PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

FutureFoodS | 01 October 2025

The European Partnership for a sustainable Future of Food Systems (**FutureFoodS**) hereby pre-announces the 2nd co-funded call for transnational research projects.

The opening and launch of the call is expected in the **second half of November 2025**.

Details presented in this document may be subject to change before the opening of the call.
Further information and updates can be found on:

https://futurefoodspartnership.eu
https://futurefoods.ptj.de

Background and scope of the call

FutureFoodS is a cofunded Horizon Europe partnership, bringing together 86 partners from 29 countries to drive green and digital transitions with a focus on food post-harvest. It is thereby contributing to the European Green Deal, it's Farm to Fork Strategy and the UN´s Sustainable Development Goals.

The European Commission has identified an urgent need to make our food systems future-proof. This is due to various impacts that our food systems are facing, such as those linked to climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, hunger, malnutrition, diet-related diseases, food and packaging waste, safety, scarcity of fresh water and (renewable) resources, social and economic inequalities, political tensions, and the need to safeguard our food-related cultural heritage. **The vision of the FutureFoodS partnership is to collectively achieve environmentally friendly, socially secure and fair, economically viable, healthy and safe food systems in Europe by 2050**.

Central to the FutureFoodS Partnership is the belief that tackling the complex challenges making current European food systems unsustainable requires the mobilisation of knowledge, actors and resources through a **food systems approach**[1]. An approach of this kind is important as it propounds a holistic view when addressing complex problems, acknowledging enduring dependencies between different parts of the food system and its actors, as well as identifying drivers and leverage points within systems.

[1] The FutureFoods strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) defines such an approach as, "*a system that embraces all **elements** (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, power relations, markets and trade) and **activities** that relate to production, processing, distribution, marketing, preparation and consumption of food. A systems approach acknowledges the **interactions** between natural resources/ecosystem services, primary food production (farming, aquaculture and fishery), food processing, packaging, logistics, marketing, retail, food services, food consumption and waste management/recycling and the many **feedback loops** between them, which together define the degree of **complexity**"* (Halberg, N. & Westhoek, H. 2019. SCAR SWG Food systems Policy Brief: The added value of a Food Systems Approach in Research and Innovation? *European Union Publication*. ISBN 978-92-76-08794-6).

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The European food system R&I-community has an important role to play in promoting the design and realisation of a food systems approach involving relevant food system actors. The proposals submitted to this call should clearly delineate and characterise the particular food system under consideration. Who are the key actors? What are the main dependencies within the system? What levers may induce enhanced sustainability of the system? How does the chosen system connect to other food systems?

In its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda[2] (SRIA), FutureFoodS has identified four thematic areas for which better knowledge, more advanced know-how and more scalable, innovative solutions can be central to fulfilling food system transformations:

(1) 'Change the way we eat',
(2) 'Change the way we process and supply food',
(3) 'Change the way we connect with food systems' and
(4) 'Change the way we govern food systems'.

The objective of this call is to fund transnational research and/or innovation projects addressing one of the following preliminary call topics. Each call topic brings together several of the high priority issues identified by the partnership and detailed in the SRIA. More information and guidance will be given in the Call Announcement.

Topics of the second call

This call will be open to proposals addressing one of the topics described below.

Topic 1: Domestic food practices enhancing sustainable and healthy diets

Wide-ranging, long-term effects leading to more sustainable and healthy dietary habits occurring in society as a whole may be unlocked at the household level, a setting where often several generations meet. Projects should embrace a systemic approach to address challenges related to food safety, food cultures, nutritional needs and consumer behaviour in a sustainable way with a focal point on the household as a place where we change the way we eat.

Topic 2: Towards diverse, sustainable and circular food processing systems

New/ improved/efficient solutions in food processing and packaging and use of by-products and side-streams provide new avenues to reduce waste and promote resilience and circularity to achieve sustainable food systems. The call topic also includes questions about improved compositions tailored to diverse consumer groups.

Topic 3: Trust and transparency in sustainable food systems

Central to the call topic is the identification and analysis of leverage points to improve trust and transparency in sustainable food system. Effectiveness of existing and new tools, methods, metrics and indicators, quality signals (e.g. labelling) towards a more unified framework across products and regions, ideally co-created with different food system actors.

[2] Sustainable Food Systems Partnership for People, Planet and Climate: Strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) https://scar-europe.org/food-main-actions/food-systems-partnership

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Please note that primary production activities such as the growing of food crops (including seafood), other elements of agricultural production and various specific aspects related to it, as well as nutrition- and lifestyle-related diseases are not in focus in this partnership. The focus of FutureFoods is on issues post-harvest. Primary production aspects are covered in other Horizon Europe partnerships.

Requirements for applicants (list not exhaustive)

- Research consortia must be comprised of a minimum of three partners from a minimum of three different countries eligible for and requesting funding from funding organisations participating in this call.
- Guiding elements for FutureFoodS projects are as follows and will be part of the evaluation:
  - ✓ **Transformative perspective**
  - ✓ **Inter- and transdisciplinarity**
  - ✓ **Multi-stakeholder engagement**
  - ✓ **Sustainability**
- Proposals will be required to provide an **Impact Plan** indicating progress towards food systems transformation.
- Proposals can either be **"research oriented"** or **"innovation oriented"** (self-assignment)

More information and guidance will be given in the Call Announcement.

Who can apply?

Tertiary education institutions, research institutes, non-profit legal entities, enterprises (small, medium-sized and large) and public bodies, subject to the national/regional funding regulations and eligibility criteria.

A partnering tool will be available on the submission website (https://futurefoods.ptj.de), in order to support applicants in their search for potential partners.

Next steps

The call will follow a two-step procedure with the following important steps:

Call launch:	Second half of November 2025
Deadline for pre-proposal submission:	~ end of January 2026
Deadline for full-proposal submission:	~ beginning of July 2026 (only by invitation)
Start of projects:	between November 2026 and March 2027

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Participating Funding Organisations (tbc)

Note: The list of participating Funding Organisations is preliminary and may be updated before the official launch of the call.

Country	Funding Organisation Acronym	Funding Organisation Full Name
Austria (AT)	FWF	Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds
Belgium (BE)	F.R.S. – FNRS	Fonds de la recherche scientifique
Belgium (BE)	FWO	Fonds Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen
Belgium (BE)	SPW	Service public de Wallonie, Département de la Recherche et du développement technologique
Belgium (BE)	VLAIO	Vlaanderen Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen
Bulgaria (BG)	BNSF	Bulgarian National Science Fund
Denmark (DK)	DAFA	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Estonia (EE)	ETAG	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur
Finland (FI)	MMM	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö
Finland (FI)	BF	Innovaatiorahoituskeskus Business Finland
France (FR)	ANR	Agence nationale de la recherche
Germany (DE)	BMFTR/ PTJ	Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt
Germany (DE)	BMLEH/ BLE	Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und Heimat
Iceland (IS)	RANNIS	Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands
Ireland (IE)	DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Ireland (IE)	TEAGASC	Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Italy (IT)	MASAF	Ministero dell'Agricoltura, della Sovranita' Alimentare e delle Foreste
Italy (IT)	MUR	Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca
Italy (IT)	PROV.BZ/BOZEN	Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano
Lithuania (LT)	LMT	Research Council of Lithuania
Lithuania (LT)	ZUM	Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija
Norway (NO)	RCN	Norges Forskningsrad
Portugal (PT)	FCT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.

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Country	Funding Organisation Acronym	Funding Organisation Full Name
Romania (RO)	UEFISCDI	Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii
Slovakia (SK)	MARD	Ministerstvo Podohospodarstva a Rozvoja Vidieka Slovenskej Republiky
Slovakia (SK)	CVTISR	Centrum Vedecko Technickych Informacii Slovenskej Republiky
Spain (ES)	AEI	Agencia Estatal de Investigación
Spain (ES)	CDTI	Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnóologico y la Innovacióon E.P.E.
Spain (ES)	ELIKA	Nekazaritzako Elikagaien Segurtasunarako Euskal Fundazioa
Spain (ES)	SEKUENS	Agencia de Ciencia, Competitividad Empresarial e Innovación Asturiana
Sweden (SE)	FORMAS	Forskningsrådet För Miljö, Areella Näringar Och Samhällsbyggande
The Netherlands (NL)	MIN-LVVN	De Staat, Vertegenwoordigd door de minister van Landbouw, Visserij, Voedselzekerheid en Natuur
The Netherlands (NL)	NWO	Nederlandse organisatie voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek
The Netherlands (NL)	SIA	Taskforce for Applied Research - Regieorgaan SIA
Türkiye (TR)	TAGEM	Tarımsal Araştırmalar ve Politikalar Genel Müdürlüğü
Türkiye (TR)	TÜBITAK	Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu

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