**Call for grants:**

€2,300 for SMEs and startups in the agrifood sector interested in improving their business.

**EIT FOOD**

Leuven, Belgium

June 2024

**Eitfood.eu**

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# 1. Background

EIT Food, through AMPLE program, is distributing (30) Boost Vouchers of €2,300 to agrifood SMEs and startups to help businesses improve their businesses to ensure a healthier, fairer and a more sustainable food industry.

***Application deadline:* 30 APRIL 2025 *(***Conditional on fund availability***).***

*Further details about EIT Food can be found at:* [*www.eitfood.eu*](http://www.eitfood.eu)*.*

***EIT Food will not provide new information that has not already been included in this call document****, but can assist the potential applicants by explaining the contents of this document (please contact* *antonina.kurmanowicz@eitfood.eu).*

*This tender (application) should be comprehensive so that EIT Food is able to have a clear understanding about you, your business and your idea, so we can make an informed decision.*

## 1. 1 EIT Food

EIT Food **is Europe’s leading food innovation initiative**, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy, and trusted by consumers. Established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in 2017, EIT Food is a fast-growing partnership organisation focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation in the food sector.

EIT Food is a member organisation **bringing together key industry players, agrifood startups, research centres and universities from across Europe** representing the food value chain in Europe. In addition to thematic leadership, EIT Food is also responsible for coordinating a multi-million-euro EU grant allocation from the EIT and distributing it among its partners and stakeholders for the implementation of projects.

EIT Food headquarters (HQ) are based in **Leuven (Belgium)** and it has 5 regional offices in Europe (based in **Poland, Spain, Germany, the UK and Belgium**), each working with and for partners in several EIT Food partner countries.

## 1.2 Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation works to **promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world**. They invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyse job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant communities. The Citi Foundation’s “More than Philanthropy” approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfil their mission and **drive thought leadership and innovation**.

For more information, visit [www.citifoundation.com.](http://www.citifoundation.com)

## 1.3 AMPLE, the program in Warsaw

The Citi Foundation launched its first **Global Innovation Challenge** in February 2023, aiming to amplify the impact of all non-profit organizations (NPOs) developing innovative solutions to improve food security. **EIT Food** was one of **50 organizations worldwide** to **receive funding** from the Foundation for the creation of **AMPLE.**

The program aims to **strengthen the physical and financial health of low-income communities**. It starts in Warsaw in September 2023 and runs until September 30, 2025.

[**AMPLE Warsaw**](https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/ample/ample-warsaw)is committed to enhancing food security and promoting economic inclusion for the city’s marginalized groups. Through strategic collaborations with organizations dedicated to social change, we aim to provide valuable resources and training that open up job opportunities and encourage healthier, sustainable food options. The program focuses on **training and educating** **vulnerable individuals** in the agrifood sector to promote food security and job creation. It offers training courses, learning resources, and the opportunity to join a network of communities.

Startups and SMEs in the agrifood sector also play a key role in food security. Therefore, AMPLE **invests in improving businesses** with financial grants (€2,300). With this boost to the sector, the program seeks to promote innovation and create healthy food alternatives.

# 2. CALL DESCRIPTION

In line with our mission, [Healthier Lives Through Food](https://www.eitfood.eu/missions/healthier-lives-through-food), EIT Food offers 30 **grants** of €2,300 for **agrifood SMEs and startups with economic activity in Warsaw**. Beneficiaries must use these funds to **address the issue of food insecurity**, such as improving their production processes or innovating the properties of a food product.

**GRANT APPLICABLE FOR:**

* **Sustainable suppliers**: access to producers or distributors of sustainable supplies
* **Consulting**: optimizing production, communication and marketing strategy, waste management, financial management, etc.
* **Training**: specific training to optimize the production chain
* **Design and marketing services**: support in packaging design, display, website, and communications

**\***This list is not exhaustive.

**GRANT NOT APPLICABLE FOR:**

* **Real estate or capital assets with a useful life of more than 1 year**: computer equipment, kitchen equipment, property, car/van, etc.
* **Perishable goods**: food, plants, etc.

## 2.1 Main duties & responsibilities

* **Develop an action plan** to improve the business to ensure food security
* **Announce** the grant award on **social media and your website**, mentioning the AMPLE Program and EIT Food
* Prepare a **final report** that provides a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments:
	+ Description of the implementation process
	+ Bank certificate as supporting evidence
	+ Others: points of sale, number of sales and profits, and job creation after improvements
* **Communicate with the EIT Food** team to effectively implement the action plan and receive feedback
* Respect the [EIT Food branding guidelines and visuals](https://www.eitfood.eu/branding/start-here)

\* Improvement **actions** must be implemented and documented in a report **6 months after the start of the activity**. We particularly encourage applications from businesses led by underrepresented groups.

## 2.2 Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deadline for receiving applications | With an open deadline, ongoing until **30 APRIL 2025** **(Conditional on fund availability)** |
| Communication of evaluation process to beneficiaries | 1 month after the reception of the application |
| Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (legal docs) | 1 month after the selection/communication date |
| Implementation of improvements | 6 months after the signature of MoU |
| Reports | 6 months after the implementation of improvements |

## 2.3 Selection Process

Interested and eligible companies are invited to submit their **APPLICATIONS BEFORE 30 APRIL 2025, 23:59 PM CEST**, conditional on fund availability, via email with the title **“AMPLE: Request for boost voucher”** sent to: antonina.kurmanowicz@eitfood.eu.

The startups/SME selected will sign a contract agreement with EIT Food ivzw. Following the signature of the agreement, EIT Food will pay the total amount of the boost voucher on receipt of the vendor information from the start up or SME. **The distribution of grants will be subject to the availability of funds.**

All applicants will be evaluated considering the following criteria as they relate to the AMPLE program voucher:

1. Detected **Need** (the specific and clear definition of the identified need or problem that is intended to be addressed with the Boost voucher assistance)
2. Level of **Practicality** of the proposal
3. Level of **Quality** of the proposal
4. Level of **Viability** of the proposal
5. Level of **Impact** of the proposal

The above criteria will be evaluated on **a 0-5 scale**, the application can receive a maximum of 25 points. The applications must reach a **minimum of 15 points to access the grant**. Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Score** |  | **Description** |
| 0 | Not addressed | Not addressed |
| 1 | Poor | The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses   |
| 2 | Fair | Application broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses |
| 3 | Good | Application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present |
| 4 | Very good | Application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present |
| 5 | Excellent | Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.  |

# 3. ANNEXES

**Application form**

For AMPLE program Boost Vouchers in Warsaw

**Please complete the application form making sure to fill in all fields. Send the application in PDF format by 30 April 2025 to:** **antonina.kurmanowicz@eitfood.eu****.**

**We will not accept incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline.**

**Please do keep in mind that the distribution of grants will be subject to the availability of funds.**

**REMINDER:** Expenditure that is NOT eligible for funding includes any real estate or capital assets with a useful life of more than 1 year (e.g. computer equipment, kitchen equipment, property, car/van), perishable goods.

## 3.1 Application form

|  |
| --- |
| **1. CONTACT DETAILS** |
| **1.1 PERSONAL DETAILS** |
| **Name and surname** |  |
| **Job title** |  |
| **E-mail** |  |
| **Phone** |  |
| **1.2 BUSINESS DETAILS** |
| **Name** |  |
| **Office address (street, city)** |  |
| **Website** |  |
| **Social Media** |  |
| **Describe your business.** What is it? When was it created? Where are you established? What do you do? Who is your target audience? (150 words max)  |  |
| **2. BUSINESS ISSUE** |
| **What is the need of the company that you wish to address using the Boost Voucher?** Briefly describe the business problem or need that your company is currently facing (e.g. lack of advice to improve production processes, need for access to producers or distributors of sustainable supplies, lack of communication and marketing strategy, specific training to optimize the production chain, financial advice, support in packaging, exhibition, website, communications design, waste management advice, resources to avoid food waste...).  |
| *\*Feel free to add additional space for this answer in this document if needed* |
|  **3. BENEFIT OBTAINED** |
| **What is the benefit you hope to gain from the assistance provided by the voucher?** List the benefits you consider it is possible to achieve. (5 max)  |
| *\*Feel free to add additional space for this answer in this document if needed* |
|  **4. YOUR PLAN** |
| **How are you going to solve the problem and achieve the benefit?** Explain the plan you will follow to achieve your goals. Be as specific as possible. (500 words max)  |
| *\*Feel free to add additional space for this answer in this document if needed* |

 The information you give us will be kept confidential and in line with EIT Food’s privacy policy. [Privacy policy - EIT Food](https://www.eitfood.eu/privacy)