

Joint Call between ERA-NETs SUSFOOD2 and FOSC

“Innovative solutions for resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems”

SUSFOOD2: ERA-Net Cofund on Sustainable Food production and consumption

FOSC: ERA-Net Cofund on Food Systems and Climate

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) of the Call webinar on June 2, 2021

Important note:

We also strongly advise all applicants to **carefully check their respective national regulations** and to contact their **national contact points (NCP)** (see Call Announcement, Annex C and Annex D)!

The Call Announcement can be downloaded here: <https://www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf2-fosc-jointcall?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=951>

Scope and thematic areas of the Call

1. How is “interdisciplinary” and “Multi-disciplinary” defined? Does this e.g. apply for the cooperation between anthropologists, sociologists and biochemists? What are the “boundaries” of multi-disciplinarity?
 - ⇒ Cross-cutting issues such as a multi-actor approach, multi-disciplinary approach and systems approach should be considered. The multi-disciplinary approach is defined as follows in the Call Announcement: “It should take account of different viewpoints and involve actors from the disciplines beyond the existing network. Bridging silos within food systems and across disciplines can strengthen a multi-disciplinary approach to sustainability and resilience.” In general, the research disciplines involved depend on the research proposal and should create an added value.
2. Is the call applicable to any field (e.g. aquatic)? Are there clear limitations in this regard?
 - ⇒ The Joint Call aims at “innovative solutions for resilient, climate-smart and sustainable food systems, with a focus on approaches to improve resource efficiency and enhance the capability of food systems to withstand severe physical and economic shocks.” The call is focusing on food systems and aquaculture is included in the scope of the Joint Call. Nevertheless, as not all Funders fund all fields e.g. aquaculture, it is important to check national regulations and contact the National Contact Point (NCP).



3. What TRL (Technology Readiness Levels) levels are expected at the stage of the start and the end of the project?
 - ⇒ No TRL levels are specified in the Call Announcement. All TRL Level are generally eligible. Please check the national regulations regarding possible limitations for TRL levels.

4. Is it recommended or required to cover the whole food value chain by each research proposal?
 - ⇒ The Joint Call aims at a systems approach. It is not expected that each proposal covers the whole food value chain. Each proposal should consider interconnections and impacts within the food system, related to the research theme of the proposal. In the Call Announcement, the systems approach is defined as “considering interconnections, synergies or trade-offs between different aspects or actors that directly or indirectly affect your field of research on a systems level...” There will be a webinar on Food Systems Approach (June 17, 2 pm CEST), providing some tips to thinking about defining research questions in the context of a “system”.

Funding modalities and eligible entities

5. What is the required minimum numbers of partners?
 - ⇒ Research consortia must consist of at least three eligible independent legal entities from a minimum of three different partner countries participating with funding in a specific topic.

6. Are collaborations between two or more institutions within one country required or recommended?
 - ⇒ Collaborations between two or more institutions within one country are possible but not required. Generally, the Call aims at good geographical balance, and the consortium must consist of partners from a minimum of three different partner countries. The total eligible budget per country must not exceed 70 % of the total eligible project budget in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.

7. Which countries are eligible to be funded under the call? Is my country included?
 - ⇒ The following partner countries/regions will provide funds for the Call: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Romania, Turkey and the United Kingdom. A list with the partners including the available funds per funder and topic can be found in the Call Announcement, Annex B.





8. Please explain if the funding of a project depends on approval of the project by every eligible country participating to consortium.
- ⇒ Once the transnational project is selected for funding by all participating funding bodies, the project partners will receive the grant directly from their national funding bodies according to their terms and conditions.
9. Can just one organisation of the three minimum required international organisations required accept the funding or does it need to be split?
- ⇒ The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that each project partner who has been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding bodies according to their terms and conditions.
10. Is it possible for a Non-European partner to take the position of coordinator for a consortium with partners from Europe?
- ⇒ Yes. Each project consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator. Any project partner eligible for funding from the consortium can be appointed. The project coordinator has specific roles and responsibilities, as described in the Call Announcement.
11. Can a PI participate in more than 1 proposal? Can an organization participate as partner in more than two projects?
- ⇒ There are no specific rules stated in the Call Announcement. However, each coordinator/project partner should carefully consider the effort required for the coordination/partner position. The respective NCP must be consulted, as there might be limitations set by the national funder.
12. What types of costs are eligible? Is it similar to H2020, so researcher salary costs, travel, equipment, project management/admin costs etc.? Is there a fixed rate of overhead percentage on costs that can be accounted?
- ⇒ The eligibility of costs and overhead payments depend on the national regulations since the funding is on national basis. Please consult the NCP accordingly.
13. The total budget for a proposal is 1.5 M€ but for example, Italy provides 200,000.00 € for topic 1. What are the reasons behind this?
- ⇒ The requested total funding cannot exceed 1.5 M€ per proposal, which is a general eligibility criteria. In addition, the funding bodies have their own national criteria on max. budget per project and/or project partner. It is important to check national regulations and contact the NCP in case of uncertainties.



14. Is an own contribution to the project's budget necessary or optional?
- ⇒ Some funders require own contribution to the project budget. Please check national regulations.
15. Did I understand it correctly that the total eligible budget must not exceed 70%? Does this mean that the other 30% could be covered with personnel costs by partnerships?
- ⇒ This is not correct. The general eligibility rule is that the total eligible budget per country/region (participating in the research consortium) must not exceed 70 % of the total eligible project budget, in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.
16. SME contribution: Can we include SMEs? How should SMEs be included? Is it a benefit to the proposal if industrial partners are included to the consortium, if the national funding body allows the participation of companies?
- ⇒ SMEs are welcome to participate. An industrial partner can be a funded partner or an in-kind partner, depending on the funding rules of the respective country and the wish of the partner himself. Another possibility is to participate as associated partner, which is a different status of partnership. The proposal should clearly state the role and benefits of each partner, including possible SMEs. Please check the national rules on the participation of SMEs and consult the NCP in case of uncertainties.
17. Does a subcontractor also count as an associated partner? (e.g. in some countries, research institutes need to be subcontracted)
- ⇒ No, subcontractors do not count as partners. Please consult the NCP on the subcontracting rules.
18. How many meetings should be accounted in the budget?
- ⇒ Partners from each funded project are expected to organise regular project meetings. Additionally to the own project meetings, all project coordinators should calculate costs for the attendance of three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off-, mid-term- and final meeting) in their project plan.

Selection and evaluation criteria

19. What are the selection and evaluation criteria?
- ⇒ Each proposal will be evaluated by (at least) three independent experts against the following criteria: "Excellence of the research proposal", "relevance and potential impact", and "quality and efficiency of the implementation". The three criteria are equally weighted and will be scored independently. The evaluation by the peer review expert panel will result in one ranking list. The outcome of the selection procedure will be



communicated by the Call Office to the project coordinators. For further details please consult the Call Announcement.

Partnering tool

20. Will the Call team facilitate matchmaking between different applicants? How?

⇒ There is a partnering tool available at the Joint Call submission website.

Electronic Submission System and Submission Process

21. Who can be consulted in case of problems with the Electronic Submission System?

⇒ The Technical Helpdesk provides support. See the contact details in the Call Announcement and on the submission tool website.

22. Once submitted, is there any way to withdraw and overwrite the submitted proposal?

⇒ The submitted proposal can be replaced with a newer version (by overwriting, saving and submitting again) until the final deadline of proposal submission. After the submission deadline the proposals cannot be changed anymore. If a coordinator would like to withdraw a proposal after the final submission deadline, the coordinator needs to inform the call office.

23. Does the national and international proposal have to be submitted at the same time?

⇒ The closing date for submission of transnational proposals is on 16 August 2021 - 3 p.m. CEST. Some funders additionally require the submission of a national application. Please consult the NCP on the respective rules and submission dates.

24. Once the budget is submitted to the system, is it possible to show if the stated percentage number was wrong for each category of expenses, for e.g. at the stage validation?

⇒ The submission tool cannot provide a check on the eligibility of expenses or certain percentages among cost categories (these vary among national funders). This is the responsibility of the project coordinator and partners. Please contact your national contact points to make sure your financial data fulfils the requirements.

Other questions

25. Do the Data management Plan and Dissemination Plan have to be submitted in





addition to project description?

- ⇒ Yes, there are special sections within the proposal where you can upload the mentioned plans. For further details, please see the Call Announcement.

26. What is the overall success rate of eligible full proposals under your Call?

- ⇒ This is not possible to tell, as it depends on the total number of submitted proposals.

27. How does an example of a work package look like?

- ⇒ The work package (WP) structure is unique for each project. It is your responsibility to develop a suitable WP structure according to the aims of your proposal. There are no requirements on numbers of WPs.

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