

## CALL FOR EIT FOOD RIS POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023-2025

***EIT Food is looking for experts that would like to participate in the EIT Food RIS Policy Council within EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme.***

***Eligible country representatives:*** Cyprus, Italy and Malta.

***New application deadline: 01<sup>st</sup> December 2023***

***With respect to the present call, 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 contents of this document (please contact [RIS@eitfood.eu](mailto:RIS@eitfood.eu)).***

### Background information

#### 1. About EIT Food

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](#).

Further details about EIT Food can be found at: [EIT Food - EIT Food](#).

#### 2. EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body created by the European Union in 2008 to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate. For the period of 2021 – 2027, the EIT is part of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, while EIT Food is 'Institutionalized European Partnership' ensuring the compliance with the Horizon Europe regulation. The EIT RIS is the EIT Community's outreach introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from EIT Community activities. The EIT RIS opens the activities of EIT's Innovation Communities to innovators that are not partners, by providing targeted support to individuals and organisations to take part in and benefit from EIT Innovation Communities' activities, services and programmes. Although we share one continent, European' countries are divided because of disparities in innovation performance. This has resulted in the classification of European countries in two main groups — innovation leaders and strong innovators versus moderate and modest innovators. One reason for lower innovation performance is weak linkages among the key

players — businesses and research institutions and academia, as well as between the private and public sectors, including a systematic approach towards innovation. As a response to this challenge, the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced. The EIT RIS is designed for the EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries in Europe who are modest and moderate innovators, and where Innovation Communities have few or no partners. Strategically, the Scheme is an additional offer to these countries to facilitate their engagement with the EIT Innovation Communities. The Scheme's aim is to promote access to services and programmes offered by the EIT Innovation Communities. Each Innovation Community cooperates with local innovators – individuals such as students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and organisations such as SMEs, universities, research labs, regions, NGOs and cities. The EIT Innovation Communities involve the local players in education, business creation and acceleration activities, as well as innovation-driven research.

The principles of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme are described at: [Regional Innovation Scheme \(RIS\) - EIT Food](#)

### **3. EIT Food RIS Policy Council**

RIS Policy Council (RIS Council) is a policy advisory body established in 2019 to support dialogue and other interactions in RIS countries, contribute towards the further elaboration of EIT Food instruments and projects, as well as promote linkages with government authorities and other stakeholders.

RIS Council consists of stakeholder representatives from EIT RIS countries. The Council supports EIT Food in policy dialogue and other interactions in the target countries, intending to synchronise the development of EIT Food portfolio with national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies of the targeted EIT RIS countries.

EIT Food RIS Council strengthens synergies with EIT RIS stakeholders. Interactions with regional stakeholders will support the active involvement of EIT Food representatives in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes in targeted EIT RIS countries and regions. Through policy dialogue with national and regional authorities that select agri-food-related topics as their Smart Specialisation Strategies, EIT Food expects to develop and implement joint innovation and entrepreneurship strategies with Knowledge Triangle partners from the selected EIT RIS countries.

The RIS Council 2021-2022 consisted of representatives of 17 RIS countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey. One of the results of collaboration in the term 2021-2022 was a joint publication [EIT FOOD RIS3 GUIDEBOOK – A call to action for agrifood policymakers and doers](#)

For the term 2023-2025 the RIS Policy Council will be expanded to include members from Cyprus, Malta, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Ukraine to form an advisory body consisting of 22 Members.

## **RIS Policy Council 2023-2025**

### **4. Goals of the EIT Food RIS Council 2023-2025:**

The main aim for RIS Council 2023-2025 is to translate EIT Food Missions and Values to RIS regions by empowering Local Innovation Ecosystems to generate impact through funding schemes outside EIT Food. That is:

- Providing opinion concerning present agri-food issues and challenges important from the perspective of their country, especially from the EU financial perspective 2021-2027 and in regards to the EIT Food new mission-approach,
- Informing about potential co-financing opportunities in their country, mapping current regional and national funds for innovation and providing insights on most efficient funding mechanisms to boost innovation (outside EU as well),
- Define and implement milestones and actions to increase chances for co-funding of EIT Food activities in their country,
- Provide insight for the EIT Food Public Affairs department to help build the demand among regional and national fund operators to design programmes matching EIT Food strategy and EIT Food missions,
- Providing linkages with actors of Knowledge Triangle for potential partnership with EIT Food,
- Finding synergies between EIT Food activities with Smart Specialization Strategies in their country,
- Participation in the monitoring and evaluation of EIT Food Hubs' activities (if applicable),
- Promotion of EIT Food activities, including contacts with national and regional authorities (in the country represented by the given Member).

### **5. Benefits for the Members of the EIT Food RIS Council**

The Members of the EIT Food RIS Council may:

- Officially use the title of the Member of the EIT Food RIS Policy Council,
- Have impact on strengthening the agrifood ecosystem in their country - empowering Local Innovation Ecosystems to generate impact through funding schemes outside EIT Food and advising on financial sustainability for EIT Food activities,
- Increase their network across EU,
- Expand their knowledge on different innovation policies and agrifood related innovation projects and funding mechanisms across EU,

- participate in EIT Food RIS activities, such as annual Future of Food Conference, activities organised by EIT Food Hubs (if applicable), events gathering other EIT Communities.

EIT Food will cover the costs of participation of the Members in at least four EIT Food RIS Council meetings yearly, with one meeting held offline in the years 2024 and 2025. Each participant will be granted 3000€ yearly.

## 6. Profile of the Members of EIT Food RIS Council

**1. The Members of the EIT Food RIS Policy Council should come from one of the 22 eligible countries:**

- EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

**2. should demonstrate experience related to below mentioned areas:**

- at least 3 years' experience in regional/national administration or advisory board to regional/national administration or European Commission
- experience in preparation of applications and/or implementation of funding mechanisms at the national/regional level like Horizon 2020/Europe and European Structural and Investment Funds – ESI Funds
- experience in design, implementation, monitoring and/or evaluation of R&D and innovation policy at national or regional levels in at least one areas of innovation in agri-food from the below mentioned EIT Food mission areas (**Please see more in Annex I**):
  - Healthier Lives Through Food,
  - A Net Zero Food System,
  - Reducing Risk for a Fair & Resilient Food System,
- experience in design, implementation, monitoring and/or evaluation Smart Specialisation Strategy in represented country (added advantage)
- English language proficiency level C1

**3. and confirm availability for the 1<sup>st</sup> RIS Policy Council meeting**, which will be held online on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023(Tuesday) between 10:00 - 12:00 CET.

#### 7. Selection process:

- open call promoted by EIT Food and EIT Food Hubs in RIS countries (limited to natural persons with experience related to selection criteria), deadline for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, 23:59 CEST.
- evaluation carried out by CLC South and selection of one candidate per country (7<sup>th</sup> of December)

#### 8. Deadline for application

Interested and eligible individuals are invited to **submit their application by 1st December 2023, 23:59 CEST**, referring in the e-mail title to **“Call for EIT Food RIS Policy Council members 2023-2025”**. Please send the electronic version of the application to: RIS@eitfood.eu. Applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by a committee including representatives of EIT Food using selection criteria presented in point 4.

**If you are interested to join our EIT Food Community as a Member of EIT Food RIS Policy Council, please fill the application form [HERE](#).**

## Annex I EIT Food's Missions

Comprehensive information about the EIT Food mission-approach can be found here: [EIT Food's Missions - EIT Food](#).

The three EIT Food Missions:

- 1. Healthier Lives Through Food:** We will make a material difference to quality of life by enabling more consumers to have better choices through access to affordable, healthier products and actionable information.  
Our thematic priorities are: Diversify protein sources for food products; Improve product choice and supply for a balanced diet to benefit people & planet; Optimise nutrient density of food.
- 2. A Net Zero Food System:** We will enable the transition to a net zero food system, measuring and quantifying the change through reduced CO2 equivalent emissions. We will do this by tackling harmful system hotspots, reducing the footprint of proteins through diversification, and creating new markets for food waste.  
Our thematic priorities are: Establish Regenerative Agriculture as a commercially viable choice in key value chains; Reduce Food Loss and Food Waste; Create a retail food environment which grows value in a circular food economy.
- 3. A Fully Transparent, Fair and Resilient Food System:** We will see the benefits of more resilient, trusted food systems where people experience greater food security and safety through digitally enabled, transparent supply chains.  
Our thematic priorities are: Investing in growth of fair business models to improve food integrity and reduce inequality; Empower producers and consumers to drive sustainable urban and rural food systems; Improve sustainable and resilient food production practices.