

## CALL FOR EIT FOOD RIS POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS 2021-2022

EIT Food is looking for RIS Policy Council members from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

***EIT Food is looking for experts that would like to participate in the EIT Food RIS Policy Council within EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme***

***Application deadline: 6 September 2021.***

Further details about EIT Food can be found at: <https://www.eitfood.eu/>, and the principles of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme are described at: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>. With respect to the present call, ***EIT Food will not provide new information that has not already been included in this call document, but can assist the potential applicants by explaining contents of this document (please contact [RIS@eitfood.eu](mailto:RIS@eitfood.eu)).***

### 1) Background information

#### 1.1 About EIT Food

EIT Food is one of the largest and most impactful food-related initiatives worldwide. As part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), EIT Food connects partners from leading businesses, universities and research centres across Europe. It is a people-centric and resource-smart transformer of the European food system, driving consumer confidence and improved global health. EIT Food members have a strong belief that the food sector needs to be transformed and that this can only be achieved by reconnecting partners within the food sector and by giving the consumer a more central role. The main issues the food sector is facing are that it is complex, fragmented, slow to adopt new technologies, not attractive to new talent, and not resource efficient. An effective food sector is needed to address major societal issues and challenges: feeding 9-10 billion people in 2050; 3 billion overweight people; 2 billion undernourished people; more than 30% of food wasted. EIT Food's vision is to put Europe at the centre of a global revolution in food innovation and production, and its value in society. EIT Food will engage consumers in the change process, improve nutrition and make the food system more resource-efficient, secure, transparent and trusted.

#### 1.2 EIT Regional Innovation Scheme

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is an EU body created by the European Union in 2008 to strengthen Europe's ability to innovate. For the period of 2021 – 2027, the EIT is part of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, while EIT Food is 'Institutionalized European Partnership' ensuring the compliance with the Horizon Europe regulation. The EIT RIS is the EIT Community's outreach introduced in 2014 to share good practices and experience emerging from EIT Community

activities. The EIT RIS opens the activities of EIT's Innovation Communities to innovators that are not partners, by providing targeted support to individuals and organisations to take part in and benefit from EIT Innovation Communities' activities, services and programmes. Although we share one continent, European' countries are divided because of disparities in innovation performance. This has resulted in the classification of European countries in two main groups — innovation leaders and strong innovators versus moderate and modest innovators. One reason for lower innovation performance is weak linkages among the key players — businesses and research institutions and academia, as well as between the private and public sectors, including a systematic approach towards innovation. As a response to this challenge, the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced. The EIT RIS is designed for the EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries in Europe who are modest and moderate innovators, and where Innovation Communities have few or no partners. Strategically, the Scheme is an additional offer to these countries to facilitate their engagement with the EIT Innovation Communities. The Scheme's aim is to promote access to services and programmes offered by the EIT Innovation Communities. Each Innovation Community cooperates with local innovators – individuals such as students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and organisations such as SMEs, universities, research labs, regions, NGOs and cities. The EIT Innovation Communities involve the local players in education, business creation and acceleration activities, as well as innovation-driven research.

### **1.3 Background information: EIT Food RIS Policy Council**

RIS Policy Council (RIS Council) is a policy advisory body established in 2019 to support dialogue and other interactions in [RIS countries](#), contribute towards the further elaboration of EIT Food instruments and projects, as well as promote linkages with government authorities and other stakeholders.

RIS Council consists of stakeholder representatives from EIT RIS countries. The Council supports EIT Food in policy dialogue and other interactions in the target countries, intending to synchronise the development of EIT Food portfolio with national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies of the targeted EIT RIS countries.

EIT Food RIS Council strengthens synergies with EIT RIS stakeholders. Interactions with regional stakeholders will support the active involvement of EIT Food representatives in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes in targeted EIT RIS countries and regions. Through policy dialogue with national and regional authorities that select agri-food-related topics as their Smart Specialisation Strategies, EIT Food expects to develop and implement joint innovation and entrepreneurship strategies with Knowledge Triangle partners from the selected EIT RIS countries.

The RIS Council consist of representatives of 17 RIS countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

## 2) Goals of the EIT Food RIS Council:

- Providing opinion concerning present agri-food issues and challenges important from the perspective of RIS countries, especially from the EU financial perspective 2021-2027,
- Finding synergies of EIT Food RIS activities with Smart Specialization Strategies in each country,
- Informing about potential co-financing opportunities in RIS countries,
- Providing linkages with actors of Knowledge Triangle for potential partnership with EIT Food,
- Contributing relevant input in preparation of EIT Food RIS Strategy after 2021,
- Participation in the monitoring and evaluation of EIT Food Hubs' activities,
- Participation in RIS Expert Community and other EIT Food RIS events (i.e. EIT Food Awareness Days, EIT Food Demo Days),
- Promotion of EIT Food activities in RIS countries, including contacts with national and regional authorities (in a country represented by the given Member).

## 3) Benefits for the Members of the EIT Food RIS Council

The Members of the EIT Food RIS Council may:

- officially use the title of the Member of the EIT Food RIS Policy Council,
- participate in EIT Food RIS activities, such as EIT Food Government Executive Academy, EIT Food Awareness Events, Demo Days, cross-KIC Events gathering other EIT Communities,
- have impact on design and implementation of EIT Food RIS activities.
- Increase your network across EU.
- Expand your knowledge on different innovation policies and agrifood related innovation projects.

EIT Food will cover the costs of participation of the Members in at least four EIT Food RIS Council meetings in 2021 and 2022. Each participant will be granted 1000 € yearly.

## 4) Profile of the Members of EIT Food RIS Council

The Members of the EIT Food RIS Policy Council should come from RIS countries listed in Annex 1. The expert should be able to demonstrate experience related to below mentioned areas:

- specific area of smart specialisation strategies defined for each country (design, implementation). **Please see Annex 1, to learn areas of S3 experience that are required from candidates** applying from a certain country.
- research and innovation policy at national or regional levels (design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation). Experience in at least two areas of innovation from the below mentioned:
  - sustainable agriculture
  - sustainable aquaculture
  - circular food systems
  - digital traceability
  - targeted nutrition
  - alternative proteins
- quadruple helix (stimulating cooperation between government, academia, business and society),
- Horizon 2020/Europe and European Structural and Investment Funds – ESI Funds (preparation of applications, implementation),
- as well as the convergence of individual objectives with EIT Food RIS Policy Council goals.

#### 5) Selection process:

- open call promoted by EIT Food and EIT Food Hubs in RIS countries (limited to natural persons with experience related to selection criteria),
- evaluation carried out by CLC North East and CLC South (August)
- selection of one candidate per country (September)

#### 6) Deadline for application

Interested and eligible individuals are invited to **submit their application by 6 September 2021, 23:59 CEST**, referring in the e-mail title to **“Call for EIT Food RIS Policy Council members 2021-2022”**. Please send the electronic version of the application to: RIS@eitfood.eu. Applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by a committee including representatives of EIT Food using selection criteria presented in point 4.

**If you are interested to join our EIT Food Community as a Member of EIT Food RIS Policy Council, please fill the application form [HERE](#)**

#### Annex 1

	<b>Country</b>	<b>smart specialisation strategies (design, implementation)</b>
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1	Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>• experience in development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
2	Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
3	Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs and</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>○ Integrations with ITC, digitalization, robotics in agrifood</li> <li>○ Development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ innovation in maritime food production, naval infrastructure</li> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in integrations with ITC, digitalization, robotics in agrifood will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
7	Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood</li> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>○ innovation in maritime food production, naval infrastructure will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

8	Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>• experience in environmental sustainability in agrifood will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
9	Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>○ integrations with ITC, digitalization, robotics in agrifood</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10	Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in environmental sustainability in agrifood will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
11	Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ innovation in maritime food production, naval infrastructure</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12	Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13	Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14	Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>• experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15	Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with obligatory experience in environmental sustainability in agrifood</li> <li>• experience in:</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ development of organic food industry</li> <li>○ innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing will be an additional asset</li> </ul>
16	Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>● experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>○ integrations with ITC, digitalization, robotics in agrifood</li> <li>○ development of organic food industry will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17	Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● with obligatory experience in innovation in agrifood, innovation in primary and/or secondary food processing</li> <li>● experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ R&amp;D of New Food, innovation in biochemistry, NPD, functional food, herbs</li> <li>○ environmental sustainability in agrifood will be an additional asset</li> </ul> </li> </ul>