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Call for
Straight to Market (S2M)
2023-2025
Retailers
&
Startups | Scaleups | SMEs
Guidelines

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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 through open, competitive calls.

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](#).

EIT Food SouthSpain covering Southern European countries. EIT Food South is implementing EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) instruments across Southern Europe, supporting those regions in Europe which particularly require support for innovation in the agrifood sector.

2. Summary of the Call

Join the EIT Food RIS S2M Initiative: A Unique Opportunity for Retailers and Startups to Innovate Together!

The EIT Food RIS S2M initiative is an open call for collaboration between retailers and startups* to tackle sectorial challenges in the retail industry. We aim to foster a dynamic environment of open innovation, where established retailers can team up with cutting-edge startups to develop and implement groundbreaking solutions.

What's the Objective?

Our primary goal is to enable retailers to test and implement Proofs of Concept (PoCs) using emerging technologies to address specific challenges within the retail sector. This initiative seeks to enhance operational efficiency, minimize risks, and drive technological advancements through collaborative efforts between retailers and startups.

* Small and medium-sized companies, startups and scaleups (hereinafter going only by the name of "startups")

How much funding is available through this call?

Total funding available through this call for 2024 is 480.000€ (150.000€ for startups for 2024, and 300.000 for retailers for 2024 and 2025)

Total funding available through this call for 2024 is: 150.000€ (for retailers)

- Each selected startups will receive up to €30,000 in funding to run one PoC.
- Each selected retailer will receive up to €15,000 per PoC, with a maximum of €120,000 net funding for the 2024-2025 period.

Who Can Participate?

Funding for this call is available to all organisations, both EIT Food partners and non-partners.

We are looking for both **retailers** and **startups** from the following eligible countries:

- **EU Member States:** Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
- **Horizon Europe Associated Countries:** Turkey
- **Outermost Regions:** Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)

Why Should You Join?

Startups:

- **Access to Industry Leaders:** Collaborate with leading retailers and gain insights into the FMCG sector.
- **Financial Support:** Receive up to €30,000 in funding to run PoCs.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with other innovative startups, potential customers, and partners within the EIT Food network.
- **Visibility and Exposure:** Gain media coverage and participate in high-profile events.
- **Market Validation:** Test your products or services in real-world settings and get feedback from experienced professionals.
- **Accelerated Growth:** Benefit from structured support, resources, and expert advice.

Retailers:

- **Innovative Solutions:** Early access to cutting-edge technologies tailored to address industry challenges.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Validate new solutions through PoCs before large-scale implementation.
- **Competitive Edge:** Enhance your market position with innovative technologies.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Improve processes and reduce costs.
- **Sustainability:** Address environmental impact through innovative solutions.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Build lasting relationships with innovative startups.
- **Increased Visibility:** Gain exposure through EIT Food events and media coverage.
- **Expert Support:** Receive guidance from EIT Food and industry experts.

How to Participate?

Startups:

- Submit your application by September 30, 2024.

- Selected startups will start the implementation of PoCs by December 31, 2024, and complete them by July 1, 2025.
- Each startup will receive up to €30,000 in net funding.
- Each startup can only participate in one PoC per year. To participate in 2025 cohort in a different PoC, startups must be re-elected.
- Costs will be eligible since the date of selection in 2024 until end of 2024.

Retailers:

- Apply by September 30, 2024.
- Retailers will participate in the programme for the period 2024 – 2025.
- After a pre-selection, choose from a pool of pre-screened startups to work with.
- Receive up to €15,000 per PoC, with a maximum of €120,000 net funding for the 2024-2025 period.
- Each selected retailer will work with a maximum of 4 European startups based in targeted RIS countries per year.
- Yearly evaluation of results delivered by retailers will be made in order to access participation for following years.
- Each selected retailer can work with a maximum of 8 startups from 2024 to 2025 (max. 4 per year, EIT Food reserves the right to reduce or increase the number of startups participating together with each retailer).
- Costs will be eligible since the date of selection in 2024 and until the end of activities duration in 2025.

Roles

- **Retailers:** giving startups access to the testing facilities of proof of concepts as well as the commitment to commercialize the solutions tested with the startups and its promotion through local/national media.
- **Startups** developing and testing a new technology or service together with the retailer or working on a brand new or significantly improved product (either from a nutritional or sustainability perspective).

PoCs Implementation

Each consortium, established by one retailer and one start-up, will be named “PoC”. In a PoC, both organizations commit to work together, and side by side in the design and implementation of the corresponding activities of the programme.

Members of consortium will need to have working relations and will be required to jointly work on the preparation and implementation of the activities.

Members of a consortium do not need to demonstrate to EIT Food that they have formalized their mutual relations (i.e. no formal consortium agreement is required as part of application). EIT Food recommends members to agree on the distribution of Project-related responsibilities and modalities for their cooperation, which will be confirmed by an internal consortium agreement, supplementing the Project agreement signed by each organisation with EIT Food.

Each PoC is expected to test and/or launch in the market at least 1 new product or service by 1st August 2025 and the consequent years with the newly selected startups in 2025.

Types of Solutions We're Looking For

We are seeking innovative solutions in three key areas:

1. **Healthier Lives Through Food:** Products or services that improve nutritional profiles, reduce unhealthy ingredients, and personalize diets.

Included but not limited to the development of products or services that help to:

- Increase the number of food products with improved nutritional profile to consumers.
- Increase the number of food products with reduced levels of salt, sugar, or trans and saturated fats to consumers
- Increase the number of consumers using innovative technology, products or services that help to change or personalise their diet in line with relevant national dietary guidelines, i.e.
 - Implement AR for educational displays on the origins and nutritional benefits of food products.
 - Data-Driven Shopping Processes: Enhancing the use of data to improve shopping experiences.
 - Omnichannel Shopping: Integrating physical and digital shopping experiences seamlessly.
 - Post-Purchase Experience: Improving consumer satisfaction
 - Offer digital information about the health benefits of products during contactless transactions.
 - Ensure a steady supply of fresh, healthy food items by optimizing inventory turnover.
 - Ensure availability of healthy food options by forecasting demand accurately.

2. **Net Zero Food System:** Solutions that reduce CO2 emissions, minimize waste, and improve sustainability.

Included but not limited to the development of products or services that help to:

- Reduction of CO2 in the food system (measured in tonnes).
- Waste Reduction and Management: Developing solutions to minimize waste in retail operations, including packaging and food waste and the implementation of composting for organic waste and reduce food waste.
- Use food waste or side-streams in new product development.
- Use alternative or new ingredients and improve environmental impact outcomes.
- Use energy-efficient refrigeration to keep food fresh and safe.
- Use energy-efficient AR/VR technology and smart lighting solutions to reduce energy consumption.
- Develop services to reward customers for sustainable behaviours, such as using reusable bags or buying local products.
- Leveraging IoT and advanced analytics to manage inventory more effectively and reduce stockouts, overstock situations, waste and associated emissions.
- Reduce food waste by accurately predicting demand, minimizing overproduction and waste through predictive Analytics for Demand Forecasting.
- Implement energy-efficient systems to reduce carbon footprint and operational costs.
- Implement smart warehousing technologies, such as automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS) and drone-based inventory management.

3. Fully Transparent, Fair, and Resilient Food Supply: Innovations that enhance transparency, traceability, and efficiency in the food supply chain.

Development of products or services including but not limited to:

- Products derived from alternative sources: (e.g., alternative proteins; new plant varieties; alternative production techniques, etc.
- The adoption of technology improving transparency, traceability or security across the food system including Innovation and Digitalization in the Value Chain such as:
 - Robotics and AI: Utilizing robotics and artificial intelligence for process automation and optimization.
 - Sustainable Logistics: Improving logistics and product traceability for sustainability.
 - Process Optimization: Using data analysis to optimize processes and resources.
 - E-Commerce Innovations: Developing innovative solutions for improved e-commerce and delivery services.
 - Enhanced Data Analytics: Use data analytics to understand and promote healthier eating habits among consumers as well as sustainable shopping behaviors and reduce environmental impact.
 - In-Store Experience Enhancement: Integrating augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to enhance the in-store shopping experience.
 - Contactless Shopping Solutions: Implementing contactless payment and checkout solutions to enhance convenience and safety.
 - Reduce the use of physical receipts and paper with digital solutions
 - Blockchain for Supply Chain Transparency: Using blockchain technology to enhance traceability, to ensure sustainable sourcing of products and/or provide transparency about the origins and handling of food products, building consumer trust. Customer Service Automation: Use AI-driven chatbots to provide information on sustainable products and practices.

- **Voice Commerce Integration:** Integrating voice assistants and smart speakers into the shopping experience favouring diversity and inclusion within the marketplace.
- **Customer Service Automation:** Implementing chatbots and virtual assistants to improve customer service efficiency and responsiveness.

Project Phases

1. **Registration Period:** Submit proposals until September 30, 2024.
2. **Selection Period:** EIT Food will evaluate and select the most promising candidates.
3. **Matchmaking:** Pre-selected startups will present their solutions to retailers.

Each retailer will choose a maximum of 4 startups.

Retailers and startups (if not coming as consortia) will form a consortia to jointly work on the preparation and implementation of the activities. EIT Food reserves the right to reduce or increase the number of startups participating together with each retailer.

4. **Public Announcement:** Results will be announced, and collaborations will begin.
5. **Kick-off Meetings:** Collaborative pilot projects will be defined and initiated.
6. **Project Completion:** Activities will be concluded by July 1, 2025.

Key Dates

- **Call Open:** Until September 30, 2024
- **PoC Implementation:** By July 1, 2025
- **Market Launch of New Products/Services:** By August 1, 2025
- **Program Participation:** Until December 31, 2025

How to Apply?

Application Requirements

The application can be done:

- Individually by the retailer;
- Individually by the startup;
- As a consortia retailer-startup, as long as each organization delivers the respective required documentation for approval and each of them submits the respective application.

All retailers and startups will be separately evaluated.

When applying as a consortia both organizations will have to comply with their respective selection criteria and have a positive evaluation separately. Joint applications do not guarantee the selection of participants.

Retailers will be provided with a pool of startups, in which a pre-appointed startup may be included (if the startup is positively evaluated), nevertheless reserving the right to select other organizations to work with.

Submit your application by 30th September 2024, to elvira.domingo@eitfood.eu with the title “**RIS S2M_PoCs_2024 application_[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]_[retailer/startup]**”.

Ensure all documentation is complete and signed.

3. Call specific requirements

3.1 Eligibility of costs

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](#).

Cost will be eligible from the start date indicated by participants in their proposal until the 31st December 2025 for retailers and until 31st December 2024 for selected startups through this call.

3.2 Duration

The RIS S2M programme will have its activities developed until December 2025.

Yearly open processes will be available to select new pools of startups to participate. Participation of retailers will last from their selection time until end of 2025 linked to yearly performance and evaluation of results.

All solutions resulting from the projects started from this call will have to be launched in market by December 1st 2025.

3.3 KPIs

Each of the selected Projects (1 start-up + 1 retailer) will have to comply timely the following **mandatory KPIs**:

KPI title	KPI description	Supporting evidence	Target date	Target Per PoC
Marketed Innovations (EITHE02.4)	<p>Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or at the latest within 18 months from the start of the project with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented.</p> <p>Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) sold. The number and quality of marketed innovations will be evaluated.</p>	<p>Declaration of the product owner describing the innovativeness (new or significant improvement in terms of physical or functional parameters) of a product/process, link to the KIC societal challenge and the KAVA, as well as information on the KAVA investment in the innovation development. Documented proof such as an invoice or an online sales records demonstrating that the purchase of at least 10,000</p>	<p>Each “PoC” should launch a product or service by 1st July 2025 and by 1st July of subsequent years until 2026.</p>	<p>1</p>

		EUR has been made by a customer/s.		
# Results disseminated (please note that dissemination needs to comply with Horizon Europe Guidelines) (EITHE16)	Continuous dissemination by consortia: # of results, good practice (GP) and lessons learnt (LL) disseminated through appropriate means (e.g., publications, online repositories, fact sheets, targeted workshops). Results are any tangible or intangible output of the action, such as data, knowledge and information.	Structured data: KAVA reference, website [structured data TBC] Supporting evidence: n/a; only provide links where these were published	1 December 2024 and 2025	1
# People reached through communication activities (EITHE17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of external events organised by the KAVA and # participants •# of external events where KAVA and KAVA activities were presented •# media coverage (articles and broadcast in global/European/national/local press, TV, radio etc... 	Structured data: [structured data TBC] Supporting evidence: n/a;	1 December 2024 and 2025	5

3.4 Deliverables

The following tasks and commitments are required for each project:

- Respect and comply with programme deadlines;
- Maintain continuous communication with EIT Food during the duration of the Project;
- Comply with mandatory outputs, deliverables and KPIs in due time;
- Assure co-funding of 30% of total budget (allocated to retailers);
- Comply with communication guidelines for activities and product branding;
- **Commitment to market at least the 50% of the PoC solutions tested no longer than 01/07/2025, for startups selected in 2024 and no longer than 01/07/2026 for startups selected in 2025, in compliance with EIT Food's branding regulations; If only one PoC is tested the commitment to market must be 100%;**
- Selection of startups to work with during the present year and communication to EIT Food;
- **Submit a detailed description of the testing activities carried out for each PoC, by 1st August 2025 including plans for market introduction and further commercialisation;** the development and any type of marketing campaigns of the product or packaging visuals re-design **will not be funded** by this programme and is the responsibility of the retailer and startup;
- **Design and submit a communication plan** and assure the dissemination of Project activities and RIS S2M programme in the media by 1st February 2025;

- **Collaborate with EIT Food in communication and outreach campaigns** about the project or the new product (i.e. providing with interviews, quotes, pictures or news about it);
- **Participation in programme sessions** (online) with CLC South S2M participants and other potential relevant stakeholders to discuss the Project experiences and lessons learned;
- **Participation in at least one EIT Food event** to promote new product after product launch and/or the participation in the programme;
- **At least 1 publication to disseminate Results/Good Practices/Lessons Learnt;**
- Elaboration and publication of at least **one article regarding the new product/technology or service in the retailer's specialised newsletter or other media, outlining its nutritional or sustainable added value;**
- Communicating with local media to ensure **at least 2 publications in the local language** (press, thematic magazines or internet portals). The article will mention EIT Food and the programme S2M. EIT Food will not accept paid publications as eligible costs;
- Collaborate and contribute with EIT Food on project **monitoring and reporting** (including costs justification, and budget declarations);
- **Submit a documented proof such as an invoice or online sales records** demonstrating that the purchase of at least 10,000 EUR has been made by a customer/s by 30/12/2025 and 30/12/2026 respectively for every launched product.

With exception of task related to the startups selection, all tasks are expected to be developed and delivered in strict collaboration and with alignment between the retailer and the startup.

3.5 Communication and product branding

Both retailers and startups must promote the project in as many platforms as possible newsletter, mailing, media, social media. Publications must refer to the retailer and EIT Food, describe the EIT Food RIS Straight 2 Market programme and communicate the new product.

Communication materials must be consistent with EIT Food visual identity standards using the EIT Food branding guidelines and visuals, including logo of EIT Food and EU Flag (or other similar logo format, as defined by EIT/EIT Food) on packaging and marketing materials.

If the innovation launched to market is a product it shall have the EIT Food logotype displayed in its packaging for at least the whole duration of 1 year's production after product being marketed. Logotype size and position can be decided by consortium of retailer and startup and will be validated by the EIT Food Programme Leader.

3.6 Intellectual Property Policy

EIT [Food](#) Intellectual Property's (IP) Policy complies with Horizon Europe's IP Policy, found in Article 16 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#).

Participants must ensure the protection of their intellectual property rights prior to submitting their solutions. EIT Food may require documentation verifying the originality and legal standing of the proposed solutions. By participating, candidates grant EIT Food the right to publish summaries of the solutions and use the project name and title for related events and historical records.

Intellectual Property Rights must be defined and agreed between retailers and startups.

In the event that the project was not successful, EIT Food may initiate an IP recovery process in collaboration with the exploiting party(ies), and will look for alternative commercialisation opportunities.

4. Evaluation and Selection Process

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

4.1 Eligibility

The RIS Straight2Market is open to all retailers and startups wanting to participate in the programme.

Retailers can apply jointly with startups, so as long as each organization delivers the respective required documentation for approval (please see separated call for retailers to participate in the RIS S2M programme).

Joint applications will be positively assessed but do not guarantee the selection of participants.

Proposals that include the participation of Academia actors (Universities, Research Centres, etc) will be positively assessed.

Organisation Eligibility	Each participating organisation must:
Retailers and startups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All: Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 3 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU Member States: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain ○ Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Turkey ○ Outermost Regions: Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain) • Startups: Startups must be legally constituted with a minimum of two full-time founders and must have demonstrable business metrics. • PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf
Proposal Eligibility	To eligible proposals must:
Retailers and startups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All: Be submitted by the deadline • All: Be complete on time in English, with all mandatory supporting documents uploaded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gantt chart with implementation schedule for Project activities; - Signed document with project costs • Retailers: commitment of minimum co-funding 30% of total Project amount.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must be committed to test a maximum of 4 PoCs and/or deliver at least 50% of solutions tested to market (100% if one solution tested). Marketed Innovation launched on the market must include documented and valid sales revenue of at least 10.000 EUR (ten thousand euros) with each startup. Contribute to the EIT Food Missions
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4.2 Evaluation Process

At least 3 expert evaluators will evaluate each startup proposal based on the criteria below. All evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process and must contractually agree to excuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

Fos Startups

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment of **startups** presented

Impact (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to specific challenges in the industry listed in the call, including extent of alignment with EIT Food Missions 30% Potential business impact and scalability (ability to commercialize new products based on existing and improved commercialization capacities and to relate with other actors in the commercialisation chain -startups, retailers- through the existing food delivery network); 40% Ability to access the mainstream market 30% 	0-5
Excellence (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions must enhance the competitiveness and efficiency of the value chain.60% Solutions must be innovative and potentially disruptive.40% 	0-5
Quality and efficiency of implementation (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk analysis and mitigation plan in place 30% Adequate resources (human and financial) and relevant experiences (participation in activities related to new product development in agri-food/packaging sector, marketed innovation and consumer engagement; ability to present the relevance of these experiences for EIT Food) 50% Detailed timeline for the implementation of your solution, including key milestones and deliverables (20%) 	0-5

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

For Retailers:

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment of retailers presented

Impact (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Alignment: Innovation areas to implement PoCs aligned with the retailer’s strategic goals and EIT Food impact objectives 40% • Impact on Operations: The potential positive impact of the PoCs on the retailer’s operations, efficiency, and customer experience 40% • Impact for side beneficiaries of the implemented solution 20% 	0-5
Excellence (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge presented must enhance the competitiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the value chain.60% • Innovation Potential: The retailer's readiness and capability to implement innovative solutions and technologies. • Scalability and Replicability: The potential for scaling the PoCs across multiple stores or locations and replicability within the industry. 	0-5
Quality and efficiency of implementation (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analysis and mitigation plan in place 30% • Resource Commitment: The retailer’s commitment of resources (time, personnel, and budget) to support the PoC implementation.30% • Collaboration Willingness: The retailer’s willingness to collaborate closely with startups and other stakeholders.20% • Extent of proposal’s co-funding rate 20% 	0-5

The quality threshold for selection is a total score of 3.

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

5. Payment and Monitoring

5.1 Payment Schedule

Retailer participants of the consortia will become EIT Food project participants, startups will participate in the programme as subcontractors

5.2 Appeal on Evaluation Results

Activity leaders can submit an appeal on within 5 days of result receipt, if:

- There is an indication that the results of the eligibility checks were incorrect.
- The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

For more details, please read [EIT Food Redress Mechanism](#).

6. Next Steps for Selected Proposals

6.1 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Following the initial notification letter, selected proposals 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:

- A. Kava Contract** between EIT Food and the Project consortium for the duration of Project implementation, setting out obligations (such as KPI delivery, Financial Return Mechanism), funding amount for each participant, as well as other aspects governing the implementation of the project.
- B. Financial Return Mechanism Agreement**, regarding the Financial Return Mechanism, needs to be signed between EIT Food and exploiting party/parties of the consortium.

6.2 Monitoring

All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation at each Stage in accordance with the Project Agreement, and to trigger payments according to the achievement of deliverables and KPIs.

The monitoring will cover several aspects relating to the Activity implementation including, but not limited to achievement of deliverables and KPIs; risk management; financial management; quality assurance; progress against KPI achievement and impact delivery; communication and dissemination; and progress towards commercialisation and exploitation of results.

EIT Food may request regular reporting of actual costs incurred, as well as regular reporting of KPIs and deliverables, together with the supporting documentation. The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget, however the Financial Return Mechanism Agreement cannot be renegotiated following the approval of the PoC.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct of the consortium, or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the Activity identified

during the monitoring process, EIT Food reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the Activity at any point during the Activity duration.

Furthermore, EIT Food will monitor all Activities up to 5 years after Activity completion to track long-term impact, the status of commercialisation and to ensure the achievement of KPIs anticipated after Activity end.

7. Your Questions

If you have any questions about this Call for Proposals, please contact elvira.domingo@eitfood.eu.

Please visit our [website](#) for information about the programme.

8. Eligibility - Annex 1

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above criteria will make your proposal ineligible. Failing to meet the Individual Organisation criteria will make that single organisation ineligible, which might affect the eligibility of the whole proposal, depending on the relevance of the role of the applicant being removed. If an applicant or the proposal is ineligible, participants 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. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if any organisation in the consortium is:

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 call during the process;

e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the call process;

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

4. EIT Food reserves the right to select organizations only in some of the targeted countries, contingent on the quantity and quality of the submitted applications, ensuring the excellence of selected applications and value for money, and to relaunch the call for the countries where the present selection process would not yield satisfactory results.

5. EIT Food reserves the right to contact the applicant organisations by e-mail or phone asking for additional explanations or supporting documents, and to schedule selection interviews with the short-listed organisations. All applications will be evaluated using transparent selection criteria, and all applicants will receive concise written feedback, sent to an e-mail account indicated in the application template. Results of the call will be published by EIT Food on its website.