2nd Green ERA Hub Call on "Crop and livestock farming meeting the challenges of climate change".

Online Webinar 21° of June 2024
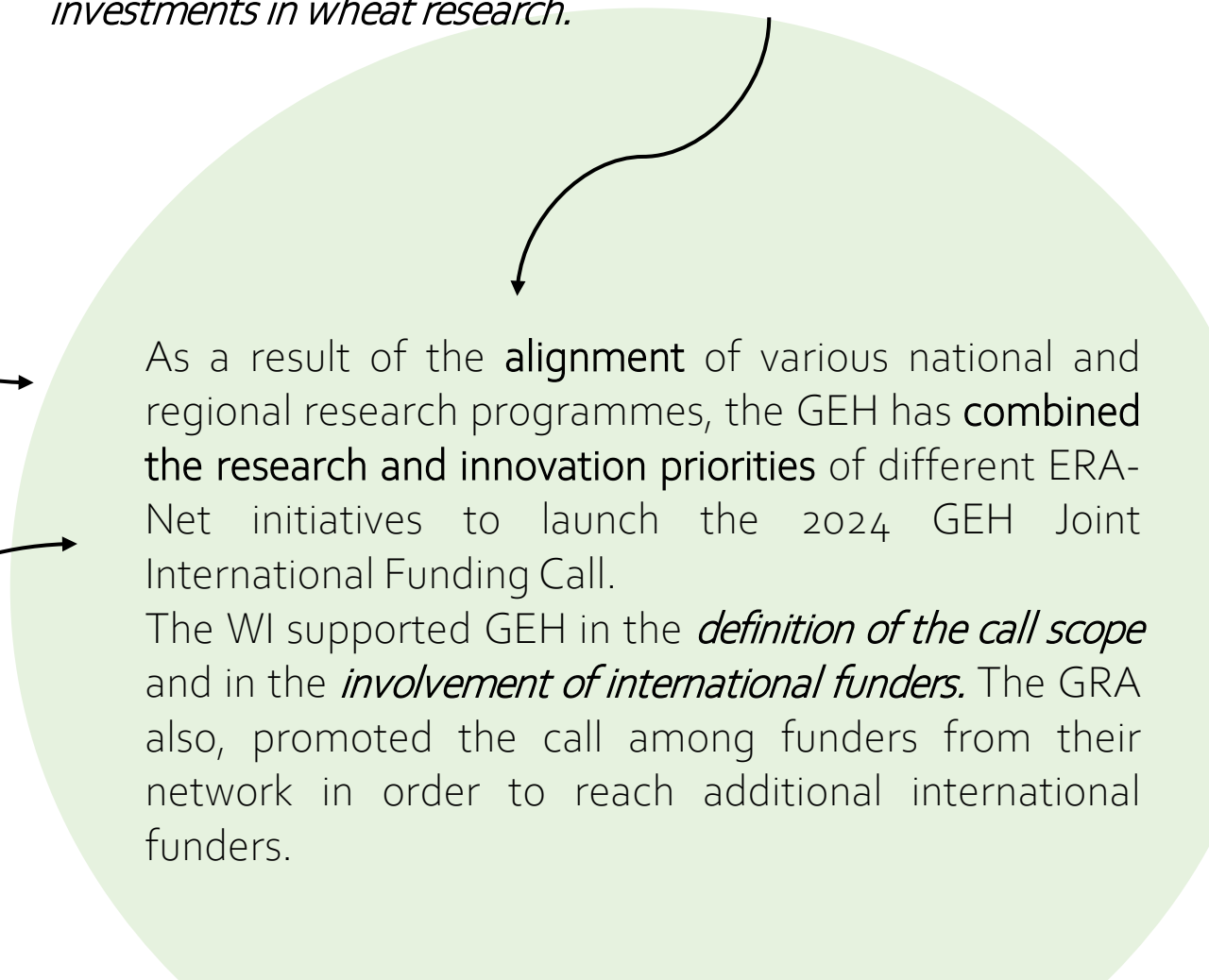
- Green ERA-Hub (GEH)

- Started in **September 2022**, GEH is a Coordination and Support Action of the European Commission under the Horizon Europe Programme.

- It includes *partners from 15 ERA-Net initiatives* in the agri-food and biotechnology sectors, aimed at enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and funding joint research projects.

Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)
- Founded in **2009**, GRA brings countries together to find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- It involves over 60 countries and 20 partner organizations to *expand knowledge and develop mitigation technologies for agricultural emissions*.

Wheat Initiative (WI)
- Launched in **2011** by the G20 Agriculture Ministeries, WI sets global strategic priorities for wheat research.
- It promotes communication between researchers, funders, and policymakers, supporting *long-term investments in wheat research.*

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.

- ALL THE INFORMATION GIVEN TODAY ARE IN THE PUBLISHED CALL ANNOUNCEMENT AND NATIONAL/REGIONAL REGULATIONS

- ANY QUESTIONS, CLARIFICATION IS WELCOME FOR YOUR BEST PROJECT

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

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

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

Key dates

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

- Deadline pre-registration: **31st of July 2024**, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany) MANDATORY, NOT OPTIONAL

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

- Evaluation and selection: September – November 2024 Letters to Applicants: November 2024

Main Scope

The main objectives include advancing climate-smart farming, enhancing resilience to stresses, and ensuring the economic sustainability of farming.

The call seeks to support projects:

- *developing innovative, sustainable, and resilient crop and livestock systems to adapt to and mitigate climate change and* scientific methods for sustainability assessment, optimization of ecosystem services, and enhancement of biodiversity in primary production

- *Adopting* a *holistic and integrated perspective,* addressing both organic and conventional farming.

Key areas include *breeding and variety development, ecosystem interactions,* and *impact pathway analysis.*

Call Topics

- Topic 1. Improved resilience and health of crops:

The scope includes projects focused on *temperate, rain-fed, and irrigated environments*, often involving cereals like wheat and barley, along with brassicas, grain legumes, rotational grasslands, and perennial crops. Research aims to *improve agronomic systems* through *genetic and innovative breeding methods* and *crop management practices to achieve resilience, reduced inputs, water use efficiency*, and *improved agrobiodiversity and soil health*.

- Topic 2. Livestock production and climate change:

The focus is *on livestock, GHGs, and climate change*, addressing (a) adaptation strategies for livestock systems, and (b) improved GHG emission measurement systems. This includes beef and dairy cattle, pigs, poultry, and small ruminants. Key interventions include *holistic adaptation strategies for climate change, innovative breeding, feed supply, nutrition, and housing,* as well as advanced measurement systems for emissions throughout the livestock value chain.

Funding modalities and who can apply

Funding Mechanism:

- Direct funding from respective national/regional Funding Party
- Not cofund from Europe

Eligible Applicants:

- Universities
- Higher education institutions
- Public research institutions
- Private non-profit organizations
- Private companies

Please *look at the National Regulation* to double check if you and your partners are eigible for the specific country.

Eligibility Criteria (1)

Consortia Requirements:

- Minimum 3 eligible partners from 3 different FB member countries

- At least 1 partner from GEH country (Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania)

- ACIAR funding:
  - Australia and partner countries count as 2 countries

PPOEs:

- Do not count towards minimum partners number

- Budget: Max 70% from one country

- Check national/regional funding limits

General Eligibility Criteria (2)

Pre-registration:
- Deadline: 31 July 2024, 12:00 CEST - MANDATORY
- Platform: Online submission

Language: English

Full Proposal Submission:
- Deadline: 5 September 2024, 12:00 CEST
- Platform: Online submission

Completeness: Must follow procedure submitted via online platform
Must include:
- Data Management Plan (1 page, PDF, Annex D)
- Communication and Dissemination Plan (1 page, PDF, Annex G)
- Ethics self-assessment (model from EU)

Eligibility Criteria (3)

Coordinator:
- One proposal per coordinator
- Must be from an organization requesting funding from a Funding Party
- Check national/regional regulations for multiple involvements

Project Duration:
- Minimum: 24 months
- Maximum: 36 months (check national/regional regulations for exceptions)

PPOE Letters of Commitment:
- Required at pre-registration phase
- Absence results in rejection of proposal

National/Regional Elegibility

Look at National Regulations of all countries in your conosortium at submission-greenerahub.eu)

Double check what documents are requested and which national eligibility criteria are there:
- Align to national priorities
- Maximum amount of resources available for each partner in a country
- Specific administrative rules
- Specific requirements for partners eligibility

IF ONLY ONE PARTNER FROM YOUR CONSORTIA RESULT NOT ELIGIBLE AT NATIONALL/REGIONAL LEVEL ALL CONSORTIUM WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE AND WILL BE REJECTED

Eligibility Check:

- Failure to meet any criteria leads to rejection of proposal

- e.g. Non-eligible partner without Letter of Commitment leads to rejection of the whole proposal

Advisory and Evaluation Process

- **Contact NCP**: Strongly advised to contact before submission (see Annex A), unless otherwise specified in national/regional regulations.

- **Post-Submission**: Call Office checks general eligibility

- Not-compliant proposals are rejected (consultation with Founders Board)

- Founder Boards checks against National/Regional Eligibility Criteria

- Only proposals meeting both General and National/Regional Eligibility Criteria proceed to evaluation.

- **Communication**: Eligibility check results communicated before evaluation phase

Coordinator of the research project consortium

- Confirm national/regional regulations and funding modalities with all partners
- Guarantee eligibility of the entire project throughout the application procedure
- Responsible for pre-registration and proposal submission
- Create account on the online submission platform
- Central contact point for the consortium
- Responsible for project coordination throughout its lifespan

Coordinator of the research project consortium

- Inform about events affecting project implementation
- Ensure high standards of work
- Meet contractually bound deliverables and milestones
- Disseminate all relevant information to consortium partners
- Monitor data
- Ensure timely delivery of project reports
- Financial management handled directly by 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 countries[2]	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)[3]
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
Romania	Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii	UEFISCDI[3]
New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries	MPI

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

[3] Official approval pending

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):

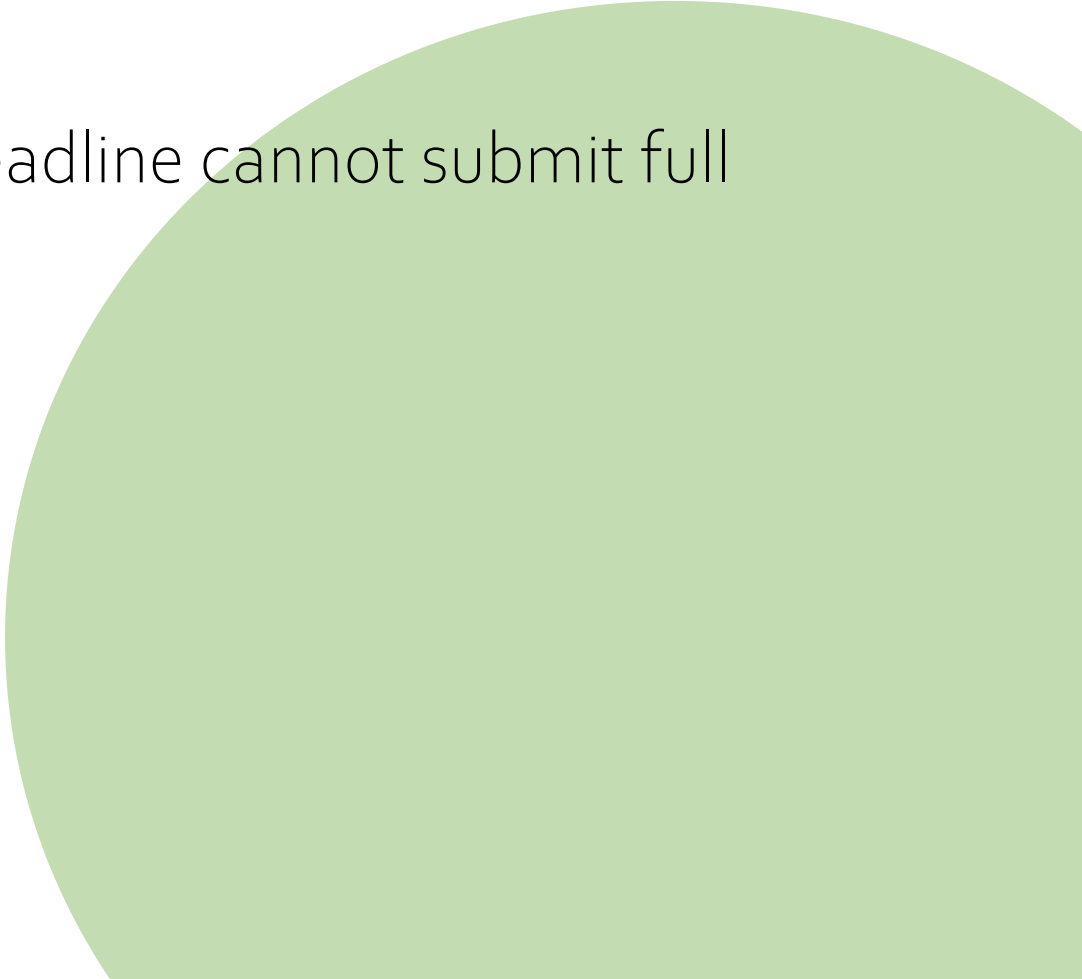| Name	Contact Details
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Pre – registration of projects

- Must pre-register by the deadline indicated in the document
- Mandatory for full proposal submission
- Applicants missing the pre-registration deadline cannot submit full proposals

Project Data:

- Title

- Acronym

- Duration

- Topic

Pre – registration of projects

- Project Summary

- Contact Data and Institutions:

- All consortia partners

- CV upload only needed at full proposal submission

- Keywords

- Optional Financial Plan:

- Estimation of requested funding for all partners

Pre – registration of projects

Flexibility After Pre-Registration

- Can add, delete, or replace proposal partners after pre-registration

Consortia Requirements at Pre-Registration:

- Minimum three eligible partners
- Requesting funding from at least three different FB member countries contributing to the Call

Purpose of Pre-Registration: Supports Call Office in preparation for evaluation phase

- Contacting required experts
- Projects will not undergo expert evaluation
- General check against the number and type of partners

Submission of Proposals

One-Step Process:

- Deadline: 5 September 2024, 12:00 CEST (noon, Berlin, Germany)
- Online submission platform
- Proposals not pre-registered in time will be rejected
- BEFORE the deadline: Update and resubmit as many times as needed
- Not possible after submission deadline

Submission of Proposals

- **Submit Early t**o avoid last-minute technical problems
- High traffic volumes expected near the deadline
- No deadline extensions are allowed for technical issues
- Ensure all consortium partners are eligible for support from respective funding organizations
- For PPOE partners, ensure financial capacity via a Letter of Financial Commitment (Annex E)
- **Coordinator's Role: R**esponsible for timely submission via the online system

Expert Evaluation Procedure

1. Evaluation Committee (IEC) Mandate

- Responsibilities:
    - Peer review proposals based on defined criteria
    - Provide a written summary for FB and for applicants sent by the Call Office
    - Propose a ranking list of proposals based on scores

2. Committee Structure

- **Chair**: Coordinates IEC work

- **Members**: Independent of Funding Parties and applicants

- **Conflict of Interest**:
    - IEC members sign Conflict of Interest and Declaration of Confidentiality forms
    - Online tool prevents access to conflicted proposals

Expert evaluation procedure

3. Confidentiality

- Strict confidentiality of:
  - Applicant identities
  - Proposal content
- Access restricted to FB, IEC, and Call Office
- Data handled per GDPR

4. Evaluation Process

- **Eligible Proposals**:
  - Evaluated by at least three international experts
  - Consensus scores determined in meetings

Evaluation and Selection of Proposals

Evaluation Criteria

- Scientific Excellence:
  - Clarity of objectives, soundness of concept, methodology credibility, consortium quality, innovation, interdisciplinary approaches

- Relevance and Potential Impact:
  - Relevance to Call scope and topics, project impact potential

- Quality and Efficiency of Implementation:
  - Work plan quality, management structure, participant complementarity, task allocation, project budget appropriateness

Scoring

- **Scale**: 0 to 5 (no half scores)
  - 0: Fails to address criterion
  - 1: Poor
  - 2: Fair
  - 3: Good
  - 4: Very Good
  - 5: Excellent
- **Thresholds**:
  - Criteria score < 3/5: Not recommended for funding
  - Total score < 10: Not proposed for funding

Outcome

- **Ranking**: Proposals ranked by final scores
- **Final Decision**:
  - Made by FB based on ranking and available funding
  - 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.)
  - Funded projects list published

Ethics Evaluation Procedure

Two-Step Process

- Step 1: Ethics Screening
  - Outcomes: Full Clearance, Conditional Clearance, Ethics Assessment
- Step 2: Ethics Assessment
  - In-depth analysis
  - Outcomes: Full Clearance, Conditional Clearance, No Ethics Clearance

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Data Handling

- **Compliance**: GDPR Regulation EU 679/2016
- **Privacy Policy**: Available on submission website

Obligations for funded projects

Contract Negotiation

- Process:
  - Notification letter received
  - Contact Funding Parties for grant negotiation

- Funding:
  - Provided per national/regional regulations
  - Possible need for Consortium Agreement

Communication and Dissemination

- Requirements:
  - One-page Communication and Dissemination Plan
  - Reference to GEH, WI, and GRA in project-related information

Obligations for funded projects

Project Monitoring and Meetings

- Reporting:
    - Mid-term and end-term status reports
    - Participation in mandatory joint meetings (kick-off, mid-term, end-term)

- Monitoring Surveys:
    - Project progress and contribution to Call aims

Data Management

- Plan:
    - One-page Data Management Plan in proposal
    - Updated plan as deliverable within first six months

Ethics Assessment

- Compliance:
    - Appropriate authorization for human/animal work
    - Address potential ethical issues in proposal
    - Follow EU guidelines for non-EU activities

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!