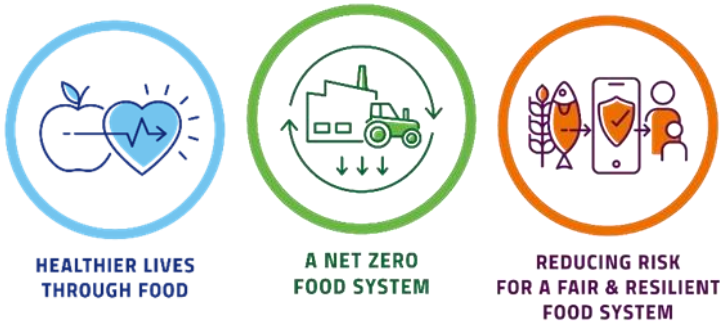
Co-funded by the European Union

Funding for EIT Food Collaborative Missions Programmes



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Important: Note to the reader

We anticipate that the funding allocation for the Impact Funding Framework will reach full capacity at the conclusion of the July 2025 evaluation period. The final submission window currently scheduled for December 2025 will therefore no longer open.

We thank you for your interest in this call and encourage you to follow our Open Calls & Procurement page for further funding opportunities which will be published there.

EIT Food offers many ways to collaborate and support your ideas. Click here to find out how you can work with us.

1. Introduction

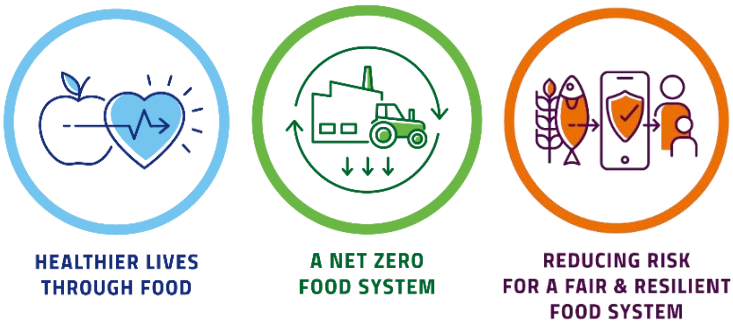
EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system. Supported by the European Union (EU), we invest in projects, organisations and individuals who share our goals for a healthy, resilient and sustainable food system.

We have built a network dedicated to bringing real world change through collaborative programmes in skills & education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment, public engagement and communications. By delivering these programmes in partnership, we aim to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund.

With this new launch, we are able to offer a fast-track to collaboration and partnership between EIT Food, our community and organisations who share our ambition for impact (which you can find in our Mission goals and targets elsewhere in this document).

We encourage proposals from consortia based around lead organisations that have the capability to move quickly and effectively to create impact from our co-investment, supported by high-quality research, communications and impact assessment expertise

Our Missions



Our Missions respond to major societal challenges within the food system. The alignment of our chosen challenges towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU policy is detailed in our main funding strategy document agreed with EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology).

We've defined our *Mission Targets* and goals through a collaborative co-design process led by, and

involving, our partner community, public consultation and input from other stakeholders in industry and the public arena. The findings of that exercise are published in Mission Insight Reports.

These reports describe priorities for food systems change which reach beyond the scope and capability of any one network. We have to make choices to prioritise our investments, funding, advocacy and interventions if we are to make a real, tangible difference.

A mission-based approach, putting needs first, helps us form those priorities. This gives us better shape and direction when it comes to solving issues such as: the contribution of diet to obesity and non-communicable disease; the environmental harms associated with the food system; and the universal threats associated with food integrity and complex supply chains.

2. Purpose of this Funding Opportunity

EIT Food already runs a significant portfolio of funding activity, regional community engagement and "*Infrastructure Programmes*". These programmes help to focus effort and support positive impact in areas such as knowledge exchange, skills and capability building; entrepreneur development; new business growth and investment; public engagement; and innovation management.

We welcome proposals to form new collaborative programmes that build upon, link and amplify these capabilities, and give us new routes and approaches to achieve even more impact in these areas in line with our Mission Targets. We are always interested in programmes which identify and solve barriers where long-term structural issues (aka *Strategic Levers*, described below) affect progress towards Mission Targets.

Programmes should **connect** key companies, research organisations, social enterprises, associations, regions and other stakeholders **across relevant economic, industry and social value chains**. Engaging beneficiaries or challenge owners with well-defined impact needs should be central to your programme objectives.

You should also outline how you wish to engage with EIT Food leadership and network to ensure maximum alignment, synergies or explicit complementarities with existing capabilities and activities with minimum duplication. We wish to actively work with your consortium leadership to steer, direct and connect new platforms to multiply our impact, KPI achievement and influence.

We are looking for programmes that:

- Demonstrate a **systemic approach to meeting societal challenges** within the food system by delivering one or more Mission Targets.
- Are **problem-led, with a clearly defined pathway to impact for those who benefit** and those organisations working with them.
- Build a **portfolio of connected activities** that enhance collaboration **across relevant economic, industry and social value chains**.
- Are **actively forging synergies** between academia, VET, industry, NGOs, associations and policy stakeholders.
- Are led by an organisation with a **significant capability to scale and drive** adoption of programme results.
- **Connect to EIT Food infrastructure programmes and assets** (community management, skills, innovation, learning infrastructure, public and policy engagement) to scale the impact and reach of our existing investments.
- **Reduce skills gaps and cultivate workforce development** in Agricultural Transitions, Food

Biotechnology and Food Security, Risk and Resilience.

- **Build value** from our portfolio of previously funded innovations and start-up community capabilities.
- **Create and support platforms** for addressing major barriers and opportunities related to the *Strategic Levers* for food systems change described in our Mission Insight Reports and listed below.
- **Produce and communicate insights** which can inform future EIT Food public affairs activities, fundraising and strategic decision making.

Mission Impact & Measurement

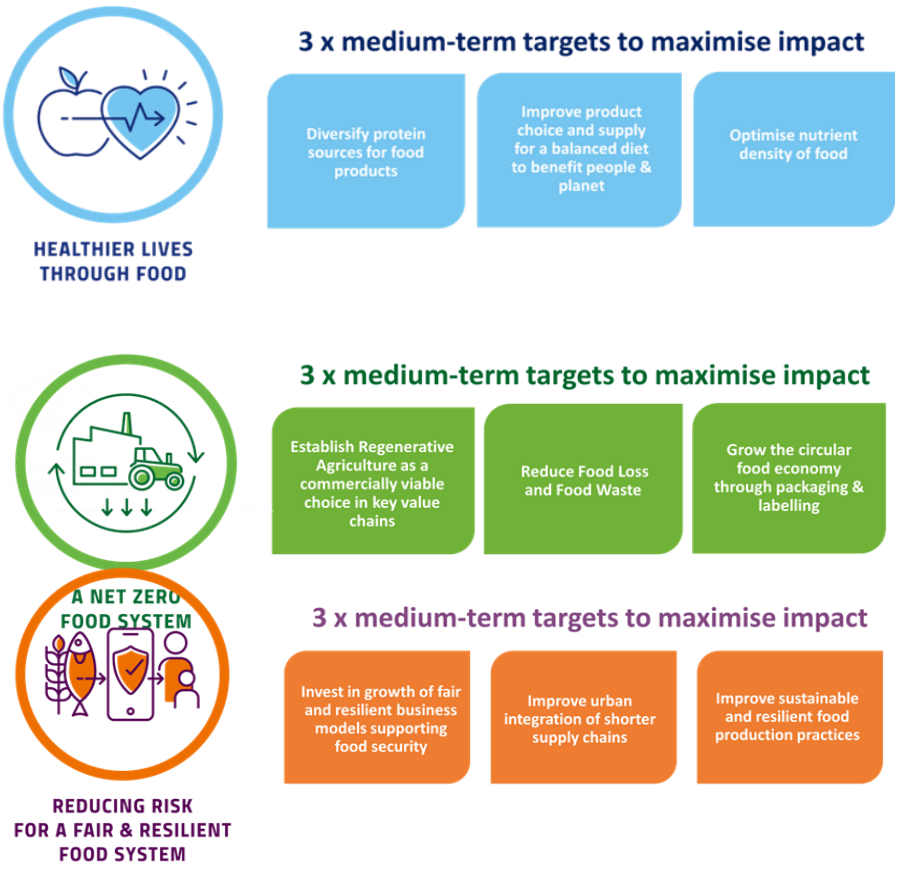
Impact matters to us at EIT Food. What we mean by this is the identifiable extra benefit that particular groups of people, businesses, organisations or society in general will experience because of the work we fund. That impact could be economic, environmental, societal, political or health- related in nature.

For this funding programme it is imperative that the potential impact of applications is clearly forecast within Europe.

Please refer to the Mission Insight Reports produced by the EIT Food community for ideas on the points of greatest need and greatest impact opportunities across the food system.

Our core funding document EIT Food Strategic Agenda 2021-27, has even more information, baselines and data sources to help you forecast your long-term impact when you apply to us for funding. You'll also find questions to help you understand the long-term benefits we're looking for in **Annex 1 – Impact Questions to Consider,** later in this document.

Mission Targets



Strategic Levers

3. Description of Programme Types & Consortia Profile

3.1 Programme Types

We are looking to fund and co-resource alliances and collaborative programmes which aim to produce multiple results and high-impact outcomes. By "programmes" we mean connected activities and workstreams across economic, industry and social value chains. Examples of actions we could support to achieve our Mission Targets might include:

- **Co-funding open competitions** aimed at accelerating new business, products and processes.
- **Jointly funding, co-resourcing and/or co-delivering programmes of activities** with other funders, NGOs or charities with shared impact goals and aligned to our Missions.
- **Co-ordinating consortia across whole value-chains** to scale-up, demonstrate and/or **accelerate impact** of **innovation solutions** from the EIT Food project portfolio.
- **Jointly supporting** innovation and **knowledge exchange clusters** that deliver new programmes in citizen engagement, business, skills and agri-food innovation in cities/ regions or specialist sectors.
- Programmes exploring innovative, possibly rather unconventional ways to embed a culture of lifelong learning, up- and reskilling, and workforce development within food companies and organisations. Projects might include skills portability, labour market monitoring mechanisms, circular job market, etc.
- Activities forging synergies between VET, academia and industry and other stakeholders to address skills and knowledge gaps and attract talent to the sector.
- Co-funding **social enterprise or learning programmes** that will scale-up interventions, leading to improved outcomes for populations at risk of poor health or food security outcomes supporting the development of networks to **test production/manufacturing capabilities for key markets, test farms/services and "living labs**".
- **Collaborative programmes resolving sector-relevant strategic issues to enable stronger progress towards meeting Mission Targets.** This may include intersecting areas such as: standards setting and data management; fundraising for systems change; citizen engagement in innovation; consumer behaviour-change and improving public understanding of the benefits of innovation in agri-food.

The list above is extensive, but not exhaustive. It's intended to give an indication of the types of collaborative working projects we're keen to support, whether through co-funding, or offering our capability and expertise. That expertise includes but is not limited to grant management capability; public engagement; community management; skills intelligence, and public affairs expertise. We welcome proposals that build on these capabilities and open new routes to impact for us in these areas.

Programmes funded under this scheme should aim to hit several of our Key Performance Indicators

(KPIs) which demonstrate progress aligned to our Mission Targets detailed in Section 2.

3.2 Consortia Profile

We normally expect to receive applications from a lead partner on behalf of an appropriately structured consortium which shows a clear commitment and capability to deliver linked innovation, new business, skills and public engagement outcomes. Your consortium should also include expertise in the measurement, monitoring and evaluation of impact.

4. Funding

4.1 Funding Overview

The starting funding amount allocated to this 2023–2025 funding scheme is €30m.

Co-funding

For guidance purposes, we anticipate total programme grant budget requested from EIT Food will be a contribution of no more than **€1,000,000 per year for up to 2 years** towards a maximum of 70% of the total costs of your programme.

This **EIT grant reimbursement of up to 70% of the total eligible grant and contracting costs** of a programme budget is known as the "reimbursement rate". The applicant(s), other sponsors or sources must co-fund a minimum of 30% (co-funding) of the total programme eligible costs. So, for example, a discrete work package within a programme could be fully funded from non-EIT sources while another work package takes up a greater amount of EIT funding. This approach means the partners involved must be willing to comply with cost declaration and audit requirements in respect of the third-party funded work package as they would for EIT funding.

Applicants can contribute co-funding at different rates within the consortium while the Lead Partner ensures the total reimbursement rate is maintained across the programme. If you intend to rely on other public funding as a source of co-funding under this scheme, you should be careful to check the eligibility of using those funds for matching purposes.

The requested EIT Grant Budgets may include coordination and programme management resource. We recommended you include some provision for developing and carrying out impact and performance monitoring. We may consider an additional third year of funding for live programmes where there is a significantly enhanced and credible forecast of measurable impact or significant shared income, accompanied by robust impact assessment plans.

Proposals for lower funding amounts over shorter time periods may be more suited to one of our other funding routes - either project-based funding or business development/ start-up support. Please check our latest specialist call information on the EIT Food website.
Proposal budgets should not include internal costs that may be incurred by EIT Food in relation to the programme. The level of internal support we will offer to a programme will be at the discretion of EIT Food's Executive Management Team as part of internal budget planning in response to approved programmes.
To avoid confusion, EIT Food group companies (including CLC-designated companies) cannot be named as an applicant.

Success Sharing for Commercial Outcomes

If part of your programme includes activity that produces a commercial return or creates an equivalent commercial value such as an equity interest in new businesses, we ask that you create specific

commercial work package(s) which identify the amount of grant dedicated to the commercial development and the partners within your consortium leading/ directly benefiting from the commercial development.

We'll ask only the relevant benefiting partner(s) to give a commitment to share some of that return as a form of reinvestment in our community under our Success Sharing Mechanism (SSM).

In return for de-risking your investment through our funding, we'll typically ask for a proportionate share in commercial gains you make. This allows us to reinvest in food systems change to benefit us all. That income sharing only arises if and when your programme goes on to generate new commercial income for you or others. Your application should include a forecast of what that repayment might be.

NB the SSM calculation under this programme route will be calculated only against the commercially dedicated element of funding. It is in the interest of applicants to describe any separation of commercial/non-commercial focus in separate work packages.

If we do ask for a share in your return, we will negotiate a mutually acceptable level of community reinvestment with you under the **Success Sharing Mechanism**. We will then put in place a short additional agreement alongside the main grant funding agreements.

For non-commercial programmes, generating limited cost-recovery income, you must be able to demonstrate significant social return on investment in line with the impact measurement framework in our Strategic Agenda 2021-27.

You are entitled to request a full or partial waiver of the Success Sharing Mechanism during the application process.

To apply for a waiver, please complete the relevant section of the application form.
Any such waiver is granted at the sole discretion of EIT Food's Executive Management Team.

Please refer to **Annex 1 – Impact Questions to Consider** to find out more about the types of impact we are seeking.

4.2 Duration

We welcome applications for programmes of **up to 24 months** initial duration. An option for follow-on funding for a further 12 months, post programme end date, is available for all programmes, which will be performance dependent. For example, an extension may be granted, but only if all deliverables and KPIs originally proposed have been delivered. This extension period must be formally requested and approved by EIT Food. The purpose of any extension period is to build upon success, for example, to generate further KPIs, demonstrate impact or scale-up business activity. Any extension or follow-on funding decision is at the discretion of EIT Food.

4.3 Who can apply?

Funding for this Request for Implementing Participants is available to all organisation from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from Horizon Europe Associate Countries[1].

4.4 Eligibility of Costs

[1] Recipients of financial support who are neither from: EU Member State, nor country associated with Horizon Europe, nor country listed as low- to middle-income countries - can receive **up to EUR 60 000 per grant agreement if duly justified**.

All costs need to comply with Horizon Europe regulations regarding the eligibility of expenses. Please refer to Article 6 of the Model Grant Agreement and the Annotated Model Grant Agreement.

In addition to the guidance provided by Horizon Europe, please note that participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party. (N.B. "sub-granting" and "sub-contracting" have specific meanings under EU rules).

If proposals under this scheme would involve sub-contracting or would require EIT Food to make further awards or prizes to third parties (e.g. through Prize Based Challenges, start-up or technology competitions) those further awards must be made on a competitive basis to a similar or higher standard normally operated by EIT Food.

The proposals must comply with the following maximum thresholds:

- Subcontracting can amount to a maximum of 15% of total costs.
- Depreciation can amount to a maximum of 10% of total costs. In case of adding additional depreciation costs, please consult EIT Food in advance.
- Sub-granting: participants will be funded through a subgrant. Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

4.5 Core KPIs and Deliverables

Programmes under this route are responding to the outlined **Mission Targets**. These targets have been built on our existing Impact Framework as stated in our Strategic Innovation Agenda. To be able to measure and demonstrate progress against these targets, and wider Mission goals, each programme should specify an **appropriate choice and volume of the standard EIT Food KPIs** to be delivered over the programme duration.

You can find a full list of EIT KPIs here.

For applications including an education component or KPI EITHE07.1 Graduates from EIT labelled programmes, these will need to align with EIT Label accreditation. Please click here for further Guidance. This requirement may be formalised as a Deliverable or condition of funding.

We would remind applicants that collaborating with existing EIT Food capabilities, teams and programmes in new business growth, entrepreneurship, skills, education, public engagement and innovation will complement new activities by providing access to an established route to impact.

Clearly defined commercial and KPI achievement plans and deliverables are critical for all programmes, as your deliverables demonstrate the work you have done, the value you have added and how others can benefit. For all programmes, at least one deliverable should be produced at the end of each activity, sub-project or workstream.

Programme Deliverables must include a progress report every six months.

An impact assessment methodology and action plan must be developed within the first six months of any funded activity. The costs of developing and carrying out impact assessment can be included as part of the funding request.

If you don't have experience in forecasting social, economic, health or environmental impact, we suggest you include 5-10% of your budget towards impact modelling, monitoring and evaluation of your programme. Carrying out an impact assessment planning exercise early in the programme will give you a relevant set of indicators and methodology to use and an assessment plan to work towards. It will also

help us to tailor our support and funding more effectively to your programme.

A communication, dissemination and outreach plan must also be included as an early deliverable if not already included in the full application (see the EIT Food website for Brand Guidelines).

4.6 Intellectual Property Policy

EIT Food Intellectual Property´s (IP) Policy complies with Horizon Europe´s IP Policy, found in Article 16 of the Model Grant Agreement.

5. Application Preparation, Submission & Evaluation

5.1 Timeline

We will periodically assess applications we receive according to the timetable below. Should funding become limited at any point, requiring us to introduce a cap on total awards, or should the funding window be extended, we will update this timeline and communicate this publicly.

Call open	14th September 2023
Submission Windows (closing at 12pm CET)	16th November 2023 14th March 2024 11th July 2024 14th November 2024 13th March 2025 10th July 2025
Evaluation	Up to 10 weeks post submission deadline
Preliminary communication to selected projects	Approximately 14 weeks post submission deadline
Project Grant Award letters sent and contracting begins*	Approximately 8 weeks post preliminary communication
Projects start date	1 January 2026 at the earliest

*Pending review and validation from the EIT

5.2 Application Submission

Please complete the application form via MyEITfood platform and submit before the next assessment deadline.

6. Evaluation and Selection Process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation to determine their feasibility and suitability for funding.

6.1 Eligibility

Organisation Eligibility	
	• Organisations directly in receipt of EIT-sourced funding from EIT Food: ○ must be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country for a minimum of one year pre-application. One-person legal entities are not eligible to participate in this call. ○ must have at least one year's published accounts showing business activity.* • For collaborations where the applicant(s) is not receiving EIT-sourced funding (e.g. established in a Non-Associated Country for Horizon Europe), the applicant(s) must have a formal incorporation or registration as a legal entity in their primary place of business. • Any organisation in receipt of EIT funding must provide an EU PIC Number if receiving funding: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf.
Consortia Eligibility	
	• The programme must ensure a pan-European dimension, delivering outcomes across multiple countries and demonstrating a KTI embedded by design. ○ Applying consortia therefore must involve at least **two independent entities from two different eligible countries**) committed to collaboration, representing **at least two sides of the knowledge triangle** (industry/research/education), with at least one industry or social enterprise organisation. • Applications by consortium must demonstrate active roles for each organisation that are commensurate with the level of budget.
Proposal Eligibility	To be eligible proposals must:
	• Respond to one or more Mission targets • Deliver a programme of connected activities, projects or workstreams, that enhance collaboration across a value chain, i.e. not single projects • Deliver impact within Europe • Be a minimum of 6 months and up to 24 months for the initial duration • Be submitted on time, in English • Be complete applications • Include any relevant KPI and assessment metrics • Include relevant deliverables and outputs • Include relevant budget • Include risk register • Include all relevant supporting documents necessary to assess the application. You must include all mandatory documents: Business Model Canvas and Launch Plan and where relevant, Success Sharing Mechanism (for commercial outcomes) and Proof of TRL • Not cause EIT Food to come into conflict with its funding or balance of impact principles

*** EIT Food reserves the right to undertake financial due diligence on any applicant and the outcomes of this may result in a range of options from amended pre-financing or grant distribution to rejection of an applicant if deemed too high risk.**

For more details on Eligibility please refer to **Annex 2 – Eligibility**.

6.2 Evaluation Process

EIT Food will evaluate each proposal based on the criteria below on its own merits. You must provide sufficient information and evidence to support claims or statements made in your application. Mandatory documents include: Business Model Canvas, Launch Plan, Budget and Success Sharing Mechanism

Templates for supporting documentation such as Business Canvas sheets, Launch Plans and Success Sharing Mechanisms etc. are available on our website.

The evaluation will involve two elements:

Strategic Fit Evaluation: EIT Food will screen proposals for alignment with overall purposes of this funding and its published portfolio of activities. Proposals that are not strategically aligned will not pass to the next phase of external evaluation. Please refer to sections 2 and 3 and Annex 1 of this document for more information on the types of activity we are seeking.

Technical Evaluation: Proposals showing Strategic Fit will be evaluated by at least three external evaluators and one internal evaluator based on the criteria below and the panel will provide objective scoring and recommendations in regard to funding.

All external evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process. All evaluators, both internal and external, are trained extensively on the **European Union´s Code of Conduct for Evaluators**, namely on the importance of transparency, fair treatment of all applicants, confidentiality and how to avoid conflict of interest. Evaluators must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the scoring system in Annex 3.

The quality threshold for selection is a total weighted score of 3.5.

EIT Food may invite applicants to a clarification panel meeting with evaluators, before reaching a final decision on funding of proposals. Projects whose provisional scores range from a weighted average of 3 to 3.5 will normally be called to a clarification panel for the purposes of moderating scores. Scoring is weighted by question and averaged among evaluators.

The number of proposals accepted under any single submission window is at the discretion of EIT Food.

6.3 Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (30%)	• The problem has been well defined in relation to EIT Food's Mission targets (5%) • Relevance of the proposal to the identified problem and Missions targets (5%) • Originality and innovativeness of the proposal (20%)	1-5
Impact (35%) *	Impact for these assessment purposes may include social, economic, environmental or health benefits. • Clear definition of unmet needs and proposal as a response (5%) • Benefit from the activity is enjoyed by organisations or populations with needs aligned to Mission targets (10%) • Scale, volume and duration of benefit (either breadth, depth or both) in relation to status quo (10%) • Evaluation mechanisms of impact identified (10%)	1-5
Quality and efficiency of implementation (25%)	• Value for money, including income generation potential where relevant (10%) • Competence and complementarity of the applicant(s) together with EIT Food to achieve programme objectives. (5%) • Adequate resources (human and financial) to achieve programme objectives. (5%) • Risk analysis and mitigation plan in place. (5%)	1-5
KIC Portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration (10%)	• Proposal advances on existing portfolio (5%) • Demonstrate systemic approach to creating impact in collaboration with EIT Food capabilities and network (5%)	1-5

*EIT Food observes a 'balance of impact' principle. If detriment is likely in relation to other missions or impact targets which would outweigh the forecast gains in the proposal, the impact score may be set to 0.

For full evaluation sub-criterion and balance of impact principles, please see **Annex 3 – Evaluation.**

6.4 Appeal on Evaluation Results & Resubmission

All activity leaders will be alerted in writing to the outcome of their proposal.

They can submit an appeal within 5 days of receiving their result, if:

- The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

For more details, please read the EIT Food Redress Mechanism.
If unsuccessful, a proposal may be resubmitted, using the next available window and incorporating the feedback from the evaluation process.

7. Administrative Items

7.1 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

In line with Horizon Europe requirements, applicant validation processes for first-time applicants or applicants with a change of status or grant receipt threshold will be required. Successful completion of such validation will be a condition of award. Please see more details in Annex 4.

Once the proposal has been officially accepted for funding, the Activity Leader will be contacted regarding the provision of financial/ grant eligibility documentation and the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food´s conflict of interest policy.

A. **Framework Agreement for the Participation in EIT Funded Activities**
B. **KAVA Contract**
C. **Success Sharing Mechanism (if applicable)**

7.2 Payment Schedule

EIT Food will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the Activity budget will be prefinanced, with subsequent payments being linked to the completion of deliverables; once eligible costs have been determined and following the completion of final Activity reporting and the fulfilment of all obligations specified in the KAVA Contract.

Please note: the amount and timing of funding is dependent on the dispersal of funds to EIT Food from the EIT.

7.3 Monitoring

All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation at each Stage in accordance with the Project Agreement, and to trigger payments according to the achievement of deliverables and KPIs.

The monitoring will cover several aspects relating to the Activity implementation including, but not limited to achievement of deliverables and KPIs; risk management; financial management; quality assurance; progress against KPI achievement and impact delivery; communication and dissemination (in compliance with MGA Article 17); and progress towards commercialisation and exploitation of results.

EIT Food may request regular reporting of actual costs incurred with the subgrant, as well as regular reporting of KPIs and deliverables, together with the supporting documentation. The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget, however the Success Sharing Mechanism Agreement cannot be renegotiated following the approval of the Activity.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct of the consortium, or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the Activity identified during the monitoring process, EIT Food reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the Activity at any point during the Activity duration. Furthermore, EIT Food will monitor all Activities up to 5 years after Activity completion to track long-term impact, the status of commercialisation and to ensure the achievement of KPIs anticipated after Activity end.

A formal ex-post impact assessment will be conducted within at least 5 years of the end of the activity and its outputs.

7.4 Your Questions

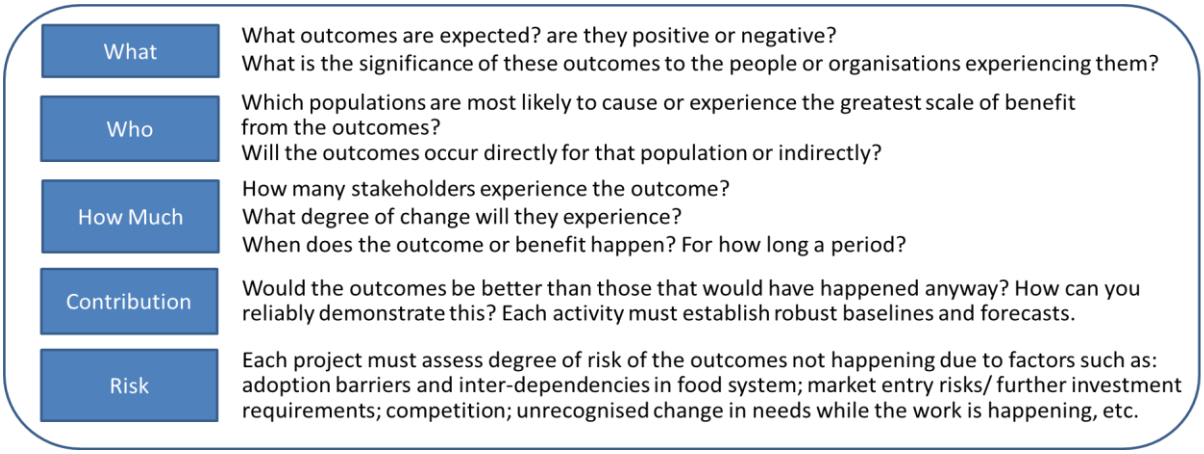
If you have any questions about this Call for Proposals, please contact missions@eitfood.eu about the content of the call.

Please visit our website for information about upcoming events to support your application. All changes or updates to the Funding will be posted on our webpage.

ANNEX 1 – IMPACT QUESTIONS AND PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

We recommend using our Impact Planning Tool, available on the call webpage, to demonstrate how your proposal will lead to impact in line with the scope and aims of EIT Food's funding. You are welcome to upload a PDF copy of your completed template as supporting information when you apply. That document would be additional to answering the questions in the application portal, not a substitute.

General questions to help understand and predict the nature and scale of your planned impact:



Please refer to the Mission Insight Reports produced by the EIT Food community for ideas on the points of greatest need and greatest impact opportunities across the food system. Below is not an exhaustive list.

Mission	**Understanding Your Impact**
Healthier Lives Through Food	The rate/ likelihood of experiencing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) for certain groups of people is strongly linked to food and diet. You should consider which NCD risks might be lowered by your work, whose risks will be reduced, and where they might be living. This will allow us to better understand why you have chosen to look at a specific problem. This approach will also help you explain the benefit of your work as you will be able to compare your customers or users against national and/or demographic data sets. The ultimate measure of benefit this area will be Health Adjusted Life Years (HALYs). These can be predicted once you understand which NCD risks are being reduced by the improvements you are making, by how much that risk is reduced and how many people are likely to have their risk reduced.

Net Zero Food System	Whether you're directly targeting CO_2 reduction, or targeting other environmental factors which can be converted into CO_2 equivalent tonnes as a measurement, you'll need to clearly explain which sectors or products you're concerned with, and which stage in production/ distribution/ consumption you're focused on. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a reliable way of demonstrating the scale of the particular issue you're looking at. We're happy for you to reference published LCA reports – it's not essential to have carried out your own, but it makes your business case even stronger if you have. You'll also need to consider the geography of where you're working or intend to roll out your results. The significance of specific problems can be very different depending on location, business sector and consumer factors.
Reducing risk for a fair, and resilient food system	Can you estimate the cost reduction or savings attached to food insecurity and food safety issues you're targeting? There may also be an overall *Societal Return on Investment* from the adoption of technology that improves transparency, traceability, and security across the food system. This might include measures such as jobs created, industry costs reduced or avoided, the value of efficiency gains made, investment raised, reduced public health costs, etc.

Please remember that impact can also come from how you do your project, not just from the results.

When you apply for funding, you should consider what opportunities you're creating with your project. Working with start-up companies, working with social enterprises, diverse recruitment, giving career development opportunities to your team members, including under-represented groups of people in your product testing or consumer consultations – these are all examples of ways in which you can benefit individuals, organisations and groups through your work.

You and your teams will have access to a range of skills and business support programmes at EIT Food, as well as opportunities to build professional networks to support career development. By taking advantage of these, you'll help us all to build a strong and diverse food sector in future.

How your results are published and promoted can also make a big impact. At EIT Food, we offer excellent communications support. We engage both the public and policy makers in all sorts of ways, from direct meetings to podcasts, social media to white papers. Our capability can help you to engage your audience and increase your reach, so think about how you might make best use of it.

Reviewing the current portfolio of EIT Food funded projects is essential to suggest initiatives that further enhance our portfolio. Please consult the overview of past projects funded under the Impact Funding Framework, along with our Regenerative Agriculture Portfolio and an overview of other EIT Food funded projects.

ANNEX 2 – ELIGIBILITY

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the outlined criteria in Section 6.1 will make your proposal ineligible. Failing to meet the Individual Organisation criteria will make that single organisation ineligible, which might affect the eligibility of the whole proposal, depending on the relevance of the role of the applicant being removed. If an applicant or the proposal is ineligible, participants will be informed.

2. According to EU policies and measures, Russian and Belarus entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, subcontractors, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission here. Other countries so designated by the EU will also be likewise ineligible for funding.

3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the Decision 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.* This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible.

4. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if any organisation in the consortium is:

    a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;
    b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
    c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;
    d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the call during the process;
    e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process;
    f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.

ANNEX 3 – EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

The quality threshold for selection is a total weighted average score of 3.5.

Score		Description
0	Not addressed	Not addressed
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	Proposal broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good	Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent	Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Balance of Impact Principles:

a. **Reputation:** Working with the topic, method, or approach poses a clear risk to the reputation of EIT Food

b. **Negative Impact:** The proposed initiative would negatively affect the ability of EIT Food to generate income, secure co-funding, grow partnerships or generate impact.

c. **Scope:** The proposed initiative falls outside our organisation's main goals. The identified problem is not explicitly listed in the Impact Funding Framework. **Or although it falls inside our target goals, it does not bring added value to our work or undermines the establishment of EIT Food strategic initiatives.**

d. **Repeat Initiative:** The proposed initiative is repeating work we've already funded or solving problems for which we've funded solutions, **without bringing any new benefits.** However, if a proposed project is similar but expands to a new market or region, for example, they should proceed to evaluation.

ANNEX 4 – ONBOARDING PROCESS TO SELECTED PROJECTS

Entities that have never been part of projects funded by the EIT and that do not have a Participant Identification Code (PIC) validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service, where they might be required to provide additional documentation and to sign a Declaration of Honor (DoH).

As part of the onboarding process, selected entities must:

- Register on EIT Food grants management platform.
- Sign and submit the Declaration of Size.
- Sign and submit the Financial Identification Form.

If the assessment results are not satisfactory, the EIT Food might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the proposal is still eligible.

EIT Food reserves the right to undertake financial due diligence on any applicant and the outcomes of this may result in a range of options from amended pre-financing or grant distribution to rejection.

For further information on the project implementation, you will be contacted by EIT Food Business Support Team.

ANNEX 5 – HISTORY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

Version	Publication Date	Changes
V1.0	15th September 2023	Original version
V1.1	1st February 2024	Section 6.2 Evaluation process.
V1.2	14th September 2024	**Minor** text edits for clarity & context. **Significant changes include:** **Section 4.1 Funding Overview Co-funding** Increased grant funding limit up to €1.000.000 per project year. **Success Sharing Mechanism** Further clarification that SSM does not have to apply to total grant amount nor to all partners if there is clear separation of commercial and non-commercial work packages and benefits from use of funds. **Section 4.5: Core KPIs and Deliverables** Applications including an education component or *KPI EITHE07.1 Graduates from EIT labelled programmes*, must align with *EIT Label* accreditation. **Section 6.1: Eligibility Organisation eligibility criteria** Applications are now generally open to organisations with a minimum of one year of trading history rather than three. **Section 6.2 Evaluation Process** Description of process revised. List of Mandatory documents clarified. Increase of award quality threshold score from 3 to 3.5 in line with parallel Single Projects scheme **Section 6.3 & Annex 3: Evaluation Criteria** Clarification of definition concerning "Strategic Fit" and "Balance of Impact"
V1.3	17th January 2025	**Minor text edits for clarity and adjustments of timeline:** **Section 5.1. Timeline:** Preliminary communication, Project Grant Award letter and contracting timeline were adjusted **Section 5.2 Application Submission:** Salesforce application link was updated. **Section 6.1. Eligibility – Proposal Eligibility:** Modification of

		the mandatory documents expected from applicants.
V1.4	09th May 2025	**Section 4.1. Funding Overview:** Inclusion of guidelines on waiver requests. **Section 4.3. Who can apply?:** Inclusion of footnote with guidance on funding eligibility for applicants outside the EU and associated countries. **Section 5.1. Timeline:** Preliminary communication adjusted. Expected start date added. **Section 5.2. Application Submission:** Link to application portal was updated. **Section 6.1. Eligibility:** Inclusion of Criteria: *One-person legal entities are not eligible to participate in this call.* **Section 6.3. Evaluation Criteria:** Under the "Excellence" criterion, the weight *of "Originality and innovativeness of the proposal"* has been increased from 10% to 20%, while the weights of *"The problem has been well defined in relation to EIT Food's Mission targets"* and *"Relevance of the proposal to the identified problem and Mission targets"* have each been reduced from 10% to 5%. Inclusion of **Annex 4 on Onboarding Process to Selected Projects**.
V1.5	16th May 2025	**Section 4 Timeline:** Update last deadline to 11th December 2025.
V1.6	04th September 2025	**Note to reader:** Information on the cancellation of the last deadline scheduled for the 11th December 2025. **Section 4 Timeline:** Mention of last deadline to 11th December 2025 has been deleted.