Protein Diversification and Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tanks Coordination & Content Creation Support Call

EIT Food/PD and HA TDT Coordination & Content Creation Support Call/2026

EIT FOOD

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1. Introduction

Over the next decade, we will advocate for a bold transformation of Europe's food system, so that future generations can eat healthy, sustainable food. Through our community, we will fundamentally redesign the way food is produced, distributed, and consumed, so that by 2030 we have viable pathways to transformation at scale, and by 2035 we see tangible change across the food value chain.

Supported by the EU, we invest in projects, organisations and individuals that share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system. Our innovation projects are delivered with a combination of industry, education and research partners to improve environmental and health outcomes by developing solutions that align with our missions and priority areas:

1. **Healthier Lives Through Food**

We will make a material difference to quality of life by enabling more consumers to have better choices through access to affordable, healthier food products and actionable information.

2. **Food System Resilience**

We'll improve food security and safety for consumers everywhere by enabling and establishing resilient and dependable digitally enabled food supply chains.

3. **Net Zero Food System**

We will enable the transition to a net zero food system, measuring and quantifying the change through reduced CO2 equivalent emissions.

2. Overview of key information on the call

Call ID	EIT Food/PD and HA TDT Coordination & Content Creation Support Call/2026
Call opening and deadline for applications	**Call opening:** 08.10.2026 **Deadline for applications** 08.11.2026 12:00 CET
Evaluation and implementation timeline (indicative)	Evaluation of proposals: 8 November – 15 November 2026 Communication of results to applicants: 20 November 2026 *Following the communication of results, the selection and contracting process is expected to be finalized within three months.* Tentative start of the projects: 1 January 2027 Tentative end of the projects: 1 January 2028
Maximum funding allocated to this call	The maximum funding allocated to this Call is up to EUR 100,000. The maximum funding allocated per proposal is up to €50,000 grant, with applicants required to provide €2,500 (5% of the grant amount) as in-kind co-funding.
List of call documents	Application form as available on the submission platform: MyEITFood Portal Financial Support Agreement template Budget template Other relevant documents available at call webpage in EIT Food Open Calls.
Topics to be addressed	The goal of this call is to recruit two separate partner-led consortia: one to support the Protein Diversification Think and Do Tank and one to support the Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tank. Each consortium will be composed of EIT Food partners and will support the effective functioning and maximise the

	impact of its respective Think and Do Tank by leading and coordinating content development, supporting the activities of the Steering Committee and Task Forces, and fostering structured collaboration among stakeholders.
Contact point Q&A	Regine Roncucci- regine.roncucci@eitfood.eu

3. EIT Food's Protein Diversification and Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tanks

3.1. Purpose and scope of the activities

EIT Food is opening a targeted call for consortium composed by its partner organisations. The call is focused on coordination and content creation to strengthen collaboration within the TDTs, ensure alignment across activities, and support the development of coherent, high-quality knowledge and communication outputs. Through this call, EIT Food aims to enable committed partners to play a central role in coordinating joint efforts, shaping shared narratives, and translating the TDTs' strategic objectives into actionable content and outcomes, in close collaboration with EIT Food staff and TDTs' members.

This call is restricted to EIT Food partners because the role requires a deep understanding of EIT Food's mission, governance, and operational processes, as well as first-hand knowledge of the Think and Do Tank's objectives, activities, and ways of working. Active partners bring essential institutional knowledge, established working relationships, and familiarity with ongoing initiatives, which are critical for ensuring effective coordination, continuity, and strategic coherence across TDT activities.

Applicants must be official EIT Food partners and demonstrate understanding and experience within the Protein Diversification and/or the Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tank. The selected consortia are expected to actively contribute to the delivery of activities and participate in Steering Committee meetings and, where required, Task Force sessions. Applicants should have a proven track record in policy analysis, research, foresight, or strategic content development related to food systems, with strong experience in coordinating multi-stakeholder collaborations and producing high-quality, policy-relevant outputs.

Content creation:

The activity includes responsibility for content creation, with a varying number of documents required each year per Think and Do Tank (maximum five reports annually). These outputs may vary in length (between 300 and 1,500 words, 1 to 5 pages, not including imagery) and can be produced for external publication or internal TDT use. The content may be based on qualitative and/or quantitative research, depending on the objectives and needs of the Think and Do Tank. Applicants are expected to propose key research and content that could be produced in the TDT. The specific content creation outcomes will be defined throughout the year, based on evolving needs and strategic priorities of the TDT.

The partner should take full ownership of content creation while collaborating closely with EIT Food staff and other TDT members to ensure all outputs are delivered on time, meet the agreed standards, and are aligned with the Think and Do Tank's strategic priorities.

Key content outputs expected may include:

- Conduct foresight activities and trends mapping to identify emerging topics, challenges, and opportunities relevant to the TDT's strategic focus, as required.
- Create policy white papers and other strategic documents, as required.

- Contribute to project development by creating content for internal (EIT Food grants) or external funding applications (Philanthropic, Horizon Europe, Erasmus grants), if needed, in collaboration with the EIT Food and TDT members.
- Support in the development of a monthly newsletter to keep partners of the Protein Diversification and Healthy Ageing TDTs updated with relevant activities and developments.

Supporting responsibilities may include:

- Gather insights, feedback, and relevant data from partners and EIT Food to inform and strengthen policy papers, reports, and strategic outputs.
- Coordinate with partners to ensure their perspectives and expertise are accurately reflected in Think and Do Tank content outputs (for example, white papers, foresight studies, etc.) during TDT meetings, Steering Co meetings and bilateral conversations.
- Tailor messaging of agreed content deliverables for different audiences, including policymakers, academia, and the private sector, adapting the style and format to suit each audience.
- Disseminate insights and content outputs to relevant stakeholders, ensuring that key information reaches the intended audience effectively in collaboration with EIT Food staff and TDT partners.

Steering Committee meetings are held with the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Think and Do Tanks (TDTs).

Think and Do Tank meetings refer to meetings involving all TDT members.

3.2. Project duration and implementation

The project runs from January 2027 to January 2028. The activity may be extended based on the Think and Do Tank's selected consortium performance and evolving needs.

Applicants are required to comply with gender equality, diversity and inclusion principles in line with Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, Specific Rules, Values) and the EIT Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2025-2027.

3.3. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All **EIT Food funded** projects should achieve relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For the Protein Diversification and Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tanks, the main KPIs are:

Code	KPI	KPI Definition
EITHE16	# Results disseminated through the EC dissemination tools	Result is what is generated during the activity implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, start-ups, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. By the EC dissemination tools are meant the EC IT dissemination platforms such as Horizon Results Platform (europa.eu).

Please note: At the end of the funding period, EIT Food requires specific structured data and documentation to verify the achievement of KPIs. Grantees must report their KPI achievements through the grant management tool and ensure that all required structured data and supporting evidence is submitted in accordance with the guidelines provided (see EIT Food KPI Guidance Document for details).

3.4. Deliverables

Grant recipients must submit project deliverables. For this activity the deliverable include:

The creation of a strategic document for the Think and Do Tank, ranging from 250–3,000 words (1–10 pages, excluding imagery), for internal and/or external publication.

Deadline for submitting the deliverable: January 2028.

Grant recipients have obligations on communication, dissemination and visibility rules. Please see Article 17 of the Model Grant Agreement and EIT Food's Brand Guidelines.

Grant recipients must adhere to EIT Food Intellectual Property´s (IP) Policy which complies with the IP provisions outlined in Article 16 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. Intellectual property rights generated through this activity remain with the beneficiary of the grant.

3.5. Monitoring and reporting

The project will be monitored and may be audited. All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation in accordance with the Project Agreement.

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 Financial Return Mechanism Agreement cannot be re-negotiated following the approval of the Activity.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct, misalignment with the project specifications in the grant management system 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.

A formal ex-post impact assessment within at least five years of the end of the activity and its outputs is required for each activity, including those implemented by third parties.

4. Financial aspects of the call

4.1. KIC funding, co-funding rate and cost eligibility

The total budget for this call is 100.000 EUR. Recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

The maximum funding available per consortium/application is 50.000 EUR (lump sum), with applicants required to provide €2,500 (5% of the grant amount) as in-kind co-funding.

The project runs from January 2027 to January 2028.

This funding is implemented under EIT GA 101269771 There is a 6 million EUR limit per participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from Horizon Europe Associate Countries for the whole 3-year Grant Agreement. Legal entities from non- Horizon Europe Associate countries can participate in consortia but are limited to funding of 60 000 over 3 years for a Grant Agreement. In those limits are included all the EIT Funding awarded to an organization across all the activities and prizes for the 3-year grant agreement.

The Subgrant is based on a pre-fixed lump sum and value for money. All costs, including co-funding, 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.

Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

When subcontracting, participants must comply with the Horizon Europe procurement rules, particularly the principles of fair competition, equal treatment and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

4.2. Payment arrangements

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in instalments. It is conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverables mentioned above. Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

Deliverable: Strategic document for the TDT

- **Allocated Value:** 50.000 EUR with 2.500 EUR of co-financing from the consortium (in-kind).

The lump sum is intended to support a broad set of activities aligned with Horizon Europe and EIT Food priorities. It covers the following cost categories:

- **Personnel (up to € 37.000):** partial salary costs for a dedicated coordination role responsible for ensuring the timely delivery of TDT activities.
- **Travel (up to € 3.000):** covers transport and lodging for two in-person meetings per year.
- **Indirect Costs (up to € 10.000)**

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed 50% upfront followed by instalments (defined as per the calendar) and are conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverables mentioned above. Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

To prove that the activity has been successfully implemented, the following compulsory deliverables and KPIs must be submitted and approved.

	Value assigned to deliverables as percentage of total EIT Food contribution
Strategic document for the TDT	100% of the subgrant

For more information, please see EIT Food Project Financing Policy.

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

4.3. Financial Sustainability

The selected partners will contribute directly to financial sustainability by actively supporting the co-writing of funding bids, including drafting key sections, shaping the proposal narrative, and strengthening the overall quality and competitiveness of submissions to relevant funding opportunities.

5. Call Criteria

Following the deadline for submission, the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria checks will be performed for each proposal in line with the following criteria.

5.1. Admissibility

Please note that completing the following two steps is a mandatory prerequisite for submitting an application for EIT Food Calls.

- First, applicants must register their organisation on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal in order to obtain a unique nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC); if unsure whether a PIC already exists, organisations can verify their registration directly via the EU Portal.
- Second, applicants must register, access and complete their submission through the platform MyEITFood.eu.

Only proposals complying with the following conditions will be considered eligible for further evaluation:

Applications must be submitted in English before the call deadline, submitted using the forms provided inside MyEITFood.eu, complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents. Applicants are required to provide the detailed Excel budget, using the EIT Food budget template provided, as a mandatory document.

Any proposals submitted after the deadline will be inadmissible.

5.2. Entities eligible to participate and eligibility for funding

This call is open exclusively to EIT Food partners: Strategic Partner or Delivery Partner.

Any legal entity that meet the condition above, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries is **eligible to participate**, provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met (e.g. the entity is not under EU sanction, please refer to annex 2 and 3), along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic.

For this call, a 'legal entity' means any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality.

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025[1], in order to be **eligible for funding**, the **applicant must be established in one of the eligible countries**, i.e.:

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States[2];
- countries associated to Horizon Europe[3];
- certain low- and middle-income countries[4].
- Legal entities, which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the EIT.

Only proposals satisfying all the eligibility criteria shall pass on to the selection and evaluation stages.

5.3. Consortium composition

Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to apply provided that the consortium includes, as beneficiaries, a minimum of two legal entities independent from each other.

Please see Annex 1 for exclusion criteria.

5.4. Award Criteria

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment:

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
Excellence (30%)	• Demonstrated understanding of the objectives of the Think and Do Tank coordination and content creation role. • Demonstrated experience in producing high-quality strategic, policy, and analytical content. • Strong familiarity with EIT Food's mission, governance, and operational processes. • Ability to coordinate inputs from multiple stakeholders and ensure coherent outputs. • Being an active member of the Think and Do Tanks	1-5
Impact (15%)	• Ability to support collaboration and alignment within the Think and Do Tank, promoting inclusive participation across gender-diverse stakeholders. • Measures to enhance quality, consistency, and strategic relevance of knowledge outputs.	1-5

	• Capacity to support evidence-based decision-making through foresight, policy papers, and reporting. • Measures to increase visibility and uptake of Think and Do Tank outcomes among key stakeholders.	
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (30%)	• Robust and realistic implementation approach with clear ownership of deliverables. • Demonstrated technical capacity to deliver diverse content outputs on time. • Effective coordination mechanisms with EIT Food staff and TDT members. • Appropriate and proportionate allocation of resources and costs.	1-5
KIC portfolio strategic fit (25%)	• Strong alignment with EIT Food strategic objectives and Think and Do Tank priorities. • Clear integration of research, education, innovation, and stakeholder engagement. • Active EIT Food partner involvement ensures continuity and institutional knowledge. • Compliance with financial sustainability principles and portfolio priorities.	1-5

Each evaluation criteria will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	Application broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	Application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good	Application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent	Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The quality threshold for selection is a total weighted score of 3.5. The highest-scoring application per Think and Do Tank will be selected.

6. Evaluation procedure

6.1. Admissibility and eligibility, exclusion and selection stages

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	08 October 2026
Call Deadline	08 November 2026 12:00 CET
Evaluation	08 October – 15 November 2026
Consensus meeting with evaluators	15 November 2026
Communication to applicants	20 November 2026
Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	06 December 2026

Indicative start of project implementation	1 January 2027

6.2. Evaluation of proposals

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

During the eligibility check, if EIT Food identifies obvious or technical errors in a proposal, applicant will have the opportunity to correct or resubmit their proposal within three (3) calendar days following the call submission deadline. Such errors may include system malfunctions, typos, or missing supporting documents.

The correction window is intended to ensure that these issues do not unduly affect the evaluation of otherwise eligible proposals. Please note that this opportunity is strictly limited to rectifying technical errors and does not permit substantive modifications to the proposal content.

The evaluation consists of a remote evaluation and will be conducted by 1 external evaluator and 1 internal evaluator, based on the criteria below. External evaluators score the award criteria Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of Implementation. Internal evaluators only score KIC Portfolio Strategic Fit. The internal evaluation score does not outweigh the external assessment.

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. EIT Food aims for representation of either women or men not falling below 40% as a parity threshold within evaluation committees.

Expert evaluators are obliged to use the Horizon Dashboard during the assessment and to provide evidenced justification on the assessment of the proposal's budgets.

6.3. Communication of evaluation results to applicants

Communication of evaluation results

Following the award decision, all applicants shall be informed of the result in writing. All applicants shall receive their assessment, in the format of evaluation summary report, including their score.

In case an applicant requests further clarification regarding the evaluation result, it may contact the KIC by email. Such requests will be replied within 15 days (this deadline may be extended by the KIC with due justification).

Successful proposals will be invited to the financial support agreement preparation stage/onboarding, the other proposals will be rejected.

A reduced lump-sum amount may be communicated as part of the evaluation results.

Requirements for selected proposals

If the proposal is selected, the communication on the evaluation results may include a set of recommendations/conditions as a result of the outcome of the evaluation. These requirements may not entail a substantial modification of the proposal.

If the applicant fails to comply with the provided recommendations/conditions or does not respond in the time allocated, the EIT Food reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the next proposal will be contacted following the ranking list.

Entities that have never been part of projects funded by the EIT Food and that do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process.

As part of the onboarding process, selected entities must:

- Sign and submit the Declaration of Size.
- Sign and submit the Financial Information Form.
- Sign the Declaration of Honour (DoH) in accordance with the EU Financial Regulation.
- Register on EIT Food grants management platform.
- Additionally, EIT Food reserves the right to request the EIT Community Onboarding Service a Financial Assessment Capacity to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such case, EIT Food may require:
    - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liabilities of Affiliated Entities if any
    - prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing)
    - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees

  or

    - propose no prefinancing or
    - request that the entity be replaced or, if needed, might reject the entire proposal

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

For further information on the implementation of the project, please read the EIT Food Activity Implementation Guidelines for Participants.

Standstill period

The standstill period is a set time after funding selection for appeals, final administrative checks, and compliance in the award process.

The project cannot start before this period. The standstill period of 30 days applies to this call.

Appeal process

Applicants can submit an appeal within 15 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 refer to EIT Food Redress guidance.

Support

If you have any questions about this call, please contact the call manager Regine Roncucci at regine.roncucci@eitfood.eu.

Please visit our website for any updates to this call and information about upcoming events to support your application. You will also find our list of Frequently Asked Questions.

7. EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Contracting

Selected applicants will receive a second communication with instructions regarding the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food´s conflict of interest policy:

To be signed between the participant and EIT Food:

Lump sum agreement

For consortium-based projects, payments will only be made once all contracts have been signed.

Consortium Agreement

It is highly recommended that this document be signed by all members of the consortium.

It is suggested to consider using the DESCA model as a framework for the consortium agreement.

Any other legal agreements to make this grant eligible.

Annexes

1. Annex 1- Information on the EIT

1. European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a **European Union body** with a legal personality and a wide legal capacity accorded to legal persons under national law. The EIT was created in 2008 by the European Union (EU) to enhance Europe's global competitiveness by fostering collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and higher education organizations.

The EIT is governed by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 (EIT Regulation), which aligns the EIT's mission with the EU's priorities and the objectives of Horizon Europe on evolving research, innovation, economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness, sustainable growth, higher education and entrepreneurship, by means of the Knowledge

and Innovation Communities (KICs), which address specific societal challenges and are established and supported by the EIT.

The EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2021-2027 is aligned with Horizon Europe and lays down the priority fields and the strategy of the EIT for future initiatives, capacity to generate the best innovation added-value, objectives, key actions, mode of operation, expected results, impact, as well as an estimate of the resources needed for the duration of Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe Regulation

The Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695 foresees that the EIT takes part in the implementation of the Horizon Europe Programme in accordance with its strategic objectives for the period 2021 to 2027, as laid down in the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT, and taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe.

EIT and Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) relations

The EIT Regulation defines KICs as large-scale Institutionalised European Partnerships of higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders in the innovation process in the form of a strategic network, regardless of its legal form, based on joint mid- to long-term innovation planning to meet the EIT's challenges and contribute to attaining the objectives established.

According to the EIT Regulation, and without prejudice to the partnership agreements and grant agreements between the EIT and each KIC, the KICs have substantial autonomy to establish their internal organisation and composition, as well as their agenda and working methods, provided that they result in progress towards achieving the objectives of the EIT and the KICs, taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe and the strategic direction of the EIT set out in the SIA and by the Governing Board.

2. Contractual framework between the EIT and the KICs

The long-term relations between the EIT and each KIC are based on a **seven-year** Partnership Agreement (PA)[5] laying down the general terms and conditions under which the KIC operates as an Institutionalised European Partnership. Subject to positive performance, interim review and outcome of comprehensive assessment of the KIC, the PA can be extended for another period of a maximum of seven years.

The EIT signed a framework partnership agreement with EIT Food on 1 March 2018, with retroactive effect as of 1 January 2018.

The Grant Agreement (GA)[6] is the contractual instrument laying down the provisions concerning the implementation of the KIC activities (KIC Business Plan, Cross-KIC activities, etc.) through grants, on an annual or multi-annual basis of up to three years with the KICs. Business plans describe the main objectives and expected results and actions taken by the KICs.

The Grant Agreement 2026-2028 between the EIT and EIT Food entered into force on April 7th 2026, with effect from the action start date of 1 January 2026.

Contractual framework between the KIC and the subgrantees

In accordance with the Grant Agreement (Annex 5), the KIC launches calls (i.e. open calls or KIC partnership calls) in order to select projects or award prizes. The KIC awards a "financial support to third parties" (i.e. the so called "subgrants" and "prizes") for the implementation of these projects and signs **subgrant agreements** ("Financial Support Agreements") with the selected entities or consortia.

2. Annex 2- EU restrictions on participation

1. EU restrictive measures

Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[7] as well as Article 75 TFEU[8], are not eligible to participate

in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/0522[9].

2. Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine

Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

With specific regard to measures addressed to Russia, following the adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024[10] (amending Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014) concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, legal entities established outside Russia but whose proprietary rights are directly or indirectly owned for more than 50% by a legal person, entity or body established in Russia are also not eligible to participate in any capacity.

3. Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks

The protection of European communication networks has been identified as an important security interest of the Union and its Member States[11]. For further information, please refer to the Horizon Europe, Work Programme 2025, General Annexes, B – Eligibility on page 14[12].

3. Annex 3- Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the Call and from the award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. Applicants that are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion) or are in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of fraud, corruption, having links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they have shown significant deficiencies in complying with their main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/9534 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant); or

- they have created under a different jurisdiction an entity with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
- have misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or have failed to supply that information; or
- were previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails a breach of the principle of equality of treatment, including distortion of competition, that cannot be remedied otherwise.

As evidence, the applicants (i.e. the Coordinator and all the proposed partners participating in the applicant consortium) will have to submit a **declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest**. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

Successful applicants will go through the legal entity validation process of the **Onboarding Service of the KICs (i.e. a shared service led by EIT Urban Mobility KIC)**. If not provided in the application, the Onboarding Service will request registration documents and a signed Declaration of honour from the successful applicant. The validation may also include a check of the successful applicants by the EIT in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of the European Commission.

4. Annex 4 – Other terms and conditions

1. Acceptance of the call conditions

EIT Food reserves the right to make reasonable amendments and additions to the call conditions. Amendments and additions to the call conditions shall be valid only before the submission deadline, and if made available to all potential applicants at the same time on the call page of the EIT Food Calls webpage.

EIT Food may declare the call unsuccessful in case no applications are received, if the applications do not meet the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria, or if none of the applications reach the thresholds laid down in this call text.

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to the present call conditions. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding.

2. Cancellation of the call

EIT Food reserves the right to cancel the call at any time before the signature of the Financial Support Agreement(s) without the obligation to compensate applicants, in particular where its objectives can no longer be met, provided that the applicants are informed in a transparent manner in writing as follows:

- if the cancellation takes place before that award: on the call page of the EIT Food Calls webpage,
- if the cancellation takes place following the communication of the results to the applicants, during the standstill period, or anytime before the signature of the Financial Support Agreement: in writing directly to the selected applicants.

3. Data protection

EIT Food ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation or "GDPR"). As a data subject, you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object, and the right not to be subject to

a decision based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact us at: privacy@eitfood.eu.

Personal data will be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the results of the call in case of unsuccessful applications and 7 years for successful applicants.

By submitting your application to this call, you consent that EIT Food will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

For more information on the processing of your personal data, please consult the privacy statement of EIT Food at: www.eitfood.eu/privacy.

4. Confidentiality

EIT Food undertakes to use any confidential information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the evaluation process.

Confidential information shall mean data and/or information (in any form) that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, that is identified as confidential in writing or when disclosed orally.

Confidential information included in the application form must be expressly labelled by the applicant as such in the form. As regards confidential information expressly labelled as such in the call process, EIT Food undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and any form, without the prior written authorization of the applicant; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the call.

Confidential information may be shared among EIT Food and its subsidiaries (e.g. KIC Co-Location Centres) solely for the purposes of the call process. EIT Food undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the conduct of the call, including as members of the Evaluation Committee, may have access to such confidential data and information.

The applicants agree that data and information regarding the selected projects' implementation (e.g. success stories) not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Food.

5. Avoidance of conflict of interest

EIT Food is committed to ensure the avoidance of conflict of interest (regarding all actors) and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management.

Measures to avoid potential Conflict of Interest or unequal treatment of applicants are ensured including through appropriate conflict of interest declaration and assessment process, established written communication channels and independent and fair complaints/redress procedures.

In case an applicant becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest affecting the conduct of the call process, it shall notify the EIT Food of the conflict of interest without any delay.

6. Ethics and values

The proposal must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable EU, international and national law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No financial support/EIT funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No financial support/EIT funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

Please refer to the financial support agreement for further requirements.

7. Intellectual property rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service included in their application.

Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Food and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of applicants. Applicants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology. Applicants agree to respect the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Rules (Article 16) of the General Model Grant Agreement and Article 10 of the Financial Support Agreement (Common Subgrant Agreement Model).

8. Withdrawal of the funding – Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Food may withdraw the funding after its award and recover all payments made in line with the provisions of the Financial Support Agreement, including in the following cases:

- in case the applicant committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud;
- in case the applicant committed serious breach of obligations under the Financial Support Agreement or during its award (including non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, etc.)
- it is established that the awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded.

9. Checks, reviews, audits and investigations

EIT Food retains the right to initiate checks, reviews and audit on an applicant that has been awarded funding, in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the call conditions and of the legal and contractual framework referred to above.

EIT Food may request any information and data from applicants that have been awarded funding for 5 years after completion for these purposes, as well as in relation to monitoring by the EIT.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement between the EIT and the KIC as well as the Financial Support Agreement, the EIT and/or the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations in relation to the call and the implementation of the projects.

10. Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union legal framework(i.e. in particular the EIT Regulation[13], the EU Financial Regulation[14], the Horizon Europe Regulation[15]), supplemented if necessary by the national law of Belgium.

The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the Partnership Agreement and the Grant Agreement signed between the EIT and EIT Food. Applicants agree to comply with the terms of the Model Financial Support Agreement between successful applicants and EIT Food, available here.

11. Settlement of disputes

All disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, which cannot be solved amicably, shall be finally settled before the courts of Brussels.

History of Changes

Version	Publication Date	Changes
Version 1.0	06.10.2026	Original Version
Version 2.0	20.10.2026	Removed participation restrictions to entities that are: • a public interest trust established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021; or • an entity maintained by such a public interest trust.