

Questions & Answers

regarding the Call for Proposals of ERA-Net Cofund SUSFOOD2

- in connection with the webinar from 16th February (see also Call Announcement of 9th January/updated version from 16th February).

We strongly advise all applicants to carefully read their respective national regulations and to contact their national contact points (see Call Announcement, Annex 1 and 3)!

Questions regarding the consortium

1. Could I be the contact person in 2 susfood2 projects?
⇒ Yes.
2. What is the difference in the evaluation having in the project Industry involved as a partner covering their own costs or just as external partner?
⇒ This makes no difference in the evaluation.
3. How is the inclusion of junior positions such as PhD, Post doc or Research assistant considered in the proposal? – Is it an advantage or not?
⇒ Generally the inclusion of juniors is possible; please consider the national funding rules; as example: the running SUSFOOD projects from former calls had junior positions, PhD or Master students involved.
4. Minimum 3 partners and at least 2 from research institution, right?
⇒ Minimum 3 partners is right. But every combination of research institutions and industry is possible – unless national regulations have constraints.
5. There is a minimum of 3 countries, but is there an ideal number of countries involved?
⇒ No, there is no ideal number of countries involved. This depends on the project.
6. Belgium is restricted to 24 months project duration. Does it mean whole project is restricted?
⇒ No, not all the partners in a consortium need to participate the entire project duration time.
7. Can a partner be involved in two different SUSFOOD2 projects?
⇒ Yes.
8. What is a typical/average project size regarding funding (e.g. in SUSFOOD1)?
⇒ This is completely variable. In SUSFOOD1 most of the projects are from 300.000 € to 1.000.000 € - but more or less is also possible.
9. Does the multiactor perspective of the call require collaboration with business/industry partners in topic 3?
⇒ Industry involvement is not mandatory for any of the topics; involvement of relevant stakeholders will be of benefit but of course depends on the project.

10. Is it important to have an industrial partner in the consortium or is a collaboration just evaluated fine?
 ⇒ It completely depends on the project if an industrial partner in the consortium is an advantage.
11. Can EU countries other than those supporting the call be involved at the same conditions as non-EU countries?
 11a. India and China, can they participate?
 11b. Could an institution from a non-european country like for instance Canada join the project as well?
 ⇒ Partners from all non-SUSFOOD-countries can participate additional to the SUSFOOD consortium on their own costs. Hence, it is necessary to have apart from these associated partners at least 3 partners from at least 3 SUSFOOD-countries in the consortium.
12. We are interested in including one of the partners from New Zealand. Will this country be able to participate in this call? In which conditions?
 ⇒ New Zealand is an associated country in the call and will be handled as non-SOUSFOOD country (see answer 11). Please, contact the national contact point for funding questions.
13. Can several partners from one country participate in a SUSFOOD consortium?
 ⇒ Yes, several partners from one country can participate in a consortium as long as there are additionally at least two partners from at least two further countries.
14. Do we need to provide commitment letters of industrial partners that don't have budget but are only involved as waste suppliers and to let us study their productive chain?
 ⇒ Commitment letters of associated partners are always useful to demonstrate their willingness to cooperate.
15. Can partners be added after the pre-proposal phase?
 ⇒ No, after the pre-proposal phase the consortium is fixed – except the SUSFOOD Call office explicitly asks for a change in the consortium.

Questions about partnering

16. How can we find partners via the national point of contact or via your web site?
 ⇒ [Here](#) you can find an overview of the different possibilities for partnering. Most of all, we recommend the [partnering tool](#) in the submission system and the [Meta Knowledge Base](#).
17. MBK registration has to be made by us as individuals (linked to a specific organization) OR is made of the organization as a whole?
 ⇒ Every partner (individuals) has to register in the MKB.
18. Partnering tool: please clarify 1) "Offer"=I like to participate in a project; 2) "Request" = I am looking for a partner.
 ⇒ Please post an entry in the partnering tool, if you are looking for collaboration opportunities in project consortia (=request) and would like to offer your expertise (=offer). You are also welcome to make a post, if you already have a project idea and are looking for further partners that would like to join you/your consortium (=offer).

19. Is the registration in the MKB mandatory only for the coordinator or for all the partners?
 ⇒ The registration in the MKB is mandatory for all the partners.

Questions considering the “Research” / “R & I”- assignment

20. Just to clarify, is it possible for a country that only funds research to be part of a total project that is research and innovation based? e.g. a research body from Ireland, with a SME from Italy
- 20a. If a Spanish partner goes with MINECO funding (only research) can they be in consortium with a research partner and a SME from another country that are involved in R&I?
 ⇒ For SUSFOOD in general, yes! However, please clarify with the respective national contact points if they have constraints against it.
21. If SME or Large Enterprise are participating as external partners, can the proposal be considered Research & Innovation or only Research?
 ⇒ The definition in the Call Announcement for Research & Innovation projects is *“Project consortia are expected to be formed by research organizations and industry (enterprises)”*
 ⇒ As soon as an industrial partner is on board, the project is considered Research & Innovation (irrespective if the partner receives funding or is in-kind)
22. Could the proposal be considered as research if we have letters of support from an industry 'collaborator' or stakeholder?
 ⇒ Yes, the consortium is called a “research” or “R&I”-consortium only based on the partners of the consortium – associated collaborators or stakeholders do not influence that designation.

Thematic questions

23. Does each topic need to fit all the objectives set by the SUSFOOD call?
 ⇒ No, the topic of a proposal can address just a part of the objectives.
24. Regarding Topic 2: Would a topic on effect of animal nutrition on product quality be eligible?
 ⇒ Animal nutrition would be primary production, which is not the major scope of SUSFOOD. The scope of SUSFOOD covers the entire food supply chain with the main focus on food chain sustainability beyond the farm gate. Elements of primary production can be considered if it has direct impact on the sustainability of other steps in the food chain. We strongly recommend to contact the national contact points in order to clarify the priority and eligibility on national level.
25. Is lighting for horticulture considered as an innovative food processing eligible for the topic 1?
 ⇒ see answer to question 24
26. I would like to know if projects about traceability and genetic breeding can be included as topics
 ⇒ see answer to question 24
27. Are proposals focusing on crop insurance eligible in this call?
 ⇒ see answer to question 24

28. How specific does the expected impact need to be?
 ⇒ This cannot be answered in general. It should be possible for an evaluator to understand the impact and added value that you plan to achieve with your project including the added value of the transnational cooperation.
29. Is 3D structuring of food & ingredients an eligible topic?
 ⇒ Yes
30. Technologies for food sterilization. Are they well considered in this call?
 ⇒ Yes

Eligible costs / budget questions

31. If an industrial partner participates in a proposal but decides that it prefers to self-fund its participation instead of applying to a funding institution, is its participation considered for meeting overall requirements of the call in terms of budget distribution, consortium composition, etc.?
 ⇒ No, if the partner is only associated partner, it has to finance the travel costs etc.. However, a partner can participate as “real” partner and can enter 0 € funding (and x € own contribution) in all the fields except the travel costs.
32. Are research infrastructure eligible costs?
 ⇒ In general, these costs are eligible if the research infrastructure is project specific. However, there may be national restrictions.
33. Define own contribution, are there limits?
 ⇒ “Own contribution” means the part of costs which are financed by the institution (mainly companies) itself. The own contribution may be up to 100%.
34. Funding question: The total amount should not exceed 1.5 million euros. Is this money made up from the national contributions? E.g., if Lithuania has a maximum of 100,000 euros, does this maximum apply to the partner in Lithuania?
 ⇒ The total amount of a project may not exceed 1.5 million €. This is the absolute maximum. If the available budget of a country is 100.000 €, the limitation is given by that amount of funding.
35. When a country is funding 4 topics, do we need to apply for a fourth of the budget?
 ⇒ No, the budget of one country can also be split in a more unbalanced way depending on the quantity and quality of submitted proposals to the different topics.

Submission System

36. What sort of images may we upload? budget details? detailed activity chart?
 ⇒ You may upload all kind of images which make your proposal more coherent.
37. Is it compulsory to have a business plan for R&I proposals?
 ⇒ No, it is not.
38. Is the template for pre-proposal factsheet available somewhere?
 ⇒ You can download an example for a factsheet [here](#). However, your project factsheet will be generated in the submission system with the information you have entered.

39. Can we indicate only 4 references or more in the description of the partner?
 ⇒ Every partner can indicate 5 references.
40. Will you reject ineligible proposals in stage 1 based on the contents/ideas?
 ⇒ Yes, we will reject all ineligible pre-proposals.
41. There is a maximum character limit of 20,000 for description of work. What is the minimum that would suffice the requirement?
 ⇒ The minimum is given when you entered all necessary information concerning your project. We cannot generalize this aspect.
42. The project we are involved in potentially spans across 2 topics (though is predominantly more suited to one topic).
 ⇒ You have to decide for one topic, even if a second one would also fit.

Specific questions

43. What does it mean that Belgium is an "associated" partner?
 ⇒ The SUSFOOD2 network itself has 2 associated partners. This is irrelevant for the Call. Belgium is represented by VLAIO, which is the funder for this SUSFOOD call.
44. Netherland wants to fund Research and Innovation, but in the national regulation they specify that only universities and research institutes can get funded. So no funding for SMEs or enterprises. Ist that a mistake?
 ⇒ NWO only subsidises (a subset of) knowledge institutions, like universities. In programmes where companies, including SME's, are included these private parties act as co-funders (not as beneficiaries, receivers of government subsidies). Please contact your national contact point from The Netherlands for clarification.
45. Are German SME's really eligible?
 ⇒ Yes, they are.
46. Why some European countries, like Cyprus or Serbia, were not inserted in the participants countries.
 ⇒ It was a decision of every country to participate in SUSFOOD or not. These countries obviously had no preference in funding that kind of research.
47. I would like to know if we can use the budget to buy a simulation software, to build a laboratory scale devices or to buy analyses equipments ...
 ⇒ For those specific questions the national contact point has to be addressed.
48. Is the confidentiality of the results settled in a consortium agreement?
 ⇒ Yes, the consortium has to set up a consortium agreement before the start of the project – but not during the submission phase.