Call for Proposals and Contributors for Activities to be executed in 2021

Guidelines

V1.0 2020-03-11

Contents

Glossary

Activity Line	Activity Lines bundle specific Education programme types (e.g. Food Solutions) in a single KAVA, driving both efficiency and impact. They are commissioned for multiple years for clearly identified markets, harness best practice in teaching and learning, enable a coordinated approach to marketing and planning of run dates, and include a clearly identified financial sustainability mechanism.
Activity	EIT Food Business Plan consists of Activities (projects), each belonging to one →Area. Each Activity is conceived in a way to contribute to the Strategic Objectives of EIT Food and structured to promote the knowledge triangle integration by involving partners from higher education, research and innovation. Each Activity consists of a →KAVA part and a →KCA contribution.
Area	EIT Food defines several areas in which it operates: Education; Innovation and Research; Entrepreneurship; Public Engagement; and Regional Innovation Scheme
Business Plan	The document specifying the detailed plan of EIT Food for the upcoming year. It consists of a main body text and several annexes describing the Activities in detail. Based on the draft Business Plan submitted in September (and some other criteria) EIT decides on the budget available to EIT Food in the following year. The Business Plan will then be adjusted to match the assigned budget and forms the basis for the internal agreements of EIT Food with its partners.
Co-funding	KAVA funding from other than EIT financial contribution sources, in particular: partners own investments and national or regional public funding programmes.
Complementary Funding	The investment that is associated with the results of all →KCAs that are used in a →KAVA.
Deliverable	In EIT terminology, a Deliverable describes an →Output of an →Activity. It is defined by the consortium and takes the format of a document that will be submitted as part of the yearly report to EIT. Based on the set of Deliverables provided, EIT assesses whether the Activity has achieved its stated goals and is entitled to the full funding requested.
Focus Area	Thematic area where to focus EIT Food activities in the coming 2-3 years. These Focus Areas will build the basis for the EIT Food Programme in the coming years and encompass the whole agrifood ecosystem, from primary sector to retail and consumption.
FPA: Framework Partnership Agreement	This is the 7-year contract between EIT and EIT Food governing the general terms and conditions of support. On a yearly basis, this is made concrete by the →SGA. The Partners, by signing the Accession Form, give to EIT Food the mandate to manage the EIT Grant Cycle. They also become liable in the general terms listed FPA.
Impact	The positive effects of EIT Food funded Activities on economy, society and the environment. Under Horizon Europe these impacts will be captured and communicated through Key Impact Pathways. The objective is to generate new and more knowledge and new technologies, drive growth and competitiveness of the EU, and to have significant social and environmental impact of EIT Food's investments over time. These impacts will be measured over time and EIT Food will be benchmarked. These impact pathways are classified as follows: **Scientific impact:** Related to supporting the creation and diffusion of high-quality new knowledge, skills, technologies and solutions to food system challenges. **Societal impact:** Related to the impact of activities in developing solutions that address food system challenges (health, environment), and support the uptake of novel solutions by industry and society to tackle food system challenges.

	Economic impact: Related to fostering all forms of innovation, including breakthrough innovation, and strengthening market deployment of innovations; also job creation and retention.
Infrastructure Activity	Infrastructure activities build the foundation for the envisioned innovation ecosystem to function and to deliver impact for a number of strategic initiatives. Typically they involve Partners in the organisation and delivery of outputs and impact. In a number of →Activities EIT Food is leading or coordinating the Activity, in others it only plays a convening role, with one of the Partners taking on the role of Activity Leader.
KAVA: KIC Added Value Activity	Each Activity consists of a KAVA part and a →KCA contribution. The KAVA part is the project that is executed and funded by the partner consortium to achieve the goals of EIT Food. KAVAs should build on results created in →previous KCAs.
KCA: KIC Complementary Activity	An activity funded by non-EIT sources (typically, an FP7 or other H2020 project, but also company internal development or nationally/regionally funded programmes). KCAs produce results that are of relevance for the →KAVA and are used by it in one way or another to achieve the Activity targets. At the time of producing these guidelines, it is current understanding that the concept of KCA will not be continued into the next legal framework for 2021-2027. Therefore, we are not including a requirement for KCA in the 2021 call. Should the situation change, we will inform all Partners and support you to add the KCA at a later stage.
KIC: Knowledge Innovation Community	EIT Food is one of now eight Knowledge Innovation Communities that operate under the regulations of EIT.
Knowledge Triangle	The knowledge triangle refers to the interaction between research, education and innovation, which are key drivers of a knowledge-based society. EIT Food's knowledge triangle has a fourth element, Public Engagement, to restore trust in the food system.
Member	Members are Partner organisations affiliated to EIT Food ivzw, and their linked third parties. More information is available in the EIT Food Partnership Policy, available on our website.
Open Call	Through an Open Call, it is possible for organisations outside the existing EIT Food partnership to participate in Activities. This will be implemented in the areas of Public Engagement and – if gaps are identified – Innovation, to attract competences lacking within the EIT Food partnership. Any external organisations will become EIT Food partners to be able to benefit from the EIT grant.
Output	What a →KAVA produces as the result of the work performed. This is a project deliverable in the standard meaning of the term (but see →Deliverable). Examples are new products, services or processes, transformation of existing products, innovative education and training modules, new curricula and qualifications, e-learning modules, guidance material for new approaches and methodologies, testbeds and experimental facilities, prototypes, patents, publications, etc. Outputs have economic and societal impact.
Programmes	Each →Area has a number of segments, which are clusters of programmes. Programmes are specific types of educational courses or communication activities. For the area Education, these are for example Master Education, or Doctoral Education.
SGA: Specific Grant Agreement	The annual grant agreement between EIT and EIT Food defining the scope of activities and budget for a given year. EIT Food Business Plan is an Annex of the SGA.
Task	Work package of an activity.

Introduction

Dear Partner,

I am pleased to present to you the guidelines for our Call for Proposals and Contributors 2021 to build further on our impressive portfolio of activities. With it, we will continue to improve the food system together and put Europe at the centre of a global transformation in how food is innovated, produced and valued by society.

2021 will be a transition year for EIT Food: the move to Horizon Europe will bring some changes to what we do and how we operate. The full details of these changes will be communicated by the European Commission and EIT later in 2020, but we do know that we will have to adapt our operations under a new Legal Framework. In line with a new Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) spanning 2021-2027, we will roll out a new EIT Food Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, which we have been working on since our strategy workshop last Autumn. We expect the revised Strategic Agenda to be drafted by early Summer, which then will be discussed with you and presented for approval in our next Partner Assembly. 2021 will therefore be the first leap towards into our new strategic direction.

Unfortunately, the amount of EIT funding available for all KICs for 2021 is likely to drop considerably, which will have an impact on the breadth of our project portfolio. Secondly, we know that there will be increased attention on how we achieve real impact and a greater emphasis on capability building in the RIS regions. Finally, the need to achieve financial sustainability is becoming a mandatory element of our work.

As we continue to trailblaze a path through this transitionary period, our commitment and motivation to build a strong and innovative portfolio to deliver on our vision remains as strong as ever. As such, we will use this transition year to implement stronger portfolio management, in response to your request for a more focused strategic direction, and to increase our impact in the Focus Areas introduced in January at the Annual Partner event in Budapest. With all this, we believe that the partnership can achieve significant progress towards food system transformation. Specifically, for the 2021 portfolio, we will do this by:

- Rolling out six Focus Areas to help direct our collective efforts. These Focus Areas were established through consultations with the partnership and other sources, and an extensive horizon scanning exercise of the current scientific state of play;
- Driving ambitious targets to ensure our investments are efficient as well as effective. This also includes a judicious evaluation of existing activities to ensure we continue funding only those that will deliver significant impact, and a streamlining of Education programmes and Public Engagement activities;
- Stepping up our investments in the RIS regions, and to support capability building for innovation ecosystems.

Please note that this renewed focus means that the Call process differs from previous years in a number of ways. These changes are explained in Part 1 of this document, and I invite you to read it carefully to explore the various ways in which you, and your organisation, could contribute to improving our impact. I also refer you to the complementary slide deck to the current document, which sets out our strategy.

Regarding our financial sustainability strategy, we will continue throughout 2020 and 2021 to actively pursue alternative sources of grants and third-party funding. The current Call for Proposals and Contributors concerns the EIT funding foreseen for 2021, however we do foresee further calls throughout the year when other sources become available. The second part of our financial sustainability strategy focuses on leveraging our shared successes with the aim to reinvest the resources in activities which drive the future sustainability of our ecosystem on the long-term.

You may have seen that the negotiating positions of the EU and the UK concerning the future relationship include positive intentions regarding eventual UK participation in Horizon Europe. There is

of course a long way to go in reaching any agreement, but we will be following the negotiations closely to review the consequences for the partnership and the 2021 portfolio. Our position is clear: we highly value our UK partners, and we wish to continue to work together, even under changed funding circumstances. Further details of membership for UK partners after Brexit and guidance for the 2021 portfolio can be found in section 5.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that our Supervisory Board, as in previous years, has a strong interest in how the Call process contributes to delivering an ambitious, balanced portfolio, and will be informed of the outcome of the portfolio composition following the external expert assessments.

Because of our strong and trusted partnership and an engaged multi-stakeholder community, we are in an excellent position to advance our work towards a transformed food system that is innovative, resilient and sustainable. On behalf of the entire EIT Food team, I look forward to working with you another year to build a strong portfolio that drives impact where it truly matters.

Dr A.M. (Andy) Zynga

DISCLAIMER

These guidelines might be subject to further development and modifications, depending on EIT instructions that will be provided to EIT Food in the coming months. Partners are encouraged to check regularly the EIT Food Plaza for the latest version of the guidelines.

PART 1: BUILDING THE EIT FOOD 2021 PORTFOLIO

1   A focussed portfolio to drive more impact

EIT Food is putting Europe at the centre of a global transformation in how food is innovated, produced and valued by society. We are creating a food system that is innovative, resilient and sustainable. Our approach puts the needs, concerns and ideas of consumers at the heart of what we do to drive a more resource-efficient, secure, trusted and transparent food system. We achieve this by going beyond the integration of the Knowledge Triangle of Education, Business Creation and Innovation by including Public Engagement (Communication) as an equal, fourth Functional Area to implement our Strategic Agenda until 2024 and beyond.

EIT Food has defined six Strategic Objectives to create impact using a carefully selected portfolio of activities. These objectives remain the basis for our portfolio, but the framework has been finetuned to bring a further focus to our activities to address the following drivers:

- A partnership-driven call for a stronger strategic direction;
- A drive to channel our investments where leveraging the strengths of our partnership can accelerate systems transformation and deliver the highest impact on society, economy and the environment;
- A requirement for Horizon Europe funded activities to describe the effects, consequences and meaning of results in terms of economic and societal impact.

Consultations with partners and trusted outside parties, and an extensive horizon scanning exercise identified six key **Focus Areas** that will shape the 2021 portfolio of activities. As indicated below, these Areas are linked with our Strategic Objectives and with EIT Food's specific societal impact indicators[1].

EIT FOOD FOCUS AREAS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	SOCIETAL IMPACT INDICATORS FOCUSING ON HEALTHY DIETS AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food related NCDs, ▪adult obesity, GHG emissions, ▪freshwater use, ▪food production waste streams
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food loss, ▪GHG emissions, ▪freshwater use
TARGETED NUTRITION	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food related NCDs, ▪childhood obesity, ▪adult obesity
SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food related NCDs, ▪childhood obesity, ▪adult obesity, ▪food waste, ▪food loss, ▪freshwater use, ▪food production waste streams
DIGITAL TRACEABILITY	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food waste, ▪food loss, ▪GHG emissions, ▪freshwater use, ▪food production waste
CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Reduction of ▪food waste, ▪food loss, ▪GHG emissions, ▪freshwater use, ▪food production waste

Please note that each of the Focus Areas is defined by a set of challenges, and some potential solutions. Annex 1 provides more details about the challenges that are relevant for the current Call for Proposals.

Of equal importance to the Focus Areas, EIT Food has also defined two enablers for achieving impact:

- Consumer centricity: EIT Food focuses on consumer-centric innovation as a way to continually improve the understanding of who consumers/users are and what their needs are, to identify better ways of developing and delivering complete experiences and communicating their value propositions. Consumer involvement is to be anchored in all the work we do, and not limited to the activities of our Functional Area Public Engagement (Communication). For example, the whole innovation process should include (but is not limited to) understanding of and empathising with consumer needs, insight detection, ideation and co-creation, and testing and validation activities.

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[1] The EIT Food societal impact indicators are pending review and final approval from EIT.

- Digital Transformation of the Food System: Advanced digital technologies and their engagement with both industry and consumers are key enablers to create the desired impact within the six Focus Areas due to their extraordinary potential in solving today's food challenges.

2 Key changes from the 2020 Call for Proposals

This section outlines the key changes from the Call for Proposals for the 2020 Business Plan and explains briefly why these changes are introduced.

- Going into 2021 the portfolio will be shaped by the Focus Areas. For *Innovation* this means that activities are sought to address a limited set of specific challenges associated with them. *Business Creation* activities will primarily support ventures that offer solutions associated with the Focus Areas. *Education* programmes will relate to the Focus Areas through case studies and experiential learning. *Public Engagement (Communication),* in its upcoming call for Proof of Concepts, will seek activities that bring improved consumer understanding associated with a selected set of the societal impact indicators and the Focus Areas.

- The introduction of Activity Lines for Education. These single activities bundle specific Education programme types (e.g. Food Solutions) to drive both efficiency and impact. They are commissioned for multiple years for clearly identified markets, harness best practice in teaching and learning, enable a coordinated approach to marketing and planning of run dates, and include a clearly identified financial sustainability mechanism.

- EIT Food's fourth Functional Area is renamed Public Engagement; the term Communication will be phased out. The new name provides a better reflection of the purpose of its activities and disentangles the Functional Area from the Corporate Communications activities of EIT Food.

- All continuing activities, including Grand Challenge projects, will be subject to a judicious review to appraise the scope for substantial impact. Review outcomes may result in continuation as planned, continuation with a reduced budget and/or required changes, or cancellation of further funding.

- The Call for Public Engagement (Communication) activities is split into two phases: the first for continuing activities which is part of this Call for Proposals and Contributors, the second for Proof of Concept activities which will be launched early April 2020.

- For Public Engagement (Communication) activities, consortia will be required to grant to KIC LE additional Access Rights on (non-confidential) Data/Developed (Communication) tools, resulting from the activity; further details are provided in section 15.

3 How to navigate this document

As a result of the various changes to how EIT Food will build the portfolio, the current Call for Proposals and Contributors has been structured differently from previous Call documents. The document is divided into five parts to facilitate navigation through clear signposting of guidance:

- PART 1 sets out the key considerations for how EIT Food will build the 2021 portfolio in response to various drivers;

- PART 2 provides general guidance to all Activity Leaders on how to design activities that can achieve impact. This includes the necessary ingredients for any proposal, consortium requirements, budgetary aspects including financial sustainability, dissemination and communication, and risk management. For guidance regarding the continued role of UK partners please consult section 5;

- PART 3 describes the processes supporting the submission and evaluation of proposals, including the timeline for the different components of the Call;

- PART 4 provides the details for the Call for Proposals, for Innovation and Public Engagement, including RIS. Please note that there is no call for Education proposals due to the move to Activity Lines.

- PART 5 presents the Call for Contributors for Business Creation and Education activities.

PART 2: DESIGNING EFFECTIVE ACTIVITIES

4 Strategic focus

All activities in EIT Food's portfolio need to be aligned with our overall vision, mission, and the set of established KPIs while tangibly contributing to societal and economic impact for healthier diets and sustainable food systems. They must contribute to one of the **Strategic Objectives** of EIT Food as primary objective to achieve impact; they may specify impact on a secondary Strategic Objective if appropriate. E.g. an activity on Strategic Objective 4 could also have an impact on Strategic Objective 5 if an educational aspect is planned. Preference will be given to activities which integrate aspects of two or more of the Functional Areas.

With the introduction of EIT Food's **Focus Areas** (see section 1, the complementary slide deck and Annex 1), the scope for designing effective activities has increased. The Focus Areas provide guidance about the specific challenges that we need to address to drive real transformation of the food system.

Food systems and systemic approaches

Food systems are complex and dynamic while its challenges span across health, environment, nutrition and climate. Due to the multitude of actors, government interventions and processes (production, consumption, distribution) a systems approach is essential for effecting meaningful impact. Such impacts include:

- Understanding: activities will aim to improve the understanding of society about food and food systems, its environmental and health impacts;

- Skills: students, food professionals and society will be equipped with necessary skills to make informed food choices, become active citizens, entrepreneurs and next generation food system leaders;

- Trust: activities will support openness of the agrifood chain, enable dialogue between industry, academia and research. Consumers are not only informed about science and innovation but also empowered to participate in activities and debate with industry and academia, leading to increased trust in the system and in new innovations and technology;

- System Hotspots: identification and tackling of system hotspots where development of targeted, coerced actions enable food consumption and production to be more healthy and sustainable;

- Uptake of innovation: with increased understanding about food, increased consumer involvement, improved trust (with)in the system and appropriate solutions to tackle hotspots in the food system, citizens will be encouraged to utilise new and novel technologies and solutions, improving their health and the sustainability of the food system in general;

- Behaviour: activities developed through a systems approach will embed behaviour change in the food system, allowing for citizen co-created solutions and transformation towards desired societal pathways.

Demonstration of societal/market need

To validate the contribution to a Focus Area, consortia must articulate market need, output and impact, and demonstrate a realistic prospect for market and/or societal success of their proposal, including, where relevant, the analysis of consumer/user experience and acceptance. These aspects provide the context for the impact that can be achieved, and as such they form part of the justification why a proposal should be funded. The help text in the submission system in Plaza will provide some guiding questions to answer while developing a proposal to support high quality proposals.

KPIs

Our impact is primarily evidenced at Activity level by EIT Core KPIs and EIT Food specific KPIs, including impact on healthier diets and sustainable food systems. With the transition to Horizon Europe, EIT has

introduced a number of new Core KPIs, which have consequences for some of the KIC specific KPIs. Therefore EIT Food specific KPIs will be revised over the coming months in line with the finalisation of the EIT Food Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, and will be introduced in activities after they have been selected for the portfolio. This will be done in consultation with the Activity Leaders.

5 Consortium building

Each Activity is built and executed by a consortium of partners. All EIT Food partners – core partners and their linked third parties, network partners, and RisingFoodStars – can be involved in consortia. The full list of partners is available in the "Partner Information File" on Plaza.

If you would like to involve a RisingFoodStar in one of your Education or Public Engagement activities, please get in touch with the RisingFoodStars Association (Annick Verween or Anne-Marie Banescu, annick.verween@eitfood.eu, a-m.banescu@eitfood.eu). It is anticipated that at the time of proposal submission, the RisingFoodStars Association will join the KAVA as a placeholder for a RisingFoodStar to be involved in the activity once it will kick-off the implementation process.

It is also possible to invite EIT Food Associates into the activity consortium – these are legal entities that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EIT Food and are interested in collaborating on a horizontal level by contributing to its activities, but without being eligible to receive any EIT funding. The rules of participation for Associates are explained in Art. 6 of the EIT Food by-laws.

Please note that following the EIT strategic recommendation to increase the openness of our activities, EIT Food will incrementally make its Business Plan open for participation for organisations outside the EIT Food partnership. In preparation of the 2021 portfolio, it will be possible to involve external organisations in:

- the second stage call of the Public Engagement area, i.e. new activities seeking Proof of Concept of societal potential – please refer to Section 15 for more details;
- a potential follow-up call in the Innovation area in case gaps in competences are identified as a result activities proposed in the Call 2021.

Consortium requirements

- Knowledge Triangle Integration (KTI): each consortium must contribute to Knowledge Triangle Integration by involving organisations from at least two fields of the knowledge triangle – academia / research and industry, representing different areas of the food system. Activities in the Innovation area require that a consortium includes at least two partners with market access.

- Partnership size: the consortium must include at least three members (for proposals in Innovation area – a minimum of four members).

- Geographic coverage: to ensure European impact and relevance, the minimum requirement for the consortia of call activities is to involve partners from at least two different CLCs. Infrastructure and Public Engagement activities are an exception and may have a geographically more limited partnership.

- Partner roles: each partner involved in an Activity should have a clear role in the consortium towards achieving the defined objectives that reflects Knowledge Triangle Integration. At least one of the partners will take the role of the exploiting party(ies) regarding the Financial Sustainability contribution of Innovation activities (see also section 9, on Financial Sustainability).

In case specific capabilities are required that do not exist in the current network (e.g. consumer communication), non-partners can be proposed on the basis that, if considered for inclusion in the portfolio, these organisations accede to the partnership following the standard application and approval process, before the action starts. Please note that they will be assessed according to the processes defined in the EIT Food partnership policy. In case the partnership application is not accepted by EIT Food, the proposed entity may not participate in the activity as a partner, and other avenues must be explored (e.g. subcontractor, in-kind contribution against payment), or the proposed entity removed from the consortium. The role of these entities needs to be described in

the same level of detail as for existing partners. In practical terms, Partners should select the Partner "499 Partner tbd" from the dropdown list when preparing their proposal.

- Activity Leadership: one EIT Food Core member needs to take the lead partner role, and the Activity Leader of the Activity will be an employee of this organisation. The Activity Leader is responsible for the overall management of the Activity, ensuring that all outputs, deliverables, impact and financial requirements are achieved and reported. Due to the amount of work this role represents, Activity Leadership by SMEs and RisingFoodStars is subject to review. Network partners cannot act as lead partners.

- Partnership adaptability: when proposing an activity for continuation into 2021, make sure that you have the right participants involved in your consortia, depending on what actions and milestones are planned in the next period. It should not be assumed that a consortium should remain unchanged throughout the activity duration.

- Consortium Agreement: partners in a consortium must agree to negotiate and sign a Consortium Agreement as soon as possible after the start of the activity. An EIT Food template is available for guidance on the EIT Food Plaza, and may be amended as necessary.

Brexit

As of March 2020, the long-term relationship between the EU and the UK remains subject to negotiations yet to come. If no agreement is reached by the end of the transition period, and the transition period is not extended, a no-deal Brexit would be the default outcome in 2021. Therefore, it is currently not predictable whether the EU's future relationship with the UK will be the same as with other Associated Countries post-2020.

If the UK will be an Associated Country under Horizon Europe, the eligibility of UK Partners will continue after December 31, 2020. If the UK will not be an Associated Country under Horizon Europe, in principle, all UK entities will be ineligible for EU funding and the participation of UK entities will have to follow the Horizon Europe Regulation for the participation of entities from third countries. In this case, EIT will follow strict criteria based on the European Commission guidelines.

For the current Call for Proposals and Contributors, and throughout 2020, UK partners remain eligible to submit and participate in proposals as signatories to the EIT Food FPA. However, their eligibility will need to be further assessed and verified in the course of 2020, after the transition process to a stable relationship between the EU and the UK will be complete.

We therefore request that all proposals include in the risk register a well-developed mitigation strategy in case a partner pulls out of the consortium, or is no longer eligible to receive EIT funding – please also see section 6.

6   Workplan and budget

The workplan for an Activity must describe work packages, milestones, deliverables, and next steps towards implementation following successful project realisation. It also defines Outputs and Deliverables, and target values for the KPIs that will be achieved in 2021 and beyond.

Activity budget structure

Activity (KAVA) budget:

- The Activity budget should be broken down into the pre-defined cost categories of the Horizon Europe Programme (e.g. Personnel costs (A), sub-contracting (B), etc..). Costs should be budgeted separately for each legal entity (Partner or Linked Third Party). Indirect costs are calculated automatically as a 25% flat rate of the direct costs;

- Budget planning should consider the Horizon Europe rules of cost eligibility. Only costs complying with the eligibility rules of the Grant Agreement will be considered eligible during reporting;

- In the cost category (A) Personnel, contributions from a single partner organisation should be ideally greater than one FTE, and for each individual person preferably greater than 0.5 FTE, and not below 0.25 FTE;

- To ensure that all consortia can meet the Horizon Europe requirement to execute communication and dissemination activities as part of their work (see also below), we advise that partners reserve approx. 10% of the total KAVA budget for the development and execution of these activities. This should be much higher in Public Engagement activities, where outreach is the core of the activity

- At the time of producing these guidelines, it is current understanding that the concept of KCA will not be continued into the next legal framework for 2021-2027. Therefore, we are not including a requirement for KCA in the 2021 call. Should the situation change, we will inform all Partners and support you to add the KCA at a later stage.

Funding structure

There are two sources of funding possible to cover the costs of an Activity: EIT grant funding, and partner co-funding. If an activity is 100% EIT-funded, then the co-funding ratio is 0%. In some Functional Areas, Partners and Linked Third Parties are required to budget for a certain level of co-funding in their activities. This means that they are expected to cover a proportion of the eligible costs from their own resources, and would only be reimbursed with EIT grant for a pre-defined percentage of eligible costs.

The co-funding ratios (co-funding as a percentage of total budgeted costs) for activities in the 2021 Business Plan are as follows:
- For Education and Public Engagement Activities: 0%
- For Innovation (including RIS) and Business Creation Activities: 30%

EIT grant thresholds: Depending on the partner type, there are certain limitations to the maximum EIT grant amount that can be requested for their entire participation in the EIT Food Business Plan 2021 (i.e. the cumulative EIT grant amount from all activities they are involved in). The current amounts are listed in Annex 2; please note that the total amount of EIT funding in 2021 of EIT Food core partners who will not be paying the full membership fee in 2021 or will apply for a fee waiver in 2021, cannot exceed € 500,000. Furthermore, as stipulated in the Partnership Policy, the annual maximum threshold of EIT funding established for each category of Core/ Network Partner applies collectively to the Partner and its Linked Third Parties.

Communication and Dissemination

As part of the Horizon framework, all activities are called upon to take measures to bring their work to the attention of as many relevant stakeholders as possible. Horizon guidance on dissemination as well as communication and a detailed presentation available online propose interesting input and examples on how to communicate EU research and innovation projects[2].

For Business Plan 2020, EIT required that '*each KAVA shall plan for at least one event open to public*'. This requirement remains valid, but not limited to, also for 2021 activities and therefore, all proposals will have to incorporate a deliverable "Communication and Dissemination plan" (except for Public Engagement (Communication)), as well as at least one KPI on dissemination (this is a KIC specific KPI which will be defined at a later stage).

It is strongly advised to involve an experienced communication entity in the consortium in order to tackle the task of communication and dissemination. This can be achieved either by collaborating with a relevant EIT Food partner (e.g. by involving a communications staff member) or by working with an external party. In most cases such an external party would be sub-contracted – selection of a sub-contractor, also considering the value for money eligibility requirement, would be part of your activity implementation.

Risk management

Risk management is an important component of good project planning and management. A risk mitigation plan should be designed to eliminate or minimise the impact of the risk occurrences that

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[2] Horizon Europe guidance on dissemination will be provided on Plaza as soon as it is available.

have a negative impact on the activity. It is an EIT requirement for each proposal to submit a list of risks and associated mitigation measures.

Please note that the risk register must include risks and mitigation measures for a partner leaving or no longer being eligible to receive EIT funding (see also the Brexit guidance under section 5).

7 RIS (Regional Innovation Scheme)

The overarching objective of EIT RIS activities is to replicate the successful elements of EIT Food's operational model by catalysing cooperation for innovation on local levels and adapting as appropriate the successful elements of Knowledge Triangle Integration in targeted EIT RIS countries (for the list of RIS eligible countries and regions please see Annex 4).

Investments in RIS will be increased to represent at least 10% of the entire portfolio, and these opportunities are highlighted throughout this document.

Partner-led RIS activities supplement the centrally co-ordinated portfolio of RIS activities, implemented in line with the EIT Food RIS Strategy. These activities must target beneficiaries from EIT RIS countries, provided that they do not belong to the performance groups of Innovation Leaders or Strong Innovators, according to the European Innovation Scoreboard.

8 Guidance for multi-annual Activities

Due to the Regulation governing its Grant Cycles, EIT currently implements annual Business Plans. This means that multi-annual projects must be presented as a series of linked one-year Activities, where each individual activity contributes to the KPIs, and where there is no risk of funding the same work twice in different years. Please note that activities which entered their 3rd year of funding in 2020 are not eligible for continuation (with the exception of infrastructure and RIS activities).

Call activities, which started in 2020 or earlier (including Grand Challenges) and have indicated their intention to continue in 2021, will undergo a thorough assessment as part of the 2021 call process:

- Innovation continuing activities: proposers will need to submit a *Progress Summary* along with the full proposal by 31 May to enable an appraisal of progress achieved in 2020. The review of the continuing activities will be done in June 2020. Results of this assessment will contribute to the scoring of the proposals.

- Public Engagement (Communication) continuing activities: proposers will need to submit a *Progress Summary* along with the Intention to Submit by 5 April. A review will determine which activities are eligible and advised to proceed with a final submission by 31 May. Please note that this process is also a requirement for the infrastructure activities TrustTracker® and FoodUnfolded®.

- All Grand Challenge activities: proposers will need to submit a *Progress Summary* along with the Intention to Submit by 5 April. A review will determine which activities are eligible to apply for continuation funding, and the amount of funding available for 2021. Proposers then need to complete the full proposal by 31 May.

- RIS and RIS Challenges: proposers will need to submit a *Progress Summary* along with the Intention to Submit by 5 April. A review will determine which activities are eligible to apply for continuation funding, and the amount of funding available for 2021. Proposers then need to complete the full proposal by 31 May.

9 Financial Sustainability

EIT Food's primary objective is to create impact as described in its Strategic Agenda. It is our ambition to attract and support excellent and complex activities which individual partners could not have developed by themselves. This requires delivery of services and funding of activities by EIT Food that need to be backed by a robust and long-term financial sustainability strategy. This includes:

For all Innovation activities (including RIS), proposers must provide a specific and robust mechanism for a return on investment for successful activities. The suggested mechanism should be adjusted to the risk and conform to standard market practices. The Innovation activity proposal should provide sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation by experts and the signature of a binding agreement between EIT Food and one or more partners in the consortium.

A financial return on investment to EIT Food can be, for example, the revenue sharing of product/service sales, sharing of IP licensing revenues or equity in startups created. Examples of expected text in a activity proposal:

> *The Innovation activity will contribute to the Financial Sustainability of the KIC LE (EIT Food ivzw) in case of successful exploitation of the results by:*
> - *a lumpsum payment of XXX €, payable in DD/MM/YYYY OR,*
> - *a yearly fixed revenue of XXX € per year during YYY years and starting when the following event will occur (describe here....) OR,*
> - *a yearly revenue share of products/services XYZ sales of XXX % of revenues generated during YYY years and starting when the following event will occur (describe here....) (potentially with a minimum and /or cap of XXX €) OR,*
> - *a yearly revenue share of XXX% of revenues generated by royalties collected on IPR licenses, during YYY years (potentially with a minimum and/or cap of XXX €)*
> *, agreed in future contract / specific project agreement to be signed with .... (name of the partner(s)) and KIC LE/EIT Food ivzw along with the signature of the IGA.*

Please note that for a model based on a revenue share of product/service sales or IP licensing, the exploiting partner(s) is expected to provide information on the business model to evaluate the total market addressed, the potential market and the expected sales of products/services over the period of the agreement. At least one consortium partner will be responsible for the enactment of the mechanism, and one of the work packages of the activity is expected to complete the business case.

This information will be assessed by external experts during the review process.

Proposers may also opt for the alternative standard ROI mechanism that is under development by EIT Food in collaboration with its partners; the details of this mechanism will be available on Plaza once it has been finalised. Proposers whose activities will contribute to the KIC financial sustainability on the basis of this standard mechanism, will avoid the evaluation phase of the mechanism when reviewing activities and, if their activities are included in BP2021, they will be invited to sign the standard agreement.

Please note that Financial Sustainability is not a compulsory requirement for Public Engagement activities, where societal impact is key. Activities need to clearly indicate how they will achieve societal impact. However, if consortia see a potential for financial sustainability in a Public Engagement activity, we encourage that consortium to bring it forward in their proposal and to deliver on it, as it will contribute to the overall success and performance rating of the KIC in future evaluations by EIT.

PART 3: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

10   Call structure & process

To meet the differing needs and structure of the portfolio in each Functional Area, as well as the overall portfolio strategy, the Call for Proposals and Contributors 2021 is split into:

- Call for proposals: an opportunity to propose activities by existing or new consortia addressing the priorities defined in the areas of Innovation, Public Engagement and RIS.

- Call for contributors: an opportunity for partners to join an existing infrastructure activity or signal interest to work on a pre-defined Activity Line in Business Creation and Education (including RIS).

- To address any skills and competence gaps in the existing EIT Food partnership, we will launch an Open Call to enable organisations outside the current network to express their interest to participate in selected activities. These will be rolled out in Innovation and Public Engagement and will follow a separate process and timeline. Please refer to the area specific sections for more details.

Call for Proposals

Like last year, the Call process will be split into **two stages** – (1) intention to submit, and (2) submission of full proposal. **Please note that the Intention to Submit is mandatory for all proposals**. However, to accommodate the different priorities for each Functional Area there are some area-specific differences:

- Innovation and RIS Innovation Proposals:

   1. New activities: consortia must complete an Intention to Submit on Plaza by 5 April and elaborate a full proposal by 31 May. After the receipt of expression of interest, similar proposals will be encouraged to seek synergies and possibilities for combining efforts;

   2. Continuing activities: consortia must complete an Intention to Submit on Plaza by 5 April and elaborate a full proposal by 31 May. This includes a *Progress Summary* (template available on Plaza) to enable an appraisal of progress.

- Public Engagement and RIS Public Engagement proposals:

   1. Continuing activities: consortia must complete an Intention to Submit on Plaza by 5 April, including a *Progress Summary*. These activities will undergo a review process involving external experts and EIT Food Programme Management (6-20 April) [3]. Activities given the advice to proceed will submit a full proposal by 31 May on Plaza. Activity Leaders of selected continuing activities will be invited to a consultation workshop. A webinar for partners will be published on the Plaza on Friday 13 March, detailing the Public Engagement Call for Proposals process for continuing activities.

   2. New activities: EIT Food will call for Proof of Concept Societal Potential proposals for new activities in a selected set of the social impact indicators and the Focus Areas. Call guidelines and full details will be published on EIT Food Plaza and the EIT Food website early April. Proof of Concepts are a first step in defining new multi-year activities. If successful, this process should lead to proofed, multi-year activities demonstrating considerable impact potential that will be implemented from 2022 onwards.

Call for Contributors

The Call for Contributors aims to widen the consortia already working on infrastructure activities to expand their reach and to accelerate the delivery of impact. The consortia for the activities that are called for in this document will welcome partners wishing to join them. For each Activity described in Part 5 there is a strategic development plan outlining priority areas to strengthen or expand, and this

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[3] Please note that this assessment does not replace the annual project mid-year review.

guides which contributions are specified, what competences are sought (e.g. geographical presence), and what are the criteria for joining an Infrastructure Activity (e.g. co-funding).

- Education: The Call is organised in two parts:

  1. Partners interested in becoming an Activity Leader for one of the new Activity Lines should email the completed application form (available on Plaza) by 5 April to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu. The review process includes external experts, and partners will pitch to them. EIT Food Programme Managers will work with the selected Activity Leaders to build consortia and prepare the full proposal on Plaza by 31 May.

  2. Contributors interested in joining one of the Activity Lines submit their expression of interest by 5 April, and will be invited to a workshop at the end of April to work with the Activity Leader to build the Activity Line contents. Expression of interest can be made via the Call for Contributors template on Plaza, and emailed to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu.

- Business Creation: contributors interested in joining one of the infrastructure activities submit their expression of interest by 19 April, and the full proposal will be elaborated by the Activity Leader by 31 May. Expression of interest can be made via the Call for Contributors template on Plaza, and emailed to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu. The full proposal will be submitted on Plaza.

11 Assessment and portfolio constitution

All full proposals will be reviewed by a joint team of EIT Food Programme Managers and experienced external experts selected through an open call. The review will be based on the evaluation criteria outlined in section 12.

Call for Proposals

After submission, proposals will be checked for eligibility using the following criteria:

- Completeness: only proposals that have all fields completed and that have been formally submitted by the relevant deadline will be considered;
- Consortium: only proposals that meet the criteria for consortia as outlined in section 5 will be considered;
- Approach: the proposal is based on a food systemic approach and involves players from different parts of the food value chain (from farm to fork approach);
- Impact: the action creates impact for both the society and environment by contributing to EIT Food´s Social Impact Indicators, EIT Core KPIs, or is an Enabler to achieve the above-mentioned Impact Indicators and KPIs;
- Business model: the proposal contains a well-defined business model with a concrete route to market strategy, including a partner obligation to bring the product or service to the market;
- Transferability: the solution contributes to or can be applied across different product categories or regions (e.g. the solution is applicable for different crops, different food applications, can be transferred from one country to another).

For activities targeting RIS funding, further eligibility criteria apply:

- Contribute to at least one RIS Specific Objective, and demonstrate tangible impacts for innovation ecosystems of EIT RIS countries and mitigate the risks of brain-drain in agrifood sector;
- RIS activities should be developed in a minimum of three RIS countries;
- Benefit stakeholders in RIS countries, who are not yet EIT Food partners. EIT Food partners are expected to implement these activities and provide support to external stakeholders;
- Select end beneficiaries in a transparent manner via publicly available and broadly communicated announcements (open calls), allowing the participation of applicants from RIS countries targeted by EIT Food's RIS Strategy.

Full proposals will then be grouped by Functional Area before being allocated to a Review Panel.

More specific guidance about the review process will be provided after the Intention to Submit phase, and once we have received the final Business Plan preparation guidelines from EIT. We provisionally

foresee that review meetings will be held during the week of 22 June 2020, when a dialogue with Activity Leaders / project consortia may be required. After the Intention to Submit step has closed, a timetable will be established and communicated on Plaza.

Call for Contributors

Partners who express an interest in joining an infrastructure activity or an Activity Line will be connected with the Activity Leader to explore the scope for integration depending on strategic fit, geographical presence and specific competence requirements.

Applications for an Activity Leader role for an Education Activity Line will be reviewed by a panel of experts considering the criteria that are detailed in section 16.

Infrastructure activities

Infrastructure activities will be reviewed by external experts to appraise the merits and recommend points for improvement and increase value for money. Based on the recommendations of the review panels, the responsible Functional Director will compile a review summary and action plan for the infrastructure activities. These documents will include:

- Meeting minutes of the review panel. The starting point for these minutes is a synthesis of the written feedback by each of the reviewers, supplemented with a record of salient discussion points;
- Action Plan for the activity. This involves an overview of the recommendations from the panel, and a timeline for possible implementation:
  1. Short term: recommendations that can be implemented in 2021;
  2. Medium term: recommendations that can be implemented in 2022 or 2023;
  3. Long term: recommendations that can be implemented in 2024 and beyond;

  For recommendations that cannot be implemented in a meaningful way due to funding restrictions or that are technically not feasible, a rationale will be recorded as to why these cannot be actioned.

Portfolio constitution

The results of the proposal review process will be taken into consideration by the Management Board of EIT Food when making the final decision on which proposals will be selected for submission to EIT. Selected proposals need to support a well-balanced portfolio matching expected available budget and the strategic expectations of EIT Food. Preference will be given to proposals which integrate aspects of two or more of the Functional Areas.

The cumulative requested funding from EIT will determine the number of activities that can be funded. Therefore, proposals will be classified with respect to the likelihood to be included in the final portfolio of activities. All accepted proposals fitting into the expected budget envelope will be proposed to EIT for funding. Whether they can be executed will depend on the final budget available to EIT Food:

- Even if the budget is on the lower end of expected funding, high priority proposals will have a very good chance to be included in the Business Plan,
- If the budget is in the middle of the expected range, most medium priority proposals have a very good chance to be included in the Business Plan,
- Any further increases in the budget envelope will enable the inclusion of lower priority activities.

The final budget envelope will be communicated by EIT after the Governing Board Hearing in November 2020.

After the review

Proposers will be informed about the results of the EIT Food review process and receive feedback by 13 July. Feedback on full proposals will be provided in the FEEDBACK tab of your proposals in the submission tool on EIT Food Plaza. For the proposals that will be included in the Draft Business Plan 2021, proposers will be given the opportunity to adjust certain aspects to ensure compliance with EIT's requirements, and to add KIC Specific KPIs where required. In order to improve the robustness of the entire review process, EIT Food has a formal redress mechanism as outlined in Annex 3.

12 Evaluation criteria

The matrix below outlines the overarching structure of the evaluation criteria that will inform the review process for Call-based proposals, continuing activities (including Grand Challenges) and infrastructure activities. However, these are still subject to change depending on forthcoming EIT guidance. EIT Food will issue more specific information about the evaluation approach by the end of April, or at the latest once EIT guidance has been received.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of implementation
Soundness/credibility of the concept	Contribution to EIT Food's Strategic Objectives/Focus Areas	Effectiveness of the workplan
Innovativeness and quality of the proposed solution/ offering	Contribution to KPIs (including societal impact indicators)	Management structures and procedures
Demonstration of market need/demand	Contribution to the Financial sustainability strategy	Competences, experience and complementarity of the consortium
Value for Money of the proposed activity	Demonstration of distinctive EIT/EU added value, especially regarding Knowledge Triangle Integration	Robustness of implementation plan beyond the workplan, scale of impact

13 Key dates
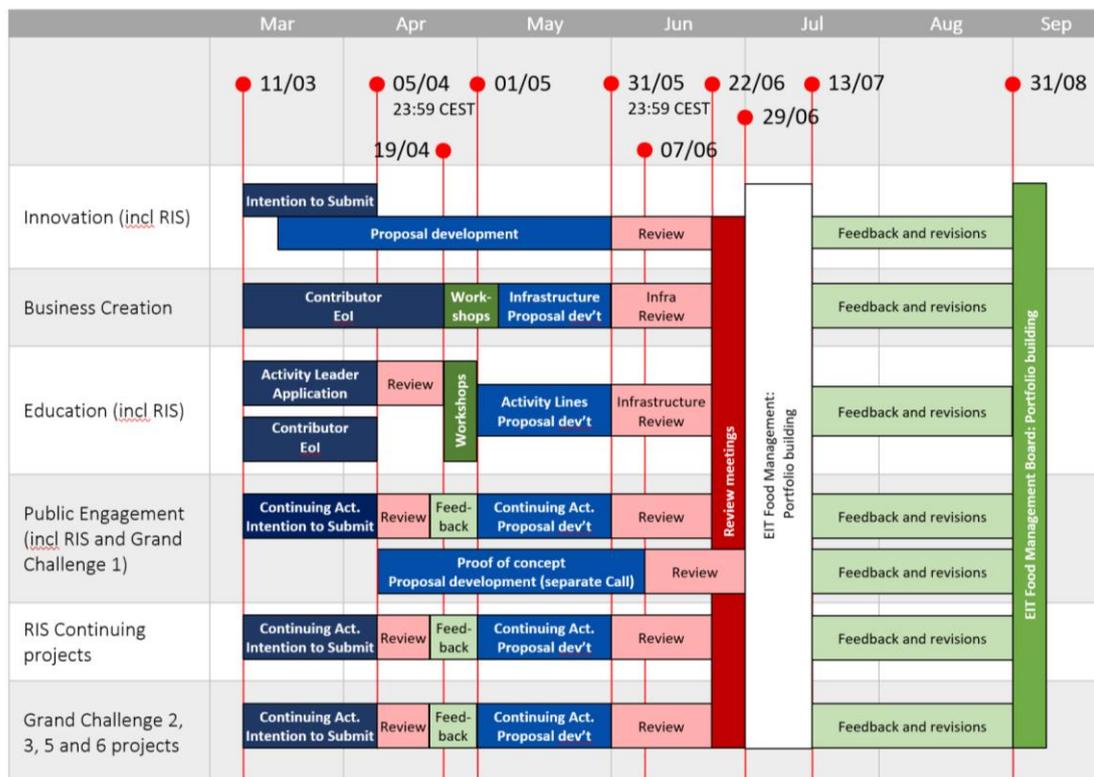
Please note that continuing activities must submit a Progress Summary; for Innovation proposals this is by 31/05, for Public Engagement, RIS and Grand Challenge projects this is by 05/04.

EIT's Business Plan preparation guidelines, once received, will provide more details on the final submission deadline (foreseen in September 2020) and next steps for Business Plan finalisation.

PART 4: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

14   Innovation

As in previous years, EIT Food is looking for Innovation Activities that are focused on developing technology-based products, processes, services and business models with tangible economic and societal impact that are carried out in an entrepreneurial way of working with an open innovation mindset. We aim to invest in highly motivated and capable consortia that run like a venture and are committed to deliver concrete products, processes and services with breakthrough potential and likelihood of reaching the consumer.

Structure of the call	• Continuing activities • New activities
Indicative budget for the call	The budget allocation per Focus Area is estimated as follows: <table><tr><td>Focus Area 1</td><td>Up to 15%</td><td>Focus Area 4</td><td>Up to 20%</td></tr><tr><td>Focus Area 2</td><td>Up to 20%</td><td>Focus Area 5</td><td>Up to 15%</td></tr><tr><td>Focus Area 3</td><td>Up to 15%</td><td>Focus Area 6</td><td>Up to 20%</td></tr></table> It is expected that approx. 40% of the overall Innovation area envelope will be allocated to continuing activities.
Relevant KPIs	Mandatory • EITNew01 # Innovative products/services designed or tested • EITN03 # Products (goods or services) launched on the market and generating revenue Optional • EITN04 # Start-ups created as a result of innovation projects
Process	The call will be organised in two steps: • Intention to Submit – deadline 5 April 2020 • Submission of full proposal – deadline 31 May 2020 • Evaluation of proposals – 01-26 June 2020 • Review meetings including Q&A – week of 26 June 2020 • Feedback and revision of full proposal – 13 July-August 2020
Platform	Proposals are to be submitted via EIT Food Plaza.

Scope of Innovation Proposals

EIT Food has selected six Focus Areas to actively drive the food system transformation and deliver the highest impact on society, economy, health and/or environment. These Focus Areas are the cornerstones of the EIT Food Innovation portfolio in the coming years and encompass the whole agrifood ecosystem, from primary sector to retail and consumption. Each Focus Area is further described by challenges that were defined to help partners address and contribute to both EIT Food´s Societal Impact Indicators and Strategic Objectives (for more information on each Focus Area and the pre-defined challenges, please refer to Annex 2).

In the 2021 call, EIT Food will give priority to excellent proposals addressing at least one of the Challenges assigned to the six Focus Areas. Moreover, we welcome activity proposals that address more than one Challenge and/or more than one Focus Area.

In order to facilitate visibility to EIT Food partners of proposals received at the Intention to Submit stage, following sections of the proposals will be made visible and searchable on Plaza: (1) Name of the

Activity, (2) Lead Partner and Activity Leader (incl. contact details), (3) Activity description for public dissemination, (4) Chosen Focus Area(s) and Challenge(s).

Regional Innovation Scheme

Proposals targeting beneficiaries from EIT RIS regions should be contextualised for the targeted RIS regions and linked with the relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies where viable. Priority will be given to excellent proposals that address one or more of the challenges under one of the Focus Areas.

Continuing activities

Additional requirements for continuing activities: proposals that build on activities started in the previous year(s) and have submitted an Intention to Submit for 2021 will also be evaluated on their achievement of the impact planned in the ongoing activity (Business Plan 2020). This assessment will be done through:

- *Progress Summary* – a report prepared by the activity consortium assessing the achievements of the current ongoing activity within BP 2020. This document must be submitted with the final proposal by May 31 and will be assessed by the external experts.

- Outcome of the Mid-year dialogue with the ongoing 2020 activities with the assigned Innovation Programme Manager that will focus on project achievements and expected impact. The mid-year dialogue will consider the *Progress Summary* and assessment of the external experts.

Potential follow-up Open Call

In case the proposals submitted in the framework of this Call will not be able to address the ambitions set out in the Focus Areas, EIT Food may decide to run an additional Call for external contributors to fill the identified competence gaps. The decision to run the Call will be taken following the assessment of the submitted proposals in June 2020 and the resulting coverage of the defined challenges in the six Focus Areas. For RIS activities this may include external contributors to ensure context-specific competences and/or geographic presence.

Key considerations for activities which require ethics approval and/or potential submission to EFSA for Health Claims

Where a proposal contains the recruitment and/or evaluation of human volunteers, e.g. collection of biological samples, personal data, medical interventions, interviews, observations, evaluation of devices, tracking or the secondary use of information provided for other purposes (e.g. other research projects, officially collected information, social media sites), it is required to include a statement in the submission document confirming that the H2020 Programme Guidance – 'How to complete your ethics self-assessment"[4], or its successor for Horizon Europe, has been read and that the guidance with respect to completion of procedures for ethics approval in your local region will be followed.

In addition, if the proposal involves the testing of foods, food components, diets for the purposes of evaluating their effects on human health with the known intention to submit any positive findings for evaluation of an EFSA Health claim, the proposal will be evaluated by a group of specially selected experts. It is not expected to include all documentation required for a full submission to EFSA.

However, the evaluation will assess whether the design aspects of the study are consistent with EFSA guidelines [revised version 2017][5]. It is required that the Activity Leader first informs the Director of Innovation should such a submission be planned. For further detailed information and regulation, please consult the FPA and SGA.

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[4] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf
[5] http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4680/epdf

15 Public Engagement

The Public Engagement (Communication) Functional Area aims to actively promote and support a shift in engagement from consumers as passive recipients, to citizens as change agents. Through our engagement activities we will:

- Listen to people's concerns and questions;
- Provide knowledge based on facts and science to answer people's concerns and questions;
- Engage people in dialogue and co-creation/ideation;
- Gain trust;
- Mobilise people and convert them into active players/change agents.

The area is subdivided in two programmes: Explore and Network. The Explore Programme of EIT Food addresses the needs of the consumer and increases public knowledge and interest in food related topics. This is achieved by providing opportunities to identify needs and ideate/co-create new products, services and technologies, experience new products and trends, services and technologies and to share information in interactive formats. The Network Programme aims to build a strong global professional stakeholder network around EIT Food and its partners, strengthening co-creation and societal impact.

It is the intention of EIT Food to build a strong portfolio of public engagement activities that contribute to societal impact and have a strong outreach component. Multi-year, larger activities are instrumental in this. EIT Food wants to stimulate its partners to take this into account in their activity proposals. With a stronger drive for multi-year and larger activities in the Public Engagement (Communication) area, and as such larger total investments per activity, EIT Food has re-arranged the structure of the Public Engagement Call in two stages for 2021.

Structure of the call	• Stage 1: Continuing activities. This concerns activities that started in 2020 or earlier, that have the ambition to continue in 2021. An activity can apply for funding for a maximum of three years. • Stage 2: A Call for Proof of Concepts Societal Potential for **new** activities will be opened early April 2020.
Maximum expected KAVA budget for Continuing activities	• Explore: € 450k • Network: € 450k
KPIs	KPIs and their values will be established in dialogue between Activity Leader and EIT Food Programme Management.
Process Phase 1 Continuing activities	• Intention to Submit and completed *Progress Summary* – deadline 5 April 2020 • Review by external experts and Programme Management – 6-20 April 2020 • Advice to stop or proceed with full proposal – 22 April • Consultation/feedback phase, including workshop – 22-30 April • Submission of full proposal – 31 May 2020 • Review of full proposal by external experts and Programme Management – 1-20 June 2020 • Final consolidation meetings for reviewers – week of 26 June 2020 • Feedback and revision of full proposal – 13 July-August 2020
Platform Phase 1: Continuing activities	Intention to Submit, completed *Progress Summary* and full proposals have to be submitted via EIT Food Plaza. The format of the *Progress Summary* can be downloaded separately from EIT Food Plaza.

Proof of Concept proposals

In 2021 EIT Food plans to run Proof of Concepts Societal Potential for all new Public Engagement activities as a first step in new multi-year large activities. The Proof of Concept, if successful, should lead to proofed, multi-year activities demonstrating considerable impact potential. The first year of successful Proof of Concepts will in turn be included in the 2022 Business Plan.

A Call for Proof of Concepts Societal Potential for **new** activities will be opened early April 2020. EIT Food will call for proposals to predefined social impact indicators and Focus Areas. This Call will be an Open Call and as such the Call guidelines will be published on EIT Food Plaza and the EIT Food website. However, consortia will need to include at minimum one EIT Food partner (Activity Leader).

Proposals targeting beneficiaries from EIT RIS regions should be contextualised for the targeted RIS regions, and linked with the relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies where viable. Priority will be given to excellent proposals that address one or more of the challenges under one of the Focus Areas.

Additional Access Rights

For Public Engagement (Communication) activities, consortia will be required to grant to KIC LE additional Access Rights on (non-confidential) Data/Developed (Communication) tools, resulting from the activity. KIC LE will have to be granted the right to these for internal purposes, including further research such as but not limited to quantitative and qualitative studies, and for communication/dissemination and publication by disclosing the Data/developed tools to the general public by appropriate means, excluding scientific publications. The rights include the rights to communicate through press information services, inclusion in widely accessible databases, editing or redrafting, translation, presenting, showcasing and exhibiting, storage and archiving and the right to authorise third parties to act on behalf of EIT Food.

PART 5: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

16 Education

The Education Functional Area aims to provide food system and entrepreneurial skills for students, entrepreneurs and professionals addressing specific skill gaps through advanced training programmes and for a larger number of citizens, through MOOCs[6]. To provide a clear focus for Education programmes, we have defined a Competency Framework of eight priority areas to develop talent in the food system.

Based on a consultation with partners and interactive workshops during the Annual Partner event in Budapest in January 2020, the Education portfolio from 2021 onwards will be structured by Activity Lines. These are single Infrastructure Activities that bundle specific Education programme types (e.g. Food Solutions) to drive both efficiency and impact as they:

- are commissioned for multiple years to address clearly identified market needs and build demand;
- harness best practice in teaching and learning and set high standards for the student experience;
- will be optimised for an ambitious number of learners;
- enable a coordinated and resource efficient approach to marketing and planning of run dates;
- include a clearly identified financial sustainability mechanism.

Each Activity Line will be based on a blueprint of a programme type, that then is rolled out for clearly identified audiences by sub-groups of the consortium. Jointly with EIT Food Programme Management, the Activity Leader and Contributors will co-create the framework, quality assurance and content, and execute contextualised programmes for agreed target audiences. 2021 will be a pilot year to set up structures, and EIT Food welcome visionaries who want to help shape and design this framework to create impact.

Structure of the call	- Activity Leaders - Contributors	A webinar about the Activity Lines will be organised in the week of 30 March 2020.
Activity Lines	- Inspire programmes (Summer Schools) – Activity Leader and Contributors - RIS Summer Schools – Activity Leader and Contributors - Food Solutions programmes – Activity Leader and Contributors - Professional Development – Contributors for two Activity Lines - RIS Professional Development/SME workshops/Farmers – Activity Leader and Contributors - RIS Fellowships (postgraduate students/postdocs) – Activity Leader and Contributors - RIS Public Authorities/Representatives – Activity Leader and Contributors	
KPIs	KPIs and their values will be established in dialogue between Activity Leader and EIT Food Programme Management.	
Process Activity Leaders	- Application form sent to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu – 05 April 2020 - Review by external experts and Programme Management – 6-20 April 2020 - Pitch to review panel, including Q&A – week of 20 April 2020 - Feedback to applicants – 24 April 2020 1-day workshop to co-create the Activity Line with EIT Food Programme Management and Contributors – End April 2020 - Submission of full proposal – 31 May 2020	
Process Contributors	- Expression of Interest sent to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu – 05 April 2020 1-day workshop to co-create the Activity Line with the Activity Leader and EIT Food Programme Management – End April 2020 - Confirmation of contribution with Activity Leader – 1-31 May 2020	

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[6] Please note that in 2021, there will be no call for new content for MOOCs.

Activity Lines for 2021

Professional Development

Based on EIT Food's Competence Framework, the Professional Development Activity Lines (including RIS) provide core skills development for career development of professionals already working in, or wishing to transition into, the food system. Courses vary in format, duration and target audience, and can focus on technical and/or underpinning capabilities. From 2021, EIT Food will offer pre-existing course content from partners and third parties, provided such content is in line with the Framework.

Please note that existing professional development courses that in previous years were submitted as part of the Call for Proposals process will be integrated into one of three Professional Development Activity Lines; as such, those activities do not require a new proposal, but the consortia delivering these programmes must provide an Expression of Interest as a Contributor.

The RIS Professional Development Activity Line will focus on beneficiaries from RIS regions, in a format that prevents brain drain from RIS regions but supports regional network and capacity building. Activity leaders for RIS proposals will have to submit a new proposal for 2021 and will be focused on beneficiaries from RIS regions, such as SMEs, farmers, professionals and researchers.

Inspire Programmes

Inspire programmes (formerly Summer Schools) are 1-2 week long experiential interventions focussed on entrepreneurship, the (co-)creation of entrepreneurial ideas, innovation and business creation principles and skills. Programmes may be designed as a general entrepreneurship/innovation experience, or may have a thematic focus linked to one of the Focus Areas. From 2021, the ambition is to train at least 400 learners, who may come from a broad range of backgrounds. The format could also be used for learners from professional settings such as employees wishing to develop intrapreneurial skills.

Programmes aimed at clearly circumscribed groups such as RIS country delegates, women and minorities with limited access to entrepreneurship training in the food sector are considered a priority. For programmes designed to accelerate pre-existing ideas, alignment with Business Creation pipeline is recommended.

The RIS Inspire Activity Line will focus on beneficiaries from RIS regions, in a format that supports regional network and capacity building on those stakeholders that are highly relevant for the future development of the agrifood ecosystem such as SMEs, farmers, students and researchers.

Food Solutions Programmes

Food Solution Programmes are designed around a practical challenge set by an industry partner. To make sure students understand ideation, innovation, entrepreneurship and business creation, the programmes focus on practical approaches, and give the students the toolkit that is needed to become effective innovators in the food system. Food Solutions Programmes typically last between three months and a year, are integrated into regular schedules (thus providing credits), recruit interdisciplinary student teams and focus on a real life industry challenge. Academics and professionals both are involved in the programmes; the Activity Line ambition is to train at least 200 learners per year. Industry should be able to provide the initial idea, contribute via coaching and/or industry visits. From 2021, all Food Solution Programmes should structure their content around the Focus Areas.

RIS Fellowship Programmes

RIS fellowships programmes are designed to engage local players – individuals (notably students and researchers) and entities (e.g. start-ups, scale-ups, industries, universities, research labs) – in EIT Food activities by practically demonstrating the benefits of Knowledge Triangle Integration, through collaboration between talents from higher education, industrial companies and startups.

EIT RIS fellowship programmes should trigger and facilitate academia, research and industry involvement in educational internship programmes for graduates and young PhDs. This programme should offer to RIS beneficiaries important outreach opportunities with academic, industry and research

institutions, attracting talents to the agri-food industry, and raising the competitiveness of food sector in EIT RIS countries through professional development.

Internships in EIT Food partner organisations must also be designed for RIS beneficiaries to get valuable insights into operations of leading agrifood companies and strengthen their knowledge of innovations in various segments of the food system. Cross-country intersectoral mobility, knowledge transfer and collaborations within the Knowledge Triangle are a must at the same time that it prevents brain drain from RIS regions but supports regional network and capacity building. From 2021, a typical scholarship programme should aim to engage 50-60 students.

RIS Public Representatives Programmes

RIS Public Representatives programmes are designed to enable a structured dialogue with national, regional and local authorities which can contribute to a better understanding of Knowledge Triangle value and the incorporation of its components to their policy making. Access to policy makers will strengthen synergies and complementarities at all governance levels. The programme should be focused on removing unnecessary barriers, but also enhancing the effectiveness of the local innovation eco-system and mobilising possible additional sources of funding.

EIT Food aims to play an active role in facilitating relations and synergies with local public, regional or national authorities, other relevant EU programmes or any other initiatives. This programme envisions to broader the EIT RIS impact at national/ regional level, which can be achieved by interacting with S3 responsible national/regional authorities, managing authorities, regional institutions and implementing actors. From 2021, RIS public representative programmes should structure their content around the Focus Areas and to should aim to engage a minimum of 50 public representatives.

Collaboration and competences sought from partners for 2021 activities

Contributors

EIT Food invites partners to express their interest in supporting one or more Activity Lines, based on one of the following profiles:

- Academic partners providing teaching capabilities and faculty, access to knowledge and facilities, and quality control systems to structure robust and relevant programmes that may be credit-bearing. Expertise with novel learning approaches and experiential programme designs will be highly valued to help shape high quality content. Please note that all content offered must align with EIT Food's Competence Framework and quality standards;
- Industry partners providing industrial challenges, mentoring support, insights and access to facilities and support for students and/or professionals in their learning journey, particularly about innovation and food systems in practice;
- Research institutes providing access to knowledge, responsible research and innovation, mentoring support, and access to facilities and infrastructure;
- Startups providing access to entrepreneurial competences, mentoring support, inspiration, insights and access for students and/or professionals, particularly about entrepreneurship in practice.

The Expression of Interest form provides the opportunity to describe the capabilities, competences and access that the contributing partner could offer.

Activity Leader role

EIT Food is inviting partners to apply for the role of Activity Leader for one of the following Activity Lines: Inspire Programmes, Food Solutions Programmes, and all four RIS Education programmes. While partners may apply for multiple Activity Leader roles, please note that, due to the foreseen workload, individuals will not be allowed to act as Activity Leader for more than a single Activity Line.

The specific requirements for the role are as follows:

- A person, supported by a small team at the same partner, to be the continuous lead and coordinator of the Activity Line for up to 4 years, subject to an annual review. Please note that RIS Education Activity Lines are subject to the priorities in the new EIT RIS strategy for Horizon Europe;
- The person and team should demonstrate substantial expertise in the following domains:

1. Entrepreneurship and innovation teaching, based on experiential learning approaches. Thought leadership in entrepreneurship education will be an advantage
2. Food systems approaches in teaching and learning
3. Co-creative programme design, including quality assurance of teaching and learning, delivery across multiple sites including harmonisation of programmes in intercultural contexts, and scaling of programmes
4. Professional project management and coordination, including EIT Grant Cycle processes; excellent communication skills, and a flexible and pragmatic attitude
5. Business development and marketing
- The person and team should demonstrate a long-term vision for their respective Activity Line, driven to excel in producing a high-quality framework that will be financially sustainable in the near future;
- Past experience in organising the respective programme type will be an advantage;
- For RIS Education programmes, familiarity with the EIT Food RIS strategy is a must, and a thorough understanding of Smart Specialisation Strategies for different RIS countries will be an advantage.

The application form (available on Plaza) provides a structure to describe each of these elements in detail. It is worth noting that it will be an advantage to clarify the long-term vision and proposed approach for a particular Activity Line, and, if relevant, how one or more of the Focus Areas could be mobilised. Applicants will pitch to the review panel, followed by a Q&A, in the week of 20 April.

17 Business Creation

EIT Food's Business Creation strategy, based on the concept of Smart Entrepreneurial Development, aims to provide a full range of services to support different target groups, from early entrepreneurs to scaleups and SMEs, in the creation and the development process of agrifood companies. In 2021, the focus will be placed on:

- Giving continuity to the existing programmes, by consolidating and scaling the activities already in place;
- Connecting the Business Creation programmes with the six Focus Areas, by prioritising the scouting and selection of impactful business ideas / startups that will contribute to achieve our strategic objectives and organising dedicated side-tracks on Focus Areas.

Structure of the call	Contributors, to expand the reach of strategic activities
Activities	- Seedbed Incubator - EIT Food Accelerator Network - RisingFoodStars
Process	- Expression of Interest sent to CfPSupport@eitfood.eu – 19 April 2020 - 1-day workshop to explore opportunities for partner participation in business creation programmes – End April 2020 - Scoping of contribution with Activity Leader – 1-31 May 2020
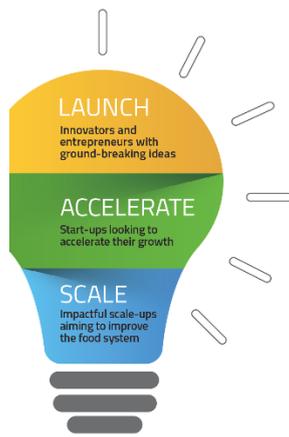
Seedbed Incubator 💡
Identify your key customers, test the market and take your minimum viable product from a commercial proposition to a validated business

EIT Food Accelerator Network 💡
Join our 4-month accelerator programme and receive tools, connections & mentoring to increase your visibility and impact, fast-track your growth and maximise your chances of success

RisingFoodStars 💡
Become a member of the EIT Food ecosystem; gain easy access to our unparalleled network of companies and universities, increase your visibility and reputation, and improve the food system

SeedBed Incubator

The SeedBed Incubator (launched in 2019) aims at driving the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and to operationally support the development and validation of transformational technologies / disruptive business models towards the creation of new startups.

The goal is to strengthen food-related Business Creation activities by integrating support for technological development, validation of business model and training/creation of multidisciplinary teams, with the aim of feeding the pipeline with promising new businesses.

The 8-10 week programme is open to both intra/entrepreneurial teams with a business project (not yet incorporated) or recently created ventures with a first proof of concept (TRL3). The 2020 programme relies on hubs based in UK, Poland, Spain, Germany and Denmark.

EIT Food Accelerator Network

The EIT Food Accelerator Network (launched in 2018) offers tailor-made acceleration support from top industry and university leaders to high-impact European agrifood startups. It is a 4-month programme running in parallel in six locations (Switzerland, Germany, Israel, UK, Spain and Finland). Each hub location, led by a partner, develops its ecosystem and customises its programme to support an average of 10 startups each year, while the recruitment and judging processes are centralised and supported by a common IT platform.

RisingFoodStars

The RisingFoodStars Network (launched in 2018) facilitates outstanding early scaleups access to knowledge, networks and the opportunity to actively engage in EIT Food's activities. Successful scaleups become part of a network for a longer period (average 3 years), allowing to get: (1) Easy access & personalised introduction to the unparalleled EIT Food network, (2) Increased visibility by participating at best-in-class agrifood and business events, both in Europe and globally, (3) Enhanced European reach to reach new markets and develop internationally and (4) Tailored support in scaling up, investments and the typical pains of a scaleup

Collaboration and competences sought from partners for 2021 activities

EIT Food invites partners to express their interest in supporting the selected entrepreneurs, startups and scaleups from SeedBed, EIT FAN and RisingFoodStars, providing them with expertise and infrastructure.

Examples of potential contributions:

- Mentors: There is the need to expand the pool of committed and dedicated mentors and sector experts from different profiles (agronomists, food technologists, nutritionists, marketeers, business developers, etc.) and especially those from Industry and Business Schools. Given the diverse mix and stage of our entrepreneurs and EIT Food's own goals, we encourage partners to increase diversity

and include, if possible, more underrepresented groups (gender, ethnic, etc.) into a high-quality pool of experts.

- Expert services: There is a need to provide expertise in IP, tax, IT, product development, quality, food regulatory, food safety, packaging, advertising, technology and commercial assessment, business development and internationalisation among others.
- Infrastructure: Partners are also invited to contribute with infrastructure they can make available such as laboratory space, pilot plant, raw material, etc.

This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage partners to communicate their availability to support entrepreneurs with any other expertise they can offer.

Annexes

Annex 1: Focus Area Challenges for 2021

1. Alternative Proteins: Challenges

Scope: New/alternative protein sources can be obtained through the development of efficient and sustainable production and processing methods to yield high quality, safe, healthy, and sustainable products or ingredients for food and feed.   **Call 2021 Strategy:** The market opportunity in alternative proteins is high and for several Partners this is a strategic area. There are broad innovation streams that result from the Partners feedback and from the external analyses and will be addressed in the Challenges below. In the Call 2021 we will also encourage collaboration from different sectors of the supply chain as well as clear deliverables to the Sustainability and Health impact indicators.
1.1   Define criteria and inform consumers on nutritional value and sustainability impact of new food products containing alternative proteins, e.g. scoring system.
1.2   Create bigger consumer choice of products containing alternative proteins, including e.g. hybrid products (alternative+ traditional proteins); evaluate new raw materials, including side-streams from existing productions, consider affordable and sustainable plant varieties produced in Europe, etc.
1.3   Optimise production processes to facilitate upscaling and implementation in production environments.
1.4   Improve sensorial properties and nutritional profile of products containing alternative proteins, e.g. via improved processes, new ingredients, optimised raw materials, etc.

2. Sustainable Agriculture: Challenges

Scope: Food production has a substantial impact on the global environmental change. In addition, global population is estimated to reach up to 10 billion by 2050. To meet food requirements for a rapidly growing population, crop and livestock productivity needs to increase in a sustainable way.   **Call 2021 Strategy:** We invite proposals based on innovative technologies that help European farmers to response to the situation outlined above. Co-creation with farmers as well as on-site education/training services for technology adoption shall therefore be an integral part of the approach. Solutions must deliver onto at least one impact indicator: reduction of GHG emissions, water use, and/or food loss. A link to the restoration of biodiversity is a plus.
2.1 **Develop** solutions for a more sustainable use of resources (energy, water and land) based on, for example, the development and optimisation of smart/precision/vertical farming technologies. This also includes urban and peri-urban farming concepts as well as logistics.
2.2 Develop solutions to enhance crop yield and resilience making use of more sustainable soil and/or crop management as well as other practices to increase plant tolerance to stress (abiotic, biotic) including climate change.
2.3 Develop solutions that substantially reduce GHG emission from live stock. Solutions can include innovative feed and are, ideally, coupled with additional benefits such as an increase in animal welfare (e.g. via modulation of the gut microbiome) and reduction in the use of antibiotics.

3.   Targeted Nutrition: Challenges

Scope: Targeted nutrition relies on adapting what we eat to individual/population traits such as age, gender, genetic make-up, microbiome features and disease state, considering parameters like lifestyle, allergies, intolerances, etc., this in order to promote, maintain or regain general wellness during every life-stage.

Call 2021 Strategy: In the 2021 Call for proposals, EIT-Food is looking for new approaches able to achieve targeted nutritional interventions, and to strengthen the effect of diet on health and wellbeing. In particular, we want to address the development of new solutions or adaptation of existing ones, that can contribute to reduce the incidence of NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases), especially obesity (among children and adults), diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. These solutions (products or services) should be brought to market within three years from the end of the Activity.

3.1	Create robust scientific knowhow that can be utilised in a form of algorithms or models and converted in a commercial solution for e.g. consumers, care-providers, service providers, laboratories, etc., and that addresses the relationship between nutrition-metabolism-microbiota-host and/or gene expression.
3.2	Deliver commercially viable and affordable food products and/ or ingredients customised to various target populations (elderly, children, etc.). These should include an optimised sensoric profile; co-creation with consumers and /or final users will have to be taken into consideration within the Project execution.
3.3	Develop fast, non-invasive and scientifically reliable diagnostic tools, monitoring devices, consumer interfaces or educational tools to enable users to make better food choices (at consumers and/ or care providers level).
3.4	Develop a comprehensive approach to data standardisation for targeted nutrition to be proposed at international level.

4.   Sustainable Aquaculture: Challenges

Scope: According to the FAO, aquaculture covers the farming of animals (including crustaceans, finfish and molluscs) and plants (including seaweeds and freshwater macrophytes) in both inland (freshwater) and coastal (brackish water, seawater) areas.

Call 2021 Strategy: The seafood supply chain in EU is insufficient. We are currently relying on imports from many other countries and current systems come with a huge environmental cost. By 2030, 2/3 of global seafood requirement could come from Aquaculture. As seafood consumption increases, the growth of sustainable aquaculture is an imperative need. EIT Food is keen to receive proposals that develop innovative and technological solutions to transform, grow and maximise the aquaculture practices into smarter and more sustainable circular systems along the entire supply chain. We aim to enhance food safety and quality as well as animal welfare and health while increasing transparency and consumer trust.

4.1	Develop technological, innovative and sustainable solutions to create safe, healthy and high-quality food while increasing transparency and consumer trust. Solutions can include alternative fish feed, probiotics, sustainable biocontrol candidates, shelf life and preservation technologies etc.
4.2	Create and scale up circular systems in which a) Resources are used optimally to reduce waste; b) The amount of pollutants in fish farms are reduced; c) The impact of aquaculture on the environment is compensated. This can include multitrophic and aquaponic farming systems, aquaculture further offshore, smart aquaculture, address biodiversity through new species, etc.
4.3	Develop new cost-efficient methods/technologies for algae production, protein extraction and processing to Improve sensorial properties and nutritional profile of products containing algae-based material. Consumer cocreation, particularly is this challenge, will be a key success factor
4.4	Create innovative and collaborative processes that enable knowledge transfer and best practices sharing across Europe particularly addressing SMEs needs

5. Digital Traceability: Challenges

Scope: Digitalisation of traceability can improve the safety, efficiency and sustainability of food and increase consumer trust. Moreover, it is one of the stepping stones for the digital transformation of the food system.

Call 2021 Strategy: Develop transparent and traceable food supply chains to make the food system (1) safe, (2) efficient, (3) sustainable and (4) transparent to consumers and food actors by increasing investments and use/adoption/development of digital tools / technologies, and addressing the usage barriers for user acceptance and confidence.

5.1	Develop digital real-time detection solutions targeted to safety of foods that enable risks' management and the prevention, identification and response to heath threatening' s food outbreaks
5.2	Drive supply-chain optimisation, reduce amount of food lost / wasted and ultimately change the shape of demand by setting up digital technology-enabled systems that promote value-chain linkages
5.3	Establish technology-enabled end-to-end digital systems that can validate sourcing claims to support global sustainability goals. Create traceability initiatives that involve more comprehensive data collection that can enable the tracking of food processes or the performance of the supply chain as a whole, against environmental, economic, societal and health indicators
5.4	Create digital solutions that meet consumer demand for food production transparency. With a focus on demonstrating authenticity of food as a mean to reduce food fraud and boost consumer confidence on source and quality

6. Circular Food Systems: Challenges

Scope: We have to shift from our current linear model (make, use, dispose) to a circular food system. This implies the reuse of resources, reduction and (re)-utilisation of side and waste streams to prevent food loss and waste and to allow nutrient recycling and reduction in GHG emissions as well as water and land use.

Call 2021 Strategy: We invite proposals that are based on a food systems approach and include training/education of e.g. retailer and/or consumers. Consumer-cocreation is a prerequisite. Solutions must deliver onto at least one impact indicator: reduction of GHG emissions, water use, food loss, and/or food waste.

6.1	Develop solutions that are leading away from unsustainable linear food production and towards full circularity, e.g. by avoidance and/or valorisation of side streams and food waste. This also includes addressing the need for behavioural change to repurpose and redistribute the surplus of edible food at retail and/or consumer level
6.2	Develop innovative smart and/or sustainable packaging concepts (including recycling solutions) and sizes and other approaches to reduce food spoilage, damage and contamination and/or packaging waste
6.3	Develop solutions to improve harvest, transport and storage practices along the food value chain. Solutions shall lead away from fragmented processes and material flows for foodstuffs and can be based on, for example, a wider adoption of monitoring and digital tools (digital twinning via IoT, data analytics; see also Focus Area "Digital Traceability"). Solutions may also focus on the integration of sustainable farming practices in urban and peri-urban locations

Annex 2: Funding levels

Partner type	Membership fee	Maximum EIT grant
Core - Gold	€ 90,000	Unlimited
Core - Silver	€ 45,000	€ 500,000
Linked Third Parties	N/A	The threshold established for the category of the Core/ Network Partner applies collectively to the Partner and its LTPs.
SMEs	€ 22,500	€ 250,000
Network partners	€ 5,000	€ 50,000
RisingFoodStars	€ 3,000	€ 5,000 < € 100,000[7]
Associates	€ 0	€ 0

Annex 3: Redress mechanism

In case proposers 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. 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 Evaluation Summary Report, the Activity Leader of the proposal (or a representative of their organisation) may request an evaluation review, if there is an indication that the results of the eligibility checks were incorrect or that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment.

A complaint can be made if the Activity Leader considers that the assessment of the eligibility and/or evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this evaluation procedure and the Call for Proposals document. The deadline to launch a complaint is 30 days from the date of receiving the Evaluation Summary Report.

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 in the information letter;
- sent by the Activity Leader or a representative of their organisation;
- sent to EIT Food's CEO, Andy Zynga, andy.zynga@eitfood.eu.

An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent to complainants no later than one week after the deadline for submitting the complaint. This acknowledgement of receipt will indicate the estimated date of a definitive reply.

A redress committee may be convened to examine the eligibility or evaluation process for the complaint. The redress committee will bring together relevant staff of EIT Food and will be chaired by Andy Zynga, 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, however, does not re-evaluate the proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the CVs of the experts. The committee will not call into question the judgement of appropriately qualified panels of experts. In the

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[7] To avoid unnecessary administrative burden, RisingFoodStars are encouraged not to have a cumulative EIT grant of less than € 5,000. In the case a RisingFoodStar participates in activities with a cumulative EIT grant exceeding € 100,000, they will be asked to provide proof that this will not lead to cash-flow difficulties and that they have the resources and capacity to undertake the activities. While their funding is typically limited to €100k, in exceptional circumstances additional funding may considered, subject to further financial evaluation.

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 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.

Annex 4: RIS Objectives and eligible countries.

The EIT Food Regional Innovation Scheme objectives are defined as follows:

- **RIS-SO2:** Implement a balanced portfolio of high-impact instruments available for EIT RIS stakeholders, taking into account the identified gaps and opportunities of target countries.

- **RIS-SO3:** Promote the convergence of stakeholder networks in EIT RIS areas and other European countries, linking regions of Europe with diversified innovative potentials and stimulating cooperation between the existing and upcoming innovation leaders and thus creating an interconnected, pan-European food system, drawing on the strengths of supply chain participants from various countries and regions, and overcoming the barriers to the full participation of stakeholders from EIT RIS countries in EIT Food's activities.

- **RIS-SO4:** Increase the international exposure of students, researchers and entrepreneurial talents from EIT RIS countries and promote brain circulation that could benefit the economies of EIT RIS areas, contributing to the enhanced regional competitiveness and innovativeness.

- **RIS-SO5:** Catalyse entrepreneurship and innovation across the food system in EIT RIS countries, with particular focus on the potential of startup companies and entrepreneurial talents, which contribute to the regional and national developments.

- **RIS-SO6:** Engage in policy dialogue and mentoring with national and regional authorities overseeing the development, implementation and updates of agrifood-related Smart Specialisation Strategies to promote Knowledge Triangle Integration and reciprocal alignment with EIT Food's Strategic Innovation Agenda.

RIS activities proposed by EIT Food partners, must target beneficiaries from EIT RIS countries (see the list below) and H2020 Associated countries in Europe, provided that they do not belong to the performance groups of Innovation Leaders or Strong Innovators, according to the EIS.:

Croatia • Czech Republic • Estonia • Hungary • Lithuania • Romania • Slovenia • Slovakia • Latvia • Bulgaria • Serbia • Poland (regions of: Łódzkie • Lubelskie • Małopolskie • Podkarpackie • Świętokrzyskie • Podlaskie • Wielkopolskie • Lubuskie • Dolnośląskie • Opolskie • KujawskoPomorskie • Warmińsko-Mazurskie • Zachodniopomorskie • Mazovia Regional)

Greece • Italy (only regions of: Molise • Puglia • Basilicata • Calabria • Sicilia • Sardegna • Umbria • Marche • Abruzzo • Campania • Valle d'Aosta) • Portugal • Turkey • Spain (only regions of: Galicia • Principado de Asturias • Cantabria • La Rioja • Castilla-la Mancha • Extremadura • Illes Balears • Andalucía • Región de Murcia • Canarias • Castilla y León • Aragón • Comunidad Valenciana)

Cyprus • Malta • Moldova • Montenegro • Albania • Armenia • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Faroe Islands • Former Yugoslav • Republic of Macedonia • Georgia and Ukraine.

Annex 5: Key Performance Indicators

Code	Activity Area	EIT Core KPI	Definition/Formula
EITN01	Education	# Graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes	Sum of graduates from EIT labelled Masters and EIT labelled PhD programmes in year N.
EITN02	Education	# Start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes	Sum of start-ups created by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes in year N. To be eligible, a start-up should be created during EIT labelled programme (by students) or within three years from the graduation (by graduates).
EITNew02	Education	# Participants provided with training and mentoring activities (non-labelled EIT training activities)	# EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training products delivered or in a process of delivery (by country and type of programme): details to include learning outcomes and competency assessment method and results.
EITNew03	Education	# Students and graduates from EIT labelled MSc and PhD programmes who joined start-ups	Sum of EIT Label students who joined start-ups during their EIT Label studies. Sum of EIT Label graduates who joined start-ups up to 3 years after graduation.
EITNew04	Education	# KIC Label graduates employed	# KIC Label graduates employed in a sector relevant to their Label degree (% of all EIT labelled learners graduated the same year). Data to include EIT labelled graduates employed before or offered employment prior to graduation and employed in a degree-relevant sector up to 3 years after graduation.
EITNew 01 *Mandatory*	Innovation and Research	# Innovative products/services designed or tested	Designed: # Innovative products/services resulting from innovative projects filed for some form of intellectual property protection (i.e. patents, trademarks, registered designs, copyrights), or innovative products/services that have progressed towards commercialisation, defined as one or more of: progress by at least one technology or manufacturing readiness level (TRL/MRL); prototype/ proof of concept/beta version developed; product/ service/ model piloted. Data to be collected about the gender of the CEOs supporting the products development. Tested: # Innovative products/services tested through test-beds or other innovative platforms. A test bed is defined as a platform for conducting rigorous, transparent and replicable testing of scientific theories, computational tools and new technologies. It is used to describe experimental research and new product development platforms and environments. Test beds can be identified and counted, test bed activities can be observed and measured e.g. through contracts between test bed hosts and their users. Include # and name and profile of organisations from the EIT RIS defined regions involved in designing/testing of innovative products/services.

Code	Activity Area	EIT Core KPI	Definition/Formula
EITN03 *Mandatory*	Innovation and Research	# Products (goods or services) or processes launched on the market and generating revenue	"# Innovations introduced to the market during the KAVA duration or within 3 years after completion thereof. Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) and processes sold. Each reported innovation should have a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented. Innovations should be reported in the year when they were introduced on the market (but not later than three years after completion of the KAVA)."
EITN04	Innovation and Research	# Start-ups created as a result of innovation Activities	# Start-ups established in year N as a result/ based on the output(s) of Innovation/ Research related 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 completion of the KAVA).
EITN05	Entre-preneurship	# Startups and scaleups supported by KICs	"# Start-ups and scale-ups supported by KICs (per country incl. RIS countries) KIC should justify that the provided services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Examples of such services are mentoring, consultancy on e.g. access to finance and markets, product/service marketing, legal advice, internationalisation, match-making, etc. The services should be provided for a total period of at least two months."
EITN06	Entre-preneurship	Investment attracted by start-ups supported by KICs	Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by ventures (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.
EITN07 *Optional*	All areas	# Success stories presented by KICs to the EIT according to a specific format and accepted by the EIT including eligible nominees for the EIT awards	Good practices or success stories presented by KICs to the EIT according to a specific format and accepted by the EIT including eligible nominees for the EIT awards.
EITN08 *Mandatory*	All areas	# Active partners collaborating in the KIC per profile (research, business, education, other)	Part 1: # Active partners in the KIC per profile (research, business, education, other). Active partner means organisations signed contracts with KICs and with implementing activity role in the reported year. Part 2: Increased # organisations from the EIT RIS defined regions selected via open calls that are collaborating with KIC and linked with a specific KAVA (including but are not limited to providing business creation services to start-ups, joint collaborations on developing joint solutions, participation in education activities).