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# Ukraine Grain Transportation System

## Call for Feasibility Study Proposals

EIT FOOD

Leuven, Belgium

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[Eitfood.eu](http://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 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](#).

This call is to address one of the critical food issues facing Europe and many other countries today – the impact that the Russian invasion has had on grain exports from Ukraine. The Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture has set a challenge to find ways to transport grain, for example through a long-distance pipeline, and we are seeking consortia to address this critical issue through a feasibility study.

### **Purpose of the Feasibility Study**

The Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture is seeking alternative ways, including an overland pipeline, to export large quantities of grain to mitigate their dependency on export by sea through ports affected by the Russian invasion.

To support this initiative, we are calling for proposals for a Feasibility Study for a functional and rapidly deployable grain transport system, meeting the following criteria, which have been specified by the Ukrainian government.

1. Address the feasibility of long-distance grain transportation, over a minimum of 100km, up to 300-500km.
2. The system should be capable of transporting not less than 2 million tons of grain per year.
3. The system of transportation should have the possibility to scale over distance and transportation volume.
4. Minimise degradation of the grain during transportation. The permissible change in the quality of cereals (as measured by nature of the grains, fragmentation, moisture content, and other quality indicators) after transportation should not be greater than 10% of the values of the quality indicators of the input material.
5. For indications of the quality of the input material, general and special indications of the quality of corn and wheat grains are taken, as prescribed by the ISO on the crops.
6. The speed of grain transportation in the system itself is not regulated.
7. The technological method of transportation is not regulated, it can be both classic conveyor systems of various types (like lancet, and pneumatic systems with transportation of various forms: Dense phase conveying, semi-Dense phase conveying) and diluted phase (Dilute phase conveying) or vacuum, or others.

The call guidelines will be published on the EIT Food website, the Procurement and Tenders Portal, and promoted by EIT Food.

## 2. Timeline

Action	Date
Call Open	7 November-6 January
Evaluation	9-13 January
Final Letters/Contracts	18-20 January
Feasibility Study deadline	30 April
Submission to Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture	2 May

## 3. Call specific requirements

### 3.1 Deliverables

**A Feasibility Study must be submitted by 30 April 2023.**

- The Feasibility Study should describe the options explored and clearly address the design, build, usage, and maintenance challenges of the options. The study should also clearly state whether the options(s) evaluated could be implemented, outline expected costs and how these compare to other options, and the likely timeframe for implementation.
- Consortia may choose to deliver a prototype/demonstration together with the Feasibility Study
- If the Feasibility Study indicates that an option is viable, the consortium may be chosen by the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture to submit a **full project/work plan proposal for continuation**.
- The format of the Feasibility Study is up to the consortium. It should follow best practice in engineering studies, show the methodology followed and research undertaken. It should present the stakeholders in the Ministry of Agriculture with a clear analysis which will enable them to decide on whether to progress to an implementation plan. It should at a minimum cover design, economic analysis, safety and the geopolitical, environmental and social elements that would affect the project.

### 3.2 EIT Funding Allocation

The total financial allocation for this call is EUR 300.000. The maximum support for each recipient is also EUR 300.000. Therefore, it is possible that one proposal only will receive funding. If the top-ranking proposal has a budget under EUR 300.000, more than one feasibility study may be funded.

Applicants must provide a clear budget, detailing the amount that each consortia member will receive and what the funds allotted will be used for. We would subgrant to each participant within the consortia individually, based on the budget provided.

### 3.3 Eligibility of Expenditures

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](#).

### 3.4 Financial Sustainability

EIT Food has developed a Financial Sustainability strategy to enable EIT Food to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding.

In the event that the Feasibility Study leads to an implementation contract for one or more of the consortium members, the applicant agrees to involve EIT Food.

### 3.5 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](#).

## 4. General Proposal Preparation, Submission & Evaluation

### 4.1 Who can apply?

Funding for the Feasibility Study is available to all organisations, both EIT Food partners and new applicants, from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#).

EIT Food will perform a risk assessment of the consortia to evaluate political, economic, reputational and other risks.

### 4.2 Proposal Submission

The submission form can be [found here](#).

## 5. Evaluation and Selection Process

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

### 5.1 Eligibility<sup>i</sup>

Organisation Eligibility	Each participating organisation must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be a legally incorporated entity in the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country, which has been incorporated for a minimum of 3 years</li><li>• Have at least 3 years' published accounts showing business Activity.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a PIC Number: <a href="#">Register your organisation in the “Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal – European Commission”</a></li> </ul>
Consortia Eligibility	The consortia must be composed of:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must include an organisation with demonstrable engineering project expertise, relevant to this challenge.</li> <li>May include research organisations, universities, SMEs and Start-ups, industrial organisations, consultancies and corporates.</li> </ul>
Proposal Eligibility	To eligible proposals must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be complete, with all mandatory supporting documents uploaded</li> <li>Be submitted on time via our submission template, in English</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Evaluation Process

Three external evaluators will evaluate the proposals based on the excellence, impact and quality and efficiency of the consortia. The Quality Threshold is 3.00.

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment:

**25%** Competence and experience of the consortium to address this challenge.

**15%** Value for Money.

**25%** Quality of the proposed methodology for the feasibility study.

**35%** Alignment to the brief provided and understanding of the geo-political and agricultural challenges faced by Ukraine.

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	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.

## 5.3 Compiling Scores

The resulting scores are then normalised to calculate the result for the proposal.

EIT Food staff will compile a ranking of all proposals that scored above the Quality Threshold of 3.0. **Proposals will be selected based on this ranking.**

#### 5.4 Communication of Results to Applicants

EIT Food will send each Activity Leader an email with the results of the evaluation, including evaluator comments and instructions regarding the completion of the following:

1. EIT Terms and Conditions Agreement. The document transposing the provisions of the Project Agreement entered into by and between EIT and KIC LE, in the KIC's legal and operational arrangements between KIC LE and EIT Food Participants. The Terms and Conditions has to be considered as the internal agreement that is required by EIT under Article 1 and Article 5.3 of the PA
2. Subgrant Agreement between EIT Food and an EIT Food Participant laying down the contractual arrangements between them regarding their respective rights and obligations pertaining to the implementation by the EIT Food Participant of Activities or Projects, under the KIC Business Plan. For the implementation of the Activities the EIT Food Participant will act as a Third Party Receiving Financial Support from KIC LE.
3. Project Agreement: Between EIT Food and the EIT Food Participant to lay down the contractual arrangements between them, regarding the proposal where the participants are involved, that will be performed by the and third parties in accordance with this Project Agreement and to further specify certain rights and obligations pertaining to them.

## 6. Payment and Monitoring

### 6.1 Payment Schedule

Participants of the consortia will receive funds in the form of a subgrant based on actual eligible costs.

### 6.2 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 .docx](#)

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<sup>i</sup> **Please Note:**

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1. Failing any of the above criteria will make your proposal ineligible. Failing to meet the 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. 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.