

EIT Food Innovator Fellowship

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 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 2020 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:

- The programme call opens on the 29th of January 2020 and will close the 15th of April 2020.
- Applicants will be notified with the results of the selection the 6th of May 2020, and then the selected participants will receive an invitation for the Foodathon.
- The Foodathon will take place in Leuven, Belgium, from the 12th to the 14th of June 2020 (TBC).
- At the end of the competition, the winning teams will be selected and rewarded with an invitation to the high-level training that will be held in September 2020 (5 days) and in October (4 days). Dates and place of the training will be communicated to the winning team in the letter of invitation.
- Mentoring support with highly experienced professionals will start soon after the Foodathon by coupling a mentor with a team.
- A final event with a representative of each team.

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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 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 **100% property of the creators.** Your team will contribute to the idea and what you started with will be stronger at the end. No doubt about it!

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?

EIT Food Innovator Fellowship covers all the costs to deliver the programme, such as the delivery of the Foodathon, the two sessions of training, the mentoring and the final event.

EIT Food will support your travel expenses (transportation via airplane, train, car, bus etc.) to reach the Foodathon and the two high-level training sessions for a **maximum of 300 Euro per**

person per event. For the final event, the travel expenses (transportation) will be supported (to a **max. of 300 Euro**) only for one component of the team.

Moreover, at the Foodathon, the cost for accommodation, breakfast/lunches/coffee-breaks and one dinner will be included. If you are selected for the training sessions, EIT food will support the lunches/coffee-breaks during the all period of training and one dinner. However, EIT Food you will be responsible for your accommodation and any other expenses associated with your stay in the city of the training. To minimise the accommodation and subsistence costs you will incur at the training location, we encourage you to work with the teams and find solutions, such as sharing an apartment. This solution has been proven economical, practical and part of the team experience (EIT Food Innovator Fellowship 2019).

If you are selected to participate in the Foodathon you will be asked to pay a commitment fee of 100 Euro. This amount of money is essential to guarantee your genuine commitment and partly pay for administration costs of the event.

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 20th of April 2020. So you can apply here.

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 take place in **Leuven, Belgium, from the 12th to the 14th of June 2020**, during a three-day weekend.

17. Where shall I eat, drink and sleep during the Foodathon?

Lack of food at a Foodathon would be ironic, wouldn't it? Nothing to worry about! **Food will always be available in abundance:** breakfast, lunch, and one dinner will be provided throughout

the event. Drinks, snacks, and coffee will be available 24 hours a day to fit and support everyone's creative biorhythms. Finally, accommodations will be ready to welcome you!

18. What shall I bring with me to the Foodathon?

We recommend bringing your laptop, chargers, mobile phone, and **any hardware, software, tool, and any device you plan on using to develop your idea**. We also recommend bringing a power bank just in case. Everything else you might need will be provided on-site. Last but not least, you're expected to bring a **great willingness to innovate the Food system**.

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19. 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**: 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. How much does the training cost?

As described in F.A.Q. 11, EIT Food Innovator Fellowship covers all the costs to deliver the two sets of training. This includes the rental of the venue, trainers, material for the training, lunches and coffee-breaks and one dinner will be supported by EIT Food Innovator Fellowship programme. Moreover, EIT Food Innovator Fellowship will support the two trips to reach the two high-level training sessions for a **maximum of 300 Euro per person per event**.

You will be responsible for your accommodation and other expenses (subsistence) associated with your stay in the city of the training. 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).

23. How long will the training last?

The two sets of training will last 5 days in September and 4 days in October. 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.

A preliminary calendar showing the core sessions' timeline will be provided soon.

24. I have more questions, who can I contact?

Please feel free to contact us and write to innovator@eitfood.eu.

We'll reply promptly!

Partner organizations



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