

2024 Joint International Funding Call

Crop and livestock farming meeting the challenges of climate change

launched by:

Green ERA-Hub

in collaboration with

**Wheat Initiative & Global Research Alliance on
Agricultural Greenhouse Gases**

Call Announcement V5.0 25th July 2024

Guidelines for Applicants

Key Dates:

Call Opens: **29th of May 2024**

Information Webinar: **21th of June, 9:30 am to 10:30 am CEST (Berlin, Germany)**

Deadline pre-registration: **31st of July 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany)**

Deadline proposal submission: **5th of September 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany)**

Evaluation and selection: **September – November 2024**

Letters to Applicants: **November 2024**

History of Changes

| Version | Changes |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| V1.0 4th April 2024 | Original version |
| V2.0 16th May 2024 | Revised version by the Call Office after the comments from funders |
| V3.0 18th June 2024 | BMBF participation is officially confirmed |
| V4.0 12th July 2024 | INIA-Uruguay participation is officially confirmed |
| V5.0 25th July 2024 | UEFISCDI will not participate in the call as a funding organisation. |

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1 | Background | 5 |
| 2 | Main Objective and Scope..... | 5 |
| 3 | Call topics..... | 6 |
| 4 | Funding modalities and who can apply | 8 |
| 4.1 | Who can apply | 8 |
| 4.2 | Eligibility | 8 |
| 4.3 | Coordinator of the research project consortium..... | 9 |
| 4.4 | Funding Parties | 10 |
| 4.5 | Submission tool..... | 11 |
| 4.6 | Partnering tool..... | 11 |
| 5 | Call procedure | 11 |
| 5.1 | Management of the Call..... | 11 |
| 5.2 | Pre-Registration of projects | 11 |
| 5.3 | Submission of proposals | 12 |
| 6 | Expert evaluation procedure..... | 12 |
| 6.1 | General..... | 12 |
| 6.2 | Evaluation and selection of proposals..... | 13 |
| 6.3 | Proposal selection (Funding decision)..... | 14 |
| 6.4 | Ethics Evaluation | 15 |
| 7 | General Data Protection Regulations Issues..... | 15 |
| 8 | Obligations for funded projects..... | 16 |
| 8.1 | Negotiation of contract | 16 |
| 8.2 | Communication and Dissemination..... | 16 |
| 8.3 | Project monitoring and meetings | 16 |
| 8.4 | Data Management Issues | 17 |
| 8.5 | Ethics assessment..... | 17 |
| | Annex A: National/Regional contact points and indicative call budget..... | 18 |
| | Annex B: Checklist proposal documents to upload..... | 20 |
| | Annex C: Template proposal | 21 |
| | Annex D: Data Management Plan | 25 |
| | Annex E: Template financial commitments | 26 |
| | Annex F: Work plan..... | 27 |
| | Annex G: Communication and Dissemination Plan | 28 |

Definitions and Tasks

| | |
|--|---|
| Call | 2024 Joint International Funding Call "Crop and livestock farming meeting the challenges of climate change" launched by Green ERA-Hub in collaboration with the Wheat Initiative & Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases |
| Call Office | The Call Office is responsible for administrative support regarding the Call, call documents and procedures, submission platform and webinar. |
| Funders' Board (FB) | The FB consists of all Funding Parties giving funding to the Call. The FB will take the final decision on the selection of projects based on the ranking list provided by the IEC and the availability of funds. |
| Funding Parties | Funding Parties are organisations who give funding to the Call according to their national/regional funding regulations. |
| International evaluation committee (IEC) | The IEC consists of international experts in the fields of the topics of the Call. Members of the IEC will evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation guidelines (see also chapter 7 of this document). During the IEC meeting, the IEC will generate a ranked list of proposals. The FB will use the ranking list to select proposals with recommendation for funding. |
| Partner Participating at Own Expense (PPOE) | A partner in a proposal, not requesting funding from a Funding Party, but providing a Letter of Commitment in order to demonstrate the ability to undertake the proposed activities within the project. |

1 Background

The **Green ERA-Hub (GEH)** officially started in September 2022 as a Coordination and Support Action of the European Commission under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. It represents 15 currently active EU ERA-Net Cofunds and self-sustained initiatives in the field of agri-food and biotechnology. Among the main aims, the GEH builds on previous achievements and further enhance cross-sectoral collaboration between agri-food and biotechnology ERA-Nets by identifying common research and innovation priorities and addressing them in joint transnational funding of collaborative research projects. The 2024 Joint International Call is developed and funded by the partners of the GEH in collaboration with the WI and the GRA.

Wheat Initiative" (WI) was launched in 2011 following an agreement between the Ministers of Agriculture of the G20 countries as "International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement". The WI now provides a framework to identify global strategic research and organisation priorities for wheat research. The WI fosters communication between members of the research community, funders and global policy makers, and aims at securing efficient and long-term investments to meet wheat research and development goals. It also initiates and supports activities to enhance communication and increase access of all to information, resources and technologies.

The **Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)** brings countries together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions. The GRA was set up in 2009 to bring together the world's best in agricultural greenhouse gas emissions research, aiming to expand knowledge in this area and accelerate the development of appropriate mitigation technologies and practices. More than 60 countries and 20 international and regional partner organisations are now involved. The collective expertise of the GRA is used to help strengthen countries' greenhouse gas inventories for agriculture, support their actions to achieve their agriculture commitments under the UN Paris Agreement on climate change, and encourage greater global, regional and national investment in research in these areas.

As a result of the alignment of various national and regional research programmes, the GEH has combined the research and innovation priorities of different ERA-Net initiatives to launch the 2024 GEH Joint International Funding Call. The WI supported GEH in the definition of the call scope and in the involvement of international funders. The GRA also, promoted the call among funders from their network in order to reach additional international funders.

2 Main Objective and Scope

Evidence of climate change is already clearly noticeable with global consequences for people, the environment and the economy. Timely, scientifically based adaptation to climate change can help mitigate societal, economic and health-related impacts and increase risk preparedness and resilience. Due to the expected impacts of climate change in the future and

concomitant weather extremes, such as heat, drought, floods and associated phenomena, adaptation measures must be taken in order to limit negative impacts on crop and livestock production. At the same time, innovation supporting the contribution of crop and livestock production to the mitigation of climate change remains crucial for the sustainability of the system. Therefore, this call aims to contribute towards global food security by supporting projects that lead to methodological innovations enabling more sustainable and resilient crop and livestock systems in the light of climate change and/or contribute to its mitigation.

The overall objectives include the advancement of climate smart farming for climate change adaptation, resilience to stresses, and crop and livestock health, in a context of the economic sustainability of farming. Projects should consider holistic and integrated perspectives. Innovations and practices shall be assessed with regard to the wellbeing of humans, other living organisms and overall ecological systems. The scope covers both organic and conventional farming approaches.

A multidisciplinary and multi-actor approach is encouraged to meet the challenges facing, and the potential for, new resources, techniques and processes in relation to issues such as breeding and variety development, interactions between different ecosystem components, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

Research projects may include important elements of impact pathway analysis such as:

- Analysis of potential synergies and trade-offs for the implementation of redesigned or new products or production systems along the value chain and their economic, ecological and social effects.
- Identification of the most important drivers, facilitators and barriers (e.g., economic, social, legal) to accept and implement new products, production strategies and processes.

Projects are expected to address one of the two Topics described below. Each of the Topics may be combined with the following cross-cutting themes:

- Establishment of (harmonized) scientific methods to assess the sustainability of agri-food systems (integrated/systems approach)
- Optimisation of ecosystem services in primary production
- Enhancement of biodiversity in primary production

3 Call topics

Topic 1. Improved resilience and health of crops

Crops and cropping systems are particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change. In addition, there is the need to reduce the environmental and financial burden of chemical inputs, both fertilizers and crop protection products. At the same time, the re-design of these systems offers great potential for the improvement of crop resilience, health and resource-use efficiency.

The scope includes projects focused on temperate, rain-fed and irrigated cropping environments. These farming systems are often characterised by cereal production, particularly wheat and barley, grown in rotation with brassica, grain legumes or other crops. Rotational grassland and perennial crops are also included in the scope. Specific details on

the range of crop species/requirements can be found in respective national/regional funding annexes.

This topic includes research efforts and approaches that will improve agronomic systems through genetic and innovative breeding methods for future-proofing crop varieties and/or innovative crop management practices to address at least one of the goals indicated below:

- a) Resilience: improve abiotic and biotic stress resilience through novel approaches that integrate genetics with management practices across the cropping system.
- b) Reduced inputs: improve nutrient use efficiency and crop health while minimising the use of fertilizers, especially quickly soluble nitrogen fertilizers and chemical plant protection products.
- c) Water use efficiency: improve water use efficiency with respect to heat, drought and salinity.
- d) Agrobiodiversity and soil health: preserve and improve soil function and health by promoting root and soil microbiome diversity and optimising plant root-soil-microorganism interactions.

Topic 2. Livestock production and climate change

The potential impacts of climate change on livestock production systems are a major concern. Climate affects livestock growth, production, performance, morbidity, and mortality, along with feed supply. Therefore, there is an urgent need for further research on these issues.

This topic focusses on livestock, GHGs and climate change, addressing both, (a) solutions for climate change adaptation and (b) measurement systems for GHG emissions.

The scope includes the major terrestrial livestock types (beef and dairy cattle, pigs, poultry and small ruminants)¹.

Possible areas of intervention are (note that this list is not exhaustive):

a) Adaptation of livestock production systems to climate change

Proposals should explore holistic strategies for adapting livestock production systems, including grassland, to a changing climate, also improving water efficiency. This may include innovative approaches to breeding and genetics, feed supply (including global markets) and animal nutrition, and housing.

b) Improved measurement systems for GHG emissions

Research proposals should focus on developing improved measurement systems that cover GHG emissions and/or climate change mitigation along the whole livestock value chain, including pasture, feed production, slaughter and processing.

¹ Fish and aquaculture, honeybees and fur animals like mink, foxes or chinchilla are not included.

4 Funding modalities and who can apply

The Funding Parties of the Call are listed in Table 1. The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that research partners (applicants) of projects, that will be selected for funding, will receive the distinct grant separately and directly from the national/regional Funding Party supporting the Call, according to their legal terms and conditions for project funding (see National/Regional Regulations).

4.1 Who can apply

Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, private non-profit organisations, and private companies can apply, subject to the national/regional regulations and eligibility criteria. Research consortia should consist of a minimum of three partners seeking funding from at least three different countries. Research consortia partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties can be part of research consortia, if they bring in their own funding and submit an appropriate “Letter of Commitment” (see Annex E). These will be termed Partner Participating at Own Expense (PPOE). However, PPOEs cannot be coordinator, their contribution should not be essential for the project’s successful implementation and they will not count towards the minimum number of partners.

4.2 Eligibility

All proposals must fulfil the General Eligibility Criteria, as well as the applicable National/Regional Eligibility Criteria.

The General Eligibility Criteria are:

- **Proposals must be pre-registered by 31 July 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany) via the online submission platform (see also section 5.22 for pre-registration details)**
- **Full proposals must be submitted 5 September 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany) via the submission platform (see also section 6.3 for proposal submission details)**
- Proposals must be written in English.
- Proposals must be complete and in accordance to the procedure and must be submitted via the online submission platform. Thus, full proposals must include a Data Management Plan (one page, PDF, see Annex D), a Communication and Dissemination Plan (one page, PDF, see Annex G) and an ethics self-assessment as part of the application.
- Consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from **at least three** different FB member **countries** who contribute funds to the Call, including at least 1 GEH country (Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg). ACIAR will fund researcher from Australia and other Australia partner countries (please see NR for the list of countries). In this case, Australian funding through ACIAR in Australia and an Australia partner country will count as 2 countries in the project consortium. PPOEs do not count towards the minimum of three partners.

- In order to achieve balanced partnerships, the budget that can be requested by partners from one country cannot be more than 70% of the total requested budget for the project. Some Funding Parties also have funding limits, please check the national/regional funding regulations.
- The same person cannot act as a coordinator for more than one proposal. Some agencies may not allow the same person to be involved in more than one proposal, please check national/regional funding regulations.
- Each applying consortium must be led by a project coordinator, who must be from an organisation requesting funding from a Funding Party of this Call (i.e., not a PPOE).
- The minimum project duration is 24 months and the maximum is 36 months (please check national/regional funding regulations for exceptions).
- Proposals that include PPOE(s) must include a Letter of Commitment (see Annex E) for each PPOE in the pre-registration phase. If proposals include PPOE(s) **the absence of the letter(s) will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.**

In addition, national/regional eligibility criteria must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the national/regional thematic priorities of the Funding Party. National/regional requirements are described in the national/regional regulations (see under Call Documents at <https://www.submission-greenerahub.eu/call2/>). The Funding Parties may require additional documents according to their national/regional or organisational regulations (please, check in the relevant national/regional regulations).

Failure of one applicant to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the national/regional eligibility criteria, will result in rejection of the entire proposal. Also, inclusion of a non-eligible partner without a Letter of commitment (see Annex E) will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Contact Point (NCP) before submitting a proposal (see Annex A).

After the closing date, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check of the proposals with respect to the criteria listed in this section. Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the FB. The members of the FB will then check the proposals against National/Regional Eligibility Criteria as described in the national/regional regulations.

Only proposals complying with both sets of criteria (General Eligibility Criteria and National/Regional Eligibility Criteria) will be forwarded to the evaluation procedure.

The results of the eligibility check will be communicated by the Call Office to the project coordinators before the evaluation phase of the Call.

4.3 Coordinator of the research project consortium

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

- Make sure that the national/regional regulations and funding modalities of all partners involved are met by confirmation of the partners themselves to ensure the eligibility of the entire project;

- Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct pre-registration of the project and proposal submission. The coordinator should be the one who creates an account for the proposal in the online submission platform;
- 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 out to a high standard and meets contractually bound deliverables and milestones presented in the proposal and approved by the Funding Parties;
- Be responsible for sharing all information with consortium partners;
- Be responsible for monitoring data and timely delivery of project reports.

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

4.4 Funding Parties

Table 1. List of Funding Parties of the Call

| Country | Funding Party | Acronym |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Australia and ACIAR partner countries² | Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research | ACIAR |
| Belgium | National Fund for Scientific Research | F.R.S.- FNRS |
| Germany | Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) - represented by Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) | BMEL (BLE) |
| Germany | Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) | BMBF (JÜLICH) |
| Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine + Agriculture and Food Development Authority | DAFM TEAGASC |
| Italy | Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forests | MASAF |
| Luxembourg | Luxembourg National Research Fund | FNR |
| New Zealand | Ministry for Primary Industries | MPI |
| Uruguay | Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria | INIA-UY |

² For the list of ACIAR partner countries please look at: <https://www.aciar.gov.au/country-partnerships>

4.5 Submission tool

Pre-registration and submission of proposals will be carried out using an online submission platform, where applicants will find all information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission platform is available at <https://www.submission-greenerahub.eu/call2/>

An online webinar will be organised on the 21th of June between 9:30am and 11:00am CEST for all interested applicants. Content of the webinar will be an overview of all relevant aspects of the Call and a short introduction to the submission platform.

4.6 Partnering tool

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

5 Call procedure

5.1 Management of the Call

The Call Office will be operated by MASAF (Italy):

| Name | Contact Details |
|---------------------|--|
| Livia Ortolani | livia.ortolani.ext@masaf.gov.it |
| Ancy Kollamparambil | asmathew.kollamparambil.ext@masaf.gov.it |

The Technical Helpdesk will be operated by Project Management Jülich (Germany):

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Christian Breuer | ptj-geh-call-office@fz-juelich.de |
| Petra E. Schulte | |

5.2 Pre-Registration of projects

All proposals have to be pre-registered by the deadline indicated at the start of this document. The pre-registration comprises the following information:

- Project data (title, acronym, duration, topic);
- Project summary;
- Contact data and belonging institution of all partners of the consortia (CV upload is only necessary at full proposal submission);
- Keywords;
- An estimation of requested funding of all partners (Financial Plan) is optional.

All relevant data for pre-registration are clearly marked within the submission platform and will be also explained during the Webinar. This step is mandatory to apply for this Call and hence to submit the full proposal.

Applicants who do not pre-register by the deadline cannot submit full proposals. It is possible to add, delete or replace proposal partners after the pre-registration step. However, consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from **at least three** different FB member **countries** who contribute funds to the Call at the pre-registration step.

The pre-registration will support the Call Office in preparation of the evaluation phase (contacting required experts). The project summary will not undergo an expert evaluation. However, the consortium will undergo a general check against the number and type of partners.

5.3 Submission of proposals

The Call follows a one-step procedure with the deadline for submission of proposals on 5 September 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany) via the submission platform.

Proposals have to be pre-registered beforehand (see section 6.2). Proposals, which have not been pre-registered in time, will be rejected.

It will be possible to update and resubmit the application as many times as required until the submission deadline, but not after. Applicants should note that the online submission system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline. It is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical problems. Requests for extensions of the deadline due to last-minute technical problems will not be considered.

Before the submission of a full proposal, the coordinator should make sure that all consortium partners requesting funding from this Call are eligible for support from their respective national/regional funding organisations.

For additional partners who are not eligible for funding from any of the Funding Parties (PPOE), the coordinator has to ensure that each of these partners possesses the required financial assets to fulfil their tasks within the project via a Letter of Financial Commitment (see Annex E).

The project coordinator is responsible for the timely submission of the proposal via the online submission system.

6 Expert evaluation procedure

6.1 General

The FB will establish an International Evaluation Committee (IEC) that has the following mandate:

- Provide the peer review evaluation of proposals, on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined below;
- Provide a written summary of each proposal to explain the decisions to the FB. The summary will be provided to the applicant by the Call Office;
- Provide a ranking list of project proposals based on the evaluation scores.

A Chair will coordinate the work of the IEC. The IEC members will be independent of the Funding Parties and applicants involved in this Call. The Call Office will ensure that no

conflict of interest exists between the IEC members and the proposals evaluated. For this purpose, the IEC members will be required to sign a Conflict of Interest and a Declaration of Confidentiality form. The online evaluation tool will include a feature which will prevent access to a proposal in case a Conflict of Interest is declared by an IEC member.

During the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of the applicants and the content of the proposals. The proposals will be only read by the FB members, the IEC members involved, and the Call Office. Furthermore, all collected data will be handled in accordance with the GDPR (see section 7).

Eligible proposals will be evaluated online by a minimum of three international experts per proposal. The experts will then meet and agree on consensus scores for each proposal.

6.2 Evaluation and selection of proposals

6.2.1 Evaluation criteria

The reviewers will evaluate the proposals in accordance with the scope and call topics described in this call announcement (see sections 2 and 3), and using the three equally weighted evaluation criteria (including sub-criteria) described below.

The three equally weighted evaluation criteria are:

1. Scientific excellence

The excellence of the proposal will be assessed by evaluators considering the following points:

- a) Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
- b) Soundness of the concept
- c) Credibility of the proposed methodology
- d) Quality and expertise of the consortium as a whole (Project Coordinator's and Project Partners' information)
- e) Degree of novelty and innovation of the proposed approach and extent to which the proposed work is beyond the state of the art and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)
- f) Appropriate application of system thinking, interdisciplinary approaches and where relevant use of stakeholder knowledge/involvement and gender dimension in research and innovation content

2. Relevance and potential impact

This evaluation criterion will focus on (a) the relevance of the proposed project to the Call regarding the Call scope and the topics (see section 2 and 3), and (b) the potential impact of the project.

3. Quality and efficiency of the Implementation

- a) Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables

- b) Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk, ethical issues and data management
- c) Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
- d) Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role
- e) Appropriateness of the project budget to the planned work and the achievement of the project goals

6.2.2 Scoring

For proposal evaluation, scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria mentioned above. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (half scores are not allowed) and equally weighted.

The 0-5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:

- **0: The proposal fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1: Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed**, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2: Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion**, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well**, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4: Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well**, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion.** Any shortcomings are minor.

An average score of each criterion is calculated out of the scores given by a minimum of 3 experts. Two thresholds will be applied with respect to the scores. **A threshold of 3/5** will be applied to each criterion, i.e. proposals with a mean score < 3.0 in any of the criteria will not be recommended for funding. **A threshold of 10** will be applied with respect to the total score (sum of the three average scores per criterion), i.e. proposals with a total score under 10 will not be proposed for funding. All proposals will be ranked according to the final scores.

The outcome of the evaluation is irrevocable.

6.3 Proposal selection (Funding decision)

The Call Office will forward the ranking list of proposals provided by the IEC to the FB. The FB will meet to take the final decision on selecting transnational projects recommended for national/regional funding, based on the ranking list and the available funding with the aim of funding as many high-quality projects as possible.

The outcome of the evaluation process and funding decision will be communicated by the Call Office to the project coordinators. **Evaluation summaries will be provided to the coordinators which are responsible for forwarding all information to the proposal partners.**

Upon the final decision by the FB, a list of funded projects will be published on the Green ERA-Hub website containing the following information from the proposals:

- Project title and project acronym
- Duration of the project
- Project Summary
- Total requested funding of the project
- Name and contact information of the project coordinator
- Country, organisation and participant name of each partner.

6.4 Ethics Evaluation

Proposals that are selected for funding will be subject to a two-step Ethics Evaluation procedure.

Step 1: Ethics Screening

All the proposals, including their Ethics Self-Assessment will be screened by an ethics evaluator. For each proposal there are three possible outcomes from the screening:

- Full Ethics Clearance: no further actions needed
- Conditional Ethics Clearance: post-award conditions applied, on which the projects will have to report at mid and end-term
- Ethics Assessment: the proposal will have to undergo a full ethics assessment

Step 2: Ethics Assessment

In case it is recommended by the ethics evaluator, the proposal will have to undergo an in-depth analysis of the ethics issues identified. There are three possible outcomes from the screening:

- Full Ethics Clearance: no further actions needed
- Conditional Ethics Clearance: post-award conditions applied, on which the projects will have to report at mid and end-term
- No Ethics Clearance: proposal cannot be funded

7 General Data Protection Regulations Issues

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 679/2016). For more information, please consult the privacy policy on the submission website.

8 Obligations for funded projects

8.1 Negotiation of contract

Once the notification letter from the Call Office to the coordinators with the communication of the funding decision has been received, the project partners of proposals recommended for funding will be contacted by the Funding Parties or will need to contact the Funding Parties of their respective countries themselves according to their regulations, in order to start the grant negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start.

Each Funding Party will fund their respective applicant(s) within the research project. Formal funding decisions are made by the participating Funding Parties and funding will be provided according to applicable National/Regional funding regulations and specific ethical issues raised by the ethics evaluation procedure.

For some Funding Parties, a signed consortium agreement might be required for release of the national/regional funds. It is strongly recommended that successful consortia should therefore negotiate and sign a Consortium Agreement before commencement of the project as required per national/regional regulations. This should address at least the following topics:

- Internal organisation and management of the consortium
- Intellectual property arrangements
- Settlement of internal disputes

Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCAs webpage (<https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>).

8.2 Communication and Dissemination

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the Call. Therefore, applicants should be aware that the information from the proposals as listed under section 6.3 will be published for promotional purposes.

Each research project proposal must include a one page Communication and Dissemination Plan (see Annex G).

Communication and dissemination of project-related information and results (e.g., oral/poster presentations in workshops or conferences, a webpage, scientific publications or public articles) must provide a clear reference to **GEH, the WI and GRA as appropriate**.

8.3 Project monitoring and meetings

In addition to the reporting required by the National/regional regulations of the Funding Parties, reporting will be required at mid-term (M12 or M18, depending on the project duration and start) and at the end of each project (M24 or 36, depending on the project duration and start). This will consist of a project status report and in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and contribution to the overall aims of the Call. All project partners will have to deliver input for these reports.

In order to enhance knowledge sharing amongst the projects and dissemination of the project results, kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings will be organized by GEH or other EU funded initiatives. At those meetings, the coordinators shall represent their projects. Project coordinators should calculate costs for attendance of those three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off, mid-term and end-term meeting) in their finance plan during proposal submission.

The report due to this Call for the monitoring process will include also some budgetary indications but the binding reporting about budgets/spending are due to the Funding Party, following its own regulations.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects in due course.

8.4 Data Management Issues

As relevant, applicants must include information on how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project. Each proposal must include a maximum one-page Data Management Plan. Advice for preparing the Data Management Plan is provided in Annex D of this document. In addition, applicants must include an updated Data Management Plan as a distinct deliverable within the first six months of the project. This deliverable will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management.

8.5 Ethics assessment

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. In order to identify any potential ethical issues, applicants are required to complete an ethics self-assessment and provide a support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult Horizon Europe Programme Guidance [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#). If any ethical issues are expected to arise during the proposed project, these must be addressed in the full proposal.

These guidelines address, in more detail, the following ethical issues: human embryos & foetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use, exclusive focus on civil applications. Applicants can also consult on the European Commission 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.

In case activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, the applicants must ensure that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State.

Annex A: National/Regional contact points and indicative call budget

Table 2: List of National/Regional contact points and indicative call budget. For more details, please refer to document “National regulations”.

| Country | Organisation | NCP | Phone number | e-mail | Topic funded | Budget (€) |
|-----------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| Australia | ACIAR | Eric Huttner | P +61262170527 M +61401192092 | Eric.Huttner@aciar.gov.au | Only topic 1 is eligible | AU\$ 500-750.000 |
| Belgium | F.R.S.-FNRS | Florence Quist Joël Groeneveld | +32 2 504 9351 +32 2 504 9271 | international@frs-fnrs.be international@frs-fnrs.be | Both topics of the call are eligible | € 300.000 |
| Germany | BMBF JÜLICH | Christian Breuer Emilie Gätje Petra E. Schulte | +49 2461 61 969 29 +49 2461 61 96367 +49 2461 61 9031 | c.breuer@fz-juelich.de e.gaetje@fz-juelich.de petra.schulte@fz-juelich.de | Only topic 1 is eligible | € 2.000.000 |
| Germany | BMEL BLE | Philipp Sandmann Dr. Arnd Bassler | +49 228 6845 3089 +49 228 6845 3506 | Philipp.Sandmann@ble.de Arnd.Bassler@ble.de | Only topic 2 is eligible | € 500.000 |
| Ireland | DAFM TEAGASC | Ellen DURKIN John HARRISON | +353 (0)1 607 2334 +353 (0)874586821 | Ellen.durkin@agriculture.gov.ie John.harrison@agriculture.gov.ie | DAFM: Both topics of the call are eligible. Teagasc: Only topic 1 is eligible | € 1.448.000 |
| Italy | MASAF | Serenella Puliga Maria Longo | +39 055 2492220 +39 06 46655076 +39 06 46655073 | s.puliga@masaf.gov.it maria.longo.ext@masaf.gov.it | Both topics of the call are eligible | € 800.000 |

| Country | Organisation | NCP | Phone number | e-mail | Topic funded | Budget (€) |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Luxembourg | FNR | Marie-Claude Marx | +352 691 36 28 21 | marie-claude.marx@fnr.lu | Both topics of the call are eligible | € 300.000 |
| New Zealand | MPI | Nilusha Ubeynarayana | +64 04 830 1548 | Nilusha.Ubeynarayana@mpi.govt.nz | only part (b) of Topic 2 is eligible | € 300.000 |
| Uruguay | INIA | Verónica Musselli | +59899757061 | vmusselli@inia.org.uy | Both topics of the call are eligible | € 100.000 |

Annex B: Checklist proposal documents to upload

The proposal has to be submitted via the online submission platform. In addition to the data which has to be entered on the submission platform the following documents have to be uploaded as separate files (see also Annex C). Unless specified, all documents shall have the font and size Arial 11pt with line spacing of 1.15 and have to be uploaded as .pdf. In addition to the documents, 6 images can also be uploaded (please pay attention to format and size – see Annex C).

| Document | Comment | Done |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Coordinator CV | Max. 1 page each (incl. personal details, brief description of your profile incl. relevant qualification and international expertise, list of academic and non-academic degrees and year awarded, list of current and past positions) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Partner CVs | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Work plan | Max. 12 pages, please use the template provided in Annex F – can be downloaded from the submission website | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Data management plan | Max. 1 page, see Annex D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dissemination and communication plan | Max. 1 page, see Annex G | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Letter of commitment(s) (only applicable for not eligible partners) | Please compile one pdf file for all Letters of Commitment; a template is also provided in Annex E and as download on the submission website | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Literature References (optional) | Max. 2 pages | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Annex C: Template proposal

Please note that all information mandatory for pre-registration are marked in bold.

Project Coordinator/partner information

- Contact details
- CV of coordinator/partner
CV shall be uploaded as pdf file max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line spacing 1.15, max. 1 MB
- Tasks within the project
max 2,000 characters incl. spaces
- 5 references/publications
more can be provided as separate document in literature references
- Team members description and their relevant qualifications
max 2,000 characters incl. spaces

Project data

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Topic addressed

Keywords

- Supplementary keywords
Max. 5 keywords related to your project, separated by comma

Stakeholder Engagement

- Please describe which stakeholder(s) your planned project will be relevant for and how you intend to engage the stakeholder(s) during the application phase and/or during the lifetime of your project (if applicable to your project).
max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces

Project summary

- please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities in case your project will be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.
max. 4,000 characters incl. spaces

Project description

Please provide your project description and use the following structure. The project description should:

- a) provide the state of the art,
- b) specify the expected project outputs/impacts and relevance to the call scope/topics,
- c) provide information of the workflow and the linkage of work packages between the project partners.

The project should be in line with the requirements stated in the call text. The space is limited to 25,000 characters including spaces. Implementation of up to six graphics/images is allowed and possible (allowed formats are jpg, png or gif, max. resolution 600x600px, max. file size 2MB). No additional documents will be considered.

Max. 25,000 characters incl. spaces

Work plan

Here you can upload your work plan as a PDF document. The document must not exceed the length of 12 A4 pages (Arial 11pt, line pitch at least 1.15 - allowed file size: 5 MB, PDF file format, template available on submission website) Uploading of more than 12 pages is blocked by the online submission system.

The work plan should clearly describe the individual work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones of the project. The work plan must also include a Gantt-Chart. Upload pdf file, max. 12 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 5 MB

Data Management Plan

Please consider recommendations and checklist of questions provided in Annex D.

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

Communication and Dissemination Plan

Please consider recommendations and guiding information provided in Annex G.

Upload pdf file, max. 1 page, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

Ethical Compliance

Proposals may be rejected from funding on ethical grounds if they do not comply with European and/or National/Regional Legislation

Please complete the ethical self-assessment questionnaire at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf for ethical self-assessment as requested by session 8.5

Financial Plan

Please insert the requested budget for **all partners** within the consortium into the appropriate columns within the submission platform. Also add your own contribution if applicable and **write a short explanation for each budget item**. Please be aware that only the coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium.

Figure of the financial table as shown in submission system.

| Organisation name | Personnel | Travel | Consumables / Equipment | Subcontracts | Requested Funding * required for pre-registration | Total Own Contribution | Total Costs |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------|---|------------------------|-------------|
| Institute of Agrobiodiversity | 250 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 292 | 5 | 297 |
| Overhead | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Institute of Agriculture | 200 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 212 | 2 | 214 |
| Overhead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Institute of Farming | 100 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 140 | 7 | 147 |
| Overhead | 20 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| TOTAL | 595 | 9 | 26 | 14 | 644 | 14 | 658 |

1 k€ = 1000 €

Evaluators (optional)

You may name a maximum of two experts who should not review your proposal because of conflict of interest.

Please enter the full name(s), affiliation (research institution, organisation) and reason for refusal of the expert(s).

max 2,000 characters incl. spaces

Letter of Commitment(s)

Partners who do not seek National/Regional funding from the Funding Parties listed in Table 1 (PPOE), may join the project at their own expense or with funding from another agency not contributing to the Call.

For each of these partners, you have to upload a Letter of Commitment via the Upload Field of the submission platform. If required, please use the template provided under Annex E and compile all Letters of Commitment into one pdf file.

Please do not upload any other letter types unless required by your national/regional regulations. Additional uploaded documents will not be considered.

Upload one pdf file

Additional literature References (optional)

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB

Figures (optional)

You can upload up to 6 figures. Please make sure to use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and maximum size that is supported by the online submission system (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px). A detailed instruction on how to upload and implement figures within the text fields is

provided in the submission system menu FIGURES. **Please check well in advance of the deadline that your figure is accepted by the submission platform.**

Upload up to 6 images (2 MB, 600px x 600px) as jpg, png or gif

Annex D: Data Management Plan

Data management is an essential component to the success of projects using systems/synthetic biology approaches and/or tools in bioinformatics. Representatives from academia, industry, funding agencies, and scholarly publishers designed and jointly endorsed a concise and measurable set of principles referred to as FAIR Data Principles with the intention to provide a guideline for reusability of data holdings. Four foundational principles – Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability– are a necessity of data management. The EC published Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.

All applicants must include a maximum one-page Data Management Plan. This plan should mainly detail how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, in particular addressing the following issues:

- What types of data will the project generate/collect?
- What standards will be used?
- How will this data be exploited and/or shared/made accessible for verification and reuse?

If data cannot be made available, explain why.

- How will this data be curated and preserved?
- How will the costs for data curation and preservation be covered?

Additional guidance on data management, including a template for a Data Management Plan, is given in the guidelines on data management in the Horizon 2020 Online Manual, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/data-management_en.htm

Annex E: Template financial commitments

This template should be used as evidence of the availability of funds by applicants who are:

- from partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties participating in the Call or
- eligible, to receive funding from a Funding Party, but not seeking funding from a Funding Party.

**This document must be signed by
an authorised legal signatory of the organisation that will provide the funding.**

This letter should be submitted electronically with the proposal through the Online Submission Tool.

In case of failure to provide such a commitment in a proposal submission, an applicant could be regarded as ineligible and so will be the whole consortium.

Note that the Organisation Providing Funding may be the same as the Participating Organisation (i.e., it is using its own funding), or different (i.e., the Participating Organisation has found a third-party funder to fund its participation in the proposed project).

Name and address of organisation providing funding.

Name and address of contact person

Call

Letter of Commitment

City, Date:

We hereby confirm that (**Name of Organisation Providing Funding**) commits to the proposal entitled (**Proposal Name**) to cover the costs needed for the participation of (**Participating Organisation Name**) in this project, should it be chosen for funding.

We acknowledge that this is a multi-year commitment and that any changes to this commitment will place the successful completion of the project in jeopardy.

Signed:

Name of Authorised Legal Signatory for the Organisation Providing Funding

Annex F: Work plan

Template for description of work packages and Gantt Chart. Text in green shall be adapted. The template can be also downloaded at the website of the online submission platform.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|--|------------|------------|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| WP 1 | | <i>Name of WP</i> | | | | | | | |
| WP leader | <i>PI</i> | Start month | | <i>M1</i> | | End month | | <i>M6</i> | |
| Partners involved | | <i>P1</i> | | <i>P2</i> | | <i>P3</i> | | <i>P4</i> | |
| Person months | | <i>1</i> | | <i>2.5</i> | | <i>0.5</i> | | <i>1</i> | |
| Deliverables | | <i>D1.1 (M3) D1.2 (M6)</i> | | | Milestones | | | <i>M1.1 (M3)</i> | |
| Aim of WP <i>Brief description of objectives and interrelations with other WPs</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Description of Tasks Task 1.1: <i>Title (Duration in month)</i> Task leader and partners involved: <i>Leader, partner1, partner2, ...</i> <i>Description of task</i> Task 1.2: | | | | | | | | | |
| Deliverables <i>D1.1: title (Month of deliverable)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Milestones <i>M1.1: title (Month of milestone)</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Risks and mitigation of risks <i>Brief description of main risks and their mitigation and plans how to adapt work plan</i> | | | | | | | | | |

The Gantt chart shall contain time span of each WP and corresponding tasks as well as deliverables and milestones. An example for a Gant chart is given below:

| | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M... | M36 |
|-----------------|----|----|------|----|----|------|----|------|-----|
| WP 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 1.1 | | | M1.1 | | | | | | |
| Task 1.2 | | | | | | D1.2 | | | |

Annex G: Communication and Dissemination Plan

Plans for communication and dissemination of the project and its results have to be described and will be taken into account in the evaluation with the aim to increase the quality of the implementation and to reach higher impact (see section 6.2.1). This should be organised in the form of various communication routes (both national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, a course or training material, web-based tools, workshops as well as stakeholder involvement or direct intervention directed towards end users.

Appropriate resources should be dedicated for the communication and dissemination activities. 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 two mandatory joint network meetings (mid-term- and end-term meeting) in their project plan.

Please consider that all project partners must give proper reference to the Green ERA-Hub and Wheat Initiative in any documentation published (in written, oral or electronic form).

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for communication, dissemination and capacity building, please consider: The EC guidelines on "[Communication EU research and innovation guidance for project participants](#)".



GREEN ERA-HUB
on Agri-Food and Biotechnology



**WHEAT
INITIATIVE**



**GLOBAL
RESEARCH
ALLIANCE**
ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES



**Funded by
the European Union**