

Call for experts to carry out analyses of national/regional agri-food innovation policies

EIT Food is looking for experts who would carry out analyses of national/regional agri-food innovation policies as part of EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme activity.

Application deadline: 21 September 2020, 3 pm CEST.

Application template: see Annex 1.

Applications are invited from individual experts from countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey

Further details about EIT Food can be found at: www.eitfood.eu, and key details of EIT Food RIS are available at <https://www.eitfood.eu/regional-innovation-scheme>. With respect to the present call, **EIT Food and University of Warsaw will not provide new information that has not already been included in this call document**, but can assist potential applicants by explaining contents of this document (interested applicants are encouraged to contact Adam Puczejda, apuczejda@wz.uw.edu.pl) and RIS@eitfood.eu.

1. Background information

1.1. 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 Food Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) is the EIT's outreach scheme. The scheme enables the transfer of good practices and know-how from the EIT's unique approach to boosting innovation. It opens up the activities of the EIT to innovators that are not partners, by providing targeted support to individuals and organisations to take part in and benefit from activities, services and programmes. Detailed information about the EIT RIS, including the EIT RIS Implementation Guidance Note, can be found at: <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/outreach/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>

2. Analyses of national/regional agri-food innovation policies

EIT Food with University of Warsaw carries out a comparative analyses of agri-food innovation policies in RIS countries, with a view to further improve EIT Food activities, outreach and targeted offering for local stakeholders. The analyses require inputs from local experts, commissioned with specific analytical assignments. These inputs will support the further development of EIT Food RIS Strategy, design of new instruments and better involvement of local stakeholders in the future activities of EIT Food. Local experts (1 per country) will work closely with University of Warsaw, EIT Food CLCs and EIT Food Hubs (local contact points of EIT Food in each country) to deliver high-quality analysis, facilitating future activities of EIT Food. The analysis will be based on templates, with fields available to answer specific questions related to a given country, ensuring comparable format and facilitating future use of the data. Local experts will be selected in an open call, targeting experts in innovation policies and agri-food sector, familiar with operational programmes, smart specialisation strategy, maintaining contacts with relevant local stakeholders from the public sector and being fluent in English. Experts will be contracted by EIT Food Co-Location Centres (CLCs) North-East and South, depending on the country.

2.1. Detailed scope of analysis

1. Update on contents of the operational programmes 2014-2020 and plans for 2021-2027 (including allocations for Research & Innovations, higher education, entrepreneurship and research infrastructures; types of instruments, allocated budgets, links to documents describing the programmes);
2. Update on contents and planned amendments to the smart specialisation strategy (with particular interest in specialisations related to agri-food sector);
3. Information about sources of funding from Research & Innovation, higher education, entrepreneurship and research infrastructures that are other than EU structural funds (e.g. national or regional funds);
4. Examples of highly successful/visible projects funded from public sources (EU, national, regional funds) in the agri-food sector;
5. Recommendations concerning possible use of regional/national/EU funding in the country to finance local EIT Food initiatives (e.g. activities for startups or educational activities), with a view to identify possible co-funding scenarios for EIT Food, responsible government agencies/contact persons, planned funding calls and links to relevant documents that could be used by EIT Food and EIT Food Hubs to initiate discussions about co-funding for local activities;
6. List of important local events for agri-food sector, innovators, startups (conferences, industry events, trade fairs);
7. List of contacts to local stakeholders (incl. entrepreneurship support organisations, government agencies, Horizon Europe contact points etc.) (based on data available in public sources, such as institutional websites, with respect for GDPR provisions), intended to identify the most relevant channels to engage local stakeholders in EIT Food activities.

The analysis will be based on templates provided by University of Warsaw (Excel spreadsheets with pre-defined structure, analysing policies on national and regional levels).

2.2. Countries targeted by the call

- (1) Bulgaria
- (2) Croatia
- (3) Czechia
- (4) Estonia
- (5) Greece
- (6) Hungary
- (7) Italy **
- (8) Latvia
- (9) Lithuania
- (10) Poland **
- (11) Portugal
- (12) Romania
- (13) Serbia *
- (14) Slovakia
- (15) Slovenia
- (16) Spain **
- (17) Turkey *

* For countries that are not EU member states, only some analytical questions will be applicable.

** For countries with larger number of regionally implemented innovation policies (Italy, Poland, Spain), separate analyses will be carried out for the entire country and individual regions.

One expert will be selected per country.

2.3. Eligible experts

- Physical persons (the call targets individual experts not organisations);
- Located in a country targeted by the call and fluent in local language;
- Fluent in English (both spoken and written);
- Possessing excellent knowledge of innovation policies and issues related to the local agri-food sector;
- Experienced in carrying out analyses and preparing reports or scientific publications related to innovation policies in the targeted country or its region(s).

2.4. Timeline

The work of experts will need to be finished by December the 15th, 2020.

2.5. Remuneration

Selected experts will sign agreements with EIT Food CLCs North-East or South, benefiting from the remuneration of 2500€ gross (including income taxes if applicable). Experts carrying out analyses of Italy, Poland and Spain will receive a funding of 5000€ gross (including income taxes if applicable) due to the larger numbers of regional operational programmes and smart specialisation strategies that will need to be included in the analysis. Experts will not be reimbursed any further expenses.

3. Selection process

Interested and eligible experts are invited to **submit their applications by 21 September 2020, 3 pm CEST**, using the attached “**Application Form**” and supplementing it by a sample of previous work (reports, scientific publications, internal analyses). **Please send the electronic version of application, based on the attached template, with attachment(s) to: apuczejda@wz.uw.edu.pl and RIS@eitfood.eu.**

Incomplete applications or applications submitted by ineligible applicants will be rejected. Complete applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by an expert committee using standardized selection criteria. EIT Food reserves the right to select experts only in some of the targeted countries, contingent on the quantity and quality of the submitted applications, ensuring the excellence of selected experts and value for money, and to relaunch the call for the countries where the present selection process would not yield satisfactory results. EIT Food reserves the right to contact the applicants by e-mail or phone asking for additional explanations or supporting documents, and to schedule selection interviews with the short-listed experts. All applications will be evaluated using transparent selection criteria. Results of the call will be published by EIT Food on its website and selected applicants will be required to sign agreements with EIT Food Co-Location Centres North-East or South, a template of which is attached to this Call (Please see Annex 2).

All proposals will be evaluated taking into account the following **selection criteria**:

- (1) Knowledge of innovation policies and issues related to the local agri-food sector;
- (2) Relevant experiences in carrying out analyses and preparing reports or scientific publications related to innovation policies in the targeted country or its region(s);
- (3) Experiences in preparing English-language analytical documents;
- (4) Experience in carrying out analyses, monitoring, evaluation of funding sources for innovation projects for European Structural and Investment Funds and/or smart specialisation strategies.

Criteria 1-4 will be evaluated on a 0-2 scale: 2: very good, 1: good, 0: below expectations. Equal weighting was given to all criteria.



Application to carry out analysis of national/regional agri-food innovation policies

Please fill in the application form, ensuring that **all fields** are completed. Please submit the application in electronic format (PDF) by 21 September 2020, 3 pm CEST to email address: apuchejda@wz.uw.edu.pl and RIS@eitfood.eu. Applications that are incomplete or sent after the deadline will be rejected. Please attach relevant supporting documents (a sample of previous work such as reports, scientific publications, internal analyses).

Application form	
1. Country	
2. Name of the applicant	
4. Address (street, city, country)	
5. LinkedIn profile or website address including your publicly available CV/bio	
6. Current employer	
7. Position	
8. E-mail	
9. Phone	
10. Please provide information that confirms that you possess knowledge of innovation policies and issues related to the local agri-food sector in your country.	
11. Please describe relevant experiences in carrying out analyses and preparing reports or scientific publications related to innovation policies of your country.	
12. Please describe your experiences in preparing English-language analytical documents.	
13. List of attached supporting documents (samples of previous work such as reports, scientific publications, internal analyses).	
1.	
2.	
3.	
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By submitting this application form, I confirm that the information provided above correctly represents the scope of activities and plans of my organisation. I understand that the information provided in this form may be used to define obligations in agreement. I give consent to processing the application by EIT Food, its Co-Location Centres, University of Warsaw and external experts involved in the evaluation process, and am willing to cooperate to provide further information or documents confirming the facts presented above.

If selected, I declare the willingness to promptly proceed to sign the agreement with EIT Food based on the template published online by EIT Food as part of the call documentation. I will act as expert in EIT Food RIS based on conditions described in the “Call for experts to carry out analyses of national/regional agri-food innovation policies”. I am aware of the scope of services that should be provided and confirm having familiarized myself with the contents of the „Call for experts to carry out analyses of national/regional agri-food innovation policies”.

Date, place

Name of the person submitting the application