Specific Rules for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

When implementing Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) under EIT Food KIC Actions, beneficiaries shall:

- Launch an open call for applications for a minimum of one month, using the mandatory template provided by EIT Food.
- Obtain approval of the call guidelines from EIT Food before publication of the call.
- Publish the open call widely, including on the EIT Food website.
- Inform applicants of any call updates and communicate the outcome of the selection process, including successful applicants and awarded amounts.

Proposal evaluation shall:

- Be based on the following award criteria: (a) Excellence; (b) Impact; (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation; and (d) KIC Portfolio Strategic Fit.
- Be carried out using a pre-defined scoring grid and pass thresholds published in the call documentation.
- Include the assessment of at least one independent external evaluator. EIT Food shall be responsible for the nomination, contracting and remuneration of the external evaluator(s).
- Limit the assessment by internal evaluators to the KIC Portfolio Strategic Fit criterion only, which may account for a maximum of 40% of the total score and shall not outweigh the assessment of the external evaluator(s).
- Prevent conflicts of interest and ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination and sound financial management.
- Identify and disclose any potential conflicts of interest among evaluators and consult with EIT Food on the mitigation measures.
- Result in the selection of proposals based on the final evaluation scores and the published pass thresholds published in the call documentation.
- Be subject to a complaints procedure in accordance with the EIT Food Redress Policy. EIT Food shall assess all complaints submitted.

Contracting of selected applicants shall:

- Be performed by the implementer of the programme following the subgrant contract template provided by EIT Food.
- Contain intellectual property provisions and the communication, dissemination and visibility requirements to be provided by EIT Food.
- Happen between the implementer and selected applicants before payment of the financial support.

Monitoring of the financial support shall:

- Happen in accordance with the format and timelines specified in the subgrant contract template provided by EIT Food.
- Make payments to final recipients only upon completion of the relevant deliverables, as defined in the subgrant contract template provided by EIT Food.

Beneficiaries shall provide EIT Food with:

- Upon completion of the evaluation:
    - the ranking list of proposals; and
    - the independent observers' report, where applicable.
- Upon completion of the selection process:
    - the budget and funding overview; and
    - information on the selected projects, including participant data and proposal abstracts, in the format specified by EIT Food.
- Upon completion of the action:
    - an updated budget and funding overview; and
    - information on the funded projects, including participant data and a summary of results, in the format specified by EIT Food.