

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

FutureFoodS | 16 September 2024

The European Partnership for a sustainable Future of Food Systems (**FutureFoodS**) hereby pre-announces the 1st co-funded call for transnational research projects.

The opening of the call is expected by **end of October 2024**.

Details presented in this document may be subject to change before the opening of the call. Further information 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, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

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 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 ambition that tackling the complex challenges making current European food systems unsustainable requires mobilizing 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 wicked problems, acknowledging enduring dependencies between different parts of the food system and its actors, as well as identifying drivers and leverage points within systems.

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

¹ The SRIA defines such an approach as „a system that embraces all **elements** (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, and power relations, markets and trade) and **activities** that relate to production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation and consumption of food. A systems approach acknowledges the **interactions** between natural resources/ecosystems 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 defines 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).

to this call should clearly delineate and characterise the particular food system under inquiry. What are its key actors? What are the main dependencies within the system? What levers may induce enhanced sustainability of the system? How does the chosen one connect to other food systems?

In its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda² (SRIA), FutureFoodS has identified four thematic areas for which better knowledge, more advanced know-how and more scalable, innovative solutions can be determinant 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 info and guidance will be given in the Call Announcement.

Topics for the first call

This call is open to proposals addressing one of the R&I topics described below.

Topic 1: The way towards sustainable and resilient food systems

New approaches for reshaping food system interactions, e.g. through novel market-based arrangements, business models, policy actions and experimental practices. The call topic seeks to promote food system sustainability in all its dimensions.

Topic 2: New foods – Fostering innovations in food design, processing and supply via demand and supply reorientation

New systemic approaches to food design, processing and supply to propose a greater variety of healthy, sustainable and minimally processed food alternatives. The call topic also includes questions about consumer acceptance, food safety and roles of different food actors.

Topic 3: Empowering sustainable food choices – Enabling environments and dietary shifts

Overarching system approaches to address challenges in the adoption of sustainable food practices across Europe. Central to the call topic is the role of food environments to support consumption shifts towards safe, healthy, nutritious, affordable, accessible, equitable and culturally acceptable and tasteful foods.

Please note that primary production like growing food (including seafood), agricultural production and other specific aspects related to it, as well as nutrition- and lifestyle-related diseases are not in focus in this partnership. These aspects are covered in other Horizon Europe partnerships.

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>

Requirements for applicants (list not exhaustive)

- Research consortia must be comprised of a minimum of three partners from a minimum of three different countries being eligible 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** towards food systems transformation.

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

Who can apply?

Universities and Universities of applied sciences, research institutes, non-profit legal entities, small and medium sized enterprises and large enterprises and public bodies, subject to the national/regional funding regulations and eligibility criteria.

A partnering tool will be available on the submission tool homepage (<https://futurefoods.ptj.de>), in order to support applicants find suitable partners if needed.

Next steps

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

Call launch:	by end of October 2024
Deadline for pre-proposal submission:	~ end of December 2024/ beginning of January 2025
Deadline for full-proposal submission:	~ end of June 2025 (only by invitation)
Start of projects:	between October 2025 and March 2026

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	Danish AgriFish Agency
Denmark (DK)	INNOFOND	Innovationsfonden
Estonia (EE)	ETAG	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur
Estonia (EE)	REM	Regionaal- ja Põllumajandusministerium
Finland (FI)	MMM	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö
France (FR)	ANR	Agence nationale de la recherche
Germany (DE)	BMBF/ PTJ	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Germany (DE)	BMEL/ BLE	Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung
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 Sovranità Alimentare e delle Foreste
Italy (IT)	MUR	Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca
Italy (IT)	PROV.BZ/BOZ EN	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.

Romania (RO)	UEFISCDI	Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior a Cercetarii Dezvoltarii si Inovarii
Slovakia (SK)	MARD	Ministerstvo Podohospodarstva a Rozvoja Vidiaka Slovenskej Republiky
Spain (ES)	AEI	Agencia Estatal de Investigación
Spain (ES)	CDTI	Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Innovación E.P.E.
Spain (ES)	ELIKA	Elika Nekazaritzako Elikagaien Segurtasunarako Euskal Fundazioa
Spain (ES)	FICYT	Fundacion Para El Fomento En Asturias De La Investigacion Cientifica Aplicada Y Tecnologia
Spain (ES)	SEKUENS	Agencia de Ciencia, Competitividad Empresarial e Innovación Asturiana
Sweden (SE)	FORMAS	Forskningsrådet För Miljö, Areella Näringar Och Samhällsbyggande
Sweden (SE)	VINNOVA	Verket för innovationssystem
The Netherlands (NL)	MIN-LNV	De Staat, Vertegenwoordigd door de minister van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit
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)	TÜBİTAK	Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu