

Webinar for applicants held on 20 September 2019

Assembled Questions & Answers

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What is the success rate of past calls?
This is the first Joint Call of SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic, therefore we do not have experiences. The success rates also vary by country. For SUSFOOD2, the overall success rate lies between 10-20%.
- Is it possible to apply for a project focussed on developing countries, and would it be possible to subcontract partners there? Will such a proposal be considered relevant?
The focus of the Call is on the countries/regions participating in the Call (Annex B) and we are aiming at European added value. Additional countries can apply using their own funds. The projects must comply with the selected Topic and there must be a sound justification why to study specific aspects in a developing country. Sub-contracting of partners must be in line with national regulations.
- Is there a deadline for the project to start?
The project coordinators will receive the feedback on funding decision mid of 2020. The national contracting of the project partners will follow. We expect the projects to start in the second half of 2020. There is no deadline for the project start but we encourage starting as soon as possible.

BUDGET

- What about overhead? Are overheads automatically computed?
No, overheads are not automatically added. Consult your National Contact Point (NCP) on national budget and overhead conditions (Annex C). This varies by country and funding agency.
- Since total budget per country can be higher than the requested fund, is there any way to include it?
In the finance section of the pre-proposal (in the online tool) there are two tables, one about “requested funding” and a second with “own contribution”. The maximum of 1.5 Mio Euro applies to the requested funding.
- It is possible to apply for up to 70% of the contribution from one country. Is this referring to the total contribution of the country or the contribution for one topic, i.e. the topic you are applying for?
Total eligible budget per country must not exceed 70% of the total eligible project budget. This means that in the project proposal (all partners coming from) one country cannot exceed 70% of the overall project budget.
- What is the typical project size regarding budget?
It varies according to number of partners and work planned in the project (~300.000-1.000.000 €).

PARTNERING TOOL & PROJECT PARTNERS

- Will you be facilitating any linking of researchers looking for interested parties in other countries?
Yes, we offer a partnering tool that you can access via the Joint Call submission website. The direct web link is: <https://www.submission-susfood-era.net/index.php?index=362>
- How can we add institution to the research partner tool in the website?
The partnering tool enables you to put an offer or request for partnership or expertise. You have to enter your name, contact data, institutional information and expertise directly into the online partnering tool.
- Partnering tool: what is the difference between offer and request?
*Request= you need someone with certain expertise
Offer= you are offering an open position as project partner/ offering specific expertise*
- Are there any partnering events/ mailing lists additional to the partner search on the homepage?
The Call Office does not provide any additional service to the partnering tool. Please consult your NCP for further support on searching possible partners.
- Can the projects have only three partners?
Three partners from three different countries (listed in Annex B) are the minimum. The project can have more than three partners. While projects should aim at good geographical coverage, the coordinator has to consider how many project partners are manageable.
- Are two partners from the same country allowed?
*Yes, it is allowed to have more than one partner from one country. You should contact your NCP for national regulations. For instance, some countries have budget limits per project. Be aware that the general eligibility criteria requires a minimum of three partners from **three different countries** that participate in the Call (listed in Annex B).*
- Whom to involve in the minimum of three partners?
All combinations (universities, research institutes, industry, other organisations etc.) are possible as long as they are eligible.
- Is there any effect on eligibility in terms of what partners to choose for the consortium?
The general eligibility criteria on partners have to be met, that is a minimum of three partners from three different countries. Further, a geographical coverage is part of the expert evaluation (under the "Potential impact and added value" criterion). There are no prescriptions on the selection of partners. Please consider what partners you need to meet the objectives and create impact in your project.
- Is there an upper limit for number of partners or countries per project?
No, it is project-dependent, but be aware that feasibility is important.
- Can a partner be involved in more than one proposal?
Yes, but be realistic regarding work force.
- Can other countries (not listed as funders) participate?
Yes, with own budget/contribution (in-kind). Please add a letter of commitment for in-kind partners.

- Regarding the participation of other countries, what do you mean by “own contribution”?
Applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call are welcome to be partner in research consortia on their own costs/in-kind, i.e. part of the costs that are financed by the institution itself (it can be up to 100%). Thus, the “associated” partners can join the project consortium, but cannot apply for funding. Such partners should state in advance the source of funding for their participation in the project (by letter of commitment).
- Who should send a Letter of Commitment?
In-kind partners, associated partners.
- Is it possible to add partners via letters of commitment at the 2nd stage?
*A letter of commitment confirming the source of funding/ the provided in-kind support must be included in the pre- proposal phase. It is expected that the main content and the **consortium composition** will stay unchanged in the full proposal, unless changes are requested due to conditions or recommendations from the Call Board.*
- Can partners be added after the pre-proposal phase?
No, only if requested by the Call Board or in exceptional cases.
- Can we do subcontracts with a partner in the project?
Consult your NCP on sub-contracting.
- What will be the consequence for the project implementation if a partner drops out and the number of partners drops below the critical number?
In the case of unforeseen changes in the project, the consortium is strongly advised to get in contact with the Call Office/ NCP. In this situation, as project with two partners only would not be eligible, this would mean the end of the project.
- How can industrial partners be involved?
The conditions depend on the national rules: Either as full partners (with different funding conditions) or in-kind.

TOPICS

- What if my project spans more than one topic?
You need to decide for one topic, which fits best.
- Are studies regarding the effects on health eligible for topic 1b? The studies on health effects will be a part of project, for example a WP.
The focus of the Call is on the food system. Therefore, any research on the effects on health must directly relate to the food system topics listed in the Call Announcement.
- DEFRA (UK) has added some limitations to the scope under Topic 2; does this mean they only support proposals looking at subtopic C or D, or are these limitations only relevant for the UK partner's role in the project? I.e.: "Diversity in farming systems is out of scope" and "However, research with focus on education and communication aspects of sustainable healthy diets are out of scope."
The national regulations apply to project partners from the corresponding country. In this case, partners from the UK have to align with DEFRA’s national regulations, i.e. the DEFRA’s regulations apply exclusively to the role (WP) of the UK partner in the overall project.

- There are several subtopics under some topics (i.e. Diversity in food from field to plate), under the heading "possible subtopics". Is this intended as suggestions for the applicants, or will we have to cover all subtopics?

In general, the indicated sub-topics give you an example of possible themes under each topic. This means that a project proposal can choose a sub-topic(s) and propose additional sub-topic(s). Some countries do however restrict the possible sub-topics. Each project partner is obliged to consult the respective national regulations. In case of uncertainties regarding the national criteria and regulations, please contact your NCP. Project coordinators should be aware that in case one partner of a project consortium appears not to be eligible, the Call Board would reject the entire pre-proposal.