

EIT Food RisingFoodStars ScaleUp Verification Badge Call for Startups – Terms & Conditions

Version 2026_02

EIT Food / EIT Food RisingFoodStars ScaleUp Verification Badge Call for Startups / 2026

EIT Food – Making Food Innovation Happen

Knowledge & Innovation Centre on Food,
part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
<http://www.eitfood.eu>

Table of Contents

Call Fact Sheet

1. EIT Food

1.1 Introduction

2. EIT Food RisingFoodStars ScaleUp Recognition

2.1 Scope

3. Funding

3.2 Deliverables and milestones

4. Timeline

4.1 Application submission

5. Eligibility

5.1 General criteria

5.2 Formal criteria

5.3. Documents and reporting

6. Evaluation and Selection

6.1 Eligibility

6.2 Evaluation Process

7. Administrative Items

7.1 Onboarding

7.2 EIT Food Legal Framework and Documents to be signed

7.3 Payment Schedule

7.4 Monitoring

8. Access to further funding opportunities

9. Other conditions

9.1 Publicity – Promoting the EIT RisingFoodStars – Visibility of the ...EU Funding

9.2 Dissemination and exploitation of results

9.3 Processing of personal data

9.4 Ethics

9.5 Liability for damages

9.6 Administrative sanctions

9.7 Cancellation of the programme

9.8 Terms & Conditions

10. Contact

ANNEX 1

Exclusion criteria

Call Fact Sheet

Title of Call	EIT Food RisingFoodStars ScaleUp Verification Badge Call for Startups
Objective and Scope	RisingFoodStars is EIT Food's recognition for scaleups that have demonstrated not just potential, but the rigorous work and discipline required to scale with impact. The RisingFoodStars verification badge acts as a shorthand for company's maturity, showing that the venture has gone through a structured, demanding process to strengthen its leadership, commercial model, investment readiness and system impact. Awarded to the strongest startups advancing from the EIT Food Accelerator Network, RisingFoodStars highlights companies that are ready for meaningful commercial partnerships, investment, and growth.
Call Deadline	May 11th, 2026, 12:00 CET
Available Funding	60,000 EUR (up to 2,900 EUR per startup)
Project Duration	July 2026 – December 2026
How to apply	Please submit your online application, including necessary attachments via myeitfood.eu .
Contact Information	narijs.chakir@eitfood.eu

1. EIT Food

1.1 Introduction

EIT Food IVZW is an international non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of Belgium, having its registered address at Philipssite 5, Ubicenter A bus 34, 3001 Leuven, Belgium, registered at the Crossroads bank for Enterprises with number 0672.423.992, Register of Legal Entities Leuven (hereinafter referred to as 'EIT Food').

EIT Food is a pan-European partnership designed to empower innovators and entrepreneurs to develop world-class solutions to food challenges, accelerate innovation, create jobs and increase Europe's competitiveness. As one of the largest food-related initiatives worldwide,

EIT Food wants Europe to lead a global revolution in food innovation and production, improve nutrition and making food systems more resource-efficient, secure, transparent and trusted. EIT Food is one of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) of the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology) and funded by the European Commission. It unites more than 60 partners along the Food value chain – academic and research institutions as well as industry– from more than 20 European countries. Its five Innovation Hubs across Europe (also called Co- location Centres - CLCs) aim at fostering innovation across the regional ecosystems of industry, research institutions and universities.

2. EIT Food RisingFoodStars ScaleUp Recognition

2.1 Scope

Europe's agrifood sector is evolving rapidly, driven by founders developing solutions that strengthen the health, sustainability, and resilience of our food system. In this landscape, clarity and trust are essential.

RisingFoodStars is EIT Food's recognition for scaleups that have demonstrated not just potential, but the rigorous work and discipline required to scale with impact. The RisingFoodStars scaleup verification badge acts as a shorthand for company's maturity, showing that the venture has gone through a structured, demanding process to strengthen its leadership, commercial model, investment readiness and system impact. Awarded to the strongest startups advancing from the EIT Food Accelerator Network, RisingFoodStars highlights companies that are ready for meaningful commercial partnerships, investment, and growth.

RFS scaleup verification badge is earned, not granted.

It represents ambition, excellence, and the proven readiness to grow with impact, advancing a more resilient and sustainable future for food in Europe.

Starting from 2026, the RFS scaleup verification badge will only be open to EIT Food Accelerator Network alumni, RisingFoodStars alumni and referred companies.

The RFS scaleup verification badge will be free of charged and based on merit as of 2026.

The benefits behind the RFS scaleup verification badge include:

- **Verified Recognition & Credibility:** Through an independent evaluation by experts, corporates and investors, and a transparent scaleup maturity scan scoring and criteria, this recognition acts as a strong external signal of scaleup maturity to reduce investor and corporate due diligence at global level.
- **Privileged Market & Capital Access:** : The recognition comes with a growth plan including personalised mentorship and a yearly personal coach, dedicated workshops, access to corporate partners via dedicated support, access to EIT Food funding mechanisms, and priority access to premium on-demand sprints at discounted rate. **Visibility and influence:** Recognised scaleups will be given priority on event visibility and PR through EIT Food and its partners, will receive founder spotlights and media support and will be able to leverage their recognition seal on their social media, website and pitch decks.

2.2 Key Performance Indicators

All EIT Food funded projects should achieve relevant Core Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For the EIT Food Accelerator Programme the main KPIs are:

<u>Code</u>	<u>KPI</u>	<u>KPI Definition</u>
EITHE02.1	Marketed Innovations	New or significantly improved product/service introduced to the market after the acceleration (up to 3 years after participation in the programme), proved by a minimum of 10,000 euros sales invoices.
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted	Funding raised after the acceleration (up to 3 years).
EITHE03.1	Supported startups	Number of supported companies in cohort.

3. Funding

The total budget for this call is €60,000. Recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their costs, depending on their participation and performance in the programme.

The programme runs from July 2026 up to December 2026 (see detailed timeline in point 4). The maximum funding available per application is €2,900.00.

There is a €6 million limit per participant from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associated Countries](#) for the whole 3-year Grant Agreement. Legal entities from non-Horizon Europe Associated Countries can participate in consortia but are limited to €60,000 over 3 years for a Grant Agreement. This funding is implemented under GA 101269771. These limits include all EIT funding awarded to an organisation across all activities and prizes within the 3-year Grant Agreement.

The Subgrant is based on **lump sum**. 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](#).

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in instalments. It is conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverables. Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction rate of 50% will be applied to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

Deliverable 1: Travel & Mentorship Evidence. Allocated Value: 2900€ (100% of the lump sum).

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:

- **Travel (up to €2000):** Travel to EU or International Agrifood events or to any activity related to the programme or to EIT Food (up to 2000 euros):
 - 500 euros for EU and associated countries
 - 1000 euros for international events
- **Other Goods & Services (up to €900):** *Up to 6 hours of mentorship (up to 900 euros: lump sum of 150 euros per hour) .*

3.2 Deliverables and milestones

- Grant recipients must submit a project deliverable. For this activity the submitted deliverable should demonstrate that the company: attended at least 3 activities including workshops or events or webinars
- displayed the RFS badge on their website
- completed the satisfaction survey (run by an external party) and impact survey (run internally)

- provided the proofs:
 - Travel: proof of attendance to the event, e.g. name of the company and the employee on attendance list with name and dates of the event or scan of the badge of the event including name of the employee, company, name and dates of the event or picture of the recipient representative in the booth or on the stage of the event.
 - Mentorship: timesheet of the mentor stating number of hours provided, at which dates and name of the recipient company together with an invoice for the mentorship.

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](#).

3.3 Financial Sustainability

The programme will be free of charge as of 2026 and participants will be paying for a la carte menu of services. The services include thematic tracks (Investment readiness, commercial readiness, marketing and visibility) that will be priced ~2000 euros and international expansion tracks (Eg. Japan, Canada, Singapore, Brazil) which will be priced at 5000 euros.

The tracks will only be open if enough interest gathered.

4. Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	March 23 rd , 2026
Call Deadline	May 11 th , 2026
First evaluation round (Round 1)	Mid-May
Invitation to pitching (Round 2)	Early June
Pitching/Panels (Round 2)	End of June
Communication to selected participants	Early July
Programme start	July 2026
Programme end	December 2026

--	--

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.

4.1 Application submission

Applications must be submitted in English by the contact person via [MyEIT Food Portal](#) no later than the call deadline. Incomplete applications or applications submitted in another language may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing. For more information, please contact the accelerator manager at the end of this document.

5. Eligibility

Participation in the Programme is subject to compliance with all eligibility criteria defined by EIT Food.

5.1 General criteria

- You have no conflict of interests. Ventures owned by EIT Food employees or members of EIT Food governing bodies and engagements in which EIT Food employees or members of EIT Food governing bodies have an interest are also excluded. EIT Food includes all CLCs of EIT Food and all governing bodies.
- You are not involved in the other EIT Food Business Creation programmes. Its focus is on a different stage of company with another offer. For a complete overview of current EIT Food programme offering, please visit the [homepage](#).

5.2 Formal criteria

To be considered eligible for the programme, applicants must be agri-food startups which:

- Are registered company in or after 2016;
- Are legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed here: [LINK](#) ;

- Are alumni of EIT FAN or RFS from the past 3 years i.e. 2023, 2024 or 2025 OR that are clearly referred by an alumni or EIT Food community (name of referees required in the application form);
- Are set to make a big impact on any part of the agriculture or food supply chain in Europe thus committed to building a healthier, more trusted and sustainable food system in alignment with EIT Food's thematic areas;
- Have a unique and scalable technology validated in market conditions combined with a healthy business model (TRL>6);
- Have a team of min 10 Full Time employees with both technical and commercial skills;
- Are generating revenues from a strategic multi-customers portfolio (Min 500K euros) and showing year on year growth for the past 3 years AND/ OR you raised a Series A / aiming to raise a Series A within the next 6-12 months;
- Have a compelling vision with the right capabilities and mindset to transform from a technological product/service to a commercial organisation;
- Are willing to actively participate in the programme (we expect at least one point of contact from your company to be involved actively);
- Submit a fully completed application in English through **MyEIT Food Portal** by the deadline set in article 3.2 including all requested documents;
- Provide a PIC Number: <https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf>
- None of the Exclusion Criteria must apply to the applicant, as outlined in article 5.3.

EIT Food offers several programmes targeting entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs at various stages of maturity. For a complete overview of current EIT Food programme offering please visit the following homepage: <https://www.eitfood.eu/entrepreneurship>

Equal opportunity: The call is open to all applicants, including those without an existing partnership agreement with EIT Food. All members of the KIC Partnership (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) shall have equal opportunity to participate in this funding opportunity.

In Annex, you can find more information about the exclusion criteria.

5.3. Documents and reporting

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, etc). Moreover, startups supported by the EIT RFS agree to participate in the programme evaluation at the end of the programme. They also agree to participate in the EIT RFS satisfaction survey and to provide additional information (esp.

financial data and information on investment capital raised, innovations introduced on the market) for up to three additional years after the end of the programme.

Finally, participants in the EIT RFS shall allow and support any checks, reviews, audits and investigations by EIT Food, EIT and/or any other competent EU body deemed necessary.

6. Evaluation and Selection

6.1 Eligibility

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and a multi-stage evaluation process to determine their feasibility and suitability for the funding opportunity.

During the eligibility check, if EIT Food identifies obvious or technical errors in a proposal, the 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. This opportunity is strictly limited to rectifying technical errors only and does not permit substantive modifications to the proposal content.

6.2 Evaluation Process

The evaluation will be conducted in three rounds, involving both external and internal evaluators, as described below.

All external evaluators are selected through an open and transparent process. All evaluators, both internal and external, are trained extensively on the European Union Code of Conduct for Evaluators, with particular attention to transparency, equal treatment of applicants, confidentiality, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Evaluators are contractually required 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.

6.2.1 Evaluation Process and Criteria

The evaluation to earn the RFS scaleup Verification badge will happen in three stages:

First Evaluation Round

After receiving your full application, we will first assess your data against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, our evaluation committee will score your application against the below criteria:

Category	Weight	Question / Assessment Area	Weight within category
a) Excellence	30%	Strength and uniqueness of the technological solution	15%
		Scalable model	15%
b) Impact	30%	Impact driven vision and mission	10%
		Healthy business model and go-to-market with notable traction signs	10%
		Strategic leap to go international	10%
c) Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	20%	Founding team (execution capability, leadership)	10%
		Competences and skills complementarity of the broader team	10%
d) Strategic fit with EIT Food and RFS	20%	Fit with EIT Food missions	10%
		Fit with RFS	10%

The categories a, b and c will be scored by a min of 1 external evaluator and category d) will be scored by a min of 1 internal evaluator.

The assessment areas will be covering the below:

1. Impact-driven mission and vision: clearly articulated, ambitious, disruptive and impact-oriented vision/mission that aligns with one or more of EIT Food priority areas
2. Strength and uniqueness of the technological solution behind the product/service.
3. Healthy business model and go to market with notable traction signs
4. Scalability of the business model. Your business model should be validated in the market and scalable.
5. Strategic leap to go international. Ambition and capacity to scale internationally.
6. Founding team: Technical and managerial skills. Agrifood prowess.
7. Broader team: Complementary tech and business skills

Second Evaluation Round

Candidates selected from round 1 (i.e. with a score above 3.5 from round 1) will be called for a leadership interview to assess their leadership skills and coachability.

Third Evaluation Round

The candidates screened in round 2 will be invited for a pitching and Q&As session.

This evaluation consists of live pitching sessions, where startups present and defend their scalability.

The jury panel will include 1 internal and min 1 external expert, in addition to observers from our network of corporates and investors. The composition of the jury might be distinct from earlier programme evaluation rounds.

This round is about a consensus where the jury members share their inputs and feedbacks with the external evaluator who will update the scorecard accordingly in the categories a, b and c while the internal evaluator will update the scorecard category d.

Category	Weight	Question / Assessment Area	Weight within category
a) Excellence	30%	Strength and uniqueness of the technological solution	15%
		Scalable model	15%
b) Impact	30%	Impact driven vision and mission	10%
		Healthy business model and go-to-market with notable traction signs	10%
		Strategic leap to go international	10%
c) Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	20%	Founding team (execution capability, leadership)	10%
		Competences and skills complementarity of the broader team	10%
d) Strategic fit with EIT Food and RFS	20%	Fit with EIT Food missions	10%
		Fit with RFS	10%

The ranking and scores will be revised after round 3 to reflect the inputs after the pitching and Q&As session.

The top 20-25 candidates will be selected for the programme.

6.3 Announcing results of the call

The results of the EIT Food RisingFoodStars scaleup recognition process will be communicated to applicants by email following the completion of each evaluation round. Each eligible candidate will receive a personalised message containing consolidated feedback from all evaluators, as well as information on the next steps in the process. The final results, including the presentation of the 2026 RFS cohort, will be publicly announced on the EIT Food website, on EIT Food social media, and through EIT Food newsletters.

6.4 Redress or appeal on evaluation results

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](#).

7. Administrative Items

7.1 Onboarding

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 managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed with the signature of legal agreements with EIT Food.

As part of the onboarding process, selected entities must:

- Provide certificate of incorporation
- Sign and submit the Declaration of Size.
- Sign and submit the Financial Information Form.
- Register on myeitfood.eu 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, the EIT Food might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the proposal is still eligible.

For further information on the project implementation, please read the [EIT Food Activity Implementation Guidelines for Participants](#).

7.2 EIT Food Legal Framework and Documents to be signed

After successful onboarding participants 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:

1. Lump Sum Agreement (travel and mentorship subgrant)

Any other legal agreements to make this grant eligible.

7.3 Payment Schedule

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in two instalments: first as 50% pre-financing upon signing the corresponding agreements and second as 50% conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverable mentioned above. The deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where the deliverable is not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

7.4 Monitoring

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.

8. Access to further funding opportunities

Proof of Concept Funding

Startups admitted to the programme and alumni may qualify for up to €100k in EIT Food funding, delivered via a sub-grant agreement to support startup-corporate collaboration projects. The award of funding is contingent on a successful due-diligence review by the EIT Food Corporate Venturing team, and the signing of the sub-grant agreement as well as a service agreement by the client partner counterpart to cover 60% of the project costs.

More information about the funding opportunity [will be published on the website](#).

Investment by EIT Food

Startups admitted to the programme and alumni may qualify for up to €2 million in EIT Food funding, delivered via a sub-grant agreement and a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE). The award of funding is contingent on a successful due-diligence review by the EIT Food investment team, approval by the EIT Food investment advisory committee, and the signing of both the sub-grant and SAFE agreements by all parties.

More information about the funding opportunity [here](#).

Access to the alumni side tracks

Even if not selected as a RisingFoodStars, all EIT Food entrepreneurship programmes alumni are eligible to apply for on-demand paid side tracks to receive hands-on support on their preferred and priority topics including:

- Investment readiness (Seed and series A)
- Go-to-market readiness (pre-sales and post-sales)
- Marketing and communications
- Pan-European expansion
- International expansion (ex. LATAM, South-Eastern Asia, Canada)

The side tracks will be open based on interest showed and prioritised accordingly.

9. Other conditions

9.1 Publicity – Promoting the EIT RisingFoodStars – Visibility of the EU Funding

Publicity by the participants

The companies selected must support the promotion of the EIT Food RisingFoodStars, by providing targeted information in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless EIT Food requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, selected startups must:

- a) EIT Food Logo (and website) with the EU emblem and
- b) include the following text:
“Co-Funded by the European Union” on their web page.

For any communication activity related to the EIT RFS (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) startups must:

- c) Use “#EITRFS” for online communication about the programme
- d) Tag EIT Food RisingFoodStars if applicable

When displayed together with another logo, the EIT FAN logo and EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of their obligations, the selected companies may use the EIT RFS badge and the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from EIT Food.

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Publicity by EIT Food

EIT Food may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic form).

EIT Food will publish the name of the funded companies, their origin, and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest). EIT Food may include applicant information in its startup-corporate matchmaking program.

Photos and videos taken by EIT Food during the EIT Food events where the selected companies will feature are the sole property of EIT Food.

9.2 Dissemination and exploitation of results

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants warrant that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service and that the provided materials and information do not infringe any intellectual or other property rights, including patents, of any other persons, companies, or other entities. Elements of the submission that are based on rights held by others, such as patents, shall be marked as such in the submission.

EIT Food and their authorised representatives in the program undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the projects presented and developed throughout the EIT FAN. By submitting the application within the program, applicants consent that EIT Food and its accelerator Hubs will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data under abovementioned conditions.

The selected companies agree that their data as well as non-confidential information about their project, may be used by EIT Food and their authorised representatives without compensation for promotion of their activities.

9.3 Processing of personal data

Processing of personal data by EIT Food

Any personal data will be processed by EIT Food in accordance with the EIT Food privacy policy notice(s): <https://www.eitfood.eu/pages/privacy-policy>

Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any), see the GDPR recommendations.

9.4 Ethics

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- b) applicable international, EU and national law.

The participants must ensure that the activities of their company have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

9.5 Liability for damages

EIT Food cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the grant, including for gross negligence.

EIT Food cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the grant.

9.6 Administrative sanctions

If a participant has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, EIT Food may also:

- a. exclude the participant from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or 10 years in case of repetition) and/or
- b. impose a financial penalty between 2% and 10% of the value of the grant (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

9.7 Cancellation of the programme

EIT Food may cancel the programme or decide not to award any of the aforementioned grants or funding — without any obligation to compensate participants —, if:

- a. no applications are received
- b. the jury does not find a winner
- c. the winner(s) is not eligible or must be excluded

9.8 Terms & Conditions

By signing the confirmation of participation, applicants agree to the Terms and Conditions. EIT Food reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Terms and Conditions. Amendments and additions to these Terms and Conditions shall be valid if communicated in writing on the EIT Food website or otherwise made available to the applicants.

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Belgium. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with these Terms and Conditions which cannot be settled amicably will be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, under no circumstances and under no legal theory whether in tort (including negligence) contract or otherwise shall EIT Food and the EIT Food partners involved in this activity be liable for any special indirect, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of profit.

You may withdraw your application as well as participation in the EIT FAN any time by informing us by email or withdrawing your registration any time.

10. Contact

The EIT RisingFoodStars is organised by EIT Food and managed by the programme manager who is responsible of coordinating the collection, evaluation, awarding and follow-up process at European level

Narjis Chakir

EIT RFS Programme Manager

E-Mail: narjis.chakir@eitfood.eu

Other information sources

EIT Food web page: www.eitfood.eu

EIT RFS web page: [RisingFoodStars - EIT Food - EIT Food](#)

ANNEX 1

Exclusion criteria

Consulting service companies without a tangible product will be excluded, including one-person company.

Participants will be excluded if they (or one of them):

- Are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion).
- Are in one of the following situations:
 - Convicted of involvement in a criminal organisation, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control);
 - Shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control);
 - Found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control).
- Have misrepresented information required for participating in the EIT FAN or fail to submit such information.
- Were involved in the preparation of the grant documents where such involvement entails a distortion of competition.

- Applications involving activities that are too security-sensitive to be disclosed in compliance with Commission Decision 2015/444—i.e., where the information must be EU-classified and its unauthorized disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or one or more Member States.

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above call specific criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant 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](#).

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. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

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;



Co-funded by the
European Union

f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.