



Recent EFSA calls for research studies: the challenges for the scientific community

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**Food research in support to science-based regulations:
challenges for producers and consumers**

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- **Overview**
 1. *Legal basis and provisions*
 2. *Implementation: procedures, etc.*
 3. *First practical experience: some facts*
- **Examples of recent calls**

1. Legal basis and provisions

- Article 36 of EFSA's founding regulation (Regulation (EPC) No 178/2002)
- Implementing rules for networking under Article 36 (Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004)

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation states:

EFSA “...shall promote the European networking of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission.”



List of competent organisations established



Article 36 organisations may undertake **work on behalf of EFSA, e.g.:**

- collecting data;
- preparatory work for development of scientific opinions;
- other scientific and technical support,
e.g. on emerging issues and crisis situations.

- Financial support is provided in the form of grants
- Networking is encouraged (formation of consortia)

2. Implementation: procedures, etc.

Article 36 / Networking – List of organisations

- Applicants to calls for proposals need to be on the Art. 36 list (can apply individually or in consortia)
- Permanent Representations of the MS to the EU propose organisations
- EFSA 's Management Board adopts the list (defined criteria) – see Regulation 2230/2004, Art. 1
- Currently 371 organisations are on the list (originally established on December 2006)
- A “living” list, to be regularly updated

EXAMPLE for CZ:

- 1. Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry – Department of Animal Breeding**
- 2. National Institute of Public Health**
- 3. Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)**
- 4. Research Institute of Crop Production**
- 5. Research Institute of Animal Production**
- 6. Regional Public Health Institute of Hradec Kralove**
- 7. Regional Public Health Institute of Brno**
- 8. Regional Public Health Institute of Kolín**
- 9. Regional Public Health Institute of Jihlava**
- 10. Regional Public Health Institute of Liberec**
- 11. Regional Public Health Institute of Olomouc**
- 12. Regional Public Health Institute of Pardubice**
- 13. Regional Public Health Institute of Prague**
- 14. Regional Public Health Institute of Ústí nad Labem**
- 15. Regional Public Health Institute of Pilsen**
- 16. Department of Quality of Agricultural Products, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague**
- 17. Food Research Institute Prague**
- 18. Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology**
- 19. Institute of Public Health in Ostrava**

Available at: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/resource_EFSA/partners/art36/art36listm.pdf?ssbinary=true

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- Annual work-programmes:
 - proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and Networks and Scientific Directorates
 - reviewed by the Advisory Forum and the Scientific Committee
 - endorsed by EFSA's Management Board
- Efforts towards identifying issues of common interest and avoiding duplication of activities

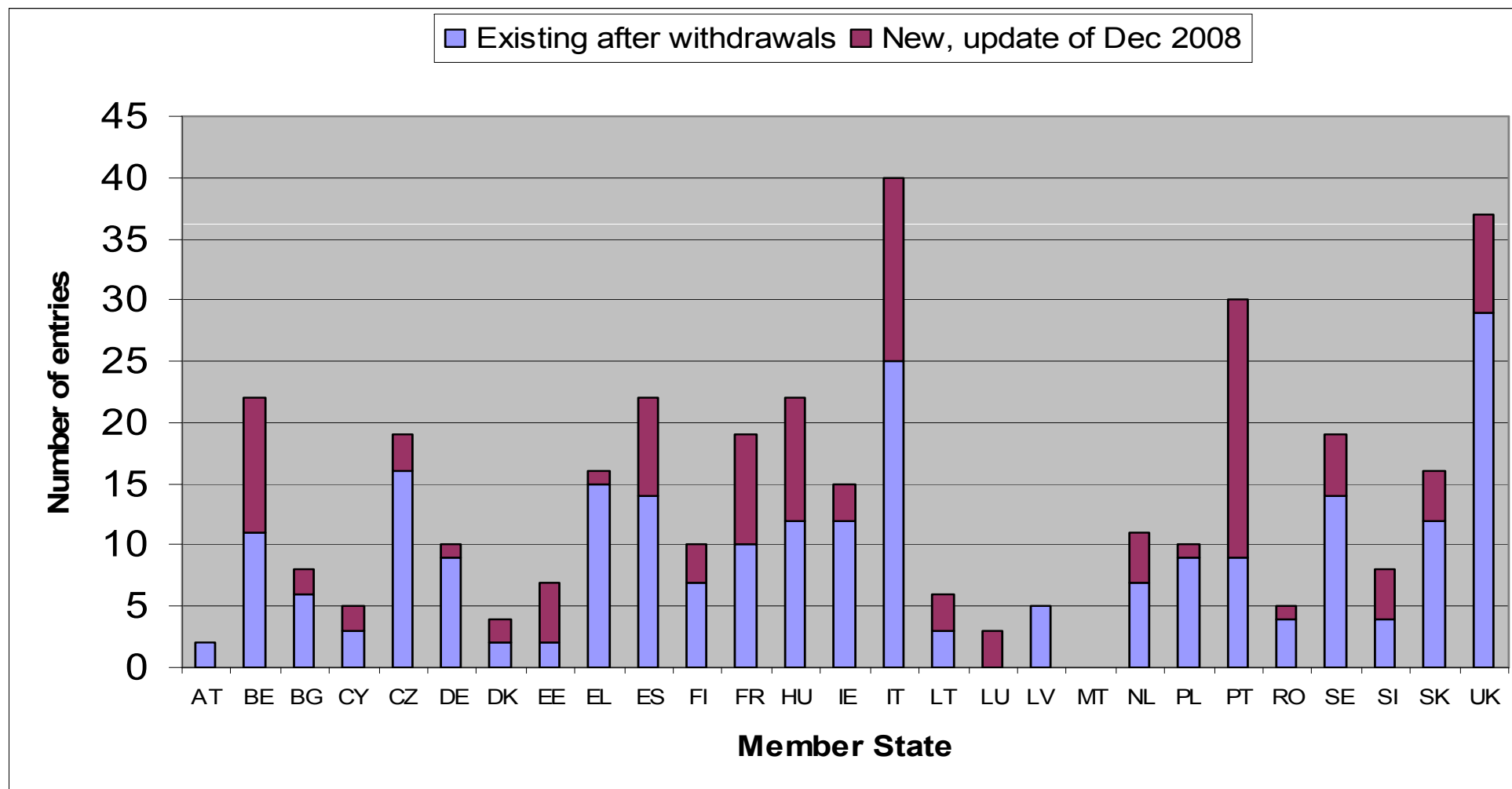
- calls are published on EFSA's website (Procurement)
- organisations on the list are notified by e-mail
- procedures according to the EU Financial Regulation (Title VI) and related Implementing Rules (Art. 160 – 184a)

The “project cycle”

1. Identifying the need for scientific/technical support: *one year before launching (exceptions for urgent mandates)*
2. Planning in the Annual WP/budget: *one year before launching (exceptions for urgent mandates)*
3. Preparing the calls for launching (e.g. terms of reference, other internal procedures)
4. Launching the call
5. Reception and evaluation of proposals (quality criteria: exclusion, selection, award)
6. Signature of the grant agreement
7. Implementation of the tasks and reporting

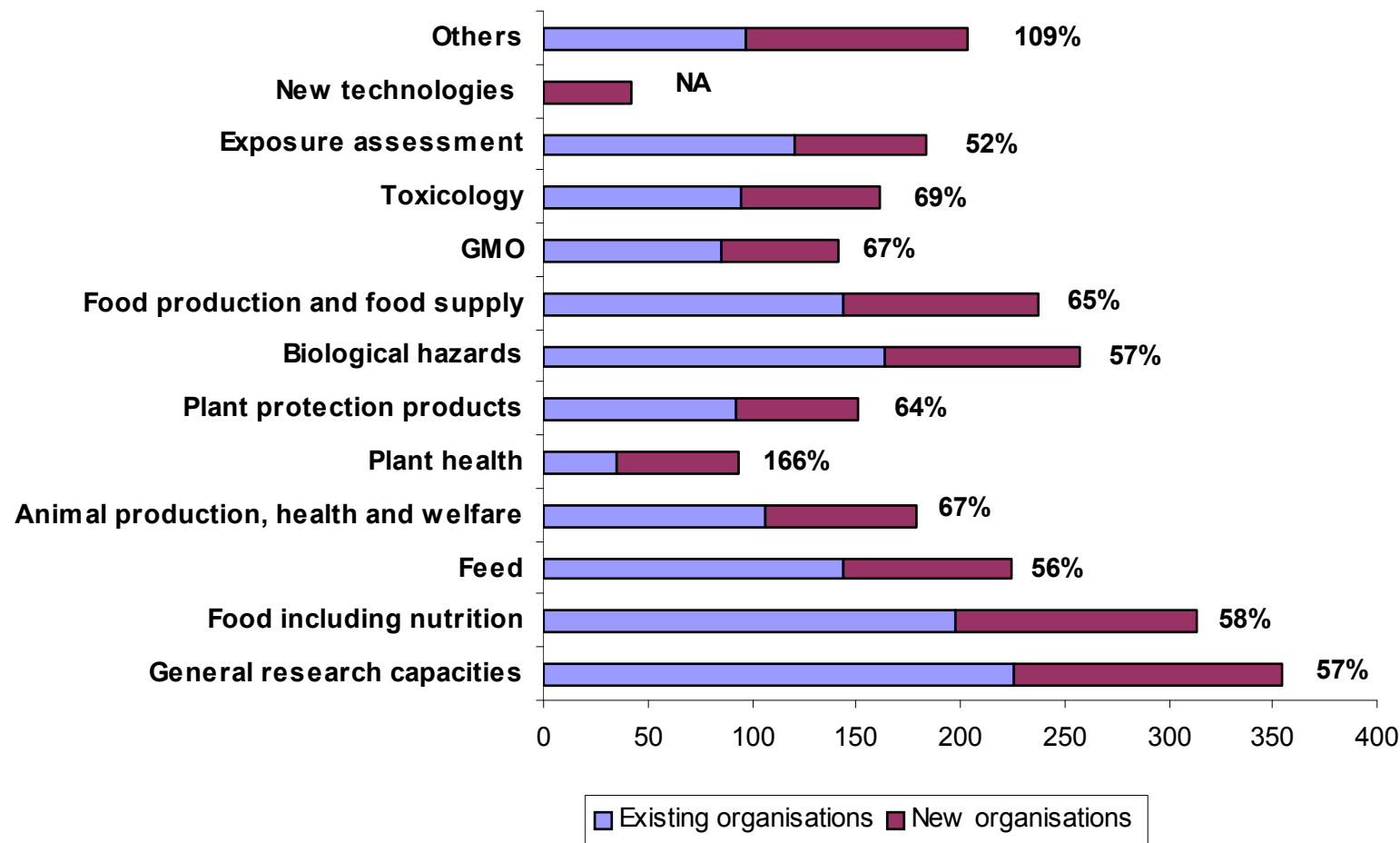
3. First practical experience: some facts

Entries on the Article 36 list – breakdown by Member State



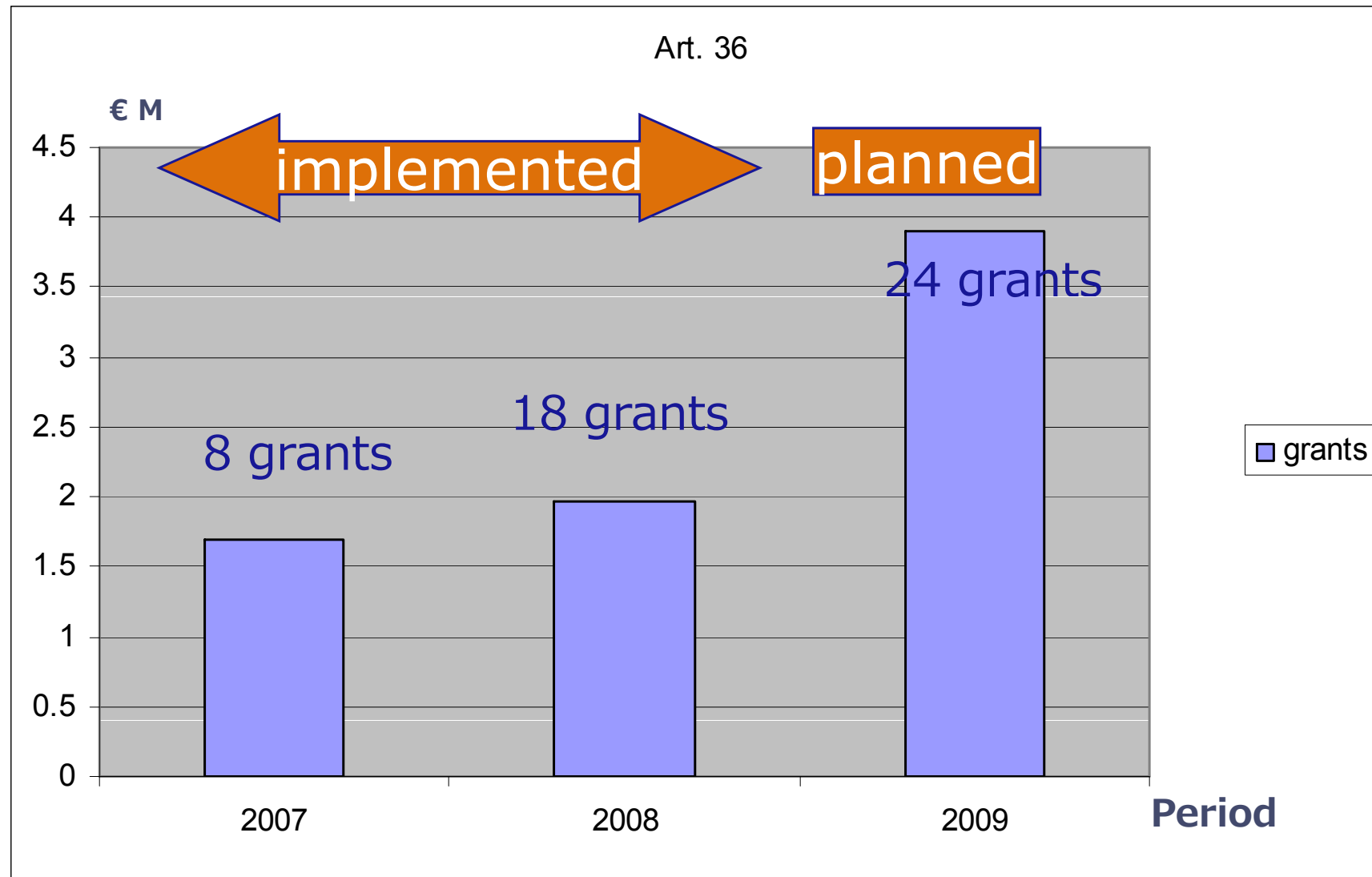
Article 36 list - competences

Number of organisations with main competences in the original and in the updated list (% change)

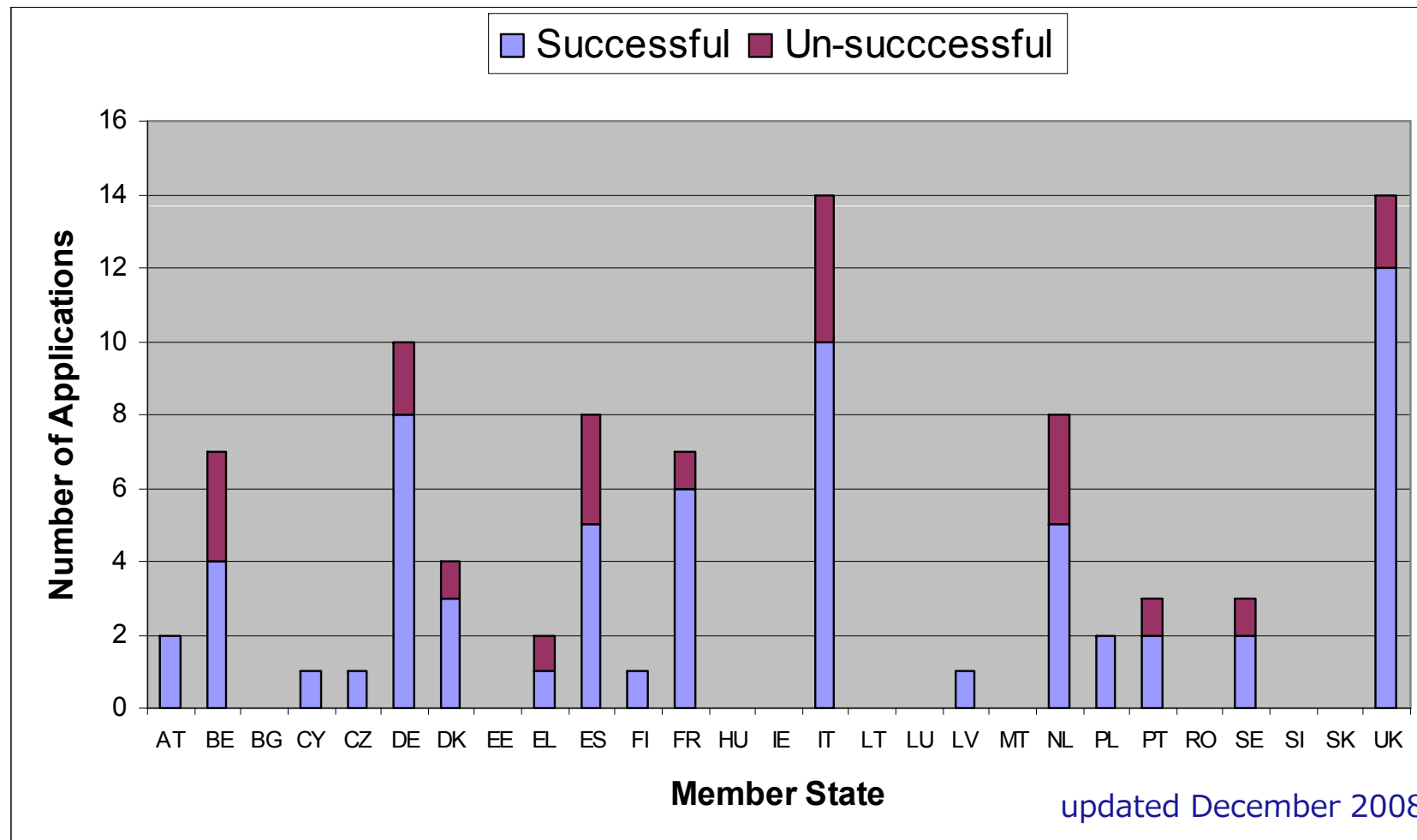


- Out of a total of 30 grants that were evaluated thus far, 27 were successful (signed)
- Three unsuccessful calls were in the area of GMOs and plant health, before the list was updated
- The recent update of the Article 36 list significantly strengthened the GMO and plant health areas of competence (70 and 170% increase in coverage, respectively)

Article 36 Work-programmes – 2007- 2009



Applications for grants - breakdown by Member States



- The first Article 36 project was finalised in October 2008
- 6 projects in total have been finalised to date
- with the experience accumulating, EFSA will perform an assessment of the activities carried out under Article 36, and their impact to EFSA's work, by the end of 2009

Adopted by the Management Board on Dec 18 2008

Budget to be allocated to scientific cooperation with organisations in Member States:

Activity	Grants (€)
1. Support for evaluation of application dossiers	775 000
2. Risk assessment	1 595 000
3. Data collection	1 020 000
4. Horizontal issues and Scientific Cooperation	475 000
Total	3 865 000

Examples of recent calls

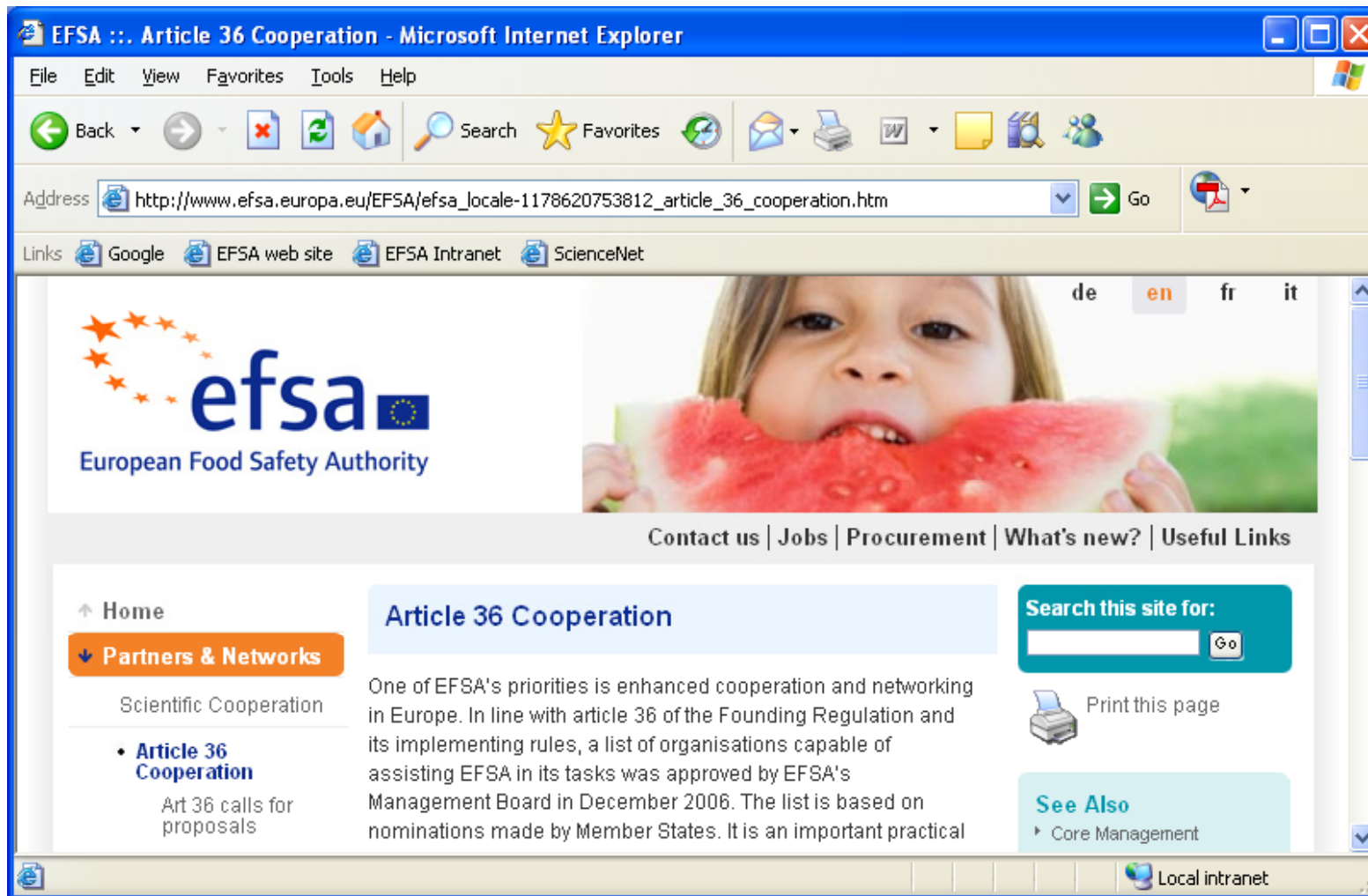
- Review of mycotoxin detoxifying agents used as feed additives: mode of action, efficacy and feed/food safety
- Launch date: February 2009 (closed)
- Context:
 - interest in the feed industry for the potential use of these products in animal nutrition
 - 1 application received up to now, many more expected in the future
 - Currently, no guidelines exist for the safety and efficacy assessment of these products
 - In depth knowledge of their mode of action and possible safety implications is required for preparing guidelines for their assessment

- Development of a framework for the risk assessment of chemical mixtures – A toxicological database on relevant chemical mixtures to food safety
- Launch date: September 2008 (signed)
- Context:
 - the toxicology of mixtures is very topical in food and feed safety and constitutes a challenge to scientists and risk assessors because of its biological complexity.
 - the development of a toxicological database for chemical mixtures constitutes a first step in addressing this challenge
 - this research project will be ultimately used by EFSA to develop a framework for the risk assessment of chemical mixtures.
 - such a framework can be a valuable practical tool to assist risk assessors, regulatory authorities and risk managers to set priorities for mixtures of relevance to food and feed safety.

Examples of recent calls (3)

- Bee Mortality and Bee Surveillance in Europe
- Launch date: July 2008 (signed)
- Context:
 - Since 2003 there have been reports in Europe and America of serious losses of bees from beehives, a phenomenon termed since 2006 Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).
 - In March 2008 EFSA was contacted by AFSSA (France) for support on gathering information
 - EFSA addressed this request through launching a questionnaire in EU Member States and collating the information in a report.
 - EFSA launched this research project, an EU-wide collective study in the area of CCD, as a follow-up to the survey
 - The resulting work from the study will facilitate future EU level epidemiological research and surveillance programmes addressing the phenomenon of colony collapse.

Thank you for your attention!



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