

## Call for expressions of interest to become EIT Food Hubs in 2021-2023

**EIT Food is looking for organisations that would assume the role of EIT Food Hub, one in each of the countries targeted by EIT Food's Regional Innovation Scheme: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.**

**Application deadline:** 10 December 2020, 23:59 CET.

**Application template:** see Annex.

Further details about EIT Food can be found at: [www.eitfood.eu](http://www.eitfood.eu), and the principles of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme are described at: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreach/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 Milda Krauzlis from CLC North-East [milda.krauzlis@eitfood.eu](mailto:milda.krauzlis@eitfood.eu))

### 1. Overview

#### Programme

EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

#### Date Published

28 October 2020

#### Application Form

Attached

#### Submission Deadline

10 December 2020, 23:59 CET via Application Form

#### Contact person

Milda Krauzlis

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In the subject line, please write "Call for Hubs"

#### Short description

EIT Food, the largest public-private innovation partnership focused on agri-food sector, is launching a call to recruit EIT Food Hubs in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia to participate in its EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS). The EIT RIS is a structured outreach scheme to support the integration of the knowledge triangle (education, research, business) and increase the innovation capacity in regions in Europe not yet directly benefitting from the EIT and its KICs.

## Target Group

Organisations from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia across the Knowledge Triangle of research, higher education and business, but also spanning the public sector, NGOs as well as interested in tackling agri-food challenges through active national and international cooperation of various stakeholders. Potential **EIT Food Hub should be either an individual organisation OR two organisations acting as a consortium/innovation network** (one organisation as a lead entity, the other organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem) representing different actors of the Knowledge Triangle (education, research, business).

## 1. Background information about 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 agri-food sector is facing are that it is complex, fragmented, slow to adopt new technologies, and not resource-efficient sector with a need to attract new talents. An effective food system 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 to 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 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.

2021 will be a transition year for EIT Food - the move to Horizon Europe of the new financial framework 2021-2027 will bring changes to how the KIC operates. In particular, this is manifested through the stronger portfolio management by introducing six Focus Areas, linked with EIT Food's Strategic Objectives that will shape the EIT Food portfolio in 2021 and onwards. These Focus Areas are:

- **Alternative Proteins:** developing new/alternative protein sources through efficient and sustainable production and processing methods to yield high quality, safe, healthy, and sustainable products or ingredients for food and feed.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** helping increase crop and livestock productivity in a sustainable way to reduce the impact of food production on the environment and meet the growing food demand due to population growth.
- **Targeted Nutrition:** adapting what we eat to traits such as age, gender, genetic make-up, microbiome features and disease state, and considering parameters such as lifestyle, allergies, food intolerances to promote, maintain or regain general wellness during every life-stage.
- **Sustainable Aquaculture:** activities to drive the transition to sustainable practices in the farming of animals (including crustaceans, finfish and molluscs) and plants (including seaweeds and freshwater macrophytes) in both inland (freshwater) and coastal (brackish water, seawater) areas.
- **Digital Traceability:** improving the safety, efficiency and sustainability of food and increase consumer trust, as well as contributing towards the digital transformation of the food system.
- **Circular Food systems:** facilitating a shift from the current linear model (make, use, dispose) to a circular food system, implying the reuse of resources, reduction and (re)-utilisation of side and waste streams to prevent food loss and waste and to allow nutrient recycling and reduction in GHG emissions as well as water and land use.

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 Warsaw (with partners from Central-Eastern Europe and Nordic countries), Reading (with partners from the UK, Ireland and Iceland), Madrid (with partners from Spain, Italy and Israel), Leuven (with partners from Belgium, France and Switzerland) and Freising (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 program introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from the EIT Community and to widen participation in our activities across Europe. The EIT enhances Europe's ability to innovate through 'Knowledge Triangle', 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/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>.

EIT Food RIS Strategy<sup>1</sup> 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. In the European food system, stakeholders from EIT RIS countries play strategic roles as major primary producers, but as well 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.

The EIT Food RIS has been conceptualised in a way that allows for synergies and efficiency gains for regions that have been designing Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and are looking for a better integration of the Knowledge Triangle as a driver on enhanced innovation capacity at regional level. The EIT Food RIS is fully aligned with that and we create a space for our EIT Food Hubs to capitalise on synergies and complementarities with their RIS3 (and equivalent) and constantly encourage them to do so.

Support measures that will be offered by EIT Food for RIS stakeholders correspond to the EIT's model of Knowledge Triangle, combining the areas of: Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship, complemented by the Public Engagement area. Measures planned for 2021 include among others:

- 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.
- 2) **RIS Fellowships** – internships in EIT Food partner organisations to talents from higher education and young entrepreneurs 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. It includes the pilot program called RIS Youth dedicated to students of vocational schools or technical schools who will have the opportunity to participate in 1-3 months internship.
- 3) **Innovation Scouting** - a continuous search for entrepreneurial talents and high-potential start-ups 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.
- 4) **Co-founder matching** - an activity that matches agri-food scientists with high-potential businesspeople and helps to launch new start-ups that tackle our food systems big challenges.
- 5) **Test Farms** - a programme that links agricultural start-ups with farmers to test new technologies, validate their business in new markets and digitise the European agricultural sector.
- 6) **Challenge Labs**- hackathon using human-centred design and service design methodologies to teach entrepreneurialism, find new solutions to real agri-food challenges and spark co-founder relationships.

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<sup>1</sup> EIT Food RIS Strategy, 2018-2020 currently updated

- 7) **RIS Summer Schools** – program targeting young graduate academics of different disciplines. It covers different focus areas, as targeted nutrition, circular business models and digitalization of food chains. The program is designed to develop life skills, underpinning capabilities based on entrepreneurship, and to enhance the knowledge of defined areas of learning. The activity is aimed to build a critical mass of new talents in the RIS regions, filling the gap in scientific, entrepreneurial and managerial skills, making students able to undertake complex multidisciplinary tasks.
- 8) **RIS Professional Development** - the programme inspires career progressors by giving them technical capabilities in food systems and technology management to co-create sustainable solutions directed to different targets and complementary agri-food sector constituent:
  - professional blended-learning training aimed to encourage the development of pioneering product ideas in the food industry. It supports companies through dedicated professional workshops to address contemporary challenges related to new product development in the food industry;
  - workshop for dairy farmers and milk processors to become innovators and address sustainability challenges in their RIS areas in line with smart specializations identified for their regions.
  - educational activities directed to fill the existing know-how gap (at technical, business and logistic level) between mainstream agricultural entrepreneurship, and rural areas agriculture, with niche production of local varieties;
  - a programme for woman aiming primarily at engaging, educating and equipping the current and future woman-leaders of the food industry to enable them to lead entrepreneurially to challenge current practices and deliver a sustainable, diverse and equitable food sector.
- 9) **RIS Public Sector Representatives** – programme delivers capacity building and professional education to representatives of public sector in South and Central-Eastern Europe. It provides insights into new agri-food technologies, mission-oriented innovation policies for food system and best practices in leveraging publicly funded research infrastructures for industrially oriented R&D and entrepreneurship.
- 10) **RIS STEM Pipeline** – activity in pre-tertiary education, focused in vocational education and training. The aim of the programme is to boost the benefits of embedding entrepreneurial mindset at an early age, due to the difficulties across European higher education to attract, retain and graduate students in STEM subjects and ICT applied to the agri-food sector. The activity will include a proposal to support hands-on citizen agri-food science activities, focused on transdisciplinary approaches relevant for RIS regions (i.e. obesity, digitalisation in the rural environment).
- 11) **RIS Consumer Engagement Labs** - pre-competitive co-creation sessions based on innovative methodology, developed and piloted as physical sessions by a consortium of scientific and industrial partners. The Labs engage a relatively coherent group of consumers (senior consumers with impaired purchasing power), who jointly go through an interactive process of ideation to develop concepts of new products/services that better address their preferences.
- 12) **EWA Building entrepreneurial capacity for women from rural areas in agri-food business** – programme is encouraging a stronger level of enterprise development at emerging female entrepreneurs. The programme aims to provide women entrepreneurs across 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.
- 13) **The Regenerative Agriculture Revolution** – activity that helps entrepreneurial farmers learn about and transition to more regenerative methods of agriculture and raises awareness and educates the general public about the environmental and health benefits of regenerative agriculture.

- 14) **RIS Public Engagement Proof of Concepts** - aims to actively promote and support a shift in engagement from consumers as passive recipients, to citizens as change agents. It is a scoping exercise to determine/test whether an idea, a certain concept or approach when turned into reality would bring societal impact as envisioned, such as improving societal health to reduce childhood obesity, improving societal health to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, sustainability in the food chain to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 15) **EIT JUMPSTARTER** – a pre-accelerator programme supporting business idea holders and talents who want to validate their business concept, develop a business plan and pitch their ideas to the potential future investors. Programme is open to students, PhDs, researchers or entrepreneurs.
- 16) **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 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.
- 17) **RIS Policy Council** - a representation of relevant stakeholders from RIS target 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.
- 18) **All additional Cross KIC activities run in RIS regions** – activities implemented by the EIT Food in collaboration with other EIT Communities, e.g. Water Scarcity, Circular Economy in Western Balkans.

### 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 Centre (CLC) North-East will coordinate the operations of these local contact points for stakeholders from EIT RIS countries. EIT Food Hubs will operate as subcontractors within the EIT Food community, selected through a competitive call 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](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 organisation having the status of legal persons OR two organisations acting as a consortium/innovation network, where one organisation acts as a lead entity, the other organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem) that would be designated as EIT Food Hubs in one of the targeted EIT RIS countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia (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. 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 2021 EIT Food Hub will benefit from funding to implement the contractual obligations towards EIT Food and acquire complementary, regional or national funding for future activities. EIT Food Hub will have precisely defined workplan, 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, organise stakeholder events, workshops and trainings for students, start-ups and entrepreneurial talents, Challenge Labs, and promote EIT Food portfolio of instruments in their target countries. The performance of EIT Food Hub will be evaluated yearly. EIT Food Hub will be expected to develop their own plans of future activities and approaches to leveraging local funding options to accelerate the implementation of Knowledge Triangle and complement the initial EIT funding. Their success in acquiring the local funding will be considered in annual evaluations of EIT Food Hub.

Local Smart Specialisations Strategies should provide the strategic directions for EIT Food Hub activities in supporting local Knowledge Triangle Integration. EIT Food Hubs role is to monitor various policy instruments focused on research and innovation, including measures implemented by other local, national and European bodies e.g. European Regional Development Fund and to support EIT Food with creating possible synergies.

#### 4. Applications to become EIT Food Hub

EIT Food invites organisations from EIT RIS countries targeted by this call to submit their proposals with a view to selecting and designating EIT Food Hub in 2021. The selection process and activities of EIT Food Hub 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](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf)).

##### 4.1. Countries targeted by the call

The target countries for this call are:

1. Bulgaria
2. Croatia
3. Czech Republic
4. Estonia
5. Hungary
6. Latvia
7. Lithuania
8. Romania
9. Serbia
10. Slovakia
11. Slovenia

Only organisations based in those countries are eligible to apply under the current call.

##### 4.2. Eligible organisations

EIT Food is looking for **individual organisations having the status of legal person OR two organisations acting as a consortium/innovation network** (one organisation as a lead entity, the other organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem) **operating in the same country** that

would perform as EIT Food Hub. Individual organisation or consortium/innovation network will be selected in each of the target countries listed in point 4.1.

All organisations participating in the call for expression of interest to become EIT Food Hub must comply with all the following requirements:

- Legal persons (such as companies, higher education institutes, research institutes, non-governmental organisations);
- Individual organisation or consortium/innovation network of two organisations based and operating in the same country;
- Based and operating in the country targeted by the call;
- Able to sign a subcontracting agreement with EIT Food Co-Location Centre North-East and act as a subcontractor in a project funded based on Horizon Europe/EIT modalities;
- Capable of organising local events and workshops.

#### **4.3. Modalities of the call for expression of interest to become EIT Food Hub**

Organisations interested in becoming EIT Food Hub are invited to apply in one of the following ways:

##### **OPTION 1.**

One individual organisation having the status of legal person submits the application to become an EIT Food Hub in one of the countries listed in point 4.1. The organisation will deliver activities listed in point 4.4. The organisation shall fulfill EIT Food RIS Hub Application form 1 and EIT Food RIS Hub Application 2. The Applicant will be evaluated within the selection criteria listed in point 4.7.1. and 4.7.2.

##### **OPTION 2.**

Two individual organisations, each having the status of legal person, acting as a consortium/innovation network (one organisation as a lead entity, the other organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem) operating in the same country submit the application to become an EIT Food Hub in one of the countries listed in point 4.1.

Organisation performing as a lead entity shall fulfill EIT Food RIS Hub Application form 1. The Applicant will be evaluated within the selection criteria listed in point 4.7.1.

Organisation performing as an organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem shall full fil EIT Food RIS Hub Application form 2. The Applicant will be evaluated within the selection criteria listed in point 4.7.2.

Members of consortium/innovation network need to have collaborating relations and declare the willingness to jointly work on the preparation and implementation of the EIT Food RIS activities in their country.

#### **4.4. Scope of expected activities of EIT Food Hubs**

Scope of activities delivered by EIT Food Hubs:

- Supporting 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 model, to widen participation in EIT-funded activities, enhance the innovation capacity of EIT RIS country
- Promoting the innovation agenda of EIT Food among relevant government authorities, regulators and opinion leaders in EIT RIS country;
- Creating active communities of agri-food R&D professionals and entrepreneurs in EIT RIS country 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;
- Actively inspiring, proposing, 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.

**4.4.1. Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or lead organisation in a consortium / innovation network composed of two organisations** (gross funding of up to 35,000€ to cover the eligible costs of project involvement in 2021<sup>2</sup>):

- 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;
- Organising at least two stakeholder events involving larger audience, representative of agri-food sector;
- Organising one workshop or training for students that will increase their chances on the job market and refer to the EIT Food Strategic objective “*Educate to engage, innovate and advance: Provide ‘food system’ skills for students, entrepreneurs and professionals through advanced training programmes*”;
- Organising workshop(s) or training(s) designed and proposed by EIT Food Hub and accepted by EIT Food, linked with achievement of KPI that will be defined in the subcontracting agreement;
- Promoting EIT Food’s portfolio of instruments among potential beneficiaries;
- Supporting the recruitment and selection processes for educational, innovation and public engagement activities (e.g. RIS Fellowships, RIS Summer Schools, RIS Professional Development, RIS Public Sector Representatives, RIS Consumer Engagement Labs, Regenerative Agriculture Revolution, RIS STEM Pipeline, RIS Public Engagement Proof of Concepts);
- Supporting dialogue with regional and national authorities and recruitment of experts to the RIS Policy Council;
- Developing a regional action plan to establish the EIT Food Hub as a relevant actor in the national/regional innovation eco-system;
- Developing an own approach to acquiring local, regional, national or European complementary funding to leverage the initial funding from EIT Food and strengthen the impacts for the local innovation ecosystem;
- Acting 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 Europe/EIT funding modalities.

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<sup>2</sup> amount of funding for the next years will be decided on the yearly bases

**4.4.2. Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or organisation acting in start-up ecosystem area in a consortium / innovation network composed of two organisations** (gross funding of up to 20,000€ to cover the eligible costs of project involvement in 2021<sup>3</sup>):

- Identifying and engaging local start-ups and entrepreneurs in agri-food sector
- Engaging with local start-up support ecosystem by promoting EIT Food support programs, in particular collaborating closely with Technology Transfer Offices/commercialisation specialists in the area of agri-food;
- Being a point of contact and support for entrepreneurs and start-ups engaged in EIT Food activities which are planning to enter local market where Hub is located;
- Organising Challenge Labs hackathons activity in accordance with guidelines provided by EIT Food;
- Organising activity targeting agri-food start-ups or entrepreneurial talents with the focus on 6 innovative areas (*alternative proteins, sustainable agriculture, targeted and personalized nutrition, sustainable aquaculture, digital traceability and circular food system that includes prevention to food loss and food waste*);
- Promoting EIT Food's portfolio of instruments targeting agri-food start-ups and entrepreneurial talents;
- Supporting the recruitment and selection processes for business creation activities, such as EIT JUMPSTARTER, Co-founder matching, Test Farms, Challenge Labs, EIT Food Seedbed, EWA-Building entrepreneurial capacity for women from rural areas in agri-food business, EIT Food Accelerator Network (FAN), RisingFoodStars;
- Mapping of financial opportunities for start-ups;
- Acting 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 Europe/EIT funding modalities.

Each EIT Food Hub will have an individual yearly workplan and performance targets set up in the subcontracting agreement. It will include activities proposed by the applicant organisations in response to the present call, corresponding to the specific circumstances of the national innovation eco-system (i.e. workshops, trainings, summer schools) and key performance indicators.

**4.5. Benefits for organisations selected as EIT Food Hubs**

Organisations designated as EIT Food Hub will be offered the following benefits:

- 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;
- Rights to participate in dedicated meetings, organised by EIT Food for EIT Hubs and RIS stakeholders (no membership fees will be required from EIT Food Hubs in 2021; 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);

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<sup>3</sup> amount of funding for the next years will be decided on the yearly bases

- Opportunities for networking with EIT Food partners, including start-ups associated in RisingFoodStars;
- Publication of contact information of EIT Food Hub on EIT Food website;
- Subcontracting agreement with EIT Food Co-Location Centre North-East with gross funding of up to 35,000€ yearly for activities listed in 4.3.1 to cover the eligible costs of activities of EIT Food Hubs in 2021<sup>4</sup> 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 top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hubs, including among others the organisation of trainings and workshop for students and other stakeholders, two awareness events for local stakeholders that will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy, and EIT Food Business Plan. 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](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf));
- Subcontracting agreement with EIT Food Co-Location Centre North-East with gross funding of up to 20,000€ yearly for activities listed in 4.3.2 to cover the eligible costs of activities of EIT Food Hubs in 2021<sup>5</sup> 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 top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hubs, including among others the organisation of Challenge Labs and activity targeting agri-food start-ups or entrepreneurial talents with the focus on 6 innovative areas that will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy and EIT Food Business Plan. 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](https://eit.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eit_ris_guidance_note_2018-2020.pdf));
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food and CLC North-East in implementation of the activities planned for each EIT Food Hub;
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food and CLC North-East 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.

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

#### 4.6. Application process

Interested and eligible organisations are invited to **submit their applications in English by 10 December 2020, 23:59 CET**, using the “**EIT Food Hub Application Form**”. **Please send the electronic**

<sup>4</sup> The amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Hubs are not carried out by selected organisation.

<sup>5</sup> The amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Hubs are not carried out by selected organisation.

**versions of proposals in two formats (both Word .docx file and PDF version), based on the attached template, to [clcnortheast@eitfood.eu](mailto:clcnortheast@eitfood.eu).** 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 standardised selection criteria listed in 4.7.

#### 4.7 Selection criteria

All proposals will be evaluated considering the following criteria, related to the applicant organisation and its plans of activities.

##### 4.7.1. Selection criteria related to the implementation of the tasks listed in point 4.3.1 for the individual organisation or lead organisation

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; ability to present the relevance of these experiences for EIT Food);
2. Potential for project delivery (suitable 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 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, aimed at enhancing the visibility of EIT Food brand in the target country; demonstrated ability to acquire complementary 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);
5. Proactive long-term vision and approach to EIT Food Hub growth & development (cost-efficient approach to activities of EIT Food Hub, ambition, creativity, overall impression).

##### 4.7.2. Criteria related to the implementation the task listed in point 4.3.1, for the individual organisation or the organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem

1. Relevant experiences (participation in projects related to support for start-ups and entrepreneurial training in agri-food sector; ability to present the relevance of these experiences for EIT Food);
2. Potential for project delivery (suitable premises; competent employees; use of multiple communication channels in existing operations; synergies between existing operations and planned activities of EIT Food)
3. Industry insights (of the key challenges in the food-related innovation ecosystem in the planned EIT Food Hub territory; 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, aimed at enhancing the visibility of EIT Food brand in the target country, demonstrated ability and specific plans to acquire complementary non-EIT funding to support start-up activities); cost-efficient approach to activities of EIT Food Hub);
5. Proactive long-term vision for agri-food business creation development in country proved by plans to implement in the future and would be complimentary to potential role as a EIT Food Hub.

#### 4.7. Assessment process

The assessment process will be conducted according to the following steps:

1. **Initial formal evaluation.** Eligibility of organisation, completeness of applications, time of submission, status of third-party and subcontracting rules.
2. **Establishment of the evaluation committee.** The evaluation committee includes representatives of EIT Food and all external experts involved in the assessment process.
3. **Technical evaluation.** Technical evaluation of each application is conducted independently by experts appointed by the Director of CLC North-East. Each expert prepares her or his own assessment with scoring for each criterion (0-5)<sup>6</sup>, according to assessment form. At least three experts are appointed to review each proposal/ application for one hub.
4. **The final assessment with scoring and comments is agreed by experts.** If two or more proposals from the same country receive the same scores, the evaluation committee can interview representatives of those organisations. Finally, the experts should recommend only one proposal. If necessary, experts ask CLC to contact with the applicant organisation to ask for additional explanation and supporting documents.
5. **Acceptance of experts' recommendation by the evaluation committee.** The evaluation committee gets the final scoring of proposals and accepts the results of reviewing process. Before the final approval the evaluation committee can interview representatives of short-listed organisations (i.e. to explain the minimum scope of activities planned in 2021).
6. **Feedback and communication of a final list.** Applicants receive feedbacks in electronic form and the list of selected organisations is published on EIT Food website.
7. **Redress procedure.** Non-successful applicants may lodge a complaint to Director of CLC North-East ([clcnortheast@eitfood.eu](mailto:clcnortheast@eitfood.eu)) regarding the assessment results within 7 calendar days from the day of the receipt of the feedback mentioned in point 6 above. The applicant must indicate the reasons of their disagreement with the assessment results. The applicant may not invoke any other issues not mentioned in the submitted applications.
8. **Signing agreements with selected organisations.** Each selected organisation signs the subcontracting agreement with the CLC North-East. If the agreements are not signed within 3 months after announcing the call results, the CLC North-East employee reports to the CLC Director, who decides on subsequent actions: launching a new call, selecting another organisation based on the previous scoring under the current call or resignation of designation an EIT Food Hub in a selected country in 2021.

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<sup>6</sup> where 0— the proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information; 1— poor, the criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses; 2— fair, the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses; 3— good, the proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present; 4— very good, the proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present; 5— excellent, the proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor. The threshold for individual criteria is 5 (minimum threshold 3). The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the five individual scores, is 25 (minimum overall threshold is 17).

## 5. Contract duration and complementary calls

EIT Food's Co-Location Centre North-East will conclude a one year subcontracting agreement that will end at 31/12/2021. Nevertheless, the agreement shall be renewed each year for a successive period of one year if the specific criteria, based on objectively measurable indicators set up in the subcontracting agreement are met. Once after the first renewal, this agreement will not be renewed automatically. If the agreement is not renewed in a given country, the EIT Food will announce a complementary call dedicated to this particular country.

In case of a renewal of a subcontracting agreement, the budget, tasks and performance targets will be defined separately for each of the respective year under the new work plan. The final renewal year is 2023. Renewal will consist of a signing of the annex to the subcontracting agreement.

If under the present call no EIT Food Hub is selected for a given country, the call might be relaunched for this respective country.

The contract will be concluded under the condition of the EIT Food 2021 Specific Grant Agreement ("SGA") being approved and providing financing for EIT Food Hub activities.

The contract shall automatically end when the SGA ends. CLC may at any time terminate the contract upon notice if the SGA is terminated or not concluded for a given year.

Selected applicants will be required to sign the subcontracting agreements with EIT Food CLC North-East, a template of which is attached to this Call (Please see Annex SUBCONTRACT AGREEMENT).

## 6. Timeline

Time	Action
10 December 2020, 23:59 CET	Call closes
By 26 January 2021	Assessment
By 29 January 2021	Communication of selection results

## 7. General Disclaimer

The present General Disclaimer shall be applied to all documents related to the EIT Food RIS Hub Call 2021. With the early publication of the RIS Hub Call 2021 the aim of EIT Food CLC North-East is to ensure that the continuity of the RIS HUBs activities is not interrupted. Please note that the launch of the new European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe is expected in January 2021. New provisions of Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement will be applied for the execution of the projects, including any documents related to the announcement, implementation and completion of the projects. These changes shall also be applied to the projects already selected. Consequently, EIT Food CLC North-East reserves the right to introduce changes or additional conditions subject to the new provisions of the Horizon Europe and Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. Should your project be selected, the proposed budget or accounting requirements might be adjusted according to the provisions of Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement before the signature of the subcontracting agreement, if necessary. EIT Food CLC North-East will announce the changes as soon as possible and, at the latest, before the signature of the agreements. Due to the changes, the present RIS HUB Call 2021 may also be revoked or invalidated by EIT Food CLC North-East, if necessary. Applicant shall acknowledge and accept that EIT Food CLC North-East shall not be

responsible to the applicant for any changes, modifications or additions to be applied in accordance with the new provisions of Horizon Europe and Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. In particular, if the changes or the measures related thereto would cause additional costs to the applicant, the applicant may not enforce them and may not bring any claim or action on any basis against EIT Food CLC North-East.



## EIT Food RIS Hub Application Form

**Please fill in the application form, ensuring that all fields are completed. If you submit application as an individual organisation, please submit both forms. Consortium / innovation network members submit the set of applications from 2 organisations in the consortium/innovation network in electronic format (word and PDF) by 10 December 2020, 23.59 CET to email address: [clcnortheast@eitfood.eu](mailto:clcnortheast@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 RIS Hub Application form 1

<b>Individual organisation or the consortium/innovation network member – lead entity (activities listed in 4.4.1)</b>						
<b>1. Country (<u>underline one</u>)</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>		<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Hungary</b>
	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>2. Name of the applicant organisation in English</b>						
<b>3. Name of the applicant organisation in local language</b>						
<b>4. Legal form</b>						
<b>5. Office address (street, city, country)</b>						
<b>6. Type of organisation (<u>underline one</u>)</b>						
<b>Business enterprise</b>	<b>Higher education institute</b>			<b>Public research organisation</b>		
<b>Knowledge transfer intermediary (incl. industry association, innovation cluster, technology park, entrepreneurship support organisation)</b>						
<b>other (please specify):</b>						
<b>7. Website address</b>						
<b>8. Contact person</b>						
<b>9. Position</b>						
<b>10. E-mail</b>						
<b>11. Phone</b>						
<b>12. Please list social media channels currently used by your organisation (with web addresses):</b>						
<b>Facebook</b>						
<b>Twitter</b>						
<b>LinkedIn</b>						

YouTube	
Other (please specify)	
13. Year of establishment of your organisation	
14. Total number of employees	
15. Number of projects funded from Horizon 2020 in 2017-2020	
16. Number of projects funded from Horizon 2020 co-ordinated by your organisation in 2017-2020	
17. Number of Horizon 2020 project applications in the preparation of which your organisation participated in 2017-2020	
18. Number of projects funded from European Structural and Investment Funds managed by your organisation in 2017-2020	
19. Number of projects funded from national or regional sources managed by your organisation in 2017-2020	
20. Number of projects contracted to your organisation by industrial clients in 2017-2020	
21. Number of externally funded projects implemented by your organisation in 2019	
22. Number of externally funded projects implemented by your organisation in 2020	
23. Please provide a brief description of your organisation and its main activities (max 20050 words)	
24. Why would you like to become an EIT Food Hub? Please describe the synergies between the planned role of EIT Hub and your other activities, in particular those connected with Smart Specialisation Strategies, if relevant.	
25. Personnel that will be involved in the activities of EIT Food RIS (please provide name and short profile, indicating relevant experience). Please note that the contact person must speak very good English (at least C1 is required).	
26. Organisation involved in the EIT Food RIS activities will need to have access to facilities that could be used in workshop involving minimum 20 participants. The facilities do not need to be owned by the organisation, but apart from the amount allocated for the subcontracting agreement, costs for renting and maintaining these facilities will not be additionally reimbursed by EIT Food. Please briefly describe the facilities that you plan to use and their location. <i>(How can the physical location and standards of your office premises contribute to the successful implementation of the activities of the EIT Food Hub?)</i>	

**27. Please present familiarity with the agri-food industry in the target country; existing contacts and projects with relevant local stakeholders; existing pipeline of early stage innovative start-ups (*Role in the ecosystem*).**

**28. 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.**

**29. 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.**

**30. 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 actor. Describe at least 3 prioritized stakeholders.**

**31. Please provide max. 3 examples per each category of the most relevant activities/services/projects of your organisation from 2017-2020 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):**

**a) Primary production**

**b) Food manufacturing**

**c) Packaging and distribution**

**d) Retail**

**e) Consumer research and communication**

**f) Digitalization of food system**

**g) Nutrition and health**

**h) Valorisation of side streams**

**i) Others (please specify)**

<p><b>32. Please describe and prioritize key relevant event such as trade-fairs, exhibitions and conferences in the planned EIT Food Hub territory. Explain how the attendance at the prioritised events could add value to the activities of EIT Food. Describe at least 3 prioritized events.</b></p>
<p><b>33. 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.</b></p>
<p><b>34. Please describe how you plan to promote the RIS activities among potential participants – students, farmers, representatives of public authorities, food companies, ..., in order to attract sufficient number of applications to select participants of the activities</b></p>
<p><b>35. 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:</b></p>
<p><b>a) Entrepreneurial talents from academia (students, graduates)</b></p>
<p><b>b) Government authorities, regulators, funding agencies</b></p>
<p><b>c) Scientists active in food-related research (*for applicants that are scientific institutions – <u>please note that the role of EIT Food Hub will require a focus on scientists external to your institution</u>).</b></p>
<p><b>36. Please describe how you plan to acquire complementary 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.</b></p>
<p><b>37. How would you ensure the coordination of work between two members of your consortium? (fulfil this section if it is relevant).</b></p>
<p><b>38. Please propose and describe activities that you would organise and implement as EIT Food HUB in your country. Please provide details, including target group, type of activity, estimated number of participants, events location (region, city) and indicate the expected budget.</b></p>
<p><b>a) Event(s) involving larger audience representative of agri-food sector (policy makers, business, researchers, citizens, consumers, students, ...).</b></p>
<p><b>Workshop or training for students that will refer to the EIT Food Strategic objective ‘Educate to engage, innovate and advance: Provide ‘food system’ skills for students, entrepreneurs and professionals through advanced training programmes’ (at least 20 participants in proposed events).</b></p>

<p><b>c) Please propose and describe workshop(s) or training for representative(s) of agri-food sector (students, entrepreneurial talents, food companies, farmers, policy makers, ..) that you would organise and implement as EIT Food HUB. Please provide details, including target group, type of activity, estimated number of participants, events location (region, city), estimated budget.</b></p>
<p><b>39. Please describe the tools and format you would use if you had to organise all activities online (Approach to the organization of events involving larger audience representative, workshop for students and other representatives of agri-food sector).</b></p>
<p><b>40. Please share your ambition for other projects in the agri-food sector which you would plan to implement in the future and would be complimentary to your potential role as a EIT Food Hub. Please describe the source of funding for those activities.</b></p>
<p><b>41. Please propose performance targets for 2021 that would measure your effectiveness as EIT Food Hub.</b></p>

*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 2021-2023 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** .....

**Organisation submitting the application** .....

## EIT Food RIS Hub Application form 2

<b>Individual organisation or the consortium/Innovation Network member - organisation supporting business creation activities and start-up ecosystem (activities listed in 4.4.2.)</b>						
<b>1. Country (<u>underline one</u>)</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>		<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Hungary</b>
	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>2. Name of the applicant organisation in English</b>						
<b>3. Name of the applicant organisation in local language</b>						
<b>4. Legal form</b>						
<b>5. Office address (street, city, country)</b>						
<b>6. Type of organisation (<u>underline one</u>)</b>						
<b>Business enterprise</b>	<b>Higher education institute</b>	<b>Technology transfer office</b>	<b>Incubator/Accelerator program</b>			
<b>other (please specify):</b>						
<b>7. Website address</b>						
<b>8. Contact person</b>						
<b>9. Position</b>						
<b>10. E-mail</b>						
<b>11. Phone</b>						
<b>12. Please list social media channels currently used by your organisation (with web addresses):</b>						
<b>Facebook</b>						
<b>Twitter</b>						
<b>LinkedIn</b>						
<b>YouTube</b>						
<b>Other (please specify)</b>						
<b>13. Year of establishment of your organisation</b>						
<b>14. Total number of employees</b>						
<b>15. Please provide a brief description of your organisation and its main activities (max 200 words)</b>						
<b>16. Personnel that will be involved in the activities of EIT Food RIS (please provide name and short profile, indicating relevant experience). Please note that the contact person must speak very good English (at least C1 is required).</b>						
<b>17. Organisation involved in the EIT Food RIS activities will need to have access to facilities that could be used in workshop involving minimum 20 participants. The facilities do not need to be owned by the organisation, but apart from the amount allocated for the subcontracting agreement, costs for renting and maintaining these facilities will not be additionally reimbursed by EIT Food. Please briefly describe the facilities that you plan to use and their location. (How can the physical location and standards of your office premises contribute to the successful implementation of the activities of the EIT Food Hub?)</b>						

<p><b>18. Please present familiarity with the agri-food industry in the target country; existing contacts and projects with relevant local stakeholders; existing pipeline of early stage innovative start-ups (<i>Role in the ecosystem</i>).</b></p>
<p><b>19. Please identify the key challenges in the innovation ecosystem in the planned EIT Food Hub territory (especially related to agri-food sector).</b></p>
<p><b>20. 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.</b></p>
<p><b>21. Please provide max. 3 examples per each category of the most relevant activities/services/projects of your organisation from 2017-2020 that were provided to external stakeholders and could be meaningful EIT Food, including short description of these activities, key outcomes and impact. (<i>Experience in training and supporting innovative start-ups</i>)</b></p>
<p><b>a) Activities targeting entrepreneurial talents, start-ups, spin-offs or established companies</b></p>
<p><b>b) Financial support for entrepreneurial talents, start-ups and spin-offs</b></p>
<p><b>c) Coaching, mentoring, incubation or acceleration services for entrepreneurial talents, start-ups and spin-offs</b></p>
<p><b>d) Business-to-business matchmaking and networking activities on local, regional, national or international levels</b></p>
<p><b>e) Others (please specify)</b></p>
<p><b>22. Please provide examples of the most relevant events/projects in the field of agri-food that were organized by your organisation in 2017-2020 including short description of these activities, type of your engagement in the project, project partners and key outcomes (<i>Experience in the organization of events in the field of agri-food dedicated to innovation/entrepreneurship/foodtech</i>).</b></p>
<p><b>23. List down organisations involved in venture creation, commercialisation or start-up support that you are actively collaborating with or have been collaborating in projects before. List and shortly describe projects you worked on together.</b></p>
<p><b>24. Please describe how you plan to promote the RIS activities among potential participants – students, start-ups and entrepreneurial talents in order to attract enough applications to select participants of the activities.</b></p>
<p><b>25. Please describe how you plan to acquire complementary, non-EIT funding for your activities as EIT Food Hub, in particular funds that could benefit multiple stakeholders from the planned</b></p>

<b>EIT Food Hub territory. In order to facilitate the feasibility verification, please provide details, including specific support measures, funding programmes or agencies.</b>
<b>26. Please propose and describe activity for students, start-ups or/and entrepreneurial talents that you would organise and implement as EIT Food HUB. Please provide details, including target group, type of activity, estimated number of participants, events location (region, city), estimated budget.</b>
<b>27. Please describe the tools and format you would use if you had to organise all activities online (<i>Approach to the organization of Challenge Labs, workshop for students, start-ups or/and entrepreneurial talents</i>)</b>
<b>28. Please share your ambition for other start-up activities/projects (especially in the agri-food sector) which you are planning to implement in the future and would be complimentary to your potential role as a EIT Food Hub. Please describe the source of funding for those activities.</b>
<b>29. Please propose performance targets for 2021 that would measure your effectiveness as EIT Food Hub.</b>

**Date, place** .....

**Name of the person submitting the application** .....

**Organisation submitting the application** .....

*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 2021-2023 based on conditions described in the "Call for expression of interest to become EIT Hubs of EIT Food".*