



**ERA-NET  
SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofunds**

**Joint Call 2019 Announcement  
“Towards sustainable and organic food systems”**

**16 August 2019**



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## **1 Background of the Joint Call**

### **1.1 About ERA-NET SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofund**

The ERA-NET Cofund instrument under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships between Member States (and associated countries) for the implementation and coordination of networking activities in different fields of research. The ERA-NET SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofunds (SF/CO) launch the Joint Call 2019 for transnational research project proposals based on the funding from participating countries of both networks and international partner countries.

The joint network consists of 21 funding bodies from 18 countries/regions committing 9.585.000€ for transnational research (Annex B).

The ERA-NET Cofund SUSFOOD2 “SUStainable FOOD production and consumption” started in January 2017, and is the continuation of the FP7 ERA-NET SUSFOOD (2011-2014). The strategic goal of SUSFOOD2 complements the EU bioeconomy and food policies, and aims to reinforce cooperation in research, development and innovation between EU members and associated states in order to maximize the contribution of research to the development of more sustainable food systems from production to consumption. The scope of SUSFOOD covers the entire food supply chain, with the main focus on food chain sustainability beyond the farm gate. The farm level is considered if it has direct impact on the sustainability of the other steps in the food chain.

SUSFOOD2 promotes a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach from biology to food engineering and social sciences. It addresses the following socio-economic and environmental goals: (i) to develop sustainable food systems from production to consumption, (ii) to increase food production sustainably whilst reducing waste in the food supply chain and limiting environmental impacts; (iii) to improve the quality of life by improving food quality in a sustainable way and to ensure the resilience of the food supply chain; (iv) to encourage sustainable consumer behaviours and food choices; (v) to improve competitiveness and economic growth in the European food industry with special attention to SMEs.

For more information, please consult: <http://susfood-era.net>

The ERA-NET CORE Organic Cofund is the acronym for "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems". It started in December 2016. The CORE Organic Cofund is the continuation of the ERA-NETs CORE Organic I, II and Plus, that started in 2004. The objective of CORE Organic is to improve the knowledge basis and innovation capacity necessary for supporting further development of organic food and farming as a way to respond to significant societal challenges in Europe's agriculture and food systems.

CORE Organic aims at supporting sustainable growth of the organic sector in Europe and beyond. The expected impacts are: (i) more sustainable organic food systems including farming practices, (ii) focus on processing and innovative value chains aiming at fulfilment of the growing demand for organic products, (iii) support of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and organic farming regulations, and (iv) subsequently supporting health, trade and job creation. Furthermore, the CORE Organic support to research should contribute to the improvement of the general competitiveness of the European

agriculture and promote new and innovative solutions to environmentally friendly agriculture. For more information, please consult: <http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/>

## 1.2 Rationale and scope of the Joint Call “Towards sustainable and organic food systems”

### Rationale

Food systems need to meet the global societal challenges, comprehensively formulated under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>1</sup>, such as the supply to an increasing population, and at the same time preventing food loss and waste and averting the depletion of non-renewable natural resources.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, water scarcity, seas littered with plastic and public health crises, provide ample evidence that current food systems need to follow a transformative approach and a shift towards more sustainable solutions. Urbanization is among the key drivers of social change and has a substantial impact on food consumption. It also affects the connection between rural and urban communities, leading to a disconnection between food producers and consumers. Indeed, it is argued that ‘in current urban culture, food may be the only remaining connection to nature’.<sup>2</sup> It is commonly understood that global demand for food is expected to rise, but at the same time, factors such as, over-nutrition versus famine, unsustainable animal protein consumption, globalization, and urbanization, have created an imbalance in our food systems where increasing production alone is not sufficient.<sup>3</sup>

Considering the above, there is an urgent need for change to unleash the enormous potential that improved food systems on land and sea can contribute towards a sustainable future.

SUSFOOD2 defines sustainability of food systems as “A food system that supports food security, makes optimal use of natural and human resources, and respects biodiversity and ecosystems for present and future generations, and which is culturally acceptable and accessible, environmentally sound and economically fair and viable, and provides the consumer with nutritionally adequate, safe, healthy and affordable food”. Likewise, CORE Organic’s work is guided by the principles of organic agriculture: ecology, care, health, and fairness; the network shares the vision and the values of SUSFOOD2 in defining the sustainability of food systems.

CORE Organic further understands sustainability as eco-functional intensification, meaning “more efficient use of natural resources and processes, improved nutrient recycling techniques and innovative

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015.

More information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>2</sup> Nestle (2002), Schlosser (2001) in Francis et al. (2003) *Agroecology: The Ecology of Food Systems*, Journal of Sustainable Agriculture, Volume 22(3):99-118

<sup>3</sup> FAO’s ‘*The 10 Elements of Agroecology: Guiding the Transition to Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems*’ (2018), p. 11. More information: <http://www.fao.org/3/i9037en/i9037en.pdf>

agroecological methods for enhancing the diversity and the health of soils, crops and livestock, [where] eco-functional intensification is characterized by cooperation and synergy between different components of eco-systems and food systems, with the aim of enhancing productivity and stability of agro-systems.”<sup>4</sup>

## **Scope of the Call**

This Joint Call initiative by SF/CO network was initiated under the premise that attaining food security and high quality nutrition standards for food in the future will require a transition from current linear food production systems, to sustainable, cyclical oriented systems that also respond to consumers demand for a diverse, healthy, safe and attractive diet. Such a future will have to be accompanied by substantial progress in the organisation and management of food systems and supported by the development of novel technologies. Innovation will therefore be key to increase food systems resilience and for this to operate within natural resource boundaries and diminish climate change impact. In this regard, system approaches based on agroecological principles are gaining recognition as a pathway to enable sustainable intensification of food production and consumption, not only for organic food production, but also in the conventional sector.

Food systems comprise activities for food production, processing and packaging, distribution and retail, as well as consumption. Various factors, like environmental and socio-economic drivers, have influence on the system and therefore, different approaches can increase the sustainability of such a complex network. In the Joint Call, we will support research projects taking a system approach considering, as far as possible, all relevant aspects in the food system and their potential to increase its sustainability (Topic 1); Promoting the diversity within food systems is crucial for ensuring healthy and sustainable diets, strengthening resilience and enhancing socio-economic and environmental benefits (Topic 2); A significant number of valuable ingredients are destroyed during the processing of a food product, hence through mild food processing we aim to preserve the ingredients and to provide high quality, healthy and sustainable food (including organic) to the consumers (Topic 3); A major challenge food systems have to face is the increasing amount of plastic, and the need to prevent food waste and food loss. The idea underlying the development of smart packaging is to protect the food product and reduce waste before spoilage – e.g. by visualising the quality of food via packaging or by applying environmentally friendly resources (Topic 4).

## **2 Joint Call topics and cross-cutting issues**

Interested project consortia should apply to one of the four topics:

### **Topic 1: Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems**

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<sup>4</sup> TP Organics (2009) *Strategic Research Agenda*, p.59.

More information: <https://tporganics.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/tporganiceu-strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda-2009.pdf>

**Topic 2: Diversity in food from field to plate**

**Topic 3: Mild food processing**

**Topic 4: Sustainable and smart packaging**

For a detailed description of the Call topics, consult the Call text in Annex A.

It is emphasised that due to the joint nature of this Call, proposals must create added value for sustainable and organic food systems in line with the objectives of both ERA-NETs. This means that special attention should be paid to the scope of the Call described in Chapter 1.2.

We envisage that the transition towards sustainable food systems will need close consideration of the following cross-cutting issues. The issues should be taken into account across all topics and be individually adapted to each project in order to increase projects' value and impact:

- **Multi-actor-approach:** Involve different actors and stakeholders in your research project from the outset (by means of participation as well as transparent communication),
- **Multi-disciplinary approach:** Take account of different viewpoints and involve actors from the disciplines beyond your existing network,
- **System approach:** Consider interconnections, synergies or trade-offs between different aspects or actors that directly or indirectly affect your field of research on a systems level (e.g. economic, environmental, social, legislative, geographical, behavioural, business environment, etc.).

Technology orientated project proposals should stay within the **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** range of 2 to 5. Please check the national funding regulations and/or contact your National Contact Point for any deviations from this range.

### **3 Funding modalities and who can apply**

The following partner countries will provide funds for the Call: **Algeria, Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.** A list with the partners including the available funds per funder and topics can be found in Annex B.

The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that project partners who have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding bodies according to their terms and conditions.

Institutions (legal entities) that are involved in research/innovation and operate in accordance with national rules, including companies and stakeholder organizations, are invited to apply. **Before preparation of the project proposals applicants are strongly advised to contact respective National Contact Points (NCP) (see Annex C).**

Research consortia must comprise of a minimum of 3 independent legal entities from a minimum of 3 different SF/CO partner countries participating with funding in a specific topic.

**Research consortia are encouraged to consider the cross-cutting issues (see Chapter 2) as well as good geographical coverage in order to strengthen the impact of a project proposal.** Applicants should avoid redundancy with the open Calls in H2020, including PRIMA.

Applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call are welcome in research consortia, but will have to provide in-kind contribution and will not receive consortium funding. They will not be included in the required minimum number of partners in the consortium and they cannot be the coordinator of the project. Such partners should state in advance the source of funding for their participation in the project. In the pre-proposal phase, a letter of commitment must be included in the proposal confirming the source of funding.

The maximum budget that can be requested is 1.5M EUR per research proposal, but in-kind contributions may be added on top of this amount. Applicants cannot request more funds than allocated for each country by respective funding body on a specific topic. National regulations and priorities might set further limits (Annex B, D). Projects should tentatively start in September 2020 and end in August 2023 (maximum 36 months).

A complete list of the eligibility criteria can be found in the Chapter “Eligibility check of pre-proposals” (see Chapter 7.2). For further questions regarding the eligibility criteria, please contact the Call Office; for questions regarding national rules and priorities please contact the National Contact Points listed in Annex C.

#### **4 Coordinator of the research consortium**

Each project consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator. The project coordinator has the following role and responsibilities:

- Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct submission of the pre-proposal and full proposal. The coordinator should be the one who creates an account for the proposal in the online submission tool,
- Be responsible for the overall project coordination and act as the central contact point for the consortium during the full lifespan of the research project,
- Inform the Call Office about any event that might affect the implementation of the project,
- Ensure that all work is carried to a high standard and meets contractually bound deliverables and milestones presented in the full proposal and approved by the funding bodies,
- Be responsible for sharing all information with consortium partners,
- Be responsible for monitoring data and timely delivery of project reports,
- Ensure that the project fulfils its obligations of funded project (Chapter 9).

The project coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of project funding, which will be handled directly between the consortium members and their corresponding national funding bodies.

## 5 Time schedule, 2-step-procedure

The Joint Call will follow a 2-step procedure with pre-proposals (Step 1) and full proposals (Step 2). There will be a competitive selection at both steps. A time schedule is provided below (tentative).

Action	Schedule
Pre-Announcement	June 2019
<b>Step 1</b>	
Launch of the Call (and opening of the partnering tool)	2 September 2019
Webinar for interested applicants	20 September 2019 (more info on submission website)
Closing date for submission of pre-proposals	4 November 2019 – 3 p.m. CET
Evaluation (Peer Review)/Selection	until 27 January 2020
Notification letters sent to applicants	27 -31 January 2020
<b>Step 2</b>	
Closing date for submission of full proposals	27 March 2020 – 3 p.m. CET
Evaluation (Peer Review)/Selection	Until mid-June 2020
Notification letters sent to applicants	End of June 2020
Contract negotiations	July-August 2020 onwards
Start of projects	~ September 2020
End of projects	~ August 2023

### Call Office contacts:

**Nikola Hassan**  
**Project Management Juelich (DE)**  
 Tel. +49 2461 6196787  
 E-mail: n.hassan@fz-juelich.de  
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/ptj>

**Lucie Andeltova**  
**Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE, DE)**  
 Tel. +49 228 68453907  
 E-mail: lucie.andeltova@ble.de  
<https://www.ble.de/>

## **6 Submission and partnering tool**

The Call will be implemented using an online submission tool. It consists of a platform, where applicants can find all information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission tool is available following this link: [www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall](http://www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall)

In addition, a partnering tool is attached to the submission platform, where project partnerships can be offered or searched for.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 a webinar for interested applicants is organised, which gives an overview about all relevant aspects of the Call (i.e. topics, conditions, requirements, proposal submission, evaluation, etc.) and provides time to answer open questions. More detailed information will be released directly on the submission tool website in due time.

The Call will be promoted at national/ regional level via the usual channels of communication.

## **7 First step: Pre-proposal phase**

### **7.1 Pre-proposal submission**

The application procedure will be carried out online using a Call submission tool [www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall](http://www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall).

No other methods or means of submissions will be accepted. It will be possible to update and save the pre-proposal as many times as required before the submission deadline, but not after the deadline has expired. All parts can be saved at all steps, and revisions can be re-submitted until the deadline.

After the closing date, information given in the pre-proposal, including each partner's budget, is binding. Major amendments after the closing date need to be justified by the applicants and in the next step approved by the funding bodies involved in the project (contact via the Call Office). Any amendments from pre-proposal to full proposal have to be declared as such in the full proposal.

Applicants should note that the online system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline and it is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the pre-proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. Requests for extensions to the deadline due to last minute technical problems will not be considered.

Please follow the instructions on the website to submit the pre-proposal.

The application should be submitted by the project coordinator on behalf of the project consortium (see below).

### **The pre-proposal must be written in English and consists of the following parts:**

More detailed information is available on the submission website (pre-proposal template and directly in the tool). Please be aware that the submission tool outline and order differs from the summary below.

**Project information** (filled in by the coordinator)

- Title, Acronym, Keywords and Duration
- Topic: 1, 2, 3 or 4
- Statement on the project's focus (organic/ sustainable/ sustainable and organic) and added value for sustainable and organic food systems Publishable project summary that can be also easily understood by non-experts

**Partner information** (information about the coordinator and every partner, to be filled in by each partner)

- Personal information (Title, name, address, etc.)
- Information about organisation (Name, status, address, research group, etc.)
- Targeted subtopic (for French applicants only)
- References (up to 5) relevant to the proposal including links to the articles or abstracts
- Short description (max. 1000 characters) about current position of the partner and his/her collaborators in the project, fields of expertise and other relevant experience. Description of ongoing projects related to the present topic indicating project name, funding source and amount, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal (if any)
- Short description (max. 1500 characters) about task(s) of the partner and role in the project

**Project budget in k€** (filled in by coordinator for each partner)

- Personnel, travel, consumables/equipment, subcontracts, other costs (requested funding and own contribution for each budget item)
- Short narrative explanation for each budget item
- Besides own project meetings, all project consortia should calculate costs for the attendance of a project representative (coordinator or a substitute) to three mandatory joint-project seminars (kick-off-, midterm- and final meeting) in their project plan. The attendance of more than one representative per project is possible

**Description of Work** (max. 5 pages/ 18.000 characters)

- Relevance of the research proposal:
  - Project objectives and main hypothesis
  - Relevance to the Call scope/ topic
- Research approach:
  - General approach and methodology
  - Brief description of the work plan (including provisional project structure, work packages and collaboration among partners)
- Impact:
  - Expected impact (considering cross-cutting issues: multi-actor/ multi-disciplinary and systems approach)
  - Innovation potential (ambition and novelty in relation to the state of the art)

- Added value of the transnational collaboration and geographical relevance

### **Ethical issues**

- Indication that the research project is carried out in accordance with the European Union and the respective national requirements (Chapter 10)

Pre-proposals that do not include all the compulsory information or do not meet the formal requirements of the Call announcement will not be considered for funding.

**The closing date for submission of pre-proposals is 4 November 2019 – 3 p.m. CET.**

### **7.2 General eligibility check of pre-proposals**

After the closing date for submission all pre-proposals will be checked against the mandatory Call eligibility criteria:

- The application must be written in English,
- Research consortia must consist of at least three eligible independent legal entities from a minimum of three different partner countries participating with funding in a specific topic (Annex B),
- Applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call are welcome to be partner in a research consortia on their own costs, they cannot be Coordinator and are not counted for the required minimum number of partners,
- The maximum duration of a project is 36 months,
- The requested total budget cannot exceed 1.5 M€ per proposal (requested funding),
- Total eligible budget per country must not exceed 70 % of the total eligible project budget in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.

### **7.3 National/ regional eligibility check**

The funding bodies will check the pre-proposals against national/ regional eligibility criteria as described in the National Regulations (Annex D).

Each project partner involved in an application has to check if his national funding body requires the submission of a national application and to assure that requested costs and thematic areas (topics, subtopics) are in line with the respective national eligibility criteria, published in the Indicative Call budget and National Regulations (Annexes B, D). In case of uncertainties regarding the national criteria and regulations, please contact your National Contact Point (Annex C).

**In case one partner of a project consortium appears not to be eligible, the Call Board, which consists of all funding bodies, will reject the entire pre-proposal.**

Pre-proposals which are eligible in terms of general and national/regional eligibility criteria will be part of the expert evaluation.

#### **7.4 Expert evaluation of pre-proposals**

The evaluation of eligible pre-proposals will be performed by a peer-review expert panel. This panel is composed of international experts with acknowledged scientific excellence and high expertise of the underlying sectors. The members of the panel are proposed and selected by the Call Board considering the research areas covered by the submitted proposals. Appointed experts will need to strictly respect the Call Boards' standards and rules for impartiality and confidentiality.

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three independent experts against the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** coherence and pertinence of the objectives, contribution to the scope of the Joint Call and the selected topic,
- **Quality:** appropriateness and soundness of the research approach and methodology, feasibility, complementarity of partners, adequacy of the budget,
- **Potential impact and added value:** potential to reach expected impact and innovations, embracing of cross-cutting issues, added value of transnational cooperation and geographical coverage.

The three criteria will be scored independently, using scores from 0-5 for each criterion. A threshold of 3/5 will be applied for each criterion, i.e. full proposals with a mean score < 3 in any main criterion will not be recommended for funding. The evaluation by the peer review expert panel will result in a ranking list per topic.

The experts will provide a written evaluation report on strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The evaluation reports will be communicated to the applicants as part of the notification letter.

**It is emphasized that due to the joint nature of this Call, the evaluation of proposals will be assessed under the premises of creating added value for both ERA-NETs. This means that special attention should be paid to the scope of the Call described in Chapter 1.2.**

In addition to the above mentioned criteria, also the Ethical issues (see under Chapter 9) will be checked by the experts using the information provided by the applicants. Additional ethical assessment on the national level can be performed by the funding bodies on optional basis.

#### **7.5 Pre-proposal selection**

The Call Board members will select the consortia based on the expert panel evaluation results and the available funding, which will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The criteria for selection are:

- Evaluation results and recommendations of the expert panel,

- National funding availability: each funding body should not oversubscribe the available national budget by more than 3-4 times,
- Geographical balance in case of projects with the same score.

The Call Office will send notification letters to all pre-proposal consortia to inform about the outcome of the pre-proposal selection process (Step 1). An invitation to submit a full proposal does not implicitly result in the right of being funded (in Step 2).

In some instances, the Call Board members might formulate conditions for project consortia (mandatory) or recommendations (optional) for project consortia to improve certain aspects of their application.

## **8 Second step: Full proposal phase**

### **8.1 Full proposal submission**

Only research consortia which have successfully passed the first step will be invited to submit a full proposal **with a deadline of 27 March 2020 – 3 p.m. CET**. Full proposals must be submitted online [www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall](http://www.submission-susfood-era.net/sf-co-jointcall) by the coordinator of the research consortium.

Additional information for the submission of full proposals will be provided with the invitations for full proposals and published on the submission website as well on respective ERA-NET websites. The core information provided in the pre-proposal will automatically be imported into the full proposal.

It is expected that the main content and the consortium composition will stay unchanged in the full proposal, unless changes are requested due to conditions or recommendations from the Call Board. In the case of unforeseen changes in the project, the consortium is strongly advised to get in contact with the Call Office/ NCP.

### **8.2 Eligibility check and expert evaluation of full proposals**

General eligibility criteria and national eligibility assessed at the stage of pre-proposal will be checked again at the stage of full proposal.

Eligible full proposals will again undergo a peer-review evaluation by at least three independent experts per proposal against the following criteria:

- Excellence of the research proposal,
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation,
- Potential Impact.

The three criteria will be scored independently, using the same scoring scheme as for the pre-proposals, and with one score given per criterion. A threshold of 3/5 will be applied for each criterion, i.e. full proposals with a mean score < 3 in any main criterion will not be recommended for funding.

The Call Board may develop some further evaluation sub-criteria (available later in the guidelines for the submission of full proposals).

The evaluation by the expert panel will result in a ranking list per topic.

The experts will provide a written evaluation report on strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The evaluation reports will be communicated to the applicants after the funding bodies have selected the full proposals.

### **8.3 Selection of full proposals for funding**

The selection of the full proposals will be based on the evaluation results provided by the expert panel and the available funding of the participating funding bodies.

The outcome of the selection procedure will be communicated by the Call Office to the project coordinators, who are responsible to inform their project partners about the result.

## **9 Ethics assessment**

An Ethics assessment is required for submission of pre-proposal. Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorization taking into account the European Union and national ethical requirements. Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles, shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by using the criteria published by the Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

The guidelines address, in more detail, the following ethical issues: human embryos & fetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use, exclusive focus on civil applications. Potential misuse of research results, other ethics issues and if the proposal raises one of the issues listed, the applicant is required to complete the ethics self-assessment and provide a support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult [Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#).

In addition applicants can consult on the EC Website the [Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research](#) on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research including appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

## **10 Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest**

The proposals will be handled confidentially by the Call Office, by the national/ regional funding bodies and the mandated experts responsible for the peer-review evaluation of the proposals.

Each expert will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality and Conflict of Interest. The online evaluation tool will include a feature which will prevent access to the respective proposal in case a Conflict of Interest is declared by the expert or by the Call Office.

## **11 Obligations for funded projects**

### **Terms of participation**

The national/ regional funding of this Call is provided under the coordination of the ERA-NET SF/CO Cofunds. The partners of the research consortia are required to recognise the coordinating role of SF/CO throughout the duration of the funded research projects until the delivery and acceptance of the final project report.

### **Consortium Agreement**

The consortia selected for funding are advised by the Call Board to enter into a Consortium Agreement, in order to manage the project activities, finances, intellectual property rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project. The Consortium Agreement must specify in particular (i) the sharing of the intellectual property rights of the project results; (ii) the conditions of publication / dissemination of the results; (iii) the technology transfer and the exploitation of the project results.

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinator to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to the respective consortium. The purpose of this document is to underpin the project partners' collaboration and provide the project partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another.

In some countries/ regions, such an agreement might be required for release of the funds. Applicants have to obey comply with Call Board indication and respective National Regulations regarding this issue.

Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the [DESCA webpage](#).

### **Start date of projects**

A project can start when all national contracts have been concluded, exceptions from this rule must be agreed by the respective funders and the Call Office. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed according to the national procedures. Projects should start between September 2020 and December 2020.

### **Publishable data**

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the Call. Therefore applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals may be published by SF/CO:

- » Project title and project acronym,
- » Duration of the project,
- » Total funding of the project,
- » Name of the project coordinator (including contact information as email and telephone number),
- » Country and organisation name of each partner,
- » The publishable summary of the project from the application.

Information on each funded project, including data on each participant and overview on the results will be sent to the European Commission after the end of the project period.

With the submission of the proposal all project partners agree that the above mentioned information can be published. All personal data offered for project applications, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). A data protection officer (DPO) is appointed to ensure compliance GDPR rules. For more information please consult the privacy policy on the submission website.

### **National/ regional contracts**

The Joint Call is a collaboration between national funding bodies with the aim of establishing transnational research collaboration. However, the contracts with project participants and funding procedures and regulations remain the full responsibility of the national funding bodies according to applicable national/ regional funding rules.

The project coordinator is responsible for informing project partners about the selection result, for the implementation of possible conditions and recommendation and for synchronising the project start among the partners. After the project has been selected, the project partners will be contacted by their national/ regional contact points in order to start the grant negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start.

### **Financial issues and changes to the work plan or consortium**

For the whole duration of the contract, it is the responsibility of the project coordinator to inform the Call Board/Call Office about any changes in his project, i.e. modifications within the work plan, project consortium or contract. The changes will need to be approved by the respective funding bodies.

### **Project monitoring, meetings and reporting**

Partners from each funded project are expected to organise regular project meetings. The costs for these meetings should be included in the project budgets. To enhance dissemination of the project results, additionally or in parallel to the own project meetings, all project coordinators should calculate costs for the attendance of three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off-, mid-term- and final meeting) in their project plan.

An internal SF/CO monitoring group will follow up the work performed by the projects' consortia and may attend the project meetings. In order to promote coherence, project coordinators will be required to submit a mid-term and a final report to the funders about the results of their transnational project as a whole (in addition to reporting required by the national funding bodies).

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the proposals selected for funding in due course.

### **Communication and dissemination**

Communication and dissemination of project outputs is obligatory and in the responsibility of the funded project partners. A plan for dissemination of the results has to be provided in the full proposals and is considered in the evaluation procedure. This can be organized in form of various communication paths such as scientific papers, posters, stakeholder involvement, course or training material, web-based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end users.

We strongly recommend that publications on organic, which originate from the CO/SF projects, are uploaded and shared via the electronic archive 'Organic Eprints': <http://orgprints.org/>.

The project partners have to acknowledge the transnational funding of the SF/CO Cofunds and the individual national funding bodies in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.

We strongly support the European Commission's [recommendation](#) to make research results from public-funds more accessible and thereby strengthening the knowledge base for science and the society alike. For more information please refer to the Commission's information on [Open Science \(Open Access\)](#) and [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#).

It is the project partner's obligation prior to the submission of the full proposal to consult the national regulations for funding of open access fees or contact the respective NCPs.

### **Intellectual property rights, use and access to results**

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) arising from research projects funded through the CO/SF Joint Call will be owned by the project partners according to the conditions stated in their Consortium Agreement and shall not be in conflict with the respective national regulations. Applicants should consult the respective funding bodies, if any questions arise.

Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

## **12 Definitions**

Call Board: funding bodies of the Joint Call.

Call Office: responsible for administrative support regarding the Call, Call documents and procedures, submission tool and webinar.

Agroecology and food system approach: 'integrative study of the ecology of the entire food systems, encompassing ecological, economic and social dimensions, or more simply the ecology of food systems (Francis at al. (2003) in Wezel at al. (2009), p.3). The agroecology as a scientific discipline is beyond

agroecosystems scales and has 'a larger focus on the whole food system, defined as a global network of food production, distribution and consumption'.<sup>5</sup>

Food system: SF/CO fully endorse the EU Food 2030 strategy and its approach to the concept of Food System. For further information:

- <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/76d1b04c-aefa-11e7-837e-01aa75ed71a1>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=126&v=gJaD2tvoQWE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=126&v=gJaD2tvoQWE)

Organic: definitions outlined in Chapter 1.2

Sustainability: definitions outlined in Chapter 1.2

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<sup>5</sup> Gliessman (2007) in Wezel et al. (2009) *Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review*, Agronomy for Sustainable Development, p.3

## **Annex A: Call topics**

### **Topic 1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems**

#### **Topic description**

A sustainable food production system is one that makes efficient use of renewable, sustainably produced resources and maintains them in the economic cycle as long as possible. Thereby resource-efficiency can be achieved by optimising inputs, reducing water and energy use and this in turn helps diminishing the environmental impact of food production, while sustaining productivity. However, the challenge remains to balance sustainability aspects of food production with preserving the product quality (including safety and nutritional value) and important characteristics required by the consumers (e.g. ensuring the organic label).

This approach includes valorisation and use of side streams following a zero-waste philosophy, making use of new and innovative tools (e.g. Industry 4.0), and a systemic concept that considers all the steps involved in food production from farm to fork to support the transition towards a resilient, efficient and competitive food and drink sector. To achieve this, there is a need to rethink how food production systems function, including aspects such as the use (and re-use) of sustainable and organic materials, products, processes and services. A need is envisaged for supportive marketing strategies that promote new value chains and systems where benefits and burdens are shared along them.

Tools such as scenario and model building can help greatly in improving our understanding of options to achieve the transition towards sustainable systems, whereas the monitoring of established changes will generate key information on how system performance gains can be attained.

#### **Possible subtopics**

##### **a. Food system analysis and models, for example**

- Identification of critical points (barriers, pressures and enablers, evidence gaps and levers) or 'win wins' for transition to more sustainable/organic food systems
- Impact of different diets (e.g. animal-based foods/ vegan/ vegetarian) underlying effects of related food production systems (e.g. intensive farming, organic, etc.) on sustainability [see definition]
- Evaluate and review existing metrics (e.g. indicators or standards) and/or development of new ones to establish relevant methods and tools (e.g. environmental footprint methods, carbon accounting etc.) in order to track sustainability [see definition]; labelling for transparency and authenticity

##### **b. Food system solutions, for example**

- Innovative technologies to enable resource recycling and closing gaps in resource and nutrient cycles throughout the whole food system
- Advanced approaches to shorten and create more efficient supply chains of commodities and food products
- Concepts for minimisation of food losses and waste
- Valorisation of new, under- or inefficiently exploited and heterogeneous raw material (e.g. from organic production) from land and sea, and of side/waste streams

### **c. Food system management, for example**

- Alternative models for food systems organisation and management, considering interrelationships as well as equitable sharing between different actors
- Modelling and simulating redesigned processes at various scales including business and distribution models (including comparative studies of different approaches and policy scenarios)

### **Expected outcome/ impact**

- Providing research, knowledge and innovation to support the shift towards sustainable and organic food production from land and sea, by improving sustainability, resilience and resource efficiency, reducing impact on the environment and food losses and waste.
- Increasing the knowledge base by better understanding and measuring effects and impacts of transitions towards sustainable and ecological food systems.
- Identify intervention points to enable resilient systems that use resources more intelligently and in an equitable manner.

## **Topic 2. Diversity in food from field to plate**

### **Topic description**

It is estimated that three quarters of the global crop production comes from nine plant species and the livestock production relies only on few animal species. Over the last century, plant genetic diversity and crop varieties have rapidly declined, and few high-yielding varieties now dominate the fields and people's diets.

Product chains have undergone a progressive specialisation, intensification and vertical and horizontal segregation. Both plant and animal production are often obtained in separate farms, value chains or regions. These food production systems have been acknowledged to have an environmental and social impact.

Diversity contributes to sustainable food systems via its links to seed and production systems, dietary choices and environmental impacts. Agrobiodiversity enhances food systems resilience (e.g. to pests and climate change), nutrition quality, food security, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

Dietary diversity is key for healthy and sustainable diets while dietary changes can influence environmental impacts, including climate change. Consumer demand can act as an important driver promoting the development of more sustainable and diverse food systems. The globally increasing organic sector provides a good example.

### **Possible subtopics**

- a. Diversity in farming systems (not commonly used species, varieties and crops including protein crops and perennial crops, functional diversity for crop protection and improved soil health, diverse and resilient livestock, vertical and horizontal integration of tree (agroforestry), plant and animal productions)

- b. Diversity in processing (e.g. functionality, quality and nutritional characteristics of products, new raw materials)
- c. Diversity in supply chain/retailing (e.g. short supply chains)
- d. Diversity in consumption and diets (socio-economic aspects of dietary choices, communication and education towards diverse plant-based diets)

### **Expected outcome/ impact**

Providing research evidence methodological frameworks for comparison of different solutions, trade-offs and policy recommendations for a diversity of food that promotes sustainable and organic food systems (along the entire supply chain - from field to plate) by increasing biodiversity and genetic diversity, food functionality, quality and nutritional values, and decreasing the environmental impact of food.

### **Topic 3. Mild food processing**

#### **Topic description**

Novel food technologies will play an important role in supplying the growing world population with high quality, healthy and sustainable foods, including organics.

New mild processing technologies, using mild temperatures and limited amounts of processing aids, have been developed to improve the preservation of foods while lowering the use of energy and water. These novel technologies can achieve nutrient preservation, good nutritional quality of food and bioavailability, extend the shelf life of products, optimise the individual components, and maximise final functions (technical functionalities, sensory attributes, biological preservation, and nutrition composition).

Mild food processing can be described as minimal processing, gentle processing or as careful processing. It can be divided into non-thermal/ thermal and conventional/novel processing methods. Unprocessed or minimally processed foods are conventionally processed by means of slight modifications, such as heat/moist drying, enzyme technology, fractioning or non-alcoholic fermentation, sterilization and pasteurization. Novel mild food processing technologies include emerging technologies such as high-pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric field processing (PEF), ultrasounds or microwaving.

Mild processes gives the opportunity to make side streams available for new, high-quality applications, change single process operations or the re-design of the entire food supply chain.

#### **Possible subtopics**

- a. Development of resource efficient, environmentally friendly, innovative solutions for careful food processing. For example; fermentation, membrane processes, and other alternative methods
- b. Solutions for maintaining or improving the beneficial nutritive compounds (e.g. unsaturated fatty acids, dietary fibre, prebiotics) throughout the whole food chain, and methods to increase

both nutritional value and added value of food products. Easy-to-use food products to support healthy nutrition and sustainable living

- c. Development of food ingredients to improve stability, texture, flavour and overall acceptability that can also suit the organic scheme. They may be, for example; natural aromas, aromatic preparations and colourants or coatings as well as novel food additives
- d. Solutions for improved food safety and increased shelf life of minimally processed, fresh or perishable food products that will also reduce the food waste

### **Expected outcome/ impact**

Development of new, resource efficient and sustainable solutions for the food sector, considering the specificity of organic raw material and organic food. More resource-efficient and innovative technologies and approaches, which increase value throughout the whole food chain, encouraging environmental friendly and climate smart food processing and sustainable food consumption habits, as well as human well-being and health - comparing existing methods to support knowledge-based decision-making.

## **Topic 4. Sustainable and smart packaging**

### **Topic description**

Food packaging is an integral part of food safety as it helps to maintain the benefits of food after the production process is completed. Quality of food products can decrease significantly during storage, handling and transportation. Deterioration is one of the main reasons why food is ultimately destroyed. A large percentage of the totality of food losses takes place in the supply chain at distribution, retail and household levels. Packaging is also one of the main processes directed to preserve the quality of food products through long distance transport and ensures fit to eat and wholesome food at the time of consumption. Packaging can minimise spoilage and reduce food loss and waste by food preservation and protection. This can be achieved through approaches such as intelligent and active packaging, which can, for example; improve the condition of the packaged food or monitor and collect data on the quality of products and the conditions outside using sensors, indicators or radio frequency identification (RFID) systems. The collected and generated information can be provided to stakeholders at different stages of the food supply chains to facilitate decision-making if necessary. It can also be used to inform the consumers about the edibility of a food product to avoid that it is wasted before spoilage. However, packaging technology must strike a balance between the benefits derived from food protection (safety, quality and waste reduction) and the energy and material costs of packaging materials and processes.

Sustainable packaging solutions should also consider the minimisation of non-biodegradable packaging, especially plastics, as the environmental impact is very high and the amount of micro-plastics in soil and the water environment has risen significantly in recent years. Therefore, it exists an urgent need to identify sustainable packaging materials.

At the same time, it is important to increase the awareness of the consumers to reduce the amount of

plastics and food waste and to increase the acceptance for new packaging solutions.

### **Possible subtopics**

- a. Technological solutions, for example,
  - Identification of existing sustainable technological solutions for food packaging and their contribution to reduce food loss, food waste and the of amount of plastics;
  - Identification of alternative materials (biodegradable) for food packaging including established solutions and those close to market maturity;
  - Cost-benefit analysis of smart packaging solutions (sensors), their possible or existing applications, and potential barriers to their successful implementation.
  
- b. Demands on food packaging, for example,
  - Analysis of consumer's needs, expectations and acceptance for new packaging solutions;
  - Identification of barriers and requirements of the supply chain against new packaging solutions (transportability, storage suitability, protection against external influences);
  - Assessment of the impact of different food packaging solutions on the quality of food (shelf life, taste, properties).
  
- c. Circular economy for packaging, for example,
  - Economic analysis of recycling strategies of food packaging;
  - Policy recommendations to introduce and scale up mainstreaming of smart and sustainable packaging;
  - Assessment of existing approaches to introduce smart and sustainable packaging to the market, e.g. supermarket commitments and voluntary agreements, and feed raw materials back into the circular economy.

### **Expected outcome/ impact**

Providing an understanding of existing and new methods under development for sustainable and smart packaging as well as approaches to reduce food loss and waste. Collecting information of how smart packaging can contribute to improved recycling strategies to reduce waste, especially in regards to plastics recycling and reduction. Better understanding of the needs and barriers to the successful implementation of sustainable and smart packaging in the supply chain. Broader knowledge of consumer perception and acceptance against new packaging solutions.

## Annex B: Indicative Call budget (in 1000 EUR)

Country	Institution	Contact person	TOPIC 1	TOPIC 2	TOPIC 3	TOPIC 4	Total
Algeria	MESRS	Samira Chader	150	150	150	150	600
Belgium	VLAIO	Marianne Claessens	x	x	x	x	1.000
Belgium	Dep.LV	Marleen Delanoy	x	x			150
Denmark	DAFA	Julia Gajo	x	x			500
Estonia	MEM	Maarja Malm	x	x	x	x	100
Finland	MMM	Seija Ahonen-Siivola	x		x	x	300
France	ANR	Claude Yven	x <sup>6</sup>				500
France	MAA	Jean-Marc Chourot		x <sup>7</sup>			400
Germany	BMEL (represented by BLE)	Annika Fuchs Lucie Andeltova	x	x	x	x	1.000
Italy	MIPAAFT	Serenella Puliga Elena Capolino (DISR IV Office) Roberta Cafiero Alessandra Morganti (PQAI 1 Office)	600	600	200		1.400
Italy	MIUR	Mauro Bertelletti			250	250	500
Latvia	AREI	Ligita Melece		x			140
Lebanon	CNRS-L	Moiun Hamze Elise Noujeim	x				60

<sup>6</sup> ANR (France) is only funding subtopic 1b and 1c (see Annexes A, D)

<sup>7</sup> MAA (France) is only funding subtopic 2a (see Annexes A, D)

Country	Institution	Contact person	TOPIC 1	TOPIC 2	TOPIC 3	TOPIC 4	Total
Luxemburg	FNR	Marie-Claude Marx	x	x	x	x	50
Morocco	MENFPESRS	Ahmed Hammouch Abdelouahid Ezzarfi	x	x	x	x	400
Norway	RCN	Nina Elisabeth Solheim	200	200			400
Poland	NCBR	Konrad Kosecki	200	200	200		600
Romania	UEFISCDI	Adrian Asanica	x	x	x	x	500
Spain	ICE	Isabel Gobernado	x	x	x	x	450
Turkey	GDAR	Ayshen Alay-Vural Ahmet Budaklier	50	50	50	50	200
United Kingdom	DEFRA	Victor Aguilera Sophie Rollinson	x	x	x		335 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Total Call budget</b>							<b>9.585</b>

<sup>8</sup> DEFRA (UK) - Include specification about the British Pounds

## Annex C: National Contact Points (NCP)

No	Country/ region	Funding body	Name	Telephone	E-mail
1	Algeria	MESRS	Samira Chader	+213 (0)21 27 88 18	s.chader@dgrsdt.dz
2	Belgium	VLAIO	Marianne Claessens	+3224324209	marianne.claessens@vlaio.be
3	Belgium	Dep.LV	Marleen Delanoy	+32 498 90 35 82	Marleen.Delanoy@lv.vlaanderen.be
4	Denmark	DAFA	Julia Gajo	+4551531541 +45 33 95 80 00	JULGAJ@lbst.dk
5	Estonia	MEM	Maarja Malm	+372 625 6250	maarja.malm@agri.ee
6	Finland	MMM	Seija Ahonen-Siivola	+358 40 8329779	seija.ahonen-siivola@mmm.fi
7	France	ANR	Claude Yven	+33173548287	claud.yven@agencerecherche.fr
8	France	MAA	Jean-Marc Chourot	+33 (0)1 49 55 82 20	jean-marc.chourot@agriculture.gouv.fr
9	Germany	BMEL (represented by BLE)	Annika Fuchs Lucie Andeltova	+49 228 6845-3746 +49 228 6845-3907	Annika.Fuchs@ble.de Lucie.Andeltova@ble.de
10	Italy	MIPAAFT: DISR4 Research and experimentation Office	Serenella Puliga Elena Capolino	+39 0552492220 +39 0646655076	s.puliga@politicheagricole.it e.capolino@politicheagricole.it
	Italy	MIPAAFT: PQAI 1 Office for organic agriculture and food quality systems	Roberta Cafiero Alessandra Morganti	+39 06 46656099 +39 06 46655182	r.cafiero@politicheagricole.it a.morganti@politicheagricole.it
11	Italy	MIUR	Mauro Bertelletti Aldo Covello	+39 06 5849 7902 +39 06 5849 6465	mauro.bertelletti@miur.it aldo.covello@miur.it
12	Latvia	AREI	Ligita Melece	+371 29196063	ligita.melece@arei.lv
13	Lebanon	CNRS-L	Mouin Hamze Elise Noujeim	+9611840260	enjeim@cnrs.edu.lb
14	Luxembourg	FNR	Marie-Claude Marx	+352 26 19 25-21	Marie-Claude.MARX@fnr.lu

No	Country/ region	Funding body	Name	Telephone	E-mail
15	Morocco	MENFPESRS	Ahmed Hammouch Abdelouahid Ezzarfi	+212 5 37 21 76 62	ah.hammouch@gmail.com a.ezzarfi@yahoo.fr
16	Norway	RCN	Nina Elisabeth Solheim	+47 452 25 496	nsf@forskningsradet.no
17	Poland	NCBR	Konrad Kosecki	+48 22 39 07 233 +48 519 684 989	Joanna.Makocka@ncbr.gov.pl
18	Romania	UEFISCDI	Adrian Asanica	+40 744 45 00 11	adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro
19	Spain	ICE	Isabel Gobernado	+34983324242	gobmitma@jcyl.es
20	Turkey	GDAR	Ayşen Alay-Vural Ahmet Budaklier	+903123076110	aysen.alayvural@tarimorman.gov.tr ahmet.budaklier@tarimorman.gov.tr ahmetbudaklier@gmail.com
21	United Kingdom	DEFRA	Victor Aguilera Sophie Rollinson	+44(0)208 026 42 53	victor.aguilera@defra.gov.uk Sophie.rollinson@defra.gov.uk

## **Annex D: National regulations**

### **1. Country: Algeria**

**Funding Institution:** Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS). Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT).

**Contact person:** CHADER Samira, E-mail: [s.chader@dgrsdt.dz](mailto:s.chader@dgrsdt.dz)

#### **1. Name of the Funding Party, address and country**

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS). Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT). 128 Chemin Mohamed Gacem, El Madania – Alger, Algérie. <http://www.dgrsdt.dz>

#### **2. National Contact Points:**

CHADER Samira  
Deputy Director – DGRSDT  
Tel: +213- 21278 818  
E-mail: [s.chader@dgrsdt.dz](mailto:s.chader@dgrsdt.dz)

#### **3. Participation criteria**

This call is open to Algerian legal entities established and based in Algeria. The Algerian partner could be: a team/a division/a laboratory/ a research centre/ a research unit or a public private entity from socio economic sector.

The partner responsible for the project should have the means and heavy facilities for a better implementation of the proposed project.

#### **4. Funding criteria**

Funding per project: The funding provided by the DGRSDT concerns only the expenses for running or functioning cost which is governed by the ministerial order fixing the list of revenue and expenses of the National fund for scientific research and technological development, and capital expenditure are not included.

#### **5. List of eligible costs**

##### **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES**

- Travel costs of Algerian researchers in Algeria and abroad (7 days maximum).
- Scientific events: organizational expenses, accommodation, catering and transport.
- Investigators fees.
- Guide fees.
- Experts and consultants fees.
- Study, work and services costs done for the research entity.

## **EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE**

- Materials, scientific and audiovisual instruments.
- Renewing computing materials, purchasing accessories, software and consumables.
- Maintenance and repair.

## **SUPPLIES**

- Chemicals.
- Consumables.
- Electronic, mechanical and audiovisual components.
- Stationery and office furniture.
- Periodicals.
- Documentation and research books.
- Laboratory furniture (animals, plants, etc...).

## **ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

- Printing and publishing.
- Postage charges.
- Telephone, Fax and Internet.
- Other costs (taxes, custom duty, financial costs, insurance, storage costs, etc).
- Data bank (acquisition and subscribing).

## **CAR PARK**

- Car rent for research in the field.

## **COSTS OF VALORIZATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Costs of training and support of project holders.
- Costs of intellectual property:
  - Anteriority research.
  - Patent, brand and template deposit request.
  - Software deposit.
  - Protection of vegetable, animal abstentions and other.
  - Costs of representatives.
- Costs of design and definition of the project to be developed.
- Incubation costs.
- Costs of valorization services.
- Costs of design and developing prototypes, mock-ups, test series, pilot facilities and demonstrations.

**NB:** It should be noted that according to the provisions of the regulations in force, other costs under the international projects are subject to a request for the DGRSDT.

## 2. Country: Belgium

Funding Institution: Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO)

Contact person: Marianne Claessens

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>1 000 000 euro</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	X		
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	X		
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	X		
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	X		
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	no		
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	Min budget = 50 000 euro/project Max budget = 500 000 euro/project		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	X		Research institutions can only be funded as a scientific partner of the applicant
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	X		The project proposal has to be submitted by a Flemish company
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		X	
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	X		<b>National annexes :</b> <b>Annex international research project</b> <b>Annex : national cost model</b>  <a href="https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksp">https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksp</a>

			<a href="#">roject/aanvraagprocedur e</a>
E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?	X		Applicants who want to submit a proposal are requested to contact VLAIO latest 2 weeks before the international submission deadline.

### 3. Country: Belgium

Funding Institution: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Dept. LV)

Contact persons: Marleen Delanoy, Els Bonte

A. Total national budget available (€)	150 000		
B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	X		(we don't allocated budget per topic, only overall budget)
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	X		(we don't allocated budget per topic, only overall budget)
3. Mild food processing		X	
4. Sustainable and smart packaging		x	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	We only fund projects in the organic primary production		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Max 150 000		
C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	x		
Do you fund industry partners?		x	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		x	
D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	x		Will be described in the our financial regulations

E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?	x	Will be described in our financial regulations
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#### 4. Country: Denmark

Funding Institution: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFisg Agency (DAFA)

Contact persons: Julia Gajo; Karen Munch Mortensen

A. Total national budget available (€)	0,5 mio. EUR		
B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	X		0,5 mio EUR
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	X		
3. Mild food processing		X	
4. Sustainable and smart packaging		X	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	The maximum budget for Denmark is 250 000 EUR per project; There is a minimum of 33 557 EUR per project. Implying that it might only be possible to fund 2 projects if applicants apply for max funding.		
C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		According to our national regulations we can fund research institutions but we cannot fund projects that only focus on basic research (TRL level 1-4), if this is the case another national partner has to work on more applied research- or better development.

Do you fund industry partners?	X		
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		We do not fund legal entities of any kind, national or regional.
D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	X		We have added a questionnaire that needs to be filled in by Danish applicants; the questionnaire is only one page though
E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?	X		We have some regulations concerning the funding; we cannot fund 100% and other more specific issues related to the budget. However applicants are informed within the national Annex.

## 5. Country: Estonia

Funding Institution: Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)

Contact person: Maarja Malm

A. Total national budget available (€)	100 000		
B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	X		
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	X		
3. Mild food processing	X		
4. Sustainable and smart packaging	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.			

<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	X		
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>		X	
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		X	
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			There is a 5% of own contribution required upon total budget of the project. The application must meet requirements of eligibility determined by the national programme “Applied Research and Development in Agriculture 2015-2021”.
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>		X	

**Other general comments:**

The total requested funding for all Estonian partners within one consortium may not exceed 100 000 € (VAT is included). Scientific results of the projects must be made publicly available.

**6. Country: Finland**

**Funding Institution: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)**

**Contact person: Suvi Rynnänen**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>300 000</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	X		
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>		X	
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	X		
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	X		

Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	maximum 150 000 €/project		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?	X		Own contribution normally min 30% of total cost model
Do you fund industry partners?	X		If Business Finland will join then we will not fund industry partners. Own contribution is needed (30-50% of total cost model)
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		Own contribution 10-30% of total cost model
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			The main national criteria emphasizes that the research shall benefit the agri-food livelihood. The work carried out must be pre-competitive research and/or prototype demonstration. Product development supporting individual companies will not be supported. Financial involvement must be clearly stated in the application. The application must contain a plan for communication of results. Funding does not cover expenditures for activities before the project has been granted. Normally 70 % of the project's gross eligible costs can be covered by the MMM funding. Applicants must provide the necessary apparatus

			for the project themselves. If a special apparatus is needed an explanation and application for funding for apparatus must be included. If the applicant has not earlier given the explanation for indirect employee costs and overheads the applicant has to give an account to the ministry.
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>			

### **7. Country: France**

**Funding Institution: The French National Research Agency (ANR)**

**Contact person: Claude Yven**

<b>A. Total budget available (€)</b>	500 000 €		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems			
2. Diversity in food from field to plate			
3. Mild food processing			
4. Sustainable and smart packaging			
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your funding priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.			
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?			
Do you fund industry partners?			

<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>			
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>			

It is important to read carefully the call for proposals text, the present document in its entirety, the document “Annexe pour les participants français” on ANR website and the regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) before contacting the NCP and submitting a research project.

The French part of the project proposal must not be considered to infringe an intellectual property right characterizing a counterfeit within the meaning of intellectual property.

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

To be eligible, French partner must respect all the following criteria:

- **Topics of the call**

ANR supports only **Subtopics 1b. Food system solutions** and **1c. Food system management**. ANR is supporting only research on **sustainable organic food systems**.

- **Similarity with another proposal**

The French part of the project proposal must not be judged similar to a project that is already funded by ANR. A project proposal will be judged similar to another if its principal objectives are the same, or results from a simple adaptation to the terms of the call for proposals AND the composition of the consortium is largely identical.

- **Requested funding**

The amount of money a project can require must be between 15 000 € and 200 000 €. If there are more than one French partner, then the 200 000 € have to be shared. If a French partner is coordinator of a proposal, the maximum amount of funding requested by French partner(s) can reach 250 000 €. A partner cannot require less than 15 000 €.

- **Consortium composition**

ANR funding is limited to project partners residing in France. To be eligible, the consortium must include at least one French partner of a public research organization.

The association with an enterprise is encouraged but not mandatory. If a non-French enterprise is involved in a project, it is mandatory to involve a French enterprise; unless the French partners will be declared not eligible.

#### **Project partners’ commitment:**

#### **Access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources**

Pursuant to the Nagoya Protocol, ANR must obtain documentary evidence of Due Diligence Declarations (DDD) for all research projects that it funds. This rule applies to projects funded in 2019 and to applicants for the 2019 and 2020 calls, who will be asked to make a declaration on potential utilisation of genetic resources during their projects.

DDDs for research work can be submitted online using the special application on the MESRI website. Credentials to access the application can be obtained from the director of the host institution. For full details, go to: <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid37627/utilisation-ressources-genetiques-associees.html>

### **Open Science**

In accordance with the obligations arising from the French act for a Digital Republic (pertaining to the national open archives plan), the project partner formally undertakes, if it receives funding, to: (1) post the full texts of all scientific publications resulting from the research project in an open archive (either directly in HAL or via a local institutional archive); and (2) to provide a data management plan (DMP) at the start of the project, as per the arrangements communicated when the agreement is signed.

**More information about conditions of participation and important recommendations for French participants will be published on ANR website.**

### **8. Country: France**

**Funding Institution: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAA)**

**Contact persons: Jean-Marc CHOUROT, Marion BARDY**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>000 €</b>	
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>		X	
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	X		Topic 2.a specifically 400 000 €
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>		X	
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>		X	
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>			
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>			

<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		Farmers and representatives
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			Every French applicant has to provide a detailed communication plan for the dissemination of the results to end-users
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>			

### 9. Country: Germany

**Funding Institution: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), represented by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)**

**Contact persons: Annika Fuchs, Lucie Andeltova**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	X		
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	X		
3. Mild food processing	X		
4. Sustainable and smart packaging	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities.	Overhead costs are not eligible		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Max. 200,000 € per project		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?	X		

<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	X		Only SMEs; only partial financing/funding eligible; see the national Call announcement in the Bundesanzeiger
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>	X		Only associations
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	X		See the national Call announcement in the Bundesanzeiger
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>		X	

**Other general comments:**

- 1) Proposed projects must be in line with the national Call announcement, which will be published in the Bundesanzeiger (<https://www.bundesanzeiger.de>).
- 2) As stated in the Section 6.4 of the Joint Call 2019 Announcement, it is emphasized that due to the joint nature of this call, the evaluation of proposals will be assessed under the premises of creating added value for both ERA-NETs. For the German projects addressing topic 1, 2 or 3 it is not enough that the research activities and results of sustainable, conventional food sector are transferable to the organic sector, but research must be placed in the ecological context.
- 3) The following costs are eligible for funding: personnel, consumables, subcontracts, equipment, and travel. Overhead costs are not eligible.
- 4) Each partner of the consortium must clearly present the targeted goals and tasks within the project, including a timetable, a financial overview, and a description of the collaboration with the international project partners.
- 5) Double funding is not possible.
- 6) The German project partners of positively evaluated full proposals will, at a later stage, be invited to submit national application forms (AZA or AZK) using the electronic proposal assistant “easy”. The guidelines for preparing AZA/AZK have to be considered for any cost calculations in the full proposal.
- 7) SMEs are eligible for partial financing/funding only.

**10. Country: Italy**

**Funding Institution:** Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies, and tourism (MIPAAFT)

**Contact persons:**

**Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali e del turismo (Mipaft)**

Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Rome (Italy):

General direction for rural development – DISR4 Research and experimentation Office

Serenella Puliga: [s.puliga@politicheagricole.it](mailto:s.puliga@politicheagricole.it) +39 055 2492220

Elena Capolino: [e.capolino@politicheagricole.it](mailto:e.capolino@politicheagricole.it)

**General Direction of Agrofood Quality Promotion – PQAI 1 Office for organic agriculture and food quality systems**

Roberta Cafiero: r.cafiero@politicheagricole.it +39 06 46656099

Alessandra Morganti: a.morganti@politicheagricole.it +39 06 46655182

<b>A. Total Mipaافت budget available (€)</b> <i>(see Additional information after the table)</i>	<b>1.400.000</b>			
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Mipaافت DISR IV (€)</b>	<b>MIPAافت PQAI 1 (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	X		200.000	400.000
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	X		400.000	200.000
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	X		200.000	-
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>		X		
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	<i>Fishery not supported Organic aquaculture allowed only if contribution request is addressed to PQAI</i>			
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	<i>Max 200.000/project (including coordination costs) Max 120.000/research unit (unità operativa) (coordination costs excluded)</i>			
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>	
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	X		National public and private no profit research institutions and universities See details in User's Manual at <a href="https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656">https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656</a> .	
<b>Do you fund industry partners? Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		X	SMEs and organisations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own or other external resources . Costs can not be covered by Mipaافت	

<p><b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b></p>	<p>See details in User's Manual (<a href="https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656">https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656</a>)</p>		
<p><b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b></p>			

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 1. Research project application

In the online application of the joint call, national applicants need to indicate in their research proposal to which office of the Ministry they apply, considering that:

- The **Office PQA1** commits funding for reasearch dealing with ORGANIC agriculture/food production in coherence with *Piano strategico nazionale per lo sviluppo del sistema biologico* (see

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10014>)

- The **Office DISR IV** commits funding for research addressing any OTHER aspect of sustainability-agroecology principles under the 6 strategic areas of the *Piano strategico per l'Innovazione e la ricerca nel settore agricolo, alimentare e forestale (2014-2020)* published at

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/9065>

The offices DISR4 and PQA1 will agree to support the winning projects in coherence with their missions, ensuring as far as possible the use of all available resources.

### 2. Financing and cost eligibility

In defining cost of the projects national applicants must refer to regulations indicated in the standing User's Manual

(<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pag-es/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656>)

The selected national institutions will be financed up to 99% of the approved eligible costs.

- Eligible costs

A) Personnel

1) *Salaries* – For public institutions/universities only non-permanent scientific staff; for private no-profit institutions also permanent scientific staff; administrative staff can be included only in the coordination activity, if the research unit is also coordinator.

2) *Travel expenses* – for permanent and non permanent staff declared in the project

B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – advisory/consultant services, services supply (scientific, logistics for meetings, devices and machine rent, etc.)

The costs at point C) need to be indicated and detailed as “Other costs” in the financial plan of the joint call application form (online submission)

- D) Equipments – Only use cost (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed.
- E) Overheads – no more than 12% of the total amount of the above mentioned costs (A+B+C+D)
- F) Coordination - if the Italian institution is also playing the role of coordinator the eligible costs are those indicated in the User’s manual. In the joint call Mipaافت will pay the coordination cost calculated on the total request of the project, including the amount not paid with national resources.

### 3. National document to be presented

By the application deadline (4th November 2019) no documents have to be submitted to Mipaافت, other than the application through the online joint call submission platform. Only no-profit private research bodies participating in a project proposal must send to Mipaافت, by the application deadline, copy of the documents stating their research mission (statute and/or articles of incorporation or memorandum of association, etc.) at one or the other address, depending on the Ministry office they apply to:

[aoo.cosvir@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it](mailto:aoo.cosvir@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it) (Office DISR IV)

or

[sag1@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it](mailto:sag1@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it) (Office PQA11)

specifying in the object “SUSFOOD2-CORE Organic Cofund joint Call 2019 documenti bando – ente privato”.

Only after the funding decision, and the official communication by the Call Office to the coordinator of the winning projects, Mipaافت involved offices will request to each Italian research unit of the selected projects to fill in the national template necessary to apply for the granted contribution.

These forms must be written in Italian and follow the standing User’s Manual rules.

## 11. Country: Italy

### **Funding Institution: Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)**

via Michele Carcani 61 – 00153 Rome

<http://www.miur.gov.it>

[http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/eranet-cofund-\(h2020\)/core-organic-cofund.aspx](http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/eranet-cofund-(h2020)/core-organic-cofund.aspx)

**Contact persons: Mauro Bertelletti, Aldo Covello**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>500.000</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>

<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>		No	
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>		No	
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	Yes		250.000
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	Yes		250.000
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	The financial contribution per topic above indicated is only a tentative repartition and can be changed in accordance with the number of proposals submitted and selected per topic.		
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	A maximum grant of 150.000 Euro can be awarded to each project proposal, even if it includes more than one Italian participant.		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	X		The following entities are eligible, providing that they have stable organization in Italy: enterprises, universities, research institutions, research organizations in accordance with EU Reg. n. 651/2014 of the European Commission - June 17, 2014.  Any participant, in order to be eligible, must comply with the eligibility criteria listed in the art. 2.4 of the "Linee guida al DM 593/2016".
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	X		See above
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		X	See above
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Decreto legge n. 83/2012</li> <li>– Decreto Ministeriale n. 593 del 26 luglio 2016</li> <li>– Linee guida al D.M. del 26 luglio 2016 n. 593</li> <li>– Procedure operative per il finanziamento dei progetti internazionali ex art. 18</li> </ul>

			D.M. del 26 luglio 2016 n. 593  The Italian participants are requested to submit further documentation to MIUR, through the national web platform, available at the following link: <a href="http://banditransnazionali-miur.cineca.it">http://banditransnazionali-miur.cineca.it</a> (see below)
E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?	X		See below

#### Other general comments:

The criteria and provisions provided herewith are intended only for informative purposes. The complete list of criteria and provisions legally valid, which must be respected by all the Italian participants, is included in the “Avviso integrativo nazionale”, published on the [dedicated web page](#) on MIUR website

**Name of the funding programme:** FIRST (Fondo per gli Investimenti nella Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica)

Min. project duration: 24 months Max. project duration: 36 months

#### Institutional eligibility criteria:

A maximum of two Italian participants per project proposal, requesting funding to MIUR, is admitted.

A Principal Investigator can participate (either as coordinator or as partner) in only one project proposal, requesting funding to MIUR.

#### Project costs and funding levels:

All costs incurred during the lifetime of the project under the following categories are eligible: Personnel, Equipment, Subcontracting, Consumables, and Overheads. Overheads (“Spese generali”) shall be calculated as a percentage of the personnel costs and cannot be higher than 50% of them. Travel expenses, dissemination and coordination costs are to be included in the overheads.

The amount of funding which can be granted to each beneficiary is calculated multiplying the eligible costs for the funding rate listed in the following table:

Applicant typology		Funding Rates			
		Enterprises and private research bodies (which meets the requirements of research organization under EU Reg. no. 651/2014 of the Commission - June 17, 2014)			Universities, public research institutions, research organizations (public and private) in accordance with Reg. EU n. 651/2014 of the Commission - June 17, 2014)
Activity typology		Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Big Enterprises	
Basic Research	grant	40%	30%	20%	70%
Industrial Research	grant	40%	30%	20%	50%
Experimental Research	grant	30%	20%	10%	25%

On request of applicants a pre-payment may be done, equal to:

- 80% of the total contribution for public entities;
- 50% of the total contribution for private entities.

The remaining part of contribute will be paid in instalments after each financial and progress reporting period.

#### **Institutional thematic priorities:**

Only projects addressing topics 3, **Mild food processing**, and 4, **Sustainable and smart packaging**, are eligible for funding.

All activities classifiable as Basic research, Industrial research and Experimental development are eligible for funding.

Furthermore, Basic research and Industrial research activities must be predominant with respect to Experimental development activities.

#### **National application**

In addition to the project proposal, which shall be submitted at European level, **the Italian participants are requested to submit further documentation to MIUR, through the national web platform, available at the following link: <http://banditransnazionali-miur.cineca.it>**

These national additional documents must be submitted by the same deadline established for the pre-proposal phase submission as defined in the international joint call.

**Any participant who does not submit its national documents by the deadline of the pre-proposal phase, will be considered not eligible for funding.**

MIUR will require to all Italian participants admitted to the second step some additional documents describing more in detail the participant and its research activities within the project and to accept the Grant Agreement format.

It is strongly recommended to contact the National Contact Persons already in early stage of project preparation.

The admission for funding is subject to the adoption of the necessary accounting and administrative measures for the allocation of the resources.

Funded participants will be requested to submit financial and scientific reports to MIUR.

## **12. Country: Latvia**

**Funding institution: Latvian Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)**

**Contact person: Ligita Melece**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>			
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	x?	x	40 000
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	x		100 000 (140 000?)
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>		x	
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>		x	
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>			
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>			
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	x		Only those of participants can be funded by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Republic of Latvia: 1) Research institutions registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions

			(Research Institutes and the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies); 2) Research institutions should be under supervision of the MoA or the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies.
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>			SMEs and industry partners (non-SMEs) not eligible for funding, but may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>			Other research groups and public institutions not eligible for funding, but may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			Researcher's team leader, principal investigators, leading researchers should be researchers according to Latvia's legislation ("zinātnieks", possessing doctoral degree and experience in relevant research field), and the work carried out should be research.
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>			

### **13. Country Lebanon – CNRS L – to be added**

### **14. Country: Luxembourg**

**Funding Institution: Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)**

**Contact persons: Marie-Claude Marx** (2, avenue de l'Université, L-4365 Esch-sur-Alzette, T : +352 261925–21, [marie-claude.marx@fnr.lu](mailto:marie-claude.marx@fnr.lu))

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>50.000</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	X		
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	X		
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	X		
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	X		
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	n.a.		
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	max. 50.000		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	X		
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>		X	
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>	X*		*(under the conditions specified in the FNR rules of <b>eligible institutions</b> under <a href="https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries">https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries</a> )
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>			Rules for <b>eligible PIs</b> : please refer to the description under <a href="https://www.fnr.lu/download-center/">https://www.fnr.lu/download-center/</a>  A summary of the submitted proposal has to be submitted to the FNR via the FNR grant management system within 5 working days after the official submission deadline ( <a href="https://grants.fnr.lu">https://grants.fnr.lu</a> )

<p><b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b></p>		<p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salary-related costs</li> <li>- Small equipment costs; for large equipment (&gt;€ 25,000) only the pro-rata of its use will be funded, taking into account the depreciation rules within the research organisation</li> <li>- Consumables</li> <li>- Travel costs, in accordance with the institution's own regulations</li> <li>- Costs related to services provided by subcontractors</li> <li>- Direct running and knowledge exchange costs</li> <li>- Overheads (up to 25% of direct costs minus subcontracting)</li> </ul>
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**Other general comments:**

- The ERANET is run at national level in the frame of our Programme: **INTER – International Cooperation** (<https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/inter/>)
- Anticipated number of funded research groups: 1
- Applicants should contact the National Contact Point before application of a proposal.

**15. Country: Morocco**

**Funding Institution:** Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (**MENFPESRS**)

**Contact persons:** Ahmed Hammouch, Abdelouahid Ezzarfi

**Name of the Funding Party, address and country**

**Name:** Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research

**Address:** Boulevard Mohamed Lyazidi - Hassan, BP: 4500 - RABAT - Morocco

**Acronym:** MENFPESRS

**2. National criteria (Below table of eligible expenses in French):**

- Eligible entities for funding:
  - Public universities;
  - Universities and institutions from the Public-private partnership in collaboration with public universities;
  - Non-university institutions in partnership with public universities;
  - Public research institutions in partnership with public universities
  
- The maximum budget granted per project is 65.000 €;
- No levy by research institutions is allowed from the budget allocated to the research projects;
- Permanent staff cannot receive research allowances. The remuneration of the non-statutory staff (PhD students, post-docs and CDD) participating in the project can be financed (Comply with the joint decision of 14 January 2016 concerning the management of the own resources of public institutions of higher education and scientific research);
- Costs requested for Research allowances, travel and mission expenses cannot exceed 60% of the total budget allocated to the Moroccan team;
- The budget requested for the first payment cannot exceed 60% of the total budget allocated to the Moroccan team;
- The second payment will be made only after validation of the mid-term report.

### 3. Scientific criteria

- MENFPESRS supports all the topics of Core Organic Cofund project.

### 4. Eligible expenses

Rubriques	Budget demandé (DH)	Premier versement (DH)	Deuxième versement (DH)
<b><i>Dépenses du personnel</i></b>			
Indemnités liées aux travaux de recherche et de prestation de service (Bourses des doctorants, CDD, ...)			
<b>Taxes postales et frais d'affranchissement</b>			
Taxes et redevances pour l'utilisation des lignes de réseaux spécifiques			
Taxes et redevances de télécommunications			
<b><i>Matériel, Mobilier de bureau et fournitures</i></b>			
Achat de fournitures de bureau, de papeterie et d'imprimés			

Achat de fournitures informatiques			
Achat de matériels informatiques			
Achat de matériels scientifiques			
Achat de matériels et mobilier de bureau			
Achat de réactifs, kits et produits chimiques			
<b>Entretien et réparation</b>			
Entretien et réparation de matériels scientifiques et informatiques			
<b>Transport et Déplacement</b>			
Indemnités de déplacement à l'intérieur du Royaume			
Indemnités Kilométriques			
Frais de transport au Maroc et à l'étranger			
Frais de transport des missionnaires et chercheurs étrangers			
Frais de mission à l'étranger			
Frais de séjour des missionnaires étrangers au Maroc			
<b>Autres Dépenses</b>			
Frais de documentation, d'impression et de publication			
Achat de matières premières et de petit outillage			
Frais de réalisation de maquettes et de prototype			
Frais de démonstration et de publicité			
Frais d'étude, d'analyse et de sous-traitance			
Frais de participation aux séminaires			
Frais d'organisation de séminaires			
Frais de dépôt et de gestion des brevets, de licence et/ou de droit auteur			
<b>Total</b>			

## 5. CORE Organic Cofund National Contact points

Mr Ahmed Hammouch

- Tél : 00212537217649
- E-mail : [ah.hammouch@gmail.com](mailto:ah.hammouch@gmail.com)

Mr Abdelouahid Ezzarfi

- Tél : 00212537217662/00212672210327
- E-mail : [a.ezzarfi@yahoo.fr](mailto:a.ezzarfi@yahoo.fr)

## 16. Country: Norway

**Funding Institution: The Research Council of Norway (RCN)**

Contact persons: Nina E. Solheim, Kristin Dawes

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>400 000</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	x		0,2 mill
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	x		0,2 mill
3. Mild food processing		x	
4. Sustainable and smart packaging		x	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	0,2 mill		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?	x		
Do you fund industry partners?		x	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		x	
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>		x	
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>		x	

### 17. Country: Poland

Funding Institution: The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)

Contact persons: Konrad Kosecki

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>600 000 euro</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>

<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	x		200 000 euro
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	x		200 000 euro
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	x		200 000 euro
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>		x	
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>			
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>			
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	x		
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	x		
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		x	
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	x		Project partners of selected projects will have to submit national application forms to NCBR.
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>	x		Overheads costs cannot account for more than 25% of eligible project costs, and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above and the rest of direct costs, excluding subcontracting.

## **18. Country: Romania**

**Funding Institution: The Executive Agency for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI)**

**Contact persons: Adrian ASANICA**

**Email: [adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro](mailto:adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro)**

**Tel: +40 744 450 011**

**Luciana BRATU**

Email: [luciana.bratu@uefiscdi.ro](mailto:luciana.bratu@uefiscdi.ro)

Tel: +40 723 588 779

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	500.0 r		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	x		
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	x		
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	x		
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	x		
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	NA		
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	<p>The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is <b>250.000 Euro</b> if Romania is the coordinator of the transnational project.</p> <p>The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is <b>200.000 Euro</b> if Romania is partner in the transnational project.</p>		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>	x		<p>Legal entities established in Romania are eligible to get funding, i.e. public and private accredited universities, national R&amp;D institutes, other research organizations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises with R&amp;D activity within their domains.</p> <p>We can fund only Romanian research teams. For universities, public institutions, R&amp;D national institutions funding is 100%, and for SMEs and Large companies, financing is under the permit NASR Decision no 9281/8.13.2015 approving the scheme of State aid for</p>
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	x		
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>	x		

			Program 3: European and international cooperation.
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	x		<p>The Principal Investigator of Romanian team must hold a Ph.D. degree. This condition does not apply if the Romanian host institution is an enterprise according with the specific European and national laws.</p> <p>One research team leader will participate only one time in a proposal within the trans-national call as responsible or coordinator.</p> <p>No simultaneous funding is possible for more than one application under the same call.</p> <p>The Principal Investigator of Romanian team is full time employed within the host institution with permanent position, with fixed term contract covering at least the duration of the project or has an agreement with the host institution for his/her employment at least for the duration of the contract;</p> <p>It is forbidden to submit a proposal which seeks to fund activities already funded by other public sources;</p> <p>The host institution does not have a seizure on its accounts; it has not been declared bankrupt or wound up; it has not made false declarations concerning its economic and legal statute; it has not broken other contract previously signed with a public contracting authority;</p> <p>The host institution agrees to ensure the necessary administrative support, to provide access to all necessary resources/infrastructures, to support the project implementation in good conditions and to employ the members of the Romanian team, in respect of all legal provisions in force, if the project is selected for funding.</p>
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>	x		<p><b>BUDGET:</b></p> <p>The following categories of expenses are eligible:</p> <p><b>A. Staff costs</b> (researchers, technicians and support staff, including all corresponding state and social contributions; these contributions are subject to</p>

		<p>national regulations in force);</p> <p><b>B. Consumables</b> (materials, supplies or similar);</p> <p><b>C. Equipments</b> (in full compliance with state aid regulations), no more than 30% of the total funding from the public budget;</p> <p><b>D. Subcontracting</b> (max. 25% of the total funding from the public budget); The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work;</p> <p><b>E. Travel expenses</b> (in Romania or abroad, only for project teams members);</p> <p><b>F. Overheads</b> (calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, travel expenses and logistics costs - excluding capital costs).  <b>Indirect costs will not exceed 20% of direct costs, excluding subcontracting.</b></p> <p>Expenses are eligible if incurred after signature of the contract.</p> <p>Maximum project duration: proposed participations may last up to 36 months</p>
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**Other general comments:**

The [guideline](#) according to the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020, for ERA-NET Cofund projects has to be consulted and respected by applicants.

**19. Country: Spain (Castilla y León)**

**Funding Institution: Institute for Business Competitiveness of Castilla y León (ICE)**

**Contact persons: Isabel Gobernado Mitre**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>	<b>450.000€</b>		
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	X		
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	X		
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	X		

<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	X		
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>	<b>Only R&amp;D activities are eligible</b>		
<b>Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.</b>	<b>The budget of the partner from Castilla y León must be at least 150.000 €</b>		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
<b>Do you fund research institutions?</b>		X	
<b>Do you fund industry partners?</b>	X		
<b>Do you fund other stakeholders?</b>		X	
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	X		<b>Please contact ICE for further information</b>
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>			

## 20. Country: Turkey

**Funding Institution: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (GDAR)**

**Contact persons: Ahmet BUDAKLIER-Ayşen ALAY VURAL**

<b>A. Total national budget available (€)</b>			
<b>B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)</b>
<b>1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems</b>	*		50.000 €
<b>2. Diversity in food from field to plate</b>	*		50.000 €
<b>3. Mild food processing</b>	*		50.000 €
<b>4. Sustainable and smart packaging</b>	*		50.000 €
<b>Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities</b>			

Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	100.000 €		
C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	*		
Do you fund industry partners?		*	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		*	
D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?			
E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?			

## 21. Country: United Kingdom

Funding Institution: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Contact persons:

Victor Aguilera: [victor.aguilera@defra.gov.uk](mailto:victor.aguilera@defra.gov.uk); +44 020 80 26 42 53

Sophie Rollinson: [Sophie.rollinson@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.rollinson@defra.gov.uk) +442080264117

A.Total national budget available (€)	£300,000		
B. Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems	X		
2. Diversity in food from field to plate	X		
3. Mild food processing	X		
4. Sustainable and smart packaging		X	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Defra's Food Programme funding can only support R&D that lies within its specific policy remit to support increasing productivity with positive environmental impact with a focus on post farm gate. Research on human/clinical health impacts of food consumption; education is out of scope		

Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	£100K		
<b>C. Indicate which partners are eligible for funding</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Specific requirements</b>
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		Yes, subject to industry partner's compliance with State Aid rules
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	N/A
<b>D. Are there any additional national rules or documents required?</b>	X		Please refer to Annex I below
<b>E. Are there any extraordinary regulations?</b>	X		Applicants <b>must</b> comply with Defra's standard Terms & Conditions for Research and Development – please contact UK coordinator for details

**Other general comments:**

**Annex I: Additional eligibility funding criteria from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), United Kingdom**

Defra's funding is restricted to research proposals considering a food systems approach with a primary focus on food chain impacts. Proposals which only focus on agricultural systems research are out of Defra's scope for this bidding exercise.

Defra's contribution towards each project should not exceed the maximum limit of £100,000.

**Bidders must contact the Defra Susfood2/Core Organics representatives (Victor Aguilera and Sophie Rollinson) prior to submitting bids for funding.**

According to its policy remit, Defra is only able to contribute funding to proposals under **topics 1, 2 and 3** and this funding is subject to the further following considerations:

**On Topic 1: Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems:**

Defra's interest is in research projects that propose a farm to fork approach with focus on food chain impacts (i.e. post farm gate). Projects which consider the interdependencies and trade-offs between different food production stages across the entire food chain are of interest. Projects which are only looking at agriculture systems are not in scope.

**On Topic 2: Diversity in food from field to plate**

Defra's interest is in research projects focusing on diversity in food processing, food quality, sustainable consumption and environmental impacts of diets. Diversity in farming systems is out of scope.

On research related to the environmental impact of diets, proposals will need to build on previous research by SUSFOOD investigating the environmental, social and economic factors affecting our ability to meet food systems sustainability challenges. However, research with focus on education and communication aspects of sustainable healthy diets are out of scope.

### **On Topic 3: Mild food processing**

Defra's interest is for projects with focus on:

- Developing resource efficient, sustainable low carbon technological solutions that deliver environmental benefits;
- innovative approaches to extend shelf life (with reduced waste); and
- increasing the quality (nutritional) of raw materials/ ingredients used in food processing

Funding is out of scope for projects looking at development of new ingredients.

### **Other general considerations:**

Areas of specific interest for Defra for this call include:

- Research to stimulate technological innovation to promote competitiveness, sustainable productivity, strengthen resilience and economic growth in the food and drink sector to:
  - Maximise resource efficiency in food processing, manufacture, distribution and retail with improved environmental impacts (reducing energy, water use, GHG emissions, waste recycling/reduction, optimising use of raw materials), delivered through novel engineering, process design and better systems control;
  - meet future consumer needs and preferences through technological innovation to produce nutritious, safe, quality foods sustainably.
- Research proposals should target productivity and competitiveness alongside environment and other priorities within a systems approach. Multi- and interdisciplinary research expertise is encouraged.
- The UK part of the project must be developed within in the UK and must not duplicate research funded elsewhere.

- Defra will favour research proposals that will potentially have application and benefit to the UK food production system and support innovation and productivity in the UK.
- Defra is unable to fund UK partners to undertake research that involves assessment of health benefits or clinical trial research as this is outside of the Departments' remit. Pre-competitive research and innovation to improve nutritional food quality should focus on addressing strategic and technological challenges to improve nutritional impacts of processing, food manufacture, and shelf life on foods. Near market product development is out of scope.
- We welcome proposals that involve industry partnerships to add value and ensure 'real world' relevance. Industry partners will need to demonstrate compliance with State Aid rules.
- UK contractors will be paid by Defra in sterling. The exchange rate from Sterling to Euros applied will be that at the time of SUSFOOD2/CORE ORGANICS call publication.

#### **Links of interest:**

##### **Defra's Food Strategy**

The UK Government is producing a National Food Strategy with an aim to address the 'great food systems security and sustainability challenges' and to maximise the benefits of the coming revolution in agricultural technology. It is intended to be an overarching strategy for Government, designed to ensure that our food system. More information on the strategy is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/developing-a-national-food-strategy-independent-review-2019>

##### **Defra Strategy 2018, Creating a great place for living:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/753513/defra-group-strategy-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/753513/defra-group-strategy-2018.pdf)

##### **Before submitting proposals, applicants are strongly advised to consult**

- **The national Coordinators to ensure bids are eligible and meet the national criteria. Please contact Victor Aguilera (Victor Aguilera: [victor.aguilera@defra.gov.uk](mailto:victor.aguilera@defra.gov.uk); +44 020 80 26 42 53) or Sophie Rollinson ( [Sophie.rollinson@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.rollinson@defra.gov.uk) +442080264117)**

- **Defra's standard Terms and Conditions for funding research (embedded in this document). Bidders should ensure that they have considered VAT where applicable in their proposals.**