

# Rules of Participation to EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021



Global challenges in the Agri-Food systems require a mind-shift and a thrilling change in the awareness and competencies of talents: the new generation of entrepreneurs are asked to play a key role in solving the planet's food-related issues.

The future innovative leaders of the Agri-Food system need a new set of competencies beyond those acquired in research and academic environments – they require a proficiency that allows them to propose, manage, implement, and lead interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research and innovation projects, to be able to transform lab-ideas into business ideas.

EIT Food INNOVATOR FELLOWSHIP aims at identifying talents worldwide with creative and innovative potential, wishing to expand their skill repertoire through advanced training for the development of an innovative idea with significant impact in the food system.

If you want to put your talent to the test and you'd like to know more about this Programme, please find the details below. Should you need further clarification, do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [innovator@eitfood.eu](mailto:innovator@eitfood.eu).

## New information!!!

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 programme 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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Thank you for your interest in the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021. By participating in this fellowship and following the rules of participation, you may be the winner together with your team of a) a one to one mentoring support and b) two sets of intensive training which will allow you to transform your innovative idea in a realistic and scalable business idea.

EIT Food and the partners involved in EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021 are from now on referred to as the "**Consortium**".

Please read these Rule of Participation carefully, as they describe the conditions under which you are allowed to participate in this fellowship. As you participate in the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship, you are asked to recognise your acceptance of these Rules of Participation. The talents (Post-Doctoral Fellows and Young Professional), EIT Food and the Partners are called the « **Parties** ».

## 1. Objectives of EIT Food Innovator Fellowship

The goal of the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021 is to empower experienced talents to create, address and gain experience on an excellent idea/projects able to bring their careers to a step further. EIT Food Innovator Fellowship offers you the opportunity to acquire a set of entrepreneurial and underpinning skills instrumental in boosting your career prospects. To become a changemaker, you need a team to be able to produce advanced knowledge but also to collaborate at different levels in different dimensions to acquire a skill set ready to sustain your career. Securing resources, experiencing management and implementation of a 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 competences, together with the high-level training on entrepreneurial skills, are the right ingredients to transform a lab-idea in a business idea.

## 2. Definition

**Programme:** The EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2021

**Consortium:** It is composed by the EIT Food HQ, the University of Turin, the University of Aarhus and the AZTI.

**Evaluation Committee:** Group of persons being chosen by the Consortium to review the submitted ideas. The evaluation committee base the selection of talents/teams on their credentials and competences either as business leaders, renowned scientists or experts in the fields of Technology or Sustainable Development or Circular Economy.

**Website:** [www.innovator.eitfoodfellowships.eu](http://www.innovator.eitfoodfellowships.eu)

**Idea:** Solution proposed by an applicant, be it a lab-idea with the potential to become a business idea (a product or a service). The solution should address the challenges listed in the Idea Form.

**Applicant:** Talent(s) or member(s) of a candidate's team that has submitted an idea.

**Team:** A minimum of 3 applicants either formed before or after the Foodathon.

**Foodathon:** a "Hackathon", describing an "invention marathon" where applicants form a collaborative team to innovatively tackle a challenge by finding a creative and feasible solution.

**Shared Virtual Space:** It is an on-line tool where the selected applicants for the Foodathon will be able to interact and exchanges information to advance the formation of teams.

**Training:** Two sets of training devoted to the acquisition of skills (entrepreneurial and design thinking skills), to transform a lab-idea in a business idea.

**Final Proposal:** a proposal developed and finalised along the programma describing the business idea.

**Application:** The process by which the Applicant gives data to the Consortium via the apply web-page to propose its idea. None these data are public and they are protected under the GDPR policy but will be accessible to the Evaluation Committee and the Consortium.

**Academia:** It means public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations for whom one of the main objectives is to pursue research or technological development.

**Non-Academia:** It means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector. This includes small, medium and large business organisation, NGOs, governmental regional/national or international organisations, hospitals, an association of consumers and/or communities, or any other organisation which is not academic but strive for to find solutions to the challenges of the Food System.

**Selection:** Process through which the Consortium and the Evaluation Committee will evaluate and select the applicants based on the evaluation criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation.

**Idea Form:** The document used to describe the idea to apply to the Programme.

**Intellectual Property Rights:** All copyright, patent rights, trademark rights, trade secrets, designs and other proprietary information, whether or not such rights are registered or capable of being registered under any statutory or common law in any jurisdiction in the European Union.

### 3. Eligibility

**The Programme is open to Talent(s) of academia (Post-Doctoral) and non-academia (Young Professionals) of any nationality.** 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 Degree** and at least a **four years of full-time equivalent research and innovation (R&I) experience**.

**NOTE: The Programme is delivered in English and it is expected that the English level of the participant is at least B2 (proficiency scales).**

The Consortium reserve the right to ask for the certification of the academic status and/or R&I experience, as well of the English proficiency during the evaluation stage. All certifications should be provided in English.

If you have a colleague(s) which satisfy the above eligibility criteria and he/she wish to be part of your team, please notice that each of you must apply to the fellowship **individually**.

The Idea Form that you will complete to apply to the Programme describes your idea but also has a part dedicated to the team description in term of complementarities and synergies if you apply as a team to this Programme. Please note, the talent selection for the Foodathon 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.

No individual may register more than once (for example, by using a different username/e-mail). Multiple registrations for an applicant using multiple identities are not allowed. The Consortium reserves the right to reject the application of an applicant if, in its sole discretion,

the laws of the governing jurisdiction applicable to the Applicant would prohibit or limit the Consortium from proceeding with the Programme as intended.

#### 4. Application

The call for application opens the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, at 17 :00 am Brussels time and close the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 23:59:59 Brussels time.

The Consortium team reserves the right to **prolong the call deadline**.

## 5. Selection Process

The Consortium and the Evaluation Committee will select a list of ideas to participate in the Foodathon based on the following criteria and sub-criteria:

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Collaborative links (20%)
<b>Quality and credibility of the research/innovation idea;</b> level of novelty, including <b>appropriate consideration</b> of inter/multidisciplinary aspects.	<b>Contribution</b> to improve research and innovation potential of the Food System.	Description of the <b>complementary and/or synergistic aspects</b> and skill which would increase the chance of your idea to become real.
<b>Quality and appropriateness</b> of the method/approach proposed to realise the idea.	<b>Surmount</b> hindrances in the food chain “from farm to fork” including Global Challenges.	<b>Coherence and effectiveness of the idea/proposal</b> in respect to the resources and allocation of tasks.
<b>Competences and experience</b> of the participating <b>Talent</b> .		

The Evaluation Committee will review and select the ideas in its capacity and confidentiality described above. The evaluation will be performed by exposing one idea to at least three expert evaluators. Consensus evaluation will be achieved among the expert evaluators. However, to avoid a deadlock situation, majority rule will ultimately apply (including a vote of Consortium representatives).

**The applicants whose ideas are chosen to go to the next stage of the Programme will interact with the Consortium** via on-line using the e-mail address or on-line sessions.

Previous the Foodathon, the selected applicants will be given the opportunity to initiate the team formation by putting, in a shared virtual space, the name, surname, e-mail, LinkedIn profile (if available) and the title and abstract of each idea submitted. Access to the shared virtual area will be provided after the selection. The aim of the shared virtual space is to speed up team formation and fueling a proposed idea with new complementary and synergistic contributions/competences.

The criteria for the evaluation of the team ideas at the Foodathon will we provide at a later stage but before the Foodathon start.

## 6. Training

The teams selected at the Foodathon will receive two sets of training devoted to the acquisition of entrepreneurial and design thinking skills to support further the implementation of the business idea. The mature business idea will be delivered by the teams as a proposal and pitched during a final event.

The selected talents/teams **must** attend the training. Only in case of "force major" such as proven illness, a member of a team is justified. In this case, the remaining members of a team shall be present at the training so that the team will be composed by "n-1" members, where "n" is the total number of team members.

## 7. Mentoring

Mentoring is an essential part of the transformation of the lab-idea in a business idea, and each winning team will be assigned a mentor. A mentor with a business background and specific competences will advise the team during the journey to transform a lab-idea into a business idea. The mentoring will be achieved by on-line interaction via a video-call with the mentor assigned to each winning team. The amount of mentoring time estimated each month is of about 2 hours a month for about five months. The frequency of mentoring will be decided by the mentor together with the team. The mentor and team will arrange an agenda and find a suitable time for the video call. The mentor will maintain the confidentiality of the idea. It is strongly encouraged to take advantages of the experience of the mentor, and all team members **must** participate to the mentoring session(s).

## 8. Financial support and cost of participation

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

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

## 9. Intellectual Property Rights

**The Applicant(s) represents and warrants that his/her/their application is an original work created solely by him/her/them, that he/she/them owns, if the case, all Intellectual Property Rights in and to the application. The Applicant shall not infringe any third party rights and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the application, except as expressly identified by the Applicant(s).**

The Applicant(s) ensure that the principle listed in the [European Code of Conduct and Research Integrity](#) will be followed and applied.

**The ownership and use of any subsequent Intellectual Property Rights arising from the Programme will belong to the designated team(s) that have developed the business idea, and it will be regulated according to any jurisdiction of the European Union.**

**Intellectual Property Rights of the Applicant(s) are protected** as the Consortium and the Evaluation Committee commit to strict IP, non-compete and confidentiality rules. The Consortium and the Evaluation Committee shall not launch a for-profit or not-for-profit activity directly based on any applicant idea content. The Consortium and the Evaluation Committee shall not communicate any information related to the idea and business idea without the prior consent of the Applicant (s) and/or team(s).

The Applicant (s) acknowledges that EIT Food is the owner of all Intellectual Property Rights in and to these Websites: <https://www.eitfood.eu/>; <https://apply.eitfood.eu/>; <https://eitfoodhive.eu/> (**excluding Application content**). The Applicant (s) acknowledge that have no Intellectual Property Rights in or to the above Websites.

## 10. Commitments from both Parties

**The Programme will not use any information for commercial purposes or sell the information to third parties.** You agree to act in good faith and following this Rule of Participation. You irrevocably confirm that the content of your Application:

- (i) is not false, inaccurate or misleading;
- (ii) does not violate any applicable law;
- (iii) is not harmful to persons;
- (iv) strive for the solution listed in the Idea Form.

The Consortium reserves the right to amend or modify this Rule of Participation at any time, provided that any modification will not materially limit your rights and/or expand your obligations.

## 11. Termination

**You may terminate your participation in the Competition at any time because of "force majeure"** by notifying the Consortium via e-mail ([innovator@eitfood.eu](mailto:innovator@eitfood.eu)).

If you are part of a selected team, the Consortium shall notify your team of your termination. The Consortium shall subsequently set up, together with the remaining members of the team, measures to find a solution for the continuation of the training and the development of the business idea.

**The Consortium may, in its absolute discretion, terminate or suspend your participation at any time and with written notification** with immediate effect at the time of receiving the notification if it believes that:

- You have breached this Rule of Participation;
- or the Consortium is unable to verify any information provided by you (ex: e-mail);

If the Consortium terminates your participation, it may, at its sole discretion, immediately withdraw your Application from the date on which your involvement was terminated.

## Consortium



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DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO



AARHUS UNIVERSITY



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