# AGROECOLOGY
# 1st Co-funded Call
# "Fostering agroecology
# at farm and landscape levels"

Version 1.0, 09 February 2024

Call launch: 15 February 2024

Submission deadline pre-proposals: 26 April 2024, 2 pm CEST

Submission deadline full proposals: 19 September 2024, 2 pm CEST

Submission website: https://agroecology.ptj.de/

### History of changes

| Version | Changes |
|---|---|
| Version 1.0 09 February 2024 | |

## Definitions and tasks

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| **Call Office** | The Call Office is responsible for administrative support in relation to the co-funded call, call documents and procedures, submission platform and webinar. |
| **Co-funded call** | The 1st AGROECOLOGY co-funded call, also referred to as "the call". |
| **Coordinator** | The Coordinator coordinates and manages the research consortium at pre-proposal and full proposal stage, and over the entire lifetime of the transnational project. Details on the role, responsibilities and tasks of a Coordinator are described in section 4.3. |
| **Funder Board (FB)** | The FB consists of all Funding Parties giving funding to the co-funded call. The FB will make the final decision on the selection of projects based on the ranking lists provided by the IEP and on the availability of funds. |
| **Funding Parties** | Funding Parties are organisations who give funding to the call according to their national/regional Funding Party regulations. |
| **International Expert Panel (IEP)** | The IEP consists of international experts in the fields covered in the topics of the co-funded call. Members of the IEP will evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation guidelines (see also sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this document). During the IEP meeting, the IEP will rank the proposals. |
| **Proposal** | In this call document the term "proposal" refers to pre-proposals and full proposals. Where the text refers specifically to either the pre-proposal or the full proposal, this will be written explicitly. |
| **NCP/RCP** | National and Regional Contact Points of each Funding Party. NCP/RCP will provide support in of the event that potential applicants have nationally or regionally specific questions regarding eligibility and national/regional funding procedures. |

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# 1 Preamble

## 1.1 Background

The European Green Deal and its underlying strategies - the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the action plan for the development of organic production - set very ambitious goals that need to be addressed urgently. Agroecology[1] is mentioned in these strategies as a promising approach to support the transition towards more sustainable agriculture. The many shared objectives between agroecology and organic farming means that more widespread application of agroecological practices will also further progress towards meeting the European Green Deal target of 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.[2] Despite strong ambition at national and European levels, the transition towards agroecology is not happening quickly enough. It faces what scientists and design thinking experts call "wicked problems", mostly driven by the tension between private goods for today and public goods for tomorrow. The divergence of interests and values between different stakeholders, for example, farmers, public authorities and civil society, is clearly illustrated in relation to many issues such as pesticide use and biodiversity conservation, water use and management, and climate change mitigation. The objective of achieving prosperous and environment-friendly farming systems is a complex and bold endeavour and requires tremendous change to prevailing mind-sets regarding agricultural production and consumption. It requires transdisciplinary knowledge obtained from research, innovation and practice, as well as stakeholder engagement in co-creation processes and the design of new policies.

## 1.2 The AGROECOLOGY partnership

The AGROECOLOGY partnership relies on a common vision whereby a broad stakeholder constellation teams up to unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are made resilient, productive and prosperous, place-sensitive, as well as climate-, environment-, ecosystem-, biodiversity- and people-friendly by 2050.[3] It is based on the concept that we can address the challenges faced by the European agricultural sector through agroecology by bringing together farmers, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders to co-develop, test and monitor new practices, approaches and technologies in real-life contexts. Such a framework is typically adopted in living labs. The partnership will develop networks of living labs and research infrastructures to allow experimentation between practice and science at different levels in order to develop and enhance the concrete and place-based implementation of innovations. This approach will also provide knowledge- and evidence-based information about how to assess the potential performance and impacts of agroecological practices in both the short and the long-term.

Since their emergence in 2000 as real-life testing and experimentation environments to develop information and communication technologies, living labs have been implemented in many economic sectors. They place the user at the centre of innovation and operate as intermediaries between citizens, research organisations, companies and local and regional authorities for value co-creation, rapid prototyping and validation to scale up innovation and businesses. According to the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL),[4] five key elements must be present in a living lab, regardless of their domain of application: 1) active user involvement, 2) real-life setting, 3) multi-stakeholder, 4) multi-method approach, 5) co-creation (i.e., iterations of design cycles with different sets of stakeholders).

Research infrastructures are facilities that provide resources and services for research communities to conduct research and foster innovation. They can be used beyond research, for example, for education or public services and they may be single-sited, distributed or virtual. They include: major scientific equipment or sets of instruments; collections, archives or scientific data; computing systems and

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[1] https://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf (accessed: 9 February 2024)

[2] https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/organic-action-plan_en (accessed: 9 February 2024)

[3] https://scar-europe.org/home-scar/news-display/221-agroecology-partnership-s-sria (accessed: 9 February 2024)

[4] https://issuu.com/enoll/docs/423662117-short-history-of-living-labs-research-an (accessed: 9 February 2024)

communication networks; any other research and innovation infrastructure of a unique nature that is open to external users.[5] Matching research infrastructures and living labs has great potential to enhance the creation and adoption of innovations, enabling their fast evaluation and their re-adjustment whenever needed.

Agroecology can be interpreted as a scientific discipline, a movement or a practice.[6] As a scientific discipline, agroecology is located at the interface between agronomy, ecological sciences, social sciences and humanities for the design and management of new agroecosystems. As a practice, agroecology is a knowledge-intensive, systemic approach, benefiting from appropriate biodiversity management. It has implications for the whole span of agricultural practices, from the breeds and varieties used to farming practices related to soil management, pest control and crop diversification strategies. It implies also a deep transformation in agrifood value chains and the development of fair business models to sustain these new practices and to provide market opportunities and decent incomes for farmers and affordable food for consumers. Agroecology can contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, and strengthening the sustainability and resilience of farming and land use systems. Agroecology practices are already emerging in many European countries and could become a fundamental tool for the EU in its effort to address climate change and biodiversity preservation challenges, and to respond to increasing consumer demands for healthy, affordable, pesticide-free and nutritious food.

## 2 Expected outcomes

It is expected that proposals provide a clear added value to at least one of the general objectives and corresponding core themes of the AGROECOLOGY partnership under which framework this co-funded call is being conducted. It is strongly recommended that applicants consider the strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA)[7] underpinning AGROECOLOGY when developing the project idea.

If applicable, applicants are encouraged to address the science-policy interface in their proposal, both during project implementation and in terms of the valorisation of project outcomes with respect to relevant policies (including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) but also relevant national and regional policies).

Successful proposals shall contribute to the following outcomes:

- Agroecological innovations based on co-creation between scientists, relevant stakeholders and end users at the farm and/or landscape level

- Increased knowledge, knowledge transfer and capacity of farmers and agricultural advisers to implement agroecological practices

- Methods and tools to implement a co-creation process in a living lab approach supporting enhanced agroecology at the farm and/or landscape level

- Increased socio-economic and/or environmental potential of agroecological practices

## 3 Objectives and scope

The transition to agroecology must contribute to solving global challenges (climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, safeguarding of ecosystem services, regulation of water shortage or excess) and meet societal demands for healthy food and other sustainably produced agricultural products. The transition must also enable agricultural production to adapt to the new conditions of limited availability

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[5] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures_en (accessed: 9 February 2024)

[6] Wezel et al. (2009). Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review. Agronomy for sustainable development, 29, 503-515.

[7] https://scar-europe.org/home-scar/news-display/221-agroecology-partnership-s-sria (accessed: 9 February 2024)

of fossil fuels and fluctuations in the supply of water resources, rising temperatures and increased likelihood of extreme weather events, while maintaining the overall productivity and economic viability of farms in the short and in the long term. Improving agroecosystem resilience, closing nutrient and energy flows, improving input and resource use efficiency, and enhancing agrobiodiversity are key issues in these circumstances and must be considered by the funded research projects. A holistic, integrated approach is needed to account for the variety of environmental and socio-economic aspects involved, and to consider value conflicts and their social and ecological consequences. Solutions should be adapted to local challenges and the projects should take into account this context-specificity.

This call for research and innovation projects addresses a transition to agroecology in the context of both conventional and organic farming systems. Both share many of the challenges mentioned above. Organic farming explores practices and implements systems that are often sources of inspiration for agroecology. The implementation of agroecological principles in organic farming has the potential to increase the yields and the efficient use of inputs/resources (e.g., water).

The objective of this call is to fund research and innovation projects dedicated to studying and implementing agroecology at two geographic scales: the farm and its immediate surroundings, as specified under Theme 1, and the landscape or territorial level, as specified under Theme 2.

The "farm level" refers to practices and solutions that concern farms, their immediate surroundings and related entities, such as small processing and/or distribution enterprises and local consumers, but without taking into consideration the spatial interaction among the farming practices of the different farms. The "landscape level"[8] concerns a whole territory or catchment area where solutions require actions beyond the farms and may include, for example, territorial planning and landscape management. This level makes it possible to integrate into the analysis the interactions between the different production systems (e.g., crops and livestock systems), the management of non-cultivated areas and interfaces, and the relationships between the different farming systems and the different sectors.

Proposals should be based on a multidisciplinary and integrated approach with a multi-actor perspective (i.e., gathering scientists of all relevant disciplines including social sciences and humanities, and other types of actors including farmers, extension services, upstream and downstream agriculture companies, consumers and civil society, local and regional authorities). Such an approach will facilitate the co-design, co-assessment and co-implementation of the innovations. The approach adopted may be based on existing living labs or bring together different actors following the living lab approach (as defined by ENoLL[9]). Research and innovation questions should address actual needs and integrate the practical knowledge of end-users (who must be identified and described in the proposal as well as the way in which co-creation will be conducted). Actions should produce usable results, providing actionable knowledge and operational solutions for the users. Research infrastructures can be complementary to living labs and support, for example, data gathering and the testing of the proposed innovations and their implications.

Proposals must provide a European perspective by considering problems and challenges that are shared in at least three countries participating in the AGROECOLOGY partnership, and provide and test innovations related to those issues.

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[8] The European Landscape Convention (www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention, accessed: 9 February 2024) defines "landscape" as, an "area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." It considers the landscape as part of a territory, having, "a heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity."

[9] https://enoll.org/ (accessed: 9 February 2024)

## 3.1 Themes of the co-funded call

Proposals must address one of the two themes and at least three of the subthemes mentioned under the chosen theme. In the case of Theme 2, applicants must also explain why they have chosen particular subthemes over others contained in the list.

Both themes necessitate evaluation of the socio-economic impact (relevant to either the farm level or the landscape/territory level, according to the theme chosen) of the studied changes to practices. This includes the gender dimension and assessment of the drivers and trade-offs. It will also be necessary to identify potential barriers to the implementation of the new practices and production systems under consideration and to ensure their technical, social, economic and environmental sustainability (e.g., regulations and incentives, supply chain organisation, consumer awareness, etc.).

Furthermore, proposals shall already provide a strong strategy for stakeholder engagement in co-creation processes and for communication and dissemination of the project activities and results. This means, in particular, a multi-stakeholder or living lab approach is expected, which will serve to:

- Identify the actual needs together with a wide range of stakeholders.

- Involve end-users and stakeholders all along the project lifecycle.

- Co-design and co-create with all project partners and stakeholders.

- Connect fundamental research with applied research aiming to provide operational solutions and open innovation activities and to integrate the practical knowledge possessed by farmers and other relevant stakeholders.

- Take into consideration local conditions, and consider ways to move from local solutions to solutions that can be applied at a regional level or at multiple locations across Europe.

- Approaches seeking to identify, evaluate and integrate traditional knowledge in agroecological practices may be considered.

- The incorporation of social sciences is strongly encouraged.

### 3.1.1 Theme 1: Enhancing agroecology at the farm level

The funded research and innovation projects are expected to use a transdisciplinary and integrated approach including several scientific disciplines and relevant stakeholders to address simultaneously at least three of the following subthemes that require changes to farming practices:

- Manage soil and water to improve soil health and significantly reduce erosion, maintain and increase carbon storage, optimise nutrient cycles, reduce the use of contentious chemicals.

- Promote crop diversification: diversify species and varieties at the field and farm level (including site-adapted varieties, crop rotations and intra-field diversification).

- Develop agronomic practices serving to increase resilience, water conservation and to drastically reduce the use of chemical inputs (crop management sequences, cover crops and intercropping, crop rotations, soil cultivation).

- Enhance complementarities between animal and crop production to close nutrient cycles and drastically decrease or eliminate the use of contentious agrochemicals.

- Promote natural regulation of pests and diseases, use of biocontrol, and integration of biocontrol practices with cropping practices.

- Enhance ecosystem services, biodiversity and beneficial biological interactions among different components in the farming system and the surrounding environment.

The projects are expected to identify, evaluate and integrate existing scientific and practical knowledge, including local and/or traditional knowledge, relating to the various components of cultivated

ecosystems: soils, plants, animals and microorganisms, whether pathogenic or symbiotic, as well as interactions amongst plants, between plants and animals and between plants and other organisms (insects, fungi, microorganisms).

Projects focusing only on breeding will be considered out of scope but breeding could be mobilised as part of an integrated project to increase the resilience of plants and animals in the face of stress, and to develop varieties suitable for new cropping systems (including diversification of crops, minor species and companion plants). Testing of and incorporation of new breeds or varieties into practice may also be included as part of the projects.

### 3.1.2 Theme 2: Implementing agroecology at the landscape level

The landscape or territorial level[10] is often the right level for enabling efficient transition to agroecology, due to the multiple interactions between farming systems, between farming systems and their natural environment and with other activities addressing biodiversity.

To promote the adoption in practice of agroecology at landscape or territorial level, research and innovation projects should address at least three of the necessary development stages (subthemes) which enable an integrated system approach. For some landscapes/territories selection and development activities are most important, while for others, the implementation phase is more relevant. Applicants should focus on at least three of the following subthemes and provide an explanation for why they have chosen particular subthemes over others:

- Identify and select the best-suited agroecology practices adapted to the landscape level and connected to the agrifood value chain. The proposals should make explicit the rationale for selecting a particular landscape and its proposed boundaries and expanse.

- Develop and assess from a multi-actor perspective different agroecology transition pathways, envisioning and planning the agroecosystem and the landscape/territory resulting from them.

- Perform an integrated assessment of the socio-economic impacts of the proposed practices, considering the ecosystem services they provide and their associated social and ecological impacts, their potential benefits and trade-offs, economic viability, the potential for their upscaling, outscaling and social implications.

- Develop and test methods and instruments favouring the integration of agroecological production in the agrifood systems of a given landscape/territory, building up appropriate business models and analysing their implications in the whole value chain.

- Develop solutions to re-design agroecosystems at landscape/territory level, considering the ecosystem services and other benefits of a transition to agroecology at this geographic scale, enhancing biodiversity and making use of it, achieving ecological corridors, protecting water, integrating crop and livestock production to close nutrient cycles and energy flows, reducing the use of agrochemicals, decreasing pollution and enhancing the role of farming practices for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

- Design strategies supporting agroecology at the landscape level, integrating territorial planning, enhancing the coherence of agricultural and environmental policies and regulations in a given landscape/territory, and promoting new governance systems.

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[10] In this document we use "landscape" and "territory" indistinctly, referring to the spatial scale where agricultural activities interact with the environment and the resources it provides (water, soil, biodiversity), encompassing also the interactions between different agricultural systems, cultivated and uncultivated domains, agricultural and non-agricultural activities, actors/stakeholders, and cultural and institutional attributes. These terms are not strictly defined and may be used differently according to the countries/regions.

▪ Propose and test incentives supporting a transition to agroecology at the landscape level, which may include but not be restricted to eco-schemes, payment for ecosystem services, adapted credit, taxes, public procurement or the implications of labelling.

The projects must as a minimum apply a multi-actor approach for co-creation and also include stakeholders who have an interest at the landscape level, as outlined under 3.1. This does not exclude the application of a living lab approach, if this is the preferred and more justified approach.

# 4 Funding modalities and who can apply

The Funding Parties of the co-funded call are listed in Table 1. The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot mechanism. This means that research partners (applicants) of projects that are selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their corresponding national/regional Funding Party supporting the co-funded call, according to their legal terms and conditions for project funding (see national/regional Funding Party regulations). The budget will be increased by an EU contribution following agreement amongst the funders.

## 4.1 Who can apply

Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, non-profit organisations, consumers/citizens, civil society representatives and private companies can apply, subject to the national/regional Funding Party regulations and eligibility criteria. Research consortia should consist of a minimum of three partners requesting funding from at least three different countries and Funding Parties from this co-funded call. Research consortia partners that are ineligible or otherwise unable to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties can also be part of research consortia if they bring in their own funding and submit an appropriate "financial commitment letter" (see Annex VIII). However, these applicants 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

The following eligibility criteria apply for this co-funded call:

▪ The proposed research project must be consistent with the scope of this call and with the national/organisational thematic priorities of the countries/regions involved in the proposed project. National/regional/organisational priorities are described in the national/regional Funding Party regulations (see Annex IX) and can be communicated by the national/regional contact person(s). The proposed project must relate to one of the two themes and address at least three of the corresponding subthemes (see section 3.1). The scope or scale of the proposed research project should exceed a single country. The proposal should not overlap with ongoing or completed projects funded by other instruments, programmes or projects.

▪ Proposals must be written in English.

▪ Proposals must be complete and meet all formal criteria in accordance with the procedure and must be submitted via the online submission platform. Incomplete proposals will be rejected.

▪ Pre-proposals must be submitted by 26 April 2024 2 pm CEST via the online submission platform (see section 5.1 for pre proposal details).

▪ Full proposals must be submitted by 19 September 2024 2 pm CEST via the submission platform (see section 5.2 for proposal submission details).

▪ The submission of a pre-proposal is compulsory. Applicants cannot submit a full proposal after the deadline has passed.

▪ Consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from at least three different countries and from three different Funding Parties who contribute funds to the co-funded call.

There is no maximum number of partners or countries. However, applicants should be aware that a higher number of represented countries or of partners in a consortium will not automatically result in a positive evaluation of the proposal. There is also no upper limit to the number of partners from the same country, unless stated otherwise in the national/regional Funding Party regulations.

- Partners who are not eligible for funding, including partners from countries not participating in this co-funded call, may participate at their own expense or if they have their own separate source of funding. To participate they must provide a "financial commitment letter"(see Annex VIII) and they have to follow the rules outlined in this Call Announcement. Research partners from countries participating in the call may also participate at their own expense, provided they follow the rules outlined in this Call Announcement and the research consortium as a whole comprises eligible partners requesting funding from at least three different countries participating in the call.

- In order to achieve balanced consortia, the combined proportion of the overall effort that is allocated to all of the partners from a single country shall not exceed 60% of the total number of person months allocated to the project.

- An individual researcher affiliated to several organisations cannot request funding from more than one Funding Party in this call. If participating in the call as an affiliate of more than one organisation, the individual researcher must declare which partner and thus which organisation within the consortium they represent. That person will not be considered as two different partners within the consortium.

- Each consortium applying for funding must be led by a project Coordinator, who must be from an organisation eligible for funding from a Funding Party of this call.

- The same person cannot act as a Coordinator for more than one proposal. Some Funding Parties do not allow the same person to participate in more than one proposal per call: please check the relevant national/regional funding regulations.

- The minimum project duration is 24 months and the maximum is 36 months (please check Annex IX for exceptions). The earliest possible start date for projects recommended for funding is April-May 2025. All projects must be completed by 2028, unless otherwise informed.

- Applicants must complete an ethics self-assessment as part of the application.

- The information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No change to the objectives outlined in a proposal is allowed. A limited number of changes with respect to the administrative details may be allowed upon approval by the Call Office and the Funding Parties concerned. A list of permissible changes is provided in section 5.2.1.

- The total project cost requested in a project proposal is not restricted; the costs must be appropriate to meet the project goals. Nonetheless, individual Funding Parties may have regulations and/or restrictions concerning the budget they can award within research projects that must be respected (for example, some funders may limit the maximum budget a single partner in a project can request to € 200,000). It is, therefore, essential that each project partner carefully reads their national/regional funding regulations (see Annex IX). If in doubt, applicants should consult their National or Regional Contact Points who can inform them of the relevant regulations.

> Note that the inclusion of project partners that participate at their own expense (non-eligible partners) is permitted ONLY upon submission of a letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII). If a project proposal includes non-eligible partners, **the absence of a letter of financial commitment will result in the rejection of the entire proposal**.

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 document "national/regional Funding Party regulations" (see Annex IX). Funding Parties may require additional documents according to their own national/regional or organisational regulations (see Annex IX).

Failure of one applicant to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the national/regional eligibility criteria, will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

Applicants must read carefully the national/regional Funding Party regulations and, if necessary, contact their National/Regional Contact Point (NCP or RCP) before submitting a proposal to make sure that they respect all the national/regional eligibility criteria and rules (see Annex IX).

After the closing date, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check of the proposals submitted with respect to the criteria cited in this section. Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the Funder Board (FB). The members of the Funder Board will then check the proposals against national/regional eligibility criteria as described in the national/regional Funding Party regulations.

Proposals complying with both sets of criteria (general and national/regional eligibility criteria) will advance to the evaluation procedure.

The results of the general eligibility check and the national/regional eligibility check will be communicated by the Call Office to the project Coordinators before the evaluation phase of the co-funded call.

## 4.3 Coordinator

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

▪ Make sure that the national/regional Funding Party regulations and funding modalities of all partners involved are met – confirmation of compliance provided to the Coordinator by 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-proposal and full 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 situation or 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 for the punctual delivery of project reports.

The 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

The following Funding Parties provide funds to this call and make up the Funder Board, the decision-making body of this co-funded call.

Table 1: Funder Board.

| Country | Funding Party |
|---------|---------------|
| BE | Fonds Innoveren en Ondernemen (FIO) |
| BE | Vlaamse Gewest (VL O) |
| BE | Service public de Wallonie (SPW) |
| CH | The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) |
| CY | Idryma Erevnas Kai Kainotomias (RIF) |
| DE | Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL) |
| DE | Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) |
| DK | Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFish Agency (DAFA) |
| DK | Innovationsfonden (IFD) |
| EE | Maaeluministeerium (REM) |
| EE | Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAG) |
| ES | Agencia Estatal de Investigacion (AEI) |
| ES | Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnologico y la Innovacion E.P.E (CDTI) |
| ES | Consejeria de Economia Cienca y Agenda digital – Junta de Extremadura (JUNTAEX) |
| FI | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MMM) |
| FR | Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) |
| FR | Pays de la Loire Regional Council (RPL) |
| HU | Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal (NKHFI) |
| IE | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) |
| IE | The Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Teagasc) |
| IS | Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis) |
| IT | Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste (MASAF) |
| IT | Autonomous Province of Bolzano / Bozen – South Tyrol (BOZEN) |
| LT | Lietuvos mokslo taryba (LMT) |
| LT | Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija (ZUM) |
| NL | Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality (MINLNV) |
| NO | Norges Forskningsrad (RCN) |
| PT | Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) |
| RO | Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI) |
| SE | Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande (Formas) |
| SI | Ministrstvo za Kmetijstvo Gozdarstvo in Prehrano (MKGP) |
| SK | Slovenska Akademia Vied (SAS) |
| SK | Ministerstvo Podohospodarstva a Rozvoja Vidieka Slovenskej Republiky (MARD) |
| TR | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (TAGEM) |
| TR | Turkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu (Tübitak) |

# 5 Co-funded call procedure

The Co-funded Call is conducted as a two-step-procedure. As a first step, a pre proposal has to be submitted and following invitation, a full proposal can be submitted in a second step.

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**Deadline for pre-proposals is 26 April 2024, 2 pm CEST**

**Deadline for full proposals is 19 September 2024, 2 pm CEST**

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Proposals that are not submitted on time within the submission system will not be considered for evaluation and will be rejected.

Details on each step are explained in the following sections.

## 5.1 Step 1 Pre-proposal phase

### 5.1.1 Submission

The objective of a pre-proposal is to present the project idea and the consortium without providing much detail on the work plan. The detailed template for the pre-proposal with explanations is provided in Annex II and an example is also available within the document section of the submission platform: https://agroecology.ptj.de.

Following submission, pre-proposals will be checked against the general and applicable national/regional eligibility criteria as defined in the respective Funder Regulations (see Annex IX). Pre-proposals that do not pass the general eligibility check will be rejected.

Only eligible pre-proposals will be evaluated.

### 5.1.2 Evaluation

Eligible pre-proposals will be evaluated against the two equally scored evaluation criteria *Excellence* and *Impact*, as described in section 6.2. The evaluation procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4.

### 5.1.3 Selection

The selection of pre-proposals will be decided by the Funder Board (FB) based on a ranking list, summary evaluation reports and the availability of funds (see section 6.4 and Annex I). The Coordinators of the selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal. The Coordinators of pre-proposals that are not selected will also be also informed accordingly by the Call Office. The decision letter will include the summary evaluation report prepared in response to the pre-proposal.

## 5.2 Step 2 Full proposal phase

### 5.2.1 Requests for changes to budget or consortium composition in the full proposal phase

The following changes between the pre and full proposal stage might be possible in exceptional cases, but always require prior endorsement by the respective Funding Parties of the proposal and the Call Office, as described below for each case.

**Change of budget can be allowed by the relevant Funding Party**. The national/regional contact point of one Funding Party can decide according to its own rules whether a justification is needed. Prior to such a change, the Call Office must be informed.

**Changes in the consortium composition:**

- **No change of project Coordinator (person and organisation in charge)** will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. In this case, a request to change the Coordinator must be submitted to the Call Office and to all of the Funding Parties from whom the partners in the consortium have requested funding. The deadline for any such request is 05 September 2024.

- **Changes to the consortium composition may be allowed in exceptional cases**: requests must be submitted to the Call Office and to all of the Funding Parties from whom the partners in the

consortium have requested funding. The deadline for any such request is 05 September 2024. Changes to the consortium include addition, removal and replacement of a partner. Regardless of the type of changes, the eligibility criteria (section 4.2) must be respected.

> All new partners must comply with the applicable national/regional Funding Party regulations. If a new partner is declared ineligible at Step 2 Full proposal phase, the whole consortium will be declared ineligible and the proposal will not be evaluated.

It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to ensure that a new partner is eligible to receive funding from the respective Funding Party. This includes checking whether the proposal is compatible with the national/regional programme of the relevant Funding Party.

### 5.2.2 Submission

Following the invitation to submit a full proposal, the Coordinator can submit a full proposal via the submission system: https://agroecology.ptj.de. At this stage the consortium from the pre-proposal may, in exceptional cases, be changed; e.g., if one partner was deemed ineligible in the pre-proposal step. At this stage Coordinators may be invited to add partners from underrepresented countries/regions also funded as part of this call. Any proposed changes must first be communicated to the Call Office and the respective Funding Party; for more details see section 5.2.1. The new partner must meet all eligibility criteria to receive funding from its Funding Party.

The detailed template for full proposals with explanations is provided in Annex IV and an example is also available in the document section of the submission platform.

Note that the inclusion of project partners that participate at their own expense (non-eligible partner) is permitted ONLY upon submission of a letter of financial commitment (see Annex VIII). The absence of the letter will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

National/regional eligibility criteria, as defined in the respective Funding Party regulation (see Annex IX), 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 Funding Party regulations (see Annex IX). The Funding Parties may require additional documents according to their own national/regional or organisational 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. The inclusion in a full proposal without a letter of financial commitment of a partner participating at their own expense will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

Applicants are strongly advised to consult with their National/Regional Contact Point (NCP) to clarify any uncertainties or doubts regarding compliance with the applicable Funding Party regulations before submitting a proposal (see Annex I).

After the closing date, the Call Office will carry out the general eligibility check of the proposals with respect to the criteria listed in section 4.2. Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected by the Call Office, following consultation with the Funder Board. The members of the Funder Board will then check the proposals against national/regional eligibility criteria as described in the Funding Party regulations.

Full proposals complying with both sets of criteria (general co-funded call eligibility criteria and national/regional eligibility criteria) will advance to the evaluation procedure.

The results of the general eligibility check and the national/regional eligibility check will be communicated by the Call Office to the Coordinators before the evaluation phase of the co-funded call.

### 5.2.3 Evaluation

Full proposals will be evaluated against the following three equally weighted evaluation criteria *Excellence*, *Impact* and *Quality and efficiency of the implementation*, as described in section 6.2. The procedure will be conducted as described in section 6.4

### 5.2.4 Selection

The selection of full proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board and will be conducted strictly following the ranking lists and based on the availability of funds. This is in accordance with the Horizon Europe regulations and restrictions for co-funded calls in partnerships.

## 5.3 Submission platform

The submission of proposals will be carried out using an online submission platform, where applicants will find all of the information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission platform is available at https://agroecology.ptj.de.

A **webinar will be hosted on 05 March 2024 from 10 am to 1 pm CET** for all interested applicants. The webinar will provide an overview of all relevant aspects of the call and a short introduction to the submission platform. The relevant link and agenda will be made available on the submission website in due course.

## 5.4 Partnering tool

A partnering tool is attached to the submission platform, where interested parties can submit and search research profiles.

## 5.5 Management of the co-funded call

The Call Office will be operated by Project Management Juelich (Germany).

| Name | E-Mail | Phone |
|---|---|---|
| Ulrike Ziegler | u.ziegler@fz-juelich.de | +49 2461 61 55 66 |
| Silvana Hudjetz | s.hudjetz@fz-juelich.de | +49 2461 61 859 86 |
| Daniela Piaz Barbosa Leal | d.piaz.barbosa.leal@fz-juelich.de | +49 2461 61 843 06 |
| Call Office | ptj-agroecology-secretariat@fz-juelich.de | N/A |

All technical issues with the submission system shall be addressed to the Call Office.

## 5.6 Schedule

The co-funded call will follow a two-step procedure. A full proposal can be submitted once the pre-proposal has been selected and the respective invitation to submit a full proposal has been sent to the Coordinator by the Call Office.

| Item | Date |
|---|---|
| Call pre-announcement | 06 Dec 2023 |
| Call launch | 15 Feb 2024 |
| Webinar & workshop for applicants | 05 Mar 2024 |
| Deadline for pre-proposal submission | 26 Apr 2024 |
| Evaluation and selection of pre-proposals | May–Jun 2024 |
| Decision letters sent to coordinators | Jun 2024 |
| Deadline for any exceptional changes to coordination/consortium (see 5.2.1) | 05 Sep 2024 |
| Deadline for full proposal submission | 19 Sep 2024 |
| Evaluation and selection | Oct–Nov 2024 |
| Decision letters sent to Coordinators | Dec 2024 |
| Start of projects (tentative) | Apr–May 2025 |

# 6 Evaluation

## 6.1 International Evaluation Panel (IEP)

The Call Office will establish an International Evaluation Panel (IEP). The IEP will be endorsed by the Funder Board and has the following mandate:

▪ Provide a peer review of proposals, on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined in section 6.2.

▪ Provide a written evaluation summary of each proposal to explain the evaluation result to the Funder Board. The evaluation summary will be provided to the Coordinator of each proposal by the Call Office.

▪ Provide a ranking list of proposals based on the evaluation scores.

A chair and a vice-chair of the IEP will coordinate the work of the IEP with the support of the Call Office. The IEP members will be independent of the Funding Parties and applicants involved in this co-funded call. The Call Office will ensure that no conflict of interest (CoI) exists concerning the IEP members and the proposals evaluated by them. The IEP members will be required to sign a declaration stating the lack of any conflict of interest and a declaration of confidentiality form. The online evaluation tool will include a feature that will prevent access to a proposal where a conflict of interest is declared by an IEP member.

Throughout the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of the applicants and the contents of the proposals. Proposals will be accessible to the Funder Board, the IEP members involved and the Call Office. The full proposals will also be read by the AGROECOLOGY Ethics Advisory Board in order to fulfil the obligations outlined in section 10.5. All collected data will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), see also section 9.

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

## 6.2 Evaluation criteria

If a proposal passes the general and national/regional eligibility check, it will be evaluated following the procedure described in section 6.4. A detailed description of each criterion is provided in Table 2. Scoring for each criterion and the thresholds applied are defined in section 6.3.

Table 2: Description of the evaluation criteria. Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria Excellence and Impact only. Full proposals will be evaluated according to all three criteria, Excellence, Impact and Quality and efficiency of the implementation.

| Excellence | Impact | Quality and efficiency of the implementation |
|---|---|---|
| E1 Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives to the call themes and the objectives of the AGROECOLOGY partnership and extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art.<br>▪ Does the proposal contribute to and/or enhance the advancement of knowledge (science, technology, social sciences and/or humanities, …) needed to solve real-life challenges in the sector?<br>▪ Does the proposed work go significantly beyond the state of the art?<br>▪ Is the scope of the proposed project in the remit of AGROECOLOGY (see SRIA[11])?<br>▪ Are the scientific achievements appropriately balanced against any risks?<br>E2 Soundness of the proposed methods, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and | I1 Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the call text, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions made by the project.<br>▪ Is the plan for impact clear and does it follow logically from the expected results of the project?<br>▪ Is there strategic impact in terms of solving societal challenges (social, economic and environmental) at European and/or global level?<br>I2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the communication, dissemination and exploitation plan.<br>▪ Are there feasible measures outlined for the exploitation and dissemination of the project's scientific results (including management of intellectual property rights (IPR))?<br>▪ Will the proposed project facilitate the production of outcomes that provide clear benefits for the end-users?<br>I3 Added value of European transnational co-operation and networking<br>▪ What is the benefit of a transnational approach in | Q1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and of the resources overall.<br>▪ Is the proposed organisation and management of the project effective and efficient?<br>▪ Are the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management, appropriate?<br>▪ Are the resources assigned to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables?<br>Q2 Capacity and role of each partner, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.<br>▪ Are participants in the consortium well suited to the tasks assigned to them (necessary expertise)?<br>▪ Are their roles clearly defined and do they complement each other well?<br>▪ Are tasks well balanced amongst the partners?<br>▪ Does the consortium consist of different types of actor and is a tangible multidisciplinary character evident?<br>Q3 Appropriateness of the partners and justification of the |

[11] https://scar-europe.org/home-scar/news-display/221-agroecology-partnership-s-sria (accessed: 9 February 2024)

| Excellence | Impact | Quality and efficiency of the implementation |
|---|---|---|
| stakeholders in co-creation processes.<br><br>▪ Is the project multidisciplinary?<br><br>▪ Is the project applying the multi-actor approach/the living lab approach/method?<br><br>▪ Is the gender dimension properly addressed?<br><br>**E3 Addressing the knowledge gaps**<br><br>▪ Are the knowledge gaps clearly identified and described?<br><br>▪ Are the methods and research design clear, feasible and suitable to answer the identified knowledge gaps and/or achieve the proposed objectives?<br><br>▪ Are risks properly identified and managed? | comparison to a national/regional one?<br><br>▪ Is there a clear plan for interactions with relevant stakeholders, and exchange and transfer of results within the consortium and to relevant stakeholders, including economic actors, or society or end-users? | resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment …)<br><br>▪ Is the estimated effort/allocation of resources appropriate?<br><br>▪ Is it ensured that all partners have a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil their role in the project?<br><br>▪ Is the workload balanced among the partners (e.g., balanced distribution of person months)? |

## 6.3 Scoring

Scores will be awarded for each criterion mentioned in section 6.2. 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.

A consensus score is agreed upon for each criterion by minimum of three IEP members who evaluated the proposal. The agreement of the score will be obtained during the evaluation meeting. A **threshold of 3/5** will be applied for each criterion for both pre-proposals and full proposals; i.e., full proposals with a mean score < 3.0 for any criterion will not be recommended for funding and pre-proposals with a mean score < 3.0 in one of the two criteria will be not recommended for invitation to submit a full proposal. For full proposals, a second **threshold of 10/15** 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

selected for funding. All pre-proposals and full proposals will be ranked according to the final consensus scores agreed during the evaluation meeting. **The outcome of the evaluation is irrevocable.**

## 6.4 Evaluation procedure

Each proposal will be evaluated by three IEP members. They will apply evaluation criteria and score the pre-proposals and full proposals as described in sections 6.2 and 6.3, respectively. Following the individual evaluation, a rapporteur will summarise the individual evaluations and write a draft summary report which will be used to present the proposal at the evaluation meeting. During the IEP meeting, all proposals will be introduced and evaluations presented. The IEP members will discuss each proposal and will agree on a consensus score for each proposal. Based on the scores, two ranking lists of proposals will be compiled, one ranking list per theme. The ranking lists and the consensus evaluation reports will be shared with the Funder Board.

An independent observer will oversee the entire evaluation procedure in terms of compliance with the Horizon Europe regulations for co-funded calls and will report to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team.

# 7 Selection

## 7.1 Funding decision

The selection of proposals is the sole responsibility of the Funder Board, which is the decision-making body of the 1st co-funded call. Details on the selection procedures for proposals are provided in sections 5.1.3 and 5.2.4.

The outcome of the evaluation process and the funding decision will be communicated to the Coordinators by the Call Office. Evaluation summaries will be provided to the Coordinators. The Coordinators are responsible for forwarding all of the information to the proposal partners. Following receipt of the selection letter, the Coordinator and all of the partners involved in the successful proposal will initiate all necessary steps for the project start as described in section 10.1

## 7.2 Publication of the selection results for full proposals

The decision on the full proposals selected for funding will be published on the AGROECOLOGY website, with a mention that this decision is subject to final approval by the Funding Parties concerned. The following information will be published:

- 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

# 8 Redress procedure

A mechanism will be established according to Article 30 of the REGULATION (EU) 2021/695 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 to ensure the independent and fair treatment of complaints related to this call. The procedure will be published on the submission platform at the time of the evaluation of pre-proposals.

Applicants can request redress concerning the evaluation outcome, if they suspect there has been a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures. **This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the national/regional**

eligibility checks. The request for redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts of the International Expert Panel.

Where redress is sought, the coordinator of the proposal shall submit their appeal to the AGROECOLOGY coordination team (ptj-agroecology-secretariat@fz-juelich.de) and the Call Office (ptj-agroecology-call-office@fz-juelich.de) via email. The appeal must be submitted within no more than 14 calendar days of the date of dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the Call Office at the end of relevant phase (pre-proposal or full proposal phase).

# 9 General data protection issues

All personal data provided to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in the execution of the call (e.g., 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 platform.

# 10 Obligations of the funded projects

## 10.1 Contract negotiation

Once the Coordinators have been informed of the funding decision, the partners within the projects selected for funding will be contacted by the Funding Parties or will need to contact the Funding Parties of their respective countries/regions themselves, according to the applicable regulations, in order to start the grant negotiation process and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. All project partners within the funded projects shall start no later than May 2025. Please be aware that applicable European regulations on all aspects of funding must also be respected, e.g., state aid regulations.[12]

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 subject to clarification of any specific ethical issues raised by the evaluators.

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 negotiate and sign a Consortium Agreement before commencement of the project to satisfy applicable national/regional Funding Party regulations. The consortium agreement should address at least the following issues:

- 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 DESCA webpage (https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/).

## 10.2 Communication and dissemination
### 10.2.1 AGROECOLOGY partnership level

A list of the funded projects will be published on the website of the AGROECOLOGY partnership and all communication channels the partnership is contributing to upon completion of all contract negotiations. Applicants should be aware that the information from the proposals, as listed under section 7.2, will be published for promotional purposes.

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[12] https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/overview_en (accessed: 9 February 2024)

### 10.2.2 Acknowledgement of AGROECOLOGY

Communication and dissemination of project-related information and results (e.g., oral/poster presentations during workshops or conferences, a webpage, scientific publications or public articles) must provide a clear reference to **AGROECOLOGY.** AGROECOLOGY logos will be provided on the submission platform and the AGROECOLOGY website.

National/regional funders' regulations in terms of acknowledgement of national/regional grants must also be respected.

### 10.2.3 Project level

All projects require not only the adoption of a co-creation approach involving stakeholders, as required in the living lab approach, but also a clear communication, exploitation and communication plan that outlines the relevant channels for each activity and the target audiences. Each full proposal must include a one-page Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan (see Annex VII). This plan is part of the evaluation criterion *Impact* (see section 6.2).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make sure that any peer-reviewed journal article they publish is openly accessible, free of charge. Open access is the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and is reusable.[13] Please note that the respective Funding Party may also have specific requirements in terms of open access to data.

## 10.3 Project monitoring and meetings

In addition to the reporting required by the national/regional regulations of the relevant Funding Parties, reporting will be required half-way through the project in the form of a mid-term report (MTR; M12 or M18, depending on the project duration) and at the end of each project (end-term report, ETR). Reporting will consist of a project status report and an in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and the contribution made to the overall aims of the co-funded call and AGROECOLOGY's general objectives. All project partners will have to deliver input for these reports. However, it is the responsibility of the Coordinator to submit the complete MTR and ETR on time (see section 4.3). The MTR and ETR will include an update on the ethics self-assessment and documentation on how potential ethical issues are addressed. These reports will feed into the monitoring of the implementation of the AGROECOLOGY partnership.

In order to enhance knowledge sharing amongst the projects and the dissemination of the project results, kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings will be organised by AGROECOLOGY. The Coordinators shall represent their projects at these meetings. **Coordinators should include budget for attendance of three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off in 2025, mid-term in 2026 and end-term meeting in 2027) in their finance plan during proposal submission.** These meetings will take place in Europe. For budgeting purposes it is suggested to assume these meetings will take place in Brussels.

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 by the Call Office.

## 10.4 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 (DMP). Advice for preparing the Data Management Plan is provided in Annex VI 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.

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[13]https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en (accessed: 9 February 2024)

## 10.5 Ethics assessment

Any work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out with the appropriate authorisation, taking into account the European Union and national ethics requirements. In order to identify any potential ethical issues, applicants are required to complete an ethics self-assessment and provide support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult the available 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.

The Horizon Europe guidelines address ethical issues in relation to the following: human embryos & foetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use and exclusive focus on civil applications. Applicants can also consult the European Commission's Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research[14] on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research, including an appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

This self-assessment, as well as any additional ethical issues that are raised by the evaluation committee and the Ethics Advisory Board of AGROECOLOGY, will be shared with national/regional funders who may stipulate specific ethics requirements, which in turn must be met by successful applicants as part of the national funding contract.

Any proposal deemed to violate fundamental ethical principles shall not be selected. Assessment of the significance of ethics issues will be made applying the criteria published by the European Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

Where 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.

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[14] Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89847/research-food_en.pdf (accessed: 9 February 2024)

## Annex I Overview of the funding regulations per funder

Table 3: Overview of the individual funding regulations of each funder. The information presented here is provided without guarantee and serves as an indicative overview only. For more details, please refer to the document "National/regional Funding Party regulations".

| Country | Funding Party | Eligible partners | | | | | | | Budget limit per project (k€) | Total initial budget (k€) |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Universities | Research institutes | Non-profit organi-sations | Consumers/ citizens | Civil society represen-tatives | Private companies | Other (see Annex IX) | | |
| BE | FIO | x | x | | | | x | x | 500 | 1,000 |
| BE | VL O | | | | | | | | | 300 |
| BE | SPW | x | x | | | | x | x | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| CH | FOAG | | | | | | | | 267 (250,000 CHF) | 535 (500,000 CHF) |
| CY | RIF | | | | | | | | | 1,500 |
| DE | BMEL | | | | | | | | | 500 |
| DE | BMBF | | | | | | | | 800 | 3,000 |
| DK | DAFA | | | | | | | | | 250 |
| DK | IFD | x | x | x | | | x | x | 500 | 1,000 |
| EE | REM | x | x | x | | x | x | x | 100 | 100 |
| EE | ETAG | x | x | x | | x | x | x | 300 | 300 |
| ES | AEI | | | | | | | | | 1,350 |
| ES | CDTI | | | | | | | X | | 500 |
| ES | JUNTAEX | | | | | | | | 200 | 200 |
| FI | MMM | | | | | | | | | 300 |
| FR | ANR | | | | | | | | | 2,000 |

| Country | Funding Party | Eligible partners | | | | | | | Budget limit per project (k€) | Total initial budget (k€) |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Universities | Research institutes | Non-profit organi-sations | Consumers/ citizens | Civil society represen-tatives | Private companies | Other (see Annex IX) | | |
| FR | RPL | | | x | | x | x | | 300 | 300 |
| HU | NKHFI | x | x | x | | x | x | x | 140 | 1,000 |
| IE | DAFM | x | x | | | | | | 500 | 2,000 |
| IE | Teagasc | | | | | | | | | 200 |
| IS | Rannis | | | | | | | | | 900 |
| IT | MASAF | | | | | | | | | 800 |
| IT | BOZEN | x | x | | | | | x | 300 | 450 |
| LT | LMT | | | | | | | | | 200 |
| LT | ZUM | x | x | x | | | | | 120 | 240 |
| NL | MINLNV | | | | | | | | | 1,000 |
| NO | RCN | x | x | x | | | x | X | 400 | 2,000 |
| PT | FCT | | | | | | | | | 500 |
| RO | UEFISCDI | x | x | x | | | x | x | 300/350 | 500 |
| SE | Formas | | | | | | | | | 2,500 |
| SI | MKGP | x | x | x | | | x | | | 500 |
| SK | SAS | | x | | | | | | 120 | 240 |
| SK | MARD | | | | | | | | | 150 |
| TR | TAGEM | | x | | | | | | 50 | 100 |
| TR | Tübitak | | | | | | | | | 500 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

## Annex II Pre-proposal template

The list below indicates all of the menu items within the submission system, including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ between word and the submission system. This is due to the fact that the submission system uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations.

### PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER INFORMATION

- Contact details
- CV of Coordinator/partner with the following structure
  - o Name and surname
  - o Current and previous position(s)
  - o Up to 10 publications, most relevant to the topic
  - o Research grants awarded for the same or related topic within last 5 years

*CV must 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
- Team members' descriptions and their relevant qualifications

*Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces*

### PROJECT DATA

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date
- Theme and subthemes addressed

### KEYWORDS

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

### CO-CREATION AND MULTI-ACTOR APPROACH

Please describe the co-creation and multi-actor approach in the context of your proposal and the role of different actors in the proposed project. Also explain how the living lab method is considered.

*Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details*

### PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

*Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details*

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **2 sections:**

- **Excellence:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, Added value for transnational research and innovations

- **Relevance:** specify the expected project outputs/impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes, and the expected long-term contribution to the AGROECOLOGY objectives. The following sub headings are not mandatory but recommended: Relevance to the call scope and main objectives, Expected impacts, Measures to maximise impact, Dissemination and communication activities and exploitation of results

*Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details*

### ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation.

Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf (accessed: 9 February 2024) for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

### FINANCIAL PLAN

Please insert the requested budget for all partners in the consortium into in the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Also add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware that only the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium. The units used are 0.0 k€.

**Figure 1: Figure of the financial table as shown in the 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 €

### LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT(S)

Partners who are not eligible for national/regional funding from the Funding Parties listed in Table 1 but who are able to fully work using alternative financial resources, may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the call.

For each of these partners, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.

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

*Upload one pdf file, max. 5 MB*

### ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)
*Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, max. 1 MB*

### FIGURES (OPTIONAL)

You can upload up to six figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission system (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px). Detailed instructions on how to upload figures in the text fields is provided in the submission system menu FIGURES. Please check in advance the acceptance of your figures by the submission platform.

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

## Annex III Checklist for full proposal submission

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

| Document | Comment | Done |
|---|---|---|
| Coordinator CV | Max. 1 page each (incl. name & surname, current and previous position(s), up 10 relevant publications, relevant research grants awarded in the last 5 years) | ☐ |
| Partner CVs | | ☐ |
| Work plan | Max. 12 pages, please use the template available in the document section | ☐ |
| Data Management Plan | Max. 1 page, see Annex VI | ☐ |
| Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan | Max. 1 page, see Annex VII | ☐ |
| Letter of financial commitment(s) (only applicable for partners not eligible for funding) | Please compile one pdf file for all commitment letters; a template is also provided in the documents section | ☐ |
| Figures | Ensure all figures are displayed correctly | ☐ |
| Literature references (optional) | Max. 2 pages | ☐ |

## Annex IV Template for the full proposal

The list below indicates all of the menu items within the submission system including explanations. Please be aware that the character counts might differ between word and the submission system. This is due to the fact that the submission system uses an HTML code for text transcription. Figures can be only inserted where indicated within the explanations.

### PROJECT COORDINATOR/PARTNER INFORMATION[15]

▪ Contact details

▪ CV of Coordinator/partner with the following structure
- Name and surname
- Current and previous position(s)
- Up to 10 publications, most relevant to the topic
- Research grants awarded for the same or related topic within last 5 years

*CV must 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' descriptions and their relevant qualifications

*Max. 2,000 characters incl. spaces*

### PROJECT DATA[15]

▪ Project title

▪ Acronym

▪ Expected project start date and end date

▪ Theme and subthemes addressed

### KEYWORDS

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

### CO-CREATION AND MULTI-ACTOR APPROACH[15]

Please describe the co-creation and multi-actor approach in the context of your proposal and the roles of different actors in the proposed project. Explain how the living lab method is considered.

*Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details*

### PROJECT SUMMARY[15]

Please provide your project summary. This summary might be used for communication and dissemination activities should your project be selected for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable.

*Max. 3,500 characters incl. spaces, figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURE for details*

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION[16]

Please provide your project description using the following structure. The project description is separated into the following **3 sections:**

---

[15] This menu item is also part of the pre proposal

[16] Only the first two bullet points are part oft he pre proposal

- **Excellence**[15]**:** this part shall reflect the scientific excellence of the project. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Objectives, State of the art, Concept and approach, Ambition, Added value for transnational research and innovations

- **Relevance**[15]**:** specify the expected project outputs/impacts and relevance to the call scope/themes, and expected long-term contribution to the AGROECOLOGY objectives. The following subheadings are not mandatory but recommended: Relevance to the call scope and main objectives, Expected impacts, Measures to maximise impact, Dissemination and communication activities and exploitation of results

- **Implementation:** provide information on the workflow and connections between work packages. Avoid a repetition of a work package description as this is provided as a separate upload under Work plan (see below)

The project should be in line with the requirements stated in the call text.

*Max. 8,000 characters per section including spaces. Figure(s) can be included here, see menu FIGURES for details*

## WORK PLAN

Here the work plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. The work plan should clearly describe the individual work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones of the project including The assigned partners and their resources. Potential risks must be listed for each work package (WP). The work plan must also include a Gantt chart. We recommend using the template provided in the document section, although this is not an obligation. If using your own Gantt chart, please ensure that all of the information contained in the template provided is included.

*Upload pdf file, max. 12 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 5 MB*

## DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Here you can upload your Data Management Plan (DMP). Please consider the recommendations and checklist of questions provided in Annex VI when preparing your plan.

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

## DISSEMINATION, EXPLOITATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

Here the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan shall be uploaded as a .pdf document. Please consider the recommendations and guiding information provided in Annex VII when preparing your plan.

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

## ETHICS SELF-ASSESSMENT[15]

Please fill in the Ethics Self-Assessment and address potential concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected on ethical grounds, if they do not comply with European and/or national/regional legislation.

Please also visit https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf (accessed: 9 February 2024) for more information on the ethics self-assessment.

## FINANCIAL PLAN[15]

Please insert the requested budget for all of the partners in the consortium into the appropriate columns on the submission platform. Add your own (in-kind) contribution, if applicable. Please be aware

that only the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium. The units used are 0.0 k€.

**Figure 2: Figure of the financial table as shown within the 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 €

### FINANCE COMMENTS

Please provide a brief justification for each cost item per partner. Please be aware that only the Coordinator can fill in the financial plan on behalf of the whole consortium.

*Max. 1,000 characters per partner*

### LETTER OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT(S)[15]

Partners who are not eligible for national/regional funding from the Funding Parties listed in Table 1 but who are able to fully work using alternative financial resources, may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency not contributing to the Call.

For each of these partners, a letter of financial commitment must be uploaded via the upload field of the submission platform, using the template provided (Annex VIII and in the Call Documents). All letters of financial commitment must be compiled into one pdf file.

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

*Upload one pdf file, max.5 MB*

### ADDITIONAL LITERATURE REFERENCES (OPTIONAL)[15]

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

### FIGURES (OPTIONAL)[15]

You can upload up to six figures. Please make sure you use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and adhere to the maximum size that is supported by the online submission system (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px). Detailed instructions on how to upload and implement figures within the text fields is provided in the submission system menu FIGURES. Please check that your figures have been accepted by the submission platform.

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

## Annex V Work plan template

The document section of the submission website includes a template for the work plan as a docx. document and an excel file for the Gantt chart. The Gantt chart should indicate the time span of each work package and the corresponding tasks, as well as deliverables, milestones, and person months per project partner and work package. The horizontal format can be used for the Gantt chart.

Table 4: Work package (WP) template, text in green to be adapted.

| **WP1** | *Name of the WP* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WP leader** | *P1* | **Start and end month** | | *M1-M12* |
| **Partner involved** | *P1* | *P2* | *P3* | *P4* |
| **Person months** | *6* | *1* | *4* | *2* |
| **Aim of the WP** <br> *Brief description of objectives and links to other WPs.* | | | | |
| **Description** <br> *Task 1.1: Title of task 1 (P1;P3)* <br> *Description of task* <br> *Task 1.2: Title of task 2 (P4)* <br> *Description of task* | | | | |
| **Deliverable(s) and milestone(s)** <br> *D1.1 – Title deliverable (M3); MS1.1. – Title milestone (M2)* | | | | |
| **Risks and mitigation of risks** <br> *Brief description of main risks and their mitigation* | | | | |

Figure 3: Sample Gantt chart

| | PX: [PM] | M1 | M2 | M3 | M4 | M5 | M6 | M7 | M8 | …. | M36 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WP1** | P1: 12 PM; | | | | | | | | | | |
| **T1.1** | P2: 6 PM | | | | | | | | | | |
| **T1.2** | …. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP2** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **T2.1** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **….** | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Annex VI Data Management Plan template

Data management is an essential component of the success of a research and innovation project. Correspondingly, all projects require a good Data Management Plan.

Representatives of 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: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf (accessed: 9 February 2024)

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?

## Annex VII Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan template

Plans for dissemination, communication and exploitation 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 achieve greater impact (see section 6.2). The plan should be organised in the form of various communication routes (both national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, course or training materials, web-based tools, workshops as well as explicit plans for stakeholder involvement or direct intervention directed towards end users. The DEC should describe the main communication and dissemination channels as well as the respective target audience and exploitation plans for project outcomes and how they will contribute to project impact.

Appropriate resources should be dedicated to the dissemination, communication and exploitation activities and the involvement of stakeholders. A focus should be set on how to communicate and interact with relevant stakeholders to ensure their involvement.

To enhance dissemination of the project results, all project Coordinators should calculate the costs for their participation in three mandatory joint network meetings (kick-off, mid-term and end-term meetings) – in addition to or in parallel to their own project meetings – in their project plan.

Please consider that all project partners must give proper reference to the AGROECOLOGY partnership in any documentation published (in written, oral or electronic form).

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for dissemination, communication and exploitation, for example: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dissemination-and-exploitation_en (accessed: 9 February 2024)

## Annex VIII Financial commitments template

A template is provided as a word document in the document section of the submission platform.

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

▪ partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties participating in the co-funded 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 representative of the organisation. This letter should be submitted electronically with the proposal through the online submission tool.

Failure to provide such a commitment at the time of proposal submission will render the applicant ineligible and result in the rejection of the whole consortium.

---

*Name and address of organisation, Name and address of contact person*

Co-funded Call

**Letter of Financial Commitment**

Location, Date: …………………

We hereby confirm that *(Organisation Name)* has sufficient resources and is committed to participating in the project *(project title)*

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

In accordance with the proposal submitted by *(Coordinator name)*

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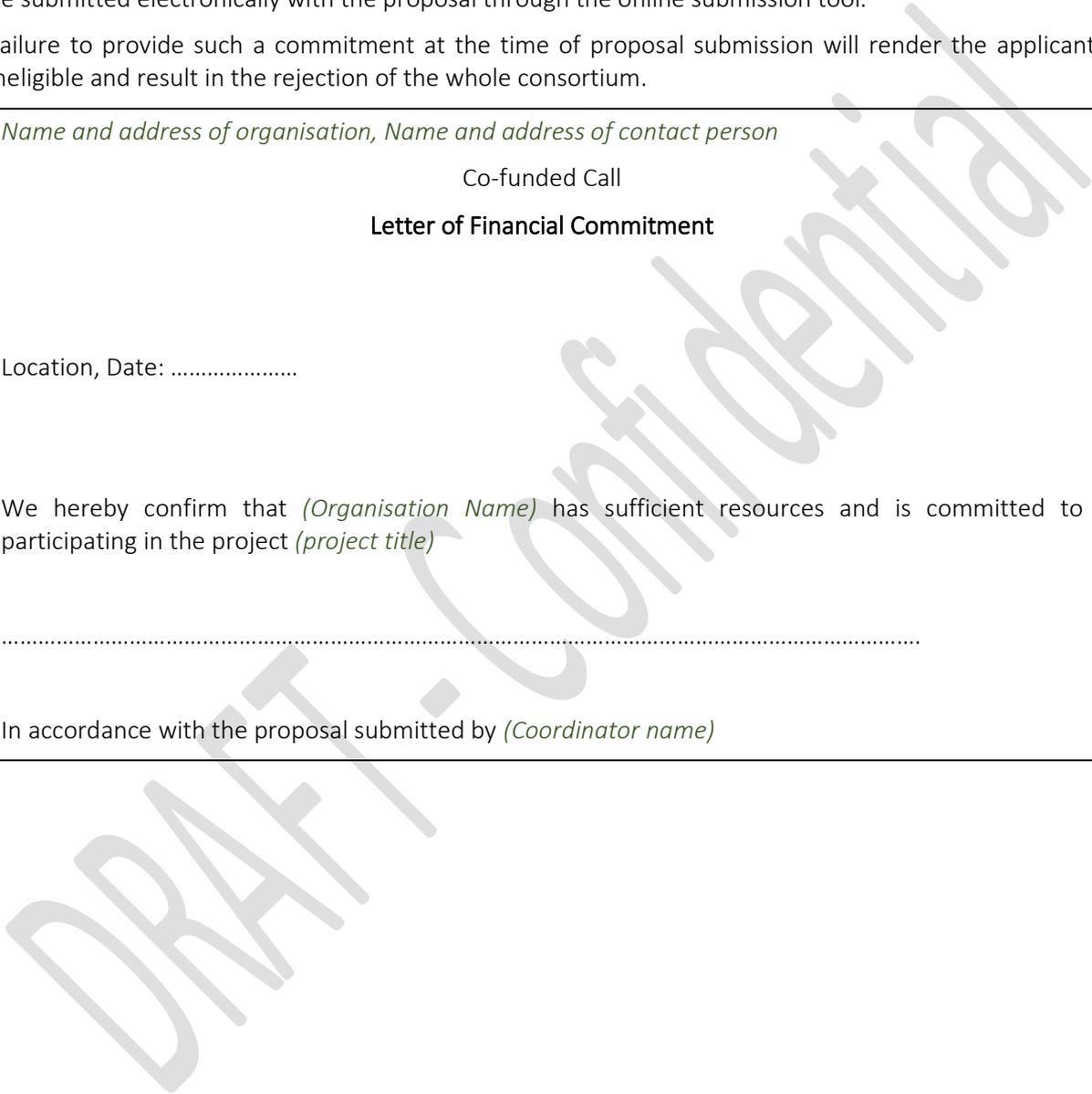
## Annex IX Funding Party regulation

See separate document "Funding Party regulations" in its current version. The document can be found in the DOCUMENTS section of the submission platform.

Annex IX Funding Party regulation

## Annex X List of beneficiaries of AGROECOLOGY (research performing organisations only)

The table below lists all of the beneficiaries of the AGROECOLOGY partnership who might apply for funding under this co-funded call. Please be aware that inclusion of any partner of the AGROECOLOGY partnership in a consortium will not have any influence on the evaluation procedure or the scores awarded to proposals. All pre-proposals and full proposals will be judged solely on their own merits. The organisations listed below have been strictly excluded from all activities related to the preparation and implementation of this call and have no prior information concerning the call or additional insights beyond what is outlined in the official, publicly available call documentation.

| Country | Beneficiary |
|---|---|
| AT | Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH |
| AT | Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Landtechnik und Lebensmitteltechnologie |
| BE | Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek |
| BE | University of Liege - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech |
| BE | European Environmental Bureau |
| BE | FIBL Europe – Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau in Europa |
| DK | Aarhus Universitet |
| CZ | Tomáš-Baťa-Universität ve Zlín |
| FI | Natural Resources Institute Finland |
| FR | L'institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement |
| FR | L'Institut de recherche pour le développement |
| FR | Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique |
| FR | CIRAD |
| FR | Végépolys Valley |
| DE | Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH |
| DE | Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei |
| DE | Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung |
| DE | FBN |
| DE | Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH |
| GR | Benaki Phytopathological Institute |
| HU | Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet Közhasznú Non-profit Kft |
| IE | Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority |
| IT | Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria - CREA |
| IT | unibz |
| NL | Wageningen Research |
| PT | Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P. |
| RS | Institut za ratarstvo i povrtarstvo, institut od nacionalnog značaja za Republiku Srbiju |
| SK | Národné poľnohospodárske a potravinárske centrum |
| ES | Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas |
| ES | e-Science European infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research |

| Country | Beneficiary |
|---------|-------------|
| SE | International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Union Regional Group |

## Annex XI Template Confirmation of no conflict of interest (CoI)

In the submission system each IEP member will get access to the evaluation platform. Here the experts confirm for each proposal individually if a CoI, as described below, exists or not. The consortium composition of each proposal will be made available to facilitate this. **Only where no CoI exists, as described below, will the IEP member get full access to that specific proposal.**

I declare that I will be independent, impartial and objective in the evaluation of the assigned proposals.

Definition of the conflict of interest:

For a given proposal, a conflict of interest exists, if an evaluator:

▪ was involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or

▪ benefits directly or indirectly if a proposal is accepted or rejected, or

▪ has close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with a person involved in the preparation of any proposal submitted to the call, or with a person who would benefit if such a proposal is accepted or rejected or

▪ is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of an applicant organisation, or

▪ is employed or contracted by one of the applicant organisations

In the following circumstances, the call office will decide whether a CoI may or may not exist, taking into account the objective circumstances, available information and related risks. When an evaluator:

▪ was employed by one of the applicant organisations in the last three years, or

▪ is involved in a contract or grant agreement, grant decision, membership of management structures (e.g., member of management or advisory board, etc.) or research collaboration with an applicant organisation (or had been so in the last three years) or

▪ is in any other situation that could cast doubt on their ability to participate in the evaluation of the proposal impartially (or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party).

If any such CoI exists or arises, I will inform the call office as soon as possible. The Call Office makes the final decision on the existence of a conflict of interest and on any disqualifications.


During the IEP meeting, even if I have not evaluated a specific proposal, in case of a possible CoI with that proposal, I will leave the virtual room during the discussion of this proposal. I will follow the instructions given by the Call Office with the aim of reaching an impartial evaluation of the proposals.