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# **Request for Implementing Participants of Building Entrepreneurial Capacities for Women in the Agrifood Sector (KAVA no. 20099-25) in Central and Eastern Europe**

IMP-20099-25-01

**EIT FOOD**

Warsaw, Poland

November 2024

**Eitfood.eu**

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## Call Fact Sheet

<b>Title of Call</b>	Request for Implementing Participants of Building Entrepreneurial Capacities for Women in the Agrifood Sector (KAVA no. 20099-25) in Central and Eastern Europe
<b>Objective and Scope</b>	Selecting 7 organizations, each operating in one of the following countries: <b>Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia</b> , to implement the Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA) Programme.
<b>Call Deadline</b>	16th December 2024 at 10:00 (CET)
<b>Available Funding</b>	280 000,00 EUR (Maximum 40,000 EUR gross per Selected Organization)
<b>Project Duration</b>	March - December 2025
<b>How to apply</b>	Salesforce
<b>Contact Information</b>	Alicja Krakowska, alicja.krakowska@eitfood.eu

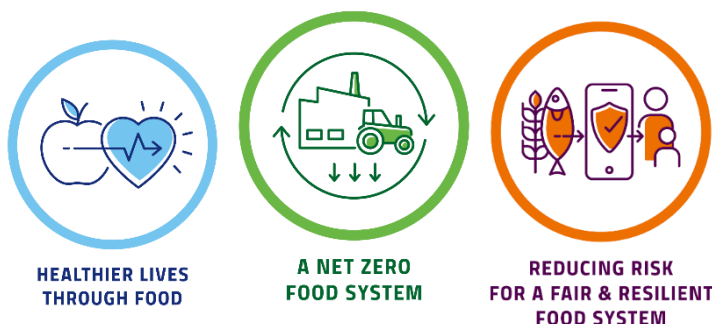
## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 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 who 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.

### Our Missions



EIT Food's Missions respond to major societal challenges within the food system. The alignment of our chosen challenges towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU policy is detailed in our main funding [strategy document](#) agreed with EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology). For more about our Missions-led approach please visit [our website](#).

## 1.2 About EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

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. EIT Food RIS aims at strengthening those regions in Europe which are modest and moderate in terms of innovation in the agrifood sector. This outreach scheme is open to innovators that are not partners of EIT Food and provides targeted support to EIT RIS stakeholders through a portfolio of projects.

EIT Food RIS activities are performed in Southern and Central Eastern Europe and managed by respective Co-Location Centres – South (hereinafter named “**EIT Food CLC South**”) and North-East (hereinafter named “**EIT Food CLC NE**”).

Building Entrepreneurial Capacities for Women in the Agrifood Sector (KAVA no. 20099-25) is the name of the KAVA within which the Empowering Women in Agrifood Programme (hereinafter named “**Programme**”) is implemented. Programme is run both in South and Central Eastern Europe – activities in both regions are run in synergy and coordinated by Activity Leader from EIT Food CLC South.

## 2. Adding Implementing Participants to Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA) Programme

This Request for Implementing Participants of Building Entrepreneurial Capacities for Women in the Agrifood Sector (KAVA no. 20099-25) in Central and Eastern Europe (hereinafter named “Request”) has the objective of selecting 7 organizations, each operating in one of the following countries: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia (each one hereinafter named “Country”)**, to implement the Programme. Only one organization can be selected from a given country.

The Programme, run in 13 European countries, aims to provide up to 130 women entrepreneurs across 13 RIS targeted Countries with the required knowledge, confidence, support and networking opportunities to meet and exceed their aspirations, leading them to successfully start and develop sustainable businesses. The Programme will run for a period of 6 months supporting early-stage female entrepreneurs and it will seek out and assist women to grow and develop their businesses with a tailored, focused approach that specifically considers the concrete challenges which female entrepreneurs face generally as well as the barriers which can limit entrepreneurial activity.

The main objective of the Programme is to support women entrepreneurs in the food sector within the above-mentioned countries to find innovative solutions that tackle the current food system challenges, build and develop business ideas.

The secondary aims of the Programme are:

- developing early-stage startups and create new ones.
- sparking co-founder relationships.
- building links between industry, academia, startups and the wider community.

To learn more about Empowering Women in Agrifood programme you can enter the website: <https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/ewa-empowering-women-in-agrifood>

## 3. Description of Role & Profile

### 3.1 Role

Each selected organization (the “Selected Organization”) will manage the following tasks within the Programme in their respective Country:

#### **Stage 1 – Scouting phase (duration: from March to May 2025)**

The aim of the scouting phase is to select **10 female participants** per Country to become direct beneficiaries of the Programme (“**Mentees**”). Moreover, **10 Mentors** (“**Mentors**”) per Country have to be selected to provide personalised 1:1 mentorship to the Mentees for 6 months (from June to November - both included). Mentors should be selected by their experience and the specific needs of the Mentees. Mentoring process should include at least 1,5 hours session per week. Both online and offline format of sessions are possible and should be decided directly by a mentoring pair for their best comfort.

#### Tasks of the Selected organisation:

- a. scouting of Mentors in relevant topics (e.g. entrepreneurship, business model, sales, pitching, marketing, customer discovery, etc.) providing at least 10 engaged Mentors,
- b. contracting selected Mentors based on the definition of Mentor’s profile, selection criteria, the lists of roles and responsibilities provided by EIT Food CLC NE,
- c. scouting of female conducting early-stage startups or women with entrepreneurial talent interested in the agrifood system, providing at least 20 eligible applications,
- d. evaluation of female entrepreneurs' applications based on the eligibility and criteria provided by EIT Food CLC NE and selection of 10 Mentees.

#### **Stage 2 – Matchmaking and mentoring process (Timing of the Matchmaking activity: beginning of June 2025)**

After the selection of Mentees and Mentors, a **Matchmaking activity** (“**Matchmaking event**”) should be organised to create mentoring pairs and introduce them to the Programme in each Country.

Mentors’ selection will be based on their background, expertise, motivation and fit with the entrepreneurs selected (entrepreneurs diagnostics will reveal the main challenges to work on).

The selected Mentor will support the overall progress of the entrepreneur they are partnered with during the Programme. The Mentor is not a consultant but rather someone to guide, question and enable the entrepreneur’s success. During the sessions they will work to prepare a Business Pitch deck that will be utilized during the final Pitching Activity (“**Demo Day**”). Every Mentor will provide their feedback on the Mentee for the progress score.

#### Tasks of the Selected organisation:

- a. design and organization of the Matchmaking event, including:
  - creation of a final agenda, including introduction to Intellectual Property (IP) rights and 5 min. presentation of each Mentee and her business idea,
  - at least 1 interactive matchmaking exercise to create mentoring pairs,

- sharing an online survey on the self-assessed needs of Mentees and potential areas of mentoring for Mentors at least one week before the activity,
- provision of information pack about the Programme with beneficiaries,
- management of attendance and registrations,
- in case of face-to-face Matchmaking event – providing all necessary arrangements (contract of a venue, catering, audio-visual materials, facilitators and speakers).

Note: there should be mentoring sessions follow-up and monthly feedback survey collection both from Mentees and Mentors.

### Stage 3 – Training programme (duration: June – November 2025)

The aim of the training programme is to reinforce specific skills of the Mentees and expose them to real life challenges in their business. The Selected organisation will be responsible for scouting thematic experts ("**Experts**") and adjusting training opportunities to the local ecosystem in a way which will develop expected competences to be acquired by the Mentees (EIT Food CLC NE will provide the Selected Organisation with various competences expected to be acquired upon the completion of the Programme).

Additionally, EIT Food is running a dedicated online platform ("Platform") for EWA community to connect the female entrepreneurs and provide them with useful information, webinars and virtual meetings to optimize beneficiaries learning. Note: A short training for the virtual community use will be provided to the key contact from the Selected Organisation prior to the Programme execution.

#### Tasks of the Selected organisation:

- a. design and implement a training itinerary for the Mentees considering their needs, an initial group/individual diagnostic and the expected competences to be acquired during the Programme. The training should tackle **at least 2** of the following areas:
  - leadership skills (team management, diversity and inclusion, public speaking, pitching, negotiations, active listening, empathy, time management);
  - business skills (financial management, legal matters, IP management, data management, successful sales, market mapping);
  - agrifood expertise (new trends in agrifood sector, new regulations in agrifood sector – country wise and at the EU level incl. New Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy, food security requirements, supply chain in agrifood).
- b. provide **at least 1** of the following training opportunities:
  - group sessions with thematic Experts who support Mentees with their self-development (natural talents, emotional intelligence in business and coaching) and specific elements of their businesses like law, finance, marketing, logistics.
  - learning-by-doing opportunities in which women are taking part in the process of creating podcasts, photo shooting for advertisement campaigns other startup competitions.
- c. design and organization of a **Masterclass activity ("Masterclass event")**: with the objective of providing networking, high-level coaching to the Mentees and dedicated training from Experts to complement online educational actions ensuring greater Programme's impact – it can be dedicated to specific aspect of the business idea development or can be focused on reinforcing specific skills such as public appearances, media relations, sales and negotiations.
- d. utilise of the EIT Food StartUp Manual provided by EIT Food CLC NE in online version, expanding any specific topic during mentoring or training.
- e. offer once a month access to new material on the Platform:

- video and/or audio publications relevant to female entrepreneurs for building their entrepreneurial skills and gather expertise knowledge within the following pathways mentioned in point a) above.

#### **Stage 4 – Pitching and awards ceremony (before the 28th of November 2025)**

The **Pitching activity (“Demo Day”)** should be organised with the aim of exposing Mentees to public speaking and business competition, selecting two winners of 1st Final Grant (10 000 EUR gross) and 2nd Final Grant (5 000 EUR gross) granted from EIT Food CLC NE, and additionally networking them with the local startup ecosystem (investors, Business Angels, innovators, industry representatives).

Demo Day should act as a networking event for the female entrepreneurs to meet with the local food and innovation ecosystem (startups, investors, food companies, universities and research centres, NGOs, etc.). It should serve as a platform to discuss the current challenges in the local agrifood system and present the EIT Food activities to the invited audience – it can be a panel discussion or inspirational speech aimed at reinforcing female entrepreneurship in agrifood sector in the local ecosystem. The presence of a role model from the female entrepreneurship scene would be highly recommended.

#### Tasks of the Selected Organisation:

- a. design, organization and promotion of the Demo Day including:
  - creation of a separate document indicating general rules/terms and conditions of the Demo Day on a basis of a template provided by EIT Food CLC NE,
  - creation of a final agenda, considering that during the Demo Day Mentees:
    - present their final pitches,
    - are evaluated by the jury,
    - receive competition results based on the progress score (50 points) and pitching score (50 points).
  - managing invitations and registration,
  - in case of face-to-face Demo Day – contract of venue, catering, audio-visual materials, facilitators and proposing speakers.
  - at least part of the Demo Day must be open to general public. There need to be an attractive panel discussion, training session, inspirational speech, cocreation workshop accompanying the pitching session.
- b. contribute to evaluation of Mentees’ pitching presentations providing at least 2 independent members to be part of the jury. Selection criteria for Mentees’ pitching evaluation will be shared in advance by EIT Food CLC NE.
- c. evaluate a final business deck of each Mentee, which would rate as in their Programme progress score.

Audience: Minimum 40 people (excluding Mentors, Mentees and organisers)

Note: Selected Organization is welcome to be creative and introduce more features to the proposed format of Demo Day. The Selected Organization will work closely with EIT Food CLC NE on customising the format and schedule of the Demo Day to the specificities of the local agrifood and startup ecosystem.

#### **Stage 5 – Communication of the Programme (duration: from March to December 2025)**

#### Tasks of the Selected organisation:

- a. Contribution to the dissemination of the Programme’s activities and news, using adequately internal communication and social media channels, and providing a separate communication and dissemination report on press appearances, number of social media publications and dissemination strategies.
- b. Ensure correct branding, EIT Food visibility and respect of the EWA visual identification in all communication materials in accordance with the guidelines provided by EIT Food CLC NE.
- c. Provide EIT Food CLC NE representative with events agenda, press release/social media or other communication information at least 3 weeks in advance, following the template provided by EIT Food CLC NE.
- d. Distribution of Programme materials to Programme participants.
- e. Sending evidence of at least 3 media publications in the national press (digital or paper).
- f. Encourage and foster participation of the selected women on social media, interviews on the national media and/or in EIT Food channels.

### Stage 6 – Programme internal coordination (duration: March – December 2025)

#### Tasks of the Selected organisation:

- a. Ensuring regular update to the EWA EIT Food CLC NE coordinator with any Programme’s progress or action on top of regular communication.
- b. Designation of the person managing the Programme for permanent contact with the representative of EIT Food CLC NE.
- c. Complying with the conditions set out in the KAVA contract and performing the necessary Programme’s activities indicated in the Annex to the document. Attendance to monthly update meetings summarizing Programme’s implementation process, fostering cross-country synergies and networking.
- d. Use of tools and platforms required by the Programme: SharePoint, F6S application platform, EWA community platform, Zoom.
- e. Distribution of additional materials for Programme’s participants provided to the Selected Organization by EIT Food CLC NE.
- f. Carry out a final Programme report, providing all the required information of Programme implementation.
- g. Share Programme’s success stories and best practices for Programme’s implementation and growth.
- h. Ensure EIT Food branding is always visible and respected in all communication materials (online events, agendas etc.) and guarantee the visual world of the Programme standardised throughout all EWA countries.

### 3.2 Profile

EIT Food CLC NE invites organisations from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia** to submit their proposals to become an implementor of the Empowering Women in Agrifood in respective country.

Eligible organizations must be legal entities, which could be companies, incubators, accelerators, higher education institutes, research institutes, or non-governmental organizations. Operating within the respective country targeted by this Request is a fundamental requirement. Additionally, these organizations are acknowledged as pivotal contributors to the local female entrepreneurship ecosystem, displaying a robust regional outreach. A crucial aspect of eligibility involves a proven track record of experience in supporting and empowering female entrepreneurs.



Furthermore, organizations must exhibit proficiency in organizing successful events and workshops, underlining their capacity to execute impactful initiatives. The ability to adhere to the Programme timeline is essential, with a commitment to organize Programme activities within the specified timeframe, spanning from March to December 2025. Lastly, a wide network of business connections or the capability to engage valuable experts, particularly in the agrifood sector, is required.

### 3.3. Deliverables and Milestones

Selected Organization must submit final deliverables at the end of the Programme implementation period. The deliverables include:

- Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Plan
- Final Report including:
  - List of 10 mentors participating in the Programme,
  - List of at least 5 experts and stakeholders,
  - List of at least 20 eligible applications for the Programme,
  - List of 10 female entrepreneurs selected to take part in the Programme,
  - List of startups supported during the Programme,
  - 10 Cohort slides showcasing Mentees' startups and business ideas,
  - List of trainings and educational webinars organised,
  - List of media coverage,
  - Results of the feedback survey on Mentees' satisfaction,
  - At least 1 success Story describing a chosen Mentee's progress during the Programme.
- Supporting documents regarding each of the Programme Events mentioned in 3.1:
  - Agenda of the event,
  - List of participants' attendance (name, surname, gender, email),
  - Pictures and/or movies from the event, including among others the presentation of visible roll ups and/or promotional EIT Food signs,
  - Presentations and other communication materials with visible EIT Food and the EU flag,
  - Images, links and/or documents proving all publications in social media,
  - Emailing lists and/or publications announcing the event/activity,
  - Event summary.

Selected Organization has obligations on communication, dissemination and visibility rules. Please see Article 17 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and EIT Food's [Brand Guidelines](#).

Selected Organization must adhere to [EIT Food Intellectual Property's \(IP\) Policy](#) which complies with the IP provisions outlined in Article 16 of the Horizon Europe [Model Grant Agreement](#).

## 4. Funding

### 4.1 Funding overview

The total budget for this call is **maximum 280,000 EUR**. Selected Organization will receive a subgrant to fund their cost. This is cascade funding:

- Participation in the KAVA is from **January - December 2025**
- Maximum estimated funding for that period per Selected Organization is **40,000 EUR** gross.

There is a 6 million EUR limit per participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#) for the whole 3-year Grant Agreement. Legal entities from

non- Horizon Europe Associate countries can participate but are limited to funding of 60 000 over 3 years for a Grant Agreement. This funding is implemented under GA 01101912. In those limits are included all the EIT Funding awarded to an organization across all the activities and prizes for the 3-year grant agreement.

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](#).

## 5. Application Preparation, Submission & Evaluation

### 5.1 Timeline

Application Open	<b>18.11.2024</b>
Application Close	<b>16.12.2024</b>
Q&A session	<b>25.11.2024</b>
Evaluation	<b>16.12-19.12.2024</b>
Communication to selected participants	<b>20.12.2024</b>

### 5.2 Who can apply?

Funding for this Request for Implementing Participants of Building Entrepreneurial Capacities for Women in the Agrifood Sector (KAVA no. 20099-25) in Central and Eastern Europe is available to organisations from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia**. Consortia are not allowed.

### 5.3 Application Submission

The deadline for the submission of full applications is **16th December 2024 at 10:00 (CET)**. All applications must be filled out in **English on the dedicated platform – Salesforce**, within the deadline mentioned above.

## 6. Evaluation and Selection Process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation to determine their feasibility and suitability for funding. The evaluation will be conducted by at least 3 evaluators including at least 2 external evaluators.

All external evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process. All evaluators, both internal and external, are trained extensively on the [European Union's Code of Conduct for Evaluators](#), namely on the importance of transparency, fair treatment of all applicants, confidentiality and how to avoid conflict of interest. Evaluators must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

### 6.1 Eligibility

Please read Annex 1 carefully, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Organisation Eligibility	Each implementing participant must:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a legally incorporated entity (for example company, incubator or accelerators, higher education institute, research institute, non-governmental organisation) in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 3 years.</li> <li>• Provide a PIC Number: <a href="https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf">https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf</a></li> <li>• Comply with requests for documents during due diligence/validation.</li> <li>• Operate in a country/region targeted by this Request.</li> <li>• Be recognised as important player in the local female entrepreneurship ecosystem with strong regional outreach.</li> <li>• Be experienced in supporting female entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• Be capable of organising successful events and workshops.</li> <li>• Be able to organize the Programme activities in the timeframe from March to December 2025.</li> <li>• Have a wide network of business connections or capable to reach valuable experts especially in the agrifood sector.</li> </ul>
Application Eligibility	The eligible applications must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be complete, with all mandatory supporting documents uploaded.</li> <li>• Be submitted on time via our application template, in English.</li> </ul>

## 6.2 Evaluation Process

At least 3 evaluators, including at least 2 external evaluators, will evaluate proposals based on the criteria below. All evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process and must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

Category	Description	Score
1. Experience in training and supporting female entrepreneurs.	<i>Demonstrated proficiency in training and providing support to female entrepreneurs, showcasing a comprehensive understanding of their unique challenges and opportunities.</i>	1-15
2. Experience in organizing innovative events in the field of entrepreneurship and/or women's empowerment.	<i>Proven track record of planning, organizing, and executing events in the field of entrepreneurship and women's empowerment and organizing highly innovative events, showing a deep understanding of industry trends and audience engagement.</i>	1-15
3. Organisation's role in the ecosystem and existing local network.	<i>Deeply ingrained within the local ecosystem with a robust network of organizations, showcasing active collaboration and support for startups and female entrepreneurs.</i>	1-15
4. Approach to the organization of the Programme's activities mentioned in point 3 of this RFIP.	<i>A well-defined strategy showcasing thorough understanding and integration of local context and needs, demonstrating a commitment to tailoring Programme activities for maximum impact.</i>	1-15

5. Organisation's interest and/or expertise in the food system.	<i>Evidence of interest and expertise in the agrifood sector, with a comprehensive understanding of industry trends, challenges, and innovations.</i>	1-15
6. Sources of co-funding.	<i>Strategic proposal, showcasing a thorough understanding of potential sponsors and supplementary funding sources, demonstrating a proactive approach to financial sustainability</i>	1-15

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 15 using the following scoring system. The application with the highest score per country will be selected.

The application can receive a maximum of 90 points.

Score		Description
1	Not satisfactory	Not addressed or the criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
5	Satisfactory	Application broadly addresses the criterion, but many shortcomings are present
10	Good	Application addresses the criterion well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
15	Excellent	Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

## 7. Administrative Items

### 7.1 Appeal to Results

Applicants can submit an appeal within 5 days of result receipt, if:

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](#).

### 7.2. 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**

Any other legal agreements to make this grant eligible.

### 7.3 Payment Schedule

The Selected Organisation will sign Framework Agreement and KAVA Contract with EIT Food with a total funding of 40 000 EUR gross to cover the eligible costs of implementing EWA Programme activities according to the workplan in a respective country. The funding will be paid in instalments.

Please note that the following expenses are compulsory to be included by Selected Organization:

- in case of face-to-face events: event photography, video recording, catering, venue renting, facilitators and/or speakers' cost, VAT Included,
- in case of online events: streaming system, subtitling option or simultaneous translations English/native language facilitators and/or speakers' cost, VAT Included, additional training sessions (business, self-development etc.).
- Mentor and/or expert contracted.

### 7.4 Monitoring

The Programme will be monitored and may be audited. All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation in accordance with the Project Agreement, and to trigger payments according to the achievement of milestones and deliverables.

EIT Food may request regular reporting of actual costs incurred with the subgrant, as well as regular reporting of listed deliverables, together with the supporting documentation. The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget,

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.

### 7.5 Support

In case the applicants require additional information or clarifications, these should be addressed to the person indicated below. All communication between EIT Food and applicants is only possible in writing and the only chance for asking questions related to this Request can be asked during an open Q&A session planned on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

**Contact person:** Alicja Krakowska, [alicja.krakowska@eitfood.eu](mailto:alicja.krakowska@eitfood.eu)

## ANNEX 1 – Eligibility

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above call specific 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 call during the process;

e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its 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.