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Proof of Concepts Call 2023, 2024, 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

EIT Food – Europe’s leading food innovation initiative, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted

Knowledge & Innovation Center on Food,
part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

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<http://www.eitfood.eu>



1 General Questions

1.1 What are the submission deadlines?

There are three submission windows:

	Launch/Opening	Deadline
Submission Window 1	15.09.2022	15.11.2022 now open!!
Submission Window 2	15.06.2023	15.08.2022
Submission Window 3	15.06.2024	15.08.2022

The same guidelines apply for all three submission windows.

1.2 What is the expected impact of the PoC?

The Proof of Concept idea is expected to achieve a certain societal impact. This impact can only be reached in a longer term and not during the 6 months duration of the Proof of Concepts. In the Proof of Concepts proposal, you need to estate what success would you expect to achieve and how are you planning to measure the expected impact.

1.3 Is there any matchmaking session for PoC ideas?

On the 18th of October there will be a workshop on the Proof of Concepts call during EIT Food's Annual Event. There will be an opportunity to reach out to other organisations during and after that session.

Write to poc@eitfood.eu if you have an idea and are looking for partners. The Public Engagement team will try to link you with other organisations.

1.4 Where do the projects need to be implemented? Is it mandatory to implement them in the EU?

Projects have to be implemented in the EU or in an Horizon Europe associated country.

2 About the applicants / Consortia

2.1 Who can apply?

To the Proof of Concepts phase you can apply as a single organisation or self-employed individual with a registered company. For the full project you need to apply as a consortium, and you can use the PoC phase to build your consortium.

2.2 Is this call open to all kinds of applicants?

Yes, it is open to all. SMEs, large corporations, NGOs, universities, etc.

2.3 If the consortium is composed of two organisations, can these be from the same country?

No. If two organisations apply, they have to be from two different countries.

2.4 Are organizations running a EIT RIS HUB eligible as a consortium to apply for a PoC?

EIT is currently considering this issue. EIT Food does not know if a decision will be made before the 15th of November, when we close the applications process. You could apply as a hub, but there is a risk that you won't be eligible.

2.5 If my organisation does not come from an EU country or a country associated to Horizon Europe, can I still apply?

In an exceptional case, an entity not coming from the EU, or from a Third country (not associated to Horizon Europe) can be awarded financial support, if approved directly by the EIT.

2.6 Are UK based organisations invited to participate?

Yes. UK participants are welcome to participate in Consortia. However, the association of UK to Horizon Europe programme is not yet concluded. For that reason, UK participants will still be considered as non-eligible for EIT funding until their association is completed. Meanwhile, the UK has in place national funding schemes to facilitate the participation of UK participants and we encourage UK participants to learn about the mechanisms in place from the UK government.

2.7 What are the restrictions regarding Russian entities?

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 ([link](#)).

2.7 How long do you need to be operating as an organisation to be eligible for this call?

Organisations or companies need to have been operating for at least a year to be able to apply. The people or organisations that apply need to be registered as a business in the country where they operate.

3 Full-scale projects after the PoC implementation

3.1 In case the Proof-of-Concept phase is successful, is there any estimate of the budget available for a full-scale project?

This will depend on the overall budget available as well as on the activity itself. As an indication, the two Proof of Concepts that were implemented in 2021 and became full projects have a yearly budget of around 500.000 EUR. This includes 10% co-funding.

3.2 Is the 10% co-funding also a requirement for the full-scale 3-year project?

Yes, the 10% co-funding also applies for the full project.

3.3 Does the full project need to include a Financial Return Mechanism?

It is not mandatory, but it is encouraged. The Public Engagement projects are encouraged to think about how to become financial sustainable, to think more entrepreneurial, to see how the project can benefit financially from the ideas. But as this may not always be possible, it is more of an encouragement than a mandatory element as in innovation projects.

4 Costs and budgeting

4.1 Can you specify and/ or give examples of fundable costs that can be calculated in the budget?

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.

These are the common types of costs: staff costs, depreciation of equipment used in the project, travel of the participants, and other costs of goods and services. Indirect costs are added as a flat rate.

4.2 What does co-financing mean?

EIT Food provides 90% of the funding for the Proofs of Concepts. The other 10% needs to come from the applicants' own resources or from other sources that the applicant can secure.

4.3 My EIT member status only allows me to get 50.000 EUR in project funding. If I have reached that amount through other projects, do I need to change my membership so that I can as well access funds through this call?

From 2023, EIT Food will have a different partnership model and the different memberships will not be linked to a limit in the amount an organisation can get per project.

4.4 How will applicants receive the EIT Food project funds?

Applicants will receive the funds in instalments. There is a pre-financing instalment at the beginning of the project. The final payment comes when you have reported the full project costs. Once these have been checked and approved you will be reimbursed.