

Frequently asked questions

Q: What if you cannot find your institution in the list of institutions in the online submission tool?

A: Go to "My profile" and here to "Edit" and "Set my organisation". If it is not in the list, you can create a new one with the respective toolbar button "Create new organisation".

Q: Is there an overall budget constraint/limit?

A: No, there is not. However, there is the recommendation of a maximum number of full partners of 8 and the 70% rule on page 14: "*f) In order to achieve balanced projects, the maximum budget that can be requested (for each project) by partners from one country is 70% from the total requested budget. This limit is also valid if there are several partners from the same country.*" and the national budget constraints.

Q: Is there a possibility to buy hardware in the projects, such as robots?

A: This depends on your national regulations. In Germany for example this is possible, but there are certain rules applied here.

Q: Are partners from non-European countries allowed?

A: Yes, no problem, but - apart from Argentina, who is a funder in this call - there are no further funding countries that are non-European. Therefore, partners from these countries can participate on their own cost and they are called associated partners. These associated partners cannot be coordinator and they can also not work in essential tasks in this project. There are certain rules, please look them up in the call text.

Q: How many successful proposals do you expect to fund in this call?

A: Experienced showed to us that we normally select between 6 and 12 proposals in additional calls. The success rate in ERA-NET calls is normally between 20 and 40 percent. Quite a high success rate.

Q: What is the PIC number?

A: It is the 9-digit Participant Identification Code according to the European Commission participant register. You can often find it in the internet, or you can ask your organisation.

Q: Do public institutions need to submit a document signed by their legal representative?

A: No, that is not necessary. The PI has to sign on behalf of the consortium partner that you represent.

Q: Is the United Kingdom seen as an European country?

A: UK is unfortunately not a funder in this call and therefore researchers from the UK are welcome to join consortia, but they will be associate partners and participate on their own cost.

Q: What is the minimum and maximum budget in the project?

A: There is no minimum budget for the projects, but the budget should make sense. The budget you request should be sufficient to do the planned work, and it should be convincing to the expert evaluators and also to the funding agency. Is there a maximum budget? See question above, there are limitations in the national regulations and the 70% rule and the recommended number of maximum 8 partners.

Q: What is the condition to become/for being a partner?

A: See call text, it is very precisely explained here.

Q: What is meant by "actors that are willing to bear part of the cost of the engagement for strengthening ecosystem service"?

A: Example: Most retailers and other actors along the value chain of agri-food systems are interested to develop sustainable systems and products, not least for marketing purpose or due sincere desire to improve the sustainability of their business activities. A retailer could for example be willing to bear part of the cost of farmers, who are under contract with this retailer, when they deliver e.g. vegetables to the retailer that do not have a perfect quality (such as deformed or with innocuous discoloration) but that still could be sold to consumers. This reduces food losses and is very sustainable and the retailer can perform an attractive campaign in the supermarkets appreciated by many customers.

Q: Where can we access the matching tool?

A: On our website, there is the Knowledge Incubator, and under "Projects" you find the "Match making" tool. Moreover, you can also publish your proposal as a "public proposal" to attract or find partners.

Q: Was there a specific reason to include Argentina in the **call**?

A: The reason is that we are of course very happy to collaborate with countries from overseas and Argentina has decided to become a funder in this call.

Q: Is there any general non-disclosure-agreement recommended for ICT-AGRI-FOOD, for projects where there is a patent protected project?

A: We do not recommend a specific NDA.

Questions from former calls:

Q: Do all partners also have to sign up to the system through this website for the coordinator to be able to add them to the project as partners?

A: Yes, all partners must also create an account on the ICT-AGRI-FOOD website so that the coordinator can add them as partners to the project.

Q: Can a partner be partner in more than one proposal?

A: Yes, that is allowed. Please see rules in the Call Announcement Document in chapter 6.5 6.5 Specific Call Eligibility Criteria and check.

Q: Will it be possible to edit the application after it has been submitted?

A: Yes, this is possible until the deadline has ceased. It is possible to change even if already submitted, but before the deadline has ended. Please do not submit in the last minutes before the deadline.

Q: What means good geographical coverage?

A: This depends on the proposed project. In some projects it may be more important than in other projects. It may be useful that your approach can be used in many countries. Please consider that you need to convince the evaluators.

Q: How long should each section of the proposal be?

A: There is always a maximum number of characters provided for each section in the Online Submission Tool, depending on the question.

Q: Involve Industry for dissemination even if not a partner?

A: This needs to be discussed with each National Contact Point. In some countries they may be paid by subcontracting for example, in other countries not. They can always be involved as "associated partners", if no full partners.

Q: Can you provide more information on the Data Management Plan? How important is it and what should be included?

A: All information is included in the Call Announcement Document and in the Online Submission Tool. The Data Management Plan is very important.

Q: To check the eligibility of a company, do you consider only the location of the headquarter or is it possible to consider the location of a company in a country?

A: That depends very much on the structure of a company. Please clarify with your National Contact point.

Q: Is a farmer considered a partner?

A: Yes, this is possible considering EU State aid law. Farms are normally SMEs. Please check if SMEs are funded in your country. In this call we encourage taking a multi-actor approach. Therefore, it is possible that a farmer becomes an official partner, but consult your NCP.

Q: Will the project be rejected if a partner is not funded by its national organisation?

A: If a partner is eligible and the project has been selected for funding, and then the partner is in the end for any reason not funded, the CSC will try to find ways to realise the project and to find a solution.

Q: Will data collected on food issues be published in the public repository?

A: This is explained in the Call Announcement Document. For dissemination purpose, some data will be published.

Q: Can a project without research part be funded, e.g. if it is only on development?

A: In principle, it is possible, depending on the national regulations of the countries. However, please consider the question if it will be convincing for evaluators. Please look into the Call Announcement Document. Projects should, at least to some extent do research, however it can also be applied research.

Q: Which definition of SME is used, the official definition of the European Commission?

A: Yes.

Q: Are research partners prompted to harness results of previously funded ERA-NET projects?

A: You should connect when possible and reasonable to other EU-funded projects.

Q: How important are aspects of cybersecurity in the call?

A: They are/can be important and relevant but it depends on the topic you address.

Q: Does the project evaluation depend on the national organisation feedback?

A: No, the evaluation process by expert evaluators is completely independent from the national organisations and national contact points.

Q: Why is the indicative call budget different to the total budget of the projects? Does it mean that the indicative call budget will be distributed to all successful projects of this country?

A: In the selection process there might be a rest of funding not spent for the projects, e.g. when there is a large budget from a country but only few proposals.