



EFSA

AND THE EU FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM

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Senior Policy Coordinator

OUTLINE



EU Decentralised Agencies



EU Food Safety System



EFSA's mandate



Strategic Context



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EU INSTITUTIONS



European Commission
Belgium (BE)



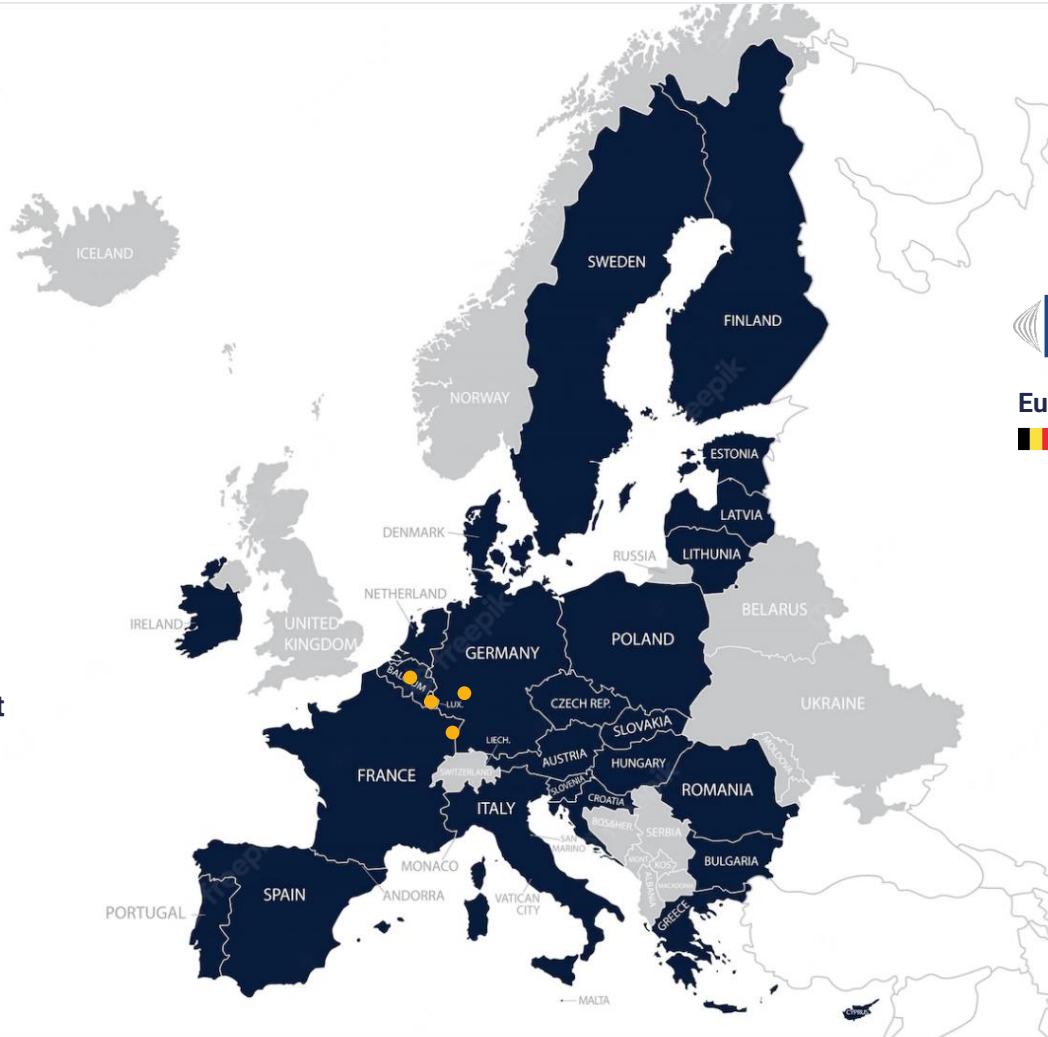
**European Council
Council of the EU**
Belgium (BE)



European Parliament
Belgium (BE)
France (FR)



Court of Justice of the EU
Luxembourg (LU)



European Economic and Social Committee
Belgium (BE)



European Committee of the Regions
Belgium (BE)



European Central Bank
Germany (DE)



European Investment Bank
Luxembourg (LU)
Regional offices



European Court of Auditors
Luxembourg (LU)



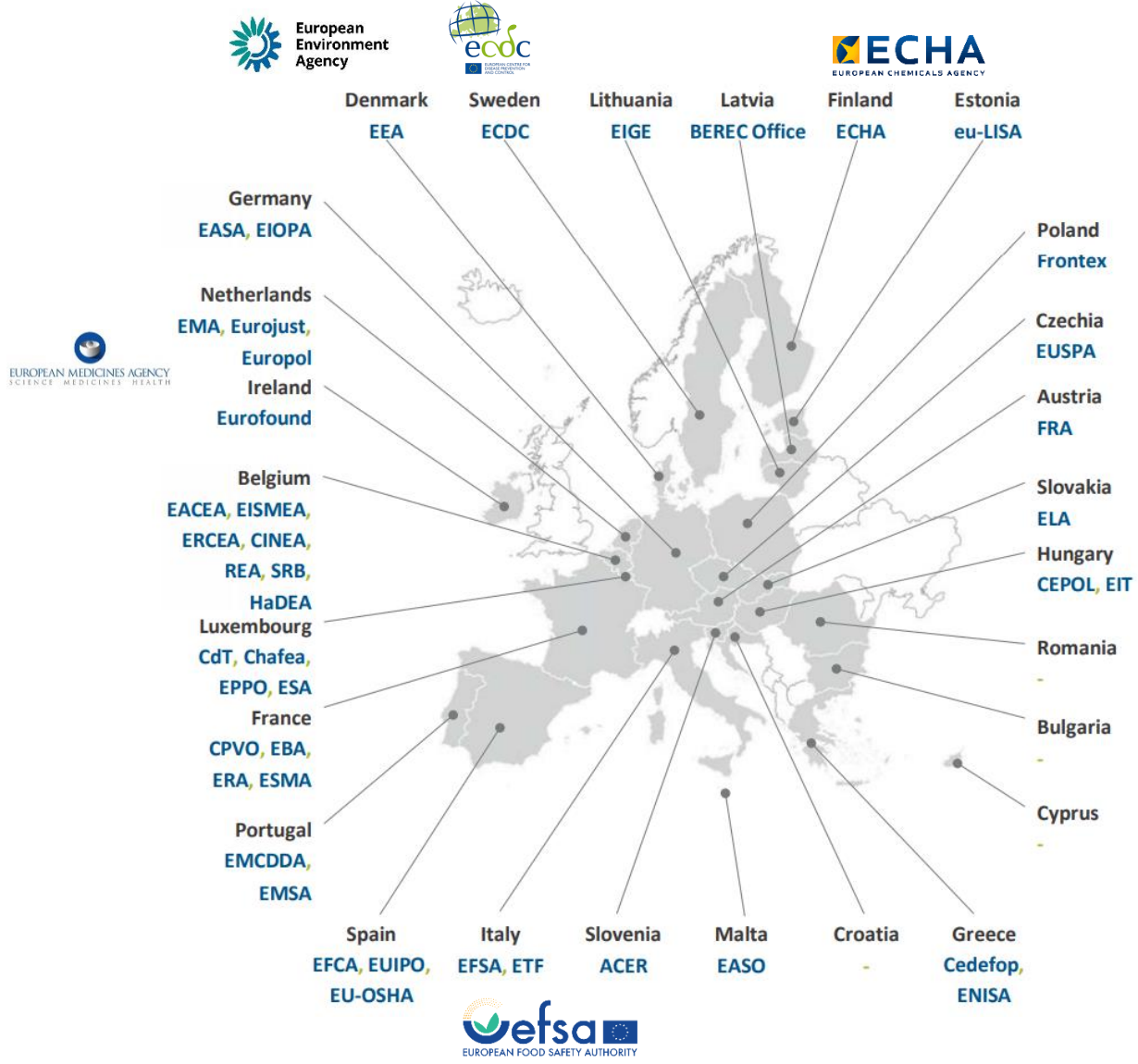
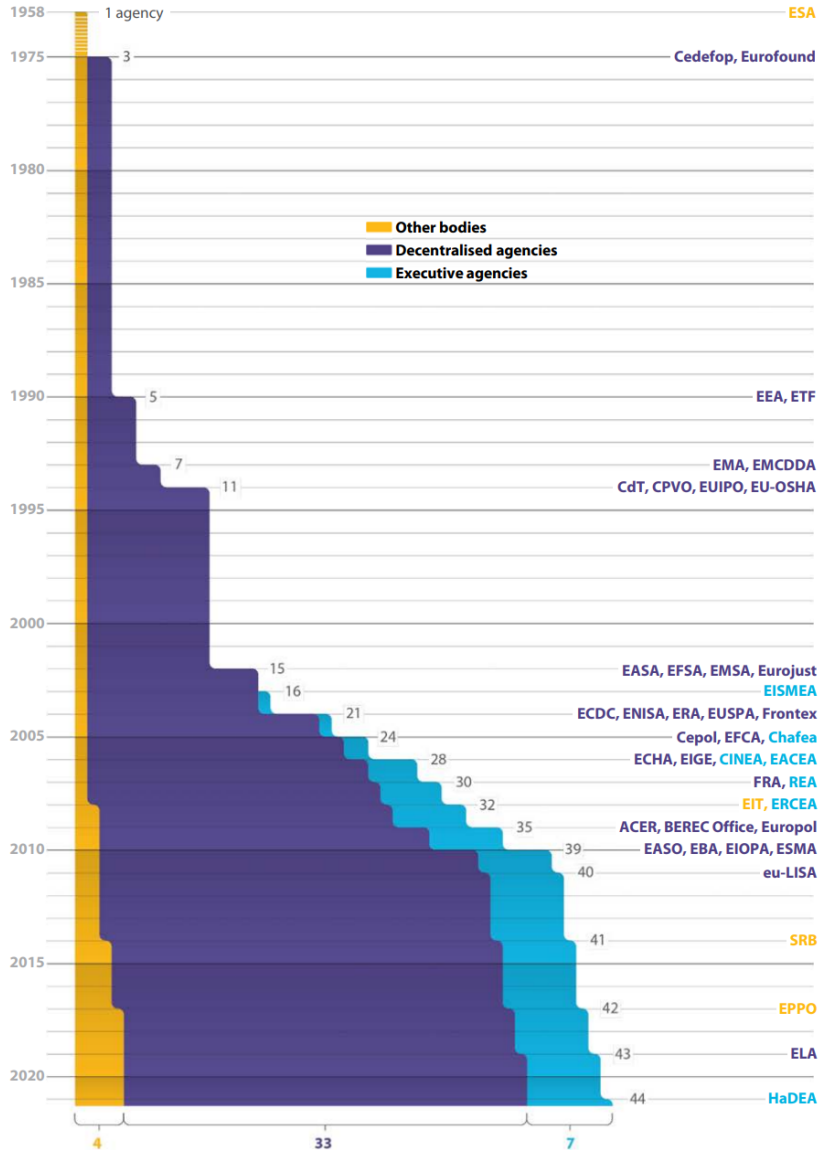
European External Action Service
Belgium (BE)
Network of delegations



European Ombudsman
Belgium (BE)
France (FR)



EU AGENCIES | TIMELINE AND LOCATION



EU AGENCIES | TYPES

33 decentralised agencies

7 Commission executive agencies (e.g. CINEA, REA)

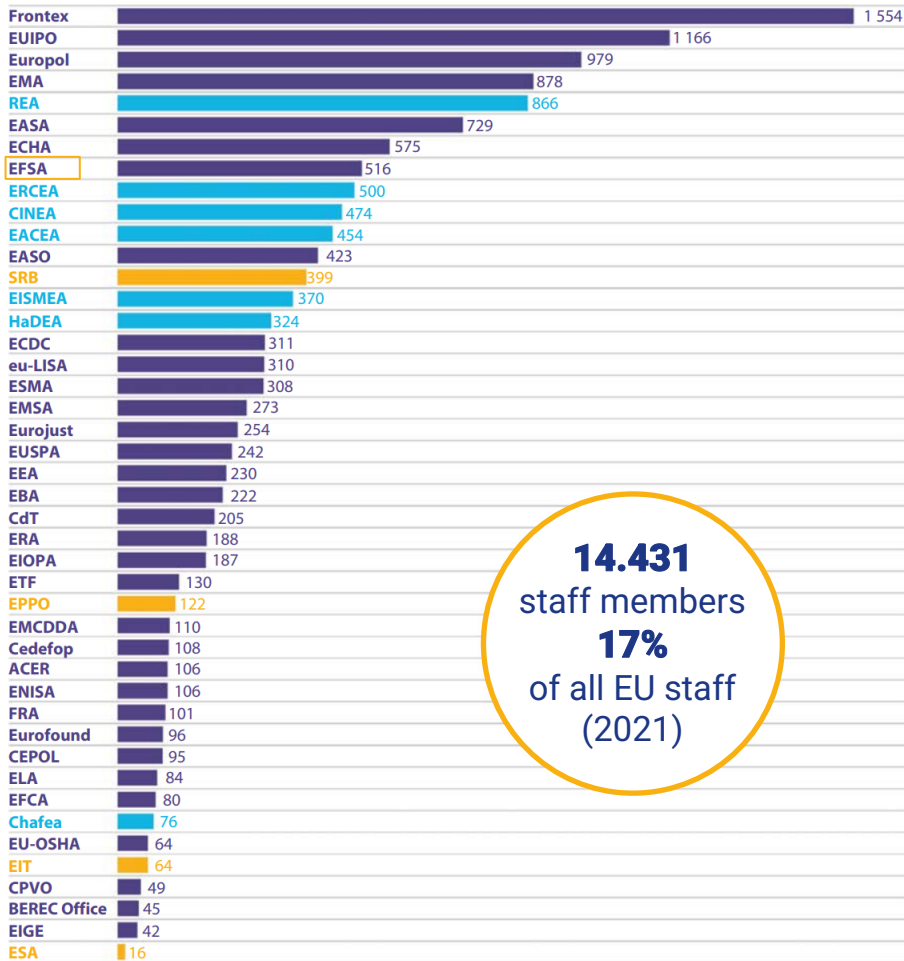
4 other bodies (EIT, EPPO, ESA, SRB)

5 joint undertakings (e.g. Clean Hydrogen)



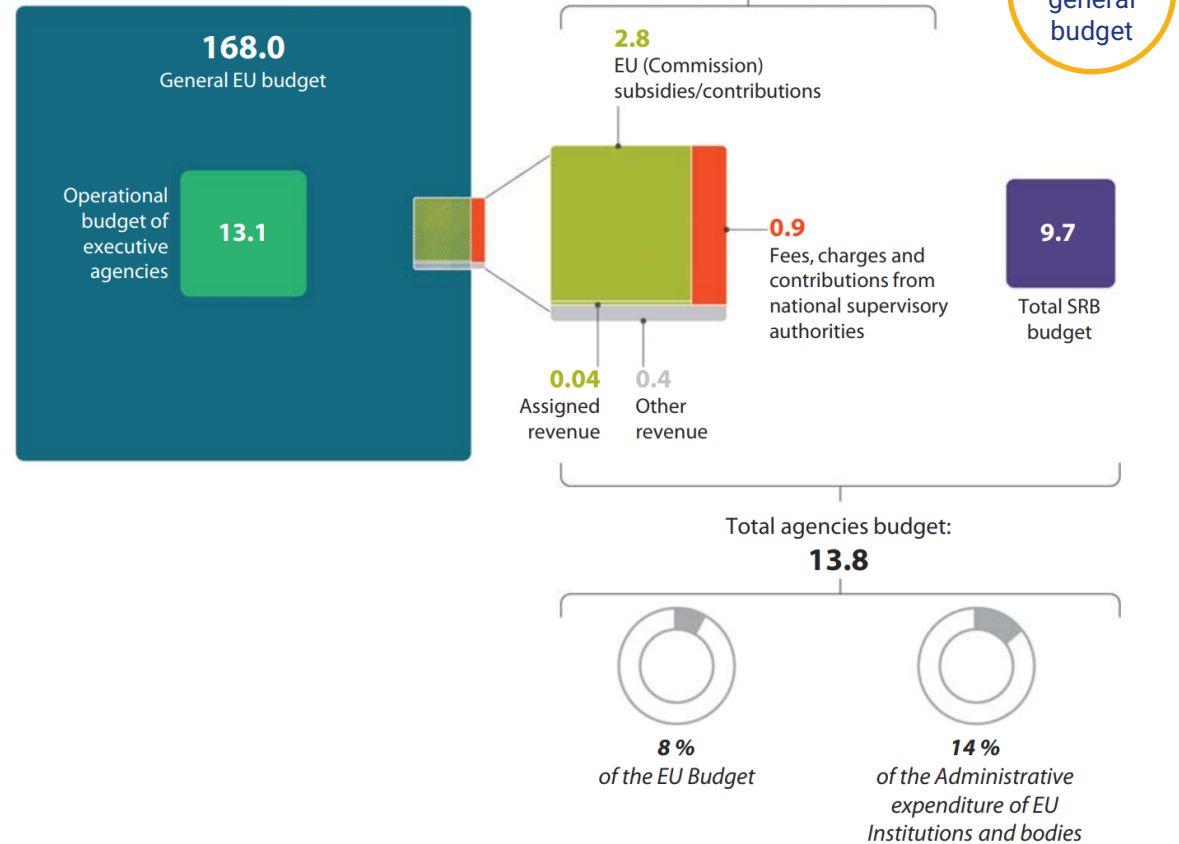
EU AGENCIES | RESOURCES

■ Decentralised agencies
■ Executive agencies
■ Other bodies



14.431
 staff members
17%
 of all EU staff
 (2021)

billion euros



Source: Draft general budget of the European Union for the 2021 financial year; Final annual accounts of the European Union 2021 and Annual Activity Reports of the executive agencies for 2021, compiled by the ECA.



DECENTRALISED AGENCIES | LEGAL AND POLITICAL STATUS



Founding principles

- Set up by EU Regulation (Treaty) and financed by EU budget
- Subject to EU financial and staff rules
- Subject to EP, Council, ECA scrutiny under budget discharge procedure



Relations with EC

- « Parenting » by Commission DGs
- Control in budget, legislative proposals, and policy-making
- Limiting factors:
 - Annual planning cycle
 - Annual budget cycle
 - Internal structure of DGs

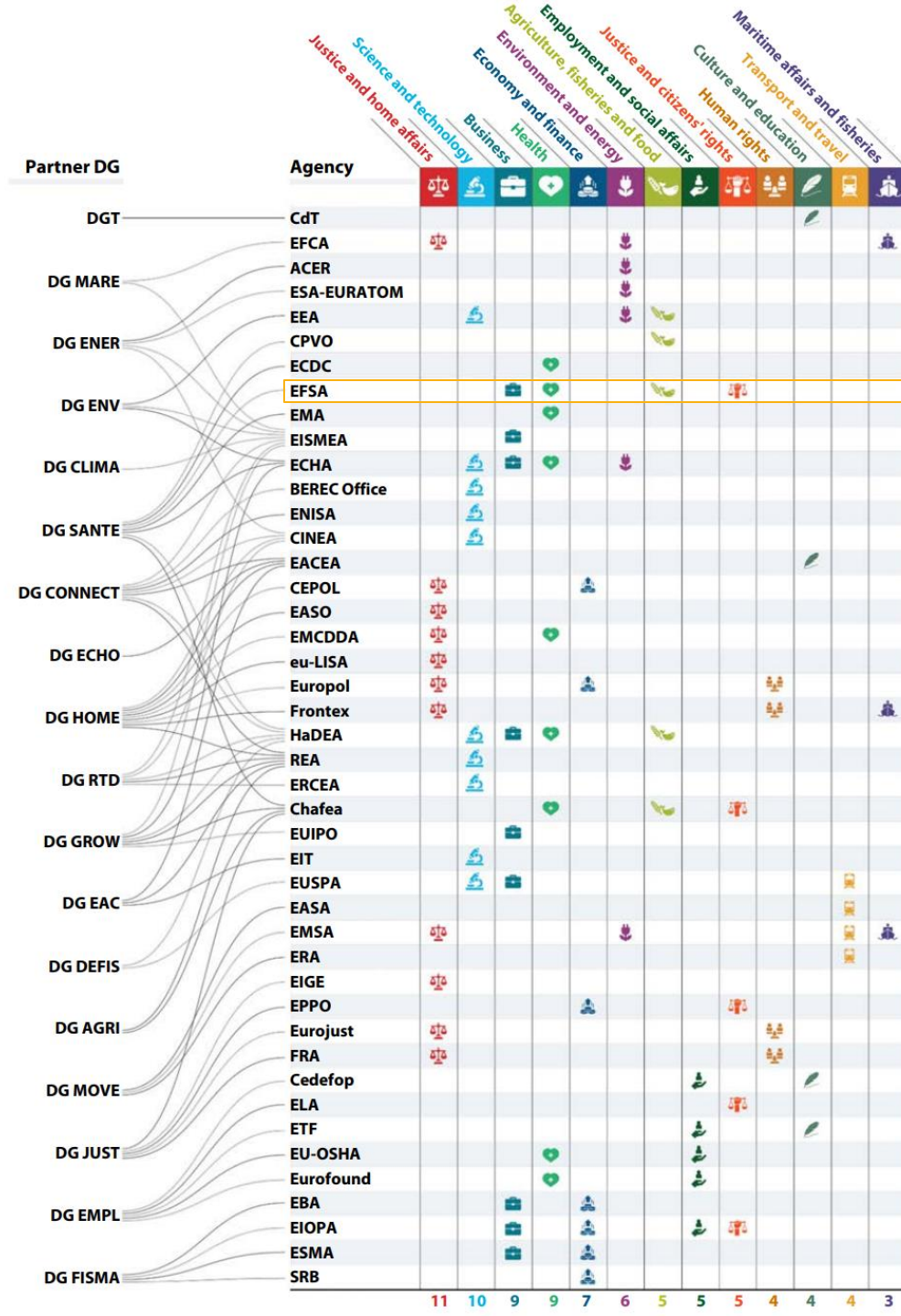


Institutional independence

- Management Board (MS, Stakeholders' representatives)
- Executive Director



EU AGENCIES | AREAS



EU AGENCIES | MOVING THE EU FORWARD

How do agencies promote cooperation in the EU?

A concrete example from the 2020-2021 pandemic:

- **European Medicines Agency (EMA)** was requested to analyze and authorize the different vaccines
- **European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)** intervention to facilitate the authorization procedures for disinfectant products
- **EFSA** was requested to analyze the possibility of COVID transmission through food



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THE CONCEPT OF FOOD SAFETY



If it's not safe, it's not food



FOOD COMPETENCES

EU Competence



National Competence



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

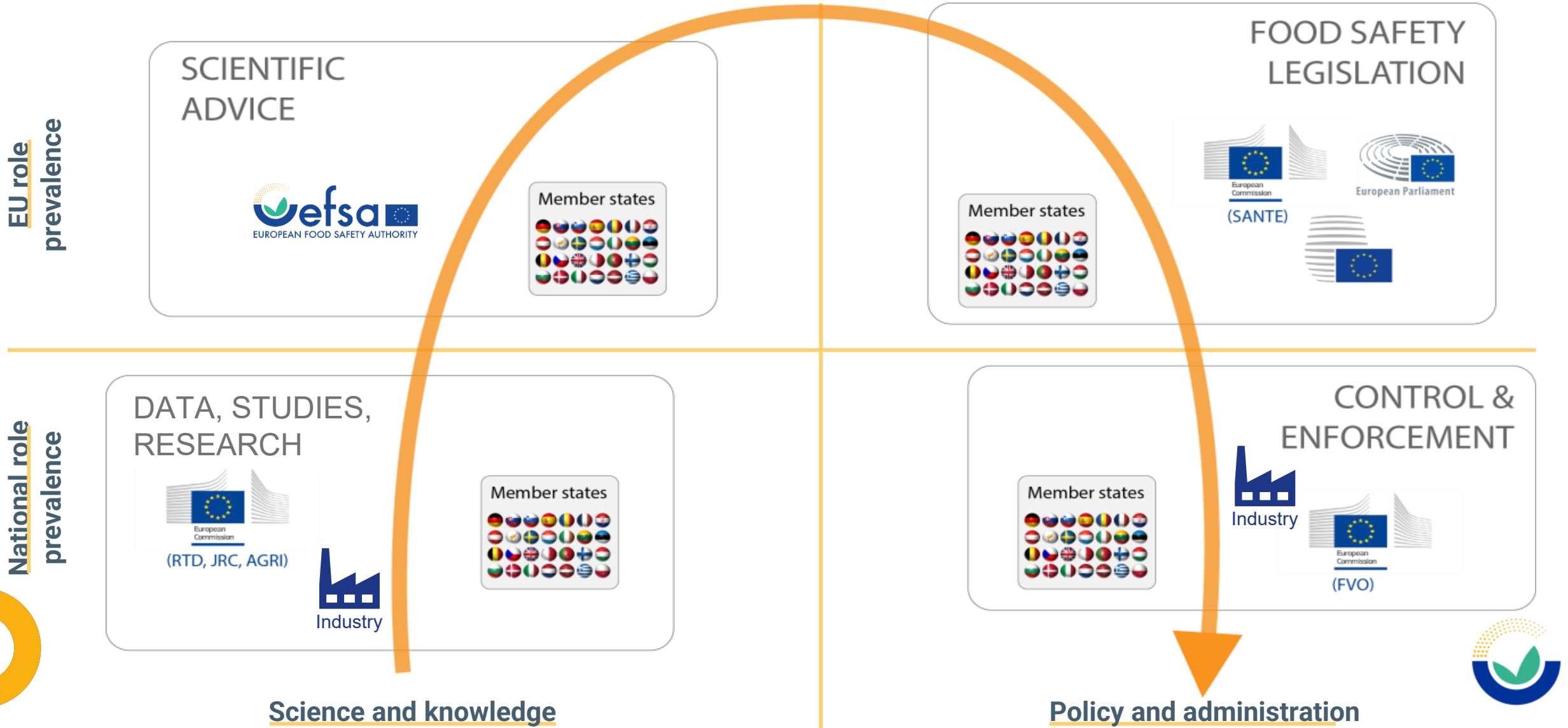
EU Reg. 178/2002 – EU General Food Law, following a series of food crises in Europe

Main features:

- Clear separation between **assessment** (science) and **management** (policy) functions
- Codified principles and rules: Science- and **risk-based policies**/decisions, Precautionary principle, Integrated approach, Transparency, Industry responsibility, Traceability
- New crisis management tool: Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed
- Creation of **EFSA**



THE EU FOOD SAFETY PROCESS



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EFSA'S RESOURCES



519 Permanent staff
72 Trainees, **65** interim, **11** SNEs



920 External experts (Panels, Working Groups, Networks)



1150 Meetings/year

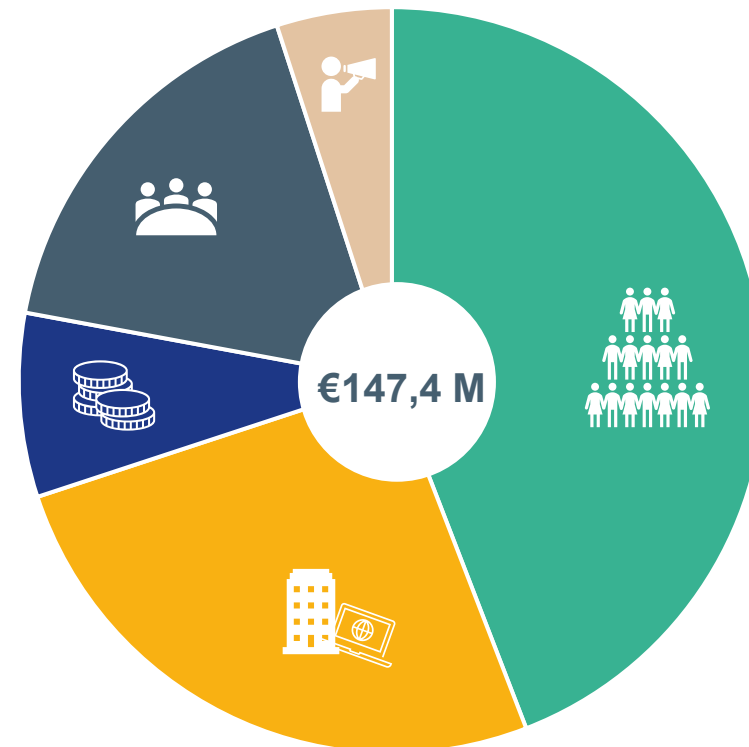


9820 Scientific outputs since 2003



410+ Partner organisations

EFSA 2023 budget



■ Staff ■ Building, IT + operations ■ Expert meetings ■ G&P ■ Communication



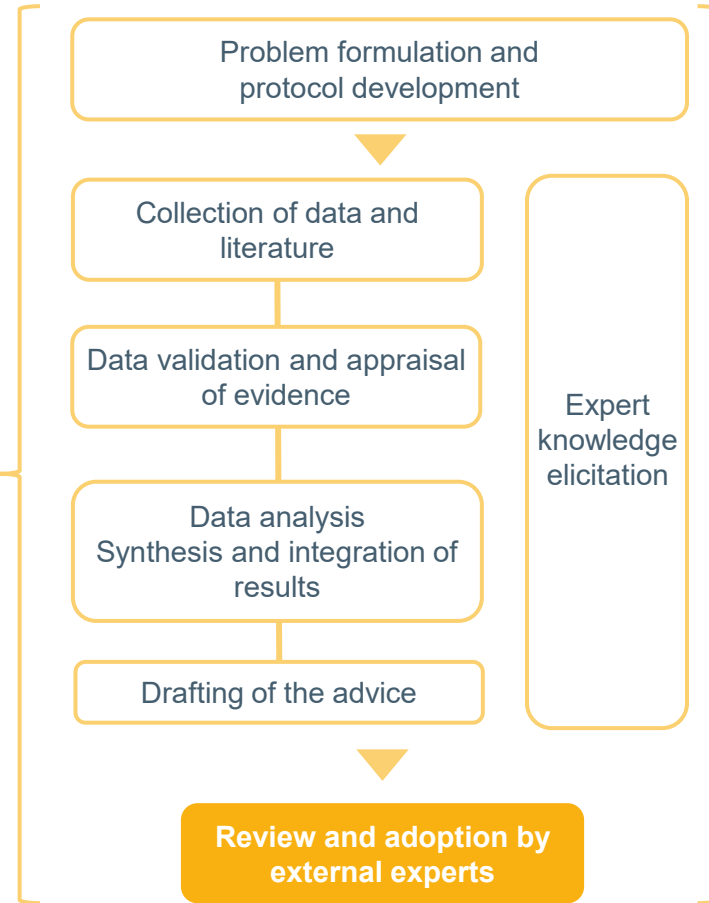
EFSA'S MANDATE



RISK ASSESSMENT



Receipt of mandate / application → Assessment



Publication and communication

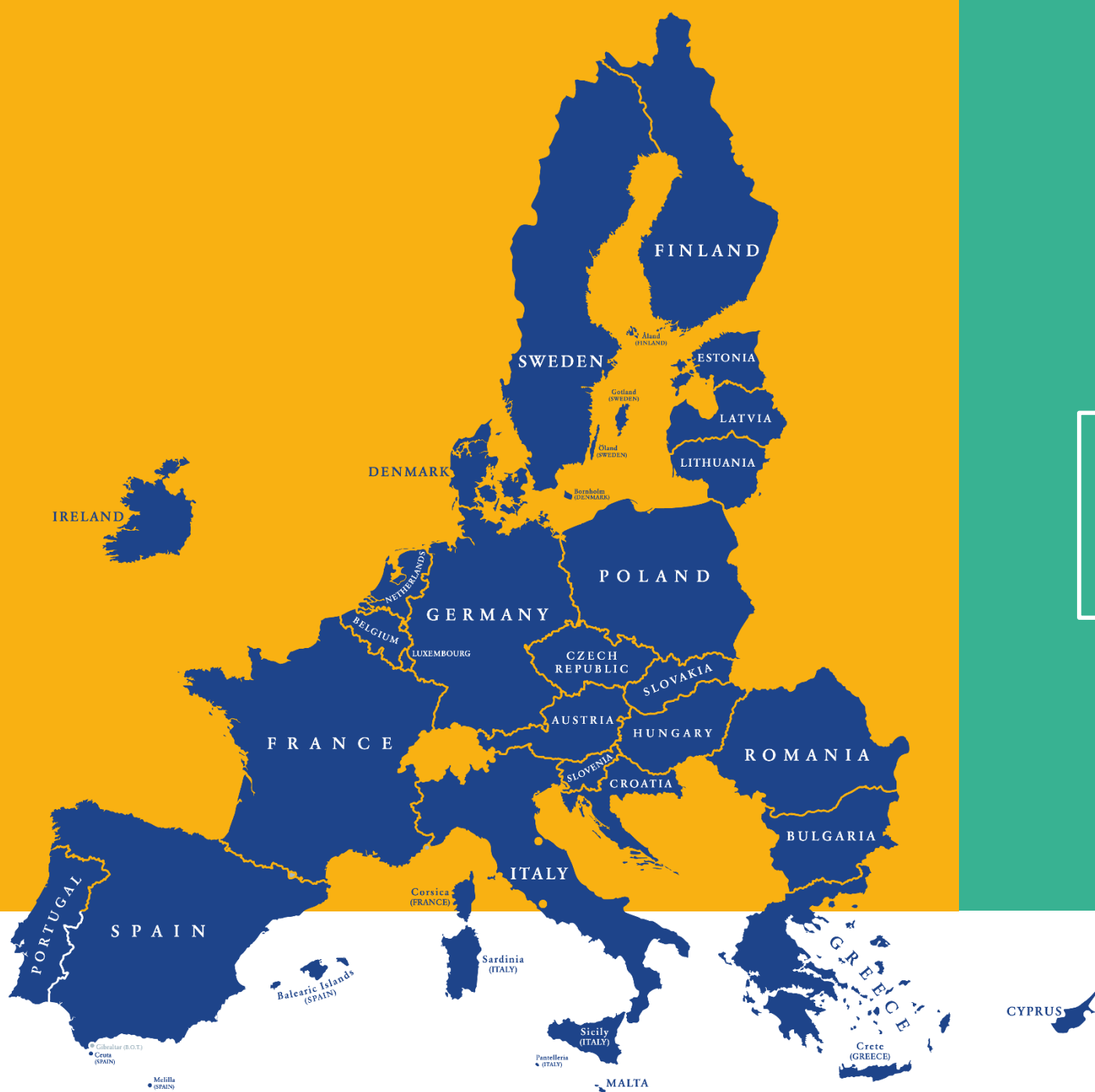


SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPE

National food safety agencies from 27 EU Member States

400 research institutes

EU Agencies



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION | GLOBAL PARTNERS

Health Canada
CFIA

USDA
USEPA
USFDA

Legend (June 2022)

- European Union Member States
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Countries
- European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Countries
- Third Countries with Institution(s) with Active Cooperation Arrangement(s) with EFSA
- ENP Country with Institution with Active Cooperation Arrangement with EFSA
- ENP Country with Participation Suspended

EFSA

ACHIPIA

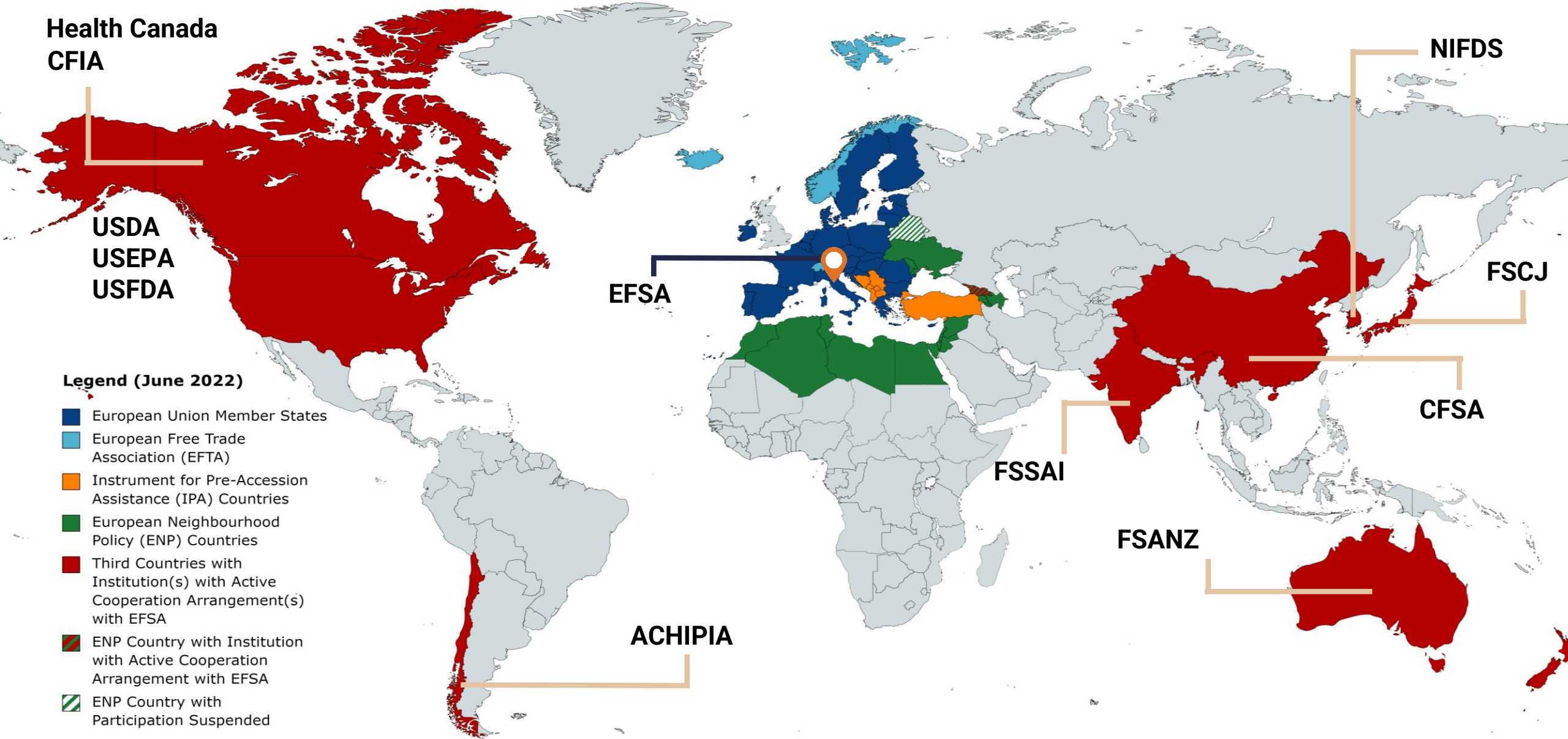
FSSAI

FSANZ

NIFDS

FSCJ

CFSA



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION | GLOBAL PARTNERS

CODEX SUPPORT

Contaminants in food

Food additives

Pesticide residues

Nutrition/special dietary uses

Ad hoc task force on AMR

MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

International liaison groups

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

WHO, FAO, OECD

EPPO

GCRSR, OIE

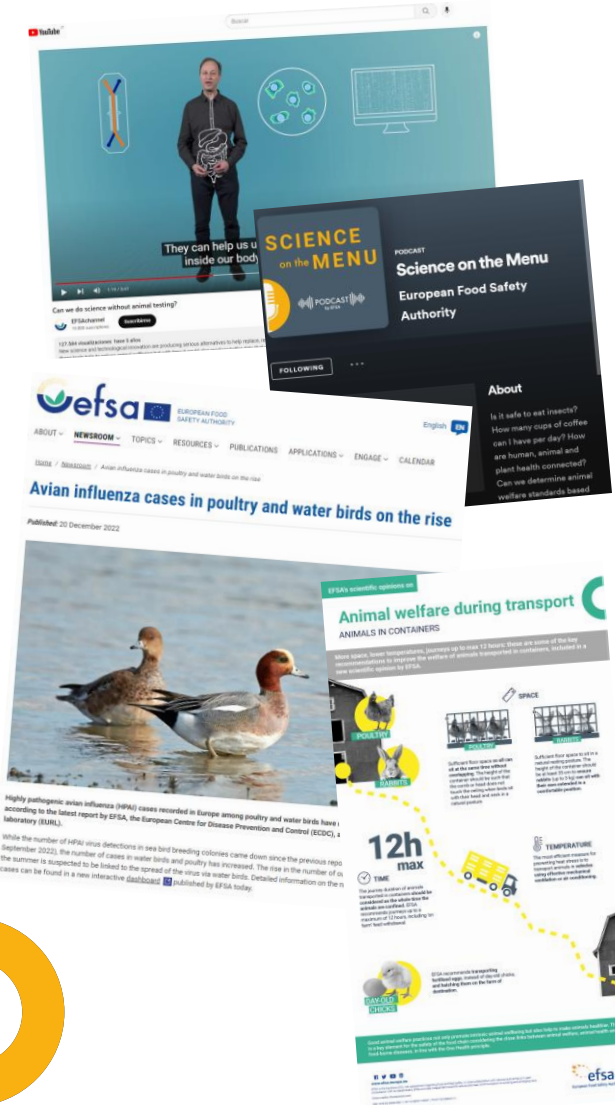
BILATERAL RELATIONS

Memoranda of Cooperation



RISK COMMUNICATION

Diverse channels and formats



MULTIMEDIA

- Videos
- Interactive tools
- Infographics
- Data visualisation

EFSA WEBSITE

- News
- Topics
- Alerts
- Newsletter
- Lay summaries
- Factsheets
- Events

SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

- Science networks
- Infossessions
- Scientific conferences
- Webinars

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS



EFSA JOURNAL

- All EFSA scientific outputs

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Twitter
- Linked In
- YouTube
- Newsletter

MEDIA RELATIONS

- Media monitoring & analysis
- Interviews
- Media enquiries
- Press conferences & briefings
- Media training



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EFSA VISION, VALUES AND STRATEGY

Safe food and sustainable food systems through transparent, independent and trustworthy scientific advice

Excellence

Independence

Accountability

Openness

Cooperation



Core Business

- **S01: Deliver trustworthy scientific advice and communication of risks from farm to fork**

Sustaining & Developing core Business

- **S02: Ensure preparedness for future risk analysis needs**

Managing & Enabling Business

- **S03: Empower people and ensure organisational agility**



The context of EFSA's work is changing



Emergence of new risks and hazards

Evolving scientific knowledge, creating a need for innovative and collaborative approaches

The impact of globalisation

Availability of expertise for EFSA's multidisciplinary needs

Public expectations and benefits/opportunities of greater transparency and engagement



NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS



Environmental risks

- multiple stressors and bees



Evaluation of the safety of new products

- e.g. novel foods



Development of new assessment methods

- nanotechnology, active and intelligent packaging
- '-omics', less animal testing



**Chemical mixtures/
combined toxicity of
substances in food**



**Antimicrobial
resistance**



**Hazards linked to
globalisation**

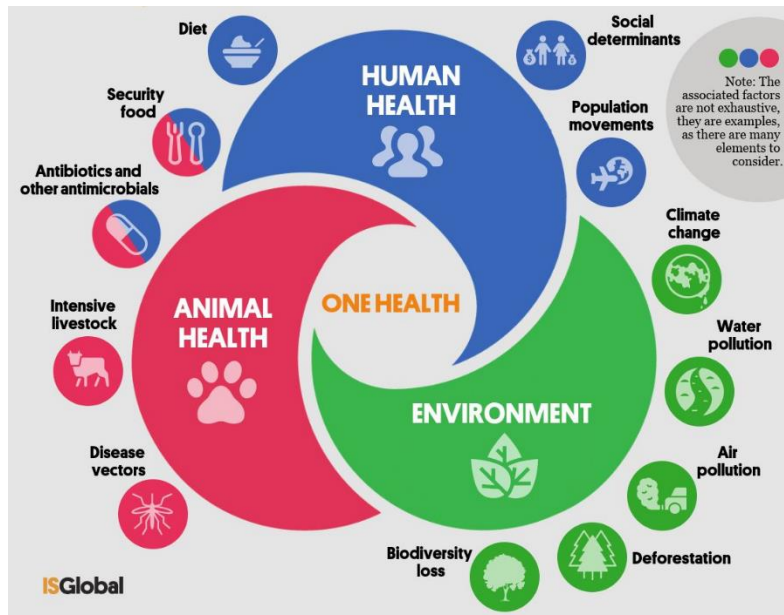
- plant pests, animal diseases, vector-borne diseases



ONE HEALTH APPROACH

An integrated approach:

- Breaking the silos between sectors and disciplines
- Collaboration among scientists and policy-makers



The Quadripartite:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



World Health Organization



UN environment programme

EU agencies:



EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE · MEDICINES · HEALTH



European Environment Agency



EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY



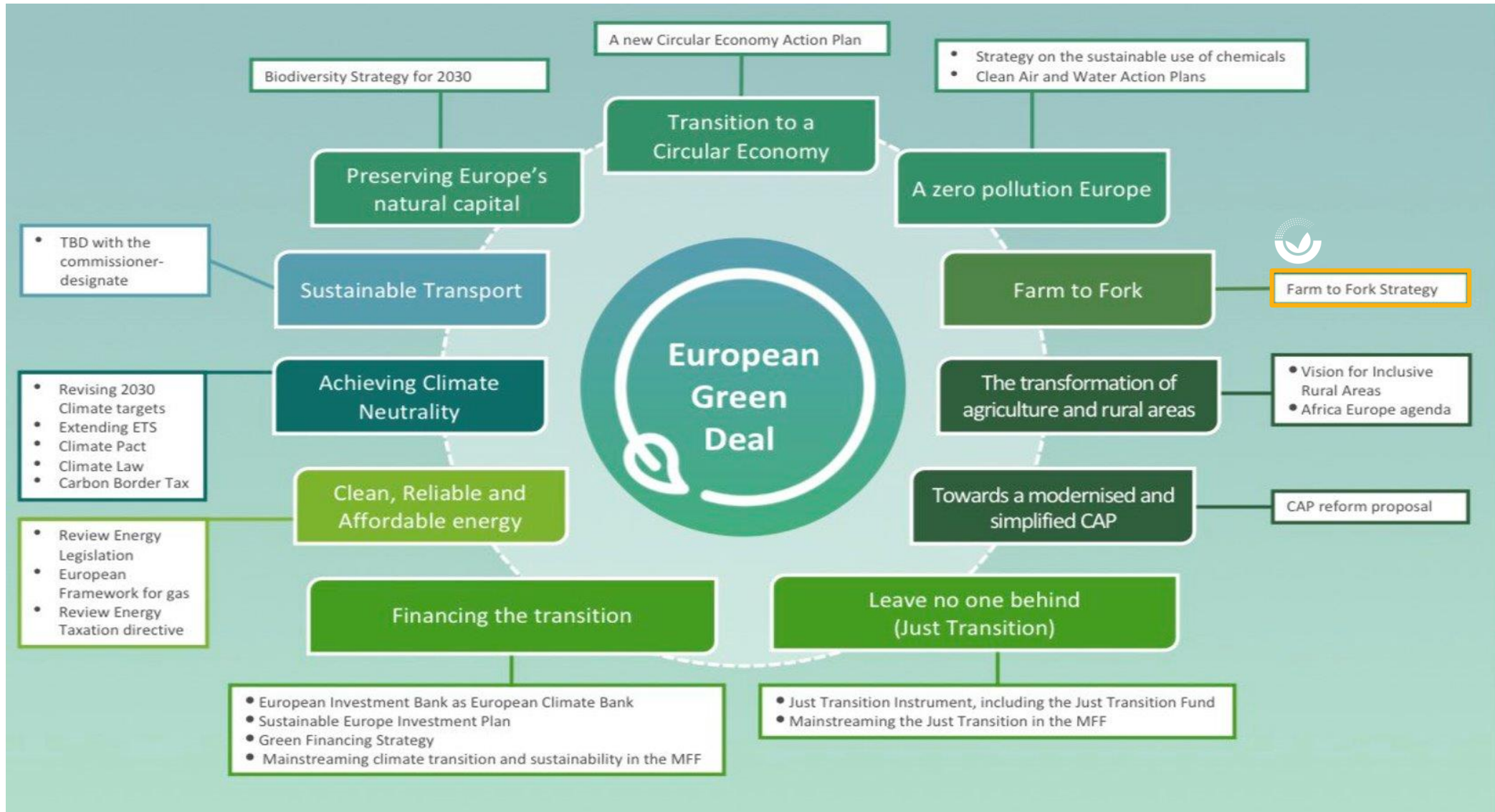
Joint Research Centre
JRC



HEALTH · ENVIRONMENT · SOCIETY



EU GREEN DEAL



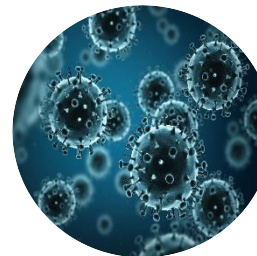
EU GREEN DEAL



Chemicals: 50% less pesticides



Soil: 50% less nutrient losses, 20% less fertilizers



Antimicrobials: 50% less for animal/fish farming



Organic farming: 25% of farmed land, increase in aquaculture



INDEPENDENCE AND TRANSPARENCY

INDEPENDENCE

 **From risk managers** (institutional independence)

 **From private interests** (individual independence)

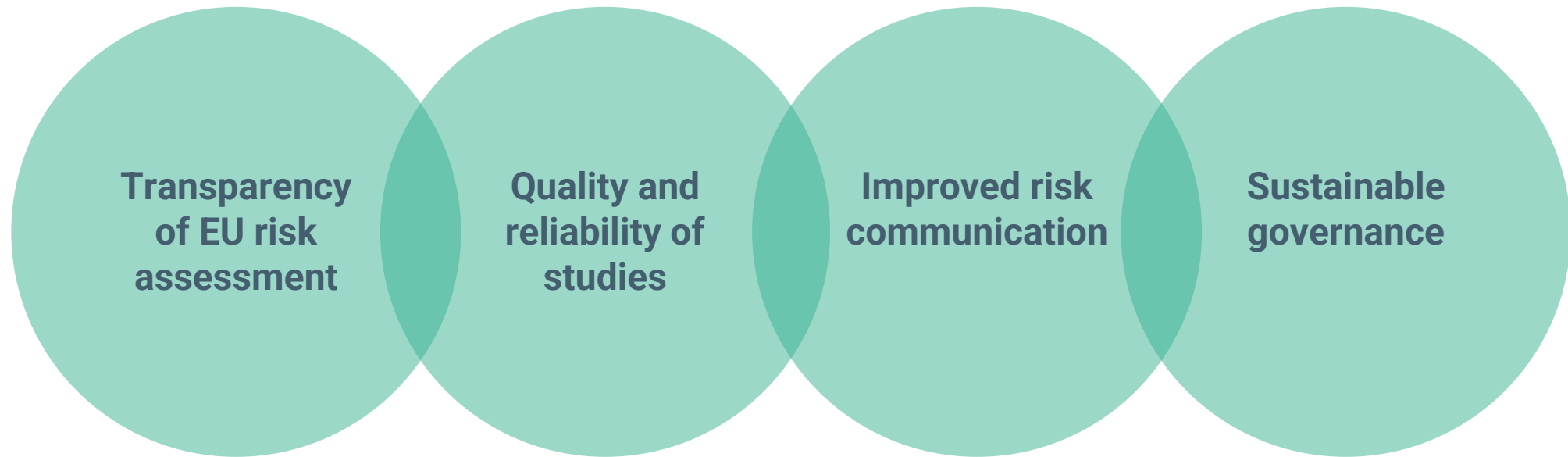
Guaranteed through a policy covering all actors and working processes:

- **Transparency of data and processes**
- **Ownership of opinions:** panels of experts on individual capacity
- **Governance of scientific processes:** mandates, selection of experts, collegial decision making, transparency
- **Management of interests:** conflict of interest definition, “cooling-off” and “revolving-doors” periods/procedures, declarations and screening of interests’ procedures, transparency



INDEPENDENCE AND TRANSPARENCY

Transparency Regulation (2019)



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