



GREEN ERA-HUB
on Agri-Food and Biotechnology

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Green ERA-HUB Early Career Researcher Workshop

CIHEAM Bari, Italy

24th-25th July 2025

Grants for Travel, Accommodation and Attendance

Submission under

<https://www.submission-greenerahub.eu/ecr-ws2025>

until 30.04.2025, 12:00h (CEST, Berlin)



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1. Introduction

Background Information

The [Green ERA-Hub \(GEH\)](#) is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) funded under Horizon Europe, starting in September 2022. It brings together coordinators from former and ongoing European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) in agri-food and biotechnology, representing a wide range of national funders across Europe. The GEH leverages the momentum of the ERA-NETs to address global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcities, pandemics, and migration through a multidisciplinary, transnational systems approach. It aims to build on 18 years of transnational research programming, enhancing cross-sectoral collaborations through new joint calls that fund collaborative projects. By identifying shared research and innovation priorities, the GEH will address them through joint calls. It also focuses on preserving best practices and expertise, contributing to Horizon Europe Partnerships and Missions, and expanding initiatives in stakeholder engagement and geographical coverage. In doing so, it supports the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including zero hunger, industry innovation, responsible consumption, life on land, the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, and the European Green Deal.

2. Overview

In addition to funding collaborative research and innovation projects, the GEH also focuses on enhancing networking, knowledge exchange, and promoting capacity building. Expanding upon our previous mobility and knowledge exchange initiative for early career researchers in 2023, the GEH is now announcing a call for early career researchers to participate in our Early Career Researchers Workshop (ECRW) at **CIHEAM in Bari, Italy, from July 24th -25th July, 2025**. This workshop for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) is designed specifically to engage participants in identifying both the challenges and aspirations related to *sustainable production systems in Europe*. The workshop's focus on identifying challenges and visions for sustainable production systems aligns closely with the GEH's objectives of fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and supporting global sustainability initiatives. Together, these efforts contribute

to a comprehensive approach that aims to create resilient and sustainable production systems in Europe, while also addressing broader environmental and social goals.

3. Scope and Topics

The workshop is structured around the main theme “**Challenges and Visions for Future Sustainable Production Systems,**” divided into three session topics: *Climate Resilience in Agricultural Practices, Sustainable Agroecosystems, and Plant Pathology and Emerging Pests and Diseases*. These topics encourage collaboration among ECRs from diverse backgrounds, such as agronomy, environmental science, economics, and technology. By exploring these areas together, participants can develop innovative, interdisciplinary solutions to complex agricultural challenges. With global population growth and climate change posing significant threats to food production, an examination of these topics is essential. ECRs can contribute to developing sustainable practices that ensure food security while minimizing environmental impact. The selected topics also provide a platform for ECRs to gain insights into current research trends, best practices, and emerging technologies. Understanding sustainable farming practices and resource management techniques is critical for their future research and career development. Grouping these topics together emphasizes the interconnectedness of agricultural practices, resource management, and climate adaptation. Over the course of the workshop, ECRs will learn to approach research with a systems-thinking mindset, considering how various factors influence agricultural sustainability. By addressing these interconnected topics, participants will be better equipped to tackle pressing global challenges such as food insecurity, environmental degradation, and the need for resilient agricultural systems, fostering sustainable solutions that are both innovative and impactful. These topics are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional policies, such as the European Green Deal. By focusing on these areas, ECRs can position their research to have a broader impact, contributing to policy development and community engagement. Furthermore, the workshop allows ECRs to engage with experienced researchers and practitioners in these fields, facilitating networking and mentorship. Building relationships with established professionals is critical to the professional development of ECRs and can provide guidance and open doors for future collaborations. By focusing on these interconnected topics,

the ECR workshop can empower participants to contribute meaningfully to sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship while simultaneously equipping them with the relevant knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to tackle pressing global challenges in their future careers.

4. Objectives

a. Identify Challenges:

Current Issues: Participants will discuss existing challenges in sustainable production, such as *sustainable agricultural practices, resource management and sustainability, pest and disease management, and technology and innovation in agriculture*

Regional Variations: They will focus on how these challenges differ across various regions in Europe, considering factors like policy, culture, and local economies.

b. Develop Visions:

Future Scenarios: ECRs will work collaboratively to envision what sustainable production systems might look like in the future, considering innovation, policy changes, and societal shifts.

Long-term Goals: Formulate ambitious yet achievable goals that can guide research and practice in the field.

c. Collaborative Environment:

Networking Opportunities: Foster connections among ECRs and established experts, encouraging mentorship and collaboration.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Bring together participants from various fields (e.g., agriculture, technology, economics) to enrich discussions and insights.

5. Workshop Structure

The ECR workshop is structured in a way that allows participants to engage deeply with each topic, share insights, and collaboratively explore the future of sustainable production systems. Each session builds on the previous one, culminating in actionable ideas and shared visions that can inform future initiatives.

- **Expert Panels:** Involvement of experts who can provide insights, present case studies, and facilitate discussions on best practices and emerging trends.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Use of breakout groups, brainstorming sessions, and site visits to encourage active participation and diverse input.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Collecting feedback on ideas and visions to refine them and ensure they are grounded in reality.

Expected Outcome

- **Shared Vision Document:** A collaborative document that outlines the collective vision for future sustainable production systems, highlighting key priorities and strategies.
- **Actionable Recommendations:** Specific recommendations for policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders based on the discussions and identified challenges.
- **Research Agenda:** Suggestions for future research directions that can help address the challenges and implement the visions outlined during the workshop.

Follow-up Actions

- **Continuous Engagement:** Establishing a network or forum for ECRs to continue discussions, share research, and collaborate on projects beyond the workshop.

Overall, this workshop aims to empower ECRs, facilitate meaningful discussions, and pave the way for innovative solutions in sustainable production systems in Europe.

6. Funding Information

Successful applicants will:

- have expenses covered for travel and Early Career Workshops participation (main meals included);

- be accommodated on the CIHEAM-Bari campus;
- have the chance to discuss their research and the research of others with high level experts in the different thematic fields (see above);
- have the chance to interact and network with a diverse set of stakeholders such as researchers from academia and industry, representatives of European funding organizations;
- participate in planned activities (excursion, thematic workshop etc.),

7. Eligibility Criteria

The applicant should apply in accordance with the following requirements – non-compliance with these requirements may result in exclusion of the application:

- To be eligible, applicants must hold a PhD degree awarded no later than December 31, 2020, prior to the application deadline. For this requirement, the date of graduation will be considered.
- **Employed** (on a temporary or permanent contract) **by a university or research performing organisation** in one of the countries listed,¹ at the submission deadline.
- Proficient in **English**.
- Involved in and/or experienced with national and/or international research projects dealing in sustainable development or related fields.
- All required information must be provided in the application.

8. Application and Evaluation Process

- ¹ Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom

The applicant has to provide the following information for the application process - all application documents must be written in English:

- **Motivation of applicant** to join the Early Career Researcher Workshop (to be filled in the applicant's account);
- **Curriculum Vitae** of max. 1 page (PDF upload, no template provided);
- **Official letter of reference** from the university or research performing organisation max. 2 pages (official letterhead, dated, signed, PDF upload, no template provided);
- Up-to-date and **official certificate proving employment** of the applicant in a university or research performing organisation max. 2 pages (this letter must be officially issued from a personnel section of the corresponding institution, official letterhead, dated, signed, PDF upload, no template provided);
- Short summary of the applicant's current and past research activities and experiences

Timeline for submission, evaluation and selection

- Application must be submitted via the available online submission platform at <https://www.submission-greenerahub.eu/ecr-ws2025>.
- Applications by email will not be accepted.
- All applications must be submitted online by APRIL 30, 2025 (CEST 12:00 noon).
- The applications will be checked by the Call Office regarding the defined eligibility criteria
- Eligible application will be forwarded for expert evaluation.

The online application procedure is fully described in the online submission tool.

The **preliminary timeline for the application and selection process** is as follows: Call launch:

March 11, 2025

- Submission deadline of applications: 30.04.2025, 12:00 (CEST)
- Evaluation and selection of applications: May 2025
- Communication to the applicants: end of May 2025
- Arrangements for travel and accommodation by CIHEAM-Bari for successful applicants
- Early Career Workshop 24.-25. July 2025

Criteria used for proposal evaluation

A dedicated team of experts will review the appropriateness and quality of the application.

Applicants will be *selected according to the following evaluation criteria*:

- Qualification of the applicant;
- Motivation of the applicant;
- Compatibility of the applicant's research activities and experiences with the scope and topics of the ECR Workshop.

Selection of applicants will seek geographical and gender balance.

9. Contact information

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