside at least seven years' professional experience. To ensure transparency and avoid conflicts of interest, members of the panels must make a declaration of their relationships with interest groups (Declaration of Interests). A key requirement is that they bring independent scientific expertise to the panels.

In addition to the Scientific Committee, interested experts can contribute their expertise to the following Scientific Panels:

Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)

Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA)

Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM)

Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP)

Panel on Food Additives and Flavourings (FAF)

Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)

Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)

Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP)

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The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) coordinates the scientific exchange of information between the EFSA and the authorities responsible for food and feed safety in Germany, as well as stakeholders from the fields of industry, politics, science and consumer associations, as the central national contact point ("EFSA Focal Point").

Further information

The call and the online application form can be found on [EFSA's website](#).

Information on EFSA Panels and the Scientific Committee can be found [here](#).

For more information, watch EFSA's video: "[Making a difference to food safety in Europe- Join EFSA's Scientific Panels](#)" and the EFSA animation: "[EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels: how are experts selected?](#)"

Information on the EFSA Focal Point at the BfR: https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/activities_of_bfr_as_national_efsa_focal_point_in_germany-24975.html

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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