2024 Joint Call for Proposals

Tackling digitalisation for sound agriculture and food systems

Deadline for <u>pre-registry of proposals</u>:
Thursday, 16.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)
shifted to Friday, 24.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)

Deadline for submission of full proposals:
Thursday, 20.06.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)
shifted to Monday, 08.07.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)

ERA-NET Cofund ICT-AGRI-FOOD

2024 Joint Call

Version: 1.3, 15th May 2024

History of changes:

Date	Description of Change
02.04.2024 (Version 1.1)	**The Israel Innovation Authority joined the call.** The following parts of the document have been adapted accordingly: • Page 13:Section 6.3 Funding Parties and procedures • Page 14: Table 2: Indicative call budget (National/regional contributions) • Annex B, from page 38: National Contact Points • Annex C, from page 58: National/Regional Regulations
08.04.2024 (Version 1.2)	**In "Chapter 4 Thematic area" the description of "Topic 3 - Smart decision-making and reflection systems in farming" has been stated more precisely (page 9):** *"Proposals addressing this topic can either address A), B) or C) or a combination of those subtopics."* **The Bulgarian National Science Fund joined the call.** The following parts of the document have been adapted accordingly: • Page 13:Section 6.3 Funding Parties and procedures • Page 14: Table 2: Indicative call budget (National/regional contributions) • Annex B, from page 38: National Contact Points Annex C, from page 46: National/Regional Regulations
15.05.2024 (Version 1.3)	**Deadlines extended!!!!** <u>Deadline for pre-registry of proposals:</u> Thursday, 16.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time) **shifted to Friday, 24.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)** <u>Deadline for submission of full proposals:</u> Thursday, 20.06.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time) **shifted to Monday, 08.07.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)**

Table of Contents

1. Definitions

-   The **Call Office (CO)** is the central contact point for Funding Parties, applicants and evaluators regarding all technical and general issues of the call.
-   The **Call Steering Committee (CSC)** is the decision-making body and consists of one representative for each Funding Party with no conflict of interest.
-   A **Funding Party** is providing "cash" funding to the 2024 Joint Call. It is a National or Regional funding organisation that funds research partners from its own country or region in the 2024 Joint Call. The Funding Party has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
-   The **International Evaluation Committee (IEC)** is the expert panel that will evaluate the submitted proposals of this Joint Call.
-   Each Funding Party nominates a **National/Regional Contact Point (NCP/RCP)** to provide information on national/regional funding rules and procedures.

2. Background

ICT-AGRI-FOOD is a European Research Area (ERA) network of national and regional funding organisations that promotes and funds European research, development and innovation projects on ICT-enabled agri-food systems, offering innovative opportunities for the entire food value chain. The project is co-funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. Funding for ICT-AGRI-FOOD is provided by the European Commission in collaboration with funding agencies of EU member states and eligible associated countries. The EU funding amounts to €5 million and the national budget to date is around €22.4 million.

The overall objective of "ICT-enabled agri-food systems" is to strengthen cooperation in research, development and innovation between EU Member States, Associated States and international partners in order to promote and facilitate/enable the use of digital technologies to facilitate/enable the transition to more sustainable, resilient and transparent European food systems that respect the stakeholders in the chain.

The new scope of this ERA-NET, the entire food value chain, was an evolution from previous ICT-AGRI ERA-NETs, which focused on agriculture. The prevailing conviction/paradigm is that only a holistic view and a systemic approach will enable the necessary breakthrough. Agriculture is not an isolated sector, but is embedded in a complex food system with value chains in which interest groups exert influence on farms and make certain demands on farmers. Conversely, the operational realities in agriculture also influence the market and the system. Better communication and coordination of stakeholders along the value chain is considered crucial for achieving the harmonised transformation towards the aim of sustainable food systems.

The Background chapter of the [ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2019 Joint Call Document](#) is still valid. However, since 2019, new challenges and new opportunities have emerged, for example with new European regulatory frameworks such as the EU Data Act and the EU AI Act. European agriculture and food systems are still far from being sustainable, resilient or transparent. Digital technologies are still seen as powerful tools to support the much-needed transformation of agri-food systems, while the energy and resource demands of their widespread use remain a challenge.

The vision of ICT-AGRI-FOOD is to bring relevant stakeholders from across the agri-food value chain together with researchers in a multi-actor approach, in order to develop more efficient, environmentally sustainable, transparent, and equitable agri-food systems through the development and implementation of digital technology solutions.

Application of transformative technologies and the use of data from all across the food chain can deliver benefits for society as a whole and will lead to empowered stakeholders (e.g. farmers, consumers, governmental authorities, industries) who are in the position to take smarter, more sustainable, healthier and more personal food and dietary choices, taking into account data regarding environmental impact, origin, nutrition, safety and integrity.

Improved use of data can be transformative in the context of agri-food systems, providing the tools to increase efficiency, reduce waste and lower emissions and environmental impacts.

3. Scope of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call

Food systems have a major role in solving or mitigating the many challenges humankind has to face, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity loss, food security, emergence of pandemics, loss of soil fertility, damage due to natural hazards, public health problems and ecosystems' contamination by chemicals.

To enable the urgently needed food system transformation, the closer involvement of policy and public authorities and systematic alignment with all relevant actors and civil society will be decisive for achieving the needed scaling. For this purpose, digital technologies for effective communication and data-based tools providing access to knowledge (and allowing exchange of knowledge) will play a major role as enablers.

There is an urgent need to better exploit data sources in and for food systems. Research in the agriculture and food sector must develop interoperable tools that make the efficient use of existing data from Earth observation, the Internet of Things and agricultural and socio-economic research simple, affordable and impactful. These tools and services must be user-oriented and able to deliver ready-to-use solutions to ensure maximum benefits for actors along the agri-food chain and enable the transition towards more sustainable agri-food systems. The complex issues surrounding data ownership, accessibility and governance of data and data systems as new data sources and tools are a major field of research and policy development and to be identified and developed.

In order to maximise societal benefits and ensure more effective, transparent and accessible data-based systems, data sharing between business partners, farmers, public authorities and policy makers should be maximised in all funded projects to the greatest possible extent where it is appropriate to do so.

Collaboration amongst stakeholders in the development of data-based solutions is a critical aspect in creating more confidence, more trust and more awareness of these benefits amongst end users and beneficiaries while also greatly enhancing the potential for improvements in a number of areas including data security and management, reduced complexity and enhanced interoperability and the development of systems and/or technologies that are more accessible, affordable, efficient and marketable. Projects should address this approach in their proposal.

End-users (such as policy makers, stakeholders, private sector) need decision-making processes for policy, market analysis, research and science that are based on an inclusive and collectively formulated set of objectives and involve all key stakeholders. The decision making processes' foundation should be based on the best available knowledge - scientific knowledge derived from the best available data sets and validated sectoral data analysis tools for the analysis of (socio-)economic and environmental scenarios.

In recent decades, agriculture has been characterised by ever-larger machines, an intensive and often prophylactic/routine rather than data-based use of fertilisers and pesticides, a lack of consideration for living organisms and lack of preservation of soil fertility. This has led to numerous challenges that include (but not limited to) soil degradation (increased erosion, reduced infiltration, reduced water holding capacity, reduced aeration, etc.), loss of biodiversity (both general and functional biodiversity), dependence on and misuse of chemicals, unacceptable labour conditions for people working in agriculture, unacceptable animal welfare, reduced resilience to market fluctuations and reduced resilience to the effects of ongoing climate change.

There is an urgent need to transform agri- food systems and to introduce better farming practices. Proven but merely forgotten practices lost from consideration should be rediscovered and encouraged

toward a renaissance. There are plenty of proven but underexploited best management practices, such as crop rotation, encouraging beneficial organisms (below and above ground), promoting soil fertility by e.g. cover crops, reduced tillage and suitable stubble and soil cultivation, preventing leaching of excess nutrients through intercropping, working with the relief of the soil and working with landscape features such as trees and hedges. Thereby modern digital and information technologies (sensors, artificial intelligence, digital twin, big data, smart assistants etc.) can support farmers in implementing and exploiting these old but useful techniques and creating increased stakeholder awareness along the value chain of agri-food systems (producers, consumers, policy makers, businesses, etc.). Funded projects will find economically viable ways to reorganise agricultural practices and management techniques that make the systems more ecologically and environmentally sustainable, resilient, fair to human and living being, promote ecosystem functions such as carbon sequestration, water holding capacity and biodiversity including beneficial organisms. Stakeholders along the value chain may be willing to bear (part of) the costs of those measures and inform all actors and society on engagement and impact and achievements.

4. Thematic area

The scientific scope of the call addresses collaborative projects in the 4 research topics described below.

Topic 1 - Artificial intelligence (AI) Tools for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

AI tools offer significant potential to transform agri-food systems through optimisation of resource use, minimising environmental impacts and enhancing profitability.

Applications under Topic 1 should address how AI (machine learning, deep learning and neural network approaches) can be used to strengthen the circularity of agri-food systems with particular emphasis on fresh food production process, limiting food waste and food system efficiency.

Circular food systems should be based on production processes that align with ecosystems' natural regeneration and AI interventions should also support regenerative approaches to primary production, deliver enhanced socio-economic benefits (equity/profitability) and reduced environmental impacts.

Topic 2 - Post-industrial agriculture: the best knowledge, digital technologies for reviving and strengthening best practices for regenerative agriculture

This topic motivates the development, adaptation and application of tailored digital technologies for more eco-smart, social and holistic agricultural systems promoting beneficial (soil) organisms and biodiversity, promoting soil fertility, and caring for ecosystem functions. The topic especially includes agricultural systems that put soil parameters in the focus, such as extensive grazing, agroforestry, beneficial organisms or other regenerative agricultural practices. Also included in this topic is the development of tailored digital technologies for managing grassland without ruminants (e.g. protein from grass). In all these approaches, the feedback loops of actors along the (food) value chain need to be explored, enabled, and activated to incentivise and reward the transformation.

Interesting technologies in this context are digital twins for monitoring e.g. land-use change, or next generation DNA sequencing for biomonitoring (this can help to pay farmers engaging for the protection and promotion of biodiversity), or communication technologies that connect businesses along the value chain, such as companies for processing special crops as processors or sellers of alternative crops.

Topic 3 - Smart decision-making and reflection systems in farming

Proposals addressing this topic can either address A), B) or C) or a combination of those subtopics.

A) This topic motivates the development of advanced adaptive/learning digital technologies (including artificial intelligence) to train and accompany farmers and other stakeholders using AI and interactive modules that evolve with the training process: e.g. to use machines or software, make decisions based on data, provide advice on data sharing or economic viability. These information and communication technologies will not replace/eliminate the farmer or labour but serve as a reflection system.

B) Intelligent planning and prediction of crop production and yields for policy makers and/or Agricultural Insurance Models by using data from historical production, demand, import-export and pricing in order to avoid spikes in price of crops.

The topic relates to the development of prediction tools not only countrywise but also by covering whole Europe (international planting plans). The prediction tools aim to ensure alignment between product demands, import-export quantities, and cultivation areas on a countrywide scale, aided by country-specific data and digital systems. In this context, the development of early warning and prevention systems to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events by utilizing digital systems, sensors, and meteorological data can be useful. The results of the funded projects will enable policy makers and administrative authorities to better steer the way agri-food systems are organised, farmers incentivised and rewarded for their efforts to make food systems more sustainable.

C) Advanced digital technologies and simulation models for water management to manage crop irrigation and to adapt agroecosystems/regions to ongoing climate change, and their interaction with e.g. agro-photovoltaic systems, changing land-use etc.

Water management technologies including irrigation along the value chain will be one of the key technologies for future agricultural systems. This topic motivates the (further-) development of advanced digital technologies, such as digital twins for sustainable water management in agricultural production. The development of simulation models is requested (both retrospective/ forecast) that help assess water resources, taking into account the nutrients, residues of plant protection products, impact of management practices (organic farming etc.). The topic will focus on the farmer's perspective. It may be reasonable to model whole agroecosystems/regions to adapt them to climate change.

Topic 4 – Open topic

Proposals addressing this topic shall respect the scope of the ERA-NET in general and this call scope in particular. This topic will be open to the following major challenges:

- Major Challenge 1: Establish sustainable, resilient, economically viable, eco-friendly, climate neutral, transparent, and societally acceptable agri-food systems by use of digital technologies, agricultural and environmental data and data-based technologies, involving policy and administrative authorities and where useful socio-economic research in inter-/transdisciplinary and multi-actor RDI projects involving relevant stakeholders and key actors along the value chains
- Major Challenge 2: Apply underexploited technologies, such as data-based systems, advanced computing, big data analysis, advanced modelling and simulation/digital twins, artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technologies, etc. for the transformation of agri-food systems towards increased sustainability, transparency, self-reinforcement through better knowledge transfer

- <u>Major Challenge 3</u>: Remove barriers to adoption of data technologies and data sharing of the stakeholders and private sector while considering economic and legal constraints and opportunities
- <u>Major Challenge 4</u>: Analyse the advantages, risks and (environmental) costs related to an increasing use of big data technologies in the agri-food sector and develop, based on the findings, advice to policy and farmers and if possible concrete solutions to balance the benefits and disadvantages/costs/externalities
- <u>Major Challenge 5</u>: Create a sustainable food system that aligns/coordinates all relevant stakeholders and provides a more transparent and global/holistic perspective with joint and agreed objectives

5. Research approach and cross cutting issues

In all funded projects, the following cross-cutting issues need to be considered:

- Multi-actor approach (involving farmers, food processors, retailers, logistics, advisors, consumers, industry, civil society organisations and policy makers) in research projects from the outset by means of participation as well as transparent communication.
- Inter-/transdisciplinary approach, taking into account different viewpoints and involving disciplines beyond the existing network. Social, agronomic, economic, environmental and data scientists from universities, public/private academic research institutions, industry and other stakeholder partners could be included in the consortium.
- Integrated and holistic systems approach, considering interconnections, possible synergies or trade-offs between different aspects or actors that directly or indirectly affect your field of research on a system level e.g. economic, environmental, social, legislative, geographical, behavioural, business environment.

- Quantification, valorisation of outputs should be addressed in the proposals. Feasibility / profitability, environmental/ economic sustainability should be aimed to be assessed within the project. Life cycle assessments, feasibility studies might be performed for this aim.

The above cross-cutting issues should be taken into account across all topics and individually adapted to each project.

In addition, some specific cross-cutting issues have been identified to enable digital technology solutions to the transition towards sustainable food systems:

- Data stewardship: A top priority in research and innovation. Projects shall address the issues related to cybersecurity and protection of personal data and rights (ownership, accessibility, data sovereignty), including applicability of FAIR (*https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618*) and Open Access principles within the agri-food systems.
- Data standards: Data sharing across the food chain requires agreed common standards. The availability and accessibility of open data is largely dependent on appropriate standards to be followed both to describe data sets and to annotate data. The possibility to share data across the food chain is often hampered by lack of agreed data standards.
- Projects should address this issue identifying the potential and risks for widely accepted standards.
- The inclusion of the mentioned cross-cutting issues is intended to increase the value and impact of projects.

In addition, projects are invited to follow the recommendations below:

- Research consortia are encouraged to consider the mentioned cross-cutting issues as well as good geographical coverage in order to strengthen the impact of a project proposal for its transnational added value.
- Technology-orientated project proposals should stay within the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) range of 2 to 8 (Applied research and development, implementation, demonstration of innovation). Beware for deviating TRL-ranges throughout the National Regulations.
- Projects are highly recommended to take advantage of, integrate with and complement the standardisation efforts and platform developments in other public funded projects such as:
  o   H2020 funded projects, ESIF

    https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/funding-opportunities/funding-
    programmes/overview-fundingprogrammes/european-structural-and-investment-funds
  and regionally/nationally funded projects.

  o   Thematic   Smart   Specialisation   Platform   on   Agri-food   (TSSP-AF)
  https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/agri-food

  and related interregional partnerships under the Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

  o   The European Open Science Cloud-initiative

    https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm?pg=open-science-cloud
  and related H2020 projects, including FNS Cloud
    https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/863059; https://www.eoscsecretariat.eu/fns-cloud

6. Application and selection procedures

6.1 Timeline

The Joint Call follows a one-step submission and evaluation procedure following the timeline in table 1.

Table 1: Timeline for the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call

06 February 2024	Pre-announcement publication
20 March 2024	Launch of the call
24 April 2024 10:00-11:30 CEST	Webinar for applicants with Q&A session. Register here: https://ptj-fzj.webex.com/weblink/register/rd31b4873a6b30f965894c4a85756dc90
24 May 2024 13:00 CEST	Deadline: Pre-registration of proposals
08 July 2024 13:00 CEST	Deadline: Submission of full proposals
October/November 2024	Notification of the applicants
January-March-April 2025	Project start

6.2 Call Office

For general questions, please contact the Call Office via the email address:

ptj-2024ictagrifood@fz-juelich.de

The Call Office will be formed by:

Project Management Juelich, Sustainable Development and Innovation, Bioeconomy | EU and International Affairs (BIO7)
Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH (PtJ, DE)

Ulrike Pogoda de la Vega	phone +49 2461 61-5790
Petra E. Schulte	phone +49 2461 61-9031
Christian Breuer	phone +49 2461 61-96929

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE, DE)

Johannes Pfeifer	phone +49 228 6845 2634

6.3 Funding Parties and procedures

The ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call consists of 13 national and regional public Funding Parties (FP). A total amount of **€mio 6.66** has been provisionally reserved by the participating Funding Parties of the Call. The funds will be provided directly by the respective national/regional Funding Parties to successful national/regional applicants.

Indicative budgets for each Funding Party are given in table 1 below. **Applicants are strongly recommended to verify national/regional contact priorities by consulting the National Regulations (Annex C) and contacting their National Contact Point (NCP, Annex B).** Eligibility of project costs is subject to national/regional rules.

Table 2: Indicative call budget (National/regional contributions).

COUNTRY	FUNDER	FUNDER NAME	Max. funding per project [€]	Indicative budget [€]	Can fund Topic			
					1	2	3	4
Belgium	Hermesfonds/ VLAIO	Fonds voor Flankerend Economisch en Innovatiebeleid/Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen		1 000 000	X	X	X	X
Bulgaria	BNSF	Bulgarian National Science Fund	153 388	460 163	X	X	X	X
Estonia	MEM	Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture	100 000	100 000	X	X	X	X
Finland	MMM	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	200 000	200 000	X	X	X	X
Germany	BMEL	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	250 000	750 000	X	X	X	
Hungary	NKFIH	National Research, Development and Innovation Office	200 000	200 000	X	X	X	X
Ireland	DAFM	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	500 000	1 000 000	X	X	X	X
Israel	ISERD	Israel Innovation Authority	250 000	500 000	X	X	X	X
Latvia	LZP	Latvijas Zinatnes padome, Latvian Council of Science	100 000*	600 000	X	X	X	X
Poland	NCBR	The National Centre for Research and Development	300 000	600 000	X	X	X	X
Romania	UEFISCDI	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	250 000	500 000	X	X	X	X
Spain	CTA	Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía	250 000	250 000	X	X	X	X
Türkiye	TUBITAK	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye	150 000*	500 000	X	X	X	X

*Additional restrictions apply, please confer Annex C National / Regional Regulations

6.4 Finding consortium partners with the Partnering Tool

A partnering tool is attached to the submission platform, where project partnerships or research capacities can be offered or searched for, in order to find interested consortium partners: https://submission-ict-agri-food.ptj.de.

Furthermore, there will be a **Webinar for applicants with Q&A session** on 24 April 2022 10:00-11:30 h CEST aiming to give information and support to applicants. Please register here to the event:

https://ptj-fzj.webex.com/weblink/register/rd31b4873a6b30f965894c4a85756dc90

6.5 Specific Call Eligibility Criteria and check

The 2024 call is open to proposals that meet the following Specific Call Eligibility Criteria:

a. The application must be written in English.
b. The proposals must be submitted before the submission deadlines via the submission website using the Online Submission Platform (visit https://submisson-ict-agri-food.ptj.de). Pre-registry: 16.05.2024, 13:00h CEST, final proposal submission: 20.06.2024, 13:00h CEST.
c. Eligible consortia will consist of a minimum of 3 independent entities seeking funding from a minimum of 3 different Funding Parties of 3 different countries participating in the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call; Consortia with more than 7 partners should justify the necessity and manageability of the project in the submission template under 1) Basic information and "Consortium as a whole".
d. Each applying consortium must be led by a project coordinator, who must be from an organisation that is eligible for funding from one of the funding parties in the call and must request funding.
e. Involvement in multiple applications is permissible under the current call, provided it does not directly contravene national/regional funding regulations (Annex C). However, where applicants, provided by their national/regional regulations, can be involved in multiple applications, they cannot be involved full-time on multiple applications. In the case where directly funded participants are named on more than one application, applicants should note that a single individual is allocated a maximum of 36 person months which must be divided as appropriate between applications. Any individual participant will not be allowed to exceed more than 36 person months of his/her time in aggregate across the total number of applications submitted. It is a requirement that any applicant who intends to participate in more than one research project under the call must clearly state this intention in the proposal under Partner data of the submission tool and a separate email to the CO (**ptj-2024ictagrifood@fz-juelich.de**). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure consistency of information across multiple proposals and failure to provide complete or accurate information may lead to the proposal being declared ineligible.
f. In order to achieve balanced projects, the maximum budget that can be requested (for each project) by partners from one country is 70% of the total requested project budget. This limit is also valid if there are several partners from the same country.
g. Minimum project duration is two years (24 months) and maximum three years (36 months).
h. The application must pass the "H2020 ETHICS REVIEW PROCEDURE" (details can be found under *https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-*

issues/ethics_en.htm). Ethical issues will be checked by the evaluators of the International Evaluation Committee. Additionally, applicants may consult Horizon Europe Programme Guidance "*How to complete your ethics self-assessment*" (link is included in text). If any ethical issues are expected to arise during the proposed project, these must be addressed in the proposal.

i. Applicants not eligible for funding are welcome to participate in the projects at their own expense. Those applicants cannot coordinate a project, their contribution to the project should not be essential for the project's successful implementation (e.g. Work Package Lead) and they cannot count to achieve the minimum number of project consortium partners. Such applicants will have to secure their own resources and provide written confirmation thereof (by providing a Letter of Financial Commitment Annex E).

In addition, **national/regional eligibility criteria** must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the national/organisational thematic priorities of the countries/regions involved in the project. National/organisational priorities are described in the National Regulations (Annex C), where some eligibility criteria can be stricter. In addition, the participating Funding Parties may require additional documents according to their national/regional regulations. If national or regional forms are required, these must be submitted according to the national or regional requirements and by the deadlines stated in the national or regional funding regulations. **Failure of one applicant to meet the national/regional eligibility criteria will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.** Each applicant is therefore strongly recommended to read carefully the national regulations of the funder and, wherever it needs, consult the National/Regional Contact Point (NCT/RCP) of the funder party to which the funding request is addressed to (Annex B). Please refer to Annex C to ensure eligibility. After the closing dates (20 June 2024), the CO will carry out a general call eligibility check of the proposals with respect to the criteria listed in the section 6.5 (Specific Call Eligibility Criteria). **Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected by the CO, following consultation with the CSC.**

The members of the CSC will then check the proposals against national/regional eligibility criteria as described in the national/regional rules and regulations. The proposals complying with both the criteria (Specific Call Eligibility Criteria and National/Regional Eligibility Criteria) will undergo evaluation procedure.

Eligibility issues resulting from the General Eligibility check and the National/Regional Eligibility check will be communicated by the CO to the project coordinators. For proposals which are deemed ineligible for minor reasons, the proposal coordinators will have 15 days (until July 10 COB) to send a communication to the CO proposing minor adjustments which would allow the project to become eligible. The CO and the Call Steering Committee will then evaluate the adjustment to confirm if the project can be eligible or not. The decision of the Call Steering Committee will be final in this matter. If, after this process, the project will be declared eligible, then the project will undergo the evaluation procedure.

6.6 Pre-registration

All proposals have to be pre-registered before proposal submission. The pre-registration comprises the following information:

- Project data (title, acronym, duration, topic, area),
- Project summary,
- Contact data, belonging institution of all partners of the consortia and tasks within the project (CV upload only at full proposal submission necessary)
- An estimation of requested funding of all partners (Financial Plan) is optional, but may be obligate depending on national / regional regulation (please confer Annex C)

All relevant data for pre-registration are clearly marked within the submission platform and will be also explained during the **Webinar for applicants with Q&A session** on 24 April 2022 10:00-11:30 h CEST. More information can be found on https://submission-ict-agri-food.ptj.de
Please register here to the Q&A event:
https://ptj-fzj.webex.com/weblink/register/rd31b4873a6b30f965894c4a85756dc90

The pre-registration step is mandatory to apply for this Call, the pre-registration has to be completed by <u>submitting</u> the pre-registry form. Only then, a full proposal is eligible for submission.

The deadline for pre-registration is
24th of May 2024, 13:00 CEST (Brussels time)
The submission platform is available at
https://submission-ict-agri-food.ptj.de
Applicants who do not pre-register by the deadline cannot submit full proposals. It is possible to add, delete or replace proposal partners after the pre-registration step. However, any research partner, who joins the consortium after the pre-registration deadline, must contact the respective national or regional contact point. In any case, consortia must include at least three independent entities seeking funding from a minimum of 3 different Funding Parties (FP) of 3 different countries at the pre-registration step.
The pre-registration will support the CO in preparation of the evaluation phase (e.g. contacting required experts). The project summary will not undergo an expert evaluation. However, the project consortium will undergo a general check against the number and type of partners.

6.7 Proposal Submission

The Joint Call follows a one-step submission procedure.

The submission deadline is **08 July 2024 (13:00 CEST, Brussels time).**

The proposal template is available as download at the submission website. The proposal will be submitted fully online and must be submitted using the Online Submission Platform, available at

https://submission-ict-agri-food.ptj.de

It will be possible to update and resubmit the application as many times as required until the submission deadline, but not after the deadline. Each re-submission will substitute the previous submission. No safety copies of previous submissions remain on the server.

Applicants should note that the Online Submission Platform may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline and it is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. **Requests for extensions of the deadline due to last minute technical problems will not be considered.**

Table 3: Summary of required information for pre-registration (PreReg) and proposal (Prop).

Section	PreReg	Prop
Project data: titel, duration, topic (incl. justification)	X	X
Partner profile: contact data	X	X
CV	(X)	X
Description of tasks in the project, 2,000 characters	X	X
Participation in previous ERA-NETs, drop down		X
TRL at begin and end, justification text (mandatory): 3,000 characters		X
Keywords: 5	X	X
Ethical self-assessment		X
Publishable project summary: 3,500 characters, 1-2 pages	X	X
Description of work ca. 30,000 characters, 10-12 pages		X
Workplan incl. detailed description of work packages and Ghantt chart, 12 pages, 5MB, PDF-Upload		X
Data management plan, 2 pages, 1MB, PDF-Upload		X
Communication and Dissemination Plan, 2 pages, 1MB, PDF-Upload		X
Letter(s) of Commitment, pdf upload, no page limit, 4MB, PDF-Upload		X
Literature References, 1 page, 1MB, PDF-Upload		X
Evaluators, up to 2 names, who should not evaluate, max 2,000 characters, not included into Fact Sheet		X
Statement (Consortia > 7 partners), 1 page, 1MB, PDF-Upload		X
Financial Plan, Requested Funding in k€: Personnel, Travel, Consumables/Equipment, Subcontracts	(X)	X
Own Contribution in k€: Personnel, Travel, Consumables/Equipment, Subcontracts	(X)	X
Finance Comments, justification costs	(X)	X

7. Evaluation procedure

The CSC will establish an International Evaluation Committee (IEC), which has the following mandate:

- Provide the evaluation of proposals, on the basis of the Evaluation Criteria (see 7.1 and 6.5)
- Provide a written summary to explain the decisions to the CSC. The evaluation summary and the score will be provided to the applicants by the CO at the end of the procedure.
- Recommend proposals as described below.

Each IEC member will be independent of any funding organisation and applicant involved in this Joint Call. The ICT-AGRI-FOOD CO will ensure that no COI (Conflict of Interest) exists concerning the experts and the proposals evaluated. For this purpose, the CO will check absence of COI of each member of the IEC and each member of the IEC will be requested to sign a Conflict of Interest and a Declaration of Confidentiality form. The Online Evaluation Tool will include a feature, which will prevent access to a proposal in case the expert declares a Conflict of Interest.

During the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of applicants and the contents of the proposals. The proposals will only be read by the CSC members and by the IEC members involved and be handled by the ICT-AGRI-FOOD CO confidentially. All persons in charge will have signed a confidentiality agreement before they get access to the proposals.

The eligible proposals will be evaluated online by a minimum of three international experts per proposal.

7.1 Evaluation criteria and score for the proposal submitted

The proposals that are submitted correctly and passed the eligibility check (see 7.5), will undergo a peer-review evaluation by a minimum of 3 experts of the IEC with relevant expertise in the scientific field(s) concerned.

The IEC will evaluate the proposals in accordance with the scope, cross-cutting issues and topics description reported above, and using the three equally-weighted **Evaluation Criteria** (including the sub-criteria) below:

- **Scientific Excellence**

    - Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;
    - Soundness of the concept and approach;
    - Credibility of the proposed methodology;
    - Quality and expertise of the consortium as a whole;
    - Degree of novelty and innovation of the proposed approach and extent to which the proposed work is beyond the state of the art and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models);
    - Appropriate application of systems thinking, interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge/involvement and gender dimension in research and innovation content;

- **Impact**

Extent to which the outputs of the project will be relevant for, or contribute to, impacts on:

  - Economic aspects
  - Environmental aspects
  - Transnational added value of collaboration and geographical coverage

  - Knowledge generation

- **Quality and efficiency of the Implementation**

  - Quality and effectiveness of the work plan (Annex A1), including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables;
  - Quality and soundness of the Communication and dissemination plan
  - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk, innovation and data management (Annex A2);
  - Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise;
  - Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role;
  - The project budget is appropriate to the planned work and allows the achievement of the project goals;
  - The budget and the number of declared Person Months (PM) spent by a partner is well balanced between project partners;
  - Research team organisation is in line with the research approach defined in the call (multi-actor, inter-/transdisciplinary, integrated and holistic system approach).

For the proposal evaluation, scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria. Sub-criteria are aspects that the expert will consider in the assessment of that criterion. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (only full scores allowed) and equally weighted.

The scores of the three evaluators will be averaged for each criterion and agreed on by the three expert evaluators involved. The sum of the three agreed scores will equal the final score for each proposal. Two thresholds will be applied with respect to the scores: A threshold of 3/5 will be applied for each criterion, i.e. proposals with a mean score < 3 in any main criterion will not be recommended for funding. A threshold of 10 will be applied with respect to the total score, i.e. proposals with a total score under 10 will not be proposed for funding. All full-proposals will be ranked according to the final scores.

The evaluation by the IEC will result in a single ranking list for the selection meeting.

8. Funding Selection

Based on the ranking list provided by the IEC and the outcome of the ethical assessment, the ICT-AGRI-FOOD CSC will select projects for funding.

The CO will inform the coordinators of the research consortia about the evaluation results, and whether they are selected for funding. Evaluation summaries will be provided. The coordinators of the research consortia are responsible for forwarding all information to their research consortium partners.

Upon the final decision by the CSC, a list of funded projects will be published on the ICT-AGRI-FOOD website (https://www.ictagrifood.eu). With the submission of the proposal all project partners agree that the following information can be published:

- project title and project acronym
- duration of the project
- total requested funding for the project
- name of the project coordination (including contact information as email and telephone number)
- country and organisation name of each partner.

9. Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest and General Data Protection Regulation issues

The proposals will be handed with confidentiality by the CO, by the national/regional funding parties and the IEC experts responsible for the peer review evaluation of proposals. Each expert will have to sign a Declaration of Conflict of Interest, confidentiality Disclosure Agreement and Code of Conduct Agreement. The Online Evaluation Tool will include a feature which will prevent access to the respective proposal in case a Conflict of Interest is declared by the expert or by the CO.

All personal data offered for project applications, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GPR) (Regulation EU 2016/679). A data protection officer (DPO) is appointed to ensure compliance GDPR rules. The joint call Data Privacy Notice (see Annex D) applies.

10. Obligations for funded projects

10.1 Funding procedure

Once the notification letter from the CO with positive result has been received, the project partners will be contacted by the Funding Parties or will need to contact the Funding Parties of their respective Funding Party themselves according to national/regional regulations (please, read carefully) in order to start the grant procedure and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start.

Each Funding Party will fund its respective national/regional applicant(s) within the research project. Formal funding decisions are made by the participating Funding Parties and funding will be provided according to applicable national/regional funding rules.

For some Funding Parties, a signed Consortium Agreement might be required for release of the national/regional funds. It is strongly recommended that all successful consortia negotiate and sign a Consortium Agreement before the start of the project. This should address at least the following topics:
- internal organisation and management of the consortium
- intellectual property arrangements
- settlement of internal disputes.
Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCA webpage. The forms provided here have been developed for H2020 and Horizon Europe projects, respectively and will have to be adjusted to this Joint Call.
http://www.desca-2020.eu
https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/

10.2 Start date of projects

A project can start when all national/regional contracts have been concluded; exceptions from this rule must be agreed by the respective Funding Party and the CO. The contracting negotiation should be started directly after notification and the contracting must at the latest take place by the first quarter 2025. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed according to the national procedures. Projects should start when the contracting process has ended.

10.3 Project monitoring and reporting

Two meetings (status seminars) will be held, the first approximately half way through the duration of the funded projects to provide an overview of project progress and collaboration and the second towards the end of the projects for presenting results. The costs (esp. travel and subsistence costs) for the coordinator to participate in the meetings should be included in the project budgets.
In addition to the reporting required by the national/regional rules and contracts, reporting will be required at the mid-term and within two months after the end of the project. This will consist of a project status report and in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and contribution to the overall aims of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call. All project partners will have to deliver input for these reports.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects.

10.4 Dissemination and communication

Upon the final decision by the Funding Parties, a list of funded projects will be published on the ICT-AGRI-FOOD website containing the following information from the proposals:
-        project title and project acronym
-        publishable summary of the project
-        duration of the project
-        total requested funding for the project
-        name of the project coordinator (including contact information)
-        country and organisation name of each partner.

Applicants to the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call have to allocate sufficient resources in their budget for dissemination of their project goals, planning and results (Annex A3). Funded projects are obliged to:
-    Contribute with project presentations and/or posters to at least two meetings organised by the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call funding partners.
-    Contribute to the growth of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD Knowledge Incubator (*https://www.ictagrifood.eu/node/44646*), by submitting contents related to the innovations developed throughout their funded projects.
-    Prepare (popular science) summaries of the project goals, planning and results for ERA-NET activities and publications (e.g. for brochures, [digital] newsletters, the website etc.)
-    Dissemination and communication in all partner countries to national end users is necessary. The dissemination plan requested for the proposal should specify how the planned activities, including dissemination and stakeholder interaction, will contribute to the impact of the project and the aims of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call. For a well-elaborated communication strategy, applicants are advised to take into consideration the Commission guidelines on "Communicating EU research and innovation guidance for project participants[1]" and "Social media guide for EU funded R&I projects[2]".

Concerning dissemination and communication activities, proper reference must be given to the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call in all related publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information.

10.5 Data Management Plan

Applicants must include information on how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project. Each proposal must include a maximum one page Data Management Plan. Advice for preparing the Data Management Plan is provided in Annex A2 of this document.

10.6 Open Access

Open access (OA) addresses the problem of limited access to (peer-reviewed) scholarly research. It is the practice of providing online access to scientific information (e.g. articles, conference proceedings, monographs, books, theses) that is free of charge to the reader, and licensed so that the information can be further used and exploited by researchers, by the industry and by citizens. The publication of

---

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-comm_en.pdf

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/grants_manual/amga/soc-med-guide_en.pdf

research data, however, is not mandatory. Milestone definitions of Open Access include those of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and the Berlin Declaration (October 2003) on open access.
The benefits of OA are manifold:
- The visibility of research output of individual researchers and institutions increases; research impact increases.
- Funding agencies get a better return of investment due to increased impact of funded research.
- Researchers waste less time seeking articles they cannot access.
- Duplication of research can be more effectively avoided.
- Libraries have to spend less on traditional journal subscriptions. Moreover, OA offers them the possibility to become providers of OA services, by setting up repositories for OA publications.
- Publishers that adopt OA obtain more exposure for their publications.
- Companies (especially SMEs) can innovate faster by gaining immediate access to free research results.

In order to reap these benefits, the following open access policy must be followed by all funded projects:
1. A copy of the accepted version (either author final manuscript, post-prints or publisher version) of all peer reviewed journal articles, supported, either in their entirety or in part by the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call research funding, is deposited in a suitable open access repository immediately upon acceptance for publication, with the metadata (Minimum set of metadata: title, abstract, keywords, name of author, affiliation of author, publication info (including journal title, volume, issue, publication date)) openly available from the time of deposit. Grant holders are required to report all publications coming forth from research funded under the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call as deliverables in their project reports.
2. Similar actions as mentioned in 1 to provide OA to other types of publications (e.g., conference proceedings, theses, books, monographs) are strongly encouraged.
3. All publications mentioned in 1 shall be made openly available preferably immediately, but no later than 6 months after the date of publication. To enable this, grant holders must maintain sufficient rights in negotiations with publishers to allow immediate or delayed open access of up to 6 months. Authors are advised to work with a licence to publish (preferably the Creative Commons CC-BY or CC-0 licences) instead of a copyright transfer agreement, when dealing with their publisher, in order to retain sufficient rights for providing open access to their publication.
4. In case the authors decide to publish in a gold open access journal, the CSC may consider as eligible expenses, which may be supported within the grant budget, Article Processing Charges (APC) or similar fees to publish in peer reviewed open access journals and books. Please consult the National/Regional Regulations (Annex C) or contact the NCP/RCP (Annex B) for details. In the case that an APC is supported by the grant budget, the article must be openly available from the moment of publication. APC or similar fees might only be considered to be eligible expenses if the publication was accepted before the end of the funding period. Authors are required to avoid "double-dipping" journals and to avoid "predatory publishers".
5. In all publications mentioned in 1. and 2., funding recipients must acknowledge the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call and identify the funding in the following manner: "This research was made possible by funding from the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call."
6. All research data and associated metadata resulting from funded projects should be deposited in a suitable open data repository.
7. Institutions/grant holders agree that by receiving funding from the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call they have accepted the terms and conditions of this OA policy. The compliance with the present terms and conditions will be monitored and in case of non-compliance the transfer of part of the funds may be considered.

8. This policy comes into force with the start of the funded research projects and applies to all publications resulting from grants awarded subsequently.

10.7 Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing

Funded teams participating in projects falling within the scope of the regulations on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate compliance with these obligations and must ensure that all data relating to such genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge are kept in order to demonstrate that the necessary due diligence has been exercised.

10.8 Ethics Assessment

An Ethics assessment is required for submitted proposals by ICT-AGRI-FOOD's Ethics Advisory Board. Applicants must complete a questionnaire regarding potential ethical issues with the proposal submission via the submission platform. Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorisation taking into account the European Union and national ethical requirements. Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles, shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by using the criteria published by the European Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

These guidelines address, in more detail, the following ethical issues: human embryos & foetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use, exclusive focus on civil applications. To prove absence of potential misuse of research results, other ethics issues above listed, the applicant is required to complete the ethics self-assessment and provide a support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance How to complete your ethics self-assessment.

Applicants can also consult on the European Commission website the Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research including appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

Annex A1: Workplan

> ## Template Workplan - Please delete this textbox before submission
>
> *This template includes all needed information for the requested Workplan. It should clearly describe the individual work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones of the project.*
> - *Staff effort per WP and partner*
> - *Name of WP, duration, lead and contributors*
> - *Use abbreviations for partner or use the numbering provided by the submission system*
> - *Objectives and Description of the WP, if applicable divided into tasks*
> - *Deliverables and milestones for this WP. Please stick to a reasonable number, minimize where possible; Deliverables = reports, documents or any other documentation, milestone = event, e.g. launching a website*
> - *Risk and measures to mitigate the risk, please identify at least one risk per WP and describe, how this risk will be addressed.*
> - *Respect the page limit of 12 pages (Arial 11pt, line pitch at least 1.15 - allowed file size: 5 MB, PDF file format) Uploading of more than 12 pages is blocked by this submission system.*
> - *The work plan must also include a Gantt-Chart.*

STAFF EFFORT

Staff effort per partner in person months for the entire duration of the project.

Partner	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	…	Total
P1/Acronym	36		24		12		**72**
P2/Acronym	12	36		12			**60**
P3/Acronym	12		12		12		**36**
…							
Sum	**60**	**36**	**36**	**12**	**24**		**168**

WORK PACKAGE 1 – Name of WP 1

WP lead	**P1**	Contributors	**P2; P3; P5**	Start – End	**M12 – M24**
Objectives					
Describe or list the objectives of this WP					
Description					

Description

Task 1.1: Name of this task
<u>Lead: P1, contributors: P2; P3; P4</u>
Description of this task
Task 1.2: Name of this task
<u>Lead: P3, contributors: P2, P4, P5</u>
Description of this task
…….

Deliverables	D1.1 – Name of Deliverable (M3) – P1
	D1.2 – Name of Deliverable (M4) – P3
Milestones	M1.1 – Name of milestone (M6) – P?
Risk & mitigation of risks	Risk 1.1 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation
	Risk 1.2 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation
	…

WORK PACKAGE 2 – Name of WP 2

WP lead	**P?**	Contributors	**P?; P?; P?**	Start – End	**M?? – M??**
Objectives					
Describe or list the objectives of this WP					
Description					
Task 2.1: Name of this task Lead: P?, contributors: P?; P?; P? Description of this task **Task 2.2: Name of this task** Lead: P?, contributors: P?, P?, P? Description of this task …….					
Deliverables	D2.1 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P? D2.2 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P?				
Milestones	M2.1 – Name of milestone (M?) – P?				
Risk & mitigation of risks	Risk 2.1 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation Risk 2.2 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation …				

WORK PACKAGE 3 – Name of WP 3

WP lead	**P?**	Contributors	**P?; P?; P?**	Start – End	**M?? – M??**
Objectives					
Describe or list the objectives of this WP					
Description					
Task 3.1: Name of this task Lead: P?, contributors: P?; P?; P? Description of this task **Task 3.2: Name of this task** Lead: P?, contributors: P?, P?, P? Description of this task …….					
Deliverables	D3.1 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P? D3.2 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P?				
Milestones	M3.1 – Name of milestone (M?) – P?				
Risk & mitigation of risks	Risk 3.1 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation Risk 3.2 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation …				

WORK PACKAGE 4 – Name of WP 4

WP lead	**P?**	Contributors	**P?; P?; P?**	Start – End	**M?? – M??**
Objectives					
Describe or list the objectives of this WP					
Description					
Task 4.1: Name of this task Lead: P?, contributors: P?; P?; P? Description of this task **Task 4.2: Name of this task** Lead: P?, contributors: P?, P?, P? Description of this task …….					
Deliverables	D4.1 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P? D4.2 – Name of Deliverable (M?) – P?				
Milestones	M4.1 – Name of milestone (M?) – P?				
Risk & mitigation of risks	Risk 4.1 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation Risk 4.2 – Brief description of the risk and its mitigation …				

GANTT-CHART

M->	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	...		M36
WP1 - Name of WP 1															
T1.1			D1.1			M1.1									
T1.2				D1.2											
T1.3															
T...															
WP2 - Name of WP 2															
T2.1															
T2.2															
T2.3															
T...															
WP3 - Name of WP 3															
T3.1															
T3.2															
T3.3															
T...															
WP4 - Name of WP 4															
T4.1															
T4.2															
T4.3															
T...															
WP - Name of WP X....															
TX.1															
TX.2															
TX.3															
T...															

Annex A2: Data Management Plan

Template DMP - Please delete this textbox before submission

Your DMP should detail how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project.

Please do not forget to include an updated Data Management Plan as a <u>distinct deliverable within the first six months of the project</u>. This deliverable will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management.

Additional guidance on data management, including guidance for a Data Management Plan, is given in the guidelines on data management in the Horizon 2020 Online Manual, available at:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/data-management_en.htm

The DMP must not exceed the length of two A4 pages (Arial 11pt, line pitch at least 1.15 - allowed file size: 1 MB).

Data summary

- State the purpose of the data collection/generation
- Explain the relation to the objectives of the project
- Specify the types and formats of data generated/collected
- Specify if existing data is being re-used (if any)
- Specify the origin of the data
- State the expected size of the data (if known)
- Outline the data utility: to whom will it be useful

FAIR Data - Making data findable, including provisions for metadata

- Outline the discoverability of data (metadata provision)
- Outline the identifiability of data and refer to standard identification mechanism. Do you make use of persistent and unique identifiers such as Digital Object Identifiers?
- Outline naming conventions used
- Outline the approach towards search keyword
- Outline the approach for clear versioning
- Specify standards for metadata creation (if any). If there are no standards in your discipline describe what type of metadata will be created and how

FAIR Data - Making data openly accessible

- Specify which data will be made openly available. If some data is kept closed provide rationale for doing so
- Specify how the data will be made available
- Specify what methods or software tools are needed to access the data. Is documentation about the software needed to access the data included? Is it possible to include the relevant software (e.g. in open source code)?
- Specify where the data and associated metadata, documentation and code are deposited
- Specify how access will be provided in case there are any restrictions

FAIR Data - Making data interoperable

- Assess the interoperability of your data. Specify what data and metadata vocabularies, standards or methodologies you will follow to facilitate interoperability.
- Specify whether you will be using standard vocabulary for all data types present in your data set, to allow inter-disciplinary interoperability. If not, will you provide mapping to more commonly used ontologies?

FAIR Data - Increase data re-use (through clarifying licences)

- Specify how the data will be licenced to permit the widest reuse possible
- Specify when the data will be made available for re-use. If applicable, specify why and for what period a data embargo is needed
- Specify whether the data produced and/or used in the project is useable by third parties, in particular after the end of the project? If the re-use of some data is restricted, explain why
- Describe data quality assurance processes ☐ Specify the length of time for which the data will remain re-usable

Allocation of resources

- Estimate the costs for making your data FAIR. Describe how you intend to cover these costs
- Clearly identify responsibilities for data management in your project
- Describe costs and potential value of long term preservation

Data security

- Address data recovery as well as secure storage and transfer of sensitive data

Other national/regional /departmental procedures for data management

(if applicable)

Annex A3: Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan

Information and template CDEP

Please delete this textbox before submission

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' template, however the CEDP should describe the main communication and dissemination channels as well as the respective target audience and exploitation plans for project outcomes and how they will contribute to project impact.
The plan should be able to answer the following questions clearly:
 What are the objectives of your project and what do you want to achieve with your CDEP in relation to your project's objectives?
 Who are your priority audiences and why?
 When is the most appropriate time to engage with each audience and why?
 How does your CDEP create synergy with the rest of the project plan?
 How do you justify the budget allocated to each of our proposed actions?
 (Appropriate resources should be dedicated to the dissemination, communication and exploitation activities and the involvement of stakeholders.)
 How do you split the responsibilities (resources and actions) across the consortium?

*To enhance dissemination of the project results, all project Coordinators should calculate the costs for their participation in **three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings**) – in addition to or in parallel to their own project meetings – in their project plan.*
Please consider that all project partners must give proper reference to the ERA-NET ICT-AGRI-FOOD and its 2024 Joint Call in any documentation published (in written, oral or electronic form).

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for dissemination, communication and exploitation, for example
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/dissemination-of-results_en.htm (accessed: 15 March 2024) or
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/imgs/quick-guide_diss-expl_en.pdf (quick guide,accessed: 15 March 2024) or
https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dissemination-and-exploitation_en (accessed: 15 March 2024).r

The CDP must not exceed the length of two A4 pages (Arial 11pt, line pitch at least 1.15 - allowed file size: 1 MB).

You may want to consider some aspects/ideas shown below (any other structure is welcome!):

Link of (your project's acronym) to the call scope

- How will your proposal help meet the objectives of the call? Give detailed explanations.
- Objectives of the CDEP

Impact

- In what area do you expect to make an impact?
- What needs might be solved/met thanks to the results of your project?
- What outputs will be created?
- Where will the outputs be made available during and after the project?

Stakeholders and potential users of the results

- Make a list of potential stakeholder and/or users.

- When is the most appropriate time to engage with each audience and why?
- How will you contact them? Communication routes (national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, course or training materials, web-based tools, workshops, policy briefs, etc.

(If your stakeholders or users are committed from early on, they may help guide your work towards applications. They could come from the regional, national and international networks of the partners in your consortium, or from the value chains they operate in. They could be involved as partners in the project, or, throughout its duration, as members of an advisory board or user group tasked with testing the results and providing feedback.)

Distribution of work and budget allocated to activities

- Who is responsible for which action?

(*Is the allocated budget eligible for the respective funding organisation?*)

Annex B: National Contact Points

Country		National/Regional Contact Point	Name	E-mail	telephone
Belgium – Flanders		Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO)	Anne De Brabandere Bert Beck	anne.debrabandere@vlaio.be bert.beck@vlaio.be	+32 494366344 +32 471673317
Bulgaria		Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)	Milena Aleksandrova	aleksandrova@mon.bg	+359 884 171 363
Estonia		Ministry of Rural Affair	Maarja Malm	maarja.malm@agri.ee	+372 625 6250
Finland		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)	Suvi Ryynänen	suvi.ryynanen@gov.fi	+358 2951 62126
Germany		Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	Johannes Pfeifer Elke Saggau Annika Fuchs	johannes.pfeifer@ble.de elke.saggau@ble.de annika.fuchs@ble.de	+49 228 6845 2634 +49 228 6845 3930 +49 228 6845 3746
Hungary		National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)	Orsolya Tóth	orsolya.toth2@nkfih.gov.hu	+36-1-896-3744
Ireland		Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	John Harrison Aidan Holohan Ellen Durkin	John.harrison@agriculture.gov.ie aidan.holohan@agriculture.gov.ie ellen.durkin@agriculture.gov.ie	+353 1 6072847 +353 1 6072426 +353 16072334
Israel		Israel Innovation Authority (ISERD)	Rachel Loutaty Moshe Avrahami Danny Seker	rachel.l@iserd.org.il Moshe.Avrahami@innovationisrael.org.il Dan@iserd.org.il	+972-52-8913774 +972-54-5882322 +972-52-7334127
Latvia		Latvian Council of Science (LZP)	Dace Tirzite	Dace.Tirzite@lzp.gov.lv	+371 29644426

Country		National/Regional Contact Point	Name	E-mail	telephone
Poland		The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Jan Osiński	jan.osinski@ncbr.gov.pl	M: +48 519 683 989 T: +48 22 39 07 324
Romania		Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)	Domnica Cotet Cristina Muscalu	domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro cristina.cotet@uefiscadi.ro	+40 21 3023880 +40 21 3023884
Spain - Andalusia		Technology Corporation of Andalusia	Nathalie Chavrier	nathalie.chavrier@corporacion tecnologica.com	+34 954461352
Turkey		The Scientific and Technological Research Council of TÜRKİYE (TUBITAK)	Meltem Soydan Karabacak Kamil Öncü Şen	meltem.soydan@tubitak.gov.tr oncu.sen@tubitak.gov.tr	+90 312 298 1264 +90 312 298 1809

Annex C: National/Regional Regulations

2024 Joint Call for Proposals

Towards transformation of agri-food systems for the benefit of planetary health, consumers and other stakeholders along the food value chain using data-based systems and ICT technologies

Annex C

National/Regional Regulations

Deadline for <u>pre-registry of proposals</u>:
Thursday, 16.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)
shifted to Friday, 24.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)

Deadline for submission of full proposals:
Thursday, 20.06.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)
shifted to Monday, 08.07.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)

Version: 1.3, 15 May 2024

History of changes:

Date	Description of Change
02.04.2024 Version 1.1	The Israel Innovation Authority joined the call. Please find the respective National Regulations on page 58.
08.04.2024 Version 1.2	The Bulgarian National Science Fund joined the call. Please find the respective National Regulations on page 46.
15.05.2024 (Version 1.3)	**Deadlines extended!!!!** Deadline for pre-registry of proposals: Thursday, 16.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time) **shifted to Friday, 24.05.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)** Deadline for submission of full proposals: Thursday, 20.06.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time) **shifted to Monday, 08.07.2024, 13:00 h (CEST, Brussels time)**

Table of Contents

Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Anne De Brabandere	anne.debrabandere@vlaio.be	+32 494366344
Bert Beck	bert.beck@vlaio.be	+32 471673317

National regulation

Indicative budget	1,000,000€	
Maximum funding per project		
Project duration	Min. 6 months	Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:		

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	Research projects: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject Development projects: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
No	No	No	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

Funding scheme follows the national rules of funding for Research and Development Projects:

The eligible partners are Flemish enterprises (with legal entity in Flanders). Minimum 1 Flemish enterprise needs to apply for funding. Enterprises can involve scientific partners and subcontractors in the project.

The submission of projects is online.

There are no priorities as long as the projects fit in the program (no thematic restrictions).

Economic valorisation is a prerequisite for all programs. Flemish companies should calculate the economic benefits and valorisation in Flanders for their part of the project. Information for applicants will be provided on the VLAIO website, with additional templates to be completed.

Those completed templates are mandatory to check the national eligibility and must be sent to VLAIO on the date of deadline of the proposals. We kindly ask the applicants to apply for a meeting with VLAIO before the deadline for submission to check the eligibility aspects.

The maximum funding percentage is 25 – 70 % depending on the size of the enterprise and on the TRL level.

Bulgarian National Science Fund

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Milena Aleksandrova	aleksandrova@mon.bg	+359 884 171 363

National regulation

Indicative budget	460,163€	
Maximum funding per project	153,388€	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:		

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	1) Accredited universities as defined in Art.85 para.1, p. 7 of the Higher Education Act; 2) Research organizations as defined in Art. 47, para 1 of the Higher Education Act. http://lll.mon.bg/uploaded_files/zkn_visseto_obr_01.03.2016_EN.pdf
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	Not applicable

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	No	No

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

Other additional eligibility rules are specified in National requirements and eligibility conditions of Bulgarian National Science Fund available at:

Link (in Bulgarian)
Link (in English)

Bundesministerium
für Ernährung
und Landwirtschaft

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
represented by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Dr. Johannes Pfeifer	johannes.pfeifer@ble.de	+49 228 6845 2634
Dr. Elke Saggau	elke.saggau@ble.de	+49 228 6845 3930
Dr. Annika Fuchs	annika.fuchs@ble.de	+49 228 6845 3746

National regulation

Indicative budget	750,000€	
Maximum funding per project	250,000 €	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months

The following topics can be funded:			
Topic1	**Topic 2**	**Topic 3**	**Topic 4**
yes	yes	yes	no

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	BMEL will not fund projects addressing topic 4, open topic.
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	Specific Programme on International Research Cooperation on Global Food Security and other international research tasks regarding Food and Agriculture

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:			
Universities	**Research institutes**	**Non-profit organizations**	**private companies**
yes	yes	yes	no

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

German applicants are strongly recommended to contact their National Contact Persons before submitting a proposal.

Funding Party:

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), represented by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Indicative Budget:

750.000 €. The maximum amount for each project has to not exceed 250.000 €. Please note the project lump sum ("overhead") regulation that is explained below. The max. project duration is 24 to 36 months.

Funding Programme:

Specific Programme on International Research Cooperation on Global Food Security and other international research tasks regarding Food and Agriculture

National/Regional Contact Point:

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Unit 325 - European Research Affairs

Eligibility criteria:

BMEL funding is based on §§ 23 and 44 BHO (Bundeshaushaltsordnung) and associated administrative regulations and §§ 48 to 49a of the VwVfG (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

Furthermore, the standard guidelines of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) including ancillary provisions for grants on an expenditure or cost basis (NABF, ANBest-P, NKBF 2017) apply. All of these guidelines are based on Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 and Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022. The main items are the following:

- Funding will be awarded as a non-repayable project grant.

- Eligible applicants are universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions, as well as Federal and State institutions with research tasks. Research institutions, which are jointly funded by the Federal Government and the 'Länder', may only be granted project funding under certain conditions and only for project-related expenditures in addition to their institutional funding.

- Double funding is not possible.

- Up to 250,000 € (including the project lump sum) are available per project for German partners. The grant is awarded in the course of project funding as a non-repayable grant or allocation based on the eligible project-related expenditure or costs as full or partial funding. A project lump sum or so-called "overheads" of up to 10 per cent of personnel expenses can only be granted in the case of grants on an expenditure basis (AZA).

- When awarding grants, the requirements of EU state aid law must be observed in accordance with the following principles: Whether the respective grant constitutes state aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) is determined in detail by the relevant provisions of the Union Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation C (2022) 7388 of 19 October 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the RDI Framework), in particular points 1.3, 2.1.1 and 2.2.

In order to prove their financial ability to participate in the proposed project, some applicants have to submit, by the deadline of the proposal submission, the documents for credit assessment that are available under the following link:

https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/ => Formularschrank => Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE) => Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis (AZK) => Unterlagen zur Bonitätsprüfung

These documents have to be submitted by e-mail to the above mentioned contact point.

More details in the national/regional call announcement:

Details will be available in the national/regional call announcement published in the Bundesanzeiger (www.bundesanzeiger.de)

REGIONAAL- JA
PÕLLUMAJANDUSMINISTEERIUM

Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Maarja Malm	maarja.malm@agri.ee	+372 6256250

National regulation

Indicative budget	100,000€	
Maximum funding per project	100,000 €	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:		

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vastavusnouded-RV-uhiskonkurssidel_-EN_veebr.2023.pdf

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account.

CTA

Technology Corporation of Andalusia (CTA)

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Nathalie Chavrier	nathalie.chavrier@corporaciontecnologica.com	+34 954461352

National regulation

Indicative budget	250,000€	
Maximum funding per project	250,000€	
Project duration	Min. 12 months	Max. 36 months

The following topics can be funded:

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	see regional rules description

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
No	No	No	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

Eligibility criteria:

CTA funds R&D and Technological Innovation business projects submitted by companies in order to enhance their competitiveness. Projects must include applied research, technological development or technological innovation activities.

Applicants and beneficiaries: Spanish companies, with productive activities in Andalusia.

Projects must contain applied research (TRL 1-5), experimental development (TRL 6–7) or innovation activities (TRL 8-9).

Public Spanish research groups can participate as subcontractors:10% of total project budget, at least, is required to be subcontracted to a research group from public Andalusian University or public Andalusian research Institute. Additionally, other Spanish research groups can be part of the project as subcontractors if their capacities are appropriate for the project activities.

Project duration: 36 months maximum

Project budget: 30.000€ minimum – 500.000€ maximum

Eligible Costs: staff, material, durables and equipment depreciation, overhead, subcontracting

Granted activities must have an impact in Andalusia.

Evaluation:

4 main issues will be evaluated:

- Scientific and technological potential
- Commercial potential: project business plan has to be submitted as a part of the proposal.
- Regional economic and social impact
- Implementation: work plan, methodology, resources, budget consistency

Followed issues will increase evaluation score:

- Participation of Spanish innovation and technology center
- Subcontracting of research group from public Andalusian University or public Andalusian research institute over than 10%
- Subcontracting of 2 or more different Andalusian Universities.

Financial conditions:

Funding rate depends on excellence of the proposal:

Evaluation Score	Funding		
	Applied research project	Technological development project	Technological innovation project
90-100	52,5%	52,5%	42%
85-89	49,875%	49,875%	39,9%
80-84	47,25%	47,25%	37,8%
75-79	44,625%	44,625%	35,7%
70-74	42%	42%	33,6%
65-69	39,375%	39,375%	31,5%
60-64	36,75%	36,75%	29,4%
55-59	34,125%	34,125%	27,3%
50-54	31,5%	31,5%	25,2%

Consortium with 2 partners from 2 independent applicant companies, can be beneficiary of a 5% improvement of its funding.

Consortium with 3 or more partners from 3 or more independent applicant companies, can be beneficiary of a 10% improvement of its funding.

Maximum funded amount will be:

-        60% of eligible costs of the project, for R&D projects.

-        50% for technology innovation projects.

65% of funding will be reimbursable over 10 years from the center of gravity of the project, without allowance. Repayment will start 3 years after the breakeven point of the project.

35% of funding will be a non-reimbursable part.

Final funding decision will be taken by Executive Committee of CTA. Bank guarantee could be requested to beneficiary depending on its financial solvency.

Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö
Jord- och skogsbruksministeriet
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Suvi Ryynänen	suvi.ryynanen@gov.fi	+358 295162126

National regulation

Indicative budget	200,000€	
Maximum funding per project	200,000€	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months

The following topics can be funded:

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	R&D projects shall benefit the agri-food area
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

MMM Annex - National rules

The main national criteria emphasizes that the research & development projects shall benefit the agri-food area and livelihood by potential business innovation, otherwise no specific topic priorities in this call. MMM uses so called total cost model where funding for research organizations and universities covers 70 % of the project's gross eligible costs. For companies the maximum funding is 50%. Product development supporting individual companies will not be supported. The results of funded projects must be open for access by all potential user groups.

MMM urges all applicants to get in touch with the national contact person already in the early phase of the project planning.

The general conditions of RDI projects funded by MMM:

https://mmm.fi/tutkimus-ja-kehittaminen/lomakkeet-ja-ohjeet (in Finnish)

Maa- ja metsätalousministeriön rahoittaman tutkimus-, kehittämis- ja innovaatiotoiminnan (TKI-toiminnan) vakioehdot (will be available also in English).

NEMZETI KUTATÁSI, FEJLESZTÉSI
ÉS INNOVÁCIÓS HIVATAL

National Research, Development and Innovation Office

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Orsolya Tóth	orsolya.toth2@nkfih.gov.hu	+36 1 896 3744

National regulation

Indicative budget	200,000€	
Maximum funding per project	200,000€	
Project duration	Min. - months	Max. 36months

The following topics can be funded:

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
yes	yes	yes	yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	The national funding programme is expected to be published in Q1

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	SMEs	Large companies
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
John Harrison	john.harrison@agriculture.gov.ie	+353 16072847
Aidan Holohan	aidan.holohan@agriculture.gov.ie	+353 16072426
Ellen Durkin	ellen.durkin@agriculture.gov.ie	+353 16072334

National regulation

Indicative budget	1,000,000€	
Maximum funding per project	500,000€	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months*

The following topics can be funded:

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8406f-open-calls/

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	No	No

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

National Eligibility Criteria

- Grant applications will only be accepted from approved Irish RPOs (see section 4 of the Call Guidelines for Irish Applicants)

- The grant request by Irish RPOs must not exceed the maximum funding per project as set out above.

- Address at least one of the scientific areas related to the call scope (as set out in the central Call announcement/documents under the 2024 ICT-AGRI-FOOD Joint Call)

- Avoid duplication of recent national and international research work already funded or ongoing that incorporates the scope of the scientific topic areas in the 2024 ICT-AGRI-FOOD Joint Call.

- Closely align with relevant national policy and foresight documents including but not restricted to Food Vision 2030, IMPACT 2030, Programme for Government, Ag-Climatise, Climate Action Plan 2024, and Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Agriculture, Harnessing Digital – (The Digital Ireland Framework), National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (for Ireland), Agri-Digitalisation Section 8.1 CAP Strategic Plan Ireland, Teagasc Technology Foresight 2035.

Applications that do not adhere to these criteria will be deemed ineligible and in such cases the application will not proceed for expert review.

Eligible Funding Partners

Please note: Project partners that are not eligible for funding are encouraged on an in-kind or self-financing basis.

Call Guidelines for Irish Applicants

Please see the 'Call Guidelines for Irish Applicants' located on the "Open Calls" section of the DAFM website which sets out in more detail the rules for Irish applicants seeking grant-aid under the 2024 ICT-AGRI-FOOD Joint Call and **must** be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in this National Annex and the Call Announcement of the 2024 Joint Call.

Further Information

Applicants should note that the discussions and decision regarding the eligibility of any Irish applicants to the Call or on the final selected projects is taken by DAFM only.

* DAFM provides a maximum funding duration of 48 months to facilitate the completion of PhD theses. All relevant milestones and deliverables required for the completion of the ERANET project must be completed within the 36-month time frame specified in the 2024 Joint Call Announcement.

Israel Innovation Authority - ISERD

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Rachel Loutaty	rachel.l@iserd.org.il	+972-52-8913774
Moshe Avrahami	Moshe.Avrahami@innovationisrael.org.il	+972-54-5882322
Danny Seker	Dan@iserd.org.il	+972-52-7334127

National regulation

Indicative budget	500,000€	
Maximum funding per project	250,000€ per participant	
Project duration	Min 24 months	Max 36 months

The following topics can be funded:

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Each submission will need to pass internal eligibility tests
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	נוהל ליישום הסכמים בינלאומיים הקשורים בתכנית המסגרת האירופית 22.11.23 - רשות החדשנות (innovationisrael.org.il)

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes (with Israeli industry partner on same WP)	-	No	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

- Israeli applicants are requested to contact IIA prior to submission of a proposal
- Applicants must follow the IIA – course 5A procedures – as described in the נוהל ליישום הסכמים בינלאומיים הקשורים בתכנית המסגרת האירופית
- **In parallel** to the submission of the Pre-Registration to the ICT-AGRI-FOOD Call Office (deadline 24 May 2024, 13:00h CEST), Israeli applicants need to submit a formal request to IIA through the regular IIA system, with all the necessary documents as described in IIA – course 5A, in order to be validated to pass the internal eligibility process

Latvian Council of Science

Latvian Council of Science

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Dace Tirzite	Dace.Tirzite@lzp.gov.lv	+371 29644426

National regulation

Indicative budget	600,000€	
Maximum funding per project	100,000€ (per 1 project year per project partner) €	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months

The following topics can be funded:			
Topic1	**Topic 2**	**Topic 3**	**Topic 4**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/atbalsts-starptautiskas-programmas-projektiem

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:			
Universities	**Research institutes**	**Non-profit organizations**	**private companies**
Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

R&D institutions (research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, research centres etc.) must be listed in the Register of Research Institutions operated by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia.

Small and medium enterprises must be registered in the Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia and provide most of its R&D&I activities in the Republic of Latvia. National co-financing rate for project shall be determined in accordance with the Commission's Regulation (EC) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation).

Eligible costs:

Direct costs: - Personnel costs, - Other direct costs such as consumables, equipment (only depreciation costs), materials and etc., - Subcontracts (up to 25% of total direct costs), - Travels costs.

Indirect costs: amount to 25% of the direct costs excluding subcontracting costs.

Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju

The National Centre for Research and Development

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Jan Osiński	jan.osinski@ncbr.gov.pl	M: +48 519 683 989 T: +48 22 39 07 324

National regulation

Indicative budget	600,000€	
Maximum funding per project	300,000€	
Project duration	Min. 12 months	Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:		

Topic1	**Topic 2**	**Topic 3**	**Topic 4**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	-
Following types of partners are eligible for funding:	

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information
Additional eligibility criteria • Entities must be established as a legal person[3] and must conduct its business, R&D or any other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register[4] • For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the application form the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large);

---

[3] Legal person (juridical person) - an entity that is capable of having and amend legal rights and obligations within a certain legal system, such as to enter into contracts, sue, and be sued, excluding natural persons;

[4] if applicable.

- A condition for the participation of a group of entities as the Applicant in the competition is its formal existence on the date of submission of the application form, confirmed by its members concluding, at least conditionally, agreement on the creation of a group of entities;

- Please note that group of entities counts as at least two project partners from Poland.

Eligible costs

1. personnel costs (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project);

2. operating costs (depending on the type of eligible institution);

3. cost of contractual research (subcontracting), this cost type cannot account for more than 70% of all eligible costs of a project;

4. additional overheads incurred indirectly as a result of the research project (depending on the type of eligible institution);

Research Organisations:

additional overheads for research organisations should account 25% of all eligible direct costs; That costs (4) are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs for research organizations, excluding subcontracting (3); It means 4=(1+2)*25%.

Enterprises:

additional overheads for enterprises include also other operating costs, eg. costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity, training costs; travels costs including conference fees; costs of project promotion (e.g. articles, project webpage). That costs should account 20% of all eligible direct project costs; Additional overheads (4) are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs for enterprises; It means 4=(1+2+3)*20%.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Research organisations
Fundamental/Basic Research	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50 + 5/15/25 (max 75 %)	Up to 50 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 50 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 100%
Experimental development	Up to 25 + 5/15/25 (max 50 %)	Up to 25 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 60 %)	Up to 25 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 70 %)	Up to 100 %

Only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) is not eligible for funding as separate research tasks in the project schedule but can be eligible as part of R&D tasks.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level

After international evaluation of full proposals and the selection of projects to be funded, Polish participants will be invited to submit a National Application Form (NAF). The NAFs will be

examined for the appropriateness of funding requested. The Polish participants are obliged to use the rate of exchange of the European Central Bank dated on the day of opening of the call.

Sample documents are available at:

https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/wniosek-krajowy

We encourage you to learn about and use our **"PartFinder" (Partner Search Tool),** which allows you to match science and industry entities from around the World with each other. The search engine is available at:

https://partfinder.ncbr.gov.pl/

uefiscdi

Excutive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Domnica Cotet	domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro	+40 21 3023880
Cristina Muscalu (Cotet)	cristina.cotet@uefiscdi.ro	+40 3023884

National regulation

Indicative budget	500,000€	
Maximum funding per project	250,000€	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:		

Topic1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Not the case
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene

Following types of partners are eligible for funding:

Universities	Research institutes	Non-profit organizations	private companies
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information

Name of the programme/initiative	National Plan for Research and Innovation, 2022-2027.
Programme website	https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene
Programme owner	Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization
Program manager (executing funding organisation)	UEFISCDI
Funding Commitment	500.000€
Anticipated number of fundable research partners	2-3

Maximum funding per grant awarded to a partner	250.000 € if the Romanian applicant is coordinators (no matter how many Romanian applicants there are). 200.000 € if the Romanian applicant is partner (no matter how many Romanian applicants there are). Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal.
Type of research eligible for funding: eligible TRL range	TR2-TR8
Funding rates (approx.)	

Major eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organisations, thematic restriction, cost types and caps)	Eligible costs are:
	
	- Staff costs;
	- Logistics expenses
	    - Capital expenditure;
	    - Expenditure on stocks - supplies and inventory items;
	    - Expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25% of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work;
	- Travel expenses;
	- Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 25% of direct costs.
	The aid intensity is applying in respect of type of organization and type of eligible activity (cf. link below).
	
	https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene

Submission of the proposal at national/regional level (schedule, cut-off dates, deadlines, etc.)	Not the case
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national/regional level	Yes, conforming with the contract agreement
Further guidance	www.uefiscdi.gov.fro

TÜBİTAK

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye

National/Regional contact points

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Dr. Meltem Soydan Karabacak	meltem.soydan@tubitak.gov.tr	+90 312 298 1264
Dr. Kamil Öncü Şen	oncu.sen@tubitak.gov.tr	+90 312 298 1809

National regulation

Indicative budget	500,000€		
Maximum funding per project	150,000€ excluding Project Incentive Bonus (PTI) and overhead costs €		
Project duration	Min. 0 months		Max. 36 months
The following topics can be funded:			
Topic1	**Topic 2**	**Topic 3**	**Topic 4**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	-		
Link to funding programme and other relevant information	https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/		
Following types of partners are eligible for funding:			
Universities	**Research institutes**	**Non-profit organizations**	**private companies**
Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Any additional national/regional rules or documents or information			

The total budget requested from TUBITAK by the Turkish partners <u>excluding Project Incentive Bonus (PTI) and overhead costs</u> can not exceed;

- **150.000 Euro** per project,
- **Per Partner** per project;
    - **100.000 Euro** for Universities (public and private), research institutes, and public institutions,
    - **150.000 Euro** for private corporations**,**

Percentage of Funding:

Universities (public and private), research institutes and public institutions: %100 of budget of the project will be funded by TUBITAK.

Large-size Enterprises: %60 of budget of the project will be funded by TUBITAK.

Small and Medium-size Enterprises: %75 of budget of the project will be funded by TUBITAK.

Eligibility of Project Team:

In order to be the Principal Investigator of Turkish team*:

- University personnel should have a PhD degree,
- Those working in a public institution or a private corporation should have at least undergraduate diploma,

Other researchers of Turkish team must have at least undergraduate diploma,

The Principal Investigator (PI), researchers and advisors of Turkish team must be permanent/full-time staff (except for retirees and postdoctoral researchers not working in any institution/organization) of institution/organization where they are working.

The PI and researchers (Co-PI) should reside and work in Turkey (Foreign nationals can be PI/researcher in the projects if they are working in an organization in Turkey),

A researcher should have a contribution of at least 10% of the project workload,

Applications are **not accepted** from non-governmental organizations; foundations, associations, their economic enterprises, cooperatives, unions, sole proprietorships and ordinary partnerships.

*University presidents, surgeon generals, hospital presidents, institution/company presidents are not allowed to be PI.

Eligible Costs: Eligible types of funding under this programme are personnel costs, travel and subsistence, equipment that would be used for R&D purposes, consumables and subcontracting/services need for R&D work. Projects intended to build infrastructure cannot be supported. Please, look at the national announcement for budget limitations of budget items.

National Application: Project coordinator of consortium must send English application form to call secretariat via online application tool. At the same time with this international application, **Principal Investigator (PI) of Turkish team in the consortium must apply to project application system of TUBITAK (https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/).** If there is more than one partner from Turkey in the same international project, single joint application should be submitted to national application system by the PI of the Turkish team.

For detailed information, please look at national call announcement under official website of TUBITAK.

http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/tr

https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/

Annex D: ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call Data Privacy Notice

By submitting an application to the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call, applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their data, in line with the above notice and for the purposes of

- processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;

- administering any subsequent funding award;

- managing the Funding Party's relationship with them;

- analysing and evaluating the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call;

- reporting to the European Commission/ Research Executive Agency (REA) on the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call;

- providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses;

- and complying with audits that may be initiated by the Funding Parties and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The members of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD consortium may share an applicant's data with third parties (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in relation to the above activities including evaluators, auditors and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The members of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD consortium may link the data that applicants provide in the application with national, bibliographic or external research funding data which is available through public subscription based databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, etc.) or other national / open datasets.

The members of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD consortium may also link the data that applicants provide in their application with future data that applicants provide as part of the ongoing management and reporting on a 2024 Joint Call award which may be awarded to them.

Data on Funding Parties incl. contact details of CSC members and NCP/RCP are kept for the purpose of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call Communication. The information will be published with prior consent of the respective management bodies.

Annex E: Template for the Letter of Financial Commitment (LoC)

Template (financial) commitment(s) (LoC)

Please delete this box before using this template!

This template should be used as evidence of the availability of funds by applicants who are:

- *from partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties participating in the Call or*

- *eligible, to receive funding from a Funding Party, but not seeking funding from a Funding Party.*

**This document must be signed by
an authorised representative of the organisation.**

This letter must be submitted electronically with the proposal through the Online Submission Platform.

In case of failure to provide such a commitment in a proposal submission, an applicant could be regarded as ineligible and so will be the whole consortium.

Name and address of organisation

Name and address of contact person

City, Date:

Letter of commitment

ICT-AGRI-FOOD 2024 Joint Call for Proposals

We hereby confirm that (Organisation Name) has sufficient resources and is committed to participating in the project (project title)

In accordance with the proposal which is submitted by (coordinator name)