

EIT Food Innovator Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The EIT Food Innovator Fellowship offers you the opportunity to **acquire a set of skills** instrumental in boosting 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.

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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 on the 14th of June 2020.

- Applicants will be notified with the results of the selection at the end of June 2020, and then the selected participants will receive an invitation for the Foodathon.
- The Foodathon will be ONLINE: it will take place from 17th to the 19th of July 2020.
- The Foodathon winning teams will be rewarded the high-level ONLINE TRAINING. The training period will be communicated to the winning teams 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.

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 having a Master Certificate and more than a four-years experience in R&I department of a private organisation can participate.

7. Is there any cut-off date for the maximum years after PhD completion?

No! We do not impose a cut-off date for the maximum years after PhD. You are welcome to participate in the EIT Food Innovator Fellowship even if you received your doctoral degree many years ago. It is never too late to become an entrepreneur!

8. 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!

9. 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 has **complementary competencies**, 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 talent selection for the Foodathon also depends on the research/professional experience of the single applicant; there is no guarantee that all the members of a team will be selected!

10. 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.

11. 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.

!Please notice that 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.

12. Is there any restriction regarding ideas under invention disclosures with the institution of the talent?

The applicant(s) to this programme 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 proposed. Moreover, 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).

13. Is a financial contribution required by the talent to participate in 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 Innovator Fellowship will support the travel expenses (transportation via aeroplane, train, car, bus taxi and sea-transportation) to reach the Final Event (which date is to be confirmed) for a **maximum of 300 Euro**, only for **one component of the team**.

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

Yes, you can! If you have a PhD or if you have a Master Certificate and 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.

15. I like this programme: when can I apply?

The call is open until the 14th of June 2020. So you can apply here.

16. How many participants will join the Foodathon?

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

17. How many participants will join the Training?

We cannot say at this moment, depending on the number of participants at the Foodathon. If we reach the target of 50 participants at the Foodathon, about 20 talents will go to the training. If you imagine a team formed by 4 members, then 5 ideas will be pipelined in the innovative training to become business ideas.

18. 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.

19. When and where will the Foodathon take place?

The Foodathon will take place **ONLINE from 17th to the 19th of July**, during a three-day weekend.

20. 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.

We aim to select 20 winners (about 4-6 winning teams) out of the 50 participants to the Foodathon.

21. Will I receive a Certificate for participating in the Foodathon?

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

22. 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 between the end of September and October (see FAQ. 4). The objective of the training is to deliver entrepreneurial skills as well as other essential competencies to develop your business idea in a final full proposal which can serve as a base for further funding.

23. How much does the training cost?

As described in the FAQ. 11, EIT Food Innovator Fellowship covers all the costs to deliver the two sets of training.

24. How long will the training last?

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

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

Please feel free to contact us and write to innovator@eitfood.eu. We'll reply promptly!

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