



Co-funded by
the European Union

Call for Proposals

Call Guidelines for Activities to start in 2022

Frequently Asked Questions
(1)

1 TRL and Commercialisation questions

1. How can the TRL be proven? Are there any specific requirements regarding the proof to be provided in the proposal?

The requirement to prove the TRL 7 or above is an open format. Applicants must demonstrate that TRL 6 is completed. The proof will vary depending on the type of innovation proposed. Proof can be prototypes, data, feedback from tests/ trials, consumers' assessment, any documentation that demonstrates the completion of TRL 6.

2. TRL7 means projects that are ready to go to market. Is there a possibility for projects with a lower TRL to be funded? Are there any calls for proposals for TRL<5?

At the moment EIT Food's call for proposals only considers a TRL 7 or above (completed TRL6 at the time of the proposal submission).

3. In terms of the commercialisation of "different" innovations: what if we are planning to commercialise a product based on a technology to create several "generations" of that technology, e.g. v.1.1, v.1.2, etc. Can we do it in the course of 3 years of funding, e.g. 2022-2024?

This would be acceptable and eligible for funding only in the case that each year of funding delivers significant impact. Specifically, the "generations" of the same technology would need to demonstrate significant added-value to EIT Food, for example addressing an additional target consumer in the second year, or entering a different market or geographical region.

4. Is one marketed innovation required per year of project funding? Is the requirement to propose one marketed innovation per calendar year? For example, an activity starting in 2022 and lasting 24 months will need to have an innovation per year in 2022, 2023, and 2024?

Please refer to page 11 of the call guidelines for specific instructions related to the KPI EITHE02.1 Marketed Innovations. It is required for activities to deliver at least one marketed innovation in 2023. If an activity is requesting funding in 2024, at least one additional (and different) marketed innovation is required to be delivered by the end of 2024.

2 Financial Sustainability questions

1. Is it correct that the financial return mechanism is only enforced if the project is successful in the product's exploitation?

Yes this is correct. The "success fee" as agreed in the FRMA is triggered once the product has been commercialised and it is expected that the consortium exploits the product in order to receive funding. The activity will be monitored regularly throughout the grant period to ensure good compliance. Note that in case no revenues have been generated during the agreed period in the FRMA, EIT Food reserves the right to request Access rights of the Key Exploitable Results from the Consortia.

2. Is the exploiting party responsible for the reimbursement of the total grant received?

The reimbursement rate is equal to at least 50% of the grant received. The Exploiting Party is responsible towards EIT Food for the reimbursement (on its own behalf and on behalf of the other partners in the consortium) and therefore the Exploiting Party and the Consortium Partners must agree in the Consortium Agreement on all the details related to the commercialisation, including the Exploiting Party(ies) responsible to and any details linked to this. Furthermore the FRMA can include more than one exploiting party.

3. What is the timeline for the 50% return on investment?

The start of the exploitation period must take place at the latest two years after the Activity ends. Also note that the total allowed exploitation period linked to the return of the 50% “success fee”, cannot exceed six years.

4. If the project is longer than 1 year in duration, when would the financial sustainability return be expected to be paid?

The “success fee” as agreed in the FRMA is due at the latest two years after the Activity ends. Also note that the total allowed exploitation period linked to the 50% revenue sharing cannot exceed six years.

5. What does the +2% increase per year mean in the Financial Sustainability *Mechanism*? Does it mean that to be able to return “only” 50%, the money needs to be paid one year after the project has ended? Is it that each additional year taken to reimburse the grant will cost +2% in addition to this 50%?

This concerns a risk-adjusted financial return and is not related to the timing of the exploitation. The 2% indicated is only an example. It is up to the consortium to propose this risk-adjusted rate above the 50%. Please see page 19 of the call guidelines for more information.

6. Can a proposal indicate more than one exploiting party such that the financial sustainability payback can be shared? If there are two or more exploiting parties, how would they distribute the reimbursement of the total grant received at the 50%?

Yes, a proposal can indicate more than one Exploiting Party and the distribution of the reimbursement of the 50% of the received grant is up to the consortium to internally decide, by the means of the Consortium Agreement or similar document.

7. Given that the exploiting parties will partly pay back the funding, does this mean that Universities (when being Education partners) will not need to pay back the grant?

It is up to the consortium to decide which organisation(s) in the consortium will be responsible for the exploitation, the reimbursement to EIT Food and also of the signature of the FRMA. It can be any type of partner, including a university.

3 Cost Eligibility questions

1. If the maximum reimbursement is 1.400.000, then the maximum eligible costs are about 2.300.000. Is this calculation correct? Or is it that the maximum eligible costs are 1.400.000 and only 60% of that will be reimbursed?

Neither, of them are correct. There is no limit of eligible cost, however EIT Food will fund up to 60% of total eligible costs of the project (reimbursement rate). 60% is the maximum amount and less is also fine.

2. Are there general rules for cost reimbursement to be sure to correctly submit the budget in the proposal?

Please refer Annotated MGA Horizon Europe for all cost queries.

3. What is the co-financing % of non-EIT Food members?

There is no difference and the same reimbursement rate will be applied to all members of consortia. EIT Food will fund up to 60% of total eligible costs of the project.

4. Can the funds received be used to pay for partnership fees?

That will not be possible because the pre-financing is only possible once the membership-fees are paid and related agreements are signed. Therefore, that is not possible.

5. Is it possible for a public research body to provide co-financing with the salaries of researchers?

All costs need to be eligible, so costs cannot be funded by other EU funds and costs need to be incurred by the beneficiary. Therefore, they shall be recorded in your accounting and need to be directly linked to the projects.

6. Is there a minimum grant size that can be applied for per year? What is the maximum size of the grant?

The indicative maximum EIT grant amount up to 400kEUR for 2022 and up to a maximum of 1.4mEUR during 2022-2024.

7. Given the retroactive 4 months cost eligibility, does this mean that preparation costs for the proposal can be included as eligible costs?

No, they cannot be included as eligible costs.

4 Consortium Eligibility and EIT Food partnership questions

1. Is it compulsory to become an EIT Food partner if the proposal gets approved for funding?

Yes, all consortium members of the project need to apply for EIT Food Partnership. The partnership type shall be decided based on the partnership categories' rights and obligations, which can be found on website (<https://www.eitfood.eu/news/post/more-info-on-eit-food-partnerships>).

2. Is a specific category of EIT Food partnership required depending on the level of financing received for this call?

Please check the EIT Food website, which includes both the summary and the legal documents regarding partnerships. (<https://www.eitfood.eu/news/post/more-info-on-eit-food-partnerships>)

3. Some organisations need to have a confirmation of financing before allocating the budget to the project. Will the communication received at the end of April include such a confirmation?

A confirmation letter will be sent to all selected projects.

4. What is the role of UK? Is it eligible for this call?

We know that UK is working on finalising the agreements, however until we receive official information from EIT regarding UK being an eligible country, we need to keep UK under Re-Associating countries category. As soon as the countries are officially a part of eligible countries for receiving funds from Horizon Europe, EIT Food will amend the category to eligible country. UK organisations are welcome to apply to this call.

5. What is the role of Israel? Is it eligible for this call?

We know that Israel is close to finalise and sign the agreements, however until we receive official information from EIT regarding Israel being an eligible country, we need to keep Israel under Re-Associating countries. As soon as the countries are officially a part of eligible countries for receiving funds from Horizon Europe, EIT Food will amend the category to eligible country. Organisations from Israel are welcome to apply to this call.

6. If the project is currently funded by a different funding scheme (under Horizon Europe), but this funding will end in June 2022, is the project still eligible to apply for this EIT Food Call to support the further development and improvement of the product and market activities in 2022-24?

A project cannot be funded twice by two different Horizon Europe programmes. A consortium is welcome to submit a proposal based on previous research even if it was funded by other EU programmes.

7. It is stated that the project cannot be co-funded by other European projects. Does it exclude the Horizon projects?

It excludes Horizon Europe programmes.

8. Are start-ups who have been founded within the last 2 years eligible for this call? In the call guidelines, it is indicated that one must be “a legally incorporated entity in a EU or Horizon Europe eligible country, which has been incorporated for a minimum of 2 years”.

Any consortium member must be older than 2 years.

9. Can a Rising Food Star be an exploiting partner? Are there any limitations or restrictions?

Yes they can be exploiting parties; however the organisations shall be older than 2 years as these are explained in eligibility clauses. For RFS specific questions please see our website and contact points.

<https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/risingfoodstars>

10. Is there any way to apply for this Call without a consortium? Can only one SME without a consortium apply for this Call?

No that is not possible, please see consortium eligibility criteria in the call guidelines.

5 Duration of funded activities

1. Can an activity start in 2023 directly?

Activities selected for this call must start in 2022. They will be submitted as part of the EIT Food Business Plan 2022 to the EIT.

2. When are projects expected to start? As feedback to the proposal is expected at the end of April 2022, the project could not start before May/June 2022, correct?
Yes, as indicated in the timeline in the Call guidelines, applicants will be notified of their final selection at the end of April 2022. We therefore expect selected activities to start in May at the earliest.
3. Given a project start in mid-2022 and the maximum funding to 2024, does this mean that the projects are not 24 months long in practice, but rather 20 months?
Activities may last up to 24 months total and may span 2022-2024. Therefore if the project starts in May 2022, it can last up to May 2024.
4. If the project starts in mid-2022, can it only last about 6 months? or is there a minimum duration of one year (until mid-2023)?
The project can request only six months of funding, however given the requirement to launch at least one product on the market by December 2023, the TRL for such an innovation would need to be quite high. We usually advise for proposed activities to span a minimum of 12 months.

6 Submission and Evaluation of proposals

1. Can the application be worked on in different days in PLAZA? Is it possible to save a draft of the application in PLAZA and continue afterwards?
Yes. PLAZA allows you to save your draft application and return to it at a later date.
2. Are all mandatory documents necessary for the first evaluation step (14 January) or can some of them be uploaded during the full proposal stage?
All mandatory documents must be submitted on 14 January for both Parts A and B.

7 Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) questions

1. In a RIS proposal, if there is a partner that is not RIS, will this partner receive 85% or 60% of funding?
The EIT food funding in RIS proposals is not dependant on the partner location. Activities funded through the allocated RIS budget can receive up to 85% of EIT funding as reimbursement of the total eligible Activity costs. All partners participating in RIS proposals will receive funding according to this percentage despite of their location.
2. RIS innovation projects receive 85% of EIT Funding. Is this only for partners from RIS countries or also for partners in other countries who participate in the project?
The EIT food funding in RIS proposals is not dependant on the partner location. Activities funded through the allocated RIS budget can receive up to 85% of EIT funding as reimbursement of the total eligible Activity costs. All partners participating in RIS proposals will receive funding according to this percentage despite of their location.