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Request for EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) Implementing Participants

EIT Food HUB 2024-2025

IMP-RIS-2426-01

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1. Introduction

EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system.

We have built a unique not-for-profit business to carry out transformative programmes in skills, education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment and communications. We deliver these programmes in partnership with our members to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund.

EIT Food has a strategic approach to systems change to create societal and economic impact. This is underpinned by a robust Theory of Change and a clear set of impact indicators and goals published in our [Strategic Agenda 2021-27](#).

EIT Food is the largest ecosystem in agri-food sector combining major European agri-food industries, universities and research centers but also startups with the objective to transform the current agrifood ecosystem in a healthier and more sustainable one with a strong focus on three Missions: Healthier Lives through Food, a Net Zero Food System, and on Reducing Risk for a Fair & Resilient Food System. You can access more information about the EIT Food Missions, including the Missions Reports on <https://www.eitfood.eu/missions>.

For more information about EIT Food please visit: www.eitfood.eu

1.1 EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS)

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced by the European Parliament and the Council as part of the [EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda \(SIA\) 2014-2020](#). The EIT RIS is designed to share good practices and experience emerging from the EIT Community's activities, as well as to widen participation in KICs' activities. The aim of the EIT RIS is to help disseminate the knowledge and know-how of the EIT Community and widen participation in the KICs across Europe. The EIT RIS focuses on countries that are moderate and modest innovators according to the European Innovation Scoreboard¹ and have limited or no participation in the EIT Community's activities.

As outlined in the EIT [RIS Implementation Framework](#) document, the EIT Community aims to enhance its openness towards potential partners and stakeholders and develop a better articulated regional strategy for EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) through a reinforced EIT RIS programme. Its successful implementation in each targeted country highly depends on activities of EIT RIS Hub, which according to the EIT Regulation, is "physical hub, established by a KIC and forming part of its structure, in a Member State or in an associated country targeted by the RIS and that serves as focal point for the KIC's activities and for the mobilisation and involvement of local knowledge triangle actors in the activities of the KIC".

EIT RIS Hubs form the backbone of the EIT RIS' "place-based" innovation approach and have the core mission of delivering on the EIT's objectives and KPIs, especially those directly related to the EIT RIS.

The mission, functions and general tasks of EIT RIS Hubs are described in EIT RIS Hubs [Minimum Standards and Guiding Principles](#), which underpin the establishment and operation of all EIT RIS Hubs from 2023. With a view to ensuring the EIT Food Hubs' contribution towards achieving the EIT's

¹ [European innovation scoreboard \(europa.eu\)](http://europeaninnovation.scoreboard.europa.eu)

Objectives and Key Performance Indicators, the Minimum Standards and Guiding Principles set out four minimum functions which all existing and future EIT RIS Hubs will be required to fully perform:

- Improve the innovation capacities of the local ecosystem
- Attract and facilitate the integration of new participants in EIT Community activities
- Support the establishment of synergies
- Coordinate with other EIT RIS Hubs and other EIT KIC Offices.

In order to support the last function EIT Community RIS Hubs will be gradually launched by the end of 2025. These EIT Community RIS Hubs will serve as a one-stop-shop for the whole EIT Community. These EIT Community RIS Hubs will, primarily provide local innovators with a unified source of information on all services and opportunities provided by the entire EIT Community, both locally and internationally. It will also serve as a centralised gateway, for local innovators, to all EIT KICs, irrespective of their local on-the-ground representation.

1.2 EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT Food RIS)

EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT Food RIS) is based on strategic approach to long term EIT presence in RIS countries according to [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme Implementation Framework 2022-2027](#), and encompasses a portfolio of instruments dedicated to beneficiaries from EIT RIS eligible countries.

EIT Food RIS Strategy² supports the EIT's vision for the future-oriented network of stakeholders, linking regions of Europe with diversified innovative potentials and stimulating cooperation between the existing and upcoming innovation leaders. With the implementation of EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme, we aim to strengthen the excellence of stakeholders in EIT RIS countries, overcome the barriers to their full participation in KIC's activities and increase the innovativeness of targeted regions and countries by embedding these high-potential innovation aspirers into a portfolio of carefully elaborated and efficiently implemented projects. In the European food system, stakeholders from EIT RIS countries play strategic roles as major primary producers or distributors and providers of logistic services, but as well prospective suppliers of digital technologies and experts in water scarcity mitigation, among others. To accelerate the innovative transformation of the EIT RIS area, EIT Food aims to ensure a reciprocal alignment between agrifood-related, local Smart Specialisation Strategies and the EIT Food's Strategic Innovation Agenda.

Its integral part - EIT Food RIS has been conceptualised to encourage synergies and efficiency gains for regions that have been designing Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and are looking for a better integration of the Knowledge Triangle as a driver on enhanced innovation capacity at regional level.

Support measures that are offered by EIT Food for RIS stakeholders correspond to the EIT's model of Knowledge Triangle, combining the areas of: Innovation, Education and Entrepreneurship, complemented by the Public Engagement area. Measures planned for 2024 include among others:

- **RIS EDUCATION** actions, building capacity across different target audiences, ensuring that the agrifood system can be transformed to cover not only current but future consumer demands, clustered in 4 Activity Lines:
 - [EIT Food RIS Fellowships](#) Activity Line dedicated to MSc students, graduates, doctoral students and postdocs which aim to promote brain circulation, contributing to enhance the innovativeness of personnel and development of scientific impact by supporting the creation

² EIT Food RIS Strategy, 2018-2020 currently updated

and diffusion of high-quality new knowledge, skills, competences and solutions to food system challenges.

- RIS Public Sector Representatives Activity Line delivers capacity building ([Government Executive Academy](#)) and professional education ([EIT Food InfraBooster](#)) to representatives of public sector and providing insights into new agri-food technologies, mission-oriented innovation policies for food system and best practices in leveraging publicly funded research infrastructures for industrially oriented R&D and entrepreneurship.
- [RIS Inspire](#) targets young graduate academics of different disciplines, covering areas related to multiple concepts as needs of food consumers, resource-efficient food system, sustainability, smart technologies, it aims to develop a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators equipped to shape a new kind of innovative, resilient, and sustainable food system.
- [RIS Professional Development](#) offers clear vocational and professional pathways for employees, entrepreneurs, and job seekers to acquire the relevant skills and knowledge to aid their careers as innovators and entrepreneurs in the agrifood sector.

RIS ENTREPRENEURSHIP activities contributing to the startup support and development across EIT RIS countries, and supporting the EIT Food financial autonomy as well as job creation, with programmes such as:

- [Test Farms](#) supporting innovative agri-tech ideas to validate and test their products and services, showcase their business to customers and investors and finally support the technological transformation in European agriculture.
- [TeamUp](#) matching leading technologists with entrepreneurial business professionals and supporting them on their journey to co-create truly impactful agrifood ventures delivering new products and services to market.
- [Sales Booster](#) supporting agrifood startups from RIS regions to effectively scale-up and elevate the outputs and outcomes of their innovation activities on the pan-European level.
- [Empowering Women in Agrifood](#) (EWA) training and providing networking opportunities for women entrepreneurs across EIT RIS countries to successfully start and develop sustainable businesses.
- [EIT JUMPSTARTER](#) supporting business idea holders and talents (students, PhD candidates, researchers) who want to validate their business concept, develop a business plan and pitch their ideas to the potential future investors.
- [SUPERNOVAS](#) a dedicated programme to bring more women into the entrepreneurship ecosystem. We empower woman-led start-ups, enable women to join the early-stage funding industry and inspire role models across the sector.

RIS INNOVATION portfolio builds directly on prior investment by including RIS Innovation projects which support agrifood related start-ups, researchers and innovators from EIT RIS.

- RIS Innovation Solutions aim to accelerate innovation towards creating positive change in the food system.
- [RIS Straight to Market](#) improves the innovation capacity of local ecosystems by supporting start-ups/scale-ups across Southern RIS countries to improve the production capacity, technology, ingredients, features, packaging, nutritional profile, labelling information, and

innovative features, reducing the distance and fostering a closer relationship between producer and retailers, in this way, producers can be supported in the market research and product development and commercialization, and retailers can gain a deeper understanding of the new healthier and more sustainable products to be launched.

RIS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT includes projects dedicated to bringing new, more sustainable, and healthier products to market.

- [RIS Consumer Engagement Labs](#), pre-competitive co-creation sessions engaging consumers, who jointly go through an interactive process of ideation to develop concepts of new products/services that better address their preferences.
- [Agrifood Experts Community](#) the network of R&D professionals, specialised in agrifood research, allowing R&D experts to engage in EIT Food-coordinated network through the use of publicly available social media platforms.
- [FoodEducators](#) provides materials to teach young people about the food they eat. The aim of the project is to share credible and accessible content that encourages children to think critically about the food system and their relationships with food. The project also raises awareness about exciting careers in agrifood to encourage young people to work in the sector.

As mentioned, the EIT Food RIS strategy creates a space for EIT Food Hub to capitalise on synergies and complementarities with their local RIS3 (and equivalent) and constantly encourage them to do so. Moreover, EIT Food launched the EIT Food RIS Policy Council (RIS Policy Council)³, an Advisory Board established for dialogue and alignment between EIT Food's RIS strategy and Smart Specialisations Strategies of EIT RIS countries and regions. It is envisioned a close collaboration between the EIT Food RIS HUB and the RIS Policy Council country representative.

2. Purpose of the Request for Implementing Participants

This Request for Implementing Participants has the objective of selecting participants to implement EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme and to act as EIT Food Hub in the relevant country (**The Project**). One organisation or one consortium in each country will be selected⁴.

EIT Food Hubs will support EIT Food to stimulate the innovative and entrepreneurial potential of the country targeted by EIT RIS and to promote its international exposure. EIT Food Hubs will have a precisely defined work plan yearly and will receive payments according to the monitoring of its performance.

Moreover, EIT Food Hub may be involved in the local implementation of EIT Food Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Public Engagement and Education Activities implementing the portfolio of EIT Food instruments across EIT RIS countries.

For more information, please visit <https://www.eitfood.eu/regional-innovation-scheme>.

³ Summary of EIT Food RIS Policy Council performance and outcomes may be found here [EIT Food RIS Policy Council – performance and outcomes 2021-22 - EIT Food](#)

⁴ please see 5.2.1

3. Description of Role & Profile

3.1 Role

EIT RIS Hub will operate in line with recommendations of the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027⁵, being instrumental to implementing EIT Food RIS activities, transferring best practices of EIT Food to their respective countries and/or regions, working with local stakeholder networks to strengthen their innovative capacities, promoting the brand visibility of EIT Food in targeted countries and carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio.

Regional and national Smart Specialisation Strategies should provide the strategic directions for EIT Food Hub activities in supporting local Knowledge Triangle Integration. EIT Food Hub role is to monitor various policy instruments focused on research and innovation, including measures implemented by other local, national and European bodies e.g. European Regional Development Fund and to support EIT Food with creating possible synergies.

Selected activities of EIT Food RIS will be implemented with the support of EIT Food Hub designated in countries targeted by EIT Food. Two EIT Food Co-Location Centers (CLCs) will independently coordinate and oversee the operations of EIT Food Hubs: EIT Food Co-Location Center (CLC) North-East in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and EIT Food Co-Location Center (CLC) South in Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Türkiye.

3.2 Profile

The present request for Implementing Participants is launched by EIT Food to select:

- **an individual organisation having the status of a legal entity**
- **OR a consortium formed by up to 3 organisations**, having the status of legal entities where one organisation acts as a lead entity implementing specific task listed in point 3.3.1. and 3.3.2. OR 3.3.3. and the other organisation implementing specific task listed in point 3.3.2. OR 3.3.3. respectively and organisation implementing FoodEducators. Consortium leader or consortium member may take role of FoodEducators implementor.

The selection process is implemented as a request for proposals managed by CLC North-East and CLC South in accordance with the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027⁶, using clear and transparent selection criteria. The candidate organisations should be recognized as important players in the local innovation eco-systems with strong regional outreach, experienced in supporting entrepreneurs and capable of organising local events.

While benefitting from funding to implement the contractual obligations towards EIT Food, they should be able to acquire complementary, regional or national funding for future activities. The candidate organisations have to be able to prove their capacity to: prepare and implement precisely defined workplans, map relevant stakeholders, maintain relations with selected regional players, engage in the exploration of the local start-up community, organising stakeholder events, workshops and trainings for students, farmers, SMEs, start-ups and/or entrepreneurial talents, promoting EIT

⁵ <https://eit.europa.eu/library/eit-ris-implementation-framework-2022-2027>

⁶ <https://eit.europa.eu/library/eit-ris-implementation-framework-2022-2027>

Food portfolio of instruments in relevant country and organising jointly activities with other EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities and/or their representatives. The performance of EIT Food Hub will be evaluated yearly. EIT Food Hub will be expected to develop its own plans of future activities and approaches to leveraging local funding options to accelerate the implementation of Knowledge Triangle and complement the initial EIT funding. Their success in acquiring the local funding will be considered in annual evaluations of EIT Food Hub.

3.3 Scope of expected activities of EIT Food Hub

EIT Food HUB should be able to demonstrate measurable results and impact of their activities. Scope of activities delivered by EIT Food Hub:

- **Supporting a two-way interaction between local players from EIT RIS country and EIT Food partners, by engaging stakeholders from a designated country in EIT Food activities:**
 - Sharing and transferring good practices of EIT Food, including the Knowledge Triangle model, to widen participation in EIT-funded activities, enhance the innovation capacity of EIT RIS country;
 - Promoting the innovation agenda of EIT Food among relevant government authorities, regulators and opinion leaders in EIT RIS country;
 - Creating or activating communities of agri-food R&D professionals and entrepreneurs in the country to support networking, embed actors into innovation activities of EIT Food, facilitate match making activities and inform on opportunities raising within EIT and EIT Food Networks;
 - Establish collaboration and offer support to the EIT National Contact Point (EIT NCP) in terms of information provision for upcoming opportunities for local stakeholders, including EIT Food calls, and inquire at the EIT NCP about opportunities for potential national/regional and other available funding;
 - Actively inspiring, proposing, and customizing EIT Food activities to local circumstances and opportunities, especially by ensuring a reciprocal alignment between EIT Food activities and national or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and by establishing synergies with local, regional, national and European sources of project funding.
- **Designing and implementing activities for local stakeholders which strengthen the local agrifood innovation ecosystem**
 - Initiatives which contribute to job creation and economic development of EIT RIS regions by shaping entrepreneurial mind-sets of local stakeholders, including entrepreneurial talents, start-ups, and primary producers;
 - Educational activities, including workshops and trainings within EIT Food Competency Framework⁷;
 - Organise jointly activities with EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities and/or their representatives.
- **Creating action plan towards financial sustainability of the EIT Food Hub by:**
 - Establishing synergies at local level, identifying funding and collaboration opportunities for co-funding their activities from private and public funding sources, including European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III);
 - Undertake regular mapping exercises of relevant stakeholders to identify potential funding and collaboration opportunities.

⁷ please see Appendix 1. EIT Brochure Competency Framework

- **Contributing in delivering country targets for EIT KPIs⁸**, including:
 - Number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from EIT Food activities;
 - Number of all innovations introduced on the market;
 - Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by EIT Food for at least 2 months in year N, provided the EIT Food's services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth);
 - Number of start-ups established in year N as a result of activity;
 - Number of successful participants in EIT Food professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender AND/OR Sum of graduates from EIT labelled master's, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded EIT Label (in year N);
 - Number of new and established EIT Food Partners from RIS countries, supported and / or referred by the EIT Food Hub;
 - Number of active partners collaborating in the EIT Food, initially supported and / or referred by the EIT Food Hub;
 - Number of entities / organisations participating in EIT and EIT Food activities from regions outside the CLC regions, supported and / or referred by the EIT Food Hub;
 - Number of EIT Food-specific events, workshops, meetings, organised by the EIT Food Hub, and the number of participants;
 - Cross-KIC events and / or activities organised or participated in by the EIT Food Hub, in coordination with other EIT community offices in the country, and the number of participants;
 - Number of national-level innovation events attended by the EIT Food Hub to promote the EIT community
 - Amount of external funding, attracted from synergies / cooperation agreements identified / concluded by the EIT Food Hub, contributing to the financial sustainability of the EIT Food Hub, and the amount of funding attracted;
 - Amount of external funding, attracted from synergies / cooperation agreements identified / concluded by the EIT Food Hub, contributing to the financial sustainability of the EIT Food, and the amount of funding attracted;
 - Number of media mentions of the EIT Food / EIT Food Hub in local publications / news outlets.
- **EIT Food Hub should be linked to an EIT Community RIS Hub** (once an EIT Community RIS Hub is established covering given countries and territories). The EIT Community RIS Hubs will provide local innovators with a centralised source of information on all services and opportunities provided by the entire EIT Community, both locally and more widely. They will serve as a gateway to all EIT KICs, attracting and engaging an increasing number of participants into EIT Community activities. The EIT Community RIS Hubs will additionally spearhead the EIT Community's engagement with local authorities, including providing policy support and expertise as required. Where an on-the-ground EIT Community presence already exists, the EIT Community RIS Hubs will consolidate and scale-up ongoing activities and may also implement Cross-KIC activities tailored to the local needs. Each EIT Community RIS Hub will be managed by a National Secretary, whose tasks will include: setting up and maintaining a physical space where stakeholders can walk-in to obtain information on the EIT Community; managing the EIT Community Hub's website, in the local language, with information on EIT Community activities and opportunities; and; facilitating the organisation of EIT Community awareness-raising events locally.

⁸ please see Appendix 2. EIT and EIT Food KPIs

In those ecosystems where EIT RIS Hubs are already established, the EIT Community RIS Hubs will aim to integrate these Hubs' and rebrand them as Community Members. Community Members will maintain their RIS Hub functions but will be required to: undertake a rebranding and renaming exercise aimed at external stakeholders; to commit to an enhanced level of cooperation with the other Community Members operating under the same EIT Community RIS Hub, including by implementing joint activities. In exchange, they will not lose any of the operational independence they enjoyed prior to integration, and will not be requested to relocate. A common naming and branding approach across all EIT Community RIS Hubs and their Community Members will be put in place. Once EIT RIS Hubs become Community Members, they will be commonly renamed to "EIT [KIC name] RIS Hub [country], member of the EIT Community RIS Hub [country]". This will allow for each EIT Community RIS Hub to be displayed as a unitary Hub on the EIT's external.

EIT Food Hub will collaborate with National Secretary providing information of its activities. EIT Food Hub should dedicate on average 10% of its time to coordinate with EIT Community RIS Hub, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities or their representatives.

3.3.1 Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or lead organisation in a consortium (gross funding of up to 15,000€ to cover the eligible costs of Project involvement in 2024⁹):

- Implementing specific task listed in point 3.3.2 AND/OR 3.3.3;
- Mapping of relevant stakeholders of the regional innovations ecosystem;
- Maintaining relations with key regional players and acting as a regional contact point for stakeholders interested in working with EIT Food;
- Developing a regional action plan to establish the EIT Food Hub as a relevant actor in the national/regional innovation eco-system; in line with EIT Food missions and identified priority areas of action for the region;
- Developing and executing a coherent regional marketing and promotional plan for all activities of the individual organisation or consortium. Promoting EIT Food's portfolio of instruments and disseminating among potential beneficiaries;
- Developing an own approach to acquiring local, regional, national or European complementary funding to leverage the initial funding from EIT Food and strengthen the impacts for the local innovation ecosystem (please see point 4. Funding);
- Organising capacity building events, designed and proposed by EIT Food Hub and accepted by EIT Food, involving representatives of agri-food sector (example: open roundtable discussion on RIS3 implementation, dialog with consumers on food-waste, meeting of stakeholders around decarbonisation in the agrifood sector, or matchmaking activities);
- Organising or participating in joint activities of EIT Community RIS Hub (once an EIT Community RIS Hub is established covering given countries and territories);
- Supporting dialogue with regional and national authorities;
- Acting as project participant of EIT Food in carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio and therefore, fulfilling the requirements of Horizon Europe/EIT funding modalities.

3.3.2 Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or organisation acting in education area in a consortium (gross funding of up to 20,000€ to cover the eligible costs of Project involvement in 2024¹⁰):

⁹ amount of funding for the following year will be decided on performance

¹⁰ amount of funding for the following year will be decided on performance

- Organising workshop(s) or training(s), designed, and proposed by EIT Food Hub and accepted by EIT Food, for at least 40 participants yearly in alignment with EIT Food Competency Framework¹¹ and EIT Labelling process;
- Supporting the recruitment and selection processes for educational, innovation, public engagement activities (please see point 1.2.);
- Contributing to mapping of stakeholders relevant to the EIT Food Educational activities;
- Acting as project participant of EIT Food in carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio and therefore, fulfilling the requirements of Horizon Europe/EIT funding modalities.

3.3.3 Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or organisation acting in business creation and start-up ecosystem area in a consortium (gross funding of up to 20,000€ to cover the eligible costs of Project involvement in 2024¹²):

- Being a point of contact and support for entrepreneurs and start-ups engaged in EIT Food activities which are planning to enter or expand on local market where Hub is located;
- Identifying and engaging local start-ups and entrepreneurs in agri-food sector;
- Contributing and cooperating with lead organisation to develop a regional marketing and promotional plan;
- Engaging with local start-up support ecosystem by promoting EIT Food support programs, in particular collaborating closely with Technology Transfer; Offices/commercialisation specialists in the area of agri-food;
- Organising activity targeting agri-food start-ups with the focus on EIT Food missions: a Net-zero food system; Healthier lives through food or Reducing risk for a fair & resilient food system (e.g. Challenge Lab, hackathon,..) that will achieve EIT core KPI(s)¹³;
- Supporting the recruitment and selection processes for business creation activities, targeting entrepreneurial talents, startups, scaleups (please see point 1.2.);
- Contributing to mapping of stakeholders relevant to the EIT Food Business Creation activities.
- Acting as project participant of EIT Food in carrying out localised activities as part of the EIT Food RIS portfolio and therefore, fulfilling the requirements of Horizon Europe/EIT funding modalities.

3.3.4. [OPTIONAL] Specific tasks for an individual organisation in the country or organisation implementing FoodEducators in a consortium (gross funding of up to 20,000€ to cover the eligible costs of project involvement in 2024¹⁴):

- Being the national coordination point for EIT FoodEducators programme¹⁵;
- Organise capacity building trainings for teachers (at least 4 training yearly required with a minimum of 50 participants);
- Translation of lesson plans (along with worksheets and ppts if applicable);
- Outreach to elementary and secondary schools;
- Promotion of Student Activity week in schools;
- Present EIT FoodEducators programme at events and outreach to national education organisations to promote EIT FoodEducators.

¹¹ please see Appendix 1. EIT Brochure Competency Framework

¹² amount of funding for the following year will be decided on performance

¹³ please see Appendix 2. EIT and EIT Food KPIs

¹⁴ amount of funding for the following year will be decided on performance

¹⁵ <https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/food-educators>

Each EIT Food Hub will have an individual yearly workplan and performance targets set up in the KAVA Contract. It will include activities proposed by the applicant organisations in response to the present call, corresponding to the specific circumstances of the national innovation eco-system (i.e. workshops, trainings, summer schools) and key performance indicators.

3.4 Benefits for organisations selected as EIT Food Hub

Organisations designated as EIT Food Hub will be offered the following benefits:

- Ability to benefit from the association with EIT Food and the EIT Community (as project participant in EIT Food activities), and the brands of EIT Food, EIT and EIT RIS;
- Once an EIT Community RIS Hub is established rights to use the name “EIT Food Hub [country], member of the EIT Community RIS Hub [country]” for relevant and eligible activities that are aligned with the strategy and business plans of EIT Food;
- Rights to participate in dedicated meetings, organised by EIT Food and RIS stakeholders (EIT Food will not cover travel costs to attend internal meetings, but organisations designated as EIT Food Hub can use its assigned budgets to cover these costs);
- Opportunities for networking with EIT Food partners, including start-ups associated in RisingFoodStars;
- Publication of contact information of EIT Food Hub on EIT Food website;
- Participation in EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme with gross funding of up to 15,000€ yearly for activities listed in point 3.3.1 to cover the eligible costs of activities of EIT Food Hub in 2024¹⁶ with precisely defined performance targets. Payments will be linked to meeting the initially agreed performance targets and eligible expenses incurred through preparatory work and organisation of specific top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hub, including among others awareness events for local stakeholders that will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy, and EIT Food Business Plan. Detailed financial modalities can be found in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027;
- Participation in EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme with gross funding of up to 20,000€ yearly for activities listed in point 3.3.2 to cover the eligible costs of activities of EIT Food Hub in 2024¹⁷ with precisely defined performance targets. Payments will be linked to meeting the initially agreed performance targets and eligible expenses incurred through preparatory work and organisation of specific top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hub, including among others the organisation of trainings and workshop for students and other stakeholders, that will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy, and EIT Food Business Plan. Detailed financial modalities can be found in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027;
- Participation in EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme with CLC North-East¹⁸ OR CLC South¹⁹ with gross funding of up to 20,000€ yearly for activities listed in point 3.3.3 to cover the eligible costs of activities of EIT Food Hub in 2024²⁰ with precisely defined performance targets. Payments will be linked to meeting the initially agreed performance targets and eligible

¹⁶ the amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Food Hub are not carried out by selected organisation

¹⁷ the amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Food Hub are not carried out by selected organisation

¹⁸ Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

¹⁹ Greece, Italy, Portugal, Türkiye

²⁰ the amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Food Hub are not carried out by selected organisation

expenses incurred through preparatory work and organisation of specific top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hub, including among others the organisation of activity targeting agri-food start-ups or entrepreneurial talents with the focus on EIT Food Missions and 6 innovative areas that will be consistent with EIT Food RIS Strategy and EIT Food Business Plan. Detailed financial modalities can be found in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027;

- Optionally: Organisation may express willingness to implement FoodEducators in relevant country, **if so** the participation in FoodEducators KAVA 21708 Owith gross funding of up to 20,000€ yearly for activities listed in point 3.3.4 to cover the eligible costs of FoodEducators programme in 2024²¹ with precisely defined performance targets. Payments will be linked to meeting the initially agreed performance targets and eligible expenses incurred through preparatory work and organisation of specific top-down planned activities of EIT Food Hub, including the organisation of trainings targeting elementary and school teachers that will be consistent and EIT Food Business Plan. Detailed financial modalities can be found in the EIT RIS Implementation Framework 2022-2027;
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food CLC North-East or EIT Food CLC South in implementation of the activities planned for each EIT Food Hub;
- Knowledge and organisational support of EIT Food and CLC North-East or EIT Food CLC South in applying for local, regional, national or European funding that would complement the EIT funding for EIT Food Hub and expand the scope of their activities to increase the positive impacts on the innovation ecosystems of countries in which EIT Food Hub operate;
- Opportunities to participate in annual evaluation of EIT Food Hub, carried out by EIT Food to identify good practices as well as gaps in support provided by organisations acting as EIT Food Hub and by EIT Food, with a view to further improve performance and regional impact of the EIT Food RIS Strategy.

Becoming an EIT Food Hub shall be considered as an opportunity to establish relations with EIT Food partners and become associated with the EIT Community and embedded in their activities. EIT Food Hub will also benefit from the increased visibility in their local innovation ecosystems, strengthening their position on the regional and national levels. The use of the designation of EIT Food Hub shall be leveraged by acquiring additional, non-EIT support and funding to ensure expansion of innovation-oriented activities within the national/regional innovation ecosystem of each selected organisation.

4. Funding

4.1 Funding overview and co-funding

Implementing participant recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their cost in the Project from March 2024 to December 2025. EIT Food will reimburse up to 85 % in 2024 and up to 80% in 2025 per EIT Food Hub for participation in the Project.

²¹ the amount will be reduced if some activities of EIT Food Hub are not carried out by selected organisation

With a view toward the EIT RIS Hubs' own financial sustainability, the EIT Food Hub should actively seek possibilities for co-funding of their activities from local private and public funding sources. Special attention should be given to efforts aiming at realising synergies with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III).

Organisations acting as EIT Food Hub will introduce co-financing model in the line with EIT RIS guidelines on RIS Hub financial sustainability. The co-funding contributed by the individual organisation OR consortium should be at least 15% of funding received in 2024 and 20% of funding received in 2025 within the Project. The co-funding contributed by each consortium member does not need to be proportional to the funding allocated.

If EIT Food Hub is involved in any other activities, e.g. FoodEducators payment will increase relatively.

There is a 6 million EUR limit per Horizon Europe Associated participant and 60.000 limit per non-Horizon Europe Associated countries participant per Grant Agreement per year. This KAVA is implemented under GA 01101912.

The Subgrant is based on actual costs and value for money. All costs need to comply with Horizon Europe regulations regarding the eligibility of expenses. Please refer to Article 6 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#).

Organisation being already EIT Food Partner will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

5. Application Preparation, Submission & Evaluation

5.1 Timeline

Application Open	11/12/2023
Application Close	26/01/2024
Evaluation	By 20/02/2024
Invitation to interviews	By 20/02/2024
Interviews	By 28/02/2024
Communication to selected participants	By 8/03/2024

5.2 Who can apply?

Funding for this Request for Implementing Participants is available to all organisations from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#).

5.2.1 Countries targeted by the call

EIT Food invites organisations from EIT RIS countries targeted by this call to submit their proposals with a view to selecting and designating EIT Food Hub in 2024-2025.

1. Bulgaria

2. Croatia
3. Czech Republic
4. Estonia
5. Greece
6. Hungary
7. Italy
8. Latvia
9. Lithuania
10. Portugal
11. Romania
12. Serbia
13. Slovakia
14. Slovenia
15. Türkiye

Only organisations based in those countries are eligible to apply under the current call.

NOTE: In case EIT Food opens an EIT Food office in Bulgaria the EIT Food Hub will not continue its performance in 2025.

5.3 Modalities of Application – expression of interest to become EIT Food HUB in 2024-2025

Organisations interested in becoming EIT Food Hub are invited to apply in one of the following ways:

OPTION 1.

One individual organisation having the status of legal person submits the application to become an EIT Food Hub in one of the countries listed in point 5.2.1. The organisation will deliver activities listed in point 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

Organisation may apply for implementation of FoodEducators and deliver activities listed in point 3.3.4.

The organisation shall fulfill **EIT Food Hub Application form 1, 2a and 2b**. If it is interested in EIT FoodEducators implementation, then shall fulfil the **EIT Food Hub Application form 3**. The Applicant will be evaluated within the evaluation criteria listed in point 6.2.1, 6.2.2. and 6.2.3.

OPTION 2

Two or three individual organisations, each having the status of legal person, acting as a consortium (according to point 3.2.) operating in the same country submit the application to become an EIT Food Hub in one of the countries listed in point 5.2.1.

Organisation performing as a lead entity shall fulfill **EIT Food Hub Application form 1** in collaboration with other consortium members and **EIT Food Hub Application form 2a** if is implementing educational tasks **OR** **EIT Food Hub Application form 2b** if is implementing tasks in business creation and startup support activities. The Applicants will be evaluated within the selection criteria listed in point 6.2.1.

Consortium member shall fulfil **EIT Food Hub Application form 2a OR EIT Food Hub Application form 2b**, respectively. The Applicants will be evaluated within the selection criteria listed in point 6.2.1.

If consortium is interested in EIT FoodEducators, one of consortium members shall fulfil the **EIT Food Hub Application form 3**.

Members of the consortium need to have collaborating relations and declare the willingness to jointly work on the preparation and implementation of the EIT Food RIS activities in their country.

5.4 Submission

Interested and eligible organisations are invited to submit their applications in English by 26 January 2024, 23:59 CET, using the “EIT Food Hub Application Form”. Please send the electronic **versions of proposals in two formats (both Word .docx file and PDF version), based on the attached template, to:**

- milda.krauzlis@eitfood.eu Applicants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia
- Elvira.domingo@eitfood.eu Applicants from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Türkiye

Incomplete applications or applications submitted by ineligible organisations will be automatically rejected. Complete applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by a committee including representatives of EIT Food and external experts using standardised selection criteria listed in point 6.

6. Evaluation and Selection Process

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

The evaluation will be conducted by at least 3 external evaluators and 1 internal evaluator.

All external evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process. All evaluators, both internal and external, are trained extensively on the [European Union’s Code of Conduct for Evaluators](#), namely on the importance of transparency, fair treatment of all applicants, confidentiality and how to avoid conflict of interest. Evaluators must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest.

6.1 Eligibility¹

EIT Food is looking for **individual organisations having the status of legal entity OR up to three organisations acting as a consortium** (according to point 3.2) operating in the same country that would perform as EIT Food Hub. Individual organisation or consortium will be selected in each of the target countries listed in point 5.2.1.

Organisation Eligibility	Each implementing participant must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 3 years. • Provide a PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf • Comply with requests for documents during due diligence • Must be based and operating in the country targeted by the call;

Application Eligibility	To eligible applications must:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be complete, with all mandatory supporting documents uploaded. • Be submitted on time via our application template, in English.

Please note that the art. 2.2 of the COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary stipulates that no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust. Therefore, abovementioned entities are not eligible under this Request.

6.2 Evaluation Criteria

Evaluators will evaluate each application based on the criteria listed in point 6.2.1. In the case of FoodEducators, the activities will be delivered by the interested organization/consortium the best ranked in terms of the application for the Project.

6.2.1 Evaluation criteria related to the implementation of the tasks listed in point 3.3.1., 3.3.2., and 3.3.3 for the individual organisation, lead organisation and/or consortium member(s)

1. Relevant experiences (participation in projects related to R&D networking and matchmaking, support for entrepreneurs, support for R&D performers in agri-food sector; ability to present the relevance of these experiences for EIT Food);
2. Potential for project delivery (suitable premises; competent employees; use of multiple communication channels in existing operations; synergies between existing operations and planned activities of EIT Food);
3. Industry insights (awareness of strategic challenges in the food system and the local innovation ecosystem; familiarity with the agri-food industry in the target country; existing contacts and projects with relevant local stakeholders);
4. Approach to the role of EIT Food Hub (high level of strategic ambition in planning and executing the activities of EIT Food Hub; objectives consistent with the EIT Food strategic directions; precise plans for communication activities, aimed at enhancing the visibility of EIT Food brand in the target country; demonstrated ability to acquire complementary non-EIT funding for your activities as EIT Food Hub, in particular funds that could benefit multiple stakeholders from the planned EIT Food Hub territory);
5. Proactive long-term vision and approach to EIT Food Hub growth & development (cost-efficient approach to activities of EIT Food Hub, ambition, creativity, overall impression).

Above criteria will be evaluated on a 0-5 scale, the application can receive a maximum of 25 points.

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

Score		Description
0	Not addressed	Not addressed

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

6.3 Assessment process

The assessment process will be conducted according to the following steps:

1. **Initial formal evaluation.** Eligibility of organisation, completeness of applications, time of submission, status of third-party.
2. **Establishment of the evaluation committee.** The evaluation committee includes representatives of EIT Food involved in the assessment process.
3. **Technical evaluation.** Technical evaluation of each application is conducted independently by representatives of EIT Food appointed by the Regional Director of CLC North-East and Regional Director of CLC South. Each expert prepares her or his own assessment with scoring for each criterion (0-5), according to assessment form. At least three experts are appointed to review each proposal/ application for one EIT Food Hub.
4. **The final assessment with scoring and comments is agreed by evaluators.** If two or more proposals from the same country receive the same scores, the evaluation committee can interview representatives of those organisations. Finally, the experts should recommend only one proposal. If necessary, CLC will contact the applicant organisation to ask for additional explanation and supporting documents.
5. **Acceptance of evaluators' recommendation by the evaluation committee.** The evaluation committee gets the final scoring of proposals and accepts the results of reviewing process. Before the final approval the evaluation committee can interview representatives of short-listed organisations (i.e. to explain the minimum scope of activities planned in 2024).
6. **Feedback and communication of a final list.** Applicants receive feedback in electronic form and the list of selected organisations is published on EIT Food website.
7. **Redress procedure.** Applicants will be informed in writing to the outcome of their proposal. They can submit an appeal within 5 days of receiving their result, if: the evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the **procedures** set out in this document. For more details, please read Appendix 3. EIT Food Redress Mechanism.
8. **Signing agreements with selected organisations.** Each selected organisation signs the Framework Agreement for Participation in EIT Funded Activities (FA) and a specific **KAVA contract**. If the agreements are not signed within 3 months after announcing the call

results, the CLCs employee reports to the CLC Director, who decides on subsequent actions: launching a new call, selecting another organisation based on the previous scoring under the current call or resignation of designation an EIT Food Hub in a selected country in 2024.

7. Administrative Items

An organisation does not have to be an existing partner or member of EIT Food to apply for funding but becoming one, you'll gain access to a valuable source of expertise and a diverse network of potential collaborators to work with. Please find more information on our website: <https://www.eitfood.eu/partner>

If under the present call no EIT Food Hub is selected for a given country, the call might be relaunched for this respective country.

7.1 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Individual organisation or consortium members are acting as project participants. Selected applicants will be contacted regarding the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food's conflict of interest policy. New Participant:

A. Framework Agreement for the Participation in EIT Funded Activities

B. KAVA Contract

EIT Food will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the Activity budget will be prefinanced, with subsequent payments being linked to the completion of deliverables; once eligible costs have been determined and following the completion of final Activity reporting and the fulfilment of all obligations specified in the KAVA Contract.

The yearly Service Fee of the EIT Food Hub in 2024 is up to € 55,000 incl. VAT for activities enumerated in Action Plan within the Project. If EIT Food Hub is involved in any other activities, e.g. FoodEducators service fee will increase relatively. Payments will be proceeded 60 days end of month after receiving the agreed service (or good) through proper acceptance document signed by both parties.

Payments are linked to meeting the agreed performance targets set up in Action Plan and eligible expenses. If the EIT Food Hub does not achieve the specific agreed performance target („indicator of activity" in the Action Plan), the Service Fee is reduced by the percentage of an amount indicated in the last column of Action Plan corresponding to the level of a difference between the specific agreed performance target („indicator of activity") and the level of the actual performance. In all cases, the grounds for payment of the Service Fee or its reduction is the Performance Certificate.

Organisations will sign KAVA contract that will end at 31/12/2024. Nevertheless, the agreement shall be renewed each year for a successive period of one year if the specific criteria, based on objectively measurable indicators set up in the KAVA contract are met. Once after the first renewal, this agreement will not be renewed automatically. If the KAVA contract is not renewed in a given country, the EIT Food will announce a complementary call dedicated to this particular country.

In case of a renewal of a KAVA contract, the budget, tasks and performance targets will be defined separately for each of the respective year under the new work plan. The final renewal year is 2025. Renewal will consist of a signing of the annex to the KAVA contract.

The KAVA contract will be concluded under the condition of the EIT Food Grant Agreement (“GA”) being approved and providing financing for EIT Food Hub activities.

The KAVA contract shall automatically end when the GA ends. EIT Food may at any time terminate the contract upon notice if the GA is terminated or not concluded for a given year.

7.2 Monitoring

The Project will be monitored and may be audited.

7.3 Support

If you have any questions about this Request for Implementing Participants, please contact milda.krauzlis@eitfood.eu²² or elvira.domingo@eitfood.eu²³

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Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant will be informed.
2. According to EU policies and measures, Russian entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission here.
3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the Decision 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, **no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.*** This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible
4. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:
 - a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities

²² Applicants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

²³ Applicants from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Türkiye

are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;

b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;

c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;

d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the during the process; e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the Request for Implementing Participants process;

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



EIT Food Education - Learning Services

Competency Framework

We equip the brightest minds all over Europe
and beyond, with skills and knowledge
to create a sustainable food system



Co-funded by the
European Union

Competency Framework



Underpinning capabilities



Technical capabilities



Thinking activities



Influencing activities



Performing activities



Entrepreneurship



Sustainability



EXPLORE



EXPLORE
Lay the foundations in contributing to the sector.

PRACTICE



PRACTICE
Turn ideas into actions to the benefit of your field of influence.

MASTER



MASTER
Deliver impact within your field of influence and the sector.

INSPIRE



INSPIRE
Transform the system and have an influence that goes beyond your field and the wider sector.

Competency Framework



Sustainability

- **SUSTAINABILITY** is at the core of all competencies. It includes creating healthier lives through food, achieving a net zero food system (including the prevention of biodiversity loss), and creating a fully transparent, fair, inclusive and resilient food supply. All competencies are oriented towards these aims to contribute to food system transformation.



Underpinning capabilities

- **UNDERPINNING CAPABILITIES** is a group of essential transversal competencies that form the foundation for effective action. They can be used in a wide range of settings to drive change in context-specific ways.



Technical capabilities

- **TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES** is a group of key technical competencies that advance readily available skillsets and know-how to accelerate sustainability transitions.



Entrepreneurship

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is the engine for achieving change. It comprises a mindset and key skills to envision, create and implement innovative solutions to challenges in a wide range of contexts including in ventures, industry, academia, policy and NGOs.



Thinking activities

- **THINKING ACTIVITIES** are conceptual and analytical in nature. They support actions that generate and appraise solutions, and challenge established systems and routines.



Influencing activities

- **INFLUENCING ACTIVITIES** are about working with and through others to achieve impact. They support actions that foster collaborations, and engage stakeholders in an honest dialogue.



Performing activities

- **PERFORMING ACTIVITIES** are about technical expertise. They support actions that combine systems approaches with a range of novel technologies to perform food systems transformation.



8 Core Competencies



Underpinning capabilities



Technical capabilities



Thinking activities



Influencing activities



Performing activities



Entrepreneurship



Sustainability



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The ability to recognise, develop and act on entrepreneurial opportunities in a range of organisational settings, and to play an effective role in new venture formation and growth.



COMMUNICATION

The ability to drive interpersonal communication, and to translate complex ideas for different audiences.



PROBLEM SOLVING

The ability to analyse and understand the problem space, generate new ideas, assess their validity, and co-create solutions.



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The ability to use emerging technologies in (radical or breakthrough) innovation processes.



CRITICAL THINKING

The ability to assess facts and evidence to drive decision-making, including constructive questioning of the status quo.



DATA MANAGEMENT

The ability to develop and use digital tools with the purpose of accessing, managing, analysing and interpreting data.



LEADERSHIP

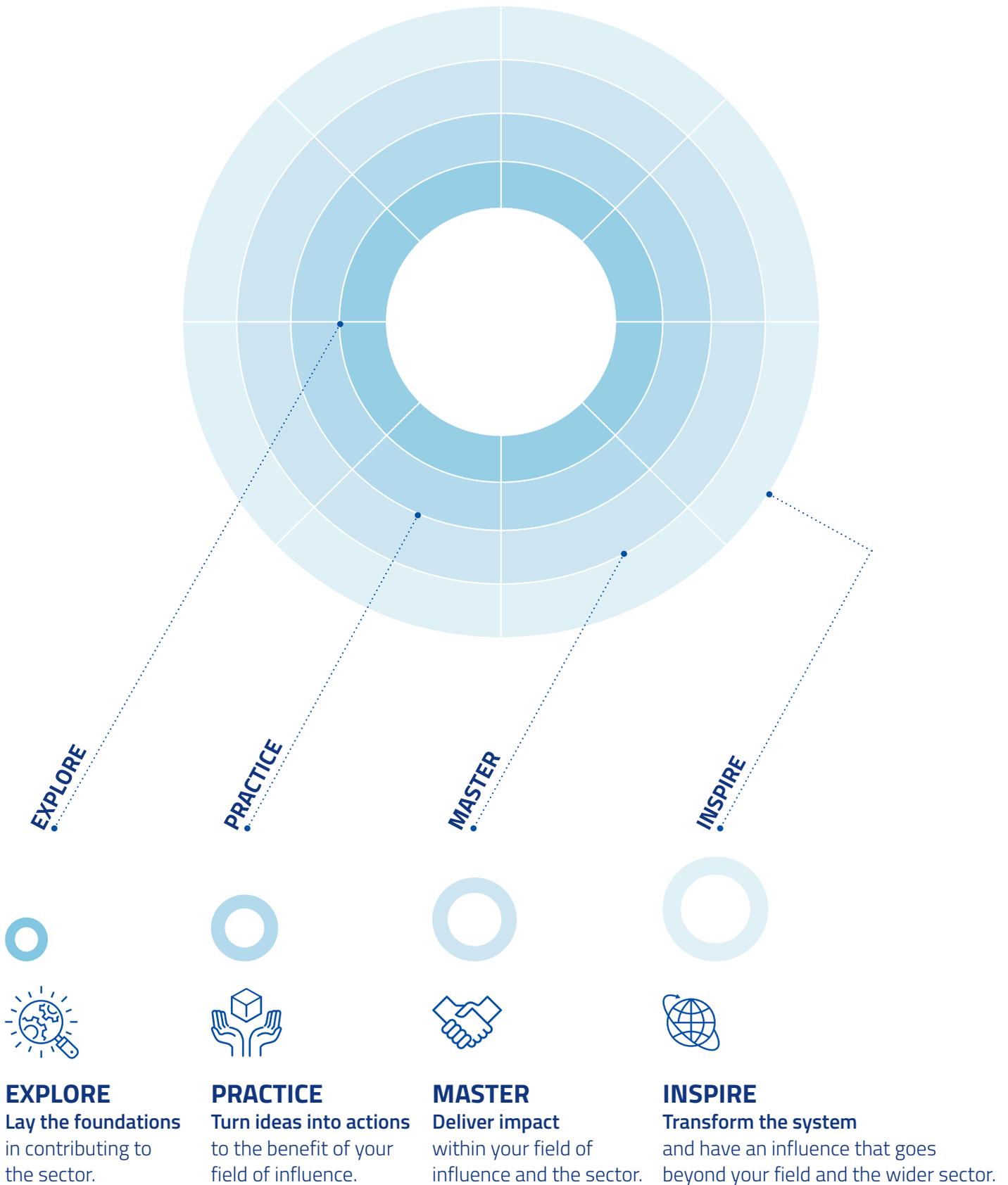
The ability to be an effective leader, and to mobilise resources efficiently to accomplish a goal based on responsible management practice.



FOOD SYSTEMS

The ability to analyse the food system, appraise current and future sustainability challenges, and develop appropriate responses using systems approaches.

4 Levels per Competency



Learning Objectives per Competency Level



FOOD SYSTEMS



DATA MANAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



PROBLEM SOLVING



CRITICAL THINKING



LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATION



EXPLORE

Lay the foundations in contributing to the sector.

Apply basic systems analysis techniques to describe the food system.

Identify dominant sustainability challenges for the food system.

Recognise how innovations can contribute to achieving societal impact.

Implement effective data management protocols.

Recognise the importance of data security measures.

Identify key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

Competently use appropriate technologies to contribute to food system innovations.

Appraise the relevance of emerging technologies in a particular work or study context.

Identify key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

Recognise the importance of IPR management.

Appraise and articulate the value of opportunities.

Identify and use relevant resources to support the creation of social and environmental value.

Implement effective actions to support the creation of sustainability impacts.

Analyse relevant aspects of the problem space to inform creative thought.

Use basic methods to generate new ideas and to assess their validity.

Contribute to co-creation processes to develop sustainable solutions.

Collect, analyse and report information and data to support the generation of new ideas and approaches.

Recognise the importance of ethical goals.

Implement a food system innovation project in a particular work or study context.

Demonstrate ownership of project goals.

Identify relevant stakeholders and their prominent concerns.

Recognise the importance of inclusive dialogue in food systems transformation.

Implement basic communication methods.



PRACTICE

Turn ideas into actions to the benefit of your field of influence.

Analyse the food system using a range of systems approaches to appraise current and future sustainability challenges.

Implement innovative responses to address sustainability challenges in the food system.

Appraise the efficacy of different digital tools and sensing methods to acquire, manage and manipulate data.

Devise effective data management protocols.

Design effective actions to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

Implement adequate data security measures.

Mobilise appropriate technologies in innovation processes

Design effective actions to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

Contribute to the development of new technologies for food system transformation.

Manage IPRs.

Create opportunities for social and environmental value creation.

Mobilise resources to create sustainable value for others.

Design and implement effective actions to deliver impact.

Appraise the problem space to identify current and future needs.

Mobilise effective methodologies to generate new ideas.

Appraise the validity of new ideas and co-create sustainable solutions.

Collect, analyse, interpret and report information to develop sustainable solutions to current and future challenges.

Appraise unintended consequences of any course of action to devise ethical goals.

Appraise different strategies to deliver a food system innovation.

Demonstrate leadership towards the implementation of a food system innovation.

Devise effective communication methods that support organisational strategies.

Engage in honest and inclusive two-way communication with stakeholders about their concerns.

Adjust messaging for different audiences.

Learning Objectives per Competency Level



FOOD SYSTEMS



DATA MANAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



PROBLEM SOLVING



CRITICAL THINKING



LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATION



MASTER

Deliver impact within your field of influence and the sector.



Develop strategies to address current and future challenges using systems approaches.

Design innovative responses to address sustainability challenges in the food system.

Develop strategies for data acquisition, analysis and manipulation.

Develop and lead the implementation of robust data security measures.

Develop strategies to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of information technologies.

Develop strategies to mobilise and manage technologies in innovation processes.

Develop and lead the implementation of new technologies.

Develop strategies to mitigate key unintended consequences of the use of emerging technologies.

Devise adequate IPR management strategies.

Create opportunities for systemic social and environmental value creation.

Devise strategies to mobilise and leverage resources to create sustainable value.

Design effective actions to scale societal impact.

Critically appraise the problem space to analyse the strategic implications of future choices.

Mobilise effective co-creation methodologies to generate original and sustainable solutions that include relevant voices.

Critically analyse, interpret and report data and information to inform ethical decision making.

Challenge existing practices and knowledge to develop sustainable alternatives.

Influence, persuade and challenge others to transform the food system through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Translate a vision for strategic change into a food system innovation.

Identify, engage with and respond honestly to stakeholder needs.

Develop strategies to deliver effective inclusive communications approaches.

Translate complex ideas for different audiences.



INSPIRE

Transform the system and have an influence that goes beyond your field and the wider sector.



Champion systems approaches to appraise current and future challenges to the food system.

Educate and support others to develop innovative responses to address sustainability challenges.

Educate and support others to use digital tools to support innovations in the food system.

Champion robust data security systems.

Educate and challenge others to appraise and mitigate unintended consequences of technology use.

Educate and support others to use emerging technologies in *(radical or breakthrough)* innovation processes.

Challenge others to apply technologies to, or draw from, different problem spaces.

Educate and challenge others to appraise and mitigate unintended consequences of technology use.

Guide others on their entrepreneurial journey to achieve sustainability goals.

Champion relevant insights into entrepreneurial mindset and practice.

Contribute to sustainability-oriented entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Educate and support others to generate original and sustainable solutions to address food system challenges.

Champion effective co-creation methodologies to include a range of relevant voices in the generation of solutions.

Educate and support others to critically analyse existing practices to develop sustainable alternatives.

Challenge others to base their decision making on an ethical and sustainable basis.

Educate, influence, persuade and challenge others to lead and promote food system transformation.

Create a vision for strategic change of the food system.

Champion effective inclusive stakeholder management.

Demonstrate effective inclusive thought leadership in and beyond the food system domain.



education@eitfood.eu
<https://learning.eitfood.eu>



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EIT and EIT Food KPIs

Calls for Proposals 2023-25

Leuven, Belgium

July 2023

www.eitfood.eu



Core KPIs

KPIs as outlined below are subject to yearly target setting across the portfolio. Further KPIs will be subject to yearly reporting to EIT for statistical purposes and will be included in the activity reporting.

Core KPI Code	KPI Title	KPI Definition	Supporting Evidence
EITHE02.4	Marketed Innovations	<p>Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or at the latest within 3 years from the start of the project with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented. [TARGET]</p> <p>Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) and processes sold.</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Name of the innovation - Type of innovation (e.g. new product, new service) - Market (country) - Country of origin of the company commercializing the innovation - Was the innovation developed and launched on the market as a result of the capacity building activities delivered as part of the HEI CBI? - Total revenue from the innovations launched on the market for the reported year in EUR. For open access innovations only: number of confirmed users - Was the innovation launched by learners/graduates from labelled programmes (or with direct link to participating in the labelled activity)? <p>Supporting evidence (required only for the sub-KPI with the threshold of 10,000 EUR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of product or process with specified performance characteristics/ physical parameters/ functionalities demonstrating novelty (new or significant improvement) of the product/process - Declaration demonstrating link with a specific KIC KAVA (indication of the specific output of KIC KAVA(s)) and financial proof of the KAVA investment in the innovation development - Documented proof such as an invoice or an online sales record demonstrating

			that the purchases totalling to at least 10 000 EUR has been made by a customer.
EITHE04.4	Start-ups created of/for innovation	Number of start-ups established in year N as a result / based on the output(s) of KAVA(s), or start-ups created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset having financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for a service/product (result of the KIC KAVA) sold to customers during the KAVA duration or at the latest within 18 months from the start of the project. [TARGET]	Structured data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Company name - Company registration number - Company website - Country of the company registration - Gender of the company CEO/owner - Was the company created through the HEI CB Initiative? - Was the company created through a cross-KIC project? Supporting evidence only for the sub-KPI with the threshold of 10,000 EUR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Registration certificate of a start-up established in year N · Description of the start-up and its core business · Document such as an invoice or an online sales record certifying financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for services/products (result of the KIC KAVA) sold to a customer.

EITHE05.1	Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled programmes	<p>Number of start-ups established in year N by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes or by learners / participants in other EIT labelled activities</p> <p>To be eligible, a start-up should be created during EIT labelled programme (by students, participants) or within 3 years from the graduation (by graduates) or within 1 year in case of other EIT Label activities.)</p> <p>[TARGET]</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Company name - Company registration number - Country of the company registration - Company website - Name of the student who created the company - Gender of the student who created the company - Was the labelled programme delivered through the HEI CBI? <p>Supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Registration certificate of a start-up established in year N · Description of the start-up and its core business · Document such as an invoice or an online sales record certifying the first financial transaction for a service/product sold to a customer
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted by KIC supported start-ups/scaleups	<p>Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by supported start-up/scale-ups (per country) that have received KIC business creation services support of total duration of at least two months, within a maximum of three years following the last received KIC KAVA support activity.</p> <p>[TARGET]</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Investment amount - Company name - Company registration number - Country of the company registration - Gender of the CEO - Year in which the last support was received - Was the company supported through the HEI CB Initiative? - Was the company created through a cross-KIC project <p>Supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Declaration of a start-up proving the amount, type of investment, source of income by type (public/private) and a link to a specific KAVA and support received and the year when last support was provided. In case the investment was attracted from public source, it

			should be specified (e.g., from EU Structural Funds). If possible, links to further evidence (e.g., website) should be included.
EITHE07.1	Graduates from EIT labelled programmes	Sum of graduates from EIT labelled master's, PhD programmes and other education activities awarded EIT Label (in year N). [TARGET]	Structured data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Name - Contact detail/email address - Gender - Country of origin - Country of residence - Education programme/activity - Education programme type - Name of the HEI / education provider - Year of starting the studies under the EIT label - Year of completing the studies under the EIT label Supporting evidence: n/a

Non-Core KPIs

Non-Core KPI Code	KPI Title	KPI Definition	Supporting Evidence
EITHE01	Intellectual property rights	Number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from KIC activities [no target, reported only]	Structured data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Type of intellectual property right: patent; trademark; 2 registered design; utility model; other - Application title - Application reference - Application date - IPR owner - Country of the IPR owner - Does the IPR owner take part in the HEI Capacity Building Initiative (HEI CBI) - IPR status: has the IPR protection been awarded - IPR Award reference if any - Technology Readiness Level - Reference to KAVA/portfolio

EITHE02.1	Innovations launched on the market	<p>Number of all innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within 3 years after completion. Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) sold. [TARGET]</p> <p>Number of Innovations introduced on the market must be directly linked with the KAVA and reported in the year when they reached the first revenue (but not later than three years after completion of the KAVA).</p> <p>Markets to be defined per country (incl. RIS countries)</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Name of the innovation - Type of innovation (e.g. new product, new service) - Market (country) - Country of origin of the company commercializing the innovation - Was the innovation developed and launched on the market as a result of the capacity building activities delivered as part of the HEI CBI? - Total revenue from the innovations launched on the market for the reported year in EUR. For open access innovations only: number of confirmed users. - Was the innovation launched by learners/graduates from labelled programmes (or with direct link to participating in the labelled activity)?
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EITHE03.1	KIC Supported Startups/Scale-ups	<p>Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by KICs for at least 2 months in year N, provided the KIC's services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). KIC should justify that the provided services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Examples of such services are mentoring, consultancy on access to finance and markets, product / service marketing, legal advice, internationalization, matchmaking, etc. The services should be provided for a total period of at least two months. Start-ups and scale-ups will be reported by country of registration of the venture. [TARGET]</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Company name - Company registration number - Company website - Country of registration - Gender of the CEO/owner - Reference to a specific KIC KAVA - Was the company supported through the HEI CBI? - Was the company supported through the a cross-KIC project? <p>Supporting evidence: n/a</p>
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EITHE04.1	Start-ups created	<p>Number of start-ups established in year N as a result / based on the output(s) of KAVA(s), or start-ups created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset (but not later than three years after the completion of KAVA). [TARGET]</p>	<p>Structured data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of reporting - Company name - Company registration number - Company website - Country of the company registration - Gender of the company CEO/owner - Was the company created through the HEI CB Initiative? - Was the company created through a cross-KIC project? <p>Supporting evidence only for the sub-KPI with the threshold of 0,000 EUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Registration certificate of a start-up established in year N · Description of the start-up and its core business · Document such as an invoice or an online sales record certifying financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for services/products (result of the KIC KAVA) sold to a customer.
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EITHE16	# Results disseminated through the EC dissemination tools	<p>[EITHE16.1] Result is what is generated during the activity implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, start-ups, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc.</p> <p>By the EC dissemination tools are meant the EC IT dissemination platforms such as Horizon Results Platform (europa.eu) Structured data to include reference to a specific KAVA. [no target, reported only]</p>	<p>Structured data: - KAVA reference, website [[structured data TBC] Supporting evidence: n/a; only provide links where these were published</p>
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Co-funded by
the European Union

Appeal Procedure/Redress Mechanism

Call for Proposals 2023

Leuven, Belgium
June 2022

eitfood.eu

Redress Mechanism

In case applicants have concerns that there have been procedural shortcomings and/or factual errors in the evaluation of their proposal, they can seek a review of the evaluation procedure through the redress mechanism.

Ground for Redress

It should be noted that this mechanism is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the expert review panel.

Upon receipt of the outcome of the application, the Activity Leader of the proposal (or a representative of their organisation) may request an evaluation review, if:

1. There is an indication that the results of the eligibility checks were incorrect
2. The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

Submission of the Complaint

The deadline to launch a complaint is 5 days from receipt of the outcome of the application.

Complaints must be:

- related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks, for the proposal in question;
- set out a clear description of the grounds for complaint;
- received within the time limit specified above;
- sent by the Activity Leader or a representative of their organisation;
- sent to the attention of EIT Food's COO, to: Redress@eitfood.eu

Process for Complaint Review

An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent to complainant with an estimated date of a definitive reply.

After a review of the complaint, a redress committee may be convened to examine the eligibility or evaluation process in question. The redress committee will be composed of relevant EIT Food staff and will be chaired by the EIT Food CEO. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of requests, and fair and equal treatment of applicants.

During the evaluation review procedure, the committee itself, will not re-evaluate the proposal.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation results and examine the CVs of the experts. The committee will not call into question the judgement of appropriately qualified panels of experts.

In the light of its review, the committee will recommend a course of action. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Please note:

- A re-evaluation (redress committee) will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality assessment of a proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria;
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score;
- Only one request for evaluation review per proposal will be considered by the committee;
- All requests for evaluation review will be treated in confidence