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Request for Young Professionals Platform Implementing Participants Guidelines

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EIT FOOD

Leuven, Belgium

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[Eitfood.eu](https://eitfood.eu)

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1. Introduction

EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system. Supported by the European Union (EU), we invest in projects, organisations and individuals which share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system.

We have built a unique not-for-profit business to carry out transformative programmes in skills, education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment and communications. We deliver these programmes in partnership with our members to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund.

EIT Food has a strategic approach to systems change to create societal and economic impact. This is underpinned by a robust Theory of Change and a clear set of impact indicators and goals published in our [Strategic Agenda 2021-27](#).

2. Purpose of the Request for Implementing Participants

This EIT Food Request for Implementing Participants has the objective of recruiting participants to join a new work package in the existing KAVA on Education Services.

The KAVA is a portfolio for supporting services for different audiences within the education area.

EIT Food wants to explore setting up a Young Professionals Platform (YPP).

The YPP will function to create space for youth-led organisations in the agrifood sector to contributing positive, disruptive insights and action to ensure that we are successful in our vision of a healthy, sustainable resilient food system for all.

This will enable EIT Food to address current and future skills needs and helping to shape capacity building initiatives for the sector.

EIT Food connects different parts of the food system, but also different stakeholder groups, and the youth voice is currently underrepresented within this and the resulting conversations.

3. Description of Role & Profile

As part of this, EIT Food is looking for youth-led organisations representing young professionals at different career stages and pathways to participate in the development of a new EIT Food Young Professionals Platform. EIT Food will provide funding for youth-led organisations representing different career stages in the agri-food sector to support their communities to thrive, and in return, they will provide services to EIT Food through the Young Professionals Platform (YPP).

The contributions we seek should be aligned with at least one of our three missions (<https://www.eitfood.eu/missions>). They could be generalised, or may be thematic in nature, however they should be either multi or interdisciplinary.

We encourage proposals establishing synergies with the [Menu for Change](#) by EIT Food FutureFoodMakers.

The YPP will initially be co-chaired by the Director of Education (Maarten van der Kamp) and the Chief of Staff (Lucy Wallace). The exact nature of the YPP will be co-created with interested youth organisations.

3.1 Role

The funding will be available until 31 Dec 2025 to develop actions in the following categories:

1. **Engage with EIT Food:** Participate actively in the activities of the YPP. This might include attending meetings, contributing to discussions, participating in projects, and providing feedback on EIT Food's initiatives and programs.
2. **Represent Young Professionals in the Agrifood Sector:** Act as a voice for young people in the agrifood sector, communicating their perspectives, needs, and concerns to EIT Food.
3. **Support Their Communities:** Use the funding to support their communities in the agrifood sector, helping them to thrive and grow.
4. **Provide Services to EIT Food:** As part of their involvement in the YPP, organizations will be expected to provide certain services to EIT Food. The exact nature of these services will be co-created with the selected organizations.

3.2 Profile

Ideal applicants for the YPP call would be organizations that:

1. **Represent Young Professionals in the Agrifood Sector:** Applicants should have a clear mission and track record of representing young people in the agrifood sector. This could include, for example, student groups, youth-led initiatives, or organizations focused on training and development for young people in the sector.
2. **Have a Significant Reach:** Applicants should have a significant reach within their target communities. This could be measured in terms of the number of members or participants, the geographic area covered, or the impact of their activities.
3. **Have Organizational Capacity:** Applicants should have the capacity to participate actively in the YEIP and fulfil the associated responsibilities. This could include, for example, having sufficient staff, volunteers, or resources.
4. **Align with EIT Food's Mission and Values:** Applicants should have a mission and values that align with those of EIT Food, including a commitment to building the future of food and representing diverse voices within the food system.
5. **Are Able to Co-Create:** Applicants should be willing and able to co-create the nature of the YPP and the services they will provide. This could require flexibility, creativity, and a commitment to collaboration.

4. Funding

4.1 Funding overview

Implementing participant recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their costs. This is cascade funding:

- Participation in the KAVA is from Dec 2023-Dec 2025
- Estimated funding for that period per participant is up to 50.000 euro, with the possibility of further funding being available depending on further mutually agreed work packages.

There is a 6 million EUR limit per EU participant and 60.000 limit per non-EU participant per Grant Agreement per year. This KAVA is implemented under GA 01101912.

The Subgrant is based on actual costs and value for money. All costs need to comply with Horizon Europe regulations regarding the eligibility of expenses. Please refer to Article 6 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#).

The Call supports different levels of sponsorship depending on the size and reach of the organisation. We would envisage this to be up to 50.000 euro depending on the role & profile of each organisation. Funding will be provided as a lump sum..

5. Application Preparation, Submission & Evaluation

5.1 Timeline

Application Open	25.09.2023
Application Close	45 days
Evaluation	15 business days
Invitation to interviews	Depending on application proposals
Interviews	Depending on application proposals
Communication to selected participants	5 business days after interviews

5.2 Who can apply?

Funding for this Request for Implementing Participants is available to all organisation from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#).

5.3 Application Submission

The application form ([link](#)) must be completed by 12:00 CET 09.11.2023.

Application form

General Questions (Motivation & Mission Alignment):

What motivates your organization to be part of the EIT Food Young Professionals Platform?

What do you consider the benefits of collaborating with EIT Food to be for your organisation beyond providing funding?

Can you provide examples of past initiatives or projects that align with EIT Food's mission of building a healthy, sustainable, and resilient food system?

Specific Questions related to Role & Profile:

Engagement with EIT Food

How do you envision your active participation in the YEIPP? Can you provide examples of how you've actively participated in similar initiatives or platforms in the past?

How do you plan to provide constructive feedback on EIT Food's initiatives and programs?

How would you work with EIT Food to identify research intensive and technology commercialisation ventures to feed into EIT Food business creation activities?

What innovative methods of engagement do you propose in order to play a positive, disruptive role in the EIT Food partnership?

Representing Youth in the Agrifood Sector

Can you share a recent initiative where your organization effectively voiced the concerns or needs of young people in the agrifood sector?

How do you ensure that the perspectives you bring forward truly represent the youth within the agrifood sector?

Supporting Communities

How do you plan to utilize the funding from EIT Food to support your community in the agrifood sector and contribute to ecosystem building across Europe and beyond to enable food systems transformation?

How would you share professional development opportunities provided by EIT Food with your community?

Can you provide examples of past initiatives where you've successfully supported and nurtured growth within your community?

Providing Services to EIT Food

Are there any specific services or contributions that your organization is already considering offering to EIT Food through the YPP?

How do you anticipate the process of co-creating these services with EIT Food?

Profile-related Questions:

Please provide evidence of your organization's track record in representing young people in the agrifood sector.

How do you measure your reach and impact within your target communities? Can you provide specific metrics or success stories?

Describe the resources, staff, and organizational capacity you have available to actively participate in the YEIPP.

In what ways do your organization's mission and values resonate with those of EIT Food?

Describe a scenario in the past where your organization successfully co-created an initiative or project with another entity. How did you navigate challenges and ensure a successful collaboration?

6. Evaluation and Selection Process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation to determine their feasibility and suitability for funding.

6.1 Eligibility

Organisation Eligibility	Each implementing participant must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 3 years.• Provide a PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf• Comply with requests for documents during due diligence
Application Eligibility	To eligible applications must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be complete, with all mandatory supporting documents uploaded.• Be submitted on time via our application template, in English.

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant will be informed.

2. According to EU policies and measures, Russian entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, subcontractors, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission here.

3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the Decision 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.* This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible

4. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;

b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;

c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;

d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the during the process; e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the Request for Implementing Participants process;

f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.

6.2 Evaluation Process

Evaluators will evaluate each application based on the criteria below, using the following criteria and weighting:

Category	Description	Score
Motivation and Mission Alignment 15%		1-5

Engagement with EIT Food 20%		1-5
Representing Youth in the Agrifood Sector 20%		1-5
Supporting Communities 20%		1-5
Providing Services to EIT Food 15%		1-5
Profile-related Questions: 10%		1-5

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.

7. Administrative Items

7.1 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Selected applicants will receive a second communication with instructions regarding the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food's conflict of interest policy:

New Participant:

- A. **Framework Agreement**
- B. **Kava Contract**

7.2 Payment Schedule

Funding will be available to selected applicants 30 days after awarding. Deviations in payment schedule are possible and would be communicated at the time of awarding.

7.3 Monitoring

The project will be monitored and may be audited.

7.4 Support

If you have any questions about this Request for Implementing Participants, please contact karine.akopian@eitfood.eu.