

Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA) 2024

Terms and Conditions

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1. General information about the programme

The objective of Empowering Women in Agrifood Programme ('EWA Programme') is to boost enterprise development in [RIS countries](#) targeted at emerging female entrepreneurs. The EWA Programme aims to provide women entrepreneurs (10 by country every year) ("Mentees") across RIS countries with the required knowledge, confidence, support and networking opportunities to successfully start and develop sustainable businesses.

[The EWA Programme](#) will run for a period of 6 months supporting representatives of female-led early-stage startups and women with a business idea in the agrifood field and it will assist women entrepreneurs 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 that can limit their entrepreneurial activity due to other discriminating factors.

EIT Food's will implement this activity in EIT RIS target countries, namely in 2024 will be in: [Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye and Ukraine.](#)

Both EIT Food South and CLC North East will cooperate with local organisations specializing in boosting female entrepreneurship.

Organisations and Mentees will be selected through an open call in each country participating in the EWA Programme.

The EWA Programme contains business training, 1:1 mentoring and networking opportunities. There is also a platform dedicated as a women entrepreneurs' community in agrifood sector in the respective countries and at European level.

2. EWA Programme's activities

The programme is organized around the following steps:

1. Open application for EWA programme's participants; April - May 2024;
2. Evaluation and selection of applicants; May 2024;
3. Matchmaking activity – with an aim of creating mentoring pairs (Mentee & Mentor); end of May/beginning of June 2024 ;
4. Mentoring and training process including Masterclass activity; June – November 2024;
5. Pitching day (final event at local level with pitches from each participant); November 2024;
6. Women in Agrifood Stories – pan-european gathering for female entrepreneurs in agrifood; December 2024.

The application is open to potential participants for a minimum of one month and requires the completion of an application form (in each language) on the F6S entrepreneurship platform.

The dates of activities at local levels are determined on a working basis for the benefit of EWA Programme participants.

Women in Agrifood Stories is a gathering with the objective to connect entrepreneurs and experts of the EWA Programme all across Europe. The exact date and location in Europe will be disclosed at least 3 months in advance to facilitate travel arrangements

Participation in EWA Programme constitutes acceptance of devoting additional time to the implementation of the necessary EWA Programme guidelines and the preparation of mandatory materials.

3. Eligibility criteria for applicants

Based on:

- Identification as a woman.
- Be a resident of, and in case of start-up representatives, having a company registered in **Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye and Ukraine**, (with excellent or native proficiency of local language)
- With a business idea or an operating company in the agrifood sector. In case of a business already established, it is only eligible for early stage (less or equal of 3 years since the official registration)
- Interest and preliminary commitment to attend programme activities, trainings, and events.

4. Selection procedure and criteria

a) Application method

Interested candidates complete and submit the application form online at F6S platform www.f6s.com at the appointed time.

b) Procedure for selection

The selection panel is formed by experts from CLC NE and CLC South, as well as representatives from the respective countries e.g., representatives of EWA Organisations, EIT Food Hubs or EIT Food Partners. They are scoring the applications based on the scoring approach described below.

c) Scoring approach

Selection of mentees will be based on formal eligibility criteria and 5 stars ranking per each selection quality criteria:

Eligibility criteria scored as Yes or No:

- Identification as a woman,
- Coming from RIS country and region,
- Less than 3-year startup,
- Availability to participate in all the EWA Programme events.
- Less than 30,000 EUR raised,

Selection by 5 stars ranking (average) on the following criteria:

Criteria	Scoring
The extent to which the applicant possesses the background, capability and motivation to enable her business idea to enter or further develop on the local agrifood market.	(1 to 5)
The extent to which the applicant holds potential for fulfilling the aims of the EWA Programme and deliver against EIT Food Missions.	(1 to 5)
The idea maturity and stage of development - Initial idea, Proof of concept, Prototype, Minimum Value Proposition (MVP), registered startup	(1 to 5)
The extent to which the idea/project holds market potential as a scalable product or service and/or can be the subject of an IP protection.	(1 to 5)
The extent to which EWA Programme's mentoring, online trainings and funding will make a difference and allow further development of applicant's business idea.	(1 to 5)

If the selection panel lacks information required to evaluate some applications, the candidates who submitted those applications may be asked for additional information or an online interview to determine the final selection.

d) Number of participants to be selected.

EIT Food informs all candidates about the selection results and invites 10 applicants with the highest score from each country targeted by the EWA Programme for the Matchmaking activity.

5. Financial Support

A total of **1.000 euros gross is available per participant** selected to support their costs of participation in the EWA Programme activities.

The amount will help to cover travel, accommodation and living costs during activities in each country as well as costs of care over dependent family members (children, seniors, people with disabilities) during the activities related to the project, internet and materials needed for the business idea development (buying books, access to online data repository etc.). The Financial Support was estimated by looking at average costs within different countries in Southern and Central and Eastern Europe.

This Financial Support will be released after verifying that the participant's obligations were met never later than 31/12/2024. The payments will be made to Mentee's personal bank account.

6. Participant obligations

- Attendance a minimum of 80% of the training activities planned within the EWA Programme in the respective country (will be defined and communicated in advanced by organisers).
- Attendance of Pitching Day and main events (at least 3/4 of the EWA Programme main events– Matchmaking and/or Masterclass, Pitching Day and Women in Agrifood Stories).
- Mentoring - to complete a minimum of 80% of the time allocated for Mentor & Mentee sessions.
- Timely Completion of the obligatory documents provided during training and mentorship ensuring to capture relevant progress and business information from the participant.
- Support EIT Food provide information before and after the activities within the EWA Programme that allow participant's business progress monitoring. – satisfaction surveys, mentoring feedback, business idea progress report for final grants winners.
- Support EIT Food and EWA dissemination and comply with the branding requirements.

Only if these minimum participant obligations are met, the financial support will be released.

An EIT labelled Certificate of Completion will be issued acknowledging the competences gained during the programme.

7. Final grants criteria

The Pitching Day will be organised face to face and prepared with the aim of exposing participants to public speaking and business competition, selecting a 1st (**10.000 EUR gross**) and 2nd (**5.000 EUR gross**) final grants winners and networking all participants with the local startup and innovation ecosystem.

Prizes will be granted based on:

- a) Progress score over EWA programme – quantitative score based on a progress evaluation of Mentees prepared by Mentors ,as well as business deck presentation.

	Criteria	Points
1	Business deck evaluation	25
2	Mentors' feedback	25

The overall progress score can amount to 50 points.

- b) Pitching score on the day of the Pitching event

The participants who want to compete for a final grant, will prepare and deliver a business pitch during Pitching Days in November 2024. Each participant will present a 4-minute pitch and answers questions from the jury panel. The jury panel will be form with 3 or 4 independent jury evaluators and experts. The jury evaluates each pitch according to criteria listed below.

	Criteria	Points
1	Participant clearly understands and articulates the problem she is trying to address. (PARTICIPANT SKILLS)	5
2	The proposed solution is distinctive enough, innovative, and appropriate to address the problem it articulates. (INNOVATIVENESS)	10
3	The proposed solution targets an identified market and differs well from competitive offerings. (BUSINESS RELEVANCE)	5
4	The business model articulates a clear path to market, is scalable and realistic (BUSINESS RELEVANCE)	5
5	Participant has the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to take advantage of the identified market opportunity (PARTICIPANT SKILLS)	5
6	Participant indicates weather and how the final grant will be a catalyst for the successful exploitation of the market opportunity (IMPACT)	10
7	The business idea has the potential to transform the food system in the country (or region) and generate a social, environmental and economic impact (IMPACT)	10

Please note that if there is a tie, the winners will be selected based on the combined score received for selection criteria number 4 and 5.

The **overall Pitch score can amount in 50 points.**

The selected participants will receive the final grant upon the signature of a grant agreement, allowing EIT Food to monitor the grant use and the progress of the business. Participant who receives a final grant is committed, and ensures through the grant agreement signature:

- c) That the final grant will be used for business development purposes
- d) That she will inform EIT Food after 6 months on final grant expenditure through a Progress report that will be validated by EIT Food contact point.

Important note: EIT Food is liable to only grant participants that are committed to register legally their business during the following 3 years after the end of the EWA Programme.

In case the business was already registered legally before the EWA Programme, EIT Food is liable to only grant a startup that is committed to launch a new or improve product or service to the market during the following 1 year.

Evidence on this requirement could be requested and subject to an audit by EIT Food.

8. Ownership and intellectual property

The applications submitted to EIT Food for the EWA Programme are handled confidentially. Everybody that reads the applications during the review process is bound by confidentiality agreements.

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their intellectual property rights. The organizers and their authorized representatives in the EWA Programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the ideas and projects presented and developed throughout the EWA Programme, until the Pitching Day.

EIT Food shall not be liable in any way related to the actions taken by the Applicant to protect the proposed solution. In particular, the Applicant should check the relevant patent procedure, including the patent priority date.

9. Personal data processing

EIT Food will process the data collected for the purposes of the EWA Programme. Please see our Data protection clause below:

GDPR information clause

1. Providing of your personal data is voluntary, however in the event of failure to do so, you will not be able to take part in EWA programme (the "Activity").
2. Your data indicated in the application form will be processed by the Controllers pursuant to art. 6 sec. 1 (b) of the general regulation on the protection of personal data of April 27, 2016 ("GDPR") in connection with the implementation of the contract for participation in the Activity, what includes: provide full service, including solving technical and organizational problems, contacting you in connection with registration to the Activity, defence against possible claims, statistical purposes, as well as for the purpose of reporting the Activity under the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Program, including documenting and disseminating the Activity, and therefore, for this purpose, the image of participants of the Activity may be processed and disseminated, where appropriate.
3. Your personal data may be shared with:
 - a) other participants of the Activity in order to conduct the Activity,
 - b) other entities, persons or bodies that will process personal data as their independent controller - to the extent and on the terms set out in the law and the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Program (e.g. project partners, EIT Food iVZW, entities authorized to conduct inspections and audits projects under the Horizon Europe Program - the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office ("OLAF"), the European Court of Auditors) as well as co-organizers of the Activity,
 - c) persons authorized by the Controllers, their employees and associates who must have access to data to perform their duties,
 - d) processors to whom Controllers entrust this task, e.g., those operating ICT systems, our advisors, related entities to the extent that they carry out data processing processes on our behalf (including EIT Food iVZW in the scope of providing us with resources, including ICT resources), entities providing photo/video services.
4. The Controllers of your personal data in connection with the registration of participation in the Activity are: EIT Food CLC North-East sp. z o.o. with its registered office in Warsaw (00-534), ul. Mokotowska 64, Poland, entered into the Register of Entrepreneurs kept by the District Court for the capital city of Warsaw in Warsaw, 13th Commercial Division of the National Court Register under KRS

number: 0000699422, NIP: 5213800253, REGON: 368613861, e-mail: ris@eitfood.eu; and EIT Food CLC South S.L with NIF B87964060 and its registered office in Madrid (28004), C/ de Serrano Anguita 13, Spain, District Court for the capital city of Madrid, e-mail: clcsouth@eitfood.eu

5. Your personal data will be stored for 5 years, due to the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Program.
6. The Controllers do not intend to transfer your contact data to a third country or international organization, unless it is needed to use special tools that meet criteria of the GDPR.
7. Your personal data is not subject of automated decision-making, including profiling.

8. You have the right to lodge a complaint, when you consider that the processing of your personal data violates the provisions of the GDPR, to the President of the Office for Data Protection (or the supervisory authority dealing with the protection of personal data in another country, in particular in the Member State of your habitual residence, place of work or place committing the alleged infringement.

The list of competent authorities for the Member States can be found here:
<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=authority&c=PL&c2=>

10. Contact details

In case of any question or general inquiries please contact the EWA team:

- **Iñigo Rodilla** (inigo.rodilla@eitfood.eu) for inquiries from applicants coming from Southern Europe.
- **Alicja Krakowska** (alicja.krakowska@eitfood.eu) for inquiries from applicants coming from Central and Eastern Europe.