

# EIT Food Innovator Fellowship

## Last news!

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic crisis holds a degree of uncertainty in implementing dedicated programmes for Agri-Food System professionals. Empowered and encouraged by the results obtained in the 2020 edition, EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021 will carry out its programmes online.

Our unique entrepreneurial programme's ground-architecture remains unchanged with its – Foodathon – one to one mentoring – intensive and high-value training – and other unparalleled benefits!

In case the pandemic situation should improve, the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship team will do its very best to arrange one or more in-person events following the country's regulations where the event will take place. It remains clear that the EIT Food Fellowship team places the safety of the participants' health as a primary priority.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why should I participate in EIT Food Innovator Fellowship?

EIT Food Innovator Fellowship offers you the opportunity to **acquire a set of entrepreneurial and underpinning skills** instrumental to boost your career prospects. To respond to today's sustainability challenges, and to be a changemaker, you need a team to be able to produce advanced knowledge, but also to collaborate at different levels and in different dimensions to acquire a skill set able strengthening their career. Securing resources, experiencing management and implementation of the project via coordination, collaboration and communications (3C) with an overarching entrepreneurial drive, are some of the skills required to tackle future career prospects and challenges in the EU and globally. These competencies, together with the high-level training on entrepreneurial skills, are the right ingredients to transform a lab-idea in a business idea.

### 2. Sounds cool! But what's a Foodathon?

The word "Foodathon" derives from the buzzword "Hackathon", describing an "invention marathon" where participants form a collaborative team that will innovatively tackle a challenge by finding a creative and feasible solution. Every team, battling against the clock and competing with other teams, will **develop a business idea/project** focused on a food challenge. The winning teams will be awarded a **high-level training program in leading**

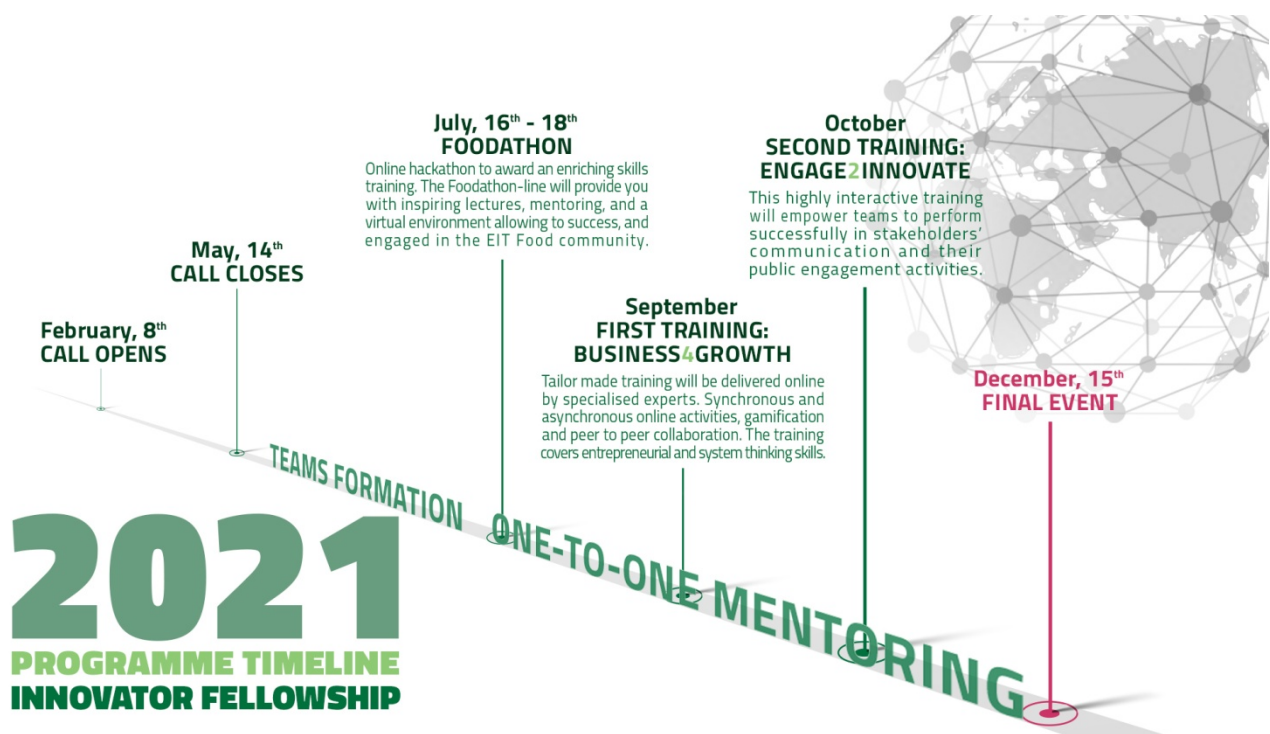
**European Universities.** Our Hackathon is focused on the Food system and innovative ideas that may impact this sector, so, in reality, it's going to be a "Foodathon".

### 3. How should I participate in the Foodathon?

First of all, you need to apply to the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021 by clicking the "Apply Now". After an expert evaluation procedure based on three main criteria, Excellent, Impact and Implementation of the proposed idea together with an evaluation of your academic/professional profile, you could be selected to participate at the Foodathon. The Foodathon is a creative environment where teams, once formed, are intensively supported and oriented in the process to transform the idea into a business idea. The Foodathon will be an immersive, competitive, and stimulating experience. During the Foodathon you will be able to **boost and diversify your career path**, creating **new networks** and **improving your competences/skills**.

### 4. What's the timeline of the whole programme?

Here's the timeline:



## 5. Which professional qualifications are required to apply?

We are looking for talents from academia (Post-Doctoral) and industry (Young Professional), with **diverse backgrounds** to maximise the process of knowledge sharing. Hence, they can be researchers, engineers, developers, designers, business talents and communication experts, and many other profiles, as well as Start-ups and teams with active projects in the Agri-food sector.

Please notice that to be eligible for the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship, Post-Doctoral Fellows and Young Professionals must be, at the date of the call deadline, in possession of a **doctoral degree** or have a Master certificate and at least **four years of full-time equivalent research and innovation (R&I) experience**.

## 6. Can also talents of the industry of the food sector participate?

Of course! Talents having a PhD certificate or with more than a four-years experience in R&I department of a private organisation can participate.

## 7. How big should be a team?

A minimum of 3 members shall compose teams. Every team is a **fully-functional innovative unit**: that's why we will have a team-formation session before the Foodathon to help you find the right people to work on an idea. After selection of the talents, we will help you in the team matchmaking by creating a virtual area where you can start to be a head-hunter or be selected by other talents. Surely complementarities and synergies will play a decisive role in team formation. Be prepared to negotiate your original idea versus your knowledge skills!

## 8. I already have a team, can my partners join this Foodathon with me?

If you have partners or colleagues you'd like to include in your Foodathon team, please **encourage them to apply**. **Each of you have complementary competences, but you must apply to the fellowship individually**. The new networks and brand-new visions that you will encounter at the Foodathon will fuel your ideas, therefore, you are highly encouraged to also work with new people. The Idea Form that you will complete to apply to the Foodathon describes your idea but also has a part dedicated to the team description in term of complementarities and synergies.

Please, notice that the selection of the talents participating at the Foodathon also depends on the research/professional experience of the single applicant and there is no guarantee that all the members of a team will be selected!

## 9. If I'm alone on this journey, how do I find the right team for me?

The applying process to EIT Food Innovator Fellowship will guide you through the description of yourself, your background and your competencies: that's the **pivot** to trace the ideal potential team around you so that you can make the best use of your skills. Moreover, we'll give you the proper tools to identify the different profiles and to allocate you to potential teams.

So, if you don't have a team before coming to the Foodathon, there's no need to worry: we'll give you the chance to find out your potential team before the hacking session kicks off.

## 10. What about my idea and intellectual property rights?

We value your idea, and it is your idea, a key-asset that you want to take care of, for sure. The intellectual property rights of the initial idea and the work created by the teams during the Foodathon will be regulated **on case-by-case** depending on existing IP. *Please see the Rule of Participation closure on IP.*

As a consequence of a brilliant project proposal, the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship may contact the winning participants to advance their innovative idea further.

## 11. Is a financial contribution required by the talent to participate to the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship?

The Consortium covers the costs to deliver the Programme, such as:

- **delivery of the Foodathon**
- **two sessions of training**
- **mentoring**
- **final event**

In case the pandemic situation should improve, the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship team will do its very best to arrange one or more in-person events related to the training, and following the country's regulations where the event will take place. It remains clear that the EIT Food Fellowship team places the safety of the participants' health as a primary priority. The travel cost (transportation via airplane, train, car, bus taxi and sea-transportation) for one in-presence event will be supported for a **maximum of 300 Euro**.

## 12. I am currently unemployed, can I still participate in the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship?

Yes, you can! If you have a PhD or more than four years proven R&I experience, but you are currently looking for a new job opportunity, you can still apply to the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship.

## 13. I like this project: when can I apply?

The call is open until the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. So, you can apply here <https://apply.eitfood.eu/courses/course/71-eit-food-innovator-fellowship-2021>

#### 14. How many participants will join the Foodathon?

We aim to select **50 participants** for the Foodathon.

#### 15. How will I know if I've been selected for the Foodathon?

You will be notified via e-mail by using the e-mail address you provided during the application process. Make sure that your e-mail address is correctly written.

#### 16. When and where will the Foodathon take place?

The Foodathon will be held online. The Foodathon will be held **from the 16th to the 18th of July 2021**, during a three-day weekend.

#### 17. How will each team be judged?

The Foodathon will be a productive **and creative environment** where your team will develop an innovative and **viable idea** with mentoring support: at the end of this intense process, your team will be asked to present (pitch) the elaborated idea to an **expert panel** for evaluation. At the end of the Foodathon, the names of the winning teams will be communicated on-site. Furthermore, the winners will be invited to participate in the subsequent high-level training sessions.

#### 18. Will I receive a Certificate for participating to the Foodathon?

Yes, EIT Food will gladly provide a **certificate of completion to all the participants** who attended the **entire** Foodathon.

#### 19. Can you give me more information about the training?

If you're curious about the training, it means you think you and your team will win the Foodathon; we like your attitude!

There will be two sets of training one in September and one in October. The dates will be communicated very soon. The objective of the training is to deliver entrepreneurial skills as well as other essential competences to develop your business idea in a final full proposal which can serve as a base for further funding.

#### 20. How much does the training cost?

Currently EIT Food Innovator Fellowship training is providing without cost. However, as described in F.A.Q. n. 11, in case the pandemic situation should improve, the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship team will do its very best to arrange in-person events following the country's regulations where the event will take place. It remains clear that the EIT Food Fellowship team places the safety of the participants' health as a primary priority.

In this case of an in-presence training, you will be responsible for your accommodation and other expenses (subsistence) associated with your stay in the city of the training, while EIT Food will cover the travel costs for a maximum of 300 euro/per participant. To minimise costs, we encourage you to share an apartment in the town where the training will be delivered. This solution has been proven economical and practical and reinforces the team spirit (EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2019).

## 21. How long will the training last?

The two sets of training will be delivered by asynchronous and synchronous modalities between September (first training) and October (second training) optimising schedules of the training in respect to the work commitment of the selected teams/talents. The contents of the training will be fine-tuned according to the skills that the winning teams will need to develop, and the training session will be modulated in consonance with their starting level of competence.

## 22. I have more questions, who can I contact?

Please feel free to contact us, writing to [innovator@eitfood.eu](mailto:innovator@eitfood.eu).  
We'll reply promptly!

## Partner organizations



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