Call for expressions of interest to become EIT Food Hubs

EIT Food is looking for 11 organisations that would assume the roles of EIT Food Hubs in 11 countries targeted by EIT Food's Regional Innovation Scheme: Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey.

  Application deadline: 30 January 2018.

  Application template: see Annex.

*Further details about EIT Food can be found at: www.eitfood.eu, and the principles of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme are described at: https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreac/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris. 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 Adam Strzelecki from EIT Food, CLC North-East, e-mail: adam.strzelecki@eitfood.eu).*

1. Background information: EIT Food

EIT Food is one of the largest and most impactful food-related initiatives worldwide. As a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), EIT Food connects partners from leading businesses, universities and research centres across Europe. It is a people-centric and resource-smart transformer of the European food system, driving consumer confidence and improved global health.

EIT Food members have a strong belief that the food sector needs to be transformed and that this can only be achieved by reconnecting partners within the food sector and by giving the consumer a more central role. The main issues the food sector is facing are that it is complex, fragmented, slow to adopt new technologies, not attractive to new talent, and not resource efficient. An effective food sector is needed to address major societal issues and challenges: feeding 9-10 billion people in 2050; 3 billion overweight people; 2 billion undernourished people; more than 30% of food wasted.

EIT Food's vision is to put Europe at the centre of a global revolution in food innovation and production, and its value in society. EIT Food will engage consumers in the change process, improve nutrition and make the food system more resource-efficient, secure, transparent and trusted. EIT Food has six strategic objectives:
* *Overcome low consumer trust*: support Europeans in the transition towards a smart food system that is inclusive and trusted;
* *Create consumer valued food for healthier nutrition*: enable individuals to make informed and affordable personal nutrition choices;
* *Build a consumer-centric connected food system*: develop a digital food supply network with consumers and industry as equal partners;
* *Enhance sustainability*: develop solutions to transform the traditional 'produce-use-dispose' model into a circular bio-economy;

- *Educate to engage, innovate and advance*: Provide 'food system' skills for more than 10,000 students, entrepreneurs and professionals through advanced training programmes;
- *Catalyse food entrepreneurship and innovation*: foster innovation at all stages of business creation.

EIT Food boosts the skills and entrepreneurial spirit in the sector and unlocks the potential of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), which in turn will accelerate innovation, create jobs, benefit businesses and increase Europe's competitiveness.

The pan-European EIT Food is headquartered in Belgium and its partnership brings together change-makers in all relevant sectors and fields. EIT Food is well positioned to achieve the maximum impact on the challenges outlined above. The highly committed partnership will conceive, develop, evaluate and adopt new market-oriented approaches to innovation. It is structured around five Co-Location Centres (CLCs) established in Reading (with partners from the UK, Ireland and Iceland), Warsaw (with partners from Eastern Europe and Nordic countries), Madrid (with partners from Spain, Italy and Israel), Leuven (with partners from Belgium, France and Switzerland) and Munich (with partners from Germany and the Netherlands).

2. EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT Food RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT's outreach scheme. The scheme enables the transfer of good practices and know-how from the EIT's unique approach to boosting innovation. The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme was introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from the EIT Community activities and to widen participation in our activities across Europe. The EIT enhances Europe's ability to innovate through 'Knowledge Triangle Integration', strengthening cooperation between partners in business, higher education, and research. The EIT RIS opens up the activities of KICs to innovators that are not partners, by providing targeted support to individuals and organisations to take part in and benefit from activities, services and programmes. Detailed information about the EIT RIS, including the EIT RIS Implementation Guidance Note, can be found at: https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreac/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris

EIT Food has defined its RIS Strategy, 2018-2020, which supports the EIT's vision for the future-oriented network of stakeholders, linking regions of Europe with diversified innovative potentials and stimulating cooperation between the existing and upcoming innovation leaders. With the implementation of EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme, we aim to strengthen the excellence of stakeholders in EIT RIS countries, overcome the barriers to their full participation in KIC's activities and increase the innovativeness of targeted regions and countries by embedding these high-potential innovation aspirers into a portfolio of carefully elaborated and efficiently implemented projects. EIT Food RIS goes beyond stakeholder outreach activities and replicates the successful elements of the KIC's operational model by catalysing cooperation for innovation on local levels and widening participation of EIT RIS stakeholders in EIT Food's activities, while at the same time striving to adapt the successful elements of Knowledge Triangle Integration in targeted countries. In the European food system, stakeholders from EIT RIS countries play strategic roles of primary producers, suppliers of

digital technologies and experts in logistics. Their increased involvement in EIT Food's activities will fill in the identified gaps, ensuring better connectedness between consumers and producers, transparency and security of European food production. In order to accelerate this innovative transformation of the EIT RIS area, EIT Food will aim to ensure a reciprocal alignment between agri-food-related regional and national Smart Specialisation Strategies with the EIT Food's Strategic Innovation Agenda.

Support measures that will be offered by EIT Food for RIS stakeholders correspond to the EIT's model of Knowledge Triangle Integration, combining the pillars of: Innovation, Education and Business Creation, complemented by the Communication pillar. Measures planned for 2018 include:

1) **RIS Expert Community** - a virtual community of R&D professionals from EIT RIS countries, specialised in agri-food research, allowing R&D experts to engage in EIT Food-coordinated network through the use of publicly available social media platforms (**Innovation** pillar of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
2) **RIS Fellowships** – internships in EIT Food partner organisations to talents from higher education and young entrepreneurs from RIS countries to strengthen their knowledge of innovations in various segments of the food system and promote the culture of entrepreneurship in their local food industry upon their return to home countries; the selection of interns will be preceded by regional workshops conducted by EIT Hubs (**Education** and **Innovation** pillars of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
3) **Innovation Scouting** - a continuous search for entrepreneurial talents and high-potential start-ups in EIT RIS countries, combined with communication activities to better align them with EIT Food Strategic Innovation Agenda, support their business development activities and deepen linkages with EIT Food partners (**Business Creation** pillar of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
4) **Demo Days** - regional entrepreneurship incubation workshops conducted by EIT Hubs, engaging agri-food start-ups or prospective entrepreneurs to help them strengthen the marketing pitching, business model development and customer outreach to validate product or service prototypes (**Business Creation** and **Education** pillars of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
5) **RIS Innovation Grants** – prizes supporting the creation of start-up businesses, development of prototypes and product testing, awarded to beneficiaries selected in a call open to all EIT RIS countries (**Business Creation** pillar of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
6) **EIT Food Government Executive Academy** - a stimulating learning environment for representatives of public administration institutions from EIT RIS countries, relevant for agri-food industry and Research & Innovation policies, including the oversight of Smart Specialisation Strategy implementation (**Education** and **Communication** pillars of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).
7) **RIS Events** - activities, aiming to increase consumer and producer awareness of food system challenges and to strengthen their confidence in the prospects for positive changes in the food sector, including by leveraging the potential of major public events. The events will engage citizens in a public dialogue to establish positive attitudes towards innovative foods and enhance the responsibility of food producers, retailers and distributors within the food system (**Communication** pillar of the EIT's Knowledge Triangle).

Additionally, EIT Food plans to establish **RIS Council**, a representation of relevant stakeholders from RIS countries that will offer further opportunities for dialogue and alignment between EIT Food's strategy and Smart Specialisations Strategies of EIT RIS countries and regions.

3. Background information: EIT Food Hubs

Selected activities of EIT Food RIS will be implemented with the support of EIT Food Hubs designated in countries targeted by EIT Food. EIT Food Co-Location Centres (CLCs) North-East and South will coordinate the operations of local contact points for stakeholders from EIT RIS countries – EIT Food Hubs. EIT Food Hubs will initially operate as subcontractors within the EIT Food community, selected through a competitive call in 2018 and evaluated, having the benefits of affiliation to the EIT and the EIT Food. EIT Hubs will be selected and managed in line with recommendations of the EIT RIS Implementation Guidance Note (https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf), being instrumental to implementing EIT Food RIS activities, transferring best practices of EIT Food to their respective countries/regions, working with local stakeholder networks to strengthen their innovative capacities, promoting the brand visibility of EIT in targeted countries and carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio. EIT Food, its CLCs and partners will be involved in the implementation of the programme.
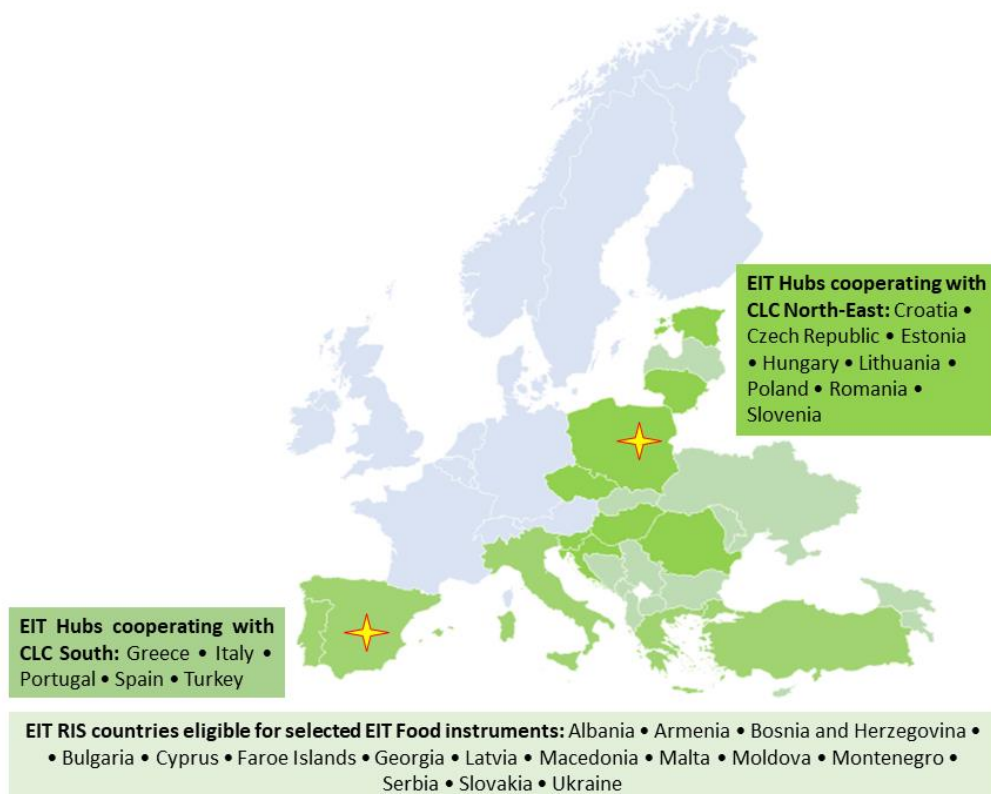
The present call is launched by EIT Food to select organisations (individual organisations having the status of legal persons, not consortia or networks) that would be designated as EIT Food Hubs in targeted EIT RIS countries (acting as subcontractors). The selection process is implemented as an open call managed by EIT Food, Co-Location Centre North-East, in accordance with the EIT RIS Guidance Note, using clear and transparent selection criteria, and the selection will be carried out with the help of external, independent experts. The candidate organisations will be recognized as important players in the local innovation eco-systems with strong regional outreach, experienced in supporting entrepreneurs and capable of organising local events. In 2018, EIT Food Hubs will benefit from modest initial funding to start their activities, implement the contractual obligations towards EIT Food and acquire complementary, regional or national funding for future activities. EIT Food Hubs will have precisely defined workplans, requiring them to regularly update contact lists of relevant stakeholders, maintain relations with selected regional players, engage in the exploration of the local start-up community, organize stakeholder events, workshops for RIS Fellowship candidates, entrepreneurship incubation workshops Demo Days, and promote EIT Food portfolio of instruments in their target countries. The performance of EIT Food Hubs will be evaluated by the end of 2018, influencing the decisions about the future composition of the network of EIT Food Hubs. EIT Food Hubs will be expected to develop in 2018 their own plans of future activities and approaches to leveraging local funding options to accelerate the implementation of Knowledge Triangle Integration and complement the initial EIT funding. Their success in acquiring the local funding will be considered in annual evaluations of EIT Food Hubs.

The following EIT Food Hubs will be established in 2018 by 11 organisations external to the EIT Food consortium, selected through an open and transparent call:

- CLC North-East: Croatia • Czech Republic • Estonia • Hungary • Lithuania • Romania • Slovenia
- CLC South: Greece • Italy (only regions of: Basilicata, Calabria, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna and Sicilia) • Portugal • Turkey

EIT Food RIS activities in Poland and Spain will be implemented by the existing structures of EIT Food (Co-Location Centres), without separately designated Hubs. In Italy, Poland and Spain, only regions with R&D expenditures per capita of €200 or less that have identified agri-food innovations as their smart specialisation are targeted by EIT Food RIS activities (Italy: *Basilicata, Calabria, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna* and *Sicilia*; Poland: *Dolnośląskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Łódzkie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Opolskie, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie, Świętokrzyskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie* and *Wielkopolskie*; Spain: *Andalucia, Canarias, Cantabria, Castilla-la Mancha, Extremadura, Illes Balears, La Rioja, Principado de Asturias* and *Región de Murcia*).

EIT Food identified altogether 13 countries that it plans to target with its initial RIS activities in 2018, based on: (1) the importance of agri-food innovations in regional Smart Specialisation Strategies, (2) the size of agri-food outputs, (3) relevant Research and Development activities. 13 countries targeted by EIT Food represent a critical mass within the EIT RIS area, including 12 EU member states and 1 Horizon 2020 associated country. They account for 90-99% of EIT RIS with respect to key socio-economic variables relevant for agri-food industry. Each of these countries has prioritized agri-food related topics in their national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies. EIT Food believes that focusing the strategic intervention on these 13 countries would optimize the EIT RIS investments, strengthen the impacts of this EIT RIS Strategy and stimulate the innovativeness of the entire EIT RIS eco-system. In addition, EIT Food will work with other KICs under a separate cross-KIC initiative to established joint cross-KIC Hubs in several further countries.

EIT Hubs cooperating with CLC North-East: Croatia • Czech Republic • Estonia • Hungary • Lithuania • Poland • Romania • Slovenia

EIT Hubs cooperating with CLC South: Greece • Italy • Portugal • Spain • Turkey

EIT RIS countries eligible for selected EIT Food instruments: Albania • Armenia • Bosnia and Herzegovina • • Bulgaria • Cyprus • Faroe Islands • Georgia • Latvia • Macedonia • Malta • Moldova • Montenegro • Serbia • Slovakia • Ukraine

AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION PROCESS INPUTS AND OUTPUTS (sources of data: Eurostat, FAO, Scopus)	13 TARGETED COUNTRIES AS SHARE OF EIT RIS COUNTRIES (%)	ABSOLUTE VALUE FOR 13 TARGETED COUNTRIES	ABSOLUTE VALUE FOR 11 EU MEMBER STATES (NON-EIT RIS)
Population (2016)	77.1%	295.5m	277.6m
Land use (2015)	70.0%	2.7m km^2	2.3m km^2
Gross Domestic Product at market prices (2015)	92.9%	€4,855m	€10,456m
Business Expenditures on Research & Development, all sectors (2014)	97.8%	€29,566.2m	€155,323.3m
Business Expenditures on Research & Development, food & beverages sector (2014)	99.2%	€368m	€545.2m
Number of companies, food & beverages sector (2014)	91.7%	27,744	22,385
Number of innovative companies, food & beverages sector (2014)	92.7%	10,732	12,888
Employment in companies, food & beverages sector (2014)	90.9%	1,458m	1,651m
Employment in innovative companies, food & beverages sector (2014)	91.0%	0,824m	1,269m
Food-related patent applications to European Patent Office (2012)	99.2%	727	3,517
Investments in environmental technologies by food & beverage sector (2014)	97.8%	179.6m	512.6m
Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (2014)	94.7%	205.2m t	268.5m t
Food & agriculture-related scientific publications in Scopus database (2010-2016)	91.5%	204,157	NA
Food & agriculture-related scientific publications cited 5 or more times in Scopus database (2010-2016)	94.5%	93,399	NA

4. Applications to become an EIT Hub of EIT Food

EIT Food invites organisations from EIT RIS countries targeted by this call to submit their proposals with a view to selecting and designating EIT Hubs in 2018. The selection process and activities of EIT Food Hubs will be managed in line with the requirements of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme Implementation Guidance Note, 2018-2020 (https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf).

4.1. Countries targeted by the call

1) Croatia
2) Czech Republic
3) Estonia
4) Greece
5) Hungary
6) Italy (only regions of: Basilicata, Calabria, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna and Sicilia)
7) Lithuania
8) Portugal
9) Romania
10) Slovenia
11) Turkey

4.2. Eligible organisations

- Legal persons (such as companies, higher education institutes, research institutes, non-governmental organisations – please note that consortia or networks that do not have the status of legal persons are not eligible),
- Operating in a country/region targeted by the call,
- Able to sign a subcontracting agreement with one of EIT Food's Co-Location Centres and act as a subcontractor in a project funded based on Horizon 2020/EIT modalities,
- Recognized as important players in the local innovation eco-systems with strong regional outreach,
- Experienced in supporting entrepreneurs,
- Capable of organising local events and workshops.

4.3. Scope of expected activities of EIT Food Hubs

- Support for a two-way interaction between local players from EIT RIS country and EIT Food partners, by engaging stakeholders from a designated country in EIT Food activities;
- Sharing and transferring good practices of EIT Food, including the Knowledge Triangle Integration model, to widen participation in EIT-funded activities, enhance the innovation capacity of EIT RIS countries and help EIT RIS stakeholders become future EIT Food partners;
- Promoting the innovation agenda of EIT Food among relevant government authorities, regulators and opinion leaders in EIT RIS countries;
- Creating active communities of agri-food R&D professionals and entrepreneurs in EIT RIS countries to support networking and embed EIT RIS actors into innovation activities of EIT Food;
- Contributing to job creation and economic development of EIT RIS regions by shaping entrepreneurial mind-sets of local stakeholders, including entrepreneurial talents, start-ups and primary producers;
- Proposing, actively inspiring and customizing EIT Food activities to local circumstances and opportunities, especially by ensuring a reciprocal alignment between EIT Food activities and national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and by establishing synergies with local, regional, national and European sources of project funding.

EIT Food Hubs will implement i.a. the following activities:
- Regular updates of contact lists of relevant stakeholders,
- Maintaining relations with key regional players and acting as a regional contact point for stakeholders interested in working with EIT Food,
- Engaging in the exploration of the local start-up and spin-off community,
- Organizing stakeholder events, entrepreneurship incubation workshop Demo Days and recruitment workshops for RIS Fellowships,
- Promoting EIT Food's portfolio of instruments among potential beneficiaries,
- Supporting the recruitment and selection processes for RIS Fellowships, RIS Innovation Grants, EIT Food Government Executive Academy,
- Developing in 2018 a regional action plan to establish the EIT Food Hub as a relevant actor in the national/regional innovation eco-system,
- Developing in 2018 an own approach to acquiring local, regional, national or European co-funding to leverage the initial funding from EIT Food and strengthen the impacts for the local innovation ecosystem,
- Acting in 2018 as subcontractors of EIT Food in carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio and therefore, fulfilling the requirements of Horizon 2020/EIT funding modalities.

Each EIT Food Hub will have an individual workplan and performance targets for 2018, including activities proposed by the applicant organisations in response to the present call, corresponding to the specific circumstances of the national innovation eco-system.

4.4. Benefits for organisations selected as EIT Food Hubs

Organisations designated as EIT Food Hubs will be offered the following benefits in 2018:

- Ability to benefit from the association with EIT Food and the EIT community (as subcontractors in EIT Food activities), and the brands of EIT Food, EIT and EIT RIS;
- Rights to use the name "EIT Food Hub" for relevant and eligible activities that are aligned with the strategy and business plans of EIT Food in 2018;
- Rights to participate in dedicated meetings, organized by EIT Food for EIT Hubs and RIS stakeholders (no membership fees will be required from EIT Food Hubs in 2018; EIT Food will not cover travel costs to attend internal meetings, but organisations designated as EIT Hubs can use their assigned subcontracting budgets to cover these costs);
- Opportunities for networking with EIT Food partners, start-ups associated in RisingFoodStars and network partners, including opportunities for joint project ideation and involvement in EIT Food projects as sub-grantees;
- Publication of contact information of EIT Food Hub on EIT Food website;
- Subcontracting agreement with one of EIT Food's Co-Location Centres with gross funding of up to 20,000€ to cover the eligible costs of initial activities of EIT Food Hubs in 2018, with precisely defined performance targets. Payments will be linked to meeting the initially agreed performance targets and eligible expenses incurred through preparatory work and organisation of specific planned activities of EIT Food Hubs, including RIS Fellowship workshops, Demo Days, and other local events that were approved for funding by EIT Food and will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy, 2018-2020 and EIT Food Business Plan 2018. Detailed financial modalities can be found in the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme Implementation Guidance Note, 2018-2020, https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf);
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food and its CLCs in implementation of the activities planned for each EIT Food Hub;
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food and its CLCs in applying for local, regional, national or European funding that would complement the EIT funding for EIT Food Hubs and expand the scope of their activities to increase the positive impacts on the innovation ecosystems of countries in which EIT Food Hubs operate;
- Opportunities to participate in annual evaluation of EIT Food Hubs, carried out by EIT Food to identify good practices as well as gaps in support provided by organisations acting as EIT Food Hubs and by EIT Food, with a view to further improve performance and regional impact of the EIT Food RIS Strategy, 2018-2020.

Becoming an EIT Food Hub shall be considered an opportunity to become associated with the community of EIT Food, establish relations with EIT Food partners and become better embedded in their activities, and the use of the designation of EIT Food Hub shall be leveraged by acquiring additional, non-EIT funding to support the expansion of support activities within the national/regional innovation ecosystem of each selected organisation. EIT Food Hubs will also benefit from the increased visibility in their local innovation ecosystems, strengthening their position on the regional and national levels.

4.5.   Selection process

Interested and eligible organisations are invited to **submit their applications by 30 January 2018**, using the "**EIT Food Hub Application Form**". **Please send the electronic versions of proposals, based on the attached template**, to: **krzysztof.klincewicz@eitfood.eu** (Krzysztof Klincewicz, Director of CLC North-East, EIT Food). Incomplete applications or applications submitted by ineligible organisations will be automatically rejected. Complete applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by a committee including representatives of EIT Food and external experts using standardized selection criteria. EIT Food reserves the right to designate EIT Food Hubs only in some of the targeted countries, contingent on the quantity and quality of the submitted applications, ensuring the excellence of designated EIT Hubs and value for money, and to relaunch the call for the countries where the present selection process would not yield satisfactory results. EIT Food reserves the right to contact the applicant organisations by e-mail or phone asking for additional explanations or supporting documents, and to schedule selection interviews with short-listed organisations. All applications will be evaluated using transparent selection criteria, and all applicants will receive written feedback in electronic form, sent to an e-mail account indicated in the application template. Results of the call will be published by EIT Food on its website and selected organisations will be required to sign subcontracting agreements respectively EIT Food's Co-Location Centres North-East (Warsaw) or South (Madrid).

4.6.   Selection criteria

All proposals will be evaluated taking into account the following criteria, related to the applicant organisation and its plans of activities:

1) Relevant experiences (participation in projects related to R&D networking and matchmaking, support for entrepreneurs, support for R&D performers in agri-food sector and entrepreneurial training; ability to present the relevance of these experiences for EIT Food);
2) Potential for project delivery (suitable office premises; competent employees; use of multiple communication channels in existing operations; synergies between existing operations and planned activities of EIT Food);
3) Industry insights (awareness of strategic challenges in the European food system and the local innovation ecosystem; familiarity with the agri-food industry in the target country; existing contacts and projects with relevant local stakeholders);
4) Approach to the role of EIT Food Hub (high level of strategic ambition in planning and executing the activities of EIT Food Hub; objectives consistent with the EIT Food strategic directions; precise plans for communication activities in 2018, aimed at enhancing the visibility of EIT Food brand in the target country; tangible plans to engage in policy dialogue related to the definition, implementation, monitoring and revision of Smart Specialisation Strategies);
5) Approach to ensuring value for money (cost-efficient approach to activities of EIT Food Hub; demonstrated ability and specific plans to leverage local, regional, national or European funding to complement the initial financing distributed by EIT Food, including by the use of European Structural and Investment Funds);
6) Potential to enrich the diversity of EIT community and increase the impacts of EIT-funded activities within the regional/national innovation ecosystems in which each EIT Food Hub will operate.

EIT Food Hub Application Form

> *Please fill in the application form, ensuring that **all fields** are completed. Please submit the application in electronic format **both as PDF and editable MS Word** files by **30 January 2018** to: **krzysztof.klincewicz@eitfood.eu**. Applications incomplete or sent after the deadline will be rejected. Please do not provide further supporting documents and capture all relevant information in this form.*

EIT Food Hub territory (<u>underline</u> one)			
Croatia	Czech Republic	Estonia	Greece
Hungary Lithuania	Italy (regions of Basilicata, Calabria, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna and Sicilia)		
Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Turkey
Name of the applicant organisation in English			
Name of the applicant organisation in local language			
Legal form			
Office address (street, city, country)			
Website address			
Type of organisation (<u>underline</u> one)			
business enterprise	higher education institute	public research organisation	
knowledge transfer intermediary (incl. industry association, innovation cluster, technology park, entrepreneurship support organisation)			
other (please specify)			
Name of contact person			
Position			
E-mail			
Phone			
Why would you like to become an EIT Food Hub? In particular, please describe the synergies between the planned role of EIT Hub and your other activities.			
Please provide examples of the most relevant activities/services/projects of your organisation from 2014-2017 that were provided to external stakeholders and could be meaningful for EIT Food (including short description of these activities and their relevance for EIT Food, type of your engagement in the project, project partners, sources of funding, key outcomes and impacts):			
1.Educational activities targeting entrepreneurial talents, start-ups, spin-offs or established companies			

2.Financial support for entrepreneurial talents, start-ups and spin-offs
3.Coaching, mentoring, incubation or acceleration services for entrepreneurial talents, start-ups and spin-offs
4.Business-to-business match-making and networking activities on local, regional, national or international levels
5.Support for science-to-industry knowledge and technology transfer
6.Involvement in open innovation projects or contracted research for industrial partners
7.Others (please specify)
Please provide examples of the most relevant activities/services/projects of your organisation from 2014-2017 that concerned the following segments of the food system (including short description of these activities and their relevance for EIT Food, type of your engagement in the project, project partners, sources of funding, key outcomes and impacts):
1.Primary production
2.Food manufacturing
3.Packaging and distribution
4.Retail
5.Consumer research and communication
6.Digitalization of food system

7.Nutrition and health
8.Valorisation of side streams
9.Others (please specify)

Year of establishment of your organisation	
Total number of employees	
Number of projects funded from Horizon 2020 in 2014-2017	
Number of projects funded from Horizon 2020 co-ordinated by your organisation in 2014-2017	
Number of Horizon 2020 project applications in the preparation of which your organisation participated in 2014-2017	
Number of projects funded from European Structural and Investment Funds managed by your organisation in 2014-2017	
Number of projects funded from national or regional sources managed by your organisation in 2014-2017	
Number of projects contracted to your organisation by industrial clients in 2014-2017	
Number of externally funded projects implemented by your organisation in 2016	
Number of externally funded projects implemented by your organisation in 2017	

Personnel that will be involved in the activities of EIT Food Hub (for each person, please provide name and short profile below, indicating relevant experiences and roles foreseen in the EIT Food Hub project; identify at least three persons)

How can the physical location and standards of your office premises contribute to the successful implementation of the activities of the EIT Food Hub?

Organisations hosting EIT Food Hubs will need to have access to facilities that could be used in 2018 for a small number of workshops involving minimum 30 participants. The facilities do not need to be owned by the organisations, but arrangements would need to ensure value for money for facilities to organize workshops and larger stakeholder events organized by EIT Food Hubs. Apart from standard subcontracting agreements with organisations designated as EIT Food Hubs, costs for renting and maintaining these facilities will not be additionally reimbursed by EIT Food. Please describe the facilities that you plan to use and their location.

Please list social media channels currently used by your organisation (with web addresses):	
Facebook	
Twitter	
LinkedIn	
Academia	
YouTube	
Other (please specify)	

Please identify the key challenges in the food-related innovation ecosystem in the planned EIT Food Hub territory. Describe how these challenges relate to the planned activities of EIT Food, and identify any aspects that are specific in the local context and might thus require additional focus of EIT Food in the future.

Please indicate the most relevant stakeholders from the planned EIT Food Hub territory that you would like to involve in your future EIT Food activities. The stakeholders may include: public support organisations, government authorities, industry regulators, entrepreneurship incubators or accelerators, science or technology parks, banks or investment funds, clusters or industry associations, consumer associations, event organisers and non-profit organisations. Justify each choice, describing potential joint activities and benefits of engaging each particular actor. Describe at least 5 prioritized stakeholders.

Please describe and prioritize key relevant event such as trade-fairs, exhibitions and conferences in the planned EIT Food Hub territory. Explain how could the attendance of the prioritised events add value to the activities of EIT Food. Describe at least 3 prioritized events.

Please indicate the most important food system-related business enterprises active in the planned territory of EIT Food Hub that could be involved in EIT Food activities in the future.

Many of the EIT Food activities will target start-ups and entrepreneurial talents in EIT RIS regions. Please briefly describe the process that you would use to identify start-ups and entrepreneurial talents in the planned EIT Food Hub territory.

Please describe your approach to communicating with the following audiences and involving them in the activities of EIT Food in the planned EIT Food Hub territory. The proposed approach should be aligned with the intended scope of activities of EIT Food, including the specific portfolio of support measures planned in the EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme. If relevant, please identify dedicated communication channels, events or platforms that could be used to reach out to each of the identified target group:

1.Start-ups and academic spin-offs

2.Entrepreneurial talents from academia (students, graduates)

3.Scientists active in food-related research (*for applicants that are scientific institutions – please note that the role of EIT Food Hub will require a focus on scientists external to your institution)

4.Government authorities, regulators, funding agencies

How many start-ups and/or academic spin-offs related to the food system do you expect to involve in your activities in 2018?

Please propose performance targets for 2018 that would measure your effectiveness as EIT Food Hub.

How would you encourage EIT Food partners to co-operate with organisations from the planned territory of EIT Food Hub (assuming that EIT Food partners can also select project participants from other territories)?

Please describe how you plan to acquire additional non-EIT funding for your activities as EIT Food Hub, in particular funds that could benefit multiple stakeholders from the planned EIT Food Hub territory. In order to facilitate the feasibility verification, please provide details, including specific support measures, funding programmes or agencies.

By submitting this application form, I confirm that the information provided above correctly represents the scope of activities and plans of my organisation. I understand that the information provided in this form may be used to define obligations and performance targets of EIT Food Hub in subcontracting agreement. I give consent to processing the application by EIT Food, its Co-Location Centres and external experts involved in the evaluation process, and am willing to cooperate to provide further information or documents confirming the facts presented above. If selected by EIT Food, I declare the willingness to act as EIT Food Hub in 2018 based on conditions described in the "Call for expression of interest to become EIT Hubs of EIT Food".

Date, place ………………………………………………………………………

Name of the person submitting the application ………………………………………………………………………

Position ………………………………………………………………………

Organisation submitting the application ………………………………………………………………………